



SEPTEMBER 2021

# Friends' Newsletter

*A Quarterly Newsletter Publication of The Friends of the State  
Library of South Australia*

## A note from the President

Angela Bannon

Dear Friend,

Isn't it good to share thoughts and opinions about the latest book you've read?

Now that we're fortunate to be able to socialise to a certain extent here in South Australia, it would be great to set up some new book clubs in our rooms.

Of course, there are many ways to organise a book club. All members can read the same book and meet to discuss it; or each member brings a favourite book and introduces it to the members. Another approach is to have a theme each month and readers find something on that theme to share; perhaps gardens, or football, or autobiography. A book club can be raised around a particular theme permanently, as does our existing Crime Club.

Your club can have two or three members or as many as you like! Our rooms make a handy and comfortable place to meet and of course there are tea and coffee facilities readily to hand. The biscuits can be up to you!

Do let Jayne know if you'd like to get something going and she'll be able to help you with publicity and so on.

Have you been able to drop in and meet Jayne yet? Her energy and positive outlook are such a pleasure and it's good to have her 'on board'.

Do you remember the old Friends' Room at the end of the Mortlock? Well, we've been lucky to have been granted the use of this room as our Bindery. The binders have already moved some tables and tools in, and we hope to be able to hold some workshops there. We can also use the room as a place to put the finishing touches to some of our Australiana Publications, and to repair donated books for our Bookshop.

The year rolls on - and it might be time to think about what you're going to wear to our Annual Dinner on December 4! As it had to be cancelled last year it might be that this is the 2020 dinner, like the Olympic Games in Tokyo! Whatever we call it, I'm looking forward to us all getting together again at St Mark's College. Keep an eye open for further details.

Meanwhile, take care,



Angela

**Friends**

STATE LIBRARY  
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## North Adelaide Baptist Church *Friends Tour*

On Thursday 26 August a group of Friends spent a couple of hours at the North Adelaide Baptist Church, an unusual and rather beautiful building, both inside and out, it is blessed with a magnificent organ and truly wonderful acoustics.

After hearing about the formation of this church from a hard-working ex-administrator of the church, the organist, Frank May, told us the story of the remarkable church organ – and the church's fascinating organists. We were then treated to an extraordinary recital on this three-manual instrument of 53 speaking stops and 2,456 pipes. The acoustic in the Church is especially satisfying both for singing, as well as exciting organ sound – the latter we experienced, the former we should experience at the Church's Christmas Carols Service at 10am on 19 December 2021.

The raked seating creates a space beneath the congregation's singers which apparently acts like the chamber of a violin or cello – adding substantially to the sonority and volume. With a competent organist, the best is extracted from the instrument for congregational and choral singers.

A sample of the sort of music to which the members are accustomed can be heard on their website:

<https://www.nabc.org.au/worship/music> - press on the black bar when you get to the page.

