# HERITAGE SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NEWSLETTER

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Department
for Environment
and Heritage

**Government
of South Australia**

# CONTENTS

Minister's Update

2009 is an important year for South Australian heritage.

This year, we're marking the centenary of Adelaide's original electric tram system. With the ongoing renewal and expansion of our modern tram system, this is a particularly interesting anniversary to note.

Of course, our older trams have not disappeared from view – along with the 1929 H Class tram still in operation on our tracks, the former Municipal Tramways Trust (MIT) Administration building and Tram Barn is a prominent landmark on Hackney Road.
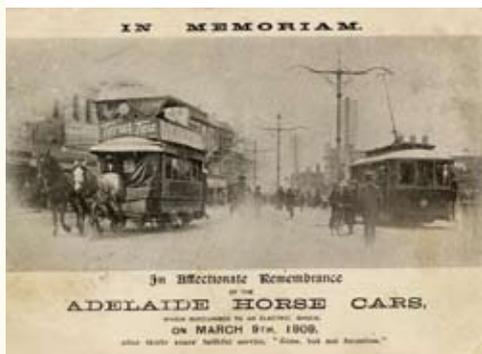
The postcard produced to mark the demise of the horse-drawn trams.

One hundred years ago, 40 of the 64 crew of the *Clan Ranald* lost their lives off the coast of the Yorke Peninsula in one of South Australia's worst maritime disasters.   Visitors to Edithburgh cemetery will now be able to identify the graves of those who so tragically lost their lives in this incident more easily, thanks to the new interpretive signs installed in the cemetery.

This will help to ensure that the moving story of the tragic loss of life and of the subsequent treatment of 20 surviving Asiatic seamen, who were declared to be illegal immigrants, will not be forgotten.

And perhaps most significantly, it's 150 years since copper was discovered on the Walla-waroo pastoral station in 1859. This discovery lead to the founding of one of the most productive mines in Australia. The influx of Cornish miners into South Australia that followed has shaped our State's identity.

Many South Australians – including myself – are very proud of our Cornish ancestry. It's in recognition of this heritage that the SA Heritage Council is seeking to gain national heritage listing for the Australian Cornish Mining Heritage Site, which encompasses both the Burra and Moonta Mines State Heritage Areas.

Celebrating these anniversaries is more than just noting the passing of time. Our ongoing interest in the past and appreciation of our history means that heritage is alive in South Australia – it's an integral part of our modern culture.

I'm sure these anniversaries will provide plenty of grist for the mill when the 2009 State History Conference is held in Kadina later this year.

Finally, I would like to note that the SA Heritage Council has recently welcomed new members: Ms Judith Carr (Chair), Mr Rob Donaldson and Associate Professor Mark Staniforth. I thank the retiring Chair of the Council, Ms Mary Marsland for her hard work, and look forward to working with the new Council over the next three years.

Jay Weatherill

Jay Weatherill
Minister for Environment
and Conservation

MY FAVOURITE HERITAGE PLACE

DEH Heritage Branch staff share their favourite heritage places:

It's my home - the Former **Port Adelaide & Le Fevre's Peninsula Cooperative Society Store** in Exeter which my partner Kim and I are very slowly restoring. We love the old place - it has such an interesting history and is unique within South Australian heritage. We often have people stopping outside wondering what the building originally was - and we will happily oblige with some information!

**Bron Lloyd,
Heritage Officer**

My favourite heritage place Is... not a place but an Area - **Arckaringa Hills State Heritage Area** ... because of its stunning, yet fragile, arid beauty (a real-life watercolour painting), its geological (Badlands/Breakaway Country) and biological significance, particularly as the occasional haunt of my favourite Aussie lizard - the Perentie.

**Barbara Harkness,
Project Officer**

More about Arckaringa Hills SHA at www.stateheritageareas.sa.gov.au

Image courtesy of Gordon Lindqvist

My favourite building is **Estcourt House**, where I was lucky to visit the house when it was occupied by the Intellectually Disabled Services Council. You can still see this beautiful house when you drive on Military Road, Tennyson. It has magnificent views all around the location. Escourt house was built in 1882 for businessman Frederick Escourt Bucknall for approximately $6,000. Now the place is again a home and has six bedrooms, six bathrooms, a ballroom and a grand entrance hall.

**Carmela Santoro,
Administration Officer**

The Queen's Theatre, Gilles Arcade, Adelaide - the oldest purpose-built theatre on mainland Australia, which I studied for my Architecture degree thesis and then ended up managing on behalf of the Department for almost ten years!

The Theatre was constructed by emancipated convicts from New South Wales, Emanuel and Vaiben Solomon and at various times has also been used as the colonial Supreme / Magistrate's Court, a horse bazaar, sales yard, auction rooms and a car parking station.

**Hamish Angas,
Senior Heritage Officer (Policy)**

Viewing the **Albert Bridge** (built in 1878) over the River Torrens, as I row under it, is the moment where the passion for my work and hobby/sport combine. I love idyllic, lazy, hazy rowing days and the joy of being on the river with my crew and then to experience the bridge from an angle that most don't get to see, I am very lucky. It's constructed of scalloped, riveted plate girders and Tea Tree Gully sandstone, with cast iron work imported from England.

**Bernadette Irwin,
Conservation Project Officer**

It is hard to imagine, standing on the edge of **Lake Acraman** in the Gawler Ranges, the sheer scale and age of the event that created it. At least 600 million years ago a comet collided with the earth at this very spot, creating a large crater 100km across and spreading debris from the impact at least 300 kms. Far east from here, in a cliff face in Brachina Gorge, a narrow layer of gritty grains and pebbles (the 'impact ejecta') is evidence of the force of the blast which deposited this material in the seabed which was eventually folded and eroded to form the Flinders Ranges.

Sarah Laurence, Senior Heritage Officer

HERITAGE PLACES

Image courtesy of Wallaroo Primary School

Wallaroo Primary School – from the ashes

In the early morning of 14 January 2006, the main building of the Wallaroo Primary School was destroyed by a deliberately lit fire. Local CFS volunteers, many of whom were former scholars, fought the flames and helped save many of the school records and artefacts, but could not save the building.

