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PIONEER e-XPRESS



Monthly Newsletter of the Pioneers Association of South Australia

May 2021

Compiled by Jan Smith, Judith Francis,
Julie Russell & Michael Smith

The May 2021 newsletter is available on the "Journal & Newsletters" page from the Pioneers SA website. Click ["here"](#) to go to it, or click ["here"](#) for the web-page.



We hope to see many of you at the forthcoming Pioneer SA events highlighted below!

Please note: Bookings are required for all Pioneers SA events

Bookings can be made by email (preferred) at events@pioneerssa.org.au, or phone: either 8231-5055 or mobile: 0490043264. Please ensure you quote the designated booking code **[Printed in red adjacent to each event]**.

When events have an attendance limit, bookings will be confirmed in order of date of receipt of booking. If a payment is required, you may make an EFTPOS payment. This facility is available by either emailing your credit card details to treasurer@pioneerssa.org.au or telephoning us on the landline (08) 82315055 during opening hours (Tuesday & Thursday 10.00 – 2.00).

Please leave a message giving YOUR name and phone number and we will return your call. (We ask that the \$2 or \$5 donation for lunch meetings still be cash). We will also be able to accept EFTPOS payments at events. Of course payments will still be accepted through electronic transfer (EFT), cheque and cash.

JUNE

E21-09 SAME SHIPS MEETING Wednesday, June 9, 10 am-noon in the Pioneers Room, 2nd floor, Stafford House, 25 Leigh Street, Adelaide. Featured ship is **Skjold** (1841). Descendants of pioneers who arrived on this ship can share what they know about this voyage and help to research and share information. For more information, email sameships@gmail.com

Members and visitors welcome.

E21-10 LUNCH MEETING Wednesday 16 June, 12 noon - 2 pm.

Venue: Hetzel Theatre, ground floor, Institute Building, North Terrace, Adelaide.

Limit 80 people

Speaker **Joelie Hancock**: “**The Beginnings of the Institute Movement; the pursuit of useful knowledge**”.

BYO Lunch.

E21-10A TOUR OF THE INSTITUTE BUILDING (NOTE! *This tour is open only to those booking for preceding talk by Joelie Hancock in the Hetzel Theatre.*)

Wednesday 16 June, 2 pm - 2.30 pm; **immediately** following the talk by Joelie Hancock. The tour will explore the various rooms and their interesting history. This tour limited to 30 people, and bookings must be received by 2 June.

JULY

E21-11 ANNUAL DINNER featuring **Dr. Skye Krichauff**.

Friday, July 9, Adelaide Pavilion, Veale Gardens, South Terrace, Adelaide.

On site venue parking available. Limit 80 people.

This promises to be an informative and entertaining event and also a chance to mix with fellow Pioneer members and friends.

More information about this event follows in a further article in this newsletter.

\$80.00 members,

\$85.00 visitors.

E21-12 SAME SHIPS MEETING Wednesday 14 July, 10 am-noon in the Pioneers Room, 2nd floor, Stafford House, 25 Leigh Street, Adelaide. The featured ship for July will be the **Anna Robertson** (1839). Descendants of pioneers who arrived on this ship can share what they know about the voyage and help to research and share information. For more information, email sameships@gmail.com

Members and visitors welcome.

**Meet your Councillors - PASA Council 2020-21
May Meeting**



L-R, seated: **Karina Hutchesson, Julie Russell, Judith Francis.**

L-R standing: **Colin Routley, Anthea Taylor, Elizabeth Harris, Bobbie Mulholland, Bob Stace.**

Sally Grundy (via distance technology)

Councillors unable to attend were: **Michael Smith, Tom Chapman, Pam Skurray, Anne Doolette and Susan Cole.**

Our Pioneers SA Council is comprised of fourteen members this year. We would love to meet you so be sure to introduce yourself when you see us at an event!

There are a number of very active sub-committees, working parties, plus independent tasks around finance, IT, clerical, posters, library and research. We welcome new ideas and willing hands. If you are interested in being a volunteer there are so many opportunities in this busy, active organization.

Judith Francis

Email: president@pioneerssa.org.au



This newsletter marks a major change ... **Bob Stace** indicated in the April e-Xpress that he intended to 'handover the pen' as editor of this newsletter, after about 10 years!

Bob instigated the online newsletter and has carried out this job in tandem with other major roles, including several years as President of the Pioneers Association of SA.

I understand the hard work and collaborative effort that happens behind the scenes to achieve easily read newsletter pages that appear like clockwork for members.

On behalf of all Pioneers SA members & friends, I would like to thank Bob for

this work which has been highly appreciated by all.