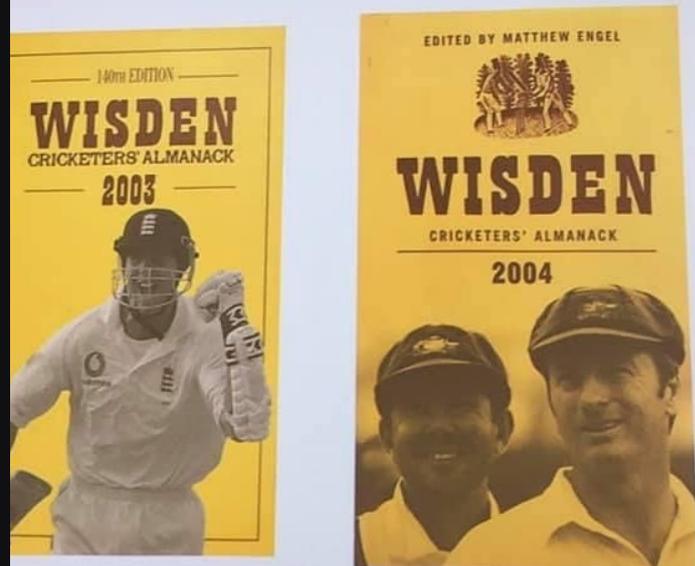
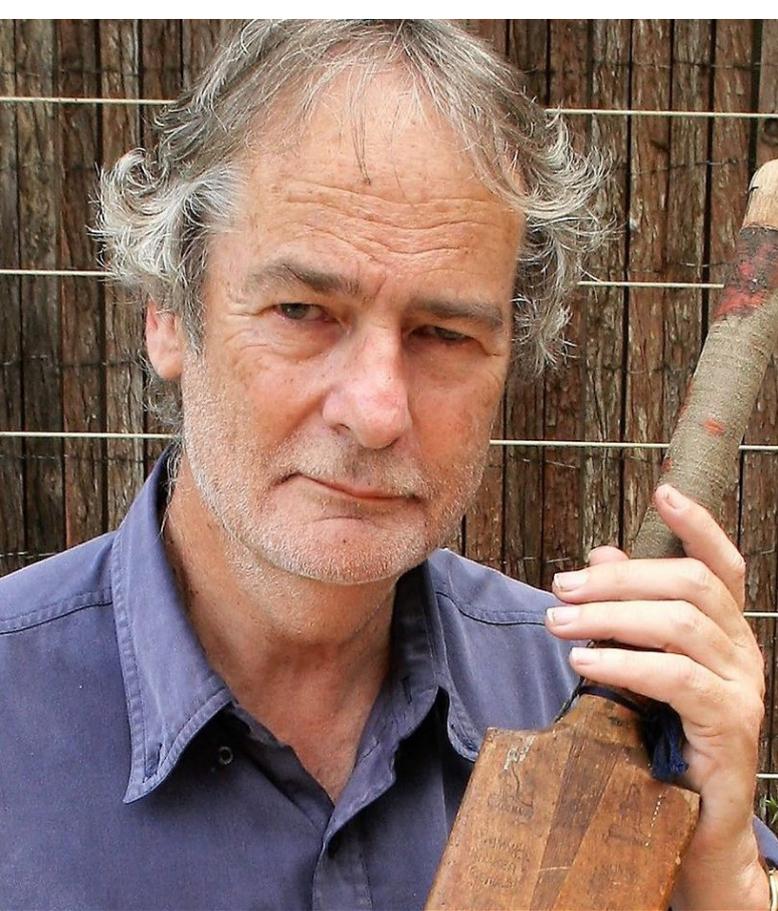
A marvel of musical mechanics was witnessed when Frank opened the back of the organ to allow those up for it to squeeze in, and to climb a little ladder to gasp at the array of pipes behind those visible from inside the church.

Music was an important part of the free-thinking ideals of this English Baptist tradition, which eschewed the intoning of creeds, relying on sound preaching and theologically meaningful hymns.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon's notoriety as an English Baptist leader and preacher (1834-1892) was a major influence on the philosophies of this Church as it grew in South Australia. In 1848 a group of Baptists left their former congregation, for they believed that membership should be open to all who wished to belong. These were free-thinking, liberal, dissenting, non-conformists. They brought with them strong religious convictions and the habit of regular worship. They were Baptists without the taint of fundamentalism. Without seeking the honour, the North Adelaide Baptist Church, which these pioneers established, became known as the most liberal Baptist church in Australia, a label that the congregation has always been proud to own.

For more information on the Church please see here: <https://www.nabc.org.au>.

- Dr. Stephen J Carthew



## Books in my Life by Bernard Whimpress

### *A Tuesday Talk*

A full house of sporting aficionados gathered to hear Bernard share his wisdom on Wisden. Well known for his research and extensive publications on a range of sports, Bernard talked about the early editions of Wisden going back to 1864 and up to the current publication. It has been called the Cricketer's Bible. It looks like a Bible and is said to contain essential truths. Facts were popular in the 19th century when there was a mania for recording things.

