

July 1993
Number 3



State Heritage

NEWSLETTER

Issues and information on heritage conservation in South Australia

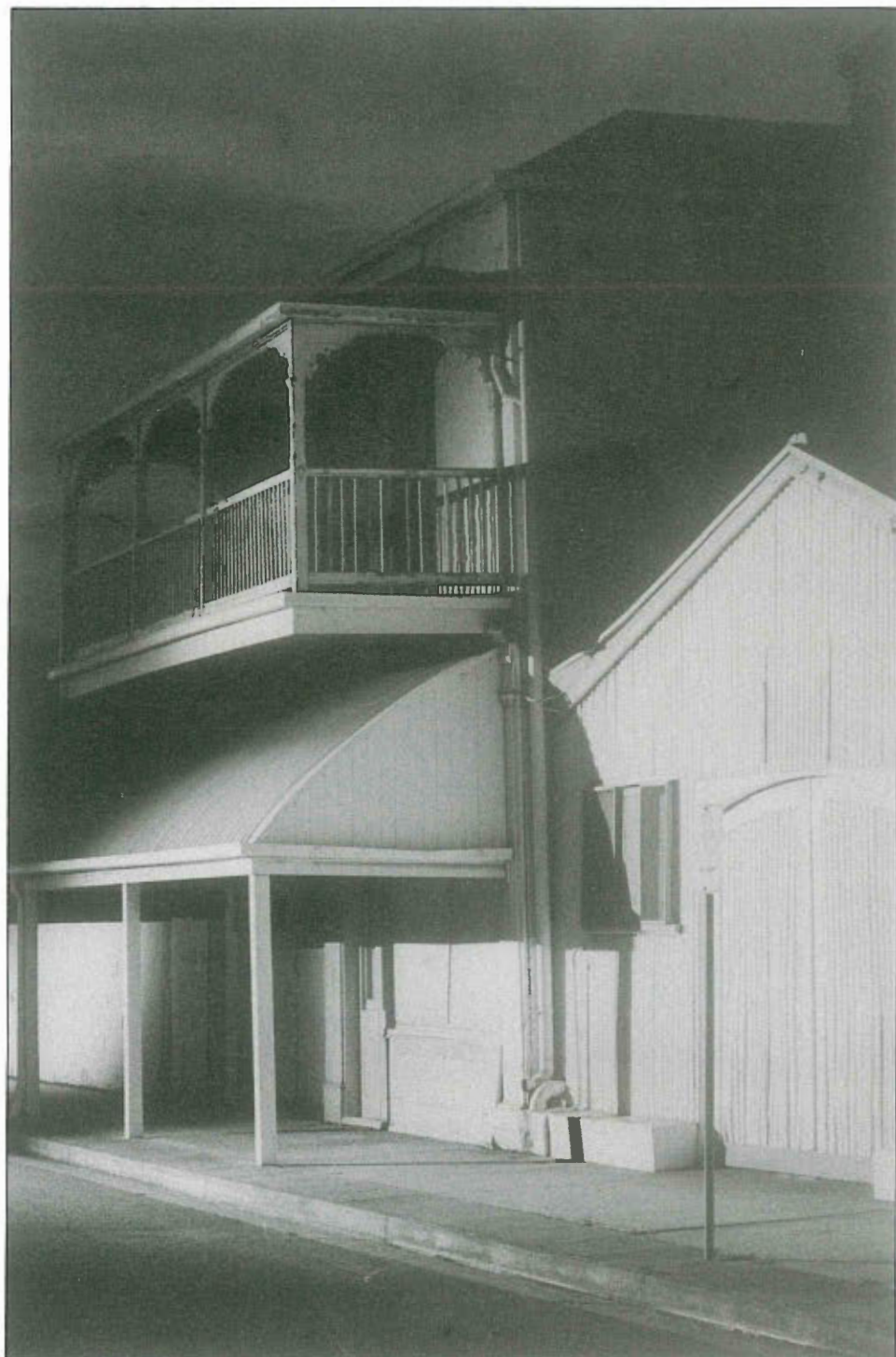
Heritage Photographic Awards 1993

1993 heralded the first State Heritage Branch and National Trust Photographic Awards. The response to the competition was overwhelming with country entrants representing a large proportion of the competitors.

