

PIONEER e-Xpress

Monthly Newsletter of the Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc
May 2019



MAY

PASA SCANFEST: Sunday 19 May (1.00 – 4.00pm) and **Monday 20 May** (10.am – 2.30pm) in the PASA Office.

EXHIBITION OF PIONEER POSTERS: Sunday 19 May (1.00pm – 4.00pm) and **Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 May** (10.00am – 2.30pm) in the basement of Stafford House, Leigh St, Adelaide. [see page 26 History Festival programme]

GLENELG HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents “The 1837 *Coromandel*: arrival of the working class” on **Sunday 26 May** from 4.00 – 5.30pm at the Jetty Hotel, Jetty Rd, Glenelg. Free event, no booking needed.

JUNE

PIONEER GROUP EVENT: Wednesday 5 June from 10.00am -1.00pm at Lochend House, Campbelltown. Speaker: Paul Blackman, *Music in the Colonial Period* Cost: \$5, includes a tour of Lochend House and morning tea. (**bookings to the PASA Office by 23 May** with payment on the day)

EDEN SHIPPING GROUP MEETING: Wednesday 19 June from 10am – 12 noon in the PASA Office

JULY

VISIT TO WESLEY UNITING CHURCH (Kent Town): Wed 3 July from 1.30pm – 3.00pm at the Church, 27 Grenfell St, Kent Town. Speaker and Guide, Jim Everett with topic: *The pioneers memorialised in Kent Town Uniting Church*. Cost \$5 payable on the day. Bookings essential by 25 June as numbers limited.

EXCITING NEWS

PASA IS MOVING..... BUT NOT FAR!

After more than twenty years located in the basement of Stafford House, the PASA Office is relocating to Harmer House, 5 Leigh Street, on the corner of Hindley Street and Leigh Street. (see photo bottom left). This exciting announcement was shared with members at our recent luncheon.

There are many benefits to members in this move; we will have significantly greater space (about 50% bigger), we will be located on the first floor of the two-story building with natural light from windows to the north and the east. The room is fully air-conditioned and will be newly carpeted. There are also facilities including toilets and kitchenette available on the same floor.

The new location will provide members with a comfortable, welcoming research and library space plus access to administrative services. Volunteers will have a very pleasant working environment. This move will allow us to provide improved services for our members. It is an exciting time for PASA!

The opportunity for our relocation has been made possible due to the support and generosity of our landlord, Ginos Group, the company which owns both Stafford House and Harmer House. George Ginos, Property Manager, accepted an offer from the PASA Premises Committee based on our current annual rent with very reasonable incremental increases for the next three years. This means that the move is within PASA’s financial capacity.

We are now busy preparing for the move which is likely to take place from early July. More details will be shared with you in the coming weeks. Until then it will be business as usual in the Basement of Stafford House.



Harmer House: Cnr Leigh St and Hindley St, Adelaide
PASA’s new location is on the first floor.



PASA HISTORY FESTIVAL EVENTS

2019 Poster Exhibition: 19-21 May

This year's Pioneer Poster Exhibition will once again be held in the Mothers Union meeting room adjacent to the PASA Office in Stafford House. The Exhibition will run for 3 days starting on Sunday 19 May from 1.00-4.00pm and then on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 May, both from 10.00-2.30pm. **The Exhibition will be opened with a brief ceremony at 1.30pm on the Sunday and this will be followed by afternoon tea.**



Caroline Baynes, aged 16, who as Caroline Carleton wrote the words to the "Song of Australia" in 1859

This year's Exhibition features 26 new posters, 6 of which feature pioneering couples and 6 featuring female pioneers like Caroline Baynes (above) and Jane Hellier who came on the *Katherine Stewart Forbes* and opened the first school for young ladies in the Colony in 1838. This is the sixth year for our Exhibition which has always been enjoyed by those who visit.