It is a fat book as well as a fact book, with this year's edition containing 1278 pages. Several earlier editions had around 1800 pages. Since 2003 the covers have been pictorial and include Michael Vaughn, Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh, Andrew Flintoff, Shane Warne and Alastair Cook. The 1864 edition included not only cricket articles but "Rules of Bowls, Quoits and Knur and Spell." If you want to know what Knur and Spell is you will have to ask someone who was at the talk!

John Wisden (1826-84) played for Sussex and the All-England Eleven and for some years, although quite small (five feet four and a half inches), was a round-arm fast bowler before overarm bowling was permitted and averaged nearly ten wickets a game with that method.

One instance of Wisden's influence in the cricket world was his founding in 1852 of the United All-England Eleven whose famous matches with the All-England Eleven began in 1857. In conjunction with George Parr two years later he also took a team on tour of the United States and Canada, and in one representative game playing against twenty-two opponents he took 29 wickets for 60 runs in the two innings. In all, he took 1109 first-class wickets at an average of 10.32. He scored 4140 first-class runs at an average of 14.12, which was very good for the time.

We will never tire of listening to such fascinating memories and anecdotes. Thank you, Bernard Whimpress.

*- Allison Murchie*



## Books in my Life by Robert Bloomfield

### *A Tuesday Talk*

Modern-day Robert Bloomfield treated his audience to a wonderful history lesson on the work of his forebear, the eponymous eighteenth-century poet Robert Bloomfield, who was born into a poor tailor's family in the village of Honington, Suffolk, in 1766. His father died of smallpox when Robert was one year old. It was from his mother, Elizabeth, a local schoolteacher, that he received his education and his love of words. This story is told in *The Story of a Suffolk Poet*, by William Wickett and Nicholas Duvall.

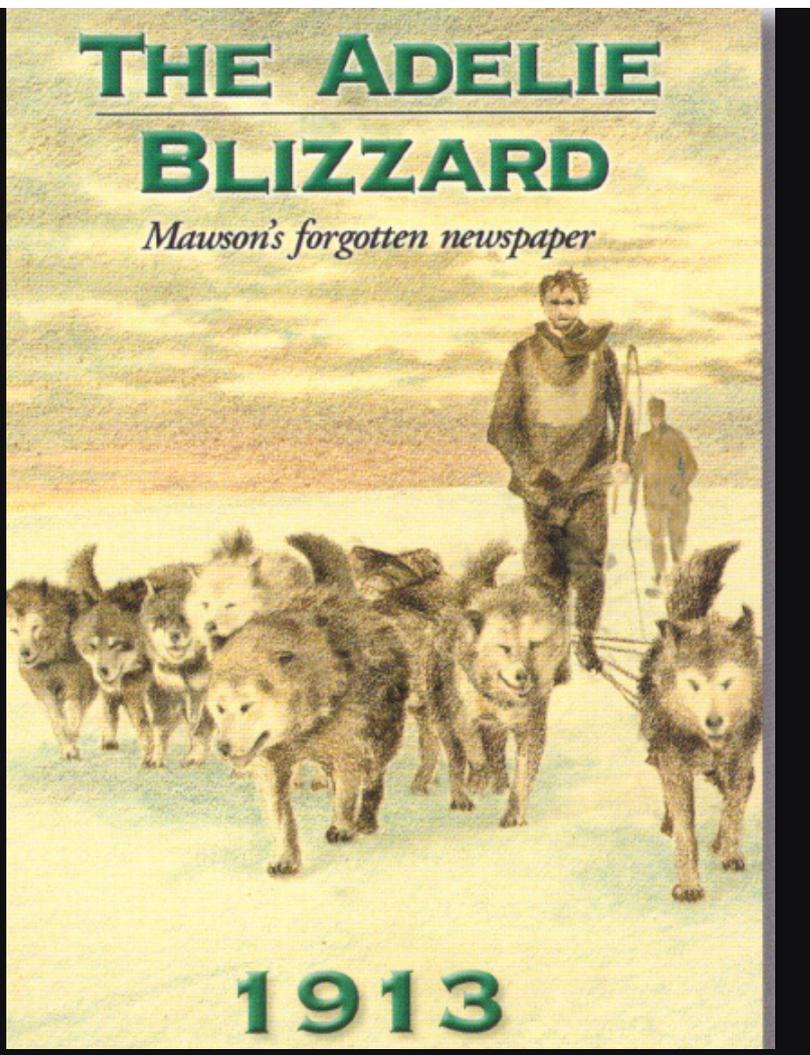
Robert had his first poem published in 1786, but the poem that made his reputation was *The Farmer's Boy* published in 1800. Robert had an amazing skill: he was able to carry in his head some fifty to a hundred finished lines of it at a time, until an opportunity arose to write them down. In fact, we heard that it was possible for the poet, once the book was published, to recite by rote the entire book to an audience.

