



The Henley and Grange

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THE HENLEY AND GRANGE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year of history has passed quickly in the life of the Society and as President I can see how urgent it is to preserve and expand our collection and secure a home for it.

Our General Meetings, which for many years were held in the Henley High School staff room – from the time when Ted Hasenohr, our first President, was Principal of the school – have now a different venue: the Council Chambers of the City of Henley and Grange, behind the Town Hall.

Retirement has allowed Edna and myself to travel and we have been made aware of the cities and towns across Australia, with active Historical Societies, keen to promote their areas to the many visitors who pass through each year.

I am able to find more time for reading now, which has given me a chance to look back on our earlier Journals and reminisce on our history of Henley and Grange.

Each Journal lists the names of members for the year, and I have noted the large number who have given many years of support. As President, I would like to say a very big thank you to you all.

To members young and old, or should I say old and a few young, keep coming, and let's try and involve our community into the activities of the Society a little more, let's seek new members.

During the year we lost two of our members, Doug Price and Auriel Newcombe. Doug Price was a very active member of our community, in several organisations, and will be greatly missed.

Remember our Society will only be successful if members continue to attend meetings, with suggestions and encouragement to continue the objects of the Society as written into the Constitution, first Journal, page 4.

For example:

- To encourage the study of the history of the Municipality of Henley and Grange and near areas, and South Australia . . .
- To promote the compilation of authentic records relating to the district.

NOEL NEWCOMBE

COMMITTEE, 1993

President:	Mr. N. Newcombe
Vice President:	Mr. G. Willoughby
Secretary:	Mrs. K. Barrett
Treasurer:	Mrs. B. Fielder
Members:	Mrs. J. Ferguson Mr. J. Gamlin Mr. G. Johns Mrs. E. Newcombe Mrs. M. Sutherland Mrs. A. Thomson-Campbell Mrs. D. Triggs Mr. D. Whiteford Mr. J. Worrall
Henley & Grange Council Representative:	Mr. A. Jeeves

COVER PHOTO

George Hudd, J.P., (centre),
Builder, Henley Beach,
with staff, 1885.

George Hudd was grandfather of Historical
Society member, Alan Leonard.

MEMBERS

Mrs. Alison Bahnisch
Mrs. Kate Barrett
Mr. Rex Billinger
Mrs. Freda Bowering
Mrs. Joyce Caldwell
Mr. Ron Cassidy
Charles Sturt Museum
Mrs. Daphne Cluse
Mrs. Miriam Constable
Mrs. Hanni Darsow
Mr. James Darsow
Mr. Ian Dingle
Mrs. Joan Donald
Mr. Norm Donald
Miss Edna Dunning
Mrs. Elizabeth Dunsmore
Mr. James Dunsmore
Mr. Don Ferguson
Mrs. Joan Ferguson
Mr. Tim Ferrier
Mrs. Beverly Fielder
Mr. Charles (Chook) Fielder
Mrs. Mary Findlay
Mrs. Pauline Fowles
Mr. Barry Fry
Mr. Don Fry
Mr. John Gamlin
Mr. Arthur Green
Mrs. Margaret Green
Mrs. Gwen Harvey
Mr. John Harvey
Mrs. Nell Hasenohr
Mr. Ted Hasenohr (Life Member)
Mr. Fred Hooper
Mrs. Lorna Hooper
Miss Milo Jacka
Mrs. Lyn Jacobsen
Mrs. Mavis Jacobsen
Mr. Arthur Jeeves
Mr. Gordon Johns
Mrs. Doris Kelly
Mr. Rod Lange

Mrs. Kath Langman
Mr. Alan Leonard
Mrs. Nell Leonard
Mrs. Helen Manning
Mr. Max March
Mrs. Eileen McNamara
Mr. Max McNamara
Mr. Ian Miller
Mrs. Margaret Mitchell
Mrs. Marjorie Mitton
Mr. Leo Moroney
Mrs. Jillian Morphett
Mr. Ron Nash
Mrs. Edna Newcombe
Miss Ethel Newcombe
Mr. Noel Newcombe
Mrs. Shirley Penhall
Mr. Shaun Peterson
Mr. Alan Phillips
Mrs. Patricia Phillips
Mrs. Yvonne Pitman
Mrs. June Porter
Mr. Doug Price
Mrs. Ruth Price
Mr. Glen Ralph
Mrs. Marie-Claire Ralph
Mrs. June Sturm
Mrs. Mollie Sutherland
Mrs. Alma Thomson-Campbell
Mrs. Dorothy Triggs
Miss Joyce Walkley
Mr. Darrel Webb
Mr. Dean Whiteford
Mrs. Janet Whiteford
Mrs. Mavis Willis
Mrs. Audrey Willoughby
Mr. George Willoughby
Mr. Francis Wilson
Mrs. Margaret Wilson
Mr. John Worrall
Mr. Peter Wyld

THE OPENING OF THE HENLEY BEACH JETTY PAVILION

On Monday, 22/3/1915, the Register reported:

'The new pavilion at the sea end of the Henley Beach Jetty was formally declared open by the Chief Secretary (Hon. J.G. Bice) on Saturday. There was a liberal response to the invitations issued by the proprietor (Mr. S.T. Griggs), and the music room, in which the ceremony was performed, was comfortably filled with guests.

It was last Christmas time that Mr. Griggs, who is the sole proprietor of the pavilion, enamoured of the prospects of such an enterprise, decided to erect the structure.

Henley Beach is fast gaining favour as a seaside resort. Although the shore accommodation was ample for the thousands of visitors, there was no place on the jetty at which pleasure seekers could obtain refreshments.

This fact was realised by Mr. Griggs. Not only did he resolve to provide the desired comfort, but he wisely determined to erect a structure which from an architectural point of view would exceed any similar building of its kind in the state.

The edifice has been built with three flats. The bottom one has been fitted up as a cafe, and the second as a music room and lounge, and the third serves as a sea roof garden. The whole is luxuriantly furnished, and electric lighting has been installed.

The Chief Secretary, in declaring the building open, congratulated Mr. Griggs on his enterprise. Henley Beach, he said, was one of the favourite seaside resorts, and it was bound to advance.

The policy of the Harbours Board was to advance the seaside towns, and the policy of the Government was to assist it to achieve that object. Mr. Searcy (President of the Harbours Board) had told him that the pavilion in which they were assembled was absolutely the finest and most up-to-date of its kind in the Commonwealth of Australia. He (the speaker) had visited many watering places, and from what he had seen he agreed with Mr. Searcy.

The building would accommodate 800 people, and he was confident that the comforts it would provide would be availed of by the public. (Applause).

Mr. Griggs thanked Mr. Bice for his kindly expressions, and added that he would always endeavour to make the pavilion popular.

At the conclusion of the ceremony* the guests were served with refreshments.'

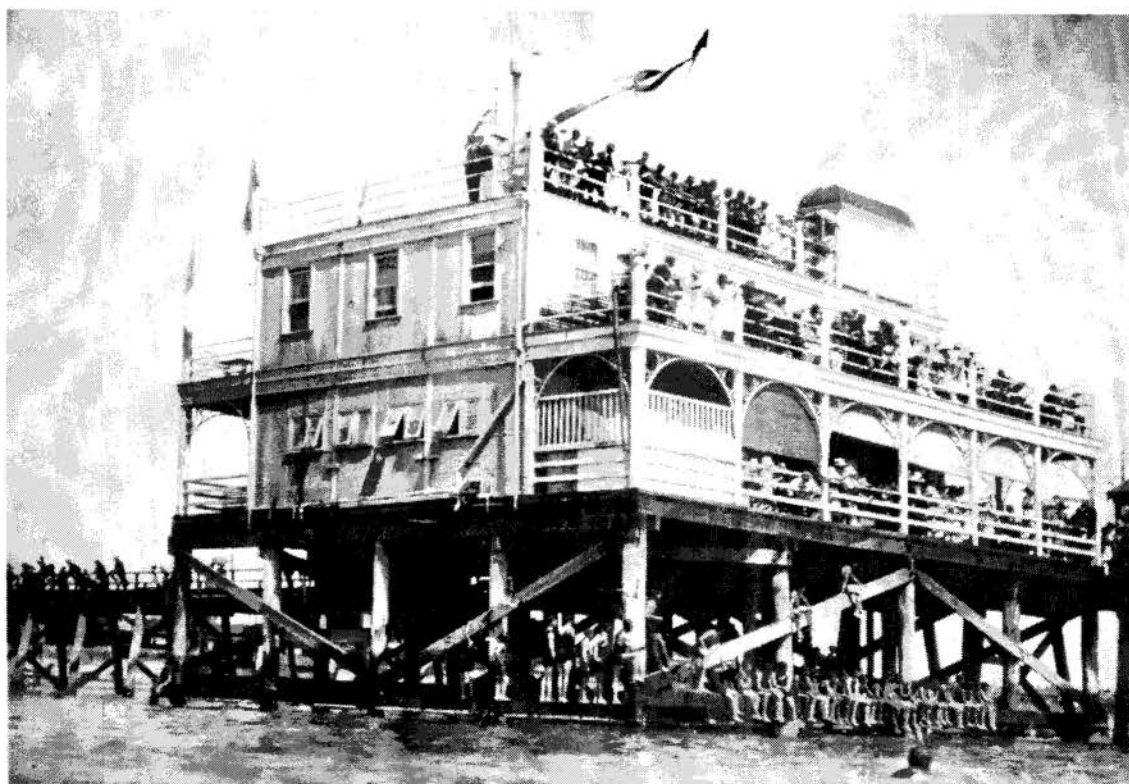
- * There was a slight hitch at the opening ceremony, not mentioned by the Register reporter, but remembered through the years by Wally Bungey, who was present as a young lad holidaying at the sea-side with his parents. When the building of a new pavilion was being aired, he wrote the following letter to the Advertiser (11/2/1991).

'The photo of the pavilion at the end of the Henley Beach jetty (The Advertiser, 4/2/91) reminds me of the opening day of the pavilion.

For some reason, the flag rope on the mast broke, so I shinned up to the top and put the new rope through the pulley and the flag was raised. I think I was about 10 then and it would have been about 1914. Takes a bit of thinking back.

Wally Bungey
Glynde'.

