PIONEER e-Xpress
Monthly Newsletter of the Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc
January 2020

A belated HAPPY NEW YEAR to all readers!

Whilst this has traditionally been a quiet “holiday” period for PASA, some of our volunteers have been attending the Office on Tuesdays during January, catching up on tasks and preparing for action in 2020. They have enjoyed the airconditioned comfort and pleasant surroundings of the Office and have been kept busy with visits and enquiries from members. All members are reminded that they are most welcome to visit the Office at any time during open hours.

Bob Stace, Editor

HANS HEYSEN: His Early Years

It’s nearly time to kick off the 2020 PASA events programme with our first meeting of the year on Wednesday 5 February in the Banqueting Room of the St Peter’s Cultural Centre, 101 Payneham Rd, St Peters. Our speaker will be Denise Schumann OAM with her topic being Hans Heysen, the early influences during his childhood growing up in Hackney and East Adelaide.

BYO Lunch, tea, coffee and biscuits provided. No cost.

SAME SHIPS MEETING on Wednesday 11 March from 10am-12noon in the PASA Office. All those connected to the Java (1840) are welcome to attend.

Heysen migrated to South Australia as a 6-year-old in 1883; he came with his mother and 4 siblings to join up with his father who had come a
year earlier. From 1885, he attended the East Adelaide Model School, acquired a bilingual education and showed early indications of his artistic skills. Our speaker will explore Heysen’s early years and how they influenced his life as one of Australia’s greatest artists.

This meeting will be in the format of our Pioneer Group Luncheons; 12 noon to 2.00pm, BYO lunch, with tea, coffee and biscuits provided. There is no charge for this event. There is limited parking behind the Town Hall and 2-hour street parking is available nearby.

MARCH PIONEER GROUP LUNCHEON

Our second luncheon will be held on Wednesday 4 March in the hall of the Walkerville Uniting Church, 17 Smith St, Walkerville from 12 noon to 2.00pm. Our speaker will be Enid Sutton whose topic is *South Australia’s unknown pioneer John Gifford*.

Many of us have “ordinary” pioneer ancestors who came as skilled or unskilled labourers or farm workers. But as our series of pioneer posters has shown, the stories of these pioneers were far from “ordinary” much like the story of John Gifford which Enid describes as one of “courage, dedication and commitment”. In researching John Gifford on behalf of a friend, Enid came upon 15 letters John Gifford wrote to his sister which vividly described his life here in South Australia from his arrival on the *John* in early 1840. Enid will use these letters to paint a picture of his far from ordinary life as he moved from Port Adelaide to Mt Barker, the Murray Bridge area, and then southwards to Kingston, Mt Benson and Robe. This is a story which will resonate with many of us. Once again, this is a BYO lunch with tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Cost of $2 for members and $5 for non-members. No bookings required for the lunch.

A guided tour of the historic Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery (located directly across the road from the Church) will take place prior to the Luncheon on 4 March. The tour will once again be led by *Jim Everett* and will commence at 10.45 am. Prior bookings to the Office are essential for this guided walk as numbers are limited to 20.

PUB LUNCH AT “THE ED”

This year’s popular Pub Lunch will be held at the historic Hotel Edinburgh, High St, Mitcham, on Wednesday 1 April from 12 noon to 3.00pm. Our luncheon speaker is Emeritus Professor Wayne Sampson and his intriguing topic, *Dentists and Dentistry in Colonial South Australia*. No fooling, this topic will form a new bridge to the lives of our ancestors and will fill your crown with such interesting stories that you may not wish to extract yourself from the lunch. [my apologies Ed]

Hopefully you will have something better than these 1850 porcelain teeth to handle the 2-course luncheon! Cost is $50 for members and $55 for non-members with payment and bookings to the Office by 19 March.
SAME SHIPS 2020 PROGRAMME

The programme for the 2020 Same Ships project appears below with all meetings to be held in the PASA Office on the specified Wednesdays from 10am to 12 noon.

Feb 12 – Workshop
[see details below]
Mar 11 - Java
Apr 8 - Fairfield
Jun 10 - Fairlie
Jul 8 - Charles Kerr
Aug 12 - Eliza
Sep 9 - Brightman
Oct 14 - Birman
Nov 11 - Research Help

NB. The 7 ships chosen for the 2020 programme all arrived in 1840.

SAME SHIPS FEBRUARY WORKSHOP: Training for Volunteers

Wednesday 12 February 10am – 12 noon in the PASA Office

We welcome all members (those already undertaking this work and those interested in starting the journey) to help us establish a collection of the pioneers arriving in South Australia by ship from 1836 to 1846 inclusive. This work can be carried out at home or in the office.

The workshop will cover:

- Accessing materials: manifests, passenger lists, application and embarkation records etc.
- Inputting data onto an Excel spreadsheet.
- Research of passengers – BISA, Trove, online, biographies, pioneer family history books, hospital records, destitute asylum records, State archives etc.
- Adding info from above to a power point presentation for publication in folders.
- Checking: spreadsheet against passenger info.
- Ensuring consistency of data, entries, and layouts.

Any details you have of your pioneer ancestor families will be gratefully received and added to our catalogue.