(The art of elocution, I fear, has been lost on the current generation. In primary school I was tasked with learning by heart *The Man from Ironbark*, by Banjo Paterson, which I will still recite today, if asked.)

The success of *The Farmer's Boy* was remarkable. Over 30,000 copies were sold by the time it reached its seventh edition in 1803. Our Robert mused that, at this time in history, the industrial revolution was in full swing, the French Revolution had erupted in France twenty years earlier, and Napoleon had just overthrown the French government (in 1799). A homely piece from a Suffolk poet about his bucolic life was, presumably, just the right antidote for anxious minds in portentous times.

Another take-away from the talk was the fact that a year before Bloomfield the poet was born, *The History of Goody Two-Shoes*, a children's story written anonymously, was published. It was gender-specific to one Margaret Two-Shoes. I can now point that out to those who may think to throw that taunt today.

- Rick Sarre



## Australiana Publications : Book Profile

by Rick Dewhirst

### *Lockdown 1913*

When Douglas Mawson's Antarctica Expedition was locked in during the Antarctic Winter in 1912, Mawson decided to relieve boredom in the expedition team by encouraging the men of the main base to contribute articles for a regular newspaper entitled *The Adelie Blizzard* with Douglas Mawson as Editor.

Many of the anecdotes printed were personal memories dating back to previous events, some were serious, some humorous. One in particular referred to the death of the sled-dog, noting its passing as due to 'lead poisoning'.

Given our experiences of the current Covid-19 lockdowns, this book is very relevant to Mawson's team experiences during their forced lockdown in 1913.

You can buy your copy of *The Adelie Blizzard* at the Friends of the State Library office and online priced:

Hardback - \$80 Members | \$90 non-Members

Paperback - \$40 Members | \$45 non-Members

<http://www.australianpublications.org.au>

# Tribute to Valmai Hankel

Many of you will remember the Sunday in July 2019 when we met in the State Library to present the Library with the portrait of Valmai Hankel to honour her fifty-plus years at the Library and nearly as many with the Friends.

The remarkable portrait by local artist Daryl Austin now hangs in the entry of the Library.

For that occasion she wrote us a short biography. We hastily ran it off on the photocopier and a group of us sewed the sheets into simple wrappers for distribution on the day.

We have now reprinted it on quality paper. We have printed just 45 numbered copies and are offering them as unbound sheets for custom binding. Of course, our group of binders – under the watchful eye of Anthony Zammit- can bind a copy for you if you wish. In anticipation of this, we are preparing 15 'Collector's Copies' for immediate sale. These are being especially bound and will be presented in a handsome box. Further copies can be bought as unbound sheets or can be bound to your specifications by arrangement.

For the serious collector, and supporters of VH, a 'Special' copy is available with a small original painting of Valmai by Stephen Bowers bound into it. These copies will be individually bound in a designer binding by Anthony Zammit, one of the leading binders in the country.

Valmai is much-loved by the Friends; we are expecting this publication to be quickly sold out.

We will email you separately further detail on how to order this publication.