Pioneers e-Xpress shares your stories. I hope the online newsletter continues engaging your interest and enthusiasm in all things Pioneer. Our Association is the sum of all its committed and engaged members.

If you have ideas of things you'd like to see in the newsletter feel free to contact us. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Judith Francis, President

TRAILBLAZERS Exhibition - our contribution to the SA History Festival 2021

We hope you were able to visit the Trailblazers Exhibition this month. The Exhibition, coordinated by **Susan Benham Page** and former Pioneers President, **David Forsaith**, was a joint History Festival event presented by Pioneers SA in collaboration with the Royal SA Society of Arts. It featured a range of artworks contributed by RSASA members complementing biographical posters from the Pioneers SA collection 1836-1846, produced with the help of our member descendants and including 20 new posters. A range of interesting artwork was on display including painting, mixed media, textiles, drawing, pen and ink, and sculpture, including the wonderful work depicting pioneer Marion Baird by Cheryl Bridgart. Our photo (below) gives you an idea, but you must see this work up close to appreciate the machine fine thread embroidery and 3D embroidered book, depicting Marion against an early Barossa landscape and referencing the water-colours of George French Angas.



Pioneer **Marion Baird** by artist **Cheryl Bridgart**



David Baker, Bev Bills, Bob Stace



Colonel Light's Birthday

on 27 April, was a happy coincidence with the staging of the exhibition, 2021 marking the 235th anniversary of his birth.

This commemoration was acknowledged with two different but complimentary presentations by Past President of the Pioneers Association **Bob Stace** and the current President of the Royal SA Society of Arts (RSASA) **David Baker**. Bob gave an overview of Light's life and career while David gave an insight into Colonel Light, the artist. The two proved popular collaborative speakers and we're looking forward to them again working in tandem again, combining the right brain and left brain aspects of art and history!

Another popular event associated with the Trailblazers Exhibition was a **Talk on Colonial Ships** given by **John Ford** on Thursday 13 May in the RSASA gallery. John Ford is renowned for his exceptional paintings of colonial ships, and clearly, with the way they come to life in his paintings, he knows all the stories they have to tell!

1840 RETROSPECTIVE LUNCHEON

The saying 'all good things are worth waiting for' was proved loud and clear at this engaging event, originally scheduled for last November and postponed, due to Covid-19 restrictions.



An enthusiastic crowd of 55 people filled the spacious and comfortable Walkerville Uniting Church Hall for an interesting review of the year 1840 as experienced by the colonists.

Pioneers SA President **Judith Francis** welcomed members and then gave an introductory overview of 1840's Adelaide. Some of the interesting events of 1840 mentioned by Judith put all the subsequent colonist stories in context:

Jan 1 – **Adelaide races** held & the **formation of the Total Abstinence Society**; Mar 2 - the first **wool auction**; Mar 16 – **Savings Bank** opened; Jun 18 - a ship named '**Thirteen**' arriving safely; July 15 - the laying of the **Royal Adelaide Hospital** foundation stone; Oct 14 - the **grand opening of McLaren Wharf**, making the colloquially known 'Port Misery' (due to the mosquitoes and sludge of the tidal swamp) a part of history; Oct 30 - **our first municipal election**; Dec 8 - **Agricultural Show**.

Interesting and diverse family stories of ancestors were then presented in short talks throughout an entertaining 90 minutes, with all talks having the common thread of people arriving in SA seeking a better life for themselves and their

children.

The speakers who shared interesting stories of their ancestors, bringing them back to life, were; **Alan Francis, Ray Cowley, Ian Maidment, Jackie Mussared, Brian O'Halloran, Carolyn Kemp, Rebecca Geisler, and Graham Ragless**. Their stories introduced the audience to life's rich tapestry through the likes of Bowden and Brompton property holder **William Drayton** and his wife **Rachel**, crew member **John Jaffa (a runaway sailor), James and Agnes Hay**, and their son **Archie Hay** born aboard the *Dauntless*, five year old **Sam Harbin** (who later had 16 offspring of his own), **George Maidment, Eliza Bailey, Lucy and William Saint, Henry Hamilton Blackham, Robert and Sarah Cowley**, and the **Wilson's of Newry, Ireland**, who were all among the 2,992 emigrants recorded in 1840.

One of the many interesting stories featured was the pioneer **Henry Hamilton Blackham** who became a published poet. As we celebrate this 2021 History Festival month, his poem *Homeland* is a nice link connecting our Trailblazers Exhibition and the 1840 retrospective event. *Homeland* expresses Blackham's feelings of being so far away from the land where he grew up.

Bob Stace shared a diary entry written by **Mrs. Watts**, giving a detailed account of the opening of McLaren's Wharf.