The school had been constructed during 1877 as the first of five new schools erected in the copper mining towns of Yorke Peninsula, which had the largest concentration of children outside of metropolitan Adelaide. This group of buildings was amongst the first to be constructed by the new Council of Education which had been given the daunting task to implement the intent of the 1875 Education Act to educate all South Australian children.

Wallaroo Primary School c. 1905.
Image courtesy of Wallaroo Primary School

Since opening in January 1878, the school was one of the central pillars of the Wallaroo community, which was rocked by the fire. The significance of the building was summarised by one community member: "for many of us who live in this town, we have met our best friends, future relations and, for some, even their life long partners within the walls of the old stone building".

Whilst the fire had destroyed the roof structure, the walls and other building components were largely left intact and it was decided to reconstruct the building. South Australian architectural firm Swanbury Penglase undertook the design work which received a Commendation in the 2008 Australian Institute of Architects Heritage Awards. Also involved were the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) Building Management, Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) and managing building contractor Mossop Group.

From the beginning, the reconstruction was guided by the principles of the ICOMOS Burra Charter. The construction drawings for the school had been lost but all surviving documents were collected, the remaining fabric was closely examined for evidence of its original construction details, and one of the neighboring contemporary schools was examined to confirm those details.

The initial work involved the reconstruction of the roof, which replicated the original structural design of close spaced rafters and multiple collar ties. New floors were constructed while retaining the evidence of the original floor structures and ventilation system whenever these were encountered.

New services were also carefully integrated into the building fabric to minimise any intervention, while the new ventilation system was based on the principles established by the original roof vents. The work also re-established the importance of the original front elevation and provided for the construction of a contemporary version of the school's (since demolished) 1880s shelter shed.

The interior of the building had originally been divided into a number of long schoolrooms designed to house 100 or more children segregated into boys', girls' and infants' areas.

These rooms had been altered over the years to suit evolving teaching methods and the reconstruction provided the opportunity to reconfigure them and reinstate their fine proportions, including the soaring raked ceilings to the Resource Centre and Activity Room. The interior design also added new flexibility for the contemporary teaching methods in a stimulating and creative environment.

While the Wallaroo Primary School is not heritage-listed, the successful resurrection of the building has come to symbolise the resilience, spirit, and pride of the local community. It is an excellent example of how the importance of heritage is not always directly related its official status.

We would like to thank Swanbury Penglase for their assistance with this article.

Visiting

Wallaroo is a port town on the western side of Yorke Peninsula in South Australia and is one of the three Copper Triangle towns famed for their historic shared copper mining industry, and known together as "Australia's Little Cornwall". A walking trail taking in many historic buildings starts at the former Post Office, now the Wallaroo Heritage and Nautical Museum. Download a map at the Copper Coast Council website. www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au

STATE HERITAGE AREAS

State heritage listed Miners cottage and fence, Moonta Mines

Moonta Mines State Heritage Area

The Moonta Mines State Heritage Area covers the site of colonial South Australia's largest mining enterprise.

Part of the upper Yorke Peninsula region known as the 'Copper Triangle' or 'Little Cornwall', the Moonta Mines State Heritage Area ranks as one of the State's most important collections of nineteenth century mining structures and relics.

At its peak (1861-1900s), the Moonta Mines complex comprised a vast network of timber-lined mine shafts and drives, from which water and ore were extracted by steam-driven pumps and winches. The deepest shaft was deeper than Mount Lofty is tall.

Impressive stone engine houses and chimneys were built to Cornish designs, and housed the large steam-powered beam engines.

Visiting

The area is one of Yorke Peninsula's major tourist attractions and offers a number of visitor experiences, managed largely by the Moonta Branch of the National Trust.

The Railway Station is now a Visitor Information Centre, and is an ideal 'gateway' to the State Heritage Area. The former Moonta Mines Model School is an acclaimed National Trust Museum, and a nearby cottage offers a glimpse into the lives of the early mining families. Visitors can opt for a guided tour of the Wheal Hughes Mine or hop aboard the tourist railway that links many of the old mining and processing sites.

More information: www.stateheritageareas.sa.gov.au

Robyn Ashworth
Senior Heritage Interpretation Officer

International interest in South Australia's Cornish mining heritage

In the year that marks the 150th anniversary of the discovery of copper on the Walla-waroo pastoral station in 1859, the Australian Cornish Mining Heritage Site (encompassing Burra and Moonta Mines State Heritage Areas) has been nominated for entry on the National Heritage List. This follows a submission for entry on the World Heritage Tentative List late last year, with the ultimate aim being that the Australian site will become part of a Trans-National listing of Cornish Mining Heritage involving the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape and sites in Spain, Mexico and South Africa.

The bid for national and international listing is an initiative of the South Australian Heritage Council.

Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia. SLSA: B 19609 – Sorting ore, Moonta Mines, 1913

The Australian Story

The first metal discovery in Australia, silver-lead ore, was made in the Adelaide suburbs in 1841 by two Cornish farm workers. With the discovery of minerals, it became South Australian practice to recruit experienced teams of miners direct from Cornwall to open new mines. When the Burra copper deposit was discovered in 1845, Captain Roberts, the Cornish manager of a small mine in the Adelaide Hills, was recruited along with a team of nine experienced Cornish miners to open the mine.

Burra proved to be vastly richer than any earlier discovery, bringing fabulous wealth to the shareholders and the colony generally, attracting an influx of Cornish miners already in the colony, and prompting a recruiting drive to bring more from Cornwall. The Burra workforce grew to over 2,000 people, and by 1850 it was the largest inland town in Australia.

The point of employing Cornish miners was that they already knew what to do. They knew how to excavate with hand tools and explosives, to design safe and efficient underground workings, to recognise valuable ore, to extract it and raise it to the surface, crush it and process it to separate copper from waste rock. Their boots and tools, helmets and candles, mining practices, teamwork, management structure, industrial relations, company finances, book-keeping, language and folklore all arrived with them from Cornwall. As the mines went deeper they wrote home to Cornwall to order machinery to pump out water and raise ore. For fifty years the Cornish mines had been the world leaders in steam-powered industrial technology, and steam engines and pumps from Cornish foundries were exported all over the world. Burra soon had an industrial landscape that arriving Cornish immigrants recognised instantly: tall stone enginehouses with their enormous slow-moving iron bobs working the pump rods in the shaft, boiler houses alongside with their tall characteristically Cornish round stone and brick smokestacks.

