

Department for Environment and Heritage
Heritage South Australia
Newsletter



Edition 25

November 2004

Issues and information on
heritage conservation in
South Australia



Government
of South Australia

www.environment.sa.gov.au

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Minister's Update



Hon. John Hill
Minister for
Environment
and Conservation

Welcome to the November 2004 edition of the Heritage South Australia Newsletter.

Last year I commissioned *Heritage Directions: A Future for built Heritage in South Australia*, which was released for public consultation in August 2003. As a result of this initiative, I was extremely pleased to announce in May of this year a \$2.9 million funding package for the State's heritage. This funding, which will be delivered over four years commencing 2004/05, represents a record increase for heritage funding in South Australia.

A significant component of Heritage Directions is the Government's renewed commitment to the National Trust of South Australia. An additional \$650,000 over five years will be allocated to the National Trust from this financial year, bringing their total grant to \$1 million over five years. This increase recognises the significant work undertaken by the National Trust, which manages over 40 State-owned properties on the Government's behalf. This funding will be used to develop a property management program to identify potential for transfer of ownership or management of selected properties to others, and to provide a framework for sustainable management of core properties to remain under National Trust management.

On 13 August I had the great pleasure of hosting the Presentation Ceremony for the 2004 Edmund Wright Heritage Awards. The Ceremony was held at Parliament House in the ornate House of Assembly Chamber, which was designed by Edmund Wright.

Whilst there were many winners and commendations in a number of categories, the overall award for Outstanding Contribution was awarded to the Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury development. In recognition of this achievement, I was delighted to present Mr Jason Schulz from Danvers Schulz Holland Architects with a magnificent trophy from the Jam Factory, designed by South Australian artist Mel Fraser.

Continuing with the 2004 Year of the Built Environment theme for August of 'Our Built Heritage', a prize giving ceremony for the 2004 Schools Heritage Competition

was held on 31 August at the State Heritage listed Sunnybrae Farm. I was pleased to be able to attend to present the winners with their certificates and prizes, and it was encouraging to see the extent to which the students, at all levels, embraced the task of mapping their community heritage.

It has been a busy year for the State's heritage and historical communities. Over the week of 22-30 May 2004, South Australia celebrated the inaugural SA History Week, with many events held across metropolitan and regional South Australia. Coordinated by the History Trust of South Australia, this celebration of our State's history was initiated by the Government as a demonstration of the value we place on our history, and our commitment to its preservation.

SA History Week culminated with the 13th Annual State History Conference, held in the State Heritage Listed Union Buildings of the University of Adelaide, from 29-30 May. The Conference's theme of 'Town Talk' provided an opportunity for discussion and debate. The Heritage Branch presented a session on 'Talking Heritage', which focussed on present and future considerations for the built heritage of the City of Adelaide.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Ms Sue Averay has been appointed to the position of Manager of the Heritage Branch. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sue to the Department, and to thank Mr Brian Samuels for filling this role in an acting capacity over the past 11 months, during what has been an extremely busy and productive time for the Branch.

As the first year of the implementation of the Heritage Directions initiative, the 2004-2005 financial year will see a renewed focus on heritage management and conservation in South Australia.

I hope that both the Sustainable Development Bill and Heritage Act Amendment Bill will be introduced to Parliament before Christmas to provide an improved framework for heritage management and enable communities to better conserve their heritage for future generations.



**Department
for Environment
and Heritage**

Front Cover: Medina Adelaide Treasury Hotel.

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Heritage Conservation Seminar on Cracking of Masonry and Older Brickwork

On Friday 14 May, the Heritage Branch, in conjunction with Adelaide City Council and the Heritage Unit of the Department for Administrative and Information Services, hosted a seminar on Cracking of Older Masonry and Brickwork at the Art Gallery of South Australia. This was the fourth of a series of technical seminars aimed at providing information on different aspects of heritage conservation.

Past seminars have been very well received, and the Cracking Seminar was no exception, with some 70 registered delegates in attendance, including a number from interstate. The seminars have proven to be an effective way for the Heritage Branch to communicate at a practical level with owners of older buildings, professionals and tradespeople. Whilst they have traditionally been held on an annual basis, it is anticipated that the seminars will be held more frequently in the future, as they have become an integral component of the Branch's public communications program.

For papers from the Cracking Seminar, please contact the Seminar Convenor via email Metcalf.Lyn@saugov.sa.gov.au, or telephone 8124 4942.



