



Bi-Monthly Newsletter of
**THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

Founded 10th July 1885

Incorporated July 1918

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Society's Purpose is to:

- Advance public awareness of, and interest in, geography and related disciplines, including environmental issues
- Encourage research and scholarship in geography
- Recognise and reward achievements in geography
- Commemorate past achievements of significance to geography

This is achieved through:

- A program of public lectures, exhibitions and field activities
- Publishing geographical material, including research papers and items of popular and topical interest
- Encouraging interest in all aspects of environmental, economic and social geography
- Maintaining an extensive library and historical collections
- Conserving and managing collections and monuments relating to the geographical heritage of South Australia and other parts of Australia

Members should be aware that from time to time the Mortlock Wing may be hired out for functions and as such is closed to the public...

This does not deny RGSSA members' access to their Library or Office

Members need only to approach security staff stipulating they are RGSSA members requiring access to their rooms

Library hours

Tuesday to Friday -10.00am to 1.00pm - other times by prior arrangement

Most Library items are catalogued at: <http://rgssa.slimlib.com.au:81>

Or: through Libraries Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au>

Office hours

Wednesday of each week from 10.30am to 3.00pm Tel: (08) 82077265

Deadline for the June/July 2022 issue of *GeoNews* is 28 June 2022.

Editor's email address for contributions is: margiedaw8@gmail.com

Front Cover: George French Angas - Encounter Bay: RGSSA South Australia Illustrated facsimile edition 1967. (See article p.22)



Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc

Founded 1885

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Mortlock Wing, L2 south, State Library of South Australia

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RGSSA web address: <http://www.rgssa.org.au>

Patrons:	Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of South Australia and Mr Rod Bunten
Fellows:	Dr Sue Barker, Brian Ward, Rod Shearing OAM, Colin Harris PSM and Dr Peter Smailes
	<u>Office Holders from June 2021</u>
President	Leigh Radford OAM
Vice Presidents	Professor Iain Hay and Affiliate Professor Ian Overton
Treasurer	Tony Merchant
Secretary	Melissa Gibbs
Council Members:	Wally Armitage, Frances Gnodtke, Professor Iain Hay, Bronwyn Lewis, Professor Ian Overton, Dr Noel Richards, Professor Guy Robinson, Joc Schmiechen, Rob Shepherd, Julia Short, Dr Gerti Szili, Dr Md Aboul Yunus - Immediate Past President: Rod Shearing OAM.
<u>Committees/Chair(s):</u>	
Library:	Andrew Durham
Administration:	Leigh Radford OAM
Program:	Frances Gnodtke
Research Publications & Awards:	Prof Iain Hay, Prof Guy Robinson (Deputy Chair)
Strategy Implementation Committee:	Affiliate Professor Ian Overton
Engagement & Communications:	Julia Short
Office administration:	Alan Pickering and Libby Miller
<u>Others Programs</u>	
Library staff:	Frances Dudley (maps), Wynton Heading, Geoff Lemmey, Barbara Levings (relics) Rosemary Hocking, Roger Irvine (maps), Rod Shearing, Phyl Twigg, Nona Verco, Alan Wallace, Gail Ward, and Sandra Thompson (blog & remote cataloguing).
Map Digitisation & Cataloguing:	Frances Gnodtke, David Wald
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SA Geographical Journal Editors:	Dr Gerti Szili, Dr Gareth Butler and Dr George Tan
Meeting Hospitality:	June Hanley and Sally Hanley
Geography Teachers' Liaison:	Wally Armitage
Office and other Administration:	Melissa Gibbs and Edwin Mann (assistant)
Rare Books Group Convenor:	Dr Jill Kerby, assisted by Sally Hanley and Nona Verco
Book & Paper Conservation:	Frances Gnodtke

From the President

While Covid has had some significant impacts on our Society and volunteers, behind the scenes we've seen an enormous amount of work completed. For the last two years I've been chaffing at the bit to tell you about what has been achieved. Now following a very significant Council meeting in April, we've reached a point where some news can be shared. At this meeting, Council agreed unanimously to embark on a number of major projects which will be transformative for RGSSA.

The most far-reaching decision stems from extensive work undertaken by our Strategic Implementation Committee. This group is charged with enacting the strategy, which was developed by the Society just before the pandemic struck. This committee is also charged with coming up with new ideas which will challenge the thinking of Council and ultimately transform the Society. After much work, the committee has asked Council to approve the establishment of the Society's first paid position. Council has agreed to fund a position of **Director of RGSSA** for an initial 12 month period. This person will be key to helping the Society make a step change in professionalising our organisation and taking us to a new level. The new Director will not be taking on any responsibilities done by our volunteers, but instead will be working at higher level, while providing some support and coordination for those volunteer efforts. The Director will provide leadership and dedicated effort to help us grow. This person will be looking for opportunities to open our doors more widely to all. That may mean making more of the unique treasures we possess, potentially finding sponsorship opportunities and new sources of income, all with a view to help us achieve more in future. This is a profound step in the Society's 137 year history and one which I'm very excited about. We hope to have a new part-time Director in place in coming months.

I'm also pleased to tell you about a new bequest to RGSSA from the estate of Gratton and Junelee Wheaton, which will help transform the Society in other ways. This bequest will go towards the making of new bespoke bookcases for our Library, which will help us realise the vision for the space developed by Troppo Architects several years ago. These new bookcases will enable us to

reorganise and physically open up our library. It will make the space more welcoming and allow us to better showcase our treasures. We are close to commissioning a local company of craftsmen to do the work and we'll let you know more about this as the plans are finalised. It's another significant, transformative and exciting change. Added to this, Council has also approved expenditure to finally allow the completion of the cataloguing of our Library. Volunteers have been painstakingly doing this work for years, but now we intend to complete the process as soon as possible. Who knows what further treasures may be unearthed once cataloguing is complete?

For a host of reasons, I'm confident that 2022 will be a year of significant change and transformation of RGSSA. As our strategic vision is realised, we'll see a step change in the Society which will be transformational and lasting. We're creating an exciting future, sowing the seeds for growth and ultimately opening our doors more widely for all.

Leigh Radford OAM, President

From the Editor

Our cover of *GeoNews* highlights George French Angas at Encounter Bay. Further information on the George French Angas Exhibition held at SA Museum is available in this edition.

South Australia's History Festival sees a variety of events for the 150th celebration of the Overland Telegraph Line. Our Planning Committee has organised Susie Herzberg OAM as guest speaker for 16 June. Susie is a great, great, granddaughter of Charles Todd. As SA Superintendent of Telegraphs, Charles Todd was given the OTL project, which is considered one of the greatest engineering achievements of 19th century. (Further information is in this edition of *GeoNews* and also on 150th OTL link: <http://www.ot150.net/media.htm>)

Enjoy the wit of the writer/lecturer: “...*about as well adapted for agriculture as for the manufacture of icebergs...*” in Part III Wind & Rainfall transcription from 1886 Lecture on Climate and Drought. Pam Deverell and I discussed the

data presented but left as in the original manuscript, emphasised by [sic] as a reminder.

As always, we appreciate our members' understanding of changes and alterations to programs. During these atypical/pandemic times, the Planning Committee continues to show great flexibility i.e. some of the organised speakers were required to fulfil prior international obligations.

With such a variety of articles in this edition, I wish our members happy reading and thank you to all our contributors.

Margie Dawson, Editor

CORRECTION to EASTER ISLAND REPORT

GeoNews Vol 29 No2 Feb/Mar 2022 p11

‘Previous RGSSA lecturer Larry Perkins described finding a cache of material abandoned in the Simpson Desert by explorer Henry Vere Barclay: Included in that find was Barclay's Rapa Nui journal which made some incorrect observations.’

Apologies from your Editor for the above misinterpretation - see correction below:

Henry Barclay addressed the Geographical Society in 1898 reporting on his visit to Easter Island and a transcript of his presentation was reported in the Rapa Nui Journal Vol 23 Oct 2009. The Barclay connection comes from the re-discovery of his abandoned equipment cache in the Simpson Desert by Larry Perkins using information from Barclay's original journal held in the RGSSA collection. There was no Rapa Nui journal in this cache.