Immigrants also recognised the landscape of the town alongside the mines. The housing, mostly small attached and row cottages, the simple Methodist chapels, lodges and pubs were all modelled on the buildings of the mining towns of Cornwall. The entire culture of a Cornish town was present: the social structure, religion, politics, educational practices, cuisine, sport and recreation, festivals, music and burial practices.

In the 1860s the entire process was repeated at Moonta and Wallaroo. Copper ore was found at Wallaroo (modern Kadina) in 1859 and Moonta in 1861. Immediately Cornish miners were recruited from Burra and Kapunda, and efforts were made to poach Cornish miners from a new source, the underground gold mines of Bendigo in Victoria. By 1864 miners were arriving direct from Cornwall, where many of the mining companies were now in dire economic straits, and this was to prove the main recruiting ground for the life of the mines.

While the process resembled what had happened at Burra, the new mines were much more productive and would prove longer-lasting, and so their two settlements would each grow much bigger than Burra. The Burra mine produced about 50,000 tons of copper metal before it closed in 1877; the Moonta and Wallaroo mines would produce nearly seven times as much - 330,000 tons - and remain in production until 1923. In its first fifteen years to 1876 the Moonta Mining Company became the first company in Australia to pay a million pounds in dividends to its shareholders. The two mining townships with their coastal outlet Port Wallaroo became known as the Copper Triangle - or sometimes the Cornish Triangle - and provided an economic powerhouse for South Australia for nearly sixty years.

*This is an edited extract from the final National Heritage List Nomination for the Australian Cornish Mining Heritage Site, prepared by **Dr Peter Bell.***

HERITAGE PLACE ANNIVERSARIES

The Centenary of Adelaide's Electric Trams

Adelaide celebrated the centenary of the opening of its original electric tram system on 9 March 1909 with a special event at the Tramway Museum at St Kilda on 8 March.

Metropolitan Adelaide's tramway history is very well served by the Museum, which features good displays on the development of the tram and bus networks and seventeen operational trams which can run on 2 km of track from the Museum to the township of St Kilda.

Three others are in advanced stages of restoration to working order. The Museum's collection includes at least one of nearly every type of tram which has served the State, including No 1, which was driven by Premier Tom Price's wife to open the service in 1909. It also includes two horse trams.

The most notable tramway-related structures included in the SA Heritage Register are the former Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) Administration (Goodman) Building and Bay A of the

adjacent Tram Barn on Hackney Road, Hackney (1908) and the former Converter Stations at 52-60 East Terrace, Adelaide (1908) and 19 Reedie Street, Henley Beach (1946 - now the Scout Heritage Centre), which converted alternating to direct current.

The horse trams which preceded the electric system are represented by the former Tram Depot at 179 Magill Road, Maylands (1882 - now converted into housing), another depot on Main North Road, Prospect (c1883) and the former Adelaide and Suburban Tramway Company Administration Office at 16 Buik Court, North Adelaide (1882 - now a dwelling).

There are many significant and interesting features of the first century of Adelaide's electric trams. These include:

- their efficiency in the rapid movement of large numbers of people, especially prior to World War Two when car ownership was less common.

- the promotional flair demonstrated by the MTT in building band rotundas at popular destinations (Semaphore, Henley Beach and Kensington Gardens) and having the Tramways Band play at them to encourage increased patronage of the respective lines.

- competition between trams and unlicensed buses in the 1920s, leading the MTT to run some trams as 'nark cars' to speed ahead of the buses and 'steal' their passengers.

- use of local firms – Duncan & Fraser and Pengelley & Co – to build most of the trams.

- the long and notable reign of Sir William Goodman (1872-1961) as Chief Engineer (1907) and then concurrently General Manager 1908-1950. His other service to the community included chairing the Royal Commission into the SA Railways in 1931, being the first chairman of the SA Housing Trust 1937-44, directorships with

Construction of the Grand Union junction at the intersection of North Terrace and King William Street, Adelaide, 1908

Tram No. 1 emerges from Tram Barn 'A' on 9 March 1909

several companies, and membership of the University of Adelaide Council 1913-54. He was knighted in 1932.

The accompanying photos provide some glimpses of this rich and varied heritage which can still be experienced thanks to the volunteers of the Tramway Museum.

Brian Samuels
Principal Heritage Officer

Further Reading

C.A. Andrews et al *The Tramway Museum*, *St. Kilda*, *S.A.* Australian Electric Transport Museum (S.A.) Inc., Adelaide, 1982.

McDougall & Vines 'Conservation Study of the Hackney Bus Depot' SACON, 1991.

J.C. Radcliffe and C.J.M. Steele *Adelaide Road Passenger Transport, 1836-1958* Libraries Board of SA, Adelaide, 1974.

C Steele and R Wheaton *Adelaide on the move, 1878-1978*: *Public Transport in a Changing Scene* Australian Electric Traction Association, Sydney, 1978.

Tramway Museum, St Kilda web site accessed 9 February 2009 www.trammuseumadelaide.com.au/

There are also many booklets available on individual lines.

Acknowledgement

Special thanks to Dr John Radcliffe, AM, for checking the text and supplying the images.

The opening procession makes it way along Grenfell St, 1909

Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia. SLSA: PRG1258/1/2096 – PS Marion at Steamer's Wharf, Mannum, c.1909

MARITIME HERITAGE

New trail tells old tales of the River Murray

Stand on the bank of the River Murray at any one of 18 locations from Border Cliffs to Goolwa to glimpse the colourful history of South Australia's stretch of this great river.

The people, settlements and vessels of the river have been brought to life with historic photos and quirky stories presented on striking interpretive panels that make up the new DEH River Boat Trail.

Learn about the mission boat that brought religion to the people, the milk boats that collected milk and cream from dairy farms on the lower Murray for delivery to the SA Farmers Union factory at Murray Bridge, and the floating shops that sold everything from food, cooking wares, axes, wheelbarrows, nails and boots to rolls of cloth, the latest fashion, music and books.

As you wait impatiently for the Wellington Ferry, consider that until the early 1900s ferries were hand operated and passengers were often asked to help 'wind the cable'.

A brochure with a map and highlights of the trail is available for download, as are images of each of the panels if you prefer to do your visiting online.