There were two winners who won a trip to Canberra for two staying at the Hyatt, and coinciding with a major exhibition at the Australian National Gallery; **Australian Contemporary Photography 1970s-1990s**. The winners are Gerry Patitsas and Dean Martin.

Gerry's photo is a dramatic visual summary of some of the issues of heritage (pictured over). Dean Martin was the other winner (pictured). His photograph of a Port Adelaide Bakery was the outcome of fortuitous events and good photography.

Old Bakehouse on College Road,
Port Adelaide. Photo: Dean Martin.



While Dean was at the Portland Hotel (his regular haunt for the best schnitzel in town) he saw around the corner a hub of activity at the Old De Souza bakery at College Street, Port Adelaide. The South Australian Film Corporation were making a film with local actor Nick Hope, and camera lights had been set up in such a way that the bakery was illuminated. With perfect lighting Dean took the opportunity and took the photograph (front cover) that eventually won him the competition.

With over 120 entries judges had a difficult time in choosing the winners. Photographers were asked to think broadly on the subject of heritage places; the consequence of this thinking resulted in revealing a diversity of heritage places. Included in the entries are photographs of natural landscapes, Victorian cottages, ships, cemeteries, doorknobs, wheat silos and monuments. This suggests that heritage means different things to different people, and is a reminder of why heritage issues can be controversial.



The entries from the competition highlight the variety of heritage places in South Australia and in turn widens the meaning of heritage.

About 50 of the photographs are currently exhibited at Old Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide until September 1993.

Posters and Postcards are available of some of the photographs at a low cost. These are available at the lower ground floor Information Centre, 55 Grenfell Street, Adelaide.

The Heritage Photographic Awards will be an annual event. The closing date for the next Awards will be in February 1994. For information please ring Francesca Stopin on 207 2380.

Building, Currie Street.
Photo: Yerasimos Patitsas.

BURRA

State Heritage Area

On February 1 1993, Dame Roma Mitchell declared Burra a State Heritage Area.

Burra reflects an important period in South Australia's history, that is the success of mining copper ore. It is South Australia's most significant example of a mid-nineteenth century industrial township. It reveals better than anywhere else in the State, the rituals, laws and life of a nineteenth century mining community. Burra is the second oldest mining town in South Australia; Kapunda being the first.

Discovered in 1845 the mining venture in Burra boosted South Australia's economy to the extent that South Australia was the most prosperous colony in Australia during the 1840s. In 1851 for instance copper brought more wealth to South Australia than wool and wheat combined. The province was economically saved in the nineteenth century by the discovery of copper in Kapunda and Burra.

After the mine's closure in 1877 the town of Burra did not disappear. It became an important service area for agricultural and pastoral industries. As a result there are two

distinct periods in Burra's history: the mining era and the agricultural and pastoral era.

Burra is not only important historically but has retained its architectural integrity to reflect that history. The housing and buildings range from vernacular through industrial to the opulent, recalling a broad range of constructional materials and techniques. An important element in Burra's architecture is the use of local stone for construction. The dark elements of this stone give the buildings a unifying feature.

Burra is an example of a heritage town that flies in the face of the myth that heritage and development are in conflict. These heritage listed places are used by residents and commercial venturers alike; keeping the cultural aspects of the buildings intact while meeting the practical needs for modern day use.

Burra reflects the successes, the hardships, the failures and the ingenuity of early South Australians. It is a town that realises its past is an asset for the future.



