

# PIONEER e-XPRESS

Monthly Newsletter of the Pioneers Association of South Australia



October 2020



This is a brief outline of PASA events over the next 3 months. Further details of each of these events can be found later in this newsletter.

## NOVEMBER

**CITY OF ADELAIDE CLIPPER SHIP:** Friday 6 November, 12noon- 2.30pm. Visit the *City of Adelaide* Clipper ship at Dock 2, Honey Street, Port Adelaide, BYO lunch. Bookings required by 3 November. Payment of \$15.00 at the ship.

**SAME SHIPS MEETING:** Wednesday 11 November, 10am – 12 noon at the PASA Office

**Topic:** Research support and Q & A – all members welcome.

**VISIT TO GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS EXHIBITION** at the State Library, Thursday 19 November from 10.30am – 12noon. This event is fully booked but an extra event has been organised. See below.

**EXTRA VISIT TO GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS EXHIBITION** at the State Library on Thursday 26 November from 10.30am-12noon. Bookings are now available for this visit but limited to 20 participants. Please book ASAP but no later than 17 November.

## DECEMBER

**1840 RETROSPECTIVE:** Thursday 3 December from 12noon – 2.00pm at

Pilgrim Uniting Church Hall, 12 Flinders St, Adelaide. A series of short presentations by a group of PASA members reflecting on the events and people of 180 years ago. BYO Lunch. Members \$2, non-members \$5.

**PROCLAMATION DAY LUNCH: Monday 28 December**, 12 for 12.30pm at the Glenelg Golf Club.

Speaker: Dr Gillian Dooley, *Matthew Flinders: the man and his voyages of discovery*. Three course luncheon with drink on arrival. Members \$75, non-members \$80. Bookings and payment by 8 December.



This is the first edition of the *PASA e-Xpress* using the *Mailchimp* marketing platform to prepare and distribute our monthly email newsletter. The appearance and format of this newsletter will differ somewhat from previous editions, but instead of an unwieldy and time-consuming distribution system, *Mailchimp* will provide a much speedier and effective service. Its multi featured marketing platform also offers us a wider range of communication opportunities. Your editor is still a novice in using this system and I thank members Julie Russell and Michael Smith for their support with the preparation and distribution of this edition.

You should have recently received an emailed copy of “Around the Table” which provided you with brief information about PASA’s recent AGM and the election of our new Council and Executive. This information is expanded upon in this newsletter. “Around the Table” will be used to provide PASA members with brief news flashes, but be assured we will still be publishing this monthly e-Xpress. Your editor would appreciate any constructive feedback on the changes to the presentation of this newsletter.

Bob Stace  
Editor

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

After a lapse of over 6 months since our previous event due to COVID 19, it

was most heartening on a rather chilly September night to have a gathering of 62 members and guests attending our recent AGM which was held in the Parish Hall of Christ Church North Adelaide. In addition, there were many apologies and also a number of members attending by proxy; all a great sign of support for the Association.



In his **Annual Report**, retiring President David Forsaith highlighted the “two vastly different phases of the 2019/20 PASA year”. In the first 8 months we enjoyed life in our new premises in Harmer House and we were able to provide an expanded range of member services, workshops and research activities as well as the usual wide variety of well patronized events. This was all in stark contrast to the final 4 months of closure due to COVID 19.

David thanked both the Council members and the volunteers who had contributed so much to the Association during what turned out to be a difficult year. Particular mention was made of retiring Councilors Sue Fox and Julie Neale and special thanks was extended to Di Skull for 10 years’ service on Council including 8 years as Treasurer.

David also highlighted the strength of our membership with 695 adult members as at 30 June 2020, an increase of 35 from the previous year. In addition, there were 113 Junior Pioneers. This strong membership base and ongoing prudent financial management has ensured that the Association remains in a solid financial position.

The President paid tribute to past PASA President Kingsley Ireland who had died during the year and highlighted both his 50 years of membership and his leadership as President of the Association. Dr Robert Edwards AO was also honored on the night with the Award of Honorary Life Membership. Robert is

now in his 60<sup>th</sup> year of PASA membership and was a member of PASA Council from 1960 – 1997 including 28 years as Vice President.

The full 5 page copy of the President's Annual Report can be obtained by emailing the PASA Office; it will also be available for viewing on our Website.