More information:
www.heritage.sa.gov.au

FERRIES AND PUNTS ON THE MURRAY

The Wellington ferry was busy. Reports for February 1852 indicated that a total of 1234 people and 1266 horses and bullocks, pulling 164 carriages, crossed the river during that month.

(From the River Boat Trail sign at Wellington, north of the ferry crossing, in front of the Courthouse)
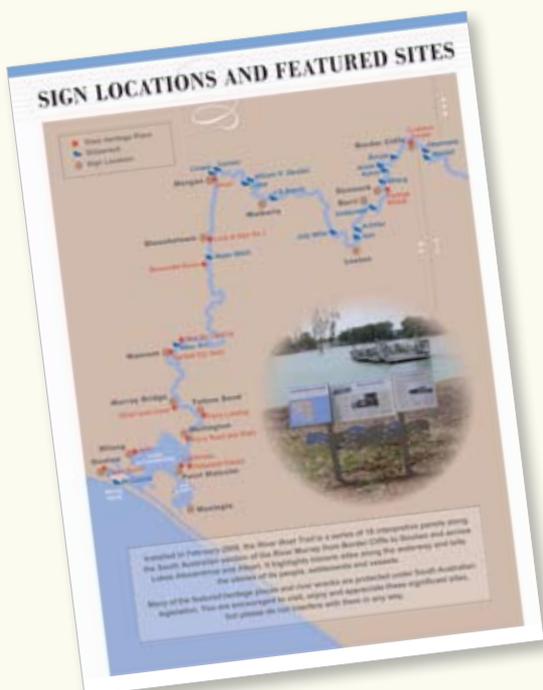
Map from River Boat Trail brochure showing sign and site locations, 2009

Clan Ranald centenary marked

The grave of 31 Lascar seamen has been rededicated to mark the 100th anniversary of one of South Australia's worst maritime disasters.

On 31 January, 1909, the steamship *Clan Ranald* was wrecked off the coast south-west of Edithburgh with the loss of 40 of the 64 crew. Thirty-six bodies were recovered and buried at the Edithburgh cemetery. The five British officers were buried in the main section while the 31 Lascar crew were buried in a mass grave at the rear of the cemetery.

Previously marked 'names unknown', a plaque listing the names of the 31 seamen buried in the mass grave has been installed. A new interpretive sign has also been placed at the cemetery's main gate. The installations and commemoration events on 31 January 2009 were organised by DEH and the Edithburgh Museum Committee.

www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/pdfs/clan_ranald.pdf

Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia. SLSA: PRG280/1/43/84 – Survivors from the Clan Ranald, Troubridge Hill,

Newly installed plinth listing names of Lascar seamen buried in a mass grave at Edithburgh cemetery, 2009

BROOKMAN BUILDING CONSERVATION WORKS

The Brookman Building, erected in 1903, is located on the corner of North Terrace and Frome Road. Originally used as a preparatory school for students entering the School of Mines (predecessor to the South Australian Institute of Technology and the University of South Australia), today it is part of the City East Campus of the University of South Australia.

The four storey building was in sound condition, but crenulated limestone parapets and tower pinnacles were becoming dislodged due to the expansive action of embedded, but weathered metalwork. Stone fragments were falling to the street below, creating a public risk.

In 2005 the University engaged Grieve Gillett Architects to examine the problems, document repair works and superintend the conservation works on site over the following two years. The conservation strategy was undertaken in consultation with materials conservator, David Young and engineers Wallbridge & Gilbert, with all decisions informed by ICOMOS Burra Charter principles.

Conservation works focussed on structural and weathering problems. Parapet stones were dismantled, corroded metal removed and then reassembled using traditional lime mortar, lime water, stainless steel pins and cramps. Gables and chimneys were unobtrusively restrained with additional steelwork. Facades were cleaned using glass bead vortex
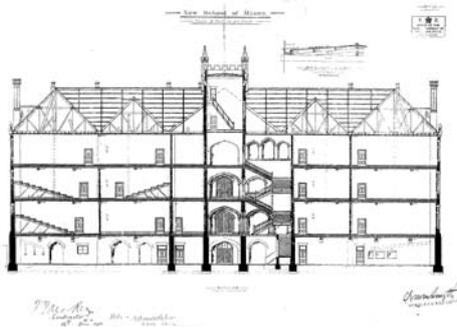
Detail from original section drawing for building – SA Architect-in-Chief, C O Smyth, 1903

blasting. The damp proof course was renewed by excavating a perimeter trench, injecting a siloxane damp proof course and upgrading site and window well drainage.

Lime based shelter coat was applied to reconstructed limestone crenulations

Design decisions were based on traditional building methodologies, robustness of detailing, reversibility and sensitivity to the heritage values of the building.

The resultant conservation works have addressed seismic and structural issues, but have also renewed the architectural integrity of the 1903 landmark building, conserving significant fabric and also enhancing the North Terrace streetscape.

We would like to thank Michael Queale and Grieve Gillett for their assistance with this article.

The completed façade, 2008. Image by Grant Hancock

HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

'Sarah's Sisters' Café in Semaphore has used heritage as the starting point for a sustainable business, together with big picture thinking and a little knowledge of history.'
Stuart Gifford.

A 2007 *Advertiser* article described Stuart Gifford as charmingly eccentric. Alarmingly astute might be just as accurate. While the climate change debate is now commonplace, Stuart Gifford has been 'walking the talk' for several decades. As far as Stuart is concerned, reusing heritage buildings is almost so obvious as to be unremarkable.

A background in architectural history paved the way for Stuart's life long interest in older buildings. He recalls a few incidents that piqued his interest.

'Working for a builder in the early 1970s, I was asked to do a site assessment for a development at Campbelltown. I found an original wattle and daub cottage on the site. It wasn't recorded anywhere, and there was no thought at all given to the possibility of keeping it.'

'Then I was living in a 1880s Hyde Park house when there was a proposal to demolish a group of shops on King William Rd. Although they weren't terribly original, they were an important part of the streetscape. I joined a group of residents and shopkeepers that started a street market which drew attention to the proposal; we got media attention and eventually the developer backed away.'

Stuart was also inspired by the 'people power' that prevented the demolition of the historic buildings in The Rocks area in Sydney, paving the way for its successful transformation into a popular commercial and tourism precinct.

