

HERITAGE South Australia

NEWSLETTER

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ISSUES AND INFORMATION ON HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Heritage South Australia
Government of South Australia

HERITAGE South Australia NEWSLETTER

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Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

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C O N T E N T S

Minister's Update	2
Remaking a Lost Landscape	3
Franklin Island Mystery	5
Littlehampton Brick Company	8
Friends of Parks Awards	9
Adelaide Gaol Museum	10
Interpreting Heritage	11
Heritage News	12
Yorke Peninsula Heritage Survey	14

Front cover:
Workers at Littlehampton Brick Company
(probably 1940s) - See page 8 for more
information.

Minister's Update



Welcome to the first *Heritage South Australia Newsletter* for 1999. 1998 was a busy year for the promotion of heritage in South Australia. The Yorke Peninsula Survey was launched at Edithburgh last September marking the tenth regional survey to be completed - a process which began in 1983. The purpose of the Regional Survey Program is to identify and record all the non-aboriginal heritage of South Australia. This Program is on target for completion in the year 2000.

The Fides shipwreck (a Finnish vessel) display was launched last October at the Maritime Museum with the Ambassador from Finland participating in the event. Congratulations to staff at Heritage South Australia who coordinated this successful display.

A series of publications were released in 1998 on *Alterations and Additions*, *Early Bricks and Brickwork in South Australia* and *Gardens in South Australia*. Congratulations to the authors of *Gardens in South Australia* who recently won a national award at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Biennial Awards for this publication. Dr David Jones and Dr Pauline Payne received a Project Award of Merit in the Research and Communication category. The publication also received a commendation from the Royal Australian Planning Institute.

In 1999 new publications will be produced including *Painting of Older Buildings* and *Early Roofing in South Australia*. Both provide practical guidelines on the right colours and roofs for your house.

The Adelaide Gaol, which is owned and conserved by the South Australian government, celebrated its tenth anniversary as a museum in 1998. To mark this anniversary staff at the Gaol have set up a new display which will shed more light on the lives of prisoners and their families.

On a national level the Australian Information Officers Network is

managing a program for the promotion of 20th Century Heritage. This program will run for three years from 1999 - 2001.

The first part of the twentieth century heritage project is a booklet which will be written and designed to create an awareness of twentieth century heritage. The publication will include examples of twentieth century heritage from each state aimed at highlighting some of the key changes in Australia over the last century.

On the same topic of twentieth century heritage an exciting series of lectures and a debate are being proposed for Heritage Week during April 1999. This project is being jointly coordinated by Heritage South Australia and the National Trust (SA). Two lunchtime public lectures will be held during heritage week on the 19 and 21 of April 1999. A follow on from these lectures will be a debate on heritage with 6 speakers stimulating discussion on twentieth century heritage.

As part of its on going commitment to the development of Heritage Advisory Services across the State, Heritage South Australia is coordinating two projects. National Guidelines for Heritage Advisory Services will be developed, which will improve the current system to produce a consistent and accountable management framework for Heritage Advisory Services throughout Australia. Secondly a Heritage Planning Training Package has been developed, and will include early in 1999 the running of a one day introductory heritage planning course. This course will be designed specifically to assist council officers, but will be useful to other people who may have either a direct or indirect interest in heritage assessment and management.

Hon Dorothy Kotz MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Remaking a Lost Landscape:

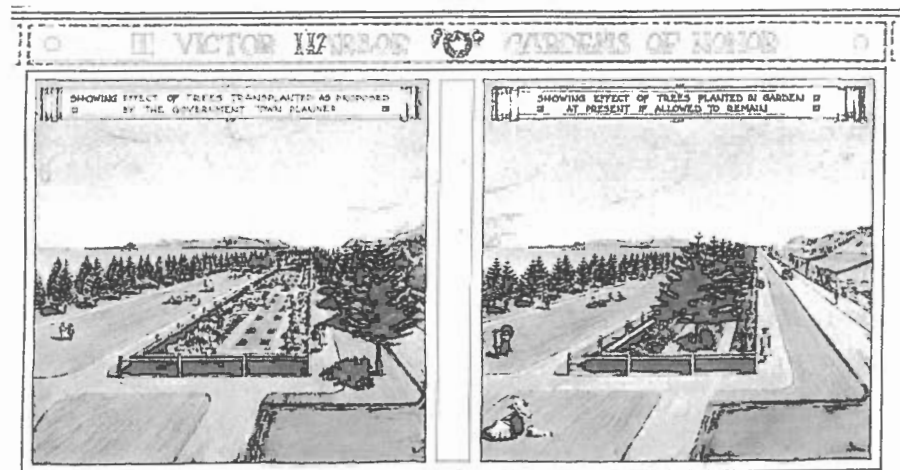
The Soldiers' Memorial Gardens Victor Harbor

The Soldiers' Memorial Gardens at Victor Harbor is a popular place for locals and tourists. The original gardens were once renown for their colour and beauty, with rustic arched gates, hedges, flower beds and numerous paths. Little is left of the original gardens except the majestic Norfolk Island pines. The gardens are currently being redeveloped using original designs from the 1920s and adapting them to modern needs.

