



# Friends

STATE LIBRARY  
South Australia

MARCH 2021

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

There's a new feeling in the air as I write.

There are lots of people about the streets of the city; the Festival and the Fringe have refreshed our souls with music, words, dance and laughter; Writers Week gave us contact with people and books, our favourite things; and we have been able to socialise almost as we did before.

The Friends' Grand Book Sale over the March long weekend proved a great success and has raised thousands of dollars. This fundraising enables us to help our State Library in enriching its collections - those collections which form part of the underpinnings of our history and culture.

The main reason the Book Sale was so successful was the input by the volunteers and supporters. Our membership is rich with people who are generous with their time, their donations of quality books, their transporting and moving of boxes and tables, and many other skills. Thank you to all of you, numbering over forty people in various capacities, who made it all happen!

We have lots of events lined up this year, excursions, talks, demonstrations, and of course alternate Tuesdays at 11am are set aside for interesting and informative talks in the Hetzel Room. The History Festival in May will be a busy time for the Friends as well. You can find details on our web site.

[www.friendsofthestatelibrarysa.org.au/events-calendar](http://www.friendsofthestatelibrarysa.org.au/events-calendar)

Australiana Publications, as ever, has been busy behind the scenes with three new publications due out later in the year. More news later on those. Our intrepid bookbinders have been meeting regularly and learning new skills. Our Book Club groups are back to their former strength.

If you think of any book- or library-related activities that might interest our membership, please do come forward! Your committee is open to any and all suggestions!

Over the coming weeks we will be doing some long overdue odd jobs around the Friends' Rooms; do let Leah know if you're interested in lending a hand.

Meanwhile, enjoy the cooler months with a coffee or a good red and one of those books you've been meaning to read since Christmas.

With very best wishes,

Angela



# BOOK SALE 2021

By Jane Walkley

A number of dedicated friends worked hard from December 2020 onwards to prepare our collection of donated books for sale on 5-7 March. Luckily the weather was kind and even though the sale was not held at the Library this year, we still had a good number of buyers coming in to the Pulteney St premises.

Children could sit in an armchair and read Harry Potter undisturbed. Mark presided over a table of many antiquarian treasures. Popular books were displayed on a table in the street and you could even pick up a book to read while you were waiting at the bus stop.

We were pleased to raise over \$12,000 for the library and there are some extra sales still to come in.

Books will be on sale again at our pop-up bookshop in the Friends rooms in the Institute on Kintore Avenue/North Terrace during the History Festival throughout May.





# DIARY BY RICHARD FRANCIS BURTON OF A WHALING VOYAGE 1832-1835

RF Burton (1809-1874) was the surgeon on the whaling ship *Reliance* and he kept a diary throughout the voyage from London to the Indian Ocean. The manuscript diary is illustrated and unique because of the notes on discoveries of shoals and reefs, as well as the charts and statistics he included.

Dale Chatwin, administrator of the British Southern Fishery website, writes about the Journal:

"...[I]t is the only known manuscript record of a British whaling voyage in the western Indian Ocean. There are only about 60 known logs/journals still in existence from over 2550 British Southern Whale Fishery voyages...[T]he narrative is so succinct and easy to read. [It is] well illustrated with whales, turtles, boats, lovely drawings of ships and flags and even a flag at half-mast when recording the death of a crewman...[The] real treasure is in the material at the rear of the logs. The charts and descriptions of the islands visited by the *Reliance* are absolutely first class....and Burton includes some statistical analysis of the voyage of a type I've never seen before...This is some 20 years before real statistical analysis/charting techniques were developed...[T]his voyage is contemporary to the voyage of the *Beagle* and visits islands and places rarely visited by the British."

Burton emigrated to South Australia with his family in 1852 and served as a medical officer in Adelaide 1861-1873.

A large amount of the total cost of the diary was donated by the Friends of the Library in 1997.

The diary has been digitised on the Library website and is one of the great Treasures of the State Library.