*- Mark Gilbert*



# Australiana Publications

AP  
AUSTRALIANA PUBLICATIONS  
Adelaide

A number of books which have been in preparation for some time are finally coming to light. After Valmai Hankel's bio, we are re-publishing Baudin's famous 1802 letter to Governor King. With a learned introduction by Professor Jean Fornasiero entitled "Reflections of a Philosophical Voyager", this literary gem was originally only published in paperback. It will now be available in a numbered limited edition as unbound sheets. As for Valmai's book, a small number will be available already bound, and others by arrangement. With Stephen Bowers' support, we will also have available a handful of Special copies.

Following this will be the re-publication of *Under the North Pole* [ New York, 1931] by Sir Hubert Wilkins and the youthful diary of Henry Hammond Tilbrook together with a selection of his renowned photographs of the Flinders Rangers mid north of SA.

Wilkins' fascinating book was published in advance of his audacious (but unsuccessful) attempt to navigate a US submarine, re-named Nautilus, under the ice to the North Pole. Importantly, it contains reminiscences of his childhood in the mid north of SA near Mt Bryan. These early notes and observation give an insight to the enigmatic character which evolved over time.

Tilbrook's story is one of a young man seeking adventure and an understanding of the bush in the north of SA in 1864-5. His youthful diaries have been transcribed by the State Library staff and prepared for publication by our members, Trevor Grant and Jane Walkley. Tilbrook made his name in later life as a photographer and the book will be enlivened by his own photos of the areas being described.

In between times, we will put out a Supplement to the *Australiana Publications Bibliography*, recording the next five years of our publications. This important work will be a modest booklet to accompany the main work which we published in 2015 for our 20th anniversary. Compiled by the late Elizabeth Hambly, and completed by Angela Bannon and Mark Gilbert, this booklet will be dedicated to the memory of two of our long-standing Australiana Publications team Alan Brissenden and Elizabeth Hambly. The original Bibliography was compiled by Valmai Hankel and George Lieschke with Elizabeth. These two have since retired from Australiana Publications. With Alan Brissenden, we owe a huge debt to all four.

We will email you separately further detail on how to order these publications.

- *Mark Gilbert*

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## Bookbinding Group

After a short break, our group of binders has started to meet again on Saturday mornings to advance their skills under the tutelage of Anthony Zammit. Two of our regular group have recently dropped out for health or family reasons, so if you are interested in learning to bind books please contact the Friends' Office. Class numbers are strictly limited so only apply if you can make a serious commitment.

Breaking news: the Library Director, Geoff Stempel, has provided us with a workroom in the Mortlock Wing where we can do our binding. We are going to set up a complete bindery, mostly with donated equipment and materials. Our aim is to bind our books there, and, in time, to conserve books for the Library. This exciting development will help us to build our group over time. There is a renewed interest in the community in the Book Arts and we believe this will become an important part of the Friends' activities. SA is one of the few states not to have a Bookbinding Guild or Society.

- *Mark Gilbert*

# Welcome and Farewell

We welcome into  
Membership:

Bruce Bott  
Kathleen Crosby  
Geraldine Gillen  
Liz Green  
Linda Hanlan  
Kelly Henderson  
Nicholas Jose  
Mandy Macky & Family  
John A. Paull

Lyn Rivers  
Stephen Scammell  
Janet Scarfe  
Michael Sexton  
Nicole Starbuck  
Peter Summerside  
John Teague & Family  
Hettie Tinsley

We **farewell** the following Members of the Friends:

Elizabeth Hambly  
Cynthia Fleming

## Stop Press!

Keep Wednesday, 27 October 2021 from 1.00pm-2.30pm available! You are invited to an exclusive Friends visit to the **Barr Smith's Special Collections**.

Since 2019, the **Rare Books, Manuscripts, Art and Heritage Collections** are all housed under one roof in the Barr Smith Library; most are only accessible by appointment.

This promises to be a most popular, intriguing and entertaining tour! Please see our website and Facebook Events page for more information.