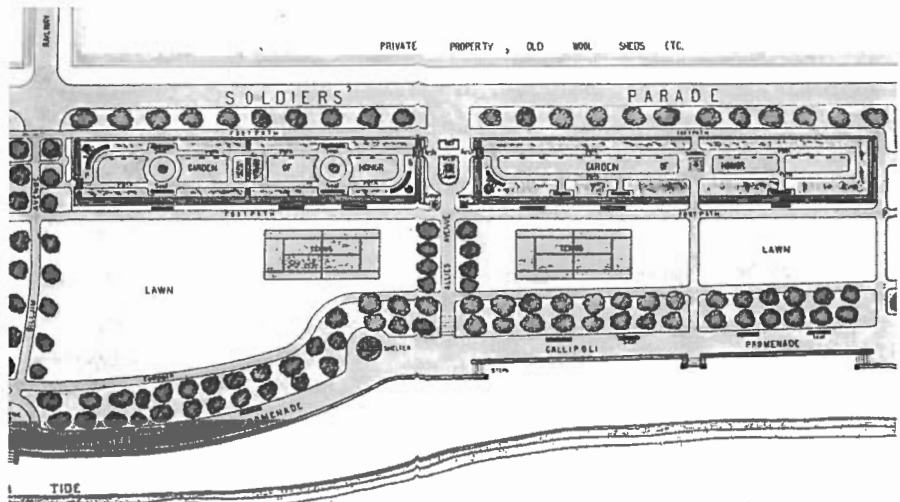
Dr Christine Garnaut, outlines the history, redevelopment and management of these culturally significant gardens. A more detailed article based on the author's research for the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens project is due for publication in *Landscape Australia* (forthcoming May 1999).

During the 1910s New Zealand born Charles Reade (1880-1933) rose to prominence in Australia as an advocate for town planning 'on garden city lines'. In his 1914 lecture tour of five Australian states he promoted town planning ideals and the garden city method of development that promised improved living and working conditions in fully planned, self-contained environments. In 1916 the South Australian government secured his services as Adviser on Town Planning and from 1918 to 1920, as Government Town Planner.

One of Reade's major responsibilities was the drafting of legislation to address the absence of a metropolitan town planning authority and the concomitant problems of haphazard, uncontrolled suburban growth. At the request of the state government and as a practical demonstration of the garden city idea, Reade designed the model garden suburb now known as Colonel Light Gardens (1917). Preserved virtually intact, the suburb represents Australia's most comprehensive exemplar, both in plan and built form, of garden city planning principles. It is the best surviving example of Reade's work, nationally and internationally. These



Soldiers' Memorial Gardens Victor Harbor proposals for memorial pine trees (1918) Charles Reade.
Source: State Records SA



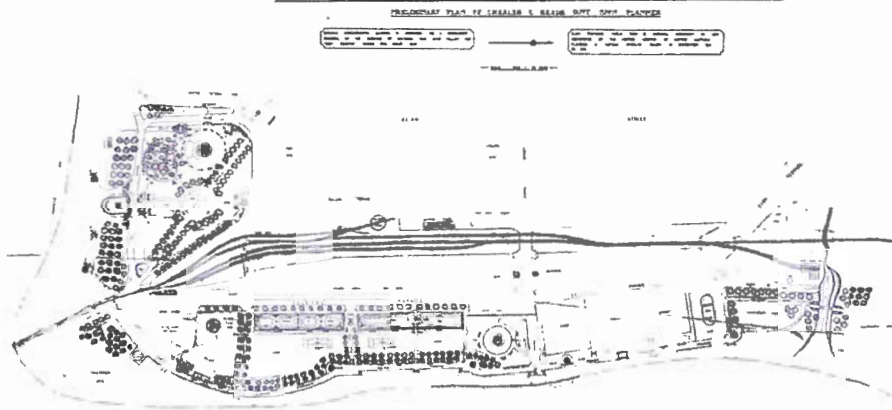
Soldiers' Memorial Gardens Victor Harbor proposed plan (1918) Charles Reade.
Source: State Records SA

and other factors have contributed to the whole suburb being considered as a State Heritage Area.

Outside the legislative realm, and his major project at Colonel Light Gardens, Reade was also responsible for numerous minor works around the state. He drew on his first-hand knowledge of on the ground schemes in Britain, Europe and North America to prepare plans for a diversity of commissions that included residential subdivisions for the State Bank as well as private developers; public recreation grounds and parks; memorial gardens; children's playgrounds and improvement schemes for local councils. Reade also produced a schematic plan for metropolitan Adelaide (1917) that

demonstrated how garden city principles could influence the city's future growth and development. Included in the proposal were a factory and industrial area at Port Adelaide; garden suburbs; a linear park along the Torrens and a second ring of parklands on the then suburban fringe.

The idea for the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens at Victor Harbor derived from the fact that four Norfolk Island pine trees were planted adjacent to Flinders Parade in memory of the first of the town's soldiers who had died in the Great War. A garden with colourful plantings was suggested as a way of drawing attention to the trees and enhancing their commemorative role. An early plan (now lost) was

VICTOR HARBOUR FORESHORE (S.A.)

Victor Harbor Foreshore proposed development plan (1918) Charles Reade. Source: State Records SA

prepared by a local resident with advice from Adelaide City Council's head gardener, Mr Pelzer.

Although commenced, the first plan was abandoned in 1918 in favour of one drawn by Reade. It arose from his brief to devise a scheme for the future development of the whole of the Victor Harbor foreshore. Reade prepared a plan that incorporated existing tennis courts and bowling green (still surviving), the Soldiers' Gardens, the site of the present day children's playground and causeway entrance, kiosk, carpark and Warland Reserve. He proposed a formal arrangement of paths and lawns on the northern side of the Gardens and a row of pines, a sea wall and promenade on the unimproved seaward side.