Heritage Planning Seminar in Goolwa *Clearing Up the Confusion*

The Heritage Branch, in association with heritage consultants McDougall and Vines, conducted the third in its series of Heritage Planning Seminars on Friday 18 June 2004. The first two seminars were held at Naracoorte in June 2002 and Clare in October 2002.

The seminar at Goolwa attracted approximately 30 delegates, including representatives from various Fleurieu Peninsula councils (council staff and councillors), members of Local Heritage Advisory Committees, and National Trust branch members.

Topics covered in the day's nine sessions included the history of heritage, an introduction to conservation principles, key legislation and organisations in the heritage planning system, preparing a Heritage Plan Amendment Report, and the ongoing management of a community's heritage assets.

A highlight of the day was a case study of the Goolwa Town Centre. The Seminar delegates were divided into groups, given a heritage-listed building nearby to visit, and asked to develop policies to manage its heritage value.

The next Heritage Planning Seminar will be held Renmark in early December, followed by a seminar at Port Lincoln for the Eyre Peninsula councils in the first half of 2005.

New Manager for Heritage Branch

Ms Sue Averay has been appointed to the position of Manager, Heritage Branch and commenced in the role on 6 September 2004.

Sue is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Certified Professional Manager/Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, and a Chartered Member of the Australian Human Resource Institute. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Graduate Diplomas in both Education and Business Administration, and is also a Justice of the Peace.

Until recently, Sue operated her own management consultancy business in Adelaide, providing governance and management advice to values-based organisations. Prior to that, she held various senior management positions with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, most recently as General Manager Regional Affairs. She has also held the positions of Executive Director of the Crafts Council of South Australia, and Director of the Carclew Youth Arts Centre.

Sue is the current Chairperson of the Australian Festival for Young People (Come Out), and has recently completed a four-year term as a member of the Capital City Forum which assists the Premier's Capital City Committee.

Sue brings strong management expertise and considerable energy and enthusiasm to the position at a crucial time as the new directions and strategies outlined in *Heritage Directions: A future for Built Heritage in South Australia* are progressed.



Ms Sue Averay

Medina Treasury Wins 2004 Edmund Wright Heritage Awards



Jason Schulz, Danvers Schulz
Holland Architects,
accepting trophy from
Minister for Environment and
Conservation, John Hill

The conversion of the former South Australian Treasury Building to a luxury five-star hotel and apartment complex received the major award of the 2004 Edmund Wright Heritage Awards which were presented at Parliament House on Friday 13 August.

The night was an outstanding success for all involved, as guests took the opportunity to explore the corridors of Parliament House and engage with this significant part of our State's built and political heritage.

Minister for Environment and Conservation John Hill presented the Minister's Award to the project developers Danvers Schulz Holland Architects, in association with SJB Architects and SJB Interior Design.

The Minister acknowledged that the award was a fitting tribute to a project which has provided an excellent example of how a heritage building can be sensitively restored while still being part of a commercially viable development.

As featured in the January 2004 Edition of the Heritage South Australia Newsletter, the Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury project is no stranger to awards, receiving an Award of Merit in the prestigious UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Awards.

The Adelaide Treasury Building was the centre of Government administration for many years. The original building, constructed in 1839,

was designed by George Strickland Kingston. Over the subsequent 70 years, the site underwent up to eight major and separate redevelopments. In the mid-1990s the building was vacated, and remained so until the redevelopment was completed in August 2002.

The Judges were unanimous in their view that the Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury project demonstrated a superior restoration that capitalised on the opportunities afforded by heritage restoration.

The Minister's Award was selected from short-listed entries in five categories of the Edmund Wright Heritage Awards, which are managed by the Heritage Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage and judged by an independent panel of experts.

The 2004 Awards attracted 29 entries from around South Australia. Nominees included volunteer organisations, government bodies, businesses, individual owners of heritage places, and heritage professionals.

The Awards are an opportunity for the State Government to recognise professionalism and hard work by individuals, organisations and community groups in the conservation and promotion of South Australia's built heritage.