The writer of the letter died in May 1992. His widow told the editor that her husband used to recall with great pleasure this youthful exploit.



In its heyday – the Jetty Pavilion, long since
storm-damage and demolished

THE GRANGE BAPTIST CHURCH : EARLY DAYS

Aspects of the early history of the Grange Baptist Church were well documented in the newspapers of the day.

The Register reported that on Thursday, July 22, 1880, 'tea and public meetings were held at the Grange, to celebrate the commencement of Gospel services in connection with the Baptist denomination. Notwithstanding the threatening aspects of the sky, there were crowded attendances, including many visitors from the city and Hindmarsh.

The tea was provided by the ladies of the district, and the use of the room was granted free of charge by the proprietor, Mr. J. Vickery.'

The Advertiser stated that 'special coaches' brought a number of the visitors from Hindmarsh and the city, and identified the room provided by Mr. Vickery as 'the Grange refreshment room'.

(J. Vickery, almost a year later, on 1/7/1881, opened the first Grange Post Office in the general store on the south west corner of Beach Street and Military Road, opposite where the Grange Institute now stands. John Marrett took over the store and became postmaster less than six months later, when J. Vickery became first publican of the Grange Hotel, on 13/12/1881. The refreshment room could have been attached to the store, if we assume that the store, refreshment room and post office were all in the same building – which is now a private residence. Wherever the room was, it must have been very crowded for the occasion.)

The public meeting was presided over by Mr. T.E. Powell, who read a progress report, concerning the first services, in a private house, and the enthusiastic movement towards building a church. The main facts in this July report were given again, in a summary of events – with warm-hearted references to Mr. Powell – when the foundation stone of the church was laid in November. This summary of events is reproduced later in the article.

Plans for the proposed church were exhibited at the meeting. They had been drawn up free of charge by architects Bayer and Withall, who also designed The Marines. And the proprietors (we would probably say 'developers' these days) of the Grange township – David Murray, John Brodie Spence, and Arthur Harvey – had given the block of land on which the church was to be built.

After the report had been given, no less than six Baptist ministers addressed the meeting. In between addresses, some of Sankey's hymns were sung by a choir, with Miss Louisa Smith presiding at the harmonium. And donations added £88/6/6 to the building fund, which now stood at about £150.

Matters proceeded rapidly, and the foundation stone of the new church was laid less than four months after the public meeting – on November 9, 1880.

In perfect weather, 'a large assemblage gathered on the ground where the church is intended to be erected, which is on a fine position, commanding a view of park-like scenery, and in view of the Gulf.

Gay bunting was suspended across the main road and from a large pavilion. The York Brass Band, under the leadership of Mr. Dennis, were present, and played a variety of popular tunes that materially enlivened the proceedings.' (Register)

After the singing of a hymn, two of the ministers who had addressed the July meeting – Revs. S. Mead and H. Morgan – spoke to the gathering.

The Rev. H. Morgan gave details of a box to be placed under the foundation stone. This box contained, according to the Register, 'a document detailing the history of the steps taken to found the Church, and the laying of the foundation stone by Mrs. Fowler, together with copies of the daily and other papers'.

The Advertiser stated that the document began:

'The foundation stone of the Grange Baptist Church was laid by Mrs. G.S. Fowler of Wooton Lea on November 9, 1880, in the forty fourth year of the proclamation of the colony of South Australia, Sir W.F. Drummond Jervois, K.C.M.G., Governor in Chief of the Province.'

Although the reporter's quotation marks stop after 'Province', it is very likely that the account which follows represents the actual wording of the document-story, or is a summary of it.

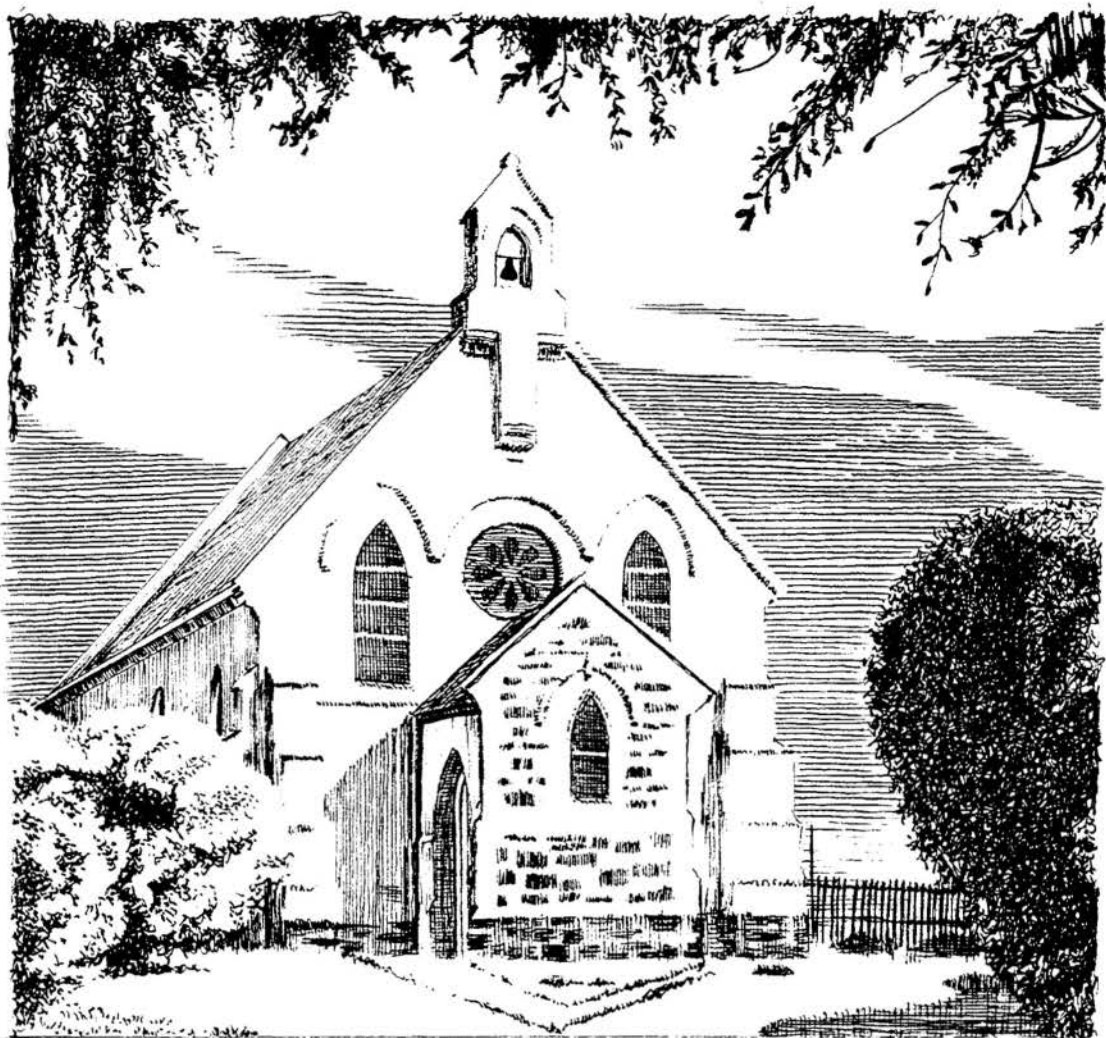
Quotation marks now denote the continuing extract from the Advertiser.

'The history of this young cause is very brief. Some friends being solicitous that Divine Worship should be established at the Grange, spoke to Mr. T.E. Powell, then of Hindmarsh, and he readily consented to arrange for services in the township, Mr. H.G. Smith, a resident, cheerfully throwing open his house for the purpose, and to Mr. Powell belongs the honour of having first unfurled the Gospel flag on Sunday, June 13, 1880.

Such was the interest and earnestness shown that it was unanimously decided to continue the Services regularly, and on July 22 tea and public meetings were held, when such was the enthusiasm displayed that nearly £100 was promised towards the erection of a church.

On referring to the minutes of proceedings prior to the public meeting the subject of denomination was discussed, and we find it on record that it was unanimously decided that the future church of the Grange should be distinctively Baptist, the policy of this denomination being sufficiently broad to include in its communion all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and in truth.'

(The Register reporter's remarks (17/2/1881) on 'the subject of denomination' were much more plain and blunt: 'The inhabitants generally being quite indifferent as to the denomination that should be established in their midst, it was resolved, in honour of the prime mover, to connect it with the Baptists'.)



The Grange Baptist Church – a sketch by Patrick Hedges, partly based on a photograph of 50 years ago.

To continue with the account from the Advertiser –

'Mr. Powell, who had worked bravely for the infant cause, was removed to another part of the colony and had to resign superintendence of affairs just when things were shaping for the present movement. The Rev. Henry Morgan was voted to take the oversight of the work, and he having consented it was decided to accept the tender of Mr. Peek for the erection of this church for £500.'

Mrs. Fowler was then presented with a silver trowel, and 'went through the usual ceremony of declaring the stone to be well and truly laid'.

Her husband then 'briefly addressed the assemblage', and three hearty cheers were given.

Another £100 was donated towards the cost of the church. Mr. Fowler's share was a most generous £50.

(George Swan Fowler, M.P., was an enterprising partner of the firm J. & D. Fowler, of Lion Brand fame. He lived in a splendid mansion – Wooton Lea – which was later purchased to form the main building of the Presbyterian Girls College, now Seymour College. He was a generous benefactor to churches of the Baptist denomination.)

Of course, the guests did not depart until they had partaken of 'a capital tea, which was held in the pavilion, the respective tables being provided and presided over by Mesdames Peek, Webb, Smith, Williams, Simmons, Beck and Reddie'.

Three months later – on Sunday, February 11, 1881 – the first services were held in the completed church.

More services, a tea, and a further public meeting, at which there were nearly 300 people, were held during that week.

A report showed that 'the building had cost £500 (the contract amount), of which £230 had been raised in cash'.

The contract 'had been carried out in a most efficient manner by Mr. T. Peek, of Kirkcaldy Beach'.