Reade's plan for the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens was quite striking. In response to the need to accommodate a larger number of memorial trees he suggested two gardens separated by a central plaza with granite obelisk. The original would remain in place with a second established on the causeway side. The plaza would be flanked by an avenue of Norfolk Island pines ('Allies Avenue') extending between Flinders Avenue and a proposed promenade along the foreshore.

The two gardens were formally laid out with lawns, flower beds adjacent to the perimeter fences, hedges, paths of Goolwa marl (a gravel type material) and rustic seats. Reade did not specify plants but the Times carried accounts of the massed plantings of annuals and perennials. A

gateway with a rustic arch marked each entrance. Reade offered two suggestions regarding the memorial pines:-leaving them in place and flanking each with lawn, or moving them to a grassed margin along Flinders Parade to prevent their mature canopies shading under growing plants. He favoured the latter but in the wake of local pressure, the pines were left where they were originally planted.

The two gardens were established and Allies Avenue planted in accord with Reade's design. A memorial monument was erected in the 'plaza' in 1932. Renowned for their colour, beauty and peacefulness, the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens became a favourite place for residents and tourists to visit, stroll and rest. To this day they are used as the venue for the annual Anzac and Remembrance Day ceremonies with the adjacent lawns a popular place for picnics and festivals. However, apart from the memorial trees, all trace of the original Gardens has been lost and over time public awareness of the commemorative role of the pines and the site as a whole has waned.

In response to the demise of the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens, in mid 1997 the District Council of Victor Harbor and Heritage South Australia of the Department for the Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs jointly commissioned a Conservation Management Plan. James Hayter and Associates and Flightpath Architects were appointed as consultants. The brief required that historical records as well as local knowledge of the Gardens' history be

used in devising a set of recommendations to redevelop, conserve and manage the site.

A relatively large collection of printed and photographic material pertaining to the project survives in State Records SA and these, in conjunction with local National Trust photographs and reports in the Victor Harbor Times, proved invaluable in researching the history of the site and in preparing a plan for its redevelopment. In fact the completeness of the written and visual records and the compatibility of the original design with 1990s requirements enabled Reade's plan to be used as the basis of the consultants' recommendations.

The Conservation Management Plan recommends that the original scheme be reinstated with modifications to accommodate micro-climatic changes and current public access, maintenance and safety requirements. The plan for fences, paths, furniture and garden beds; fencing, edging and paving materials is informed by Reade's original design as is the simple character of requisite modern 'extras' such as lighting and litter bins. After a period of public consultation this proposal to remake the Soldiers Memorial Gardens at Victor Harbor was accepted by the local community and the District Council. A successful application for funding to the State Government's ROSES scheme has enabled the local council to schedule stage one of the plan in its forthcoming programme of works.

A variety of historical documents assisted research into the original plan, early history and development of the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens. The current redevelopment scheme testifies to their value.

Dr Christine Garnaut
Research Associate, Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia

Mystery of Franklin Island finally solved.

On the 14 December 1848 a Notice was published in the *South Australian Government Gazette* seeking information about the remains of a person recently found on Franklin Island, about 14 miles north-west of Streaky Bay. A letter from Charles Driver, Government Resident of Port Lincoln, to the Colonial Secretary, describes the events relating to the unusual discovery:

Sir, - I have the honor to enclose herewith three scraps which were picked up by a Mr Thomas on a recent visit to Franklin's Island. He saw the bones of a human being (very probably those of the writer of the pencilled document); a chest, with some clothing; the weather worn remnants of a shed, apparently composed of sails; a boat, on the beach, much too large for any one individual to remove; and a dog, in excellent condition, which latter he was desirous of bringing away, but could not secure. No fresh water could be discovered by him on the Island.

The three scraps referred to in the letter were described as such in the Notice:

1. *"Certificate of Freedom," from the Van Dieman's Land Government, bearing date 27th November 1843, in favour of Michael Sinnett.*
2. *Letter addressed to "Mr Wm. Richardson, Muddy Plains, Van Dieman's Land," dated from Streaky Bay, October 20 (no year mentioned), and signed "John Williams."*
3. *A pencilled memorandum, without signature, dated 20th October and 23rd November. (No year named.)*

But no information was elicited in response to the *Government Gazette* which could help to solve the puzzle. A great deal has been written about the event and its characters over the years, much of it in the realm of the not-quite-believable, and some of it unintentionally humorous. For instance a recently published account states that *'still alive and sitting nearby*



An artefact scatter showing fragments of bricks, hoop iron from wooden barrels, whalebone, copper sheathing and shells.

[to his bones] *was the man's faithful dog'*, while another reported that the pencilled memorandum *'was written in blood on a rag'*.

As a result of recent historical research carried out by Heritage South Australia during the maritime heritage survey of the West Coast, we now know the circumstances behind the Franklin Island mystery. The main characters involved are three whalers: Long Jim (James Hawkins), Cape Jack (John Williams) and Michael Sennitt, who all disappeared from the Streaky Bay whaling station in 1846. But to fully appreciate the story it is necessary to commence telling it in 1844.

That is the year the Hobart-based whaling brigantine *Camilla* (built 1827 in Nova Scotia, Canada) was lost. The *Camilla* was driven ashore from its anchors on 28 April 1844, at the commencement of the whaling season, in the vicinity of the Streaky Bay whaling station (or fishery as it was often called). This whaling station is believed to have been operated near Point Collinson on the north-west shore of Streaky Bay.