Joc Schmiechen

NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in extending a warm and cordial welcome to the following new members and trust that they will enjoy a long and rewarding association with the Society.

Maritza Kolega

Sally Tideman

Phil Boulden

Steven and Carol Delve

Sandy Scott

Ninety one year old member Geoff Clarke died in February 2022. Geoff was a retired dentist and joined the Society in 2005. Since that time he kept an active interest in Society affairs and was often in the rooms, browsing the collection, attending lecture meetings, and talking to library and office volunteers.

He was also a useful 'person Friday' - getting furniture repaired, assisting with removal of furniture and assisting with distributing food at Society events.

However, Geoff was the last surviving grandchild of the late Hon Tom Price, South Australia's first Labor Premier. It was during his grandfather's tenure as Premier (1905-07) that this Society formed its affiliation with the forerunner of the present Libraries Board of SA and secured its first accommodation agreement. In 1905, Society Treasurer at that time, Thomas Gill, persuaded the Government under Premier Tom Price to build the (rear) extension to the Institute Building¹, to house the Society's library, at a cost of £6,500. [Approximately \$1.029 million today!]²

Not only was Geoff an involved RGSSA member, he had many other interests: At home with his bees, vintage car and wine cellar, plus outside of home with his singing group, sailing, the scouts and tennis.

In our Library refer to the books, Stephanie McCarthy, *Tom Price, from Stonecutter to Premier*, Wakefield Press 2015, donated by Society member and grandson of Tom Price, Geoff Clarke and also Carl Bridge, *A trunk full of books, history of the State Library of South Australia and its forerunners*, Libraries Board of South Australia, 1986.

Rod Shearing OAM

¹ Today the space is known as the Hetzel Theatre

² Reserve Bank of Australia pre-decimal calculator

We note the sad passing of member Dr Stephanie (Steph) Schrapel last March. Steph was a member of the Society from 2006 and became a Councilor from 2011 until 2017.

Steph, a keen historian, was also Chair of the Society's Geographical Heritage Committee from 2011 to 2014.

Steph had a doctorate in education and was a member of the Royal Society of Arts SA, a co-tenant in the State Library building complex. Steph trained as a teacher but found her forte working in the Education Department's Technology Unit, where as a photographer of some repute, she prepared slides and other visual material for statewide distribution. From 1985-92 Steph was President of the Royal Society of Arts SA and curated many note-worthy exhibitions for them including in the 1990s, *A Brush With Fame*. Steph was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

During Steph's association with The Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society of Arts SA, several joint activities were mounted, including *Art Geographica* in 2008.



RGSSA Vice-President

visits world's oldest geographical organisation in Paris



RGSSA Vice President Professor Iain Hay recently had the opportunity to visit the Société de Géographie in Paris. Founded in late 1821, the Société is understood to be the oldest geographical organisation in the world.

Iain met with the Société's Director, in a conversation very helpfully supported by Google Translate. He also had dinner with the Société's President, Professor Jean-Robert Pitte, former President of the Sorbonne. Amongst other things, Professor Pitte is a scholar of wine and gastronomy, so dinner proved to be an educational experience!

Iain was provided with a tour of the Société's premises, including a small on-site museum. Most of the Société's materials are held in public institutions in Paris. The Société is in the very fortunate position of owning its own building, which is supremely well-located at 184 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris. The building itself is splendid. On each side of the entrance are two caryatids representing Land and Sea and between them is a carved representation of Earth.

Société offices and museum are in the upper floors of the building and there is a



lovely amphitheatre in the basement. Any RGSSA members who might be attending the International Geographical Union's Centennial Congress in Paris in July (details at: <https://www.ugiparis2022.org/en/nbsp/4>) will have the chance to see this beautiful and historic space.



Société de Géographie Amphitheatre and details of Amphitheatre cornice.



The Société has a small paid staff and runs a series of activities very similar to those of the RGSSA. These include for instance, regular talks, a journal, a newsletter, a gala dinner, prize-givings and lunchtime debates.

The Société presented Iain with a number of books and reports, which he shall pass on to RGSSA Council. In return, Iain offered to send some copies of our own publications to help ensure RGSSA maintains ongoing contact with the Société de Géographie.



Founders' plaque in Société de Géographie Amphitheatre

SUMMARY OF RECENT LECTURES

Thursday 17 March 2022

BioR: Reconstructing habitat for biodiversity

Adjunct Professor David Patron AM

Our Mount Lofty Ranges enthusiast President Leigh introduced like minded lecturer, University of Adelaide School of Biological Sciences, Adjunct Associate Professor David Paton, a member of a well known Adelaide based family of avian admirers.



Photo (male bird): John Milbank (www.afrigalah.com)

Motivated by his passion for birds, David relayed to us his alarm that from 15 nationally recognised diversity of hotspots, including our Mount Lofty Ranges, only 10% of the original habitat remains. Additional habitat is required to reconstruct structurally and floristically diverse areas, in order to meet the needs of woodland birds, animals and insects, which are declining in numbers due to fragmentation and climate change. Much of the vegetation is at high elevation and with poor quality soils. Prime habitat land is now under housing on the Adelaide Plains.

The attention of the audience was drawn to graphs in the 1980 work of, HA Ford and R Howe, on the future of birds in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Since then half of the numbers of birds have disappeared and the remaining half may also go. David in his richly illustrated address told us of a time lag that exists between habitat clearance and loss of species and emphasised that the window of opportunity for action is NOW. Legislation is required to halt broad vegetation clearance. He does not favour merely maintaining habitat corridors, quoting observations from earlier generations of his family which noted that over time, a lack of nearby tree species within close proximity led to the local disappearance of certain birds. Imagine a future living without species such as Willy wagtails, spotted quail thrush, bush stone curlews, zebra finch, scarlet robins, restless flycatchers and Jacky winters to name but a few mentioned in the presentation. David also mentioned the work of Wendy Harris in measuring 1990s plant species.

Referring often to the area around Monarto as an example, our lecturer told us stands of native woodland, with an untidy under-storey favoured by birds, no longer exists in replanted areas. Shrubs have disappeared and are not being replaced by natural species and there is a paucity of lateral branches. Direct seeding to revegetate areas results in long rows of high density but much of the regrowth does not survive. Less diversity is also evident. Current revegetation methods result in limited species and with poorer dispersal patterns.

David advocated planting many species in order to achieve a spatial variation of species richness. He alerted us to corflute guards inhibiting growth, rather than promoting it.

He also posed the question of how much habitat needs to be put back to stop the loss of woodland bird species in the Mount Lofty Ranges. The amount, if increased from 10% to 30%, would suffer from lack of commitment. David wants future generations to share his pleasure in observing bird life and considers that should be the primary use of the region. Short term governments fail to appreciate the time scale involved. Ideally, a 30% increase in area would involve an additional 150,000 hectares of the ranges and prevent imminent species loss. Evidence of the effect of large scale changes would be seen from space. It is a challenge, for the change would take a century, rather than being achieved within a human lifetime.

Intergenerational ownership is required and long term funding needs to be secured along with access to the land. Responses to critics must be devised. Rather than seen as a fire risk, woodlands in fact reduce fire. Research, training and education are necessary. David suggests ideally a trust fund should be established, with only the income generated from that to be spent.

Each member of the audience was challenged before leaving Earth to fund one hectare of re-established habitat to offset our ecological footprint. By acting now woodlands can be increased on a large scale.

Our lecturer proudly spoke of the efforts of plans to halt the disappearance of birds and plans to expand the program. He gave further details of the work at Monarto at the former 550 ha at Frahn's Farm Monarto where kangaroos have been excluded from one area. Efforts at 208 ha Glenthorne Farm National Park, previously covered with mainly Grey Box and also at the 300 ha at Cygnet Park on Kangaroo Island, were also described by David. Interaction with the landscape of individuals and family groups leads to pertinent research. It reminded the audience of Arbor Days; from days of yore when school children planted trees.

During discussion David referred to changing fashions in gardens over time; sometimes losing touch with the natural world. He brought up the topic of kangaroos exerting grazing pressure and requiring management control, even consumption by humans. We were alerted to exclusion plots of vegetation at places including Cromer and Sandy Creek. He was perplexed that humans seem more concerned with loss of buildings in bushfires, than by loss of liveable landscapes.