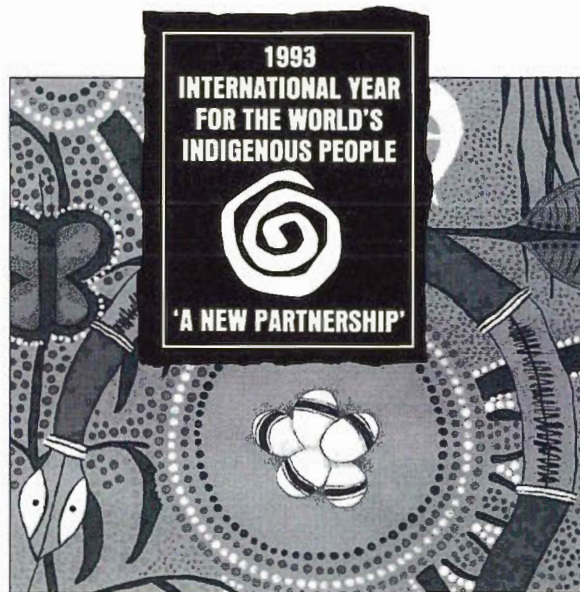
Dame Roma Mitchell declaring Burra a State Heritage Area.

KILLALPANINNA MISSION

Historic Site

1993 is the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples. One of its aims is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of indigenous cultures. In recognition, the State Heritage Branch in conjunction with the Department of State Aboriginal Affairs, will place interpretive signs for the historic site of Killalpaninna in the far north of South Australia. Killalpaninna Mission site represents one of the significant meeting places of Aboriginal and European cultures during the nineteenth century.

In 1867 serious minded Lutheran Missionaries crossed a landscape of red steelshod desert. Into this arid landscape dotted with Coolabah and Spinifex the Lutherans wanted to '...bring the blessing of the Gospel to the still numerous tribes of newly discovered (land) before the White settlers came with their diseases and brandy'.