ScanFest: 19-20 May

The ScanFest of Pioneer Faces will be held in the PASA Office (adjacent to the Poster Exhibition so you can conveniently visit both) on Sunday 19 and Monday 20 May with the same hours as the Poster Exhibition. We are asking PASA members

and members of the public to bring in their images of pioneer settlers and their families so that they can be scanned by our volunteers and then the digital copies can be added to our growing collection of pioneer faces. If you have images at home and cannot bring them to the ScanFest, then you are welcome to send any digital copies to the PASA Office via email.

The *Coromandel* Part 3: 26 May

The Glenelg Historical Society will present the third of the History Festival *Coromandel* Trilogy on Sunday 26 May from 4.00 – 5.30pm at the Jetty Hotel, Jetty Rd, Glenelg.



Bill Othams will present: **The 1837 *Coromandel*: arrival of the working class.** Bill will have some new, thoroughly researched stories and entertaining anecdotes to

tell about the young labouring class who came on the *Coromandel*. All PASA members are welcome to attend. You may wish to join the Glenelg Historical Society for dinner at the Hotel at the conclusion of the meeting.

VISIT TO LOCHEND HOUSE: 5 JUNE

On Wednesday 5 June PASA is joining the Campbelltown Historical Society on a visit to Lochend House at Campbelltown. Lochend was built in 1842 by Charles Campbell as his town house and was faithfully restored about 20 years ago. **The visit will commence at 10.00am with morning tea** and then a tour of the house.

This will be followed by an illustrated talk by Paul Blackman on ***Orchestral music in the Colonial Period.*** Paul who is a former member of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, will trace the development of



orchestral activity in SA from the earliest ensembles up to the 1880s.

The visit will conclude by 1.00pm The cost for this event is \$5 which is payable on the day.

Bookings are necessary and should be made to the PASA Office by Thursday 23 May.



Directions to Lochend House

Lochend House is located on Lochend Drive, Campbelltown. With the River Torrens on its northern border the only way to access Lochend is via the Lower North East Road. If travelling away from the City via Payneham Road veer a little left at the Glynde Corner and travel along the Lower North East Road until turning left onto Hill St (Campbelltown). There is a Salvos Store on the right about 30 meters before the left turn into Hill St. This turn off is also marked to "Lochend." Proceed along Hill Street travelling towards the River for about a kilometre, cross over the O Bahn, and then Hill Street soon takes a slight deviation to the left and right. It now becomes Lochiel Parkway. Shortly afterwards turn right into Lochend Drive which is marked with a distinctive yellow "Lochend" sign. 50 meters further on you will arrive at Lochend House (see photo above). Parking is adjacent to the House.

VISIT TO WESLEY UNITING CHURCH (KENT TOWN)

The first permanent stone Church built in the Colony was a Wesleyan Chapel and this demonstrates the significance of Methodism in

South Australia during the early years. On Wednesday 3 July we will be visiting a very prominent and impressive Methodist Church which was opened in 1865. The Wesley Uniting Church (Kent Town), 27 Grenfell St, Kent Town not only has impressive architecture and design (one of the designers was Edmund Wright) but also has close connections with early pioneer Methodist families.

PASA member and Methodist historian Jim Everett will be our guide and he will also speak on the topic: ***The pioneers memorialised in Kent Town Uniting Church.*** (Jim was our knowledgeable guide at the recent tour of the Wesleyan Cemetery at Walkerville.)

The visit and tour will commence at 1.30pm and conclude at 3.00pm. Cost of the event is \$5 payable on the day and bookings are necessary as there is a **limit on numbers participating** (so please book soon)



Wesley Uniting Church (Kent Town) located at 27 Fullarton Rd, Kent Town.

PASA ANNUAL DINNER

Bookings are now open for the Association's Annual Dinner which will be held on Friday 2 August from 6.30pm. Once again it will be held at the Adelaide Pavilion, South Tce, Adelaide. Our guest speaker is Dr Roger Irvine who will use his recently published book to recount the story of "Colonial settlers on the River Torrens".



