

# PIONEER e-Xpress

Monthly Newsletter of the Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc

April 2018



## EDITORIAL

May is an exciting time for history lovers in South Australia when we can immerse ourselves in the month long state-wide History Festival. It's also a time when our combined voices need to be heard proclaiming the importance of this state's unique history and the need for it to be a focus in our schools and in our culture. It was with some interest that I read in the forward to the History Festival Programme the following commitment from our Premier the Honourable Steven Marshall.

***Recognising the value of history, the Marshall Government looks forward to working with the History Trust in the coming years to.....examine the creation of an Adelaide Museum of South Australian History, a missing link in our state's museum storytelling.***

There is plenty of space at the old RAH site to turn this promise into reality. Let's help it happen!

Bob Stace, Editor

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE FESTIVAL

Now is the time to start your planning for the month-long extravaganza which is the History Festival. First check out the Programme on the website <https://historyfestival.sa.gov.au/> or in the supplement which was included with the Advertiser.

Then pick your favourites, develop a plan and make any necessary bookings and payments. And don't forget to include a visit to the PASA Exhibition of Pioneer Ancestor Story Posters.



## HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

The writing, editing, formatting and printing of **40 new pioneer ancestor story posters** is nearly completed in readiness for PASA's annual Exhibition during the May History Festival. Once again the Exhibition will be held in the Mothers Union Meeting room which is adjacent to our Office in the basement of Stafford House in Leigh Street in the City. The Exhibition will run over 3 days on Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9, and Thursday 10 May from 10.00am-2.00pm daily. Our thanks to over 30 members who have contributed to the Exhibition, to Judith Francis for her overall coordination of the project, Peter Brinkworth for his editing skills, Michael Smith for the formatting of the posters and other Office volunteers who have contributed in numerous ways

**Exhibition Opening:** The Exhibition will be "opened" at 11am on the first day and this will be followed by a light morning tea.



**Book Sale:** A sale of books superfluous to the PASA Library's needs will be held in conjunction with the Exhibition. Come and check out the bargains.

**Library volunteer, Julie Neale, sorting books for the sale**

## COMING EVENTS

**MAY HISTORY FESTIVAL** throughout the month of May. See the state-wide programme in the Advertiser supplement.

**PASA EXHIBITION OF PIONEER POSTERS:** Tues 8, Wed 9, Thurs 10 from 10.00am – 2.00pm daily in the Mothers Union Meeting Room, basement, Stafford House, 23-25 Leigh St, Adelaide.

**WRITERS WORKSHOP No2:** Wednesday 16 May from 10.00am – 12.30pm in the Mothers Union Meeting Room

**JUNE VISIT TO KESWICK BARRACKS,** Anzac Highway, Keswick: Wednesday 6 June from 11.00am – 3.00pm.

Speaker, lunch and visit to the Museum all inclusive \$25. Bookings and payment essential by Tuesday 29 May. Speaker Cheryl Williss: "Miss Mabel Marryat MBE; Welfare and War Worker". Speaker commences 11.00am

**Donations of books for the Sale:** If you have any excess South Australian history books at home, then you may like to donate them for the Book Sale. Please contact the Office by the end of April if you can help. All proceeds from the book sale will support the purchase of further resources for the PASA Library.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN THE HUB LIBRARY** PASA members who live in the southern suburbs might like to attend a special History Festival event in the Hub Library at Aberfoyle Park on **Sunday 20 May from 2.00-3.30pm**. Bob Stace will be presenting “The Pioneer Story” which is an illustrated story in two complimentary parts; firstly the story of our Association and secondly the story of one of our early pioneers settlers. This is a terrific opportunity to showcase our story to the community in the southern suburbs.

## JUNE LUNCHEON AND VISIT TO THE KESWICK BARRACKS

The Keswick Barracks on the Anzac Highway will be our venue for what promises to be a highly informative and value-packed lunch event on Wednesday 6 June. (coincidentally the 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy)

The event is in 3 parts:



1. Guest Speaker and PASA member Cheryl Williss will lead off at 11am with her topic *Miss Mabel Marryat MBE; Welfare and War Worker*. Most of you will know Cheryl for her

splendid work as author of our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history book and for highlighting the pivotal role played by Mabel Marryat in the founding of our Association in 1935. This inspired Cheryl to continue with her research on Mabel, and this will culminate with the launch later this month of her new book, *Miss Mabel Marryat’s Circle, a not so distant past*. She will draw on her book in presenting her topic to us at the Keswick Barracks.

2. Cheryl’s presentation will be followed by a light lunch.

3. An afternoon visit to the Barracks Museum will follow the lunch.

**All of the above for the cost of \$25; bookings and payment are essential by Tuesday 29 May.** Please advise any dietary needs at the time of booking.

Car parking is available at the Barracks with entry through Gate 4 from Anzac Highway. Please arrive in time for the Speaker at 11am.

**Mabel Marryat on parade at Keswick in 1920**



**The Prince of Wales**

**Mabel Marryat 3<sup>rd</sup> from left**

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Our April Pub Lunch focussed on a South Australian politician, Premier John Verran. The **March Quiz** asked you to identify the politician who served as Premier on the most occasions during the period 1856-2018.

**Answer: Henry Ayers**

Ayers was the youngest person elected to the State’s first Legislative Council in 1857 and was continuously a member for over 36 years. During a period of political instability between 1863-1873, **Ayers was Premier of South Australia on 5 separate occasions.** He later served as President of the Legislative Council from 1881-1893; a colossus of South Australian politics!