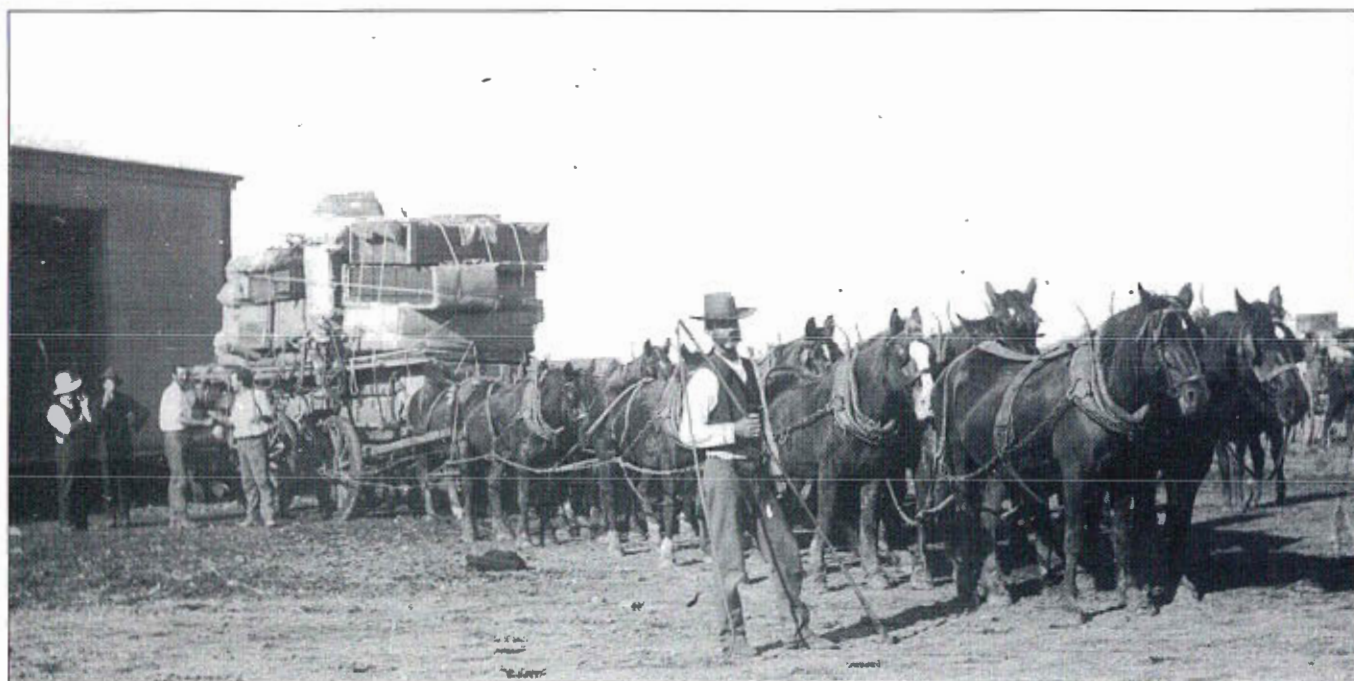


The impetus to establish a mission in such inhospitable land had in all probability come from the publicity surrounding Burke and Wills ill-fated expedition which set out to penetrate the vast interior from a depot on Coopers Creek.

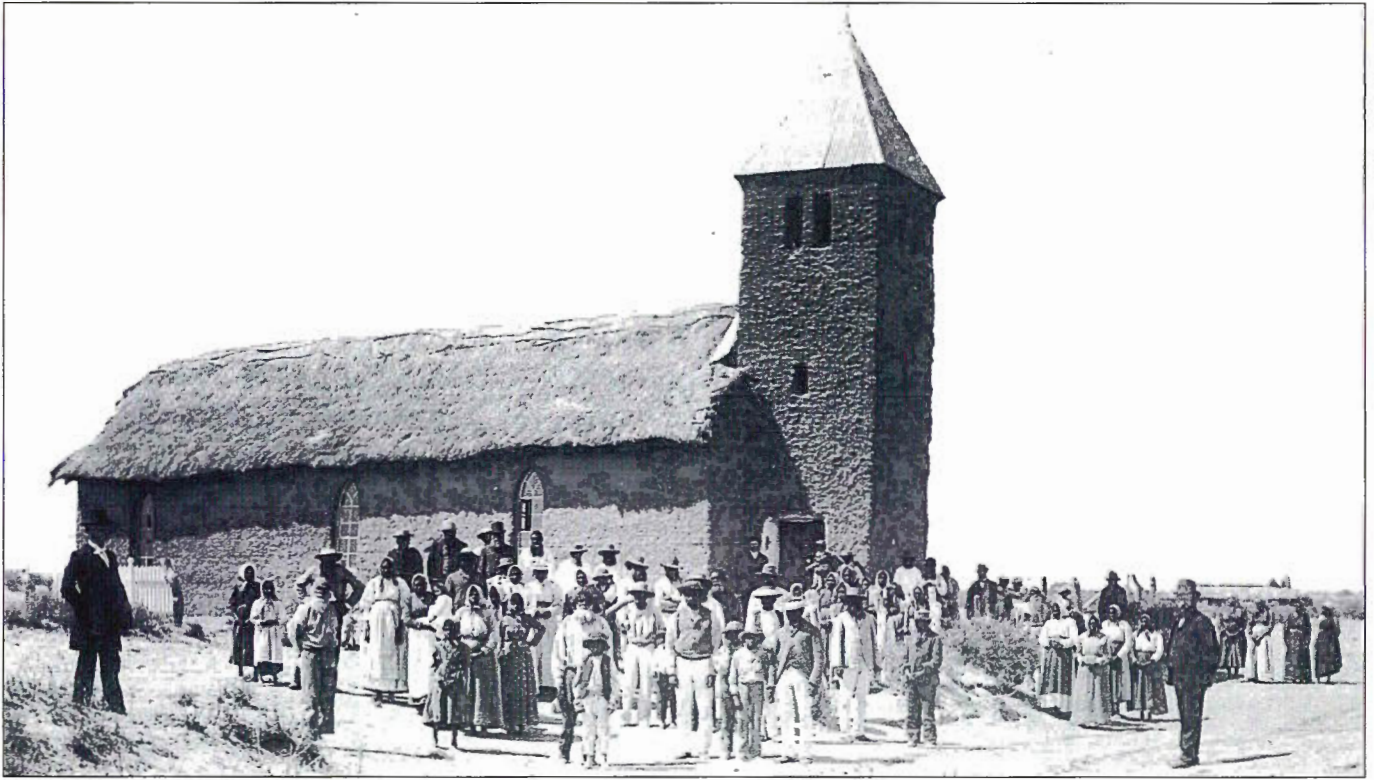
A few months after the missions were established, the Dieri Aboriginals threatened to clear all Europeans from their territory.