## 2021 Events

POP-UP BOOK SALE

Weekdays only

Monday to Friday

10am-2pm

**October 2021 –**

A TUESDAY TALK – Books In  
My Life by Suzi Roux

Tuesday, 5 October 2021 at  
11am-12pm

Cost: Free

LIVE AND LEARN – Ships  
Ahoy: Tales from Shore and  
Riverbank

SPEAKER: Carolyn Spooner  
Tuesday, 19 October 2021 at  
11am-12pm

Cost: Free

VISIT - Barr Smith Library's  
Special Collections

Wednesday, 27 October 2021 at  
1-2.30pm

Cost: \$10

**November 2021 –**

A TUESDAY TALK – Books in  
my Life by Jo Peoples

Tuesday, 2 November 2021 at  
11am-12pm

Cost: Free

**December 2021 –**

A TUESDAY TALK – Books in  
my Life

SPEAKER: The Campbells of  
Anlaby, Janet and Sue Scarfe

Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at  
11am-12pm

Cost: Free

AGM/Dinner –

St Mark's College

Saturday, 4 December 2021  
(more details to follow)

Please refer to our website for  
more details, updates and  
future events.



## **Friends Volunteer Profile**

### **Rick Dewhirst**

**How long have you been a Friends member?**

Since 2002

**The best part of being a Friends member?**

The best part has been a greater interest and knowledge of Australian history through the Friends publications.

**How long have you been doing the Shipping work for the Friends book orders?**

For last 3 1/2 years

**How else are you involved with the Friends?**

I have been on Australiana Publications Committee since 2002

**What are you favourite past times?**

Aerophilatelist - Collecting and researching airmail covers from early worldwide first flights between 1924 to 1951.

Jo and I have two sons and five wonderful grandchildren.

**Anything else?**

Additionally, being a member of the Friends has introduced me to many people with a similar interest in Australian history, which has greatly improved my knowledge and understanding of this subject.

## **From the Executive Assistant**

### **Jayne French**

With Spring well and truly upon us, the Friends' room is filled with bright sunshine! The past month or so has seen us updating our Friends Memberships, the Friends and Australiana Publications websites, and planning exciting new events for you to enjoy! Thank you to all who have renewed their Friends Memberships up until May 2022 which is when we will reintroduce the yearly Membership to help ensure we do not overlook renewals again! In case you weren't aware, we are now open 5 days, Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm, as well as online for orders and enquiries.

We have also added some new items to the Newsletter as you can see above and we would love your feedback. We want to thank those who quietly and patiently volunteer with the Friends behind the scenes, ensuring it runs smoothly, as well as tempting you with our own fabulous Australiana Publications!

As you will see on the previous pages, our program is full with exciting events (repeated) and tours for the remainder of the year - fingers crossed there are no further Covid lockdowns. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this difficult time. We look forward to seeing you at these events, either as a volunteer or an attendee.

Our next and last 2021 Newsletter will be before the Christmas break, so keep an eye out on your Inbox for some Christmas cheer as well as updates from our AGM and last quarter.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the Friends and for making me feel so welcome!





# Friends

STATE LIBRARY  
South Australia

*"If you cannot read all your books, at any rate handle, or as it were, fondle them - peer into them, let them fall open where they will, read from the first sentence that arrests the eye, set them back on the shelves with your own hands, arrange them on your own plan so that if you do not know what is in them, you at least know where they are. Let them be your friends; let them at any rate be your acquaintances. If they cannot enter the circle of your life, do not deny them at least a nod of recognition."*

— Winston S. Churchill, *Painting as a Pastime*

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*NEW Friends opening hours*

Monday - Friday  
10am - 2pm

*NEW State Library opening hours:*

Monday - Tuesday 10am - 7pm  
Wednesday - Friday 10am - 5pm  
Saturday - Sunday 12pm - 5pm

Friends of the State Library of SA - GPO Box 419 Adelaide SA 5001

Ph: 08 8207 7255 – [slsafriends@sa.gov.au](mailto:slsafriends@sa.gov.au)

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