In closing President Leigh described the lecture as brilliant and fascinating: from which the audience had been taught much.

More detail is available at

www.bior.org

Valerie Balagengadaran

Thursday 21 April 2022

Professor Peter Veth

Beyond Barriers: Why the Settlement of Australia's Deserts was Early in the Continental Narrative

In his fast-paced lecture Professor Peter M Veth of the University of Western Australia imparted to us with multiple slides, details of the peopling of Australian deserts, with particular reference to Western Australian sites. As the Director of the University's Oceans Institute, his research passion lies in deserts and their connections with the sea.



Peter conveyed to us the excitement felt by him and his co-authors regarding the soon to be released title on research at Parnkupirti (Lake Gregory).

Following the first Aboriginal encounter in the western deserts with road builder Len Beadell, then later meetings with uranium miners, archaeological evidence from recent research on indigenous occupation, has extended back beyond 50,000 years BP.

There are extraordinary variants in types of deserts along with various settlement models, beginning with barrier model. Peter reported that the concept of “breaking down the barrier” was useful earlier but new versions are now being created at a finer scale. The northern arid zone with wetter and cooler conditions dates back to 65,000 – 60,000 years BP. Diets changed and water sources were exploited. Shells including the Baler variety were traded over long distances, even deep into Canning Stock Route territory.

Our lecturer outlined the trajectory of research over time from his predecessors - Joseph Birdsell, Norman Tindale, David R Horton, S Bowdler and Richard Gould. The work of the latter in the Warburton area involving a large excavation, uncovered a 10,000 year record of Puntutjarpa occupation. Mike Smith in his excavation of the Puritjarra rock shelter in

Central Australia uncovered evidence back to 40,000 years BP. Rhys Jones shifted the settlement issue back to 50,000 years BP.

Research contributed by Veth in 1981, 1989 and 1993 exploring 200,000 square miles of sites only dated back to 5,000 years BP.

Peter Hiscock and Linley A Wallis in 2005 posited people moved during wetter times and later aridity contributed to a desert in situ. Chris Clarkson's research was in Arnhem Land.

Mike pointed out that of the 16 earliest sites, 12 are in the arid zone, e.g. at Lake Mungo. Ice Age sites include Yirra in the Pilbara area. His future plans will include research in the Ningaloo and Pilbara areas and into the desert area along the Canning Stock Route. The latter area was the basis for his PhD research of the Martu people, following an earlier study in the Burrup (Murujuga) area with its significant petroglyphs.

Ancient campfires and art panels associated with Karnatukul have been dated at 50,000 – 48,000 years BP. Earlier results still are expected with new methods now being deployed.

Thalanyji people around Onslow assisted with the excavation of the Boodle Cave, now on Barrow Island but originally part of mainland Australia. Earlier, Harry Butler had been involved in that area as well. Stone artefacts as well as a variety of shellfish and fauna have been revealed. Peter listed a number of wildlife examples, including turtles, porpoise and crocodiles, estimated between 53,000 – 7,000 years BP. Lithic and burnt shells are under investigation.

Near Exmouth, Mandu Mandu Creek and a rock shelter are revealing an extraordinary richness including a shell necklace and shell tools. Items collected nearby in the 19th century have never been seen by present day locals. Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) in 2021 included a thylacine from 4,000 – 7,000 years ago. OSL was also deployed by Caroline Bird, working on material at least 50,000 years BP.

Professor Veth reminded the audience that Tim Winton has been filming a documentary series on the biodiversity at Ningaloo Reef. Traditional owners feature in it showing delight at their cultural heritage. Oral history, not previously collected, was also shown.

Projected onto a screen were maps of mythic tracks between water sources. Song lines, ceremonial sites and totemic dreamings developed nearby. Knowledge of food resources, availability of water, high mobility and portable technology imparted a flexibility to deserts and their people, plus created connectivity. Marine Isotopes Stage 4 removes theoretical restraints. Innovation hubs could develop.

There was a wide range of questions and comments put to the lecturer, including on dingoes, the possibility of early migration from Africa by maritime competent people – later also becoming desert competent. Subsequent sea level rise accounted for the loss of 2 million square km of land. The subject of megafauna had Peter mentioning sites in South Australia. The extent of trade included places as far afield as Africa and the Silk Road and involvement of Portuguese and Chinese populations. Our lecturer made the suggestion of profits from mining being reinvested to assist in research.

Closing this very informative session, Joc Schmiechen mentioned the role of satellite and other imaging, which is enhancing current research.

Valerie Balagengadaran

UPCOMING LECTURES

Thursday 19 May 2022

Dr W Boone Law

Space Age Satellite Imaging offers Fresh Perspectives on the Western Desert Environment and Ancient Aboriginal Ecology

Please refer to Feb/Mar 2022 *GeoNews* for full details of this lecture.

UPCOMING LECTURE

Thursday 16 June 2022

Susie Herzberg OAM

**The Overland Telegraph after 150 Years
A Twenty First Century Perspective**

As the Overland Telegraph sesquicentenary approaches it is timely to look back at a project, which was extolled throughout Australia as an epic endeavour of endurance, expertise and efficiency.

The telegraph was one of the great developments in technology of the Victorian era and the speed with



which it was adopted, so far from Victorian England and at a time of very slow international communication, reflects so much of the entrepreneurial spirit of the age.

The processes which led to the Overland Telegraph construction, the role of its leader Charles Todd, the preparations, planning and governance of the project and the history of the relationships between those who worked on the line and this country's First Peoples are all explored and analysed from a 21st Century perspective. This assessment recognises not only the enthusiasm and the expertise of those involved, but also their ignorance and their failures.

This presentation examines the far-reaching social, environmental and economic impacts of the line and attempts to provide a balance that was absent in the first 100 years of self-congratulatory euphoria.

Susie Herzberg OAM kindly agreed to speak to the RGSSA on the topic of the Overland Telegraph Line, which was overseen by her great-great grandfather Charles Todd.

Susie is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has worked and contributed to many organisations that are dear to her heart, including being past Chair of the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium. Susie has served on the Boards of the South Australian Housing Trust, Patawalonga Water Catchment Management Board, KESAB Environmental Solutions, Nature Foundation SA, SA State Cycling Council and Playford Memorial Trust. She is a past President of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies (SA) and of the Civic Trust (SA).

Susie has business experience as Managing Partner of Manyara Vineyard, currently a Board Member of the State Government Board of Koala Life and several private companies. She has also worked on Conservation projects at the Nature Foundation reserves of Witchelina and Hiltaba.

Whilst looking at the Overland Telegraph Line project, in this year of its 150th commemorations and by using her background of planning, project management and governance, Susie will place special emphasis on the people who worked on the line and the impact on the First Nations Peoples.

Janet Forbes, Program Committee

UPCOMING LECTURE

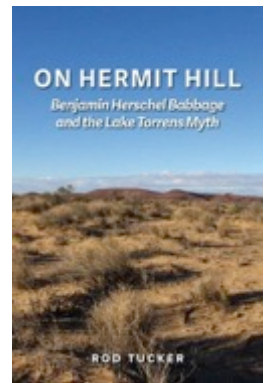
Thursday 21 July 2022

ANNUAL BROCK LECTURE

Rod Tucker OAM

Benjamin Herschel Babbage

South Australia's Forgotten Explorer



Benjamin Herschel Babbage's explorations in the late 1850s provided a crucial step towards the opening of northern South Australia to European settlement. Babbage recognised that there was a gap in the mythical horseshoe-shaped Lake Torrens that Edward John Eyre imagined sixteen years earlier. Babbage opened the way for John McDouall Stuart's crossing of the continent. But at the time, his contributions were subject to much controversy, and the South Australian Government summarily dismissed him as expedition leader. This talk will give an overview of Babbage's explorations in the Flinders Ranges and the Lake Torrens - Lake Eyre region and recount the political machinations in Adelaide that led to his removal from the expedition. The talk will be illustrated with original and modern maps, along with many sketches by Babbage and his botanist, David Herrgott.

