

EDITORIAL

During PASA's "quiet" time in January your Editor visited several Rotary Clubs in Adelaide to tell the "Pioneer Story", which is an illustrated presentation about the history, purpose and organisation of our Association.



Your Editor with John Howland of the Rotary Club of Flagstaff Hill

My visits were well received and a great opportunity to promote the existence and importance of PASA, and to create greater awareness and understanding of the early history of South Australia.

During my visits I discovered that Rotary, like many other voluntary and community organisations today, has experienced a decline in membership over the past decade. This is in contrast to the very healthy situation we are currently experiencing in PASA with around 650 current members and growing attendances at our functions and activities. This situation is in no small way due to the ongoing efforts of our Council and volunteers which has resulted in PASA being viewed as a friendly, inclusive and welcoming organisation with a programme which is interesting, enjoyable, enriching and meaningful to its members.

Bob Stace, Editor

FEBRUARY MEETING ENJOYED

Nearly 70 members attended our first activity for 2018 which was held at Rigoni's Restaurant and enjoyed the presentation from Helen Stagg on *Harnessing the River Murray: Stories of the people who built locks 1-9, 1915-1935*. Helen's presentation was liberally illustrated with images from her book of the same name.

She commenced with the political story which preceded the building of the locks and then briefly described the construction of the locks from 1915-35. The highlight of the presentation was her passionate telling of the personal stories of the families who lived in the temporary villages on the banks of the Murray as one lock after another was built. Helen gave us insight into the daily struggles and joys of these lock builders and their families, and reminded us that these structures, which still control the flow of the Mighty Murray today, stand as a legacy to these lock building communities of the early twentieth century.



(at left) Helen Stagg with PASA President David Forsaith

A copy of Helen's book is now available for borrowing from the PASA Library.

COMING EVENTS

- MARCH**
- PIONEER GROUP LUNCHEON:** Thursday 1 March, 12noon to 2.00pm at the Payneham Community Centre, 374 Payneham Rd, Payneham. BYO lunch, tea/coffee and biscuits provided. Gold coin donation. Howard Speed: *Early photography and photographers in colonial SA*. Speaker commences 12.30pm.
- WRITERS' WORKSHOP No1:** Wednesday 14 March, 10.00am – 12.30pm in the Mothers Union meeting room, next to the PASA Office. Registered participants only; see page 2 for more details.
- APRIL**
- PUB LUNCH:** Wednesday 18 April, 12noon for 12.30pm at the Edinburgh Hotel, Mitcham
- Philip Payton: *'Where were the golden streets?': The Rise and Fall of Premier John Verran and the first majority Labor government in South Australia (and the world)*.
- Cost: \$45 for 2 course lunch. Bookings and payment required by Tuesday 10 April.

MARCH LUNCHEON

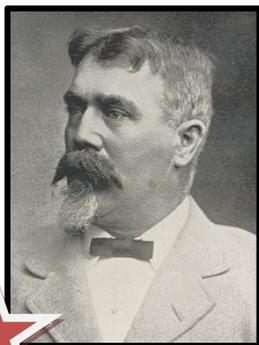
The next event will be held on Thursday 1 March at the **Payneham Community Centre**. This will be a traditional "Mothers Union style" function where members and guests are invited to bring their own lunch, arrive around 12 noon, and then listen to the speaker commencing at 12.30pm. Adelaide photographer and historian, Howard Speed will speak on the topic, ***Early photographers and photography in colonial South Australia***.

Most PASA members are indebted to some of these early photographers for providing the only images of their ancestors via the Old Colonist Collages; this should be a fascinating presentation.

As access to the Community Centre's car park is a little tricky, members planning to attend should refer to the **map and instructions** attached to the email sent with this newsletter.

APRIL PUB LUNCH

The April Pub Lunch will once again be held in the Victoria Room of the historic Edinburgh Hotel in Mitcham on Wednesday 18 April. Our guest speaker will be Philip Payton, Professor of History at Flinders University, whose topic is *'Where were the golden streets?' The Rise and Fall of Premier John Verran and the first majority Labor government in South Australia (and the world)*.



John Verran, Premier of South Australia 1910-12. Born in Cornwall 1856, died 1932, and buried in the Moonta Cemetery.

Bookings and payment of \$45 for the 2-course lunch need to be finalised by Tuesday 10 April.

Book early to avoid disappointment!

PIONEER POSTERS

Members who have been preparing Pioneer Ancestor Story Posters for this year's Exhibition in May are reminded that their stories were due for completion and return by 15 February. Please contact Judith Francis if you have any queries about the process.

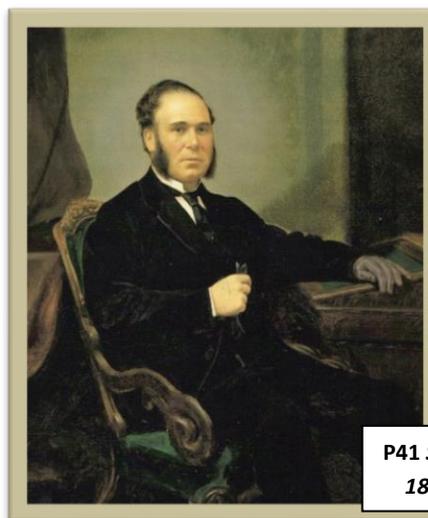
PASA WRITERS' WORKSHOPS

Over 20 members have registered for the series of 3 Writers' Workshops which will take place this year. The first will be held on Wednesday 14 March from 10am to 12.30pm in the Mothers Union Meeting Room and this will be followed by workshops 2 and 3 on Wednesday 16 May and Wednesday 18 July. Registered participants should have received introductory information from convenor Judith Francis.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The January Quiz related to a photograph taken in the early 1870s of a cricket match being played in front of an impressive building in Adelaide. The building is the Old School House at St Peters College and the match in progress was between St Peters College and a team of Aboriginal cricketers from Poonindie Native Training Institution from near Port Lincoln. The photo and questions were of particular interest to past PASA President, Jenny Neill who has been cataloguing thousands of archival photos at Saints over the past 18 months. You can access further background information on the [Poonindie cricket team](#) in this link to an article by Bernard Whimpress.

The February Quiz continues our historical photography theme. The portrait photo (below) was taken by one of South Australia's premier pioneering photographers, Townsend Duryea in about 1869, and it is a fine example of the new science of photography combining with the hand-coloured oil painting of colourist John Hood.



February Question:
Who is the prominent Adelaide citizen featured in this photo portrait?

P41 South Australian Photography 1840s-1940s. Art Gallery of SA

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