House of Assembly Chamber,
Parliament House, West Wing





Congratulations to the following award recipients and commendations in the 2004 Edmund Wright Heritage Awards:

Minister's Award: Outstanding Contribution

Winner: Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury – Adaptive Reuse. Danvers Schulz Holland Architects in association with SJB Architects and SJB Interior Design

Heritage Management

Winner: Heritage of the Birdsville and Strzelecki Tracks – Heritage Survey, by Historical Research Pty Ltd / Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd / Lyn Leader-Elliott / Iris Iwanicki

Product Development and Trade Services

Winner: The Tile Factory
(incorporating The Olde English Tile Factory)

Promotion and Education

Winner: Bay Discovery Centre and Holdfast Bay History Centre, run by the City of Holdfast Bay

Commended: City of Mitcham Walk Brochures, developed by the City of Mitcham Community Historian / Volunteers at the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre

Heritage Place (Residential)

Commended: Veber Residence, 63 Tynte Street, North Adelaide – Restoration. Alexander Wilkinson Design + Planning by Design / Janos Veber

Heritage Place (Non-Residential)

Winner: Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury – Adaptive Reuse. Danvers Schulz Holland Architects in association with SJB Architects and SJB Interior Design

Commended: Torrens Parade Ground and Training Depot – Conservation and Reuse. Grieve Gillett Architects Pty Ltd / Tagara Group Pty Ltd

Commended: St Vincent De Paul's, Whitmore Square – Restoration. Alexander Wilkinson Design + Planning by Design / St Vincent De Paul Society / South Australian Housing Trust

Commended: Chateau Tanunda Estate – Adaptive Reuse. John and Evelyne Geber, Chateau Tanunda Estate

Commended: Karka Pavilion – Conservation. Department for Administrative and Information Services, Design and Heritage Management, Heritage Unit

For further information on the winners and commendations, please refer to the Edmund Wright Heritage Awards website at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/awards/index.html>.

Guests and nominees at the 2004 Edmund Wright Heritage awards



Round House, Murray Bridge



On 20 March 2004, dignitaries and members of the local community celebrated the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Bridge at Murray Bridge with a gathering at the Round House. The following article traces the history of this unique building, and details the recent conservation works that have seen the building return to public use.

The Round House at Murray Bridge is linked to the early beginnings of the Colony of South Australia, and has close ties to the construction of the first bridge to cross the River Murray in this State.

Situated on the rise above the western end of the historic road bridge at Murray Bridge, the Round House was a widely recognised landmark in the early township.

With the rapid growth of the overland trade to the Colony and the unreliability of river crossings in rough weather, the proposal to bridge the River Murray arose in the early years of settlement. In 1864, the South Australian Government established a Select Committee to investigate a suitable site for the erection of a bridge. Edward's Crossing, where George Richard Edwards, the first European settler in

the area, had established his home in 1856, was selected.

An appropriate bridge design was ordered from England in 1866, and girders arrived in the Colony during 1867-1868. However, the ironwork was destined to lay in storage at Dry Creek for almost five years while the future of the project was reconsidered by Parliament.

Despite these delays, the erection of the bridge commenced under the supervision of Mr Frank Reece George, and the foundation stone was laid in the western abutment on 7 November 1873 by His Excellency Sir Anthony Musgrave, Governor of South Australia. In order to complete this enormous undertaking, the Government engaged the services of Mr Henry Parker, a pneumatics expert, to take over the bridge construction from Mr George.

In the South Australian Register of 27 January 1873, the construction of the Round House was officially reported:

A bridgekeeper's residence is being built on the hill, the walls of which structure are finished. When completed the house will match with the bridge, and can be used for any purpose that may be found necessary, such as a telegraph station. It is hexagonal in shape, and is built of the same yellow sandstone as the abutments.

The resulting structure was a veritable mansion in the wilderness when compared to the only other dwellings in the area, three humble pug-and-pine structures. At a cost of several thousand pounds, and built at the expense of other more important road approach works (there were no surveyed or cleared roads leading to the site from either the western or eastern side of the River at this time), it is perhaps not surprising that Parker's residence quickly acquired the name of 'Parker's Folly'.

Between 1876 and 1885 the Round House was used variously as a residence (for the bridge works superintendent), Port Office, school, church and council meeting house, and was looked upon locally as the birth place of European settlement in the area.

Opening of new amenities at the Round House, Murray Bridge





The Round House is a large residence, constructed in two stages of local limestone with limestone quoins and dressings quarried from adjacent the site. The masonry work is of very high quality, and the external walls were rusticated and then pointed with sandy coloured mortar, ruled and lined in black. The roof was covered with timber shakes (cost 18 shillings per 1000), made from hardwood imported from Van Diemen's Land.