Rod Tucker is a retired electronic engineer with a lifelong interest in the exploration and mapping of the Australian coast and inland Australia. He is an Emeritus Professor in optical fibre communications and Internet technologies at the University of Melbourne. Rod served as an advisor to the Federal Government on the establishment of the National Broadband Network. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and a Member of the US National Academy of Engineering. Rod's research into Babbage's expeditions was stimulated by a family connection to a member of Babbage's team and by a fascination with the enigmatic relationships between Babbage, the press, and the government of the time. Rod resides on the Great Ocean Road, southwest of Melbourne.

Frances Gnodtke, Chair – Program Committee

Rod Tucker's book, *On Hermit Hill: Benjamin Herschel Babbage and the Lake Torrens Myth*, Australian Scholarly Publishing 2021 will be available for purchase. Paperback: \$49.95 H/back: \$75.00

SUMMARY OF EVENTS & TOURS

Mildura to Renmark 15-18 March 2022 RGSSA

SPIRIT OF THE MURRAY CRUISE



An eager group of 32 departed the Adelaide Central Bus Station on Tuesday 15 March for our five-hour coach ride to the Victorian river town Mildura, the capital of the Sunraysia District. We all enjoyed a late lunch at the Trentham Estate Winery and then boarded our boat for the River Murray cruise. Time was of the essence as we made a quick dash downriver to get through Lock 11 before the Lockmaster called it quits for the day. Under command of river veteran Captain Jock Veenstra our vessel effortlessly entered the smallest lock chamber we were to encounter in our travels.



Making our way downstream under a grey cloud veiled sky, the verdant green banks and white trunked red gums were highlighted in stark contrast. We passed many fine river retreats with some outstanding dream

homes in the Gol Gol section just out of Mildura. High priced real estate indeed. The other notable feature was the array of houseboats proliferating along the banks. They ranged from professionally built luxury high-rise craft to the more rudimentary home-built models, virtually a modest house on a floating pontoon.

Tied up along the bank as we passed, was a trio of classic side-wheel paddle steamers.

The *Melbourne* a regular day excursion boat, the *PS Mundoo*, built by Jock in Goolwa many years ago (with a then steam boiler) and last the smaller Rothbury, another restored work boat of the paddle wheel era, now converted to another day excursion craft. Further along was the *PS Coonawarra* one of the later period passenger triple-deckers, purpose built for the tourist trade. It used to work regularly out of Murray Bridge and was highly popular in its heyday.

The more populated area close to Mildura soon gave way to the classic river scenery of riverine vegetation, dominated by the large red gums with their smaller compliment of black trunked box gums. In one secluded location Jock pointed out one of the first steel boats his father had built. A classic little steamboat with distinctive funnel, aptly named 'Little Toot'. The day was fast fading and as we reached the Murray Darling junction, Jock pointed out the change in water colour as the milky clay rich Darling waters mingled with the darker Murray.



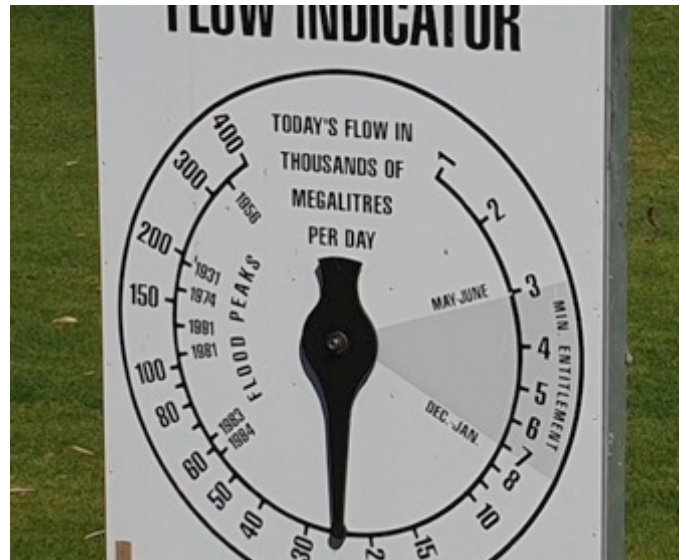
We travelled a short distance up the Darling to the historic river town of Wentworth. Our final bit of excitement was just barely sneaking under the Abbotsford Bridge, with only inches to spare and numerous hearts in mouths.

Disembarking on the grassy bank we walked to our two respective evening abodes. There was little time to relax before heading to the Captain Sturt Hotel, for a two-course dinner. A busy day and good time had by all with portend of two more enriching days journeying on Australia's greatest inland rivers.

Some of the ensuing highlights included a short run up the Darling; a much more confined river than the Murray with some superb riverfront houses of mega proportions. Jock Veenstra's always informative commentary on the many aspects of the river. First mate and hospitality master Southey keeping us all well provided, along with great home baked goodies from Jock's daughter.

The ever-changing riverine scenery interspersed with classic homesteads, new tourism enterprises, the abundant bird life, including a rare white-breasted sea eagle and the various locks and their interesting lockmasters who proved immeasurably helpful in ensuring our smooth passage.

In simple essence it was the tranquility of travel in one of the least impacted and at times, spectacular stretches of our largest river: Rich in Aboriginal culture and more recent historical events from Captain Sturt's epic whaleboat journey, the overlanders, the paddle steamer era and our modern, all harnessing - yet at times, over allocating its life-giving waters. After years of drought and water shortage, it was great to see the strong flow levels through the locks up to 22,000 megalitres per day.



All in it proved a great four-day interlude and there is plenty of interest in a further journey next year in the upper Murray from Albury to Echuca.



Joc Schmiechen

GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS

Museum Exhibition ~ Members Tour by Philip Jones



On March 25th, the Rare Books Group of the RGSSA was fortunate to have a tour of the George French Angas exhibition led by the curator, Philip Jones. He has put together an amazing collection of artworks by Angas; not only framed paintings and lithographs but also sketchbooks, childhood magazines and other memorabilia. Many of these items have come from the National Library of Australia in Canberra where the exhibition opened last year.

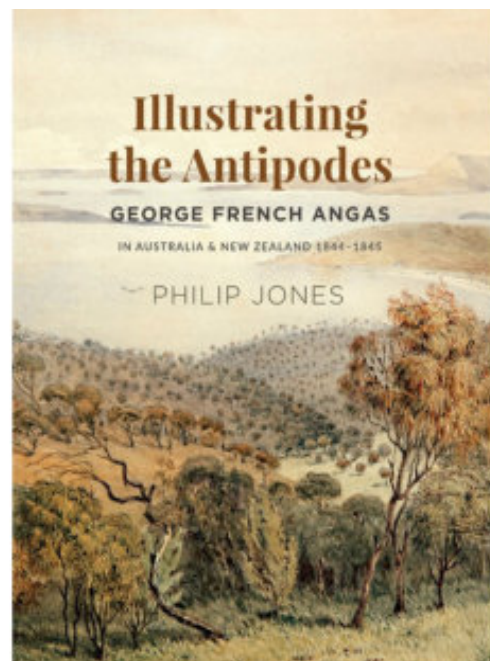
George French Angas arrived in South Australia in 1844 having been sent by his father George Fife Angas, who was one of the founding members of the South Australia Company. In the days before photography, paintings were a way of advertising the landscapes of far away lands, and hopefully thus encouraging free settlers to emigrate to the new colony.

The reason for including this exhibition in the Rare Books Group programme was Philip's inclusion of two of the original paintings done by Angas: Those of Rio de Janeiro when he visited that city on his return to England after visiting Australia and New Zealand. These paintings, part of the RGSSA's collection, usually reside in the State Library's climate-controlled Rare Book Room, so are

not viewed very often. This is the aim of the Rare Books Group, to show members what treasures the RGSSA hold - most of which are not on permanent display.

The exhibition closed on May 8th, but if you missed it, Philip Jones has written an excellent book to accompany the exhibition entitled, *Illustrating the Antipodes: George French Angas in Australia and New Zealand 1844-1845*, which is available at bookstores and also at the museum.

