

# PIONEER e-Xpress

Monthly Newsletter of the Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc

July 2016



## EDITORIAL

For some time there has been debate and discussion within the Association about the appropriateness of the cut off date for membership of our Association. Back in 2011/12 this issue was raised in a survey which was sent to all members and revealed an acceptance of a change from the present situation of the end of 1845 to one nearly a year later on 28 December 1846, which is exactly 10 years on from the first Proclamation Day.

The PASA Council has resolved that it is now an appropriate time for members to decide on this proposed change. Page 3 of this newsletter gives details of the process to take place and some of the reasons for and against the proposed change. All Ordinary and Life members will have an opportunity to vote either by proxy or by attending the Special General Meeting on Wednesday 28 September. This is a decision to be made democratically by members.

Bob Stace, Editor



**THANK YOU** to all those members who have already paid their annual membership fees. Your prompt attention to this matter has brought a smile to the Treasurer's face. Remember you still have a few days before the end of this month to complete your payment and receive the \$5 discount for early payment. **THANK YOU** also to those who have chosen to send a donation to the Association at this time; your generosity and thoughtfulness has been much appreciated.

## BOOK NOW FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER

The PASA Annual Dinner is always one of our feature events each year. It is a night when we traditionally celebrate our membership of the Association and this year we will be also be commemorating the 180th anniversary of the arrival of the first colonial ships in South Australian waters. Our guest speaker Vickie Chapman, who is a patron of the Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association, is well versed in this topic and is sure to present some interesting views. The attendance of our Patron, His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Le, the ambience of the Adelaide Pavilion, and the convivial company of fellow pioneer members, promises to make this an enjoyable and memorable evening. **You have until 4 August to book** and make payment of \$80 for a 3 course dinner with a drink and canapés on arrival. Guests should arrive between 6.20pm and 6.30pm.



## NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL SOUGHT

Nominations are called for positions on the 2016/17 Council. The Council is the management group of the Association and meets monthly to undertake its business. There are currently 12 members on the Council and it is certain there will be several vacancies for new members on the Council which will commence in October this year. Nominations need to be made on the approved form which can be obtained (post or email) from the PASA Office; it needs to be completed and returned by **Thursday 18 August**.

## COMING EVENTS

- AUGUST** **PIONEER GROUP LUNCHEON:** Thursday 4 August, 12 noon to 1.30pm in the Mothers Union meeting room. Speaker Dr David Hilliard, "Early Methodism in South Australia and its impact on the young Colony" BYO lunch, tea/coffee available, gold coin donation.
- ANNUAL DINNER:** Friday 12 August, 6.20 for 6.50pm at the Adelaide Pavilion, South Terrace, Adelaide. Ms Vickie Chapman MP, "The 180th Anniversary of the arrival of the colonial ships at Kangaroo Island" Cost \$80 for 3 course dinner with welcome drink on arrival. Booking and payment essential by 4 August.
- SEPTEMBER** **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING** (at 7.00pm) and **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** (at 7.30pm)  
Both meetings on Wednesday 28 September in the Parish Hall at Christ Church, North Adelaide.  
Guest Speaker at the AGM is Keith Conlon, "Celebrating 180 years of South Australian firsts"

## NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING

The next in our series of bi-monthly lunches will be held in the Mothers Union meeting room on Thursday 4 August. Our guest speaker Dr David Hilliard will present the story of the impact and contribution made by the Methodist Church during the early years of the Colony. These lunch meetings are quite informal; bring your own lunch, arrive around 12 noon, enjoy the company of fellow members and then listen to the guest speaker from 12.30pm. Meetings are generally finished soon after 1.30pm.

## ROYAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY VISIT

The 27 PASA members who recently visited the Library of the Royal Geographic Society all enjoyed the opportunity of viewing a range of original documents, maps and books of Matthew Flinders' coastal explorations around Australia. They were also impressed by the magnificent collection of geographic and historic materials housed in this library. Our thanks to the Society for making this visit possible.



Some of the PASA visitors in the RGS Library

## New Members Event Much Appreciated

Nearly 30 new PASA members attended the recent welcome event which was held at the Lyceum Club. They enjoyed the hospitality of the PASA Council, the delicious finger food and the informative visit to the PASA Office. It was a warm and welcoming event made possible by the support of the Lyceum Club and our volunteer catering team led by Pam Skurray, Glenda Cameron, Dymphia Bailey, Caroline Hewitson and Jill Davy.