The hexagonal plan of the Round House made full use of its exposed riverside setting, and the anticipated views upriver to the north-east, and south over the proposed bridge. The wide concave-roofed verandahs and angled front walls are unusual features, which combined with the hexagonal (and vaulted) central chimney create an expressive and expensive architectural composition unlike any other building in Murray Bridge or elsewhere in South Australia.

The original residence was comprised of six principal rooms (parlour, dining room, two bedrooms, kitchen and housemaids bedroom) plus a small office, bathroom and larder. Beneath the parlour / dining room was a large cellar accessed by a trapdoor from the central passage.

The South Australian Railways took over the property in 1885. Over the following 30 years only minor changes were made to the building, until 1917-18 when major alterations and additions were carried out.

The roof was over-clad with iron (leaving the timber

shakes in place); three extra rooms were added (lobby, bedroom, dresser); a sleep-out and scullery were incorporated within sections of the verandah; two original rooms were enlarged through the removal of the dividing walls; and the building was redecorated in the post-federation style of the time. Random rubble retaining walls were created, a croquet lawn established, and a number of timber and iron outbuildings were erected in the yard.

Further changes subsequent to the 1917-18 alterations included the creation of toilet / bathroom and laundry facilities within additional sections of the verandah, and the relocation of the motor vehicle garage to the rear of the property, which reduced the area of the croquet lawn.

The Round House was confirmed in the State Heritage Register in 1987. It was with 'pride in ancestry and hope for posterity' that the Murray Bridge and District Historical Society sought their Council's support to approach the relevant authorities in order to procure the building for the community. After much discussion and negotiating, Council resolved to purchase the Round House on 28 November 1988. The contract for the sale was concluded some two years later, and in early 1991 a Volunteer Management Committee was formed to coordinate the conservation and restoration of the site.

A Conservation Policy Report was prepared, and funding in ongoing annual budgets was allocated to carry out work



on the building and surrounds. Tenders were let for projects of re-roofing, re-painting and re-pointing, and garden restoration works were designed and completed by volunteers with assistance from Workskil supervisors and labour courses. The building was listed on the Register of the National Estate, and grant monies secured to complete building conservation works.

The most recent phase in the development of the site as a tourist attraction and community asset was to create adequate toilet facilities for tour groups and small functions. The conversion of the existing motor vehicle garage into such facilities was completed in 2003, using local trade services and Workskil labour. Through the dedication of volunteers and with the support of the Rural City of Murray Bridge, a significant part of South Australia's heritage has been reinstated as a functioning and vibrant part of the local community for generations to come.

This article is based on a report provided by the Chair of the Round House Management Committee, Mr Peter Harden.

Heritage Directions; A Future for Built Heritage in South Australia

Heritage Directions: A Future for Built Heritage in South Australia was released for public consultation in August 2003 and more than 80 responses were received.

Where the Funding will go:

\$2 million

Support for Local Government

\$650,000

National Trust Grant over five years

\$500,000

Heritage Information and Interpretation Programs over three years from 2006–07

On Friday 21 May 2004, at Edmund Wright House, Minister for Environment and Conservation John Hill announced the Government's response: an additional \$2.9 million in funding for heritage management over the next four years (commencing 2004–05), the most significant

funding boost for heritage management in South Australia since the passage of the 1978 Heritage Act.

Heritage Directions provides a framework for the ongoing management of South Australia's heritage assets. A summary of the key areas of *Heritage Directions* is provided below:

Key Priorities:

Legislation

The Heritage and Development Acts will be strengthened to improve their interaction, and provide a more streamlined mechanism for the identification, management and protection of South Australia's built heritage.

Amendments to the *Heritage Act* will see the establishment of a single South Australian Heritage Register for buildings of both State and Local significance.

It is also proposed that the present State Heritage Authority will be replaced by a South Australian Heritage

Council with a more strategic role in heritage management and review at both State and Local levels.

Penalties for offences under the Heritage Act will be reviewed, and new provisions for minimum maintenance standards for heritage buildings are proposed.

The *Development Act* will continue to regulate Development Assessment for State and Local heritage, and the creation of State Heritage Areas, Local heritage places and Local Heritage Zones through the Plan Amendment Report (PAR) process.

In line with current provisions for State heritage places in the *Heritage Act 1993*, changes proposed in the Sustainable Development Bill include requiring councils to include all places recommended in heritage surveys in the listing process for Local Heritage, and the concurrent preparation of heritage Plan Amendment Reports (PARs) and heritage surveys to provide earlier protection of potential local heritage places after a heritage survey is completed. These provisions provide greater certainty for owners, developers and local communities.