**Sir Henry Ayers KCMG**

**From a portrait in the Australian Sketcher 8 July 1876**

## Thought for the month

*“A place losing touch with its history is like an old man losing his glasses; a distressing sight, at once vulnerable, unsure and easily disoriented.”*

British politician George Walden, 1986

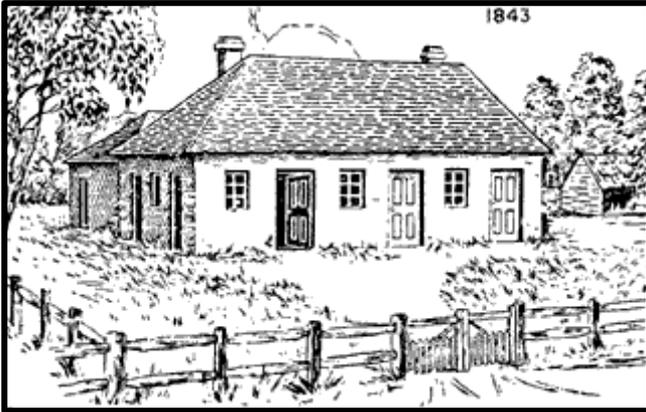
## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE (cont)

### April Question:

How times have changed! In 1843 the building in the sketch (below) was considered by some as the most advanced building in Adelaide at that time.

1. What was the name of the building?

2. Where was it located?



## DO YOU HAVE GERMAN ANCESTRY?

.....then you may be interested in learning more about these ancestors by attending the 2018 Conference of German- Australian History and Heritage in August. This conference is the first of its kind in this country to highlight the genealogy, culture and history of German peoples in Australia. It will focus on German heritage in Adelaide among other things, with walking tours and visits to archives. Anyone interested can check out the [conference website](http://conference2018.germanheritage.org.au):



## EXHIBITION Colonel William Light: The Light of the City

This Exhibition celebrates the founder and first Surveyor-General of Adelaide, Colonel William Light (1786-1839) featuring a selection of significant highlights from the City of Adelaide Civic Collection. At the City Library, Rundle Place, 77-91 Rundle Mall, from 26 April-3 July.



## JUNIOR PIONEERS OUT OF THIS WORLD

Our Junior Pioneers had a most enjoyable and educational start to the school holidays. 22 Juniors attended, and parents, grandparents and PASA members all joined in the fun.



Junior Pioneer, Jet, wrote this letter of appreciation:

*I would like to say thank you for organising our visit to the Planetarium at Mawson Lake. My Friend (Zane) and I had a great time.*

*We learnt lots of information about the solar system. We learnt that the closest star to earth is called Alpha Centauri and it would take over 30,000 years to get there or over four light years.*

*Different cultures call star clusters different names, for example what we call Orion's Belt, which the Greeks named after a hunter's belt, the Aborigines called "The Canoe", and they thought the 3 stars in the middle were 3 fishermen in the canoe. We also learnt the Southern Cross can only be seen in the Southern Hemisphere and the Milky Way is bright because it has lots of little stars.*

*We had a very yummy afternoon tea and played with the same boys that we met at the Town Hall underground tunnel day last year.*

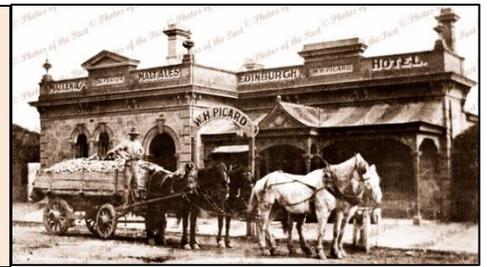
*Thanks,  
Jet Holtan and Zane Launer*



(L-R) Don Tanner, Holly Lynch, Carla Lynch and Maureen Tanner

# APRIL PUB LUNCH AT THE ED

***The Rise and Fall of Premier John Verran and the first majority Labor government in South Australia.***



A capacity gathering of nearly 70 members and guests attended the historic Edinburgh Hotel at Mitcham for the Pub Lunch on 18 April. It was another very successful PASA event with everyone enjoying the presentation from our guest speaker Professor Philip Payton who spoke on the very rapid political rise and fall of John Verran, a Cornish miner from Moonta, who was Premier of South Australia from 1910-12.

John Verran (1854-1930) was born in Gwennap, Cornwall and his family emigrated to South Australia in 1857, living for a short time at Kapunda before moving to the Moonta mines. A miner, member and leader of the Miners' Association, and an active leader within the Primitive Methodist Church, he was elected as the Labor member to the seat of Wallaroo in 1901 and took over the leadership of the Labor Party on the death of Tom Price in 1909. The elections of 1910 resulted in him becoming Premier of the first majority Labor Government in South Australia.



Verran's fall from grace was even swifter. A series of strikes, an apparent failure to fulfil promises (*Where are those golden streets?*), ongoing opposition from the Legislative Council and a loss of support from within his own Party, resulted in his resignation in early 1912.

Find out more about John Verran's life by using this link to the [Australian Dictionary of Biography](#) .



**(L-R) Glenda Cameron, Pam Skurray, Marjorie Brown and Cheryl Willis**



**Guest Speaker Philip Payton (standing) with PASA guests (L-R) Merawyn Davies with Catherine and John Williams. Merawyn and John are direct descendants of John Verran.**



**(L-R) Peter Dunn, Chris Durrant and Sue Renton**



**(L-R) Rebecca Geisler, Kath Donnellan, Christine and Ron Featherston**