**The new PASA Council for 2020/21** was announced during the meeting. The 15 nominated and elected members being: Tom Chapman, Susan Cole, Ann Doolette, Judith Francis, Sally Grundy, Elizabeth Harris, Karina Hutchesson, Bobbie Mulholland, Colin Routley, Julie Russell, Pam Skurray, Michael Smith, Bob Stace, Anthea Taylor and Cheryl Williss.

### **Guest Speaker**

Following the business section of the meeting members were treated to a most interesting and thought-provoking presentation from our guest speaker Beth Robertson on the topic *Edward Stirling's dark inheritance*. Beth has kindly provided a synopsis of her presentation which appears below.



## **Edward Stirling's dark inheritance**

I was delighted to be asked to address the AGM about my great-great-grandfather Edward Stirling. Family oral tradition held that Edward was born in Jamaica to a black mother and a Scottish plantation owner. His father took him to Scotland to be educated; funded him to come to South Australia in 1839 onboard the Lady Bute; and bailed him out when an initial pastoralist venture failed.

Edward's subsequent success is well-documented in conventional sources: he enlarged his pastoralist holdings, Elder, Stirling & Co, financed the Wallaroo and Moonta mines and he was part of the Legislative Council that wrote the South Australian Constitution. His sons Sir Edward Charles ('Ted') Stirling and Sir John Lancelot Stirling consolidated their father's success.

Recently uncovered correspondence between Edward and his father, who sired at least six illegitimate children with two or more unnamed women or girls of colour during 25 years in Jamaica, indicates that Edward was excluded from his father's society in Scotland. It was after his father received over £12,500 under

the Slave Compensation Act for his share of 690 slaves in Jamaica that Edward received an accelerated inheritance of £1,000 that enabled him to start anew in South Australia. Six years later coast disease killed hundreds of his sheep at Rivoli Bay. His father only paid the resulting debt to protect his own reputation after Edward resorted to raising a bill of exchange involving an Adelaide merchant and his father's Glasgow bank.

My presentation discussed how Edward's racial heritage shaped his life in Jamaica, Scotland, South Australia and England. I also considered how that heritage may have influenced attitudes about Aborigines expressed by Ted as Professor of Physiology at Adelaide University and Director of the South Australian Museum. My hypothesis is that both father and son feared being publicly labelled with the racial classifications used by the British to degrade and control mixed-race people of both Negro and Aboriginal descent. I hope to explore this further.

**Beth M Robertson**

## AGM PIX



Above: 1. L-R Anthea Taylor, Elizabeth Harris and Sue Fox

2. L-R Ken Jacobs, Beth Robertson (Guest Speaker) and Sally Hopton

3. L-R Helen and Chris **Tippett** with Julie Russell
4. Peter and Pauline Brinkworth



## COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2020/21

The newly elected Council met on 23 September to elect the 5 member Executive for the coming year.

The following were duly elected:

President: Judith Francis

Vice President: Ann Doolette

Secretary: Michael Smith

Treasurer: Karina Hutchesson

5<sup>th</sup> member of Executive: Bob Stace

## NEW PASA PRESIDENT

My involvement with PASA began in 2011 as a member after I had identified three pioneering families. I joined Council in 2012 – 2014 but work commitments made participation difficult. I renominated for Council again in 2016 and have been a Councillor for the last three years, and Vice-President for 2018 & 2019. I have a good knowledge of the complex and often demanding work of PASA and I am excited to be able to work to ensure we are meeting your needs.



I welcome feedback on our current work and invite ideas that may improve what we offer. Please email me with your thoughts at [pioneerssa@tpg.org.au](mailto:pioneerssa@tpg.org.au)  
Attention: Judith

Please say “hello” to me, in person or via email, as I really enjoy meeting people and I hope to get to know as many of you as possible over the coming year.

Judith Francis  
President

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# COMING EVENTS

## Visit to the *City of Adelaide*



Location :  
Dock 2, Port Adelaide,  
showing *City of Adelaide* front centre  
and  
Shed 13 to the right.

The next major event will be our Pioneer Group Luncheon visit to the historic clipper ship the *City of Adelaide* located at Dock 2, Honey St, Port Adelaide on **Friday 6 November** from 12noon - 2.30pm. If you are unfamiliar with the location, please check google maps or your GPS. The meeting will be held in Shed 13 (clearly marked) on Honey St and the usual COVID 19 checks and formalities will be required upon arrival. The meeting will commence at 12 noon with the eating of your BYO lunch. Tea and coffee will be available and cool drinks can be purchased for \$2 (cash only). Lunch will be followed by a brief 1840 retrospective about the opening of the New Port Adelaide Wharf in October 1840.