The master of the *Camilla*, Captain James Gardiner, managed to get the vessel afloat about 5 days after its initial grounding, but it was still taking a lot of water. He then put it ashore again at high tide to careen it (lay it over) so that he could inspect

the damage and perhaps repair it. The kedge anchor was placed in a hole in the rocks, with the cutting-in falls made fast to it, and the vessel was laid over on its port side to inspect the damaged starboard side. The lower part of the rudder was gone to the middle pintle, as was the lower part of the stern post, and the starboard bilge had opened. A squall of wind from the ssw caused the arm of the kedge anchor to break and the *Camilla* was driven broadside upon the reef again where it was then abandoned. According to Captain William Robinson of the Hobart brigantine *Abeona*, the remains of the *Camilla* were still there in 1846, when he visited the place two years after its loss.

The European whalers and sealers who operated along this coast from the very early 1800s to around 1850 are often reported to have treated the indigenous inhabitants badly, restricting access to waterholes, and kidnapping and raping Aboriginal women. The hostile environment created by this 'first contact' experience with Europeans set the scene for future poor relationships with the pastoral settlers who followed in the whalers' wake. The *Camilla* and the Streaky Bay whaling station feature prominently in this tumultuous period.

The Streaky Bay whaling station appears to have been established in

1843 by Captain William Young of Hobart. Historical accounts indicate that upwards of twenty men were employed at the station for a whaling season, lasting from April to September or October of each year.

Towards the end of the 1844 whaling season, four men were left at Streaky Bay to salvage items from the *Camilla*. Three were working at the shipwreck, and one was left in charge of the accommodation hut. According to the man at the hut, about 50 Aborigines rushed towards the hut to attack him. When his three dogs attacked the Aborigines they were subsequently felled by spears. From inside the hut the man made a hole in the roof and with a double barrelled gun, wounded one Aborigine and killed another by the name of Pityarri. The group retreated, carrying away the two bodies. Following this incident the Aborigines were prohibited from coming down off the ridges to the fishery without the permission of the whaling crew.

Captain Robinson of the brigantine *Abeona* returned to Streaky Bay from a whaling cruise to Cape Riche and Two People's Bay (in Western Australia), at the end of the 1846 whaling season. He embarked most of the people at the station for the home voyage to Hobart. These included the wife and young daughter of Mr Luttrell, one of the headsman. The Streaky Bay fishery had obtained more oil than he could carry so he had to leave 16 tuns of oil, equipment and a whaleboat behind. According to

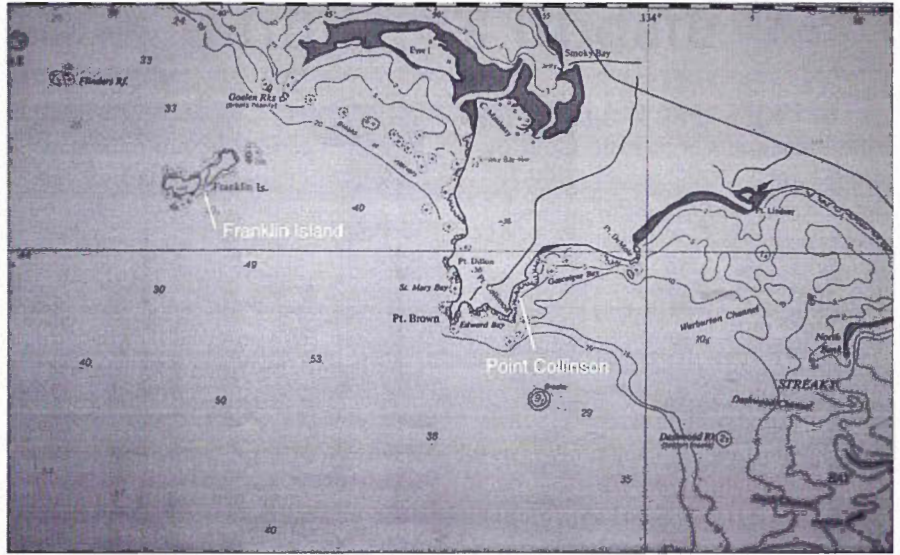


Chart showing Franklin Island and the site of the whaling station at Point Collinson.

Captain Robinson's account three men were left to guard it until a vessel was sent for them:

My instructions from Mr Young was to leave two or three men with the cooper in charge of the oil and fishery, if I could not carry all the oil. Michael Synott, the cooper, ... he was to stop according to his agreement, and he was placed on wages from the time I left. The cooper was glad to stop, and so were the other two men, I don't remember their names, only their nicknames, viz., Cape Jack [probably John Williams], and Long Jim [probably James Hawkins]. I gave them full particulars, instructions, about not trusting the natives, etc., and I sailed away

The smack *Resolution*, under Captain Moodie, was sent from Hobart to collect the three men, oil and equipment in January 1847, but found that the men and boat were