Jill Kerby & Nona Verco



ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Engagement and Communications Committee is looking for committee members. Some of the aims of the Committee include: liaising with external professional and special interest groups, and the wider public, to improve Society's communications about events, publications, and resources, and to manage communications through our website and social media accounts. We aim for a 1–2 hour meeting per month while additional actions may be required outside of this. Meetings will be both in-person during the day (in Society Rooms) or online in the evening.

Please contact Julia Short by email: juliaeshort@gmail.com if you're interested in joining and would like more information.

Julia Short, Chair – ECC.

HISTORY MONTH ~ MAY 2022

Overland Telegraph 150th Anniversary ~ 1872-2022

World Connections 1872

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Exhibition



**Overland Telegraph
150th Anniversary
1872-2022**



Roper River Camp, 1872 - Charles Todd in dark shirt and light trousers, right foreground [SLSA B4635]

Details for History Month Event:

Age suitability: Ages 6+

Bookings: Bookings not required

Web and Social Links: <http://rgssa.org.au>

Region: Adelaide City

Toilet (Wheelchair accessible toilets available)

Wheelchair Access: Partially

Disabled parking in Kintore Avenue x 2 bays. There are 8 steps to the venue

Dates: 3-6, 10-13, 17-20, 24-27, 31 May at 10am - 1pm

Level 2 South, Mortlock Wing, State Library of SA, North Tce, Adelaide, SA, 5000

Librarian, 8207 7266 library@rgssa.org.au

Rod Shearing, OAM

Immediate Past President

For further information on Overland Telegraph Line please click on link:

https://rgssa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Todd_2022.pdf

CONGRATULATIONS TO IAN OVERTON

University of Adelaide Award

Ian Overton is currently a Vice-President of the Society and is also Chair of the Strategy Implementation Committee, having previously served on Council in 2000. We congratulate Ian on his recent titleholder award of Affiliate Professor of the University of Adelaide, in the Adelaide Business School.



Ian is a Geographer with experience in business, academia and government. He is on the editorial board of several journals and has over 170 publications. Ian's research and management experience covers water resource management, decision support, spatial information systems and modelling, circular economy and drought management. He has a passion for maps and is a strong advocate for climate action.

Margie Dawson, Editor

Part III ~ WIND AND RAINFALL
LECTURE ON CLIMATE AND DROUGHT (1886)
RGSSA Rare Books Collection

This lecture was delivered by Mr John Varley S.M. at the Burra and Kapunda Institutes in South Australia (1886). *It is a direct transcription from the original source.* (See Part I Climate - Vol.28 No.6 Oct/Nov 2021 *GeoNews*. Part II Barometers – Vol.29 No.2 Feb/Mar 2022 *GeoNews*.)

Every winter you may hear people say “we get our best rains from the north-west”. They do not. It is all wind in that direction. The rain comes from the south-west and the wind circling round the centre of depression blows at times from the north-west, as the area of low pressure makes its way eastward. I have already said that the winds that prevail for the most part, both in summer and winter, that is the south-east and the north-east winds, are not rain bearing.

It will now be more interesting to refer to those which are.

By rain-bearing winds, I mean those that convey moisture from the sea and carry it inland, not always to be followed by immediate precipitation. This may happen sometimes but not much, nay, most of the vapour that is carried inland by the wind remains suspended in the atmosphere for a considerable period, and falls as rain only when the condensing powers of Nature are brought into play.

The most effective wind as a rain bearer is that from the south-west. Glance at the map and draw an imaginary line running in a south-westerly direction as far as you like. Let us suppose it to be winter, and a strong gale is blowing. The weather has been cold and dry. Farmers are anxiously looking for rain and the land is chilly at and near the surface. The air above is dry and frosty. The south-west gale comes to us saturated with moisture brought

into contact with the cold air in which the country is enveloped, condensation begins, the rain falls in torrents, squalls follow in succession and continue until the gale sub-sides. These are the genuine winter rains that come to us from the far-off south-west, coast rains as they are often called, but at times they extend a considerable distance inland, especially when the country is elevated above the sea.

They have however their limits. Let us see what these limits are in our own neighbourhood. Fortunately we have an illustration to hand familiar to most of us. A strong south-west gale coming to Kapunda (and it may apparently be blowing from the north-west), will pass over the foot of Yorke Peninsula, cross the Gulf of St. Vincent, and strike the land about Port Gawler. Passing over the intervening country, when it has reached Kapunda it has worked its way up a gradient of 800 feet, gradually getting into a colder atmosphere. Parting with some of its moisture on the way, it passes on until it has reached the Eudunda Range 1450ft above the sea. By this time it has reached a still colder climate, and its stock of vapour is nearly condensed. It blows on however beyond the Range. But now observe the difference! The air it comes in contact with is rather warmer and certainly very much drier. The wind is going down a descending gradient. Having parted with its moisture, it is ready to take up more if it could find it. This is not the wind to give rain to the country known as the Murray Flats.

I shall have something more to say presently with regard to the origin of these south-westerly winds and the direction they take. Just now we will pass on to another class of winds. It is very common in the country being beyond the range just mentioned, to hear people say that they get their best rains from the eastward. Now it is obvious that no rain can come from the east because there is nothing but land in that direction. You cannot get moisture from the land in sufficient quantities and heavy rain can only follow when evaporation has progressed sufficiently to gather up enormous quantities of vapour from a source where the supply is practically unlimited.

When therefore it is said that the rain comes from the east, what is meant is that the wind is blowing from that direction, and that the rain appears to come from that quarter. In reality, this rain is the accumulation of moisture that has found its way inland during many days of warm, fine weather, wafted imperceptibly by light winds from the sea, and has remained suspended in the atmosphere, until some influence was brought to bear on it, capable of condensing it.

Once more we will turn to the map. This time to the map of Australia. On the Eastern coast there is a range of mountains running from south to north, the highest point in which is Mt. Kosciusko in NSW, is 7,310 feet in height, or rather more than a mile and a third. For many miles this range is capped with snow in the winter and the adjacent air is below the freezing point. This cold region, coupled with the diurnal motion of the Earth from west to east, must affect all the land lying to the west, making it colder than it would otherwise be.

There then in the south-east part of Australia is formed an area of high pressure, which means cold, dry weather and a high barometer. In other words, an anti-cyclonic wind is caused, which revolves slowly around this area, sometimes to great extent. Here, we feel it is a north-east wind and this is the condensing power. Only let it come into full play and have sufficient moisture to work upon and it is easily seen how the dry country beyond the range gets the welcome rain.

When a large body of moist air is ranging over any part of the country, the cold dry air, if coming from a different direction settles down as it approaches the moist air and enters like a wedge, gradually forcing its way underneath until the process is sufficiently advanced to condense the moisture into rain.

There is a very important lesson to be learnt from this and it is one that is easily understood and is applicable to the whole of southern Australia.

In the selection of land for agriculture, never go too far from the sea-coast and when the ground gradually rises as you get further from the seashore and then, having attained its maximum elevation, slopes off to a lower level, be certain that on the side of the range furthest from the sea, the rainfall will be insufficient. You will remember we had some very cold dry weather in the month of June last and early in July. I asked two friends, one in Morgan and one at the Semaphore to take the temperature for seven days (1st to the 7th of July) successively. One of these places as you know, is at the seaside and the other about 85 miles inland as the crow flies, but both on sea-level. The average temperature at 8 o'clock in the morning for the seven days was 55.5 deg. F at the Semaphore and 42.5 deg. F at Morgan, a difference of 13 degrees, or if you prefer it, the difference of a warm overcoat. It would be difficult to find more conclusive proof that the country about Morgan like all areas of inland depression is subject to extremes of temperature and continuous drought and about as well adapted for agriculture as for the manufacture of icebergs.

Indeed, if there were any demand for icebergs in this colony I should expect a manufacturer of that singular commodity would make a fortune out of congealing the farmer's tears in the neighbourhood of Morgan. The question of evaporation is so important that at the risk of being tedious, I propose to give some further explanation of it.

The meaning of the word atmosphere is simply vapour-sphere, or place of vapour and though we very rarely think of it when we use the word, this vapour is the most important factor in the preservation of animal and vegetable life.