Then, as at the July meeting, six speakers gave addresses. 'Frequent allusion was made to the fact that for once in the history of this colony a church had preceded the all-important hotel in the township, and it was also stated that the building had a better appearance and finish than any that had been erected in the colony at so moderate a cost.' (Register)

A CHILDHOOD MEMORY

On Monday afternoon, October 17, 1921, the foundation stone of the new Town Hall was laid by the Mayor, David Julius Beck. The silver trowel used had been presented to the Mayor by Hermann Gaetjens.

As a most pleasant part of the ceremony, the school children present filed onto the official platform, and each one tapped the stone three times with the silver trowel.

Historical Society member Mrs. Daphne Cluse – who was then Daphne Northey, a Grade 1 pupil at Grange School – remembers the occasion well.

With other school children, she had travelled in the train, from Grange Station to Marlborough Street Station, to attend. When it came her turn to tap the stone, she was doubly proud as her father, Albert Northey, turned to Mayor Beck, and said, 'That's my daughter'.

(Albert Northey was himself Mayor from July 1945 to June 1948. The Northey and Cluse family names are both commemorated in local street nomenclature.)

HENLEY AND GRANGE 50 YEARS AGO

1943 was the fifth year of the Second World War (1939 – 1946)

Concrete bathing boxes

Applications have been called for the renewal of Concrete Bathing Box leases.

(Council Minutes, 27/1/1943)

The Swim through Adelaide (from the Weir to the University footbridge)

'Forging ahead about 50 yards from the finishing line, J. Crispe, 15, of Henley Life Saving Club, off the 10 minute mark, won the Swim through Adelaide today from the limit man, R. Fulwood, of Gilberton.

Last month Crispe swam half a mile to bring in a man clinging to an upturned boat off Henley.'

R. Fulwood, who had 16 minutes handicap, had overcome a physical disability (see the report of the Henley to Grange Swim).

S. Medwell, of Gilberton Club, made fastest time.

(The Mail, Saturday, 20/2/1943)

Grange air ace home

'With ten German planes shot down and six others damaged to his credit, Flight Lieutenant John Cock, D.F.C., of Grange, has returned home after an absence of five years.

Seven of the planes were shot down during the Battle for Britain. In the same battle, Cock had to bail out on one occasion, falling into the sea off Weymouth . . . '

(News, Wednesday, 24/1/1943)

The Henley to Grange Swim

'Sixty four competitors, a record number, finished the race, the longest open water swim in Australia.'

The race was won by R. Fulwood, the one-footed swimmer who had been second in the Swim through Adelaide. He swam off the 12 minute mark.

S. Medwell again made fastest time, taking 26 minutes 40 seconds.

(The Mail, Saturday, 27/2/1943)

Those boxthorns

The West Torrens Council had attended to the boxthorns growing on Henley Beach Road near the concrete road.

(Council Minutes, 5/4/1943)

Lighting restrictions

At the meeting held on 3/5/1943, Council did not approve of the restoration of street lighting to normal, but supported a modified restoration of lighting.

(On 24/2/1943, a letter was received from the South Australian Railways Institute Band, asking if the Council would consider the Band giving performances at the Henley Bandstand on Sunday evenings.

A reply was sent, thanking the Band for its offer, but advising that 'owing to lighting restrictions, the Council was unable to entertain the suggestion.'

(At the 29/9/1943 meeting, the Acting Town Clerk, R.C. Tucker, reported that an 'Adelaide Electric Supply Co. Ltd. representative called on the 21st September regarding the possibility of fixing shades to lamps visible from the sea. He said that his Company is only permitted at present to consider those lamps connected under brown-out conditions, and was not able to discuss those disconnected.'

The Acting Town Clerk had then 'communicated with the Controller of Lighting re disconnected lamps, and he advised that at present there was no possible hope of getting lights on the Esplanade, and it was doubtful if any more would be permitted on Seaview Road, owing to reflections on buildings. He suggested, however, that the Council make application for restoration of as many lights as considered necessary, except Esplanade and Foreshore. . . .')

Wartime rationing

From Monday, June 7, 1943, butter was rationed throughout Australia. All persons, children as well as adults, were to receive half a pound a week.

E coupons in the new ration books issued during the weekend were to be used for butter.

And there were to be new rules concerning clothing coupons, which would now have to be surrendered for towels, towelling, sheets, sheeting, pillow slips and certain types of tablecloths and soft furnishings.

Newly married couples setting up a home could apply for a special allowance of coupons to cover a minimum requirement of manchester.

(Advertiser, Monday, 7/6/1943, page 1)

(Petrol, clothes, tea and sugar were already rationed. Meat rationing was introduced in January 1944.)

Drastic measures

The lengths to which the authorities had to go during war-time, to conserve essential commodities, can be seen from the following correspondence to the Council from the Road Traffic Board, asking 'that in view of the shortage of petrol and almost complete failure of supplies of rubber, what in the opinion of the Council is the greatest number of Stop signs that can be temporarily removed and specifying the particular ones which it is considered absolutely essential to retain?'

[Council had to give special consideration to railway crossings.]

(Council Minutes, 28/6/1943)

Storm damage

Damage occurred during a storm on the 19th and 20th June.

A number of Norfolk Island pine trees were loosened and partly blown over, the majority of the damage being in Seaview Road, Grange. By the Council Meeting on 28th June, all of the trees had been straightened and tied up.

The report of the meeting continued: 'Further erosion has taken place on the foreshore sideslope at Henley South, between Gilmore Road and the Floodwater Outlet. Thousands of tons of sand have been shifted, plus all the filling that the Council has placed there since the storm last September. In several places the slope is almost perpendicular'.

(Beach erosion was already a problem!)

(Council Minutes, 28/6/1943)

Dugouts on the Esplanade

'Councillor Fielder drew attention to the dangerous condition of the dugouts constructed by the military at various places on the Esplanade.

It was resolved that the Defence Department be asked if the dugouts are still of military value, and if so, their attention be drawn to their dangerous condition and that we request that they be made safe, and if they are not now required for defence purposes, that they be filled in.'

(Council Minutes, 5/7/1943)

Arbor Days

Arbor Days continued, with the planting of more Norfolk Island pines.

On Friday, 6/8/1943, Henley School planted, on Military Road, north of Henley Beach Road, 12 trees, to replace ones planted the previous year, and damaged. A week later, Grange School planted 15 trees; on the eastern side of Swan Street, between Grange Road and Beach Street.

* Still called Kirkcaldy Road in the Council Minutes.

A Diamond Jubilee

'Henley Beach Congregational Church Diamond Jubilee celebrations will begin on Friday at 2.30 p.m., with a Jubilee Fair opened by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Walker). . .'

Guest preachers delivered the sermons on the two Sundays of the celebrations. On the second Sunday afternoon, noted musician Norman Chinner gave a recital on the new pipe organ, which had been installed free of debt. There were also an Adelaide Choral Society recital during the celebrations, a Youth Fellowship Variety Review, a men's smoke social, and a 'high tea family gathering, with conversations, reminiscences and music'.

(Advertiser, Wednesday, 10/11/1943,
and Temple Centenary Book, page 7)

War Loans

'The Mayor had received several telegrams and letters from the War Loan Committee. The town passed both its quotas, and a telegram had been received from Mr. Chifley, the Federal Treasurer, and Mr. Beilby of the State War Loan Committee, sending congratulations. It was very pleasing to know that the town had filled both its quotas.'

(Council Minutes, 6/12/1943)

(In addition to the investment in War Loans, much money and many articles were, of course, donated to help the war effort.

To consider one example: the Red Cross Society of South Australia ran an annual Queen Competition, and the Henley and Grange Red Cross Queen Committee raised money, in successive years, 1941 – 1943, by means of penny votes –

1941	162,374 votes	£676/11/2	(Miss M. Lodge)
1942	185,474 votes	£772/16/2	(Miss M. Hicks)
1943	286,376 votes	£1,193/4/8	(Miss F. Frost)

(Details from Mayoress Harvey's scrapbook)

THE SCARFE HOUSE, 451, ESPLANADE, GRANGE

When Frederick George Scarfe (1867 – 1961) and his wife Mary Florence (1872 – 1931), of 'Stonehenge' on Robe Terrace, sought to establish a seaside retreat, they looked to salubrious Grange where they were able to acquire lot 597, Hundred of Yatala, from confectioner John Gordon Balfour in 1912. Thomas Roger Scarfe and his wife, of 'Eden Park', Marryatville, had run to a summer residence, 'Beachcroft', on the Esplanade at Grange, earlier, in 1905.

The Frederick George Scarfes commissioned the young architect Frank Kenneth Milne (1885 – 1980), who advertised for building tenders in April 1912, choosing T.G. Lewis for the job.

Milne had designed the Adelaide Oval scoreboard the previous year. It is this contraption with which he tends to be fondly associated rather than the grand 'Arbury Park', subsequently renamed 'Raywood'.

Milne had set up his own practice in Adelaide in 1909, following two years experience with the Sydney firm of Robertson and Marks, which he greatly valued.

While he was later seduced by the Georgian style, Milne's early work has been described as 'original, vigorous, unorthodox'. 451 Esplanade, on the southern corner of Beach Street, might be considered of this category. The design is usually taken to be of later date than it actually is.

The structure is of rendered brick, rough cast, with a hipped roof and twin gables at the western face. Five chimney stacks are capped with weathered brickwork and fifty centimetre high terracotta pots. Sash windows and two pairs of French doors give on to a raked verandah supported by pairs of squared posts which once sported timber brackets. Also to the front, sharply sloping buttresses adorn the corner walls.

The angular theme carries through to the interior where doorways just over a metre wide are flanked by flared woodwork and are surmounted by decorative woodblock lintels. Window surrounds mirror those of the doorways. Leadlight over the entrances consists simply of squares of Flemish glass.

Milne's original drawings for the house are no longer extant, but a miniature copy of the floor plan identifies the rooms as disposed in 1912, including a 'nurse's room' in the house proper and a wing of four 'maids' rooms'. The maids crossed an open courtyard to an outside bathroom, and could be summoned to the verandah and elsewhere by electric bell, now defunct.

Few original fittings survive, save in the dining room, where a typical Kenneth Milne fireplace, American holophane lightshades and western cedar timberwork have escaped without blemish. Elsewhere fireplaces have been remodelled and most of the woodwork overpainted, including panelling applied to the sitting room by J. Knuckey at Milne's behest in 1915.