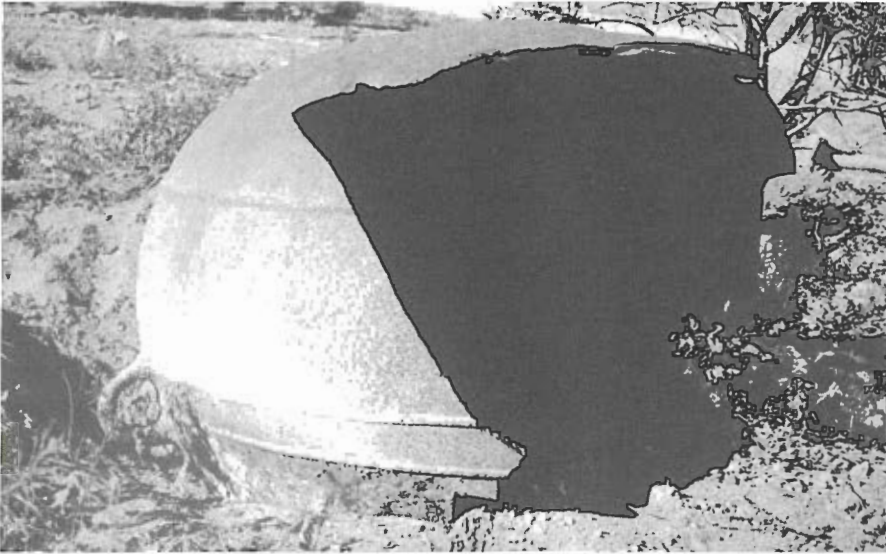
missing, and most of the oil casks had been stove in by whaling lances and harpoons. A musket was found broken to pieces and spear marks were evident on the hut and oil casks. A crude diary written in chalk was found inside the hut, the last date recorded was 31 October 1846. The undamaged equipment and what oil could be saved was loaded onto the *Resolution*. According to Captain Moodie his crew were approached by a group of Aborigines carrying spears and waddies, evidently with a hostile intention, but they were repelled after 'a few blank shots were fired at them'. The belief at the time was that the Aborigines had attacked and murdered the three men and then made away with their bodies. The Streaky Bay whaling station seems to have been abandoned directly after this event.

Two years later, in November 1848, the cutter *Jane Flaxman* under Captain Charles Duke called into Franklin Island during an expedition of discovery. This was when the bones of a human being, most likely Long Jim, were discovered with the pencilled message written on a scrap of paper.

A letter was also found which had been written at Streaky Bay, dated 20 October [probably 1846], by John Williams of Hobart to William Richardson at Muddy Plains near Hobart. He wrote that he expected to be in town [Hobart] in four or six weeks as he had to wait at Streaky Bay whaling station until a vessel

A view from the sand ridges at the Point Collinson whaling station.





Remains of the broken trypot recovered from the site and later used as a dog kennel.

came for the remainder of the oil. Importantly he makes mention of James Hawkins being with him.

Michael Sinnett's 'Certificate of Freedom' document, issued in Van Diemen's Land on 27 November 1843, was also found. The 19 year old Sinnett had been sentenced at Bristol City on 19 October 1829 to 14 years transportation for theft from a person, and arrived at Hobart aboard the convict transport *Manlius* in August 1830. During his trial in England he was considered to be of bad character with poor connections. In Hobart he received many reprimands, as well as sentences on the treadmill, for a wide range of offences. He married Sarah Knight, also a convict, at St David's Church in Hobart on 9 November 1840. Their only child, a son William, was born in 1842.

Long Jim's pencilled message, held in the archives of State Records (SA), provides an account of the events leading up to his lonely death on Franklin Island:

Michell Sennit left in the afternoon about 4 o'clock. He got me to make a damper to take with him. He said he was going to get a black woman and he would be home by night. But he as never returned witch makes me think they have kiled im ... Some of them stole Cape Jack's hat from the back of the hut, so we would not give them more flour. So they gathered a mob and a ... upon the place and speared Cape Jack thru the hand and we was forced to take to the boat. We got a bit of flour and some sugar and our bedding

and Cape Jack's box. We ... over to franklin's island, thinking we shoud se the vessel in sight when she came. Cape Jack's hand as been very bad ever since we cam.... I buried him as well as I could and he is now in Heaven, God bless him. He as left me and the poor dog by our two selfs. I hop will send vessel or a boat to save us from diing hear.

The most likely reason that the mystery has not been solved until now is that the records relating to the disappearance of the three whalers in 1846 are held in the Archives Office of Tasmania, whereas those relating to the gruesome discovery on Franklin Island in 1848 are held in the State Records of South Australia. When an opportunity arises an examination will be carried out at Franklin Island in an effort to locate the remains of Long Jim and Cape Jack.

The exact location of the *Camilla* shipwreck remains a mystery, although a project aimed at locating this significant site has recently commenced. As a direct result of the West Coast Maritime Heritage Survey carried out by Heritage South Australia, we have received information about whaling equipment carried away in the early 1900s from the whaling station ruins at Point Collinson. So far we have tracked down a broken trypot (used for boiling the oil from the whale blubber), an iron trough or channel (possibly for transferring oil between tryptots during the cooling process), and a single harpoon head.

The broken trypot was taken by its finders to a pastoral station further inland from Streaky Bay where it has been recycled for use as a dog kennel. It may well have been one of those items smashed by the Aborigines when Cape Jack, Long Jim and Michael Sinnett disappeared from the Streaky Bay whaling station 152 years ago. The present custodians of the trypot wish to donate the artefact into public ownership for the purpose of display and study. Heritage South Australia is assisting them to bring about that outcome.

Terry Arnott

Maritime Heritage Officer
(Derived from a paper presented at the Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology conference, *First Contacts - Maritime Encounters and Arrivals*, held at Darwin in October 1998.)



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Littlehampton Brick Company



Littlehampton Brick Kilns in 1998. The kilns are now used as a storage area.

The Littlehampton Brick Company has been continuously manufacturing for 86 years. It was long known that there were deposits of excellent brick clay at Littlehampton, but brickmaking only began there after the construction of the Adelaide Hills railway made it economical to transport the product to the metropolitan market. In the early 1890s, Luke Watts set up a brickworks immediately beside the railway, and others were soon established nearby. The area quickly gained a reputation for making very high quality bricks.