The Adelaide Pavilion provides us with a very pleasant and convenient environment for our Dinner and we will enjoy a quality 3 course meal with a drink on arrival. Cost for the evening is \$77 (non-members \$80) and bookings and payment are required by 23 July.

SHIPPING GROUP REPORT

Buckinghamshire Meeting

Twelve members, including Shipping Group convener, Karina Hutchesson, attended the recent meeting of descendants of the *Buckinghamshire* which had arrived at Port Adelaide on 21 March 1839 carrying 401 passengers. PASA members Doug and Heather Child came all the way from WA for the meeting. All present shared information, stories and thoughts about the ship and their ancestors and offered to conduct further research which could be added to our Shipping File on the *Buckinghamshire*.



Brian Penfold sharing information with other descendants from the *Buckinghamshire*. Shipping Group convener Karina Hutchesson is at right.

The *Eden* Shipping Group: 19 June

The next Shipping Group to meet will be those descended from the *Eden* which arrived with 228 passengers on 24 June 1838. The meeting will be held in the PASA Office on Wednesday 19 June from 10.00am – 12noon. If you are connected to the *Eden* then please contact convener Karina Hutchesson at pasa.sameships@gmail.com for further details.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

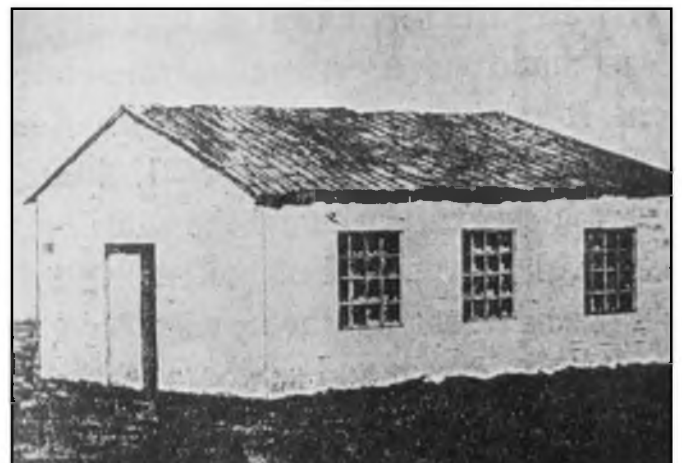
April Answer: The building to be identified was the first Adelaide Railway which was located on North Terrace and opened in 1856. It was extensively renovated in 1878 when a second story was added. The photo (below) dates from around 1898 and shows a busy North Tce with a double decker horse drawn tram.



May Quiz: Another building identification

What is the building seen below?

Two clues: 1) It was opened in 1837 and 2) at least part of the answer can be found elsewhere in this newsletter!



JUNIOR PIONEERS: Roaming Rundle Mall

On the first day of the April School Holidays an eager group of PASA Junior Pioneers and their families assembled at the Beehive Corner for a roam along Rundle Mall with their guide Glen Woodward. For the adults present it was to be a “walk down memory lane “as Glen’s stories of the Mall’s past life brought back many memories. For the Junior Pioneers there was much to learn and enjoy.



Ready to go “a roaming” in the Mall

Starting at the Beehive Corner we learnt that John Rundle (from the *Java*) had run a drapery store on this site from 1847 and that Haighs had sold chocolate on the corner since 1915. Rundle Street with all its bustle, buses and cars had become a pedestrian mall in 1972.



Flower power in the Mall: Alison Hicks with grandson Aiden



Matilda and Martha at Blackeby’s Sweet Shop

A diversion down James Place brought us to Blackeby’s old fashioned sweet store. (worth a visit next time you are in the vicinity!). Owner Lauren Smith welcomed us and told the Blackebys’ story and told us about the popular old-time favourites including the boiled “fish” sweets.