The house exhibits four different, if in part rusting, patterns of Wunderlich pressed metal ceilings carrying a fair amount of windblown sand and remnants of seaweed insulation. A relatively small cellar has meat hooks, wine racks and a tiled lightwell.

The Scarfes did not take up permanent residence at their Grange house until 1921, when a name, recorded in Sands and MacDougall's South Australian Directory as 'N Kola Donga', was bestowed. The significance of the name has not been ascertained.

Title to the property was vested in Mary Florence Scarfe, also the registered owner of an adjoining portion of lot 598, acquired from Edith Hogarth, evidently for a tennis court, in 1913.

On the death of Mary Florence Scarfe in 1931 the property passed to the Scarfes' daughter, Audrey Howard Deeley, whose husband, Charles Clifford Deeley, was a director of Harris Scarfe Limited. It is pleasing to note that of legacies bequeathed by Mrs. Scarfe her maid, Catherine Annie Hogan, received eight hundred pounds, sufficient to buy a comfortable villa at the time.

In 1935 Audrey Deeley sold the property she had inherited from her mother to Jeanette Martin, of Grange, who held it only two years before selling it to I.C.I. Limited. I.C.I. acquired it as a residence for Guy P. Hodgson, appointed from the 'Old Dart' to set up and manage the I.C.I. Alkali works at Osborne. Tile stamps indicate that the late '30s would have seen the large bathroom divided in two.

I.C.I. retained the property until 1945 when the adjoining lot was sold off to Dora Sloman for seven hundred and fifty pounds and the house to chemist Reginald George Shetliffe and his wife Audrey Irena at four thousand five hundred and fifty pounds.

They in turn sold it to Claude Chappell Fletcher, storekeeper, the following year. Fletcher ordered wooden venetian blinds which are still in place, and in all likelihood the now threadbare carpet as well.

In 1948, the coast was visited by a destructive storm which took off part of the verandah.

In 1949, the house was bought by Max Alexander Engelhart following the destruction by fire of the major part of Mount Benson homestead near Robe. Although they had Mount Benson rebuilt, the Engelharts gravitated towards the Grange as their permanent address after first converting the staff quarters and southern end of the house to a flat.

Other changes included the addition of a back bedroom and enclosure of part of the return verandah as a sunroom. The Eureka New World gas stove installed by the Engelharts remains in constant use.

Max Engelhart gutted what are believed to have been the Scarfes' chauffeur's quarters on Seaview Road, but pencilled graffiti are still to be seen on the workshop walls: 'Michelin .. fitted new 22/11/22' and 'Hudson head off September 5th 1931' are examples. George Scarfe himself was an enthusiastic motorist.

Yet another cyclonic storm in 1953 probably hastened the demise of the corrugated iron roof with its 'Napoleon hat' vents, something of a Kenneth Milne trade mark. It was replaced by 'big six' asbestos sheets.

In 1969, Max Engelhart died in his ninety second year, leaving the house to the Scout Association in memory of Neil ('Mick') Engelhart, an only son and keen scout, who died a prisoner of war at notorious Sandakan in 1945.

Mary Engelhart, who enjoyed life tenancy, survived her husband by ten years, so the Scout Association did not take possession until 1979. They elected to sell the house to one of the Engelharts' two grandsons, for seventy thousand dollars and direct the proceeds towards the Bunkhouse on their Woodhouse holding.

Mrs. Engelhart's pictures and furniture remained with the house. Transfer of the property in 1979 was marked by the dramatic collapse of the Esplanade retaining wall, alerting David and Judith Morris next door to the possibility of an earthquake.

The Beach Street wall also threatened instability and has been rebuilt by Northey Brothers, of necessity using exposure class bricks. Another recent improvement has been replacement of the asbestos roof which was holed in sixty places in the freak summer hailstorm of 1991.

A soakage well of cylindrical dry brickwork, short of three metres deep, has been discovered beneath the garage and lately excavated, otherwise the house has yielded no secrets.

As with many a house on the Esplanade, the symmetry of 451 is viewed to best advantage from the beach from where the road seemingly becomes invisible, and the house appears on a dune setting as in Scarfes' time and indeed until 1957.

Acknowledgements

In preparing this article, special thanks are due to the following:

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A detailed list of references is held in the Historical Society's records.

Roger Andre

NOTES ON THE CAPTAIN WHITE EXHIBITION

From 16/12/1992 to 18/7/1993, the South Australian Museum held a splendid and comprehensive exhibition entitled 'Captain White and the House of Birds'.

Captain White owned land in both Henley and Grange and West Torrens and, like his father, found the Reedbeds a most valuable area for bird study.

His widow, the late Mrs. Muriel White, was a foundation member of our Society, and her knowledge of the history of the region was much appreciated.

It was good to see acknowledged in the exhibition her meticulous cataloguing of, and care for her husband's vast collection of bird specimens and eggs.

There were most interesting reconstructions of a Weetunga study (work-room), and an expedition camp site, with tent and equipment.

Extracts from White's diaries were exhibited, and specimens of birds and eggs collected by him, and there was a large map display showing his wide-ranging expeditions.

Automatic slide-shows had as basis photographs taken during the 1914 expedition to the Musgrave Ranges, and the remarkable 1922 journey by Dort car to Darwin and back – with a recorded commentary by White's son.

As a boy, Samuel Albert White often preferred to explore the Reedbeds district rather than spend the day at school. An exhibit showed a page of his diary for 1877.

The entry for November 11 begins: 'Did not go to school today, not very well.' Further, the weather was 'boisterous, very stormy from the S.W.' But he 'rode over to the Reedbeds' and 'went through all the teatrees in Grays', looking for birds' nests.

(Along the banks of the Patawalonga, in William Henry Gray's property, Frogmore, grew teatrees – *Melaleuca halmaturorum* – many of which were very gnarled and very ancient.)

White achieved great fame as a naturalist. He also became a leader of early conservation movements. His influence was very important in the successful efforts to persuade the Government to set aside Flinders Chase, on Kangaroo Island, as a nature reserve. And he very early realised the tremendous damage that feral cats can do. An article he wrote for the Register, as early as June 1917 (and reprinted in the exhibition booklet) warns of the danger from these 'vagabond house cats turned wild'.

BEACH RACES AT THE GRANGE AND HENLEY BEACH

On Tuesday, 26/12/1882, a race meeting took place at the Grange. The Register account was rather patronising. The meeting 'was well attended, and though the prizes were insignificant, there were enough third class horses on the spot to provide plenty of sport . .

The races were run along the beach, and the spectators could not see much of the sport. A trot was introduced into the programme, and the event attracted a large number of horses. . . .'

The following year's programme was carried out under very great difficulties indeed. The Register account makes most interesting reading.

'The Grange Races
Saturday, December 29th.

Mr. Beck's annual race meeting at the Grange came off on Saturday. The course over which the horses run is the beach, and altogether racing at the Grange is of the most primitive kind.

There were three or four hundred spectators, and it was fortunate for those present that the attendance was not larger, for the railway service to the place is not regulated with a view to carrying a crowd.

It was late before a start was made, and the tide coming in fast the hard sand intended for the course was submerged in water before much progress had been made with the programme.

The Judge's stand - a dray - was soon up to its axles in water, and after giving his decision in the pony race this important functionary found it necessary to remove his boots and socks and tuck up his trousers before attempting to vacate the judicial seat.

Eileen, a Lockleys candidate, won the Maiden Plate in a canter, and Cock o' the Walk proved very superior to the rest of the ponies. The filly Memphis was the favourite for the Cup, but the encroachment of the sea forced the horses up the beach into the sand, and in the heavy going the youngster could make no headway against Fleur de Lys, who repeated her last year's victory.

The Hurdle Race should have been run next, but as the hurdles were situated in about two feet of water, an adjournment until 'the tide should go out' was considered necessary. The tide did not begin to recede until very late in the afternoon, but at 7 o'clock the race was brought off.

Even then the jumps were standing in water, and although such straightgoers as Lightfoot, Freedom and Snip were among the competitors, they failed to appreciate the novelty of racing under such circumstances, and every horse stopped at least once.

The struggle between Snip and Lightfoot was highly exciting. One finished in the water, and the other close under the sandhills. With the pair so far apart, the spectators had some difficulty in deciding which had won, but from his seat in the cart the Judge gave his verdict in favour of Snip.

The trotting races brought to light a very smart mare called Betts, who cleared out from her field, and won as she liked.'

All races were one mile in length, except for the Pony Race, which was run over three quarters of a mile.

The committee had better luck in the following year, when the meeting took place on Saturday 27/12/1884.

The Register duly reported:

'The racing itself was not calculated to draw a crowd, but the weather was so inviting that a number of holidaymakers took advantage of the occasion to indulge in a seaside picnic, and altogether there must have been 500 people scattered about the beach.

The promoters were lucky in having a good broad 'course' at their disposal. Last year, it will be remembered, the tide came in while the sport was in full swing, and the steeplechase jumps were under water for the greater part of the day. Nothing of the kind occurred this year, and the whole of the races had been run off soon after 5 o'clock.

Trotting was a prominent feature '

Complaints were made – and answered – in 'Letters to the Editor', about some aspects of the organisation of the programme, but the meeting grew in popularity.

On Saturday, 2/1/1886, 'between 2000 and 3000 pleasure seekers visited the Grange.'

It was a very hot afternoon, though a slight breeze was blowing.

Visitors came on the Grange railway (still not functioning perfectly), in horse-drawn vehicles or on horse back, while 'not a few strolled from Henley Beach, to which place they had gone by tram from Adelaide.'

'Novel amusements' were now included in the programme – walking a greasy pole over the water, an obstacle race, a horse-swimming contest, and an umbrella and cigar race!

The correspondent found that the latter race 'was certainly original in character. Horses were used. The riders, at the word of command, had to saddle their steeds, light a cigar, mount, and with an opened umbrella ride around a post about 200 yards distant, and return with the cigar still alight and the sunshade open and intact.'

The horse-swimming match was 'the most interesting item on the list. About half a dozen started from the beach opposite the hotel, and had to round the jetty and return to the shore on the reverse side of the piles. It was a long swim, and as the horses ploughed through the briny with their riders swimming alongside the sight was very pretty.'