The sites were abandoned for a time.

A second attempt was made in 1868 to settle among the Dieri. The Mission this time was established at Lake Boocatannina. Because of poor water supplies at Boocatannina the Mission was relocated to Lake Killalpaninna and called Bethesda (following a split in the Lutheran church in 1877, some of the Missionaries from Boocatannina left and formed a new mission west of Alice Springs and called it Hermannsburg).



Horse team, Killalpaninna, c.1909.



Killalpaninna Church, 1890.

Bethesda was begun at Lake Killalpaninna during 1879. By 1882 there were a number of significant dwellings including a school, carpenter's shop and a thatched mud brick church boasting a 12.8 metre high church tower. During the 1880s about 300 Aboriginals and a dozen whites resided at Bethesda.

Also during the 1880s the missionaries worked on a Dieri dictionary, and also began to translate the New Testament into Dieri.

Another drought between 1897 and 1905 plunged the mission into financial debt. Because of anti-German sentiment during World War I the State Government stopped funding to the school. The Mission lease was sold to Bogner et. al. 1915. As the government viewed this sale as illegal

the lease was resold. In 1919 the lease on Killalpaninna was cancelled.

Scattered remains of mud bricks jutting from drowning sand and a forlorn cemetery guarding the graves of missionaries and their families are all that remain of Killalpaninna's history.

Killalpaninna was the first mission site established by the Lutherans in South Australia. It is interesting to consider the impetus behind these Lutheran missionaries who faced such inhospitable country and a justifiably suspicious Dieri tribe.

Killalpaninna site reveals a history of Aboriginal and European culture of opposing and conflicting values and habits. With interpretive signs, the history of Killalpaninna will remain alive to any who may visit.



Killalpaninna Mission Station, 1907-12.

DOLLAR COTTAGE

STRATHALBYN

When William Leigh visited the Fleurieu Peninsula in 1839 he wrote: 'In every part of the neighbourhood I visited, I found the land exceedingly rich, and I should unhesitatingly say, fit for any purposes of agriculture'.

Strathalbyn was established by Scots in about 1840; in all probability they were impressed by the aesthetics of the countryside and how well their stock fared on surrounding land. The name Strathalbyn is of Scottish origin. The township grew and within decades metamorphosed into a flourishing town with a great variety of occupations.

In the 1860s William Close built a house and butcher's shop, adding to the occupations of the town. The house was called Boundary Place but in the 1930s given the name of Dollar Cottage. Dollar is a town in Scotland where the father of the current owner, Betty Westwood, lived.

The shop is said to be one of the earliest surviving shops in Strathalbyn. Together with the house the premises show something of Strathalbyn's social history and much of the history of a 19th century market and work place on a small, localised scale.

The significance of these dwellings is the fact that little has changed since the 1930s, and indeed the butcher shop and part of the house retain its 1860s structure. To walk into this house is to walk into an instant feeling of repose. Much has to do with the current owner whose composure and generosity is reflected in the dwelling of Dollar Cottage.

Betty Westwood moved into Dollar Cottage in 1932 with her parents after a forced sale of their farm in nearby Woodchester; a consequence of the Great Depression.