With demand for bricks growing, in 1910 a syndicate of brickmakers formed the Littlehampton Brick Company Limited and combined the local brickyards into one operation. They invested in state-of-the-art technology, and their Bradley & Craven brick pressing machines and vaulted downdraught kilns were in operation by 1912. The company manufactured its bricks by the semi-dry process, in which dry shale was quarried, crushed to a powder, and mixed with the minimum of water to

make it workable before being subjected to very great pressure in a mould, which turned it out as a finished brick. The process was extremely efficient because the bricks were so dry they could be taken immediately to the kiln without requiring any drying time.

The company was fortunate in having a variety of clays, so it could diversify its products. Littlehampton is one of the few brickworks in South Australia which produced refractories or firebricks, high quality white bricks used to build furnaces and in other high temperature applications. One structure on the State Heritage Register which was built of Littlehampton firebricks is the lime kiln at Wool Bay. (Anthony Moore, *Brickmakers in South Australia 1836-1936*, University of Adelaide 1981)

The Littlehampton Brick Company still operates on its original site, although its technology has moved on a long way since 1912. The most impressive surviving relics of the old plant are two of the kilns and their smokestacks. The vaulted

downdraught kilns have rows of ten furnaces along each side. Hardwood was burnt in these, sending a long flame up the vaulted roof, down through the bricks and out through openings in the floor to underground flues leading to stacks nearby. The downdraught design forced the flame to spend more time in contact with the bricks.

While the vaulted downdraught kiln was widely used by South Australian brickmakers from the 1880s onward, the ones at Littlehampton are unusually large, 16m long and designed to hold 70,000 bricks. The company has the original plans for the kilns, drawn by Adelaide architects Davies & Claridge in 1912. At one time there were five of these kilns lined up on the site. They were later converted to gas fuel, and remained in service until the 1980s when they were replaced by continuous tunnel kilns. The two surviving ones are now used as storage space.

Peter Bell
Historical Research Pty Ltd

Friends of Parks Awards 1998



Some of the winners of the Heritage South Australia Friends of Park Award. From left to right: Trevor Taylor, Kaylene Taylor Secretary of the Friends of Innes, Peter Martinsen and Gwen Martinsen Coordinator Friends of Innes.

Every year Heritage South Australia awards a Friends of Parks group for the best conservation work on a heritage place within a National Park. This year the award went to the Friends of Innes National Park for their conservation work on the Innes Post Office.

The Friends of Innes commenced work on this building in 1987 with a grant from Heritage South Australia and followed by a grant from the National Estate Funds in 1988. These funds were used to stabilise the walls and replace the roof.

A further grant from National Parks was given to enable the plastering of interior walls and repointing of exterior walls. This project was an enormous effort not only from the Friends of Innes whose work was all voluntary, but overseas volunteers working at the Innes National Park joined in to repoint stone walls. National Park staff were helpful in providing materials, tools and equipment as required. The project is a good example of communities and governments working together to create a better environment for all South Australians.

The post office is part of the Inneson Gypsum Mining complex which is protected through heritage legislation. The complex is a good example of an

early twentieth century gypsum mining complex. The Inneson Mining complex was one of a series of centres established around the turn of the century to exploit the abundant gypsum deposits of southern Yorke Peninsula. The mining venture which began around 1917 was an ambitious attempt to establish a self-sufficient mining venture in an isolated area. The 1930s depression put a stop to

production and the Inneson mining complex was never reopened. Residential and commercial buildings survive in the complex and the township layout is still discernible. In 1921 the area was a busy place with about 140 people living and working at the mining complex.

The post office is a good example of the reuse of a heritage place and is not only useful in terms of creating a sustainable environment but also protects part of our culture. The next part of the project for The Friends of Innes will be to provide a display of the mining township in the post office.

There are over 90 voluntary Friends of Parks groups across the state to help preserve our parks and wildlife in South Australia. Any of these groups will welcome your membership and enquiries. Objectives include manual projects, fund-raising, educational/cultural events and social programs. If you would like to be a volunteer or are simply interested please contact the Community Liaison Unit on (08) 8204 9430.

Repointing with soft mortar with the help of Green Corp. P Martinsen (top), Mathew Sparrow (bottom left), and Adam Krahnert.



Adelaide Gaol Museum



In 1998 the Adelaide Gaol celebrated its tenth anniversary as a museum. A new display entitled Life in Gaol was opened by the Minister for Environment and Heritage to mark this event. Through this display the spirit and stories of those who worked, lived and died in this gaol can be experienced.

The Gaol opened in 1841 and closed as a prison in 1988. Over these 147 years the Gaol housed the poor, the unfortunate and the misguided. The gaol's staff of volunteers will give you an insight into prisoners, their families and the many people who managed and cared for them.

The Gaol is being conserved by the South Australian government and is operated by volunteers to give South Australians a link to our rich past.

For more information please call the Gaol Manager on (08) 8231 4062.

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Interpreting Heritage

A Definition

Over the last few decades the word 'interpretation' has gained an additional meaning. In America, officers of the U.S. National Parks Service have been particularly keen to educate the users of their parks, or as they would say, interpret the parks and their features to the visitor. The purpose of the extensive interpretation program is summed up in a quotation from the Service's Administrative Manual:

'Through interpretation, understanding;
through understanding, appreciation;
through appreciation, protection'.

A leading figure of the movement was Freeman Tilden, and in his book *Interpreting Our Heritage* (University of North Carolina Press 1957) he defined interpretation as:

'An educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by first hand experience and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information'.