That day a harsh north wind blew, as is often experienced in South Australia, and the women arrived after the 8 mile journey from Adelaide to the Port (on the fine dirt road) very disheveled, seeking respite and the opportunity to 'clean up.' Only two basins were provided for the hundreds present!

HOMELAND Henry Hamilton Blackham

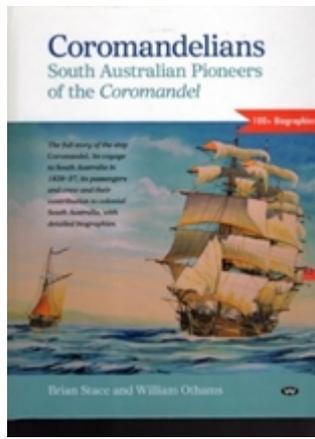
*The autumn sunshine golden lay
Along the highlands of Iveagh,
When last I saw her winding shore
And stood, where I stood no more,
To bid a long and last good-bye
To boyhood's home and blue
Clanrye..*

*..Ah! those were days, whose bygone
light
Streams forth from morning's gates
again:
Whose happy records I could write
On spotless page with golden pen:
And yet, an hour of parting came-
A sad farewell, a long good-bye-
While but the memory of a name,
The love-lights of an early flame,
Are all that's left of blue Clanrye!*

AVAILABLE NOW!

a book by **Brian Stace & Bill Othams** (Pioneers SA members)

Coromandelians details the full story of the ship *Coromandel*, its voyage to



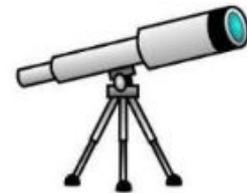
South Australia in 1836-37, its passengers and crew and their contribution to colonial South Australia including detailed biographies. The book, widely acclaimed, is relevant to anyone interested in or researching the story of South Australia's early pioneers and the social history of the South Australian colony.

Pioneers SA is the distributor for this book. Cost for new purchases is \$65/copy plus postage, if required.

Members and the public who wish to order books, collect reordered books, or exchange books already supplied (a few distributed from Nov 2020-Jan 2021 had binding faults) can visit or phone **Robin Mullholland, Project Co-ordinator**, at the Pioneers Room on Tuesdays between 10am and 2pm.

LOOKING AHEAD

Events in the pipeline you should be booking, now!



E21-10 16 June meeting at the Institute Building, North Terrace

Noon-2pm (BYO Lunch, book by 8 June)

E21-10A 16 June Institute Building tour (available as an additional booking to your Hancock talk booking) 2 pm-2.30 pm (numbers limited, book by June 2).



Be sure to set aside **Wednesday 16 June**, when we will be offering an interesting lunchtime talk followed by a guided tour of the Institute Building.

Speaker **Joelle Hancock**: “**The Beginnings of the Institute Movement: the pursuit of useful knowledge**”.

This promises to be a very interesting talk. Joelle recently set herself the task of documenting all the institutes we have had in South Australia, and so far she's located 440. Institutes throughout history have provided communities, both suburban and rural, with a library, a reading-room and a meeting place - for entertainment, debate and instruction.



Gawler Institute Building, circa 1870s



Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, city

Originally developed in the UK in the 1820s they were called Mechanics' Institutes. Institutes historically were the social centre of community life. In these days of internet access throughout the world, and modern public libraries replacing so many of the former Institutes, this event will be an interesting discussion. What are the prospects for support of the original Institutes and their lovely buildings?

We thank State Library Director, **Geoff Strempe**, and the **State Library** for support in the use of the Hetzel Theatre and for the tour of the Institute Building which follows.

E21-11 Friday, July 9: ANNUAL DINNER: Bookings now open!
6.30 pm, Adelaide Pavilion, South Terrace, City



By the time July comes along we'll all be ready for a mid-winter opportunity to spruce up and enjoy a great night out. The evening promises interesting conversations and a delicious dinner, and introduces new friends.

The night covers all the essentials... it feeds the brain, the body, and warms the soul. The Association's Annual Dinner will be held at the **Adelaide Pavilion on South Terrace** (pictured), on **Friday 9 July from 6.30pm**.

Dr Skye Krichauff, the current Chair of the **History Council of SA**, is speaking on 'Early relations between the Tarndanya (the people of the Adelaide Plains) and the European colonists, 1836-1846'. The night promises to add another dimension to understanding the impact of colonisation on the Kaurna people and their interaction with our pioneering ancestors.

This event is limited to a maximum of 80 people. Cost for the 3-course dinner is \$80 for members and \$85 for guests.