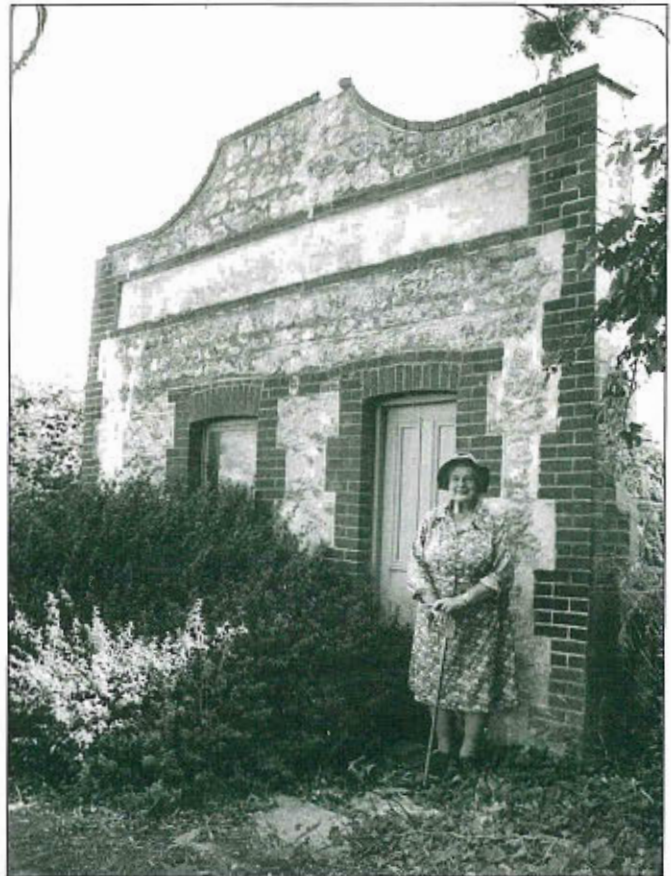
Betty has led a rather busy life, living in London at the height of food rationing in post war Europe and looking after prisoners of war in Borneo as a nurse. Betty recalls how the presence of the nurses gave British, Dutch and Australian soldiers some sense of security amid the chaos of war.

From 1955 to 1980 Betty lived and worked at St Peters College as a Matron, occasionally working at Geelong

Grammar. She retired to Dollar Cottage in 1980; her passion is and always has been the environment and she is fondly known as 'The Tree Lady'.

As a member of 'Trees for Life' Betty helps to propagate hundreds of seedlings for land owners. She can often be seen on lonely country roads revegetating barren countryside; her own garden is replete with native vegetation.

Dollar Cottage is an example of a heritage listed place that is being used without changing the original character (Betty still uses her 1860s hand pump for drinking water). Betty admits that when she started living at Dollar Cottage her personality changed from being strict and orderly to flexible and relaxed. Her home is an oasis of tranquility freed from the modern obsessions of security and order: it has instead the most harmonious disorder.



Miss Betty Westwood in front of the 1860s butcher shop

HERITAGE ACT 1993

The Heritage Bill was passed by the Legislative Council in the closing hours of the Parliamentary Session on 7 May 1993. Assent by the Governor of South Australia is the final step in the process of creating the new Heritage Act, which will take effect later this year.

The effects of this legislation will be spelled out in a leaflet to be published within the next few months. For properties already on the Register very little will change. Properties on the old Register of State Heritage Items under the old Act will transfer to the new State Heritage Register. Agreements and funding arrangements in force will continue under the new Act.

The new Heritage Act has been prepared in response to concerns and shortcomings that were identified following an extensive review of current policies, practices and procedures relating to the law and administration of built heritage in South Australia.

The Heritage Act 1993 is part of a heritage package which complements the recent changes in the planning system. Provisions in the new Development Act 1993 will expand the protection of heritage places in South Australia. The Heritage Act will protect and conserve places of State heritage significance in South Australia. The Development Act enables councils to be given effective powers to identify, register and manage places perceived by the local community as having local heritage significance. It is through the Development Act that criteria will have been set for a local heritage register.