## City of Adelaide, 1864

from Wikipedia



This will be followed by our guest speaker **Tom Chapman AO** whose topic is: **The history of the *City of Adelaide* and the campaign to bring it back to South Australia.**



Tom has recently been elected to the PASA Council and has been actively involved with the *City of Adelaide* project.

Following Tom's talk there will be self-guided tour of the ship which is located a short walk of about 100 m from Shed 13. Cost of the guided tour is \$15 which is paid at the ship ( Credit card or cash). Please note that those touring the ship should wear comfortable flat soled non-slip shoes, that access to the ship is via stairs, and that once on board, the ship floors are uneven.

The tour of the ship is optional and the \$15 is only payable by those who go on board. However, if you can manage the stairs then it is a most interesting experience.

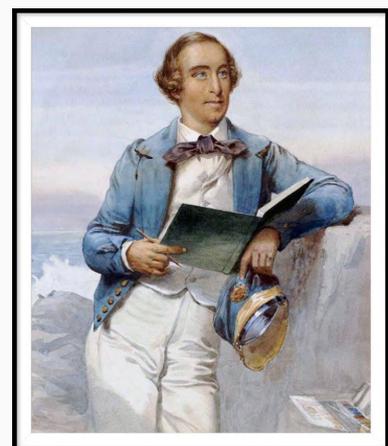
Toilet facilities are adjacent to the ship and ample parking is available off Honey Street.

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## Visits to the George French Angas Exhibition

Due to demand, an extra visit has now been organized to this Exhibition at the State Library on North Terrace

1. **Thursday 19 November** from 10.30am -12 noon (fully booked)
2. **Thursday 26 November** from 10.30am -12 noon (Places still available. Please book via the PASA Office ASAP but no later than 17 November)



Those who have been placed on the waiting list for the first visit have now been transferred to the second visit.

Both tours have been specially organized for PASA members (and friends) and are free of charge. They will feature a special curator's talk with background

details on the artist and the works displayed.

Those attending should meet at The Treasures Wall on Level 1 at 10.20am.

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## 1840 Retrospective



Following the success of the first three annual Retrospectives 1837-39, this year's 1840 Retrospective will be held in the Hall of Pilgrim Uniting Church, 12 Flinders St on **Thursday 3 December** from 12noon - 2.00pm.

This is a BYO lunch event but due to COVID-19 regulations no tea or coffee will be served. However, you are welcome to bring your own thermos.

This event will feature a series of short, illustrated presentations from PASA members about the events and people of 1840. In most cases these stories will highlight the lives and activities of our presenters' ancestors who arrived in Adelaide in 1840.

Cost for this event is \$2 members and \$5 non-members (payable at the event). Whilst bookings are not required, it would be useful in these COVID times if you notified the Office by the 26 November if you plan to attend. This is a great event to invite a relative or friend and to introduce them to the PASA story.

**Municipality of Adelaide  
established in October 1840,  
the beginning of local  
government in Australia.**



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## Proclamation Day Lunch

Our annual Proclamation Day Lunch will be held once again at the Glenelg Golf Club, James Melrose Drive, Novar Gardens on **Monday 28 December**, 12 noon for a 12.30 start. This event has gained the reputation as "not to be missed" and is one in which PASA members traditionally celebrate the lives of their ancestors. Its location allows convenient access by those members who wish to attend the public ceremony at the Old Gum Tree in the morning and

then move to the lunch. The views from the Golf Club dining room looking east to the Mt Lofty Ranges still evoke those which greeted our ancestors when they first arrived on these shores.

Cost of the 3 course luncheon with drink on arrival is \$75 for members and \$80 for non-members. Bookings and payments essential by 8 December. Please book ASAP to help with arrangements.



The speaker at the lunch is Dr Gillian Dooley whose topic is: ***Matthew Flinders: the man and his voyages of discovery***. Gillian is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Flinders University who has a special interest in Matthew Flinders.