His next close encounter with heritage began with a 'shop for lease' sign in Hutt Street. The drawcard was two disused heritage cellars, large enough to seat around 70 people. The challenge lay in resolving the tensions between heritage significance and building regulations, but Stuart felt that if a small group of people could save

a whole area (The Rocks) the least he could do was look after this one little piece of heritage. And so the original 'Sarah's' vegetarian restaurant was born.

Stuart considers that the inherent energy saving features of many European heritage places, such as the insulating properties of thick stone walls, make them easy to save and re-use. 'It's really basic,' he says. Make the most of north-facing areas. Use radiant, localised heating. Evaporative cooling can also be very energy efficient when combined with insulation, and using blinds to take advantage of the sun and breezes. Equally important is the huge savings of resources, energy and emissions with existing building reuse.

The Semaphore restaurant, Sarah's Sister's, has gone one step further, with the use of old Bentwood chairs, laminex tables and refurbished equipment. Introducing five different types of re-cycling has reduced by half the amount of waste going to landfill. It is no coincidence that the restaurant sits in the middle of its target market – a local restaurant, employing locals, for locals, using 'cittaslow' principles. (Literally meaning 'slow city' – a cultural shift toward slowing life's pace and improving the quality of life in towns.)

'Thinking local is the way we're going to save the world,' says the man to whom sustainability is more important than business. Stuart reels off statistics like the fact that 40% of household energy used is related to transport. He is a great advocate of sourcing whatever you need locally.

To date, six 19th century Adelaide building have been 're-used' by Sarah's Cafes. In Stuart's words:

Sarah's Sister's Café provides a model of using heritage, history and community, by a small business with limited resources, to create the breadth and depth of change so urgently required. In less than 4 years it has changed from 'affordable' to 'profitable', sustainability

Lyn Baxter
Public Communications Officer

Rear of Sarah's Sister's café, Semaphore, 2009

ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS OF SA

Eric McMichael (1884 –1945) and Adelaide's Tall Buildings

Eric McMichael's work helped to define the character of the city of Adelaide through the designs of early tall buildings.

Career details

Eric Habershon McMichael was born at Georgetown in the mid-north of South Australia on 13 June 1884. His parents were bank manager, Clunie McMichael, originally from England, and Fanny Hermione Amelia (nee Brice) of South Australia. McMichael was educated at Georgetown and then at Prince Alfred College.

On completing his schooling McMichael worked in Western Australia at the Princess Royal mine at Norseman in the assay department. On his return to South Australia he was articled to Garlick and Jackman to begin his architectural training.

When he had completed his articles with Garlick and Jackman he worked in the Architect-in-Chief's Department. He married Constance Mary Verco in 1909 and, according to Jack Cheesman, 'McMichael's practice commenced when his first child was born and Dr Verco,

who was his wife's uncle, enquired about his occupation. Finding that he was a draughtsman in the Architect-in-Chief's Department he suggested he might like to handle a building on North Terrace – hence Verco Buildings at No 178 and McMichael was in practice' (Cheesman 1984).

McMichael became partners with Alfred C. Harris in July 1927 with the partnership known as McMichael and Harris becoming one of the largest offices of the time. He died on 21 March 1945.

Adelaide's early tall buildings

McMichael was 'responsible for the design of a number of handsome Adelaide buildings' (Structure Designers 1929). The first of these was the six storey Verco Building (1911). Designed for occupation by medical professionals, it was built in stages and was one of the first totally reinforced concrete buildings in Adelaide. The five-storey, classically inspired Darling building at 28 Franklin Street was built in 1916 for John Darling and Son, a firm of millers, grain and general merchants. This was reportedly McMichael's 'favourite building … and the character of the cornice mould was one he used in many other buildings' (Cheesman 1984). The Holden's Motor Body Builders factory, on the north corner of King William and Gilles Streets, was a four-storey red brick building completed in 1919 (Collins et al. 2005) and was only demolished a few years ago.

McMichael designed the Kelvin Building (now called Security House), 233 North Terrace (1925) for the Adelaide Electric Supply Company before travelling overseas to visit 'America and Canada to study the latest designs in large city building' (*The Builder*, 1925: 3). On his return the commercial palazzo style Shell House, 170 North Terrace, was built in 1931-32. Features of the building included hot water radiator-type central heating and mail chutes taking letters from any floor to a central box on the ground floor. The automatic passenger lifts also caught the imagination of the media.

Shell House, 1931-2, North Terrace, McMichael and Harris (photographed 2009, J. Collins)

The commission for the Savings Bank of South Australia Head Office, King William Street came in 1938. The style is Art Deco with Classical elements. The building features motifs depicting South Australian agriculture, a polished granite base and monumental entrance. It was completed in 1943 and is still used by Bank SA.

McMichael also designed hospital buildings for the Memorial and Wakefield Street hospitals in Adelaide and in country towns, including Loxton, Pinaroo and Hawker. Residences designed by McMichael include bungalows at North Adelaide, Glenelg and Grange.

Julie Collins

Julie Collins is Collections Manager and Researcher at the Architecture Museum, School of Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia. This is a condensed version of a biography of E.H. McMichael she prepared for the Architects of South Australia database compiled through the Architecture Museum and funded by the SA Department for Environment and Heritage.

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'Structure designers - Mr Eric H. McMichael,' *News*, 10 April 1929.

'Personal', *The Builder*, 22 July 1925: p.3.

Australian Heritage Places Inventory, http://www.heritage.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahpi

Adelaide's earliest tall building, the former Verco Building, 178 North Terrace c. 1915

Darling Building, 28 Franklin St, built in 1916 (image taken 1985)

SCHOOLS HERITAGE COMPETITION

Schools have once again made the most of the opportunity to showcase their local heritage in the 2008 DEH Schools Heritage Competition. The 2008 theme, Interpreting Heritage Places, encouraged students to consider the ways in which stories and messages of heritage places can be shared.

The new On-site Interpretation category asked students to develop a product that would add to visitors' understanding and enjoyment of a site. The major prize of up to $5000 towards turning ideas into reality was shared between two entries and as a result, visitors to Mitcham can now collect a brochure and follow the Mitcham Village Heritage Food Trail, while a sign showcasing the history of Smoky Bay Jetty is in the pipeline.