Thus, we say the atmosphere is clean, the atmosphere is heavy, the atmosphere is sultry, the atmosphere is cold; without a thought that these different states are chiefly owing to the difference in the quantity of invisible vapour the air for the time being contained. This quantity varies in different places and under different circumstances, from 4 to 16 grams in weight in 1000 grams of air.

Professor Tyndall in a lecture delivered in London about three years since (1883) says with reference to this subject - “ the great body of our atmosphere, its oxygen and nitrogen have but little effect on the rays of the sun coming to us, or the rays of the earth darting away from us into space, but mixed with the body of our air, there is an attenuated and apparently trivial constituent which exercises a most momentous influence. That body is aqueous vapour, the amount of which does not exceed one per cent of the whole atmosphere. Minute however as the quantity is, the life of our planet depends upon this vapour. Without it in the first place, the clouds would drop no fatness. In this sense the necessity for its presence is obvious to all. But it acts in another sense as a preserver. Without it as a covering, the Earth would soon be reduced to the frigidity of death. Observers were and are slow to take in this fact, which nevertheless is a fact, however improbable it may at first sight appear”.

To the same effect is that distinguished scientist Professor Geike who writes with reference to the vapour of the atmosphere; - “It interposes as an invisible screen between the earth and the rays of the sun, which would otherwise be intensely hot and it is the same screen, often condensing into visible form as clouds which at night prevents the Earth from giving off too rapidly its heat into cold space. If it could be removed for a little from around us, we should be burnt up by day and frozen by night. Clouds would cease to form, rain to fall, streams to flow and the condition of the planet as a habitable globe would be brought to a stand”.

There is perhaps nothing in Nature that so strikingly illustrates the truth of the saying that we go through life unconscious of our greatest benefits.

It is a very common thing in this colony to hear of the wheat crops being injured by frosts and this too at a comparatively late period of their growth. Even after the ear has formed and the crop is apparently in a healthy condition, its progress is suddenly checked by this secret enemy, who comes like a thief in the night.

Why is this? As the summer advances the sun’s power increases. The days are frequently hot, sometimes oppressively so and we might reasonably infer that frost was impossible. It is simply the diminution of aqueous vapour in the atmosphere. There is not enough of that important constituent to intercept the rays of the sun as they strike the earth, which becomes abnormally heated during the day and in like manner after sunset, there being an insufficient supply of moisture in the air to restrict the radiation of heat from the surface of the earth into space, it cools rapidly and the temperature falls below the freezing point. When once our agriculturalists understand this, they will cease to feel surprised at the occasional ravages of frost and they will know that this un-welcome visitor is inseparable from our dry and arid climate.

Evaporation is a process that is continually going on from every ocean, every lake, river, pool or stream, from every part of the Earth’s surface where moisture is found. It is of course more active in the daytime than at night, more perceptible on a windy than on a calm

day. In hot climates its capacity for absorption is greatest. In temperate climates its power is less potent, but even in the coldest it finds scope for its action. Thus the mean annual evaporation at -

The Equator is 88 inches (68in), rainfall 67 inches [*sic*]

St. Helena is 83 inches, rainfall 18-8 inches

Madras is 91 inches, rainfall 49 inches

Various places in France 26 to 21 inches, rainfall 27 inches

Adelaide for the ten years ending 1880 is 57 and 1/3 inches, rainfall
20 and a half inches

It must be understood that the figures I have given with regard to evaporation are the result of observations taken with instruments called by meteorologists Atmometers [*sic*], the object of which is to determine the amount of water passing into the air by evaporation. These figures show that while in some parts of the world there is not a very great difference between the evaporation and rainfall, in others the difference is almost incredible. This country is a remarkable instance of the latter and proves conclusively that it is deficient in condensing power, a defect for which there is no remedy.

Some faint idea may be formed of the work that is done by evaporation, when I add on the authority of Professor Geike, that the amount of water that is annually condensed in the world, would if connected together in one mass, cover an area of 128 million acres to the depth of one mile.

This branch of our subject reminds me of one on those “wise saws” that some years ago used to circulate freely and was accepted as a kind of comforting philosophy. It was that “rain follows the plough”. If any definite meaning could be attached to it I suppose it was something of this kind. The more land you break up for the cultivation of wheat, the more moisture will find its way into the ground and more evaporation will follow and consequently more rain.

Let us see however what science has to say on the subject. There are in England two Gentleman, Sir J.B. Laws and Dr. Gilbert who devote their lives and ample resources to scientific experiments in agriculture and they have found after most careful investigation that a deep-rooted crop like wheat will thoroughly dry the ground to a depth of which, under similar circumstances of rainfall, the water under a grass meadow would not be sensibly diminished. This seems to show that the larger the cultivation of deep-rooted crops such as wheat, a greater evaporation of moisture that is exhausted in their growth and the less there is available for evaporation.

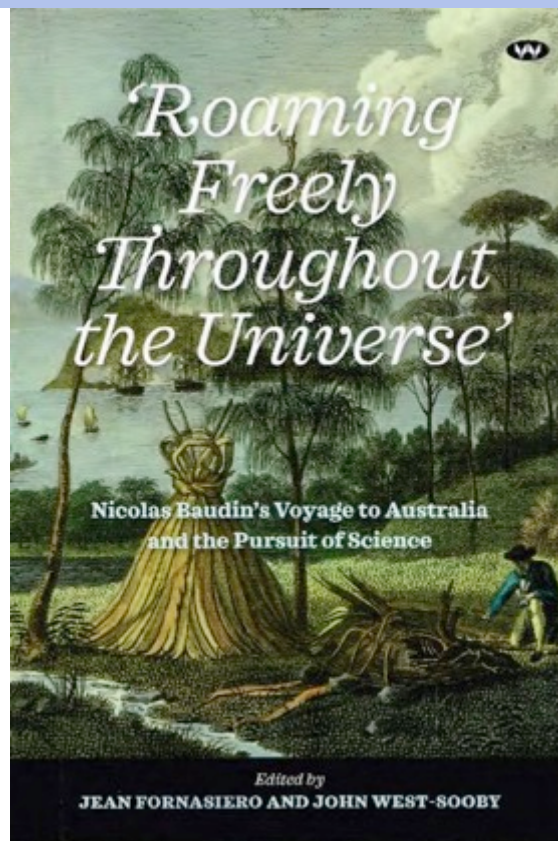
Mr Varley's lecture will possibly extend to two further instalments, beginning with the wisdom of the ancients when the historian Herodotus visited Egypt in 456 or 457 B.C.

Pamela Deverell

BOOK REVIEW

Roaming Freely Throughout The Universe, Wakefield Press 2021, **Editors** Jean Fornasiero and John West-Sooby.

This book picks up the records of the Voyages of discovery of the Southern Lands, led by Post Captain Nicolas Baudin in 1801-05. It reassesses the correspondence between Baudin and his contemporaries, and of the transactions between François Péron, (the lead scientist on the expedition) with the European scientists. The book infers that there was a scientific race for access to the ethnography of Oceania, the Far East and America.



Péron eventually wrote the account of the voyage, without mentioning Baudin. The dissemination of the outcomes are summarised in this book. During the voyage 100,000 specimens and 1,500 drawings and charts emanated.

The book infers that on two ships, *L' Geographe* and *Naturaliste*, combined with 22 scientists, 230 officers and crew, 11 stowaways and 2 passengers, tensions were going to show and tells the story of how tensions manifested themselves amongst the various people on board those ships. As a result of significant French explorations in Oceania, the book also alludes to Napoleon Bonaparte's plans for his wider empire.

Through various essays by the individual writers, all the key players on this voyage are examined in some detail. There are also interesting details of the specimens collected.

Prior to this voyage Baudin already had experience leading a voyage to the West Indies, so knew, so he thought, what might unfold as the voyage sailed south.

The book teases out the relationships between the sailors and the scientists. It also talks about the international scientific communities' reputations, and laboratory versus field observations, which unfolded as the results were being disseminated.