Next stop was the ever-popular mall pigs having “a day out”. This sculpture was unveiled in 1999 by the then Mayor Jane Lomax Smith. Juniors Mikayla (at left) and Chloe spruced up Horatio with a red sequin bow tie to celebrate the pigs’ twentieth anniversary in the Mall.



As we moved further East up the Mall our guide Glen spoke of specialist shops in the past such as milliners, tobacconists, hosiery and haberdashery. All new terms for our Juniors. We passed the old sight of Allan’s Music Store’s Rundle St site which dated back to 1925/26. It had sold sheet music, pianos, musical instruments and vinyl records. We then passed

the former site of the C J Young Shoe Store which, with its curved front of dark glazed bricks, was ultra-modern when built in the 1920's. Its construction was unusual as it was built from the top down with the constructors driving girders into the tall buildings on either side and working their way down while business went on as usual at street level.

Snack time took place at the corner of Gawler Place and the Mall close to the site of the old York Theatre which had opened in 1921, The theatre had seated 1700 people and was sadly demolished in 1960. Many "oldies" had fond memories of an outing at the "pictures" here in their teens. Just a little further east at 72 Rundle St was the Balfours Café building which had once been "THE lunch spot of Adelaide", with memories of its pastries and cakes including the iconic frog cake and the first square meat pies.

Next was "Johnnies" or officially John Martin and Co Department Store which was everyone's favourite Adelaide store because of its staging of the annual Christmas Parade from 1934. People flocked to the Magic Cave and to view the decorations in the Rundle St windows.

We next passed two once well-known businesses, the art deco G J Coles building built in 1940 and renowned for its budget cafeteria and slogan of "nothing over 2/6", and Metters Ltd owned by Frederick Metters who patented, manufactured and sold stoves, windmills, baths and enamelware.



Taking a breather: (L-R) Ros Conway, guide Glen Woodward, Jaid and Zoe

Next stop was the still resplendent Adelaide Arcade which was one of the first buildings in Adelaide to have electric light when it was built in 1885. The opening was marked by the playing of the "Adelaide Arcade Polka" which was specially composed for the grand occasion. Some original features included fountains placed along the main walkway, an underground tearoom and Turkish baths. Glen took us down some steep stairs to the old tea rooms where Michael from Adelaide Arcade Management gave the history of the tearooms and the ghost presence that is sometimes felt by some.

Our final stop for the day was at the Arcade Museum in Gays Arcade where we took part in a quiz. We all had fun as we gathered the answers within the museum and out along the Adelaide Arcade. To end the day a goodie bag of nibbles was given to all who had come along to "Roaming Rundle Mall"; thanks to Blackebys, Charlesworth Nuts and Menz for their support.

It was great to be part of this Junior Pioneer event and to observe the learning and enjoyment they experienced and to note the friendships being formed as they parted with cries of "see you next time"



**New Friends
Robyn Williams
with new friends
Max and Ryan**

And a **BIG THANK YOU** to our guide and PASA friend, Glen Woodward, for sharing his knowledge of Adelaide's Rundle Mall; as we learnt it's much more than a shopping precinct.



COROMANDEL LUNCH

The much-anticipated *Coromandel* trilogy got

underway at the recent PASA

luncheon held at the Pilgrim Uniting Church Hall with over 70 gathering to hear Brian Stace and Bill Othams present **The *Coromandel* of 1836-37;**

the lives of the young married free passage

labourers. The attendees included a number of

Coromandel descendants as well as visitors

attracted by this History Festival event. Bill and

Brian, both PASA members and retired lawyers,

have been researching the *Coromandel* and its

passengers for some 10 years in preparation for

their book on this topic. They are in the home

straight now and hope to have it published by the

end of this year. From the outset we were

impressed with the thoroughness and depth of

their research and their quest as retired lawyers

to prove all findings “beyond reasonable doubt”.