Thus the emphasis is on bringing a theme or a subject to life, on engaging and challenging the visitor to see beyond facts to their meaning and significance. The mere communication of information is not interpretation. The visitor must be led to wonder why, or led towards some understanding of an area or a subject's interest. A museum label giving an animal's scientific name is not interpretation; a label relating the animal to its environment is.

Techniques

Interpretive techniques range from the simple to the sophisticated, and include signs, labels, pamphlets, talks, audio-visual presentations, guided heritage walks, self-conducted walks using hired cassette tapes, plaques, working models, static displays, historical re-enactments and Interpretive Centres. Signal Point Visitor Centre at Goolwa, Wadlata Outback Centre at Port Augusta and Lady Nelson Interpretive Centre at Mt Gambier are examples of the latter. Given their cost, centres on such a scale can only be justified in areas attracting large numbers of tourists.

The South Australian Scene

In many parts of the State, visitors have little choice if they seek to have an area's past and present interpreted to them. They can visit a museum which will typically consist of a large collection of objects relating to everyday life - objects common to most parts of the State - and only in the better museums will they learn something of the particular significance of the locality. Alternatively, they can visit the local tourist information centre and/or council office and collect a range of pamphlets telling them about tourist 'attractions' but providing little understanding of the region's economy, natural landscape and way of life.

The challenge for all writers of interpretive material is, as Tilden suggests, to go beyond the mere facts, invest them with meaning, and arouse the emotions. The following examples of good interpretive scripting are the work of Dr Harry Penny, a former Principal of Adelaide Teachers College, and are reproduced with the permission of the Kimba and Gawler Ranges Historical Society Museum Inc.

Brian Samuels
Principal Heritage Officer
Heritage South Australia

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Farming has always been Kimba's mainstay. All the tools and implements in this shed have been in use on local farms.

The historical progression is from hand-tools to horse-power.

Each major innovation increased the acreage that could be cultivated, sown or reaped per man day, greatly to the benefit of farmers in this area of low or uncertain rainfall.

Give the exhibits more than an idle glance.
Imagine yourself if you can, farming with them.
Any of the older hands would be glad to help you.

THE ONE-TEACHER SCHOOL

Look at the direction table on the little cairn.

Small schools like this one were scattered over a very sparsely settled farming area.

Costs per pupil were about five times as much per pupil as in large schools.

Many children of pioneer families had the whole of their schooling in these tiny schools.

Tax-payers money well spent.

STATIONARY ENGINES

Animal power made possible the transition from hand tools to agricultural machinery.

Stationary engines were much more useful for repetitive work on-the-spot: cutting of chaff by the ton, winnowing of grain, pumping of water etc.

They did not need a driver nor did they need a spell from time to time. Given fuel they could pop-pop away... all day and all night too...

Remember while you look at these lovingly restored engines that they were the modern miracles of your grand-father's or perhaps your great-grandfather's youth.

Heritage News

Varieties of Heritage on the internet

Our published and archival heritage is becoming more and more accessible as the State Library of South Australia's website goes from strength, allowing once unique resources to be accessed not just State-wide but internationally without physically visiting the library. The library catalogue (currently limited to post-1950 accessions), 47 000 photographic images previously available on videodisc, and various indexes have all been loaded onto the website (<http://www.slsa.gov.au>) in recent months. State Records' website (<http://www.archives.gov.au>) was launched on 10 November 1998.

Moveable cultural heritage is at last being better served as museums are starting to catch up with libraries. The History Trust of South Australia is on the net at <http://www.history.gov.au> while Australian Museums On Line (AMOL) has recently revamped its website (<http://amol.org.au>), which features a directory of Australian museums, collections databases and an on-line journal.

Folklife heritage too is now very well represented thanks to the Folk Federation of South Australia's website (<http://www.folk-sa.asn.au>) with its excellent links to national and international sites. It includes links to the websites of Australian performers, instrument makers and repairers, other Australian and international sites, folk festivals, online radio and music, folk song and music databases and newsgroups.

Heritage in Print

New titles from Wakefield Press include Pat Sumerling's *Down at the Local: A History of Hotels in Kensington, Norwood and Kent Town* (1998: \$19.95), the first detailed study of any South Australian locality's hotels, and Barbara Santich's *McLaren Vale: Sea and Vines* (1998: \$34.95)

Whaling history is of special interest

to South Australians, given the considerable activity off our shores before formal European settlement. *The Archaeology of Whaling in Southern Australia and New Zealand* is a special publication of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology and Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeology (1998: \$40).

If you fancy a solid academic read, David Lowenthal's *The Heritage Crusade and the Spoils of History* has just been released in paperback by Cambridge University Press at \$27.95.

Fides shipwreck display

On the 2nd October 1998 The Hon. Dorothy Kotz MP Minister for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs together with his Excellency, Mr Esko Hamilo, Ambassador for Finland launched the *Fides* exhibition at the South Australian Maritime Museum.

The exhibition provides historical information about the Finnish vessel *Fides* which was wrecked off the north coast of Kangaroo Island in 1860 and 10 of the Finnish crew were killed during the wrecking.

In her speech the Minister said:

One of the reasons for initiating the *Fides* exhibition was to highlight the diversity of the different nationalities which played a role in the history of South Australia. The *Fides* story is a representative story of the many ships, crews and cargo that came to South Australia and that were essential in the settlement and development of the British colony. While it was British products that were brought to South Australia on the *Fides* as on other vessels, the colony was touched by a larger international community, such as those from China, United States of America, Canada, Japan, France, Germany, Norway, Greece and others. This connection is still there in the form of the material remains of the shipwrecks, the associated documentary remains, and the association of descendants.