***Be Right and Persist In It* by Graham Ragless**

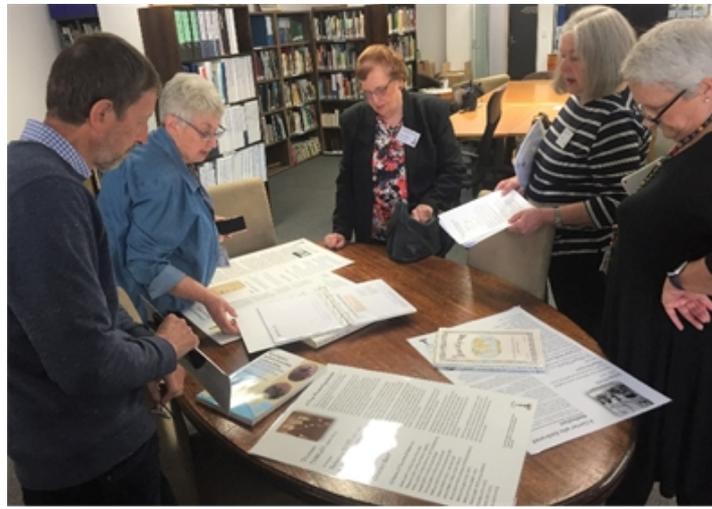
One of the speakers at our 1840 Retrospective event last month was **Graham Ragless**, pictured here at that event (centre rear in black cap) with **Bob Stace**, **Jeanne Hurrell**, and **Paul Curry**. Graham's talk that day was not about his book, but we were lucky he also brought along a copy of his latest literary effort, for the Pioneers library!

This is a fascinating book about his pioneer ancestor, **John Ragless Jr.** with its engaging title ***Be Right and Persist in It***. The book offers a wonderful look back through history and at the enduring legacy of people from the days of his great, great grandfather. It is an entertaining read in addition to being a well-researched and annotated reference, giving other historical researchers avenues to pursue South Australian history. Particularly fascinating are the illustrated plates on pages 372-373 comparing a map of modern Adelaide and North Adelaide with Colonel Light's original plan of Adelaide 1838...which reinforces the title of the book! Congratulations to Graham on this impressive hardcover publication, which is a worthy addition to the library.

**Same Ships, April Meeting — *Charles Kerr, 1840***

All those years ago, as people boarded the *Charles Kerr* in 1840, we can safely surmise that the last thing on their minds would be that descendants in the centuries to come would be linked together,

learning about this voyage.



However, some ships Conveners, **Karina Hutchesson, Julie Neale and Sue Fox** do precisely this with their interesting sessions that result in much sharing of interesting information, and many facts that **Julie Neale** can add to our Library for future researchers. April's *Charles Kerr* meeting attracted an interested group (pictured above). The pictures also give a good aspect of our interesting and very useful library collection, managed by **Julie Neale**.



L-R seated: **Ian Maidment, Claire Loades, Carolyn Carroll**, standing **Sue Fox, Julie Neale, Helen Tippett, Karina Hutchesson**.

Sue Fox is an engaging and enthusiastic volunteer and we thank her for her extensive energy and talent, attending so many of our events as photographer, ensuring we have many wonderful pictures for posterity.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

May Questions: we'll keep with Colonel Light's celebrations at our Trailblazers exhibition for these two questions:

1. What was the name of Colonel Light's loving partner, who was with him in Adelaide, until his death in 1839?
2. What caused Colonel Light's death?

April Answer: Well done to those who correctly discovered that the initial intention was to locate the Institute Building on King William Rd where our Festival Theatre is, rather than on North Terrace where it opened in 1860 and still stands today.

JUNIOR PIONEERS DESERVE THE LAST WORD!

Our Junior Pioneers had a delightful day visiting Government House in April, including sitting on a couch that came to Australia on the Buffalo, way back in 1836! These events are wonderful to encourage an interest in history in young people, so don't let your young ones miss this opportunity ...register them now as Junior Pioneers.



In these modern times, tablets and electronic games tend to be the major source of amusement for kids, so these Junior Pioneer events are a wonderful opportunity to open a world of other options of real life adventures for your family's youngsters, and perhaps turn them on to history in the process.

Junior Pioneers are currently planning their adventure for later this year and ideas and volunteers for this programme are always welcome! Junior Pioneers is a wonderful opportunity to help your youngsters get a head start on the future by learning more about where they have come from, what their ancestors experienced, and how they dealt with the challenges they faced.

It's easy and inexpensive to join—a one-off payment of \$20 lasts till they turn 18. Membership forms available from on our website:
<http://www.pioneerssa.org.au> and then the fun begins!



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