Please notify Karina Hutchesson by 5 February at pasa.sameships@gmail.com if you can attend

[Article supplied by the ‘Same Ships’ Team: Karina Hutchesson, Julie Neale and Sue Fox]

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN 2020

If you are considering volunteering to support the work of PASA during 2020, then now is the time to get in touch with Judith Francis. Volunteers are needed for a range of tasks either in the Office on Tuesdays or Thursdays or using your skills to work from home. An induction programme will be organised soon for new and intending volunteers, so contact Judith now by phoning or visiting the Office on any Tuesday in January.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

December Answer: The well-known American author who commented on the symbolism of the Old Gum Tree when he observed it on Proclamation Day 1895 was Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) He was visiting Adelaide at the time as part of a lengthy tour of Australia.
January Question:

The “contraption” above was associated with the person who is the topic of our February lunch meeting.

Question: What is it and what was its purpose?

YESTERDAYS DAUGHTERS

[Thanks to David Forsaith for this report]

A small group of PASA members visited the “Yesterday’s Daughters” exhibition at the St Peters Town Hall Heritage Centre on 11 December 2019. The exhibition, celebrating the 125th anniversary of women’s suffrage in SA, told the stories of the women from the St Peters area who were prominent in campaigning for social reform in the latter part of the nineteenth century. They included Lady Mary Colton, Catherine Helen Spence, Muriel Matters, Agnes Goode, Mary Kitson and Lydia Longmore. The exhibition was excellent, full of important items connected with these social reformers and very informative interpretative signage throughout. We were very fortunate having the curator of the exhibition Denise Schumann as our guide. Indeed, she surprised us at the outset when she took us on an excursion to nearby Trinity Street so that we might gain perspective on the residents and their connections. It is a beautiful leafy street with fine historic houses, one of which was the home of Catherine Helen Spence. Many other people in high positions also lived there over the years. This prelude gave us a feel for the vibrant stimulating environment in St Peters where progressive ideas were aired and helped us appreciate the exhibition and the social reformers it featured.

NB. Denise Schumann will be speaking about the early life of Hans Heysen at our Pioneer Group Luncheon on Wednesday 5 February.

PASA MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

As at 30 November 2019

Total adult financial membership = 674

Made up of: 558 in South Australia
103 Interstate
13 Overseas

In addition, there are around 100 Junior Pioneer members.
OLD GUM TREE CEREMONY

A gathering of about 30 PASA members joined the morning celebration of Proclamation Day at the Old Gum Tree. Fortunately, the morning weather remained quite mild and pleasant for the ceremony before heating up to the expected 40°C+ for our lunch in the afternoon. The ceremony, which was hosted by the City of Holdfast Bay, included meaningful addresses from Amanda Wilson, Mayor of the City of Holdfast Bay, Matthew Cowdrey OAM, member for Colton and representing the Premier, and His Excellency the Governor Hieu Van Le, with music provided by the Glenelg Brass Band.

In his address, His Excellency highlighted the significance of this important day and stressed the need to educate young people about its place in our history. He paid tribute to the original custodians of this land, ... the First peoples of this continent who continue to maintain the longest surviving and active culture on the planet. He then praised South Australia’s pioneer settlers who were very progressive for their day and as the settlement grew and flourished, led the way in many ground-breaking social reforms.

His Excellency continued with a message which resonates with PASA’s very reason for existence... I am passionate that all South Australians understand and take pride in our heritage. We need to understand and to reinforce the spirit and the aspirations that the pioneers set for us. We need to be reminded of these stories and to pass them onto future generations. Otherwise it is very easy to take our state’s heritage for granted, and to forget.

The City of Holdfast Bay is to be commended for continuing to lead the way with this significant annual event. This year’s ceremony was thought provoking and positive; it captured the essence of the Day but should have been witnessed by a much larger public gathering and reported more widely in the media. That’s the challenge the Governor has set us all.

PASA’s PROCLAMATION DAY LUNCH

Despite the heat outside and the talk of bushfires, 126 (possibly a record number!) PASA members and guests, including our patron His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia and Mrs Lan Le, along with descendants of George Kingston, enjoyed a most convivial luncheon at the Glenelg Golf Club in celebration of Proclamation Day and the lives of our pioneer ancestors.

The traditional toasts to Australia and to our Pioneer Ancestors were thoughtfully presented by Council members Sue Fox and Graham Smith and enthusiastically supported by all present. In a brief address, His Excellency reiterated his message from the morning and highlighted the inaugural Governor’s Civics Awards for Schools which he had instigated to help young people understand the importance of civics in the South Australian historical context.

Our guest speaker Justin Gare from Artlab Australia spoke to his topic, Sir George Strickland Kingston; the man, his contribution and his vision. Justin’s presentation once again raised the debate about the relative contributions of Kingston and Light to the planning of Adelaide. However, there is no doubting that during his 44 years in SA Sir George Strickland Kingston made a significant contribution to many aspects of life in the Colony as surveyor, architect, engineer, businessman, and politician.
PROCLAMATION DAY LUNCHEON PICS

Speaker Justin Gare (L) with His Excellency and Justin’s model of the George Kingston designed memorial to Colonel William Light which stood in Light Square until 1905 and was then demolished and replaced by the present monument. Justin is advocating that this original memorial be recreated in time for the State’s bicentenary in 2036.

Descendants of Sir George Strickland Kingston:
( L-R ) Denise Goward, Debra Thurgarland, Iris Stuart, Cameron Stuart and Richard McCarthy.

(L-R) Heather Oswald, Sue Fox, Sue Rankine

(Brett Williams and Kath Donnellan)

Brian and Rosemary Penfold

(L-R) Paivi Forsaith, Pam Stace (standing) Mrs Lan Le, and Elizabeth Harris.

(L-R) Pamela Ottaviano, Anthea Taylor, Chris Ward.

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(L-R) Pam Dennis, Brian Dennis, Jill Davy, Julianne Davy, Christine Gordon, Greg Gordon OAM.