The partnership with Channel 9's Postcards continued in 2008 with Pedare Christian College Year 7's winning the opportunity to turn their entry into a Postcards television segment.

Some of the winning entries can be viewed from the DEH website www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/schools_comp2008.html

Keith Conlon presenting a 'Postcards' Awards to Pedare Christian College students

Prizes were awarded to:

Electronic Interpretation Category

Curramulka PS, Year 7
The Curramulka Tourist Trail (DVD)

Woodcroft PS, Year 6
War Memorial (PowerPoint)

Warooka CPC-7, Year 2
Ramsay Family (Photostory)
Ethel Wreck (PowerPoint)

Woodcroft PS, Year 7
The Adelaide Gaol –
Could You Survive? (DVD)

Miltaburra AS, Year 9
The Wirrulla Memorial Hall
(DVD)

Interpretation Through Television Category
'Postcards Award'

Pedare Christian College Year 7
Undiscovered History

On-site Interpretation Category

Scotch College JS, Year 4
Mitcham Food Trail (brochure)

Miltaburra AS, Year 9
History of the Smoky Bay Jetty (sign)

Teaching Heritage Award

Curramulka Primary School
Jenny Hansen
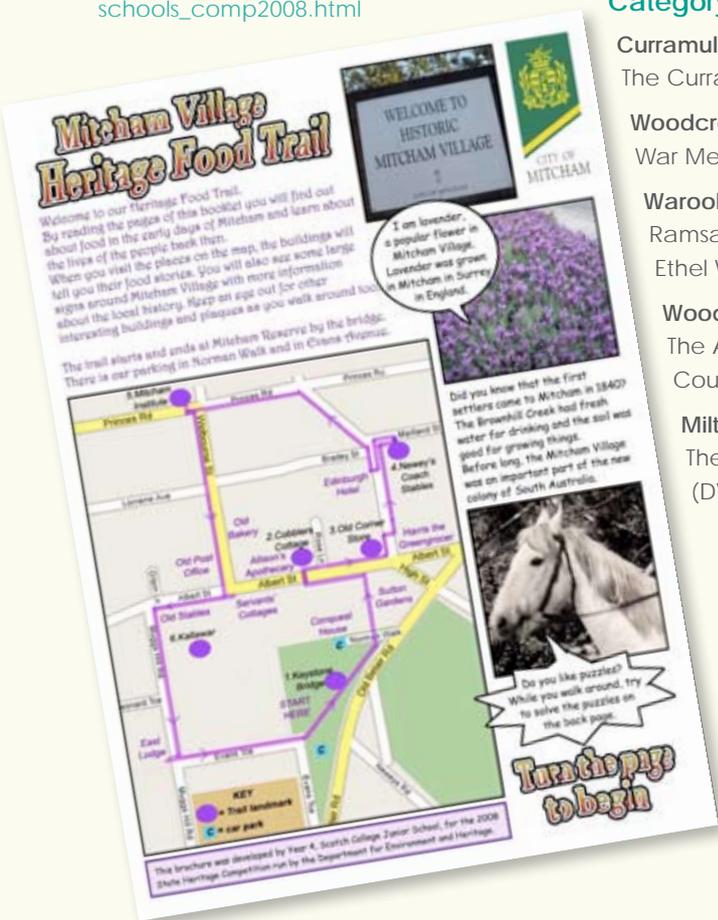
Minister Weatherill presenting an award to Woodcroft Primary School students

LOOKING AFTER YOUR HERITAGE PLACE

Salt attack and rising damp – A guide to salt damp in historic and older buildings (2008)

The following Questions & Answers are taken from this comprehensive new publication:

Q. My house has bad damp and there is salt bursting through the interior paintwork. Which of the damp-proofing treatments should I use?

A. Wrong question. You should first make sure that the source of dampness is minimised and carry out other basic housekeeping measures. Work through the Seven Key Steps (refer to publication) to deal with the problem. Depending on the circumstances, you may need to use a combination of several methods. Be aware that many damp-proofing contractors specialise in one treatment method only, so seek independent advice

Q. My house seems to have dampness in some places but no signs of salt. Does it need a damp-proofing treatment?

A. Not necessarily. The problem may be eliminated or minimised to an acceptable degree by basic housekeeping measures, such as attention to plumbing and drainage. Check these first and make any repairs needed before considering damp-proofing.

Q. There is mould on the timber inside the built-in cupboard in the corner of the living room. What should I do?

A. Mould is due to high humidity, the source of which should first be identified. If it's because of damp walls, the problem may be solved simply buy ensuring that the existing underfloor ventilation is working properly. Clean out vent grilles and monitor air flow. More vents may be needed if changes to the house have blocked previous air passages.

Q. Our school chapel has damp patches in the wood blocks of the parquet floor. Years ago there was some damp treatment of the walls at one end. Could they be related?

A. Yes. When we the inspected the outside we found that the ground had been built up over the damp-proof course, which was the reason for the previous (unnecessary) treatment. It is very likely that the underfloor spaces are too damp because of moisture penetrating through the walls from the built-up ground. Lower ground levels to expose the DPC, check underfloor ventilation and make sure all gutters, downpipes and drains work properly.

Q. I'm having split-system air conditioning installed in my old stone house and the contractor wants to put the external fan unit against the side wall. Could that be a problem?

A. Yes, it could. As well as detracting from the aesthetic qualities of your house, the fan blowing warm air against the wall will encourage evaporation and focus salt damage on the area behind the unit. Site the fan unit, and the condensate drain, well away from valuable old walls.

Q. We had our historic presbytery treated for damp with chemicals, yet the mortar is still eroding from between the bricks. Have the chemicals failed and should we have it done again?

A. Not necessarily – the water-repellent zone formed by the chemicals may be working ok as a damp-proof course. The problem may be salts remaining in the walls above.. remove the salts and monitor before considering any further damp-proofing treatment.

Additional recommended reading (find at the beginning of the publication): 'Seven Key Steps to dealing with salt damp' and 'The dos & don'ts of damp'.

Download *Salt attack and rising damp* for free from www.heritage.sa.gov.au or purchase a printed copy for $10.00 from the DEH Infoline on (08) 8204 1910.