The horse races on the beach were keenly followed, and 'though the stakes were not large, the different events filled well'.

For the meeting on Saturday, 29/12/1888, there was a good attendance, and 'as the weather was moderately cool most of those present managed to pass away a pleasant afternoon'.

Betting was done on every event, even the Fishermen's Boat Race 'being made the medium of speculation'.

But here difficulties of organisation again arose. 'Some backers who lost their money were very wrath at the result of this innocent-looking event. No-one seemed to know which boat had won, but eventually the Liberty was hit upon as being the most suitable craft to receive the prize.'

The organisers, including the energetic J.T. McLean, 'all worked hard to make things run smoothly, and they came through a trying ordeal very creditably.'

Seven years later, on Saturday, March 28, 1896 (a week before Easter), Grange and Henley jointly set up a seaside sports programme.

There was now less emphasis on horse racing and (as in the first Henley and Grange Regatta and Carnival, in 1904) the Holdfast Bay Yacht Club co-operated in arrangements.

J.H. Symon, Q.C. (later Sir Josiah Symon, K.C.M.G., K.C.) was Patron, and J.T. McLean was Chairman and Treasurer of the Committee.

Although, in spite of good prizes offered, 3 of the 13 events did not attract enough starters, 'the arrangements for the meeting were excellent, and the promoters expect to come out on the right side.' And the railway provided good service!

From the Register report -

'Fine weather favoured the Grange and Henley Beach sports, which were held at the former seaside resort on Saturday, and in consequence there was a very large attendance of local people and visitors from the city, who found the special train arrangements convenient.

The programme was a novel and varied one, and comprised swimming, diving, and rowing (sailing ?) events and horse races.

The Committee arranged for the Holdfast Bay Yacht Club to hold their closing race from Glenelg to the Grange, and this proved an additional attraction. Most of the yachtsmen afterwards came ashore and witnessed the sports.'

The ten events held were:

- Fisherman's Sailing Open Boat Race
- 100 yards Swimming
- Long Shooting Dive
- Horse Swimming, around Jetty
- 50 yards Swimming, for boys under thirteen
- 200 yards Swimming
- Boys' Pony Race, about three furlongs
- Long Swim under Water
- Swimming Championship of Henley Beach and Grange
- Hack Race (for horses that have never won a race), about five furlongs

Henley also held beach race meetings. On December 26, 1878, things went off smoothly. Between 600 and 700 people attended, 'the weather was very favourable, and the course, which was laid out on the beach, in comparatively good condition. The races were, on the whole, very well contested, and there were no accidents to mar the sport, although the proceedings during the day were made somewhat exciting by the risky performance of a buckjumper ridden by a youth who, however, managed to keep clear of a mishap.'

But, at a well patronised meeting held on Saturday, February 15, 1890, problems arose, though the weather was most agreeable.

In the Pony Race, Lascar was first past the post, ahead of Titbit, but he had not started in the normal manner. He had 'joined the others after they had run some way'. The Register reporter could not understand why 'five racing men should have been unable to tell what to do in such a case'. In spite of the starter's report that 'Lascar was never under his charge', these officials failed to see that the race had been won by Titbit.

At first all the owners agreed to go again, but afterwards the owner of Titbit declined to risk losing a race which his pony had won, and then the Stewards declared it a no race. . There is not likely to be any further trouble over the matter, as the principal backer of Titbit has agreed to let his wagers be declared off, and the owner of the pony will probably get the stake. . . . '

The running of the Henley Beach Handicap, too, was not without incident. 'Soon after the start Leo stumbled and shot his rider into the sea. Emulate was in front all the way, and although he kept anything but a straight course, he managed to get home half a length ahead of The Gem. A protest for crossing was dismissed.'

A year later, on Saturday February 7, 1891, 'the weather was hot enough to make people forswear outdoor sports of all descriptions; but there is always a chance of a breeze at the seaside, and a number went to Henley Beach on the off chance of escaping from the heat of town. Their anticipations were realized, as a nice breeze was blowing off the sea, and altogether things were very bearable. The promoter of the race meeting could not have been better suited with the weather, as it was one of the most thirsty days of the season, and Mr. McNamee* had made ample provision to provide for the wants of his patrons in the drinking department. Nearly all the rooms in the hotel were turned into bars.'

The reporter stated that 'the afternoon passed off without any muddles', but his description of the Swimming Race suggests a near fiasco, and some unorthodox betting.

Four horses started. 'Directly they got into the water, Roaney and an animal rejoicing in the name of Never-to-Sweat showed that they personally had no intention of going out to the boat which marked the half-way post. Then Rocket turned his head the wrong way, and old Ashes, the steeplechaser, obtained a good lead. Observant people in the grandstand (the balcony of the hotel) at once rushed to back Ashes. . . . Then as they reached the boat, Rocket came again and, to the dismay of the Ashes party, his small pilot left the old horse to take care of himself and swam off to a boat. Rocket was thus left to win easily. . . .'

These occasions took place very early in the history of the townships of Henley Beach and Grange; and although proceedings must very often have been somewhat slapdash at the 'little scratch meetings', the crowds lured to the beach would have enjoyed themselves immensely.

OUR STATE BANK MAYOR - A SECOND PRESENTATION

In the 1991 Journal appeared a report of a presentation to George Speller Wright, second Mayor of Henley and Grange, who had been 50 years in the Public Service, and who then held the position of Inspector General of the State Bank.

At the time of this presentation, September 1913, George Wright was 68 years of age - he was born in 1845 - but he did not retire for another seven years or more.

A further presentation was made to him on his retirement, in January 1921 - a silver-mounted inkstand from the trustees, and a silver tea service from the staff of the bank.

Figures were quoted during the ceremony. The bank had been established for 25 years. During that time £7,250,000 had been loaned 'to the people'. Loans were modest and wide-spread - there were in 1921 10,000 mortgagors on the bank's books; and repayments were at a very satisfactory level.

'The eminently capable management of Mr. Wright' had helped put the bank on a very sound footing.

(Reference: Register, 12/1/1921, page 7)

THE OPENING OF THE HENLEY BEACH INSTITUTE

By the end of the nineteenth century, there were halls (assembly rooms) in both Henley Beach and Grange. They were at first privately owned – by J. Kelsey and Mr. and Mrs. C. Marrett respectively.

We do not know when Kelsey's Assembly Room was opened. It was certainly in use in 1894. On February 1 of that year, the official celebration of the opening of the railway extension to Henley Beach was held there. (Journal 1993, pp 17 – 18).

The Grange building was opened on 16/12/1898, when the residents were congratulated on having 'such a capacious and suitable assembly room', and the proprietors were complimented on their 'spirited enterprise in erecting the hall'.

It was very soon decided that a library should be formed at Grange. As Glen Ralph pointed out (Journal 1981, p 21), 'it was necessary for a library, once formed, to become affiliated with the Public Library if it wished to become an Institute, and be eligible for Government grants.' By June 1901, the library in the hall was officially recognised, and during 1902, the committee negotiated for the purchase of the building.

The Henley Beach Institute was set up under somewhat different circumstances.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the Port Adelaide Institute was in such a flourishing condition that it felt able to sponsor two Branch Institutes – one on Kangaroo Island, and the other at Henley Beach.

The Register of Friday, 22/12/1899 reported:

'Tuesday will be remembered as a red letter day at Henley Beach, as that favourite watering place was supplied with a long needed want in the shape of an Institute and Reading Room.

Not long since, the Committee of the Port Adelaide Institute started negotiations with the residents at Henley Beach and the neighbourhood with a view to starting the institution on a sound and fair footing, and their efforts were so successful that within a comparatively short time the movement has become successfully completed.

The Henley Beach Assembly-room, the property of Mr. J. Kelsey, has been taken over and thoroughly repaired. A ceiling has been put in and the roof painted, but owing to the very short space of time since the work began all has not yet been completed. This, however, will not interfere with the working of the institution, which it was thought advisable to inaugurate before the Christmas holidays began.

In the bookshelves are 2,500 volumes of all sorts and conditions of literature.'

William Russell (President of the Port Adelaide Institute) declared the Institute open, and said 'he was pleased that such a flourishing and substantial institution had been started. On behalf of the Port Adelaide Committee, he thanked the Henley Beach and Grange Literary Society for the active part they had taken in the movement'. This brought applause from the large number present.

Charles R. Hodge replied on behalf of the Literary Society and 'thought the institution would be a great boon to the district'.

All this happened 90 or more years ago. Now, the Grange building still houses a library, but the Henley Beach building has ceased to do so, as library facilities have long since been transferred elsewhere.



The Institute building in the Henley Square –
now the Beach Hut Delicatessen

CHARLES R. HODGE

Charles R. Hodge, who helped in the setting up of the Henley Beach Institute, lived in Seaview Road.

He was born in 1857, son of the second Congregational minister at Victor Harbour.

(The first Congregational minister at Encounter Bay was the 'pioneer pastor of the South', Rev. Ridgeway Newland, whose son, Simpson Newland, achieved fame as the author of the novel 'Paving the Way'.)

In 1892, Charles Hodge was appointed Registrar of the Adelaide University, with his application, according to the 1909 Cyclopaedia of South Australia, 'supported by the whole teaching staff of the University'.

He was interested in the work of literary societies, including (in addition to the local group) the Shakespeare Society and the Dickens Fellowship.

Like Simpson Newland he, too, wrote and published a novel, entitled 'That Codicil. An Australian Story of Treachery and Triumph'.

The novel was published in 1900 so that when, in 1899, the Henley Beach Institute was being planned, his thoughts must often have been with 'That Codicil', being printed in England for E.S. Wigg & Son.

In his retirement, he wrote a history of the district in which he had spent his early years: 'Encounter Bay. The Miniature Naples of Australia'.

This volume, which set a very high standard indeed in those early days of local history writing, was first published in 1932.

Charles Hodge also acted as Secretary of the Henley Beach Congregational Church. The Temple Centenary Book quotes two letters of his.

John Fox Mellor, whose son, John White Mellor, featured in an article in the 1991 Journal as 'Another Reedbeds ornithologist', had asked if the Church would be interested in hearing an American woman preacher speak on the subject: 'Now is the accepted time, Now is the Day of Salvation'.

