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

All PASA events and activities have been cancelled until 31 July 2020 due to the COVID-19.

Editorial

This April edition of the newsletter is somewhat on the early side but it was important to keep you informed about what has been happening behind the scenes while the PASA office is closed and to update you on the best means of communicating with PASA during this difficult and challenging time. My thanks to President David Forsaith for providing this news under the heading PASA moves to working from home (opposite) and to Judith Francis for a range of articles which in part take the place of our usual reports on past activities.

Best wishes to you all wherever you are; stay at home, keep safe and keep well.
Bob Stace, Editor

PASA MOVES TO WORKING FROM HOME
An update from PASA President David Forsaith

We face unprecedented times. For the foreseeable future, we have to change the way we live in order to reduce the rate of spread of COVID-19 and to protect ourselves and those we love.

The PASA Office is now closed until further notice. Council made this decision last weekend so that office volunteers do not have to compromise their health travelling between their homes and our office. Our decision is also consistent with recent government messages that we should all work from home if at all possible.

Although our office is closed, PASA will continue to operate as normally as possible under the current circumstances. Council will “meet” on an as-needs basis through email meetings so that necessary decision-making can occur. We had such a meeting last weekend and it operated smoothly.

Communications with our members

Importantly we will try to maintain communications with our members. We have arranged for certain Council volunteers to access PASA email from home so that we can read your emails and respond to you. We have also acquired a PASA mobile phone and all phone calls to PASA will be diverted to that phone. The PASA councillor in possession of that phone at the time will monitor incoming messages and respond as necessary.

Phone PASA: 08 82315055

The office post box for Australia Post mail will only be cleared occasionally if and when a
Councillor with a key to our post box is able to go into Harmer House. Email is the most efficient means of communicating with PASA at this time. It is quick and can easily be directed to the relevant Council volunteer.

**Email PASA: pioneersa@chariot.net.au**

We will also maintain our normal communication channels to members. Our e-newsletter the Pioneer X-press will continue to be produced on a regular basis. It will be our way of keeping you up to date with PASA news. It will look somewhat different as we will have no events to advertise or on which to report. Instead, we will include other items that we hope you find to be of interest. PASA news will also be updated on our website and facebook page.

We also intend publishing our quarterly journal “The Pioneer”. Editor Peter Brinkworth has informed me that the next edition is progressing well. Please keep contributing articles and other relevant material for future editions. We will continue to produce and send hard copies to you provided that our printer remains open and government regulations on physical movement allow it to be packaged. Otherwise it will be sent by email to those members who have provided us with an email address.

**“Trailblazers” exhibition postponed**

Since our last e-newsletter sent to you just over a week ago, we discussed the future of our May History Festival exhibition with our partner in this event The Royal South Australian Society of the Arts (RSASA). We have agreed with them to postpone this exhibition until the 2021 History Festival.

This exhibition will hang works of art produced by RSASA members side by side with related PASA pioneer posters. It will still be held in the RSASA Gallery located within the historic Institute building on the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue. A lot of work had gone into the organisation of this event and we are very pleased that the exhibition will still go ahead, albeit one year later. Thank you to those members who had volunteered to represent PASA at the exhibition. We hope you can do so next year.

**Refunds for cancelled events**

Our Treasurer Di Skull is in the process of refunding monies paid for cancelled events. She needs to hear from those people whether they wish to be refunded by cheque or by direct deposit into a bank account. For the latter she needs to know the name on the account, the BSB number and the account number. If you have not yet responded, please do so (preferably by email) and she will reimburse you as soon as possible.

**Recent changes on Council**

Our Secretary, Membership Officer and Website Manager Colin Routley has recently resigned from Council. Colin served 5½ years on Council and for the last 3½ years has carried willingly an enormous load in our organisation. He has fulfilled three major roles simultaneously and any one of those roles would be a very significant contribution by an individual to a volunteer-based organisation such as PASA. He performed his various roles very conscientiously and diligently and we are indebted to him for all his hard work. On behalf of Council and our membership, I sincerely acknowledge and thank him for his most valuable contribution.

Colin has resigned as Secretary and is also relinquishing the Membership Officer role. Fortunately, he has indicated his willingness to continue as a volunteer including continuing to manage the PASA website. He and those who have worked with him have added an enormous amount of material to the website over recent years to the benefit of our members and the wider public.

Judith Francis has stepped into the role of Secretary and Michael Smith will be the new Membership Officer.
I hope that you and your loved ones enjoy good health and remain in good spirits during the very challenging months ahead. PASA will do its best to remain in communication with you. If you are friends with members who you know do not receive our e-newsletters, perhaps you might be able to pass news to them. Staying in communication with one another will help us all through this health crisis.

David Forsaith

WISE WORDS

We can show our appreciation of all the professionals who continue to take risks by remaining at home. We finally have the time to do all those things we had promised ourselves. We’re not STUCK at home, we’re SAFE at home. One word can change our attitude and one cough can change our lives.

MISSING PASA?

TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

If you are missing your regular history “fix” with the absence of PASA activities or just have more time on your hands while we all bunker down in isolation, then you might try some of the following:

1. Familiarise yourself with the PASA website

Now is the time to check out the rich range of content on the PASA website:

www.pioneerssa.org.au

You could start by browsing through some of the topics from the main menu including Early SA History, Ships 1836-1846, and Our Pioneer Ancestors which includes all 212 of our published Pioneer Ancestor Posters.

Next you can familiarize yourself with the Library catalogue and try a few searches with Tiny Cat. Finally check out the Members Resource Area (for members eyes only) where you can read ALL of PASA’s 118 publications along with a range of e-books.

PASA Website: Members Resource Area
Username: [redacted] Password: [redacted]

2. Heritage All Around Us
[article supplied by Judith Francis]

Are you interested in finding out more about Heritage Places in South Australia? The SA State Government has digitised many reports which are accessed at the Enviro Data SA website.


They state: Our heritage is our inheritance from the past. South Australia’s heritage includes the natural environment, the built environment, artefacts and customs, languages and beliefs. Heritage places are important reminders of where we have come from. Heritage places provide us with evidence of the past, and links communities with attitudes and values that have shaped their environment.

When you have typed in the link above into your browser and done a search, you will be on the Home Page. There are FIVE tabs entitled all containing fascinating information; Heritage Place Research, Heritage Summaries, Heritage Surveys, Heritage Technical Guides and All Reports.

As an example of what you will find in Heritage Place Research, you will be given an alphabetical list of many Heritage Places around South Australia.

Eynesbury House c1885, SLSA B43103
I clicked on Eynesbury House, Belair Road, Mitcham, as this is a building I often drive past. The pdf document, when opened, was 26 pages in length. It detailed the History of the house, who built it with background notes and early photographs.

Have fun using this heritage site to search your family connections, your locality or just learn more about South Australian heritage.

3. Research the SA Public Library for Ancestry
[Another suggestion from Judith Francis]

The website for SA Public Libraries www.libraries.sa.gov.au is always open online. Recently, Ancestry (a family search engine which is usually only available on libraries computers) was made accessible remotely via the internet to your home computer. Get started at www.libraries.sa.gov.au/digital

You will need to have a valid LibrariesSA OneCard (borrowers Card) but if you do not have one already you can register online.

PIONEER POSTER PROJECT

Because PASA was committed to the Trailblazers Exhibition with the RSASA during the May History Festival (see cancellation details on page 2) we had planned for an exhibition of our own newly produced posters later this year. This will now depend on how long it takes for this present crisis to pass.

In the meantime, Judith Francis who coordinates the Poster Project is eager to find members who might be interested in adding to our collection by researching and completing a poster celebrating the lives of our Missing Women in History. Women like Mary Penfold (1816-1895), farmer, businesswoman and founder of Penfolds.

You don’t need to be a descendant of your “Missing Woman; just someone with an interest in her life.

If you are interested in contributing to our ever growing collection of Pioneer Posters then please contact Judith at pasa2019posters@gmail.com to have a conversation regarding your focus person. Judith also has some ideas on possible subjects.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

March Answer

The person pictured in the March question, who had arrived on the Fairfield in 1840 as a free passage emigrant, was (Sir) Henry Ayers (1821-1897). Ayers was born on 1 May 1821 at Portsea, Hampshire, England, son of William Ayers, of the Portsmouth dockyard, and his wife Elizabeth, née Breakes. He was educated at the Beneficial Society's School in Portsea, and in 1832 entered the legal office of S. W. Blyth in Portsea. Less than a month after his marriage to Anne Potts at Alverstoke in 1840, he emigrated, as a carpenter, with free passages for himself and his bride, and arrived in Port Adelaide on the Fairfield on 14 December 1840.

He did not take up carpentry which had secured his free passage, but immediately gained work as a law clerk in the office of (Sir) James Fisher until 1845. At this time, he was appointed secretary of the South Australian Mining Association; its copper mines at Burra Burra yielded fifteen dividends of 200 per cent each in the next five years. Ayers had bought forty-five of the original £5 shares, and by 1850 (still only 29!!) controlled sufficient votes of absentee shareholders to be elected managing director of the Association.
You can discover more about the meteoric rise of Sir Henry Ayers to become one of the towering figures of 19th century South Australia business and politics by checking out his story in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

April Question
A question for those of us who are bunkered down at home and have time on our hands

Many of us were looking forward to the April Pub lunch when our guest speaker Emeritus Professor Wayne Sampson was to address the topic: Dentists and Dentistry in Colonial South Australia.

Amongst much interesting information we would have learnt the name of South Australia’s first dental surgeon who practised on North Tce from 1844. Your “test “ is to discover the name of our first dental surgeon (pictured above) by going to this website:

[Instructions: ctrl+click to follow the link or copy this link to your browser]

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE
They said that a mask and gloves were enough to go to the supermarket. They lied, everyone else had their clothes on!

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