This publication, authored by heritage consultant David Young, was published in 2008 by the Heritage Council of NSW; Heritage Victoria, Department of Planning and Community Development; South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage, and Adelaide City Council. It replaces Heritage Technical Note 3.8 published in 1995 by DEH.

SALT DAMP PUBLICATION TAKES OUT AWARD

2009 Energy Australia National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards

AWARD NAME: Education

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

CITATION (AWARD):

Rising damp and the often associated salt attack are two of the most common and enduring problems in heritage buildings of masonry construction, yet they are widely and poorly understood, often misdiagnosed, and improperly treated.

The author and his sponsors have produced what will undoubtedly become one of the major weapons with which heritage professionals will fight the enduring ignorance of these problems within the community and the building industry. Authoritative, science-based, well reasoned and well illustrated, it will go straight to the front line of the sadly persistent battles on how to treat these frustrating, persisting problems.

HERITAGE BOOKSHELF

Read your way into South Australia's Little Cornwall

In recognition of the sesquicentenary of the discovery of copper on the Walla-Waroo pastoral property in 1859, this year's State History Conference is being held in the Cornish Triangle 31 July – 2 August.

Wheat, wool and copper were the staples of the South Australian economy in the nineteenth century. Given the significance of the Moonta-Wallaroo Mines to the State's economy over the ensuing 60 years, and the legacy of the influx of Cornish people they led to, this edition's book section lists a sample of the many publications that have dealt with aspects of the area's history. The heritage significance was recognised by the designation of the Moonta Mines State Heritage Area on 10 May 1984.

Perhaps the best starting point is Oswald Pryor's *Australia's Little Cornwall*, which has the advantage of being written by an insider. Published by Rigby in 1962 (and reprinted in their Seal Books paperback series in 1969),

the dust jacket profile of the author stated:

Oswald Pryor was born at Moonta Mines South Australia, of Cornish parents. He began work in the mines when he was thirteen, under Captain H. R. Hancock, subject of a hundred mining jokes. He became Surface Manager at Moonta Mines in 1911, and remained in that position until just before the company went into liquidation in 1923. C. J. Dennis, the author of The Sentimental Bloke, *who knew the Cornish miners of Broken Hill, was first to suggest to Pryor that the Moonta Cousin Jacks would be excellent subjects for cartoons. Pryor followed the suggestion, and his name rapidly became associated with the Sydney* Bulletin, *in which many of his cartoons appeared. Pryor gathered much of the information for* Australia's Little Cornwall *when he was organist in the Moonta Wesleyan Chapel. His cartoons have been reprinted in every part of the world where there is even a sprinkling of Cornish people.*

The images on these pages are © Oswald Pryor and reproduced here with the permission of the Pryor family.

A sample of publications

Keith Bailey *James Boor's Bonanza: a history of Wallaroo Mines, South Australia* Kadina: H.K. Bailey, c2002

Keith Bailey *The Wallaroo Mine, Kadina, South Australia (1860-1923) : a pictorial history* Adelaide: National Trust of South Australia, 1985

Keith Bailey *Men of the Mines* Kadina: Yorke Peninsula Country Times, 1988

Greg Drew *Discovering Historic Kadina, South Australia* [Adelaide]: Dept. of Mines and Energy and the District Council of Northern Yorke Peninsula, 1990

Greg Drew *Discovering Historic Moonta, South Australia* [Adelaide]: Dept. of Mines and Energy and the District Council of Northern Yorke Peninsula, 1991

Greg Drew *Discovering Historic Wallaroo, South Australia* [Adelaide]: Dept. of Mines and Energy and the Corporation of the Town of Wallaroo, 1989

Diana C. Hancock & Roslyn M. Patterson (eds) *Cousin Jacks & Jennys: the Cornish in South Australia* Adelaide, S. Aust: Cornish Association of South Australia, 1995

Roslyn Paterson *Thankyou Walter Watson Hughes: essays on Northern Yorke Peninsula* Bute, S. Aust. : Roslyn Paterson [and] Gould Books, 1993

Philip Payton *Making Moonta: the invention of Australia's little Cornwall* Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2007

Philip Payton *The Cornish Farmer In Australia: or Australian Adventure: Cornish Colonists and the Expansion of Adelaide and the South Australian Agricultural Frontier* Trewolsta, Cornwall: Dyllansow Truran, 1987
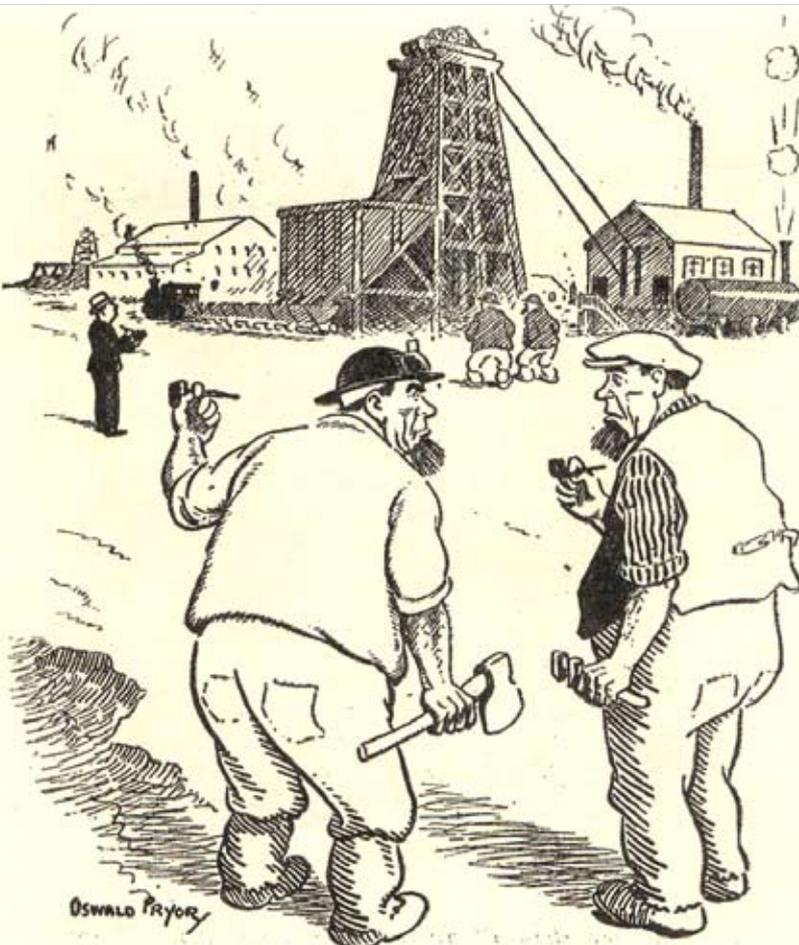
"If all 'is brains was ink, boay, 'e wouldn' 'ave enough to write a full stop."