After writing, on behalf of the Deacons, a rather evasive note, Charles had to write a further note giving the real reason for the non-acceptance:

Henley Beach Congregational Church.
14th July, 1898

Dear Mrs. Mellor,

The Pastor and Deacons have had a further chat concerning your kind offer with respect to Mrs. Mills, and as we find that several members of the church are averse to ladies occupying the pulpit, we consider it will be better if we do not avail ourselves of the offer. Kindly accept our cordial thanks all the same.

Yours very faithfully,
Chas. R. Hodge
Hon. Secretary

A STUPID ACTION

'Practical jokes' are seldom fully appreciated, and totally unappreciated would have been a particularly stupid act reported in the Advertiser of 7/1/1908.

'Henley Beach was the magnet during the holidays for many weary, heat tormented people, and every evening one could see a hundred or more heaps of clothing deposited on the sandy shore, representing various bobbing heads many yards off in the breakers.

On Saturday last, a practical joker, who failed to receive the punishment he deserved, drove along the beach in a trap and collected 30 or 40 of these bundles of clothing, and as the night was dark the bathers did not notice their loss till they retired from the water. Then the cry that went up outdid the anguish of the children of Israel when they sat by the waters of Babylon and wept.

But the Henley Beach bathers were not of the stuff to sit down and do nothing. They fled in the track of the trap and at length came upon all the clothing deposited in one heterogenous mass.

To add to their discomfort, a crowd of beach trekkers collected, and several of the women fled in despair as soon as they had a tolerable proportion of their clothing.'

A MOUNTED CONSTABLE REMEMBERS

Mounted Constable Charles LeLievre took charge of the Henley Beach police district in 1898, and stayed six years.

The Register (7/10/1925 and 15/10/1925) printed reminiscences of his, with the title: 'Memories of an Old Police Officer'. (He had retired with the rank of Inspector.)

Looking back to the end of last century, he recalled:

'At that time Henley had not attained the importance that it has at present. The old double-decker trams were then in use. Many times I have heard the passengers on them extol the beauties of the ride to Henley Beach, for shortly after leaving the city they arrived at Fulham – in the country, as it were, with its magnificent gum trees, beautiful drooping willows, and tall and stately poplars around the old homesteads of the Whites and Mellors, the lodge and gates reminding one of the old mansions of county squires in old England'.

He told several stories concerning his years in the region.

There were, sadly, cases of suicide by drowning, but he 'refrained from going into particulars for fear of wounding the feelings of the surviving relatives'.

But in one instance he was, fortunately, able to prevent such a tragedy. His sincere account shows a most concerned human being.

'One afternoon, I was informed by residents that an elderly woman on the jetty was acting in a strange and suspicious manner. She would walk to the end seat, look down into the water, and attempt to get over the rail. Upon their going up quickly to her, she would get down and hurriedly walk away from them.

I went down the jetty and found her sitting on one of the seats. She appeared to have been weeping. I sat down beside her and said, 'I can see you are in great distress.'

At first she seemed to resent my speaking to her. I told her I was a police officer, and that she need not be afraid as I would befriend her. I was afraid from her actions that she intended doing something serious to herself.

Tearfully she told me that she had lost by death, quite recently, her only daughter, and that she did not wish to live any longer. Although she had friends who were willing to take care of her, she did not wish to be dependent upon them, charity was so cold, she preferred the grave to it.

I said to her, 'I deeply sympathize with you in your great distress. How old are you?'

She replied, 'Seventy years of age.'

I said, 'My good woman, do not take away the life God has given you, for at the longest you have but a short time to live. I am a married man with wife and daughters; come with me and they will comfort you in your great trouble.'

She came with me to the station. My wife provided her with tea and food, and spoke and sympathized with her as only one woman can to another.

After she was composed, I said to her, 'Why not come with me, and I will take you to the Destitute Asylum, where you will be well cared for.'

She did not like the idea of going there, for the name of Destitute Asylum was repellent to her. Thank goodness that name has been changed to the Old Folks' Home. After my pointing out to her that it was not what she thought it was, she consented to go with me there.

On our way there in the tram the poor old soul, with tears on her face, asked me in a most pathetic voice, 'Are you really a policeman?' I assured her I was, and asked, 'Why do you doubt what I say?'

She replied, 'I was always told that policemen were so hard-hearted.' I told her not to believe that, for why should they be so.

'Well', she said, 'I will never believe it again, for you have been so kind to me, and I will promise you never again will I attempt to do what I contemplated doing today.'

I left the poor old soul happier and brighter in the care of one of the female attendants at the asylum.

Before my leaving her, she clasped my hands, and said, 'Goodbye, goodbye, and may God bless you.' I am thankful to this day to think that I was instrumental in doing what little I did for this poor old lady.

('Old lady', of course, was in general an appropriate expression for a seventy-year-old in 1900. Things have changed for the better since then.

And the tram mentioned in the story would have been the horse-tram.)

Mounted Constable LeLievre was also involved in the rescue and revival of swimmers, and was awarded two police medals for his work in First Aid.

But he did not neglect the sterner duties of a policeman.

He was gratified when the larrikins who, one night, threw all the life-saving gear on the Henley and Grange jetties into the sea, were 'through the untiring efforts of the police', brought before the court and heavily fined.

And he recounted in great detail a triumph of detection, in the troublesome case of the hypocritical poultry-thief.

This is his account:

'Residents of Henley and district were greatly perturbed by a night prowler visiting their fowlhouses and stealing poultry of all kinds. As this was becoming a serious loss to the owners, the matter was referred to me. Hardly a week would pass but what I would receive another report of fowls having been stolen in some part of the district.

On the morning cars and trains, the poultry thief was the chief topic of conversation, and the question asked, 'Has he paid you a visit yet?' Reply, 'Not yet. I'm watching for him, but I hear he carried off all Mr. So and So's ducks a few nights ago.'

And so the conversation went on. All were agreed that they would give him a warm time if they caught him.

This poultry stealing caused me considerable anxiety, for, although I spent night after night in the sandhills watching until daybreak, not the slightest clue could I get as to who the thief was, or whence he came. Often after returning from a night's watching I would receive a report during the day from another part of the district of a number of fowls having been stolen.

This continued for some months, until one morning I received a report from two maiden ladies residing at the Grange that the whole of their prize Plymouth Rock fowls, 15 in number, had been stolen during the night.

I proceeded to their house and examined the fowlhouse, which was close to their back door. The yard and fowlhouse were enclosed by a 6 foot paling fence. I found a man's tracks from the house leading over the sandhills to Military Road. The impression made by the left boot pointed inward, and apparently had been made by a man who is described as 'pigeon-toed'.

On further conversation with these ladies I ascertained that only a week prior a shoemaker, who resided at the Grange, and who went around to the various houses in the district collecting boots and shoes for repairs, had, on seeing that there was no lock on their fowlhouse gate, kindly suggested and advised them, in consequence of the amount of poultry being stolen, to put a lock on the gate, and that he had procured one for them and had fixed it on the gate, but that it had been broken off by the person who had stolen their fowls.

I obtained the assistance of the blacktracker from the police barracks. On examining the fowlhouse he pointed out to me that the man who had stolen the fowls had put them in a bag, and that the imprint of his left boot pointed inwards - as I had previously observed.

He followed the tracks into the Hindmarsh Road, but beyond that could get no further trace of them on account of the amount of traffic that had taken place.

About a week after this had occurred the shoemaker called at my quarters and returned boots he had repaired for my family. He talked to me about the fowl stealer.

This man was a Cornishman, commonly known as Cousin Jack. He told me he kept a few fowls, and that he was keeping watch at night with a double-barrel gun, and that if the fowl stealer 'came near 'un' he would 'shoot 'un'.

While he was talking to me I observed that he stood with his left foot pointing inwards, and when he walked away he was also pigeon-toed.

I thought at the time this was most remarkable. Here was I in search of a poultry thief who was pigeon-toed, and here was this shoemaker also that way. Surely this was a remarkable coincidence, but it could not be anything else, for this shoemaker appeared to be an honest, decent fellow. Still, I could not get out of my mind the similarity.

As I knew little of this man, I thought I would make some cautious enquiries about him. I ascertained that he had a smart pony and a light dog cart, and that he was in the habit of going to Adelaide once a week with the back of the dray carefully covered up.

Continuing my enquiries, I also ascertained that he sold fowls to various persons in the city and suburbs and, from information received, that he had an order to execute on a certain day to a resident in one of the suburbs. I therefore made my plans, and arranged for the use of a police trap.

On being informed that the shoemaker had left for the city I proceeded in pursuit of him, and went to the place where I was told he was to deliver poultry. I was in plain clothes, and informed Mr. A. that I was a police officer and that I wanted to see the poultry he had been supplied with by Mr. B.

I was then shown two Plymouth Rock hens which answered the description of those stolen from the ladies at the Grange. I was surprised to think that this shoemaker was the poultry thief, but was pleased to think that I had run him to the end of his tether, and that it would be but a short time before I had him under arrest.

I took possession of the fowls, and informed him that they were stolen property, but Mr. A. assured me that Mr. B. could not have stolen them for he was a most honest man, and had supplied him with poultry for the past six months from his poultry farm. He also gave me the names of several people in that locality that were supplied with poultry by Mr. B., and added, 'I am sure, officer, that you are labouring under a great mistake, and doing Mr. B. an injustice.'

I immediately left in search of Mr. B., and as good luck would have it, caught him as he was in the act of delivering other fowls to his customers. I arrested him, and took possession of more than a dozen fowls he had sold, and that were in his cart.

I brought him to Henley Beach, and locked him up in the cell. The trooper that was with me drove the pony and cart to the station.

On the following day I proceeded to the detective office to see my old friend ex-Superintendent Priest, who was a veritable encyclopedia as regards records of convicted persons.

After my describing my prisoner to him, he said, 'Why, that is So-and-So up to his old games again. He has previous convictions against him for fowl stealing and store breaking. Here (producing the police album) have a look at his 'phiz'.' Sure enough, there was my prisoner's photo and record.

He also kindly let me have the loan of the album, as he said I might require it to establish his identity.

The prisoner was brought before the Court, which was held in the Henley Assembly Room, lent for the occasion by Mr. E.W. Kelsey.*

The court was crowded with spectators and witnesses. Counsel appeared for the accused, who pleaded not guilty.