Brian commenced with a brief recount of the

Coromandel and its voyage to South Australia. The

ship departed London on 26 September 1836

under the command of Captain Chesser. There

were 156 passengers aboard (the largest number

apart from the *Buffalo* amongst those early ships).

There were 6 officials and families aboard and the

remainder were the emigrant labourers and their

families made up of 57 adult males, 56 adult

females and 31 children with 53 young married couples within these numbers, with 10 of the mothers expecting. These young labourers and their families had been granted free passage to South Australia to provide the independent labouring skills for the fledgling Colony. After an unexpected delay in Cape Town due to an outbreak of scurvy on board (over 70 affected, but all recovered), the *Coromandel* arrived at Holdfast Bay on 17 January just 3 weeks after the *Buffalo* and Proclamation Day; it was the 11th ship to arrive.

In examining these young emigrant labourers, Brian and Bill compared their qualities with the selection criteria which had been established by the SA Commission for free passage to South Australia which included being:

- Poor
- Labourers
- Willing to work for wages in SA for at least 1 year.
- Married
- Be honest, sober, industrious, and of general good character.
- 26 or younger
- Apparently healthy or able to work.
- Agricultural labourers (a last-minute requirement)

But as Brian and Bill researched the stories of these passengers and analysed data, they discovered that intentions were not necessarily



Coromandel Descendants

(L-R) Bob Stace, Pam Stace, Brian Stace, Bill Othams, Helen Stace, Dianne Bourne, Unknown, Colin Deer, Peter Stace, Valerie Deer, Barry Horner, Jennifer Hyde, Dion Dagleish, Unknown, Jeanette Bell.

[Apologies that we didn't get all the names. Help us if you can]

reality and that some of the passengers were not quite what they made themselves out to be! Contrary to being poor or destitute before being selected, Brian and Bill concluded that, "it is probable that most of the Coromandel free passage labourers had savings greater than usual for the UK labouring class at that time." Examples were given of several who very quickly used their capital to commence a business. A good proportion never took up the labouring skill that they had declared in order to gain free passage.

To beat the age criteria, ages were often misrepresented; over half of the men who claimed to be the maximum acceptable age of 26 were older. 15 males and 12 females were identified conclusively as having either increased or decreased their age. However, they all appeared to satisfy the "in good health criteria" because, despite a severe outbreak of scurvy during the voyage, all adults survived the journey with only two recorded deaths amongst the children. Quite remarkable for the times.

Not all who claimed to be married were and Bill, with a lawyer's sense of humour, confirmed the story of two applicants who, confronted with the news that as a single male and female they did not qualify, happily "married at first sight" in 2 days and joined the ship. Bill's persistent research indicates that the husband left the ship at Cape Town probably having second thoughts about his new wife and the journey into the unknown.

As for being "honest, sober, industrious and of general good character", Bill assured us that there were a good number of "sinners among the saints". One tried forgery soon after arrival and was convicted and transported for life to Van Diemen's Land. Several became drunkards, some were convicted of assault, there were wife deserters, 2 future bigamists and 2 probable imposters. However, this was counterbalanced by the proportion of "saints" who led industrious, God fearing lives. It was interesting to learn that some 30% had moved on from South Australia

during the difficult economic times of the early 1840s.

Brian and Bill's presentation, backed by two very inquiring minds and painstaking research, brought the stories of the *Coromandel's* passengers to life and gave us a greater insight into the lives of all those who came to South Australia in those early years. We eagerly await the full story in their soon to be published book.



Graham Smith (at right) thanking guest speakers Bill Othams (left) and Brian Stace (centre)

PRE ORDERS FOR THE *COROMANDEL* BOOK

If you were unable to submit your pre-order for the *Coromandel* book at one of the recent functions, then you can still do so by providing your details to the PASA Office by the end of May. No deposit is required, but pre-ordering now will save you 10% at time of publication which is likely later this year.

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