An aim of the exhibition therefore is to highlight the unique international significance of the *Fides* and signal the potential of some of the other 781 South Australian shipwrecks. Through this work, it could assist with links between South Australia and



Bill Jeffery, Principal Maritime Heritage Officer with Heritage South Australia, at the launch of the *Fides* display.

relevant international communities, providing a number of possible benefits, such as; the broadening of our cultural relations with other countries; and the promotion of South Australia as a destination for the overseas tourist.

Another aim of the exhibition is to highlight the natural beauty associated with the *Fides* shipwreck. Kangaroo Island is a favourite destination for tourists and it is hoped that the exhibition will illuminate another aspect of its appeal, that of the underwater environment, and the associated natural flora and fauna and the underwater cultural heritage.

I would like to thank Visions of Australia for making the grants available to develop and tour the exhibition, and to the South Australian Maritime Museum and other staff of the History Trust of South Australia for making this venue available. I would also like to thank His Excellency, Mr Esko Hamilo, the Ambassador for Finland for making his time available to participate in this launch. It is very rewarding for South Australia to establish more ties with another country, even if it is over a shipwreck and the death of 10 Finnish sailors. This time next year some of the *Fides* cargo and remains of the ship will be back in the vessel's home-port for all to see.

His Excellency, Mr Esko Hamilo, Ambassador for Finland responded by providing historical information about Finland during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The exhibition moves onto the Kangaroo Island Visitor Centre at Penneshaw for 7 weeks after Port Adelaide.



Visitors at the *Fides* shipwreck display.

New Environment Shop

The Environment Shop which opened in November 1998 replaces the Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre, and also includes an outlet for Mapland.

It has a wide range of information regarding environmental issues on such topics as:

- Heritage
- National Parks
- Water Resources
- Maps
- Waste and pollution

Services include:

- Park facilities
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- Ozone accreditation renewal

Feel free to visit the shop at:

Ground floor
Australis building
77 Grenfell Street, Adelaide
For more information phone:
(08) 8204 1911

20th Century Significant Buildings Register

A list of significant 20th century Australian architecture is being prepared by a working group for the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in South Australia. This list will mark the new millenium and raise an awareness of the importance of architectural design excellence in South Australia. This list is not a heritage register but a register of architectural design excellence. If you would like to nominate a building for this register from the 20th century please call Michael Queale on (08) 8361 8233.

Heritage South Australia has moved to:

Chesser House, Level 8
91-97 Grenfell Street
Adelaide 5000
(Phone numbers remain the same)

Ministerial Launch of the Yorke Peninsula Heritage Survey



Colin Harris, Deputy Director Heritage and Natural Resources, Hon Dorothy Kotz and Malcolm Thomson, Mayor of the District Council of Yorke Peninsula at the launch.

The Minister for Environment and Heritage, Mrs Dorothy Kotz, MP launched the final report of the Yorke Peninsula Heritage Survey at 'Edithburgh House', Edithburgh on Tuesday 29 September 1998. This regional heritage survey, undertaken by Weidenhofer Architects in 1997 and 1998, included the District Councils of Barunga West, the Copper Coast and Yorke Peninsula. The survey's final report recommended 15 places as being of State heritage value and over 380 places of local heritage significance.

In her speech launching the report at Edithburgh the Minister stated that:

... heritage is not simply about the identification of places but is about the protection of cultural values and attitudes that have shaped our communities and landscapes. ... Heritage is history on show and it is not locked away in history books. This very tangible history convinces us that the past really happened and gives communities links with attitudes and values that have formed our landscape. Heritage gives us a sense of continuity with the past, which in turn gives us a sense

of security and a sense of place in the time in which we live.

Other Heritage Surveys - Completed or in Progress:

The final report of the regional heritage survey of the Murray Mallee has recently been published. It is anticipated that the report will be launched in the Murray Mallee in late January or early February 1999.

The heritage surveys of the Cities of West Torrens and Payneham have also been completed and have recommended an additional six places for consideration as entries in the State Heritage Register and over 100 places of local heritage significance, as well as ten local heritage areas.

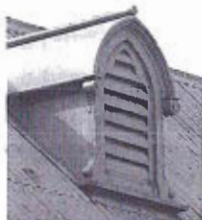
The recently-commenced heritage survey of the Upper North is progressing well and the consultants undertaking the project, led by Austral Archaeology, are presently undertaking fieldwork in the region. As stated in our July 1998 Newsletter, the Survey is due for completion in October 1999.

Heritage South Australia, in partnership with the City of Tea Tree Gully, is about to commission consultants to undertake a second heritage survey in the Tea Tree Gully

Council area. In 1997 the City of Tea Tree Gully commissioned Mark Butcher Architects to assess the heritage significance of 44 individual places and the Tea Tree Gully Historic Township. This finite heritage survey was the first part of a two-part heritage survey of the City of Tea Tree Gully. The second heritage survey to be commenced in January 1999 proposes to assess the remaining places and areas within the City of Tea Tree Gully by mid-December 1999.

If you have information concerning potential heritage places in either the Upper North region or the City of Tea Tree Gully, or would like any further information concerning heritage survey work in South Australia, please contact the writer on (08) 8204 9246.

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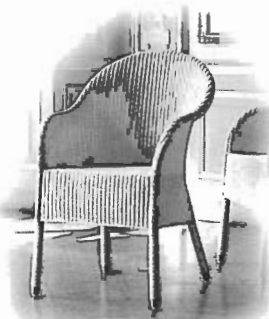


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