After the case for the prosecution was closed, the prisoner gave evidence on oath that the poultry in Court produced and found in his possession by the police were those of his own rearing. On being cross-examined by me, and asked if he had been previously convicted for fowl stealing, or any other offence, he replied most emphatically that he never had, and that this was the first time he had ever been charged of any offence in a Court.

I produced the police album, and asked him to have a look at it, and see if he recognised his photo. He did so, and almost collapsed.

The Court sentenced him to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.'

Mounted Constable LeLievre was obviously well respected in the district. When, after the statutory six years service at Henley Beach, he was transferred to Salisbury, a farewell social was held in his honour (Friday, 22/4/1904). John F. Mellor presided, and 'spoke in eulogistic terms' of the 'fearless and impartial manner in which he had carried out his duty'. According to the Register, ten or more other speakers, including Capt. S.A. White, 'spoke in praiseworthy terms of his ability and tact'.

And, 17 years afterwards (18/10/1921), he was an invited guest at the laying of the foundation stone of the Henley and Grange Town Hall.

* The case must have been heard before December 1899, as, after renovations, the Assembly Room became, on 22/12/1899, the Henley Beach Institute (see article in this Journal).

A GRANGE RESIDENT LOOKS BACK

(In March this year, on behalf of the Historical Society, George Willoughby interviewed Mrs. Sylvia James.)

Mrs. Sylvia James came to Grange, as a girl of 15 or 16 years of age, in 1925. Her father, Ernest Elliott, had been appointed station master of Kirkcaldy railway station. (Later in his railways career he drove 'bosses' to various localities in a Dort car* – a petrol-driven car fitted with flanged steel wheels.)

The family lived in Anthony Street at first, but after two or three years they rented a shop, with residence attached, at the north-west corner of Kirkcaldy (Grange) Road and Swan Street (now Wilson Court).

From that time till her marriage in 1935, Sylvia helped her mother, Clara Elliott, in the shop and house – with no formal wages, a situation with which she 'wasn't all that happy, but there wasn't all that much coming in'.

The shop (long since demolished, to be replaced by units) was what would now be called a deli. Cakes, cool drinks, sweets, ice-cream, fruit and vegetables, beef, fritz, ham, saveloys were among the goods sold. Among the sweets (lollies) were those displayed in the ha'penny and penny trays, often exasperatingly lingered over by children trying to decide what to buy.

Sandwiches were cut to order, and Mother baked pasties for sale.

'Were they good pasties?'

'Too right they were, and sold at threepence each.'

At Easter time, hot cross buns were only baked for Good Friday. They were not available weeks ahead, as they are now. And Easter eggs were mainly sugar eggs, with small sweets inside.

* Road-model Dort cars were used by Captain White and party on his journey to Darwin and back. (See the article 'A Captain White Exhibition' in this Journal.)

Woodrooffe's drinks were delivered by two-horse trolley. In wet weather, as only the crown of the road was sealed, such trolleys, and customers' cars, cut up the roadside mud in front of the shop.

One of the sons, Alfred Elliott, had a garage at the back of the shop, with bowsters in Swan Street. His sister hand-pumped many a gallon of petrol, but ultimately declined to go out at night to tend the pump for very late travellers who had run out of fuel.

Another brother, Colin, had a poultry farm, eggs from which were sold in the shop, which was open till 9 p.m., seven days a week. (One of the few occasions on which the shop would be closed was Carnival procession time – no-one wanted to miss viewing this annual event.)

Like many former such shops, this one was not permanently 'manned'. To those nearby in the house, a bell attached to the door would signal a customer's arrival.

Next to the shop lived and worked blacksmith Bill Ide, who owned and trained Bob the Wonder Dog, and who, during World War II, became one of the air-raid wardens, patrolling the streets to see that black-out regulations were being observed.

Summers seemed to be hotter in those days, and on very hot nights the family would join many others, to sleep all night on the beach, with no tent or shelter. Mother would take an alarm clock, so that they could make an early start back home in the morning. The Scarfe house was remembered as prominent on the Esplanade.

In answer to a query as to whether parents were strict in those days, a decisive 'yes' was given.

Sylvia Elliott married Peter James in 1935. Their courtship days had coincided with the Depression years, with their widespread unemployment. For three years, they could not afford to attend the Saturday night pictures in the Henley Town Hall (admission one shilling).

They set up home in Anthony Street, in the home in which the family had first lived when they came to Grange. Marriage meant the discontinuance of work in the shop.

Milk was delivered twice a day with horse and cart. Milkmen were plentiful – Beck; Reynolds; Fewings; Hinton; and Finch, whose cows grazed near St. Agnes Church, and from whom delicious cream could be bought (six penn'th, or a shilling's worth, and scalded not separated).

Also with horse and cart, Badenochs delivered bread, and 'Waxy' Johns the papers.

Groceries were purchased at Botten's shop (no going round shelves, as nowadays); medicines, prescribed by Dr. G. Peters, were obtained from chemist Keith Frost.

Like most other children of the town, Mrs. James' daughter walked across paddocks and empty blocks to Grange School. Later, Valerie attended 'Theby Tech'. She rode her bike to Marlborough Street to catch the tram to Thebarton Girls Technical School. In those more law-abiding days, her bike could be quite safely left all day near the tram terminus. Sylvia James has attended the Grange Uniting Church (formerly Methodist Church) for many, many years. She looks forward to the monthly Fellowship meetings, with their entertainment, trading table and, in August, the birthday meeting. At first 'ladies only', these meetings now include in their attendance a number of husbands.

And she could well be the oldest subscriber to the Grange Institute Library. She has been borrowing books for forty or more years, from the library which is now housed in what was formerly the Hall section of the building.

A MAGAREY MEDALLIST OF 60 YEARS AGO

The Advertiser of 14/9/1992 reported that Max Pontifex, 82, would be honoured that night as a special guest at the elaborate Magarey Medal count, on the sixtieth anniversary of his winning the Medal in the 1932 season.

Max Pontifex, who lived at Grange during his football years, told the reporter (Lawrie McCauley):

'In those days the count was done behind closed doors at the league offices in Pirie Street.

My fiancée and I were playing in a bridge tournament at Henley. I got home at about midnight, my mother met me at the door and said my grandmother had something to tell me. That was most unusual because it was unlike her to be up that late. She put her arms around me and told me the league had rung to say I'd won the medal. I was elated.'

THE BICYCLE AND TRICYCLE TRIP TO HENLEY BEACH

IN NOVEMBER 1885

An account of this trip, by 'Hugh Kalyptus', was printed in the 1992 Journal, with two illustrations based on West German stamps.

We now know that Hugh Kalyptus was the nom-de-plume of a talented and prolific newspaper columnist – Spencer J. Skipper – who had originally signed himself 'Unohoo'!

(Spencer Skipper's father, J.M. Skipper, was an early colonist and artist. His very large and most valuable painting of a native corroboree is displayed in the Colonial wing of the Art Gallery.)

And Harris, Scarfe sold both bikes and trikes, imported from England, and illustrated in a number of newspaper advertisements of the time.

BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES.
Coventry Machinists' Coy's.

**BICYCLES,**
CLUB, THE SPECIAL CLUB, AND
UNIVERSAL.
48 to 56 Inch.

**TRICYCLES,**
THE CLUB IMPERIAL,
AND CHEYLESMORE,
36 to 48 Inch.

These are acknowledged by all to be the Cheapest, Soundest-built, Lightest, Easiest Running, Safest, and Latest Improved Machines in the market.

BICYCLE FITTINGS and REQUISITES of every description.

SOLE AGENTS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

GEO. P. HARRIS, SCARFE, & CO.,
WHOLESALE IRONMONGERS,
GAWLER-PLACE, ADELAIDE. 340ths+26
LARGE SHOWROOMS—79, RUNDLE-STREET.

TALKS GIVEN AT GENERAL MEETINGS

At the Annual General Meeting for 1992 (6/11/92), Trevor Nottle spoke, and showed slides, on the theme of old fashioned gardens.

The introduction of English plants for early Australian gardens was made easier by the invention of the 'Wardian case', a transportable 'glass house' that could be made water-tight, so that plants needed no extra watering during the long rough voyage by sailing ship. Early gardens were most often planted with English flowers, as there was great nostalgia for 'home'.

A famous Colonial Australian garden was discussed – Glover's garden in Tasmania. The South Australian Art Gallery has Glover's painting of his garden. In it, to show the complete beauty of the garden, Glover painted flowers of all seasons blooming at once.

From 1800 on, plant exploration flourished round the world, as Europeans set up numerous colonies. Botany was now a science, as well as a hobby, and it was linked with religion, as demonstrating the marvels of God's creation.

Adelaide's Botanic Garden was directed from 1865 to 1891 by Dr. Richard Schomburgk who, with his brother Robert, had discovered the giant Amazon water lily. The first flowering here of the great plant was regarded as a most important event.

Private gardens flourished. Early in Australia's horticultural history, many plants and cuttings had come from Capetown's European-style gardens, as well as from England. When South Australia was established, plants could, of course, also be brought from Sydney. Nurseries here included those developed by Charles Giles and Ernst Heyne. In our dry climate, the development of the garden hose ('gutta percha tubing') helped greatly.

Plants from climates similar to our own were gradually introduced (and more and more, in recent times, native plants are cultivated).

Trevor Nottle then commented on a great number of important South Australian gardens, past the present – examples too numerous to be included in a summary such as this.

To mention two examples only – Gamble Garden, between Blackwood and Coromandel Valley, a cottage garden lovingly restored by volunteers; and Carrick Hill, of which Trevor Nottle, who is the author of several books on gardens, is a Trustee – the great hedges, the pear avenue, with trees pleached (grafted one to the other), the rose garden, the developing maze, and many other features.

* * * * *

Our March meeting (5/3/93) was held at 'the Scarfe House', Esplanade, Grange, through the courtesy of the owner, Roger Andre.

Seated on the front veranda, on a very mild evening, we could watch, as the meeting progressed, the sun set over the Gulf – a most pleasant experience indeed, with cloud formations co-operating to bring out full and rich colourings.

Roger Andre gave an outline of the history of the house and associated buildings, which we were then able to inspect, before supper was served in the dining room.