<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1135/3>



Page from  
Journal,  
recording whales  
sighted or Killed

## 2021 PLANNED PROGRAM

### March 2021 –

Due to unexpected circumstances, our visit to the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA Archives and Museum on 30 March has had to be cancelled. It will definitely be rescheduled in the future, as this should be prove to be a wonderful experience.

### April 2021 –

A TUESDAY TALK – Books in my life

SPEAKER: Bill Murray

Tuesday 6 April 2021

11am-12pm

FREE (Bookings essential)

LIVE AND LEARN – Noble and Notorious

SPEAKER: Isabel Story

Tuesday 20 April 2021

11am-12pm

FREE (Bookings essential)

LITERARY STROLL THROUGH ADELAIDE

Wednesday 21 April 2020 at 10am

Duration approx. 90 minutes

Leaving from the Institute Building forecourt

Price: \$25 (Bookings essential)

### May 2021 –

POP-UP BOOK SALE

Weekdays only

Monday 3 to Friday 28 May

10am to 2pm

A TUESDAY TALK – Books in my life

SPEAKER: Stephen Scammell

Tuesday 4 May 2021

11am-12pm

FREE (Bookings essential)

BOOKBINDING DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 8 May

10am to 3pm

Circulating Library

FREE

MODERN MEDIA OF 1951 – 'YOUR MORNING PAPER'

(with David Donaldson)

Saturday 22 May

2pm-3.30pm

COST: \$10 (Bookings essential)

# AP

## AUSTRALIANA PUBLICATIONS

### Adelaide

We have some exciting publications on the drawing board.

Most of you will remember Alan Brissenden fondly. He was a stalwart of the Friends for as long as I can remember and, as well as being an eminent member of the English Department at the University of Adelaide, he was Australia's leading ballet critic. Bernard Whimpress, in discussions with Alan during last year, and with his family after his death, has compiled a collection of his reviews spanning more than 50 years. This will have broad appeal through the Arts community and we are confident that it will be well received. The book will be illustrated with contemporary photographs of the productions.

Meanwhile, in Sydney the eminent Paul Brunton, former Senior Curator at the Mitchell Library, is working on a book centred on paintings made by Phillip Parker King while circumnavigating Australia in the 1820s. The Mitchell Library holds most of these beautiful watercolours. Paul is being assisted in this task by recognised King authority Brian Abbott.

This book will be the centrepiece of bicentennial celebrations around the country when it is published later this year.

Trevor Grant and his team are editing and preparing our Henry Hammond Tilbrook book for press. Trevor found that the State Library holds his youthful diaries and that volunteers had already transcribed them. What he found was a fascinating record of social life in SA in the 1860s. Young Henry went north in SA in search of adventure, having been offered a job by Mr Elder (later Sir Thomas) if he could learn to ride and if he could get himself to Pandappa. This involved a coach trip to Burra and walking the rest of the way. There are fascinating insights into the lives of itinerant workers, land and water management, aboriginal relations and more. In later life, Tilbrook made a name for himself as a photographer and the book will be illustrated with many of his superb photographs of the areas he passed through. His descendant, Kym Tilbrook, who conducts tours through the same country, is writing the Introduction for us.

Others are working on a reprint of Sir Hubert Wilkins' *Under the North Pole*, the account of the aspirations, plans and dreams of an ambitious project to reach the North Pole by travelling under the ice cap in a submarine. Although the project was not successful, the book still gives important information about Wilkins' early life, growing up around Hallett SA, as well as insights into the psyche of this complex, extraordinary man.



View from the top of Mt Bryan Range  
1899 - H.H. Tilbrook

### WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We farewell Associate Professor Peter Howell who was a long standing Life member of the Friends. He passed away on Friday 5 March, 2021.

We welcome into membership:

Mr Geoffrey Barnes  
Dr Donald Bartram & Mrs Jan Bartram  
Mr David Donaldson  
Ms Claire Loades  
Dr Carolyn Wigg

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER...

Now that our acclaimed Grand Book Sale is complete we now turn our attention to the coming months of our busy program.

As you will see on the previous pages our program is jam-packed with events and tours for April and May. We look forward to seeing you at these events either as a helper or attendee.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the Friends.

– Leah Cronin