Historic Interiors

AUSTRALIA ICOMOS CONFERENCE

23 - 25 April 1993

The Australia ICOMOS Historic Interiors Conference, held in Adelaide in April this year provided an opportunity for the 142 delegates, particularly those from interstate and overseas to visit some of Adelaide's most significant heritage listed buildings, all notable for their outstanding interiors including Loreto Convent, formerly the Acacias (pictured) and the Barr Smith Theatre. St John's Church, Halifax Street, Adelaide, where a project to restore the interior walls to their original decoration is underway, was the setting for a 'hypothetical' organised by conservation Architect, Ron Danvers. Participants including the Archbishop of Adelaide, the Director of the National Trust of South Australia and a number of the visiting speakers were invited to give their views on the conservation philosophy.



The British Council sponsored Richard Eckersley, Head of the Conservation Unit, Department of the Environment,

United Kingdom as keynote speaker to the conference. Speaking on the keynote: 'the basis for excellence in the conservation of historic interiors is knowledge, understanding and the maintenance of records', Richard Eckersley discussed recent interior restoration projects on significant interiors in the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices in London. Papers were also given on a range of topics including interior design, the history of fashion and paint colours in Australia, and the identification and conservation of early wallpapers.

At a reception for delegates at Ayers House, the Minister of Environment and Land Management, Kym Mayes, launched the recently published *The Illustrated Burra Charter* in this State. The book was produced by Australia ICOMOS with funding from the Australian Heritage Commission.

New Publications

Historic Shipping on the River Murray

Sarah Kenderdine 1993

Mention of historic shipping and the River trade conjures in most people's minds romantic images of paddle steamers plying the slow and placid moving waters of the River amid steam, bustle and prosperity. The remnants of what has been described as the heyday of the River is scattered along the banks, or hidden from view in the silted depths of the waterway. Some of these cultural remnants (e.g. wrecks, jetties, artefacts, etc both extant and relict) have been found and documented in this survey.

It is hoped that the study will culminate in adequate protection, management and interpretation of the unique resource located in these waters.

Loveday Internment Camp Archaeological Report

Austral Archaeology 1992

Australia has often been seen as a haven against the turmoil of warfare. It may come as some surprise then, that camps to house civilian internees were set up during World War II in Australia. One of those camps has been singled out for protection and conservation by the State Heritage Branch in South Australia. The Loveday Internment Camp was established in 1940 to house civilian internees suspected of sympathising with enemy powers.

This report identifies the full extent of the heritage resource by means of archaeological and historical research. Measures to conserve the site are recommended together with a strategy for the interpretation of the resource for public use, especially through education and cultural tourism.

Editor - Francesca Stropin
Published by State Heritage Branch
Department of Environment and Land Management
June 1993.

Kangaroo Island Shipwreck Survey

Rob McKinnon 1993

Often those who can relate well to underwater archaeological studies of ancient sailing ships cannot understand the attention paid to late 19C and early 20C wrecks. The important thing is not how old a site is but whether it can be used to answer questions about how people behaved.

The aims of the survey were to identify the number of vessels lost around Kangaroo Island, compile an historic data base and carry out surveys of sites that had been located with the view to assessing the shipwreck resource for future management and research.

Cornish Beam Engines in South Australian Mines

G.J. Drew and J.E. Connell 1993

South Australia was the last of the Australian colonies to be settled by Europeans, the only one of them founded on free enterprise, and the first to establish a mineral industry. Within only a few years they were writing home for the archetypal tool of the Industrial Revolution; the steam engine, in the form of the great low pressure engine with its reciprocating beam which had been pumping water from the copper mines of Cornwall for two generations.

Drew and Connell's book is the descriptive history of the great steam engines which brought the Industrial Revolution to South Australia and made our nineteenth century industrial prosperity possible.

All publications available from the Information Centre,
Department of Environment and Land Management,
55 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, phone 08-207 2380.

If anyone would like to advertise in this Newsletter
please contact the Editor, State Heritage Newsletter,
GPO Box 667, Adelaide, 5001.