Roger has written a most interesting history and description of 'N Kola Donga', which we are very pleased to be able to print in this year's Journal.

And he has presented to the Society a selection of photographs depicting aspects of this elegant house. These will be displayed at the Annual General Meeting.

* * * * *

At the May meeting (21/5/93), the first held in the Council Chambers, Norman Lewis spoke about Antarctica. He has made two summer visits to the frozen continent – the second voyage in a very large Russian ice-breaker.

With the help of splendid slides, which he commented on and accompanied with additional information, he was able to give many fresh insights into the continent, 40% of which is claimed by Australia (though this and all other claims are not recognised by the United Nations).

Antarctica is twice the size of Australia – if winter sea-ice is added, it becomes five times our land area.

The Ross Sea, with its ice shelf and mountainous coast, has been important to exploration, as it is nearest to the Pole – though still a heart-breaking distance away. Mount Erebus (Ross Island) is an active volcano, and in this region are the American and New Zealand bases. On Observation Hill is a cross in memory of Scott, after whom the New Zealanders have named their base.

The Australian bases – Mawson, Davis and Casey – are a great distance along the coast from the Ross Sea. The buildings in these bases are set on concrete piles: the snow blows underneath. There are different colours for the various buildings, and very necessary safety lines lead from one to the other.

When huge masses break off to form tabular ice–bergs, annual layers can be seen in the ice–face. The Russians, at their Vostok station on the great ice–dome of Antarctica, have studied the ice–core history of 160,000 years.

Natural phenomena are breath–taking – huge icebergs, great glaciers, winds of up to 300 miles per hour, temperatures as low as -89.6°C .

Transport from ship to land (ice) was by rubber boat or helicopter.

Also visited were the sub–antarctic islands, including Macquarie Island. These islands are snow–free in summer, are nature reserves, and are home to further huge numbers of various species of seals and penguins. And overhead soar great albatrosses.

In general, one had to be quick with photos, as the weather can change very suddenly. Norman Lewis chose his moments well.

* * * * *

At the August 6 meeting, Dr. Scoresby Shepherd, marine biologist and local resident (Esplanade, Henley Beach South) spoke on the tragedy that is being enacted on our near coastline, particularly over the last 25 years or so, as the seagrass systems decline in a very serious manner.

The Australian seagrass systems are the most diverse in the world, and Scoresby Shepherd has spent many years studying them. Last year he was a guest lecturer at a European Community conference on the subject.

Seagrass, as distinct from algae (seaweeds), which grow on rocks, have well developed root systems, which help bind sand to prevent it moving.

When sandy patches (blow–outs) are being colonised, early colonising species grow rapidly, and stabilise the sediment, so that slow growing seagrass (posidonia, strap weed) can become established.

In 1966, a great loss of seagrass near sewerage outfalls was noticed, but a report on the problem was suppressed by the Government: 'Our sewerage is the best in the world'.

A front page article in the Mail caused a furore, but very little was done. In 1982, however, a research grant enabled major research to be carried out, which definitely established that nutrients in the sewage were the main cause of the problem. These nutrients (principally nitrates) encourage the growth of undesirable epiphytic 'weed' species, with no root system, and seagrasses, which evolved in a nutrient–poor environment, are smothered out.

A recent book on the Biology of Seagrasses, published by Elsevier (Holland), with Scoresby Shepherd as co-editor and contributor, finally convinced doubters. Something is to be done about the problem.

(Could outflow from sewerage plants be diverted landward, with growing trees as one suggested use?)

As sandy patches increase in size, sediment is transported, under the influence of prevailing south-west storms, to the north. Basic limestone rock is only 50 centimetres to a metre below the surface of the sand, and if sand cover becomes less and less, it is harder and harder for seagrasses to establish. And where there is no seagrass to dampen movement, 'water movement regime' increases, with further detrimental effects on sand and beaches.

Apart from their stabilising effect on the sea-floor, seagrasses, with their flat leaf surfaces, have algae growing on them (a further increase in the food supply); their root systems provide a shelter for innumerable tiny living creatures; a whole range of fish come to feed in the seagrass meadows; and, with leaves close together, a relatively safe habitat for the juveniles of species is provided.

Destruction of the seagrass beds would be a major disaster: and one estimate is that, if far more is not done, there will be no seagrass left here in 80 years time.

CORRIGENDA

In last year's Journal, in the article on Captain Sturt's statue, the following sentence occurs in quoted comments concerning the final stages of Sturt's voyage down the Murray: 'Little did Sturt know when on February 10, 1830, he saw Mount Lofty in the distance, mistaking it for Mount Barker, that over the hills some 70 miles away a great city would arise.'

The correct statement would be: 'he saw Mount Barker in the distance, mistaking it for Mount Lofty'.

The original version was quoted word for word from the Premier's speech as reported in the Advertiser, but the Journal editor should have picked up the error.

In 'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City' (page 61), there is a photo of the old Henley Beach Institute. We did not then know the date of the opening of the Institute, and suggested 1895 as the year the photo could have been taken. We now know that the Institute was opened on 18/12/1899 (see article in this year's Journal).

'FIVE-MINUTE SPOTS'

The Committee has introduced the idea of an additional, short talk to be given at each meeting. At the March, May and August meetings respectively, Joan Ferguson, Bev Fielder and Glen Ralph were the speakers.

* * * * *

Joan Ferguson invited members to compare (by sketch and/or description) their present house-garden with their garden as remembered from former days – and handed out a duplicated sheet concerning the project. The assembled information would then be collated and general comparisons drawn.

Several members have responded, and the invitation is still open to do so.

* * * * *

Bev Fielder brought along the Cambridge Cup, which her husband's grandfather, Charles Fielder, was able permanently to keep after winning it four times in succession – in 1871, 1872, 1873 and 1874 (see article on the Fielder family, 1989 Journal, pages 18 – 19). The cup is handed down as an heirloom to the eldest son.

The inscription on the cup reads:

One Mile Challenge Cup, presented by the South Australians at the University of Cambridge to the Adelaide Athletic Club. 1869.

The winners' names (1869 – 1874) are also engraved.

The cup is a splendid example of silver work. Ears of wheat, rams' heads and fern leaves decorate the cup itself. The domed lid is edged with grapes and vine leaves and surmounted by a kangaroo as handle.

* * * * *

Glen Ralph spoke about a book he had recently edited, and published privately: 'Fishing under Sail', by Ron Beck. The original edition numbered only 20, but there are plans to produce more copies.

Ron Beck, who is in his 70's, is a friend of Glen Ralph's. He had written his life story in the form of rough notes. Glen edited these notes to put together a narrative telling of the hardship, resourcefulness, comradeship, humour and serenity which were all part of Ron Beck's workaday life, largely spent fishing off Yorke Peninsula.

The book was most appreciatively commented on by Max Fatchen in one of his weekly articles (Advertiser, 20/3/1993).

SHARKS : 1993 AND 1926

In January of this year, headlines such as 'Sharks spark alert on beaches' and 'Sharks again keep swimmers beached' (Advertiser, 15/1/93 and 16/1/93) introduced articles detailing an anxious time for those who wished to swim at Henley, Grange or West Beach.

Bronze Whaler sharks up to 3 metres long came too close to the shore. Swimmers – in large numbers, because of the hot weather – were cleared from the water and, for long periods, were not able to return. Even though helicopters and inflatable boats were brought into action, it proved very difficult to persuade the sharks to swim out to sea.

Last year's record rainfalls were among the causes of the sharks venturing so close to the beach.

A Fisheries Department spokesman was quoted as saying that 'the rains had extended the flow of the River Torrens much later into the summer months and hundreds of carp had been washed out to sea near the Torrens outlet. The freshwater fish died slowly as they neared the sea, and their floating bodies provided an easy meal for the sharks.'

Sharks have always been a potential danger along the Australian sea-coast. Going back 67 years – to March and April 1926 – we find, in the Register, two shark stories from our local beaches, closely following a terrible tragedy at Brighton.

On Saturday evening, March 27, C.J.S. Kempster, of Jetty Road, Grange, shot a shark which he had caught on a line from the jetty.

There had been reports of sharks being seen at Henley and at Grange, which had 'led to a notable falling off in the number of persons who ventured into the sea to bathe, and those who did go in kept to shallow depth.'

Mr. Kempster had tried unsuccessfully to bait sharks at Brighton, after the March 18 tragedy in which Mrs. Whyte had been attacked, in deep water, by a shark, and had died soon after she was brought back to the beach.

(Mrs. Whyte was one of the first two women in South Australia to receive the highest diploma of the Royal Life Saving Society and had, as a volunteer, taught a great number of children to swim.)

In the following month, the Register reported, in its edition of Saturday, April 11, an incident which had occurred on the previous day, and had involved a shark, racehorses, and jockeys.

Three horses from Matson's stables, near Estcourt House, had been taken to the sea for exercise.

When they were in about 4 feet 6 inches of water, a large shark (said to be 12 feet long) lunged at the mare Oriana, who was claimed by many to be the fastest galloper in South Australia. Her speed must have stood her in good stead, and she now made straight back for the beach, and evaded two other attacks on the way. The jockeys, in bathing suits, were very relieved to reach safety.

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FROM THE EDITOR

The 1993 Journal includes a further interview on local history, summaries of talks given at meetings (including the 'five-minute spots'), photographs selected from our collection, a fine sketch of the Church discussed in this issue, the history of a well-known house, reminiscences, material from past Council minutes and other local records, and a number and variety of selections from newspapers past and present (with generous guidance, here, to relevant extracts).

As always, expert typing and arrangement prepared this material for printing.

Much appreciated suggestions, too, have already been made for next year's issue (the Journal project is an ongoing process).

I wish to express my sincere thanks, and those of the Society, to Edna Dunning, Daphne Cluse, Sylvia James, Trevor Nottle, Norman Lewis, Dr. Scoresby Shepherd, Joan Ferguson, Chook and Bev Fielder, Glen Ralph, Darryl Webb, Peter Wyld, Patrick Hedges, Noel and Edna Newcombe, Roger Andre, Geoffrey Manning, George and Audrey Willoughby and my wife Nell.

It has again been a most satisfying task, this editing of the Henley and Grange Historical Journal.

TED HASENOHR