

HISTORY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

• • • • GIVING THE PAST A FUTURE - NOW!

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027





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South Australia's
**History
Festival**




CONTENTS...

Acknowledgements	5
Why does history matter?	6
Your history, our responsibility	7
Values	8
Vision	9
Museums	10
Collections, protecting memories	11
Community History	12
Ten-year goals 2021 • 2031	13
Principles	14
Strategies	15
So where will we be in five years time?	17
Acknowledgements	18



Acknowledgements



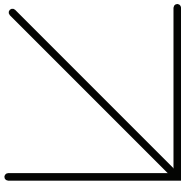
The History Trust of South Australia respects the primary role of First Nations people in the history of this place.

We acknowledge that this story commenced long before the Proclamation of the Province of South Australia on 28 December 1836.

First Nations peoples hold knowledge, histories and cultures that extend millennia into the past. We acknowledge that First Nations lands and sovereignty were never ceded, and that building a shared understanding of history is critical to the future of this place.

Left: Part image from the History Trust of South Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan artwork by Elizabeth Close, a Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara woman from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands in South Australia.

WHY DOES HISTORY MATTER?



We all grow up with stories about the past. Our landscapes and these stories hold markers and memories from those who were here before.

Appreciating our connection with those who came before us, and what they did, is critical to understanding who we are today and how we act. We are shaped by our past, and our identity as South Australians is made up of the threads of many stories woven into one complex tapestry.

Sharing our stories creates common ground in our multicultural society. History was *then*. History is *now*.

*Responsibility protected by legislation:
The History Trust of South Australia Act
(1981)*

YOUR HISTORY OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Our job is to encourage current and future generations of South Australians to discover that this state's past is rich, relevant and fascinating. And among the many stories unfolding across South Australia in the present, there are many worthy of being preserved for sharing in the future.



The History Trust of South Australia is exactly what our name implies. We carry the community's trust to keep safe our state's stories and memory collections so that they will not be lost. They will enrich the lives of current and future generations.

As a statutory authority, we report to Parliament, and our Board of Trustees are accountable through the Minister for Education.

Our Act safeguards South Australia's material heritage, and encourages research and the public presentation of South Australian history.

The Act requires us to carry out a number of roles and activities. We manage museums of our own, produce exhibitions, public programs, the Bay to Birdwood historic motoring event and an annual History Festival. We assist community museums and historical societies in every part of our State and we provide policy advice to the Minister for Education.

Good budget management and income growth is critical to the sustainability of our mission. We embrace digital platforms, and focus on education for the benefit of all South Australia's citizens.

Image: View from North Terrace of Security House, the new home of the History Trust of South Australia - Level 2, 233 North Terrace.

VALUES

✎ WE RECOGNISE

that history is a complex tapestry woven of many stories, some incomplete, that capture people and their times and place – including what is happening now.

✎ WE ENGAGE

and serve local and global audiences using digital-by-design approaches.

✎ WE CELEBRATE

diversity in all its many aspects.

✎ WE RESEARCH

collect, preserve, and share material culture and document our non-material culture to better understand the past and the present.

✎ WE RESPECT

the dignity of every person, alive or deceased. We treat colleagues and the public with respect, demonstrating this through the highest standards of service, professionalism, honesty, and integrity.



VISION

GIVING THE PAST A FUTURE - NOW!

We are a renewed and contemporary History Trust of South Australia. Our agenda is inclusive and adventurous. We remain as proudly expert and professional as we are accessible and open. We are an active partner in creating a positive future informed by South Australia's unique identity.

Our museums are welcoming and adaptable – social places where visitors of all ages, backgrounds, purposes and abilities know their community is included and their stories valued. They are places where visitors don't have to whisper, and can be confident that their experience has integrity.

We will celebrate the ordinary as well as the extraordinary, relying on our excellent research.

We will take the collection out of the store, creating and presenting events and exhibitions that inspire curiosity for locals and for visitors alike. These will ignite spontaneous conversations between strangers and provide excitement for school-age children. We will explain how the connectedness between South Australians and the world has been shaped by our history.

South Australia's unique history should be an essential part of what all South Australians and our visitors can experience. It explains our society and the way it works, and how this feeds into the giant story of human endeavour across our world.

We are dedicated to giving our special past a future - now!

➤ YOUR MUSEUMS

People, boats and vehicles: poverty and prosperity, industry