© Oswald Pryor

"I bain't Coornish, Missus, but feyther an' mawther was."

Philip Payton *The Cornish Miner In Australia (Cousin Jack Down Under)* Trewolsta, Cornwall: Dyllansow Truran, 1984

Philip Payton *Pictorial history of Australia's Little Cornwall* Adelaide: Rigby, 1978

Oswald Pryor *Australia's Little Cornwall* Adelaide: Rigby, 1962 [Paperback edition 1969]

Oswald Pryor *Cornish pasty: a selection of the cartoons of Oswald Pryor* Adelaide: Rigby, 1961

Oswald Pryor *Cousin Jacks and Jennys: a book of cartoons* Adelaide: Rigby, 1966

Mandie Robinson *Cap'n 'Ancock: ruler of Australia's little Cornwall* Adelaide: Rigby, 1978

Readers can also explore the Department for Environment and Heritage State Heritage Areas of South Australia website www.stateheritageareas.sa.gov.au for an overview of the Moonta Mines State Heritage Area.

Brian Samuels
Principal Heritage Officer

INTRODUCING THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

The SA Heritage Council is an independent body that provides strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and Conservation on heritage issues. It also administers the South Australian Heritage Register, including the entry and removal of State Heritage Places. The Council recently welcomed new members Judith Carr (Chair), Rob Donaldson and Mark Staniforth.

Judith Carr (Chair) is an Architect and Senior Public Servant within the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure. Ms Carr has extensive experience in public administration, architecture and design, and property management.

Judith Brine is well known nationally and internationally in the fields of history, architecture and heritage conservation and management. Prior to her recent retirement, Dr Brine was a lecturer in architectural history. In the early 1990s Dr Brine was the Chair of the South Australian Heritage Committee (predecessor of the Council).

Lewis Owens has a law degree and significant public administration experience as a senior public servant. He is currently the Chief Executive of ETSA Utilities. Mr Owens has also maintained a strong interest in heritage conservation and management through voluntary activities.

Robert Donaldson is the Local Government Association nominee. Mr Donaldson has significant experience in public administration, urban and regional planning and the interface between the heritage and planning systems.

Michael O'Connell is an experienced planner in private practice. He has worked as a Senior Planner and Administrator within local government and most recently in the private sector as an adviser on heritage, urban and regional planning matters.

Mark Staniforth is an Associate Professor at Flinders University in the field of archaeology. He is renowned nationally and internationally in archaeology, primarily in the field of maritime archaeology.

Christine Garnaut is a Lecturer in Architectural and Urban Planning Design History, University of South Australia and is the Director of the Architectural Museum. She is recognised nationally and internationally in the fields of history, heritage and urban planning.

Gavin Leydon is a lawyer in private practice with extensive experience in the area of development and planning. Mr Leydon brings to the Council an understanding of the policy interface between heritage and urban and regional planning.

Carolyn Wigg is an experienced Heritage Architect. Ms Wigg has been in private practice until her recent appointment as a contractor on heritage and planning matters to the Adelaide City Council. She has extensive experience in architecture, heritage conservation and urban and regional development.

For more information see www.heritage.sa.gov.au

CELEBRATING SA'S HERITAGE HEROES

Volunteers look after much of South Australia's built and maritime heritage. It is easy not to notice these quiet achievers who conserve buildings, research and write books, search for shipwrecks, hold open days and much more.

In 2009 the work of South Australia's Heritage Heroes will be celebrated with a special awards program.

The program will be officially announced in early June when Information about the Awards will be available on the DEH Heritage website: www.heritage.sa.gov.au or by contacting Lyn Baxter on (08) 8124 4947 or email baxter.lyn@saugov.sa.gov.au

Take the time to nominate one or more Heritage Heroes you know.

The Awards Ceremony will be held on 25 August 2009 at the Hawke Centre, Adelaide. SA Heritage Heroes is presented by the Department for Environment and Heritage in partnership with the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre.

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Heritage

UniSA

THE HAWKE CENTRE

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY (SA)

2009 Annual Essay Prize

The South Australian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society sponsors an annual award of $750 for an essay (including student papers) on a topic about South Australian garden history or cultural landscape history of South Australia. The Society is calling for submissions for the 2009 Prize which are due no later than 31st October 2009. If you would like further information on the Prize, please consult the Australian Garden History Society website: www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/branches/south_australia/ or contact Ray Choate, by mail, GPOBox 3013, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, SA, 5000 or email ray.choate@adelaide.edu.au.

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

EVENTS

31 July to 2 August

**'HISTORY…FROM THE GROUND UP'
State History Conference**

Revisiting the history and heritage of Yorke Peninsula. Presented by the History Trust of South Australia

Dates: 31 July - 2 August 2009

Location: Yorke Peninsula (Kadina/Wallaroo/Moonta)

www.history.sa.gov.au

6-16 August

**ADMELLA 150 FESTIVAL:
Commemorating a tragedy, celebrating volunteerism**

A series of events will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the destruction of the SS *Admella* on Carpenter Rocks, 20 miles west of Cape Northumberland, South Australia. The events will combine food, music, art, theatre, displays, parades and history.

For details www.admella.org.au

22 September

**HERITAGE – MATTERS!
Hugh Mackay**

Hugh Mackay will explore the idea that our personal and social identity is strongly tied to our sense of connection to a place.

For details visit www.heritage.sa.gov.au

10-18 October

MEADOWS 150 CELEBRATIONS

In 2009, the historic Adelaide Hills township of Meadows is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding. Events are planned throughout the year, culminating with a 'grand finale' in October with Meadows 150 week taking place from 10-18 October.

More details www.meadows150.org.au