The book is in four sections

- Scientific Voyaging in Context
- François Péron as Chronicler of the Scientific Voyage
- The Scientific Records of the Voyage to the Southern Lands
- François Peron's Fellow Voyagers

As with Matthew Flinders' voyage of 1801-03, whereby the time those results arrived back in England they were of little interest, so too was the fate of the Southern Lands voyage in France, until Péron's ability to talk up the expedition eventually bore fruit.

For the times, Baudin had very far-sighted perceptions of European/Aboriginal interactions at the settlement in NSW.

Many references are contained in the generous bibliography and index. The book is around 340 pages and contains images and copies of manuscripts.

This book is recommended for those who like primary sources of investigative research on yet another look at one of Australia's significant navigations and the key members associated with that voyage.

Contributors: Gabrielle Baglione, Andrew Black, Jean-Luc Chappey, Cedric Cremiere, Jean Fornasiero, John Gascoigne, Paul Gibbard, Philippa Horton, Michel Jangoux, Justin Jansen, Stephanie Pfennigwerth, Margaret Sankey, Nicole Starbuck, John West-Sooby.

Editors: Jean Fornasiero and John West-Sooby

Jean Fornasiero, John West-Sooby and Peter Monteath are authors of the acclaimed *Encountering Terra Australis: The Australian voyages of Nicolas Baudin and Matthew Flinders*.

Rod Shearing OAM

Postscript: In its collection, the Society holds further relevant manuscripts and books. Should you wish to receive an email of this three-page bibliography, please contact the Editor.

RGSSA – Seeking Volunteers

Are you interested? Are you a curious person? “*The mind that is open to a new ideas never returns to its original size.*”³ Might you become a volunteer and at the same time browse Charles Darwin’s thesis on *The Origin of Species [1859]*, have access to our amazing and historic treasures; from arte-facts to an ephemera of rare books, maps and artistic illustrations or, who lived at that address in South Australia from 1856 onwards.



RGSSA always welcomes volunteers for the many and varied tasks available. For instance, Rae Ogilvie is currently seeking anyone interested in working with her on Book & Paper Conservation.

As we also are about to undergo some exciting refurbishment and many hands make light work...

All volunteers are supported by experienced colleagues and skills such as common sense and teamwork are highly valued.

Ring the Society Library on 82077266 or email library@rgssa.org.au

Margie Dawson, Editor.

LIBRARY NEWS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS – DONATIONS & PURCHASES

Andrew Crouch: Building the line: The Construction of the Overland Telegraph Line. Carlisle, WA: Hesperian Press, 2020.

Donated by Andrew Crouch.

From the diaries of the men involved in the construction, this well illustrated book gives a detailed look at the men and the line itself. Publication coincided with the 150th Anniversary of the momentous 1870 undertaking.

rga 919.42043 C952 b 2020.

³ Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

M.A. Slee. Canowie Station: A Pastoralism Wonder Revealed. Adelaide: M. Slee, 2020.

Donated by Max Slee.

In 2021 Old Canowie celebrated the 175h Anniversary of its foundation in 1846. This historic homestead, mid-way between Hallett and Jamestown in South Australia's Mid North, is a remnant of the former Canowie Station and Canowie Pastoral Company. The company was one of the earliest corporate pastoralists. Most such enterprises are owned by just one family but the surnames of Canowie station owners and managers, reads like a Who's Who of the leading South Australia pastoralist of the provincial era.
rga 994.2302 S632 a 2020.

Ani Peters. Charles French Folland and Charlotte Folland: Early Pioneers of South Australia. Adelaide: A. Peters, 2020.

Donated by Ani Peters.

On 23 January 1839, Charles French Folland and his wife Charlotte Folland arrived in Holdfast Bay on the clipper ship "Resource." After the devastation of their two daughters dying during the voyage, they were passionate to begin a fresh start in this new land and eager to begin a family again. They settled in "Pine Forest" (Enfield) trying their hand at farming and subsequently growing the land into a successful agricultural property formerly known as Folland Estate. Charles also served as Chairman of the District Council at Yatala South Council and was a Justice of the Peace for many years. As well as being a farmer he followed the callings of Surveyor, Contractor and Carrier. Charles and Charlotte knew well-known early pioneers in South Australia as well as many colourful characters whose stories are captured in this book. They raised five children who were all linked to the development of South Australia, and at the age of ninety-six Charles penned his memoir. This valuable historical document fills these pages in an inspiring and honest account of the family's lives and as an early pioneer of South Australia in the 19th and 20th centuries.
rga 994.23 F667 a 2020.

Hugh Orr. Ornithology, Art and Business Acumen: Description of the process by which John Gould, over a career of fifty years, produced some of the greatest ornithological books of all time, with thousands of hand coloured lithographic plates, with special reference to Birds of Australia. Adelaide: H. Orr, 2020.

Donated by Hugh Orr.

John Gould (1804-1881) produced some 3,000 beautifully hand coloured lithographs of the birds of all continents except Africa. This paper examines how he was able to do this with very little outside help working from his family home in inner London.
rgpam 598.0994 O75.O b 2020.

Hugh Orr. The Colourists of Ornithological Illustrations at the Time of John Gould and John J. Audubon. Adelaide: H. Orr, 2020.

Donated by Hugh Orr.

Describes the methods used, particularly by John Gould, to colour the black and white lithographs of birds in his large folio editions: With particular reference to Birds of Australia.

rgpam 598.0994 O75 b 2020.

Raden Mas Adipati Arya I Candranegara. The Javanese Travels of Purwalelana: a nobleman's account of his journeys across the island of Java, 1860-1875. Abingdon, UK: Routledge for the Hakluyt Society, 2020.

[Works issued by the Hakluyt Society; Third series, no. 36]

Nobleman Radèn Mas Arya Candranegara V (1837-85), alias Purwalelana, journeyed across his homeland Java during the rapidly changing times of the nineteenth century. He travelled around 5000 kilometres by horse and carriage between 1860 and 1875. His eyewitness account gives an inside view of Java, at the time part of the Dutch East Indies. Candranegara explains habits and traditions of both the Javanese and the Dutch. He describes the architecture of cities and temples and he marvels about the beautiful tropical landscape as well as about the latest technological inventions like steam trains, horse-drawn trams and gas lanterns. This Hakluyt publication, illustrated with contemporaneous images, presents the rare perspective of an Indonesian traveller living in colonial time. This is a lively story in which the traveller shares his experiences on the road. It provides its readers with a range of people and topics pivotal to developments in nineteenth century Java, a treasure trove for historians and cultural anthropologists alike.

rg 959.820223 C212 a 2020.

Alan Parkinson. Why Study Geography? [London]: London Publishing Partnership, [2020].

Donated by Alan Parkinson.

Studying any subject at degree level is an investment in the future that involves significant cost. Now more than ever, students and their parents need to weigh up the potential benefits of university courses. That's where the Why Study series comes in. This series of books, aimed at students, parents and teachers, explains in practical terms the range and scope of an academic subject at university level and where it can lead in terms of careers or further study. Each book tries to both enthuse the reader about its subject and answer the crucial questions that a college prospectus does not.

rg 910.71 P247 a 2020.

Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdes. Spanish and Portuguese conflict in the Spice Islands : the Loaysa Expedition to the Moluccas 1525-1535: from Book XX of the general and natural history of the Indies. Abingdon, UK: Routledge for the Hakluyt Society, 2021.

[Works issued by the Hakluyt Society; Third series, no. 38]

Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo y Valdés, (1478-1557), warden of the fortress and port of Santo Domingo of the Island of Hispaniola, also served his emperor, Charles V, as the official chronicler of the first half-century of the Spanish presence in the New World. His monumental *General y Natural Historia de las Indias*, consisting of three parts, with fifty books, hundreds of chapters and thousands of pages, is still a major primary source for researchers of the period 1492-1548. Part One, consisting of 19 books, was first published in 1535, then reprinted and augmented in 1547, with a third edition, including Book XX, the first book of Part II, appearing in Valladolid in 1557. Book XX, which was printed separately in Valladolid in 1557 (the year of Oviedo's death), concerns the first three Spanish voyages to the East Indies. While it might be expected that the narrative of Magellan's voyage would predominate in Book XX, Oviedo devoted only the first four chapters to this monumental voyage. The remaining thirty-one concern the two subsequent and little-known Spanish follow-up expeditions to the Moluccas 1525-35. His chronicle includes much information about the indigenous culture, commerce, geography and of the exotic fauna and flora of the Spice Islands.

rg 959.85015 F363 a 2021.