Review of Government-owned Heritage Buildings

Of almost 2,200 places in the State Heritage Register, more than 300 are Government-owned.

A review of these places has recently commenced, with a view to scoping the detailed work required to ensure that all of these buildings have valued uses, and their heritage significance is conserved. It will determine the best long-term management strategies

and identify opportunities for transfer of ownership and/or adaptive re-use (such as the Medina Grand Treasury Hotel).

In addition, the future of the 42 State-owned properties managed by the National Trust of South Australia on the Government's behalf will be examined. An additional \$650,000 will be allocated to the National Trust over five years from 2004–05, bringing

the total grant to \$1 million over five years.

This funding will be used to develop a property management program that identifies the potential for transfer of ownership or management of selected properties to others, and to provide a framework for sustainable management of core properties to remain under National Trust management.



Local Government

Support for Local Government will be increased through a significant expansion of the current Heritage Advisers program to progressively

service most settled areas in South Australia, and provide training for Local Government councillors and staff.

Education, training and celebration of heritage

Heritage Directions pursues several areas of educational reform:

- **Environmental sustainability**
A program to promote environmentally sustainable development through the recycling of buildings and building materials.
- **Promoting and marketing heritage**
Programs to promote cultural tourism and heritage conservation by increasing community understanding of South Australia's heritage through its heritage places.

- **Heritage education and professional expertise**
Programs to integrate heritage conservation into school curricula, and to address the shortage of tertiary and post-graduate heritage education.
- **Endangered trade skills**
To revive and disseminate trade skills in specialist heritage trades essential to high quality heritage conservation.



Heritage Directions; A Future for Built Heritage in South Australia aims to:

- Increase support for Local Heritage;
- Develop a framework for the sustainable management of Government owned heritage buildings;
- Celebrate our heritage through a renewed focus on heritage education, interpretation and promotion; and
- Strengthen heritage legislation to provide a more streamlined mechanism for the identification, management and protection of South Australia's built heritage.

2004 Schools Heritage Competition



This year a total of 10 prizes were awarded to the following recipients:

Blackforest Primary School
Most Outstanding
(Years R-3)

Curramulka Primary School
Commendation
(Years R-3)

St Aloysius College
Commendation
(Years R-3)

Curramulka Primary School
Most Outstanding
(Years 4-5)

St Joseph's School Gladstone
Commendation
(Years 4-5)

Loreto College
Most Outstanding
(Years 6-7)

Keith Area School
Commendation (Years 6-7)

Miltaburra Area School
Most Outstanding iMovie
(Years 9-10)

Blackwood High School
Most Outstanding PowerPoint (Years 9-10)

Miltaburra Area School
Commendation (Years 9-10)

On 31 August 2004, prizes for the second Schools Heritage Competition were presented by the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon John Hill, at the State heritage-listed Sunnybrae Farm, Regency Park.

The Schools Heritage Competition is an annual event that encourages students to appreciate the diversity and significance of State and local built heritage. It also provides opportunities for students to link school curricula to a meaningful and rewarding project and to apply modern information and communication technologies to promote important heritage concepts.

The theme for the 2004 competition, *Mapping Community Heritage*, was widely interpreted by students and teachers from Reception to Year 10. Almost 80 entries were received, with many from country schools. The range and quality of the entries indicated the special appeal of this year's theme, which encouraged schools to engage with their communities to investigate local history and heritage. The competition is as much about the process as it is about the end product. Feedback from all teachers involved in the process has indicated overwhelmingly the value of participation in this heritage education initiative. It has also shown the range of activities undertaken by classes, as well as the diverse education programs developed around the *Community Mapping* theme.



Year 4/5 students from Curramulka Primary School

On the day of the awards, a representative of each of the five Most Outstanding entries was asked to talk about their presentation. Each of these speeches reinforced the benefits of this competition, and again highlighted the diversity of education programs that resulted across the State. One speech in particular, prepared by Loreto College students and presented by Mikhaila Dignam, captured the possibilities and rewards of participation in this annual event, and is reprinted below. The girls' entry, which won the award as *Most Outstanding* in the Year 6-7 category, mapped the contribution and influence of one man, Sir Edwin Thomas Smith, within the local Norwood area.

“ Good afternoon Minister, ladies, gentlemen and children.

My name is Mikhaila Dignam and I am speaking on behalf of Year 6 Blue at Loreto College.