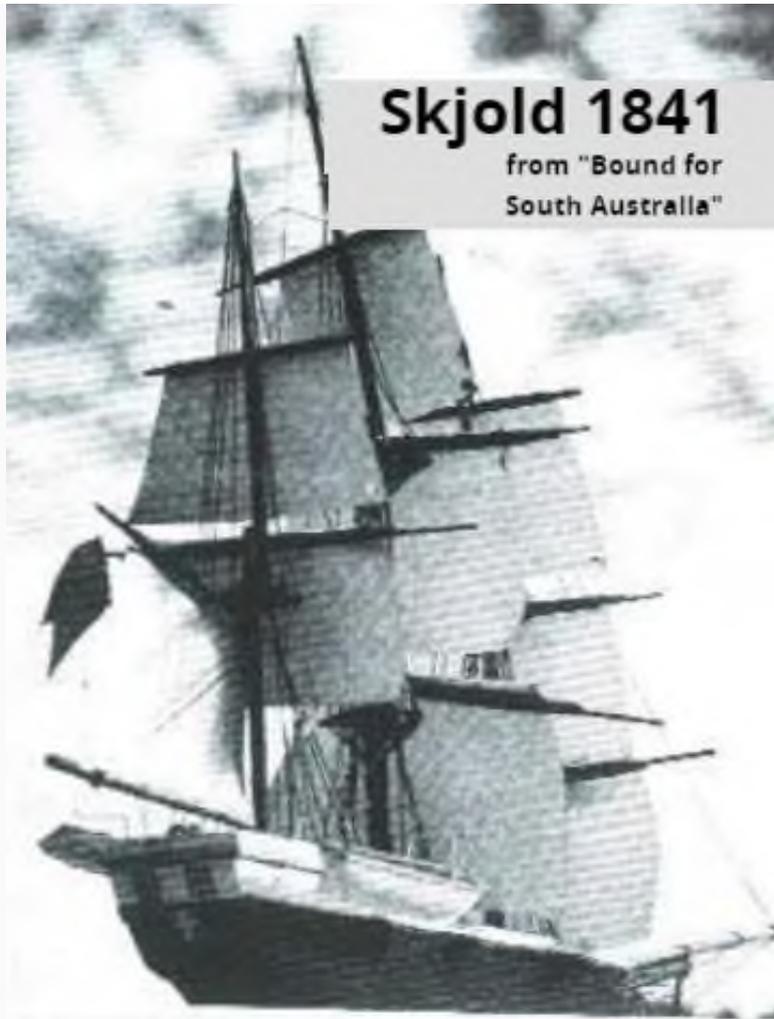


## **SAME SHIPS**

In spite of interruptions to the Same Ships project during the COVID-19 break this year, significant progress has still been made in recording information about the ships and passengers arriving in the first 10 years of the Colony. In the three years of this project considerable information has already been gathered about 56 ships and their passengers who arrived from overseas. Over 300 ships brought colonists during this period, so this project is very much a work in progress.

Please contact [pasa.sameships@gmail.com](mailto:pasa.sameships@gmail.com) if you would like to be involved in meetings and/or research.

Next year the following ships are likely to feature in the programme of meetings: Dates and times will be announced by the end of this year. *Fairfield* (arrived 1840), *Fairlie* (1840), *Charles Kerr* (1840), *City of Adelaide* (1839, 1840, 1841), *Skjold* (1841), *Anna Robertson* (1839), *Africaine* (1836) and *Cleveland* (1839).



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## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### September Answer

This was a topical question last month when South Australians experienced a September without the Royal Adelaide Show being part of our lives. The image at the centre of the September question was a painting by ST Gill depicting a very early Horticultural Society Show in the 1840's. These shows were the forerunner of our present day shows. From 1844-59 the Shows were held in Botanic Park (between the present Zoo and the old RAH sites). In 1844 the Society organized and staged the first combined produce and livestock exhibition in a large marquee in the Park. John Ridley's historic reaping machine, invented and manufactured in his Hindmarsh workshop and used successfully in 1843, was a feature exhibit of the Show. Local beer was exhibited for the first time!

### October Question

With our visit to the *City of Adelaide* coming up early next month it is a reminder that, of the many clipper ships to be plying the oceans in the mid-late

nineteenth century, only two remain in existence today. The *City of Adelaide*, which made 23 round voyages from London to South Australia from 1864 – 1889, and one other.

**Questions:**

**1. What is the name of the other clipper ship which is still intact today? (see photo)**

**2. Where is this ship located?**



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Pioneer e-Xpress Editor :Bob Stace  
Technical support : Michael Smith  
and Julie Russell