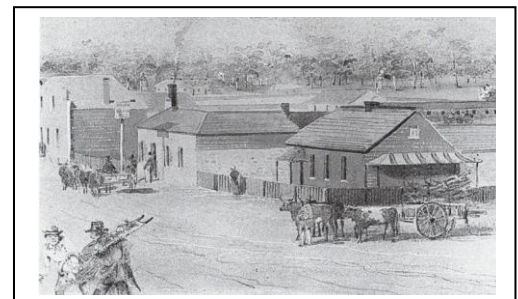
A welcoming drink for new member Annie Windsor from Council members (L) Colin Routley and Peter Dunn

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Our next luncheon meeting has a Methodist theme as did our June quiz. The photo of the early colonial building was of the first permanent structure Church built in Adelaide, the Hindley St. Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, which was opened in 1838. The pioneer settler depicted was John Shorey White, the first Methodist lay person to preach at a Methodist service in the colony. [see *The Pioneer*, Autumn 2016 page 2] He also led the move to build the new Church.

This month's question is about an unusual link between the *Duke of York* and the Queen's Head Hotel in Kermode St, North Adelaide. (below) One of the first settlers to step ashore from the *Duke of York* when it arrived at Kangaroo Island went on to be a rather controversial official in the first few years of the Colony. He met an untimely accidental death in January 1840.

1. Who was the official and how did he die?
2. What was the link between his death and the Queens Head Hotel?



# SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF PASA: Wednesday 28 September at 7.00pm

Venue: Parish Hall, Christ Church, Jeffcott St, North Adelaide.



This Special Meeting has been called by the PASA Council for members to consider a change to the PASA Constitution which will, if passed by a 66.66% majority, alter the qualifying date for membership of the Association (see the motion below). Financial members, being Ordinary members and Life members, have a right to vote either by attending the meeting or by submitting a proxy vote if not attending. Proxy voting forms, along with instructions on how to complete and submit them, will be sent to all members via the Spring Journal which should reach members by 1 September.

## THE PROPOSED CHANGE

The current PASA constitution defines eligibility for membership of the Association under Item 3.1 (a) as:

*Pioneer Members, being open to all persons who have at least one ancestor who arrived at the province, now the State of South Australia, before the end of 1845.*

The Resolution to change the Constitution at the Special General Meeting seeks to alter the final phrase of Item 3.1 (a)

**Resolution:** *That Item 3.1 of the PASA Constitution be altered to read:*

*(a) Pioneer members, being open to all persons who have at least one ancestor who arrived at the province, now the State of South Australia, by and including 28 December 1846.*

### The Case for Change (Vote Yes)

1. To correct an anomaly: The cut off date for membership eligibility was established in 1935 and was set to align with a criteria established by the Australian Pioneers Club which has no logical connection with PASA and no link to a significant South Australian event. It is much more appropriate to set the proposed date which is exactly 10 years after the first Proclamation Day AND follows the practice of the Old Colonists Association (our ancestors) who defined their "pioneer member" category "as those who arrived prior to the 28th December 1846, being the 10th anniversary since the first Proclamation"

2. Correcting a misconception: Prospective members of PASA have often assumed that the current cut of date for membership is the 28 December 1846 being 10 years after the first Proclamation.

3. Finalising the debate: There has been discussion of this issue at all levels of the Association over many years. A survey of all members in 2011/12 indicated support for this date change.

4. Potential for membership Growth: The population of South Australia increased by approximately 4.500 during 1846 which broadens our membership "base" and has the potential to result in an increase in membership at least in the short term.

[Submitted by the PASA Council]

### The Case for No Change (Vote No)

The founders of our Association, over 80 years ago, decided that membership would be open to persons whose ancestors had arrived in South Australia before the end of 1845 ie they had arrived during the years 1836 [or before] to 1845 inclusive, the first 10 years of the new colony. The Sydney based Australasian Pioneers' Club [men only - founded in 1910] is limited to members whose ancestors had arrived in Australia before the end of 1845.

The 1845 date should be maintained for the following reasons:

- Coordination of the date criterion with the Australasian Pioneers' - Australia's first Pioneers' association
- Adhering to the intent of our Founders . Departure from 1845 might "impair our standing." The Founders considered the issue and set the date which has not been challenged until recently.
- Changing the date arbitrarily might set a precedent for future Councils.
- What benefit would accrue to the Association by shifting the date by one year? Membership would be open to more persons but this should be done by creating a separate membership category.

Vote No out of respect to the ideals of our Founders and all past and present members who joined under the 1845 date.

[Submitted by Deane Kemp, Past President]