Rodney S. Tucker. On Hermit Hill : Benjamin Herschel Babbage and the Lake Torrens myth. North Melbourne : Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2021.

Donated by Rod Tucker.

Benjamin Herschel Babbage was a South Australian engineer, surveyor and explorer. In 1858, he stood on Hermit Hill, near Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre (South), and recognised that there was a gap in a mythical horseshoe-shaped Lake Torrens that the explorer Edward John Eyre had conceived sixteen years earlier. Babbage's discovery was a crucial step in opening northern South Australia to European settlement and paved the way for John McDouall Stuart's crossing of the continent. Babbage achieved much under arduous conditions, but the Adelaide newspapers accused him of slow progress, and the South Australian Government summarily dismissed him as expedition leader.

rga 625.10092 T893 a 2021.

Rosemary Hocking

Acquisitions to be continued in June/July *GeoNews*



Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Incorporated

2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY. RENEWAL FEES DUE 1ST JANUARY⁴
(GST INCLUSIVE) FOR EXISTING MEMBERS:

Ordinary	\$78	Family	\$95	Concession*	\$59
Student**	\$33	Institutional	\$117	Life	P.O.A.
Corporate	\$2,300				

NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES (GST INCLUSIVE): IN FIRST YEAR OF JOINING ONLY:

Ordinary	\$54	Family	\$65	Concession*	\$42
Student**	\$28				

* Concession applies to Centrelink Pensioner Cardholders only.

** Full time student at school or tertiary institution. Advise details of course being undertaken.

To help advance the Society's objectives will you also consider making a tax deductible donation to the Society's Trust Funds to promote geographical learning?

Trust Funds support, sponsor, encourage or promote projects or other activities for scientific study of any or all aspects of geography and/or the educational applications or dissemination of the findings thereof. The funds either provide for growth in our geographical library, knowledge and information services; or are applied to more general geographical activities, awards and scholarships.

All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible (a receipt will be sent to you)

Yes, I would like to donate to the RGSSA Inc Trusts:

\$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other ☐ \$.....

Another way to advance the Society's objectives - The Society is always looking for help⁵ with (a) **governance**, (b) **collection management**, (c) **marketing** and (d) **lecture programs**, if you would like to volunteer some regular hours to the Society please tick this space [☐] and circle a b c or d.

⁴ Unless first year of membership was paid after 1st October last year.

⁵ Training is provided.

To become a member or renew your membership please forward your payment and completed form to:

Royal Geographical Society of SA Inc. [ABN 93 978 549 002]

PO Box 3661 Rundle Mall, ADELAIDE SA 5000; Ph 82077265

[Alternatively, the completed form can be scanned and forwarded by email]

Family name:	Initials:
Preferred given name:	Title:
Address Line 1:	
Address Line 2:	
Suburb/Locality	Postcode:
Email address:	
Telephone numbers:	
Occupation:	
Interests:	
What I enjoy about the Society, or hope to enjoy:	

Membership category is circled over leaf:

Membership Subscription Fee: \$.....

Library Trust Fund Donation: \$.....

Lewis Scholarship Fund Donation: \$.....

Credit Card Surcharge: *add 1.5%** \$.....

Total amount payable: \$.....



**no surcharge if donating to the Society*

PAYMENT METHODS:

1. Direct deposit into our BankSA Society account:

BSB: 105-134 Account: 0793 30640. Quote first and last names in the bank transfer reference.

2. Cash – hand deliver to office Wednesdays 10.30 am – 3.00 pm

3. Cheque – Payment by (enclosed) cheque number:

4. Credit Card – Mastercard [] Visacard [] A processing fee of 1.5% applies*.

Card number _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Card expiry date:/.....

Name on credit card (*please print*)

Signature: _____ Date / /

Whichever payment method is chosen, it is essential you send the completed form to the Society by email admin@rgssa.org.au, Australia Post, or hand deliver.

Rare Books Group

2022 Program

Sessions are held in the Jervois Room, on the southern (North Terrace) end on the ground floor of the Mortlock Wing, on the fourth Friday of the month, from 10.30am to 12 noon, unless otherwise indicated.

Bookings are essential via Eventbrite on the website www.rgssa.org.au

George Isaacs – Colonial Wordsmith and Author of the first novel

published in South Australia

Friday 27 May 2022, Hetzel Room

George Isaacs (1825-1876) moved to Adelaide from England in 1851 and often wrote under the pseudonym *A Pendragon*. His 1856 book “The Queen of the South” was the first novel published in South Australia.

From Melbourne, Dr Anne Black’s PhD thesis (University of Adelaide) was later published by Wakefield Press and she will outline this author’s remarkable life and writing here in South Australia.

SA Museum’s Australian Polar Collection

Friday 24 June 2022, Field Trip to the SA Museum

Mark Pharaoh, Senior Collection Manager in Australian Polar Collection, will give us a guided tour of some of the treasures in the Museum, relating to Mawson, Wilkins and Rymill, such as the Polar library, the model of the Aurora, Mawson’s iconic half sledge, a replica hut and so much more. He will also outline how the Polar Collection was acquired, and how it is managed today. There will be some free time at the end of the session to explore your personal interests.

Meet at the eastern end of the Museum’s Foyer from 10.20am onwards. Please wear your RGSSA name badge if you have one.

The Amazing Life of Daisy Bates

Friday 22 July 2022, 10.30am Jervois Room

Daisy Bates CBE. 1859-1951, was an Irish-Australian journalist, welfare worker and life-long student of Australian Aboriginal culture and society. She also had at least one, possibly two bigamous marriages!

Convinced that the Aborigines were a dying race, Daisy Bates believed that her mission was to record as much of their culture as possible; writing several books and numerous articles for geographical society journals and newspapers, many of which are in the Royal Geographical Society collection. Session presented by member Sally Hanley.

Jill Kerby, Convenor Rare Books Group

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Incorporated

Feb to Dec 2022 LECTURE PROGRAM and EVENTS

The following lectures will be held at the Hetzel Room in the State Library of South Australia at North Terrace, commencing at 5:30 sharp. Doors open at 5 pm. As before bookings will still need to be made through Eventbrite. Please note that advertised lectures and speakers can change due to unforeseen circumstances. Your understanding particularly during these atypical (pandemic) times is appreciated.

Date/Time	Speaker	Topic
<i>Thursday 17 February</i>	<i>Joc Schmiechen</i>	<i>Easter Island and Peru</i>
<i>Thursday 17 March</i>	<i>Dr David Paton</i>	<i>Reconstructing habitat for biodiversity</i>
<i>Thursday 21 April</i>	<i>Professor Peter Veth</i>	<i>Beyond Barriers: Why the settlement of Australia's Deserts was Early in the Continental Narrative</i>
<i>Thursday 19 May</i>	<i>Dr Wallace Boone Law</i>	<i>New insights into the survival of the Western Desert People</i>
<i>Thursday 16 June</i>	<i>Susie Herzberg</i>	<i>The Overland Telegraph after 150 years: A 21st C Perspective</i>
<i>Thursday 21 July</i>	<i>Annual Brock Lecture Rod Tucker</i>	<i>Benjamin Herschel Babbage</i>
<i>Thursday 18 August</i>	<i>Dr Peggy Rismiller</i>	<i>The amazing sex life of the Echidna and other KI critters</i>
<i>Thursday 15 September</i>	<i>Quentin Chester</i>	<i>SA Islands & Cape Willoughby</i>
<i>Thursday 20 October</i>	<i>Peter Christopher</i>	<i>The Story of the Clipper Ship 'City of Adelaide'</i>
<i>Thursday 17 November</i>	<i>Dr Chris Daniels</i>	<i>Greening Adelaide/August Pelzer Adelaide Parklands</i>
<i>Thursday 8 December</i>	<i>Christmas Dinner</i>	<i>Adelaide Pavilion Guest Speaker TBA</i>

The RGSSA Lecture Program is supported by the State Library of South Australia