Loreto College is built around the Acacias, a beautiful heritage building that was once owned by the Mayor of Adelaide. This competition gave us the opportunity to investigate the Acacias, and as the project developed we discovered many more places that this man, Edwin Thomas Smith, was involved with.

Further information about the Schools Heritage Competition is available on the Education & Research section of the Heritage Branch website, www.heritage.sa.gov.au, or from Robyn Hartell, Senior Heritage Interpretation Officer, on 8124 4957. Winning entries can also be viewed on the website.



First we researched what ET Smith did to Norwood and his huge influence on the area. We found out all the places he had something to do with and were astounded how one person could have such an influence on an area. We walked around the Acacias and tried to understand what it must have been like in his time.

Then we started getting serious; we took photos of the Acacias and coach houses, and started researching all of the places he had influence on, taking digital images as we went. Many of these were used as backgrounds in our slideshow. We formed into research teams, with each team looking at a different landmark building.

Then came the day of our heritage walk, we walked around the Norwood area, filming places that Smith built or leased, sharing facts for each place with others and learning new facts too.

We had a lot of fun, especially with publicans showing us where ghosts are supposed to walk, attending a Norwood match and interviewing locals.

With the slideshow we all had a part. Some people added voices, others added text, some put in backgrounds and others put in the hyperlinks and filming sections. After a strenuous term we eventually had a slideshow ready. Everyone was pleased with what we had achieved and knew that it didn't matter whether we won, but it mattered that we



Students from Blackforest Primary School with Minister Hill

learnt something and understood more about our local area and the importance of preserving heritage because it shows where we came from.

Walking around Norwood is a different experience for us now as we look at old buildings with new eyes, and imagine Smith and his contemporaries doing some of the same things we do. When we see dates on plaques around Norwood we now can relate it to what ET Smith was doing and what was happening in Norwood at the time. We understand our home in a new way.

Some people felt angry or sad about buildings that had been demolished and looked into the National Trust.

It was moving to finish our work at Clayton Church by visiting Smith's grave; we felt glad that we now knew so much about such an influential man and the site felt significant, like the grave of an old friend.

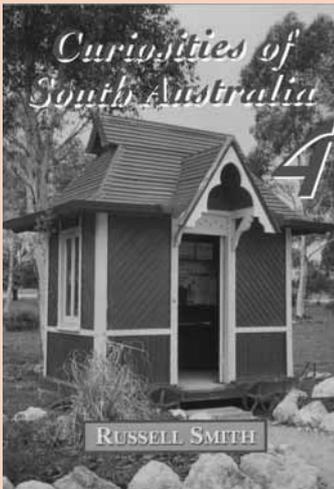
We would like to thank the Heritage Department for giving us the chance to learn so much about our community. We will take this understanding with us into our future lives. //



Mikhaila Dignam and year 6 students from Loreto College receiving their award from Minister Hill



Matthew Duffield from Milltaburra Area School explaining his groups winning entry



R. Smith

Curiosities of South Australia
 Smithbooks, Athelstone, 2004
 104pp \$12.95

The publishing history of this series speaks for itself. Public demand has required the three previous volumes to be reprinted and combined sales now exceed 16,000. This fourth volume continues the tried and proven format of succinct, well-illustrated articles on very diverse subjects. Ships' figureheads, memorial horse troughs, the replica oil drilling rig at Salt Creek, the manure pits near Brownhill Creek at Mitcham, the often overlooked statue of King George V in the Adelaide Park Lands, the extraordinary career of sometime Police Commissioner Alexander Tolmer and the world's only

working Humphrey Pump at Cobdogla in the Riverland are some of them.

My only suggestion for improvement would be to include some directions for further reading. Footnotes and long bibliographies would not be appropriate in a series of this nature. Perhaps a select list of 'Further Reading' or a sentence or two at the end of an article would suffice. For example, readers intrigued by Tolmer's exploits should be alerted to his two-volume autobiography Reminiscences of an Adventurous and Chequered Career at Home and at the Antipodes (1882, State

Library of SA facsimile edition, 1972). The history of many of Adelaide's statues can be found in Simon Cameron's Silent Witnesses (Wakefield Press, 1997) while there is a chapter devoted to the search for oil ('Coorongite') in the South-East in H Mincham & T McCourt's book The Coorong and Lakes of the Lower Murray (Beachport National Trust, 1987). This attractively produced and carefully researched series well deserves its popularity and can be obtained from many newsagents or the author (telephone 8337 6269, email smithbks@chariot.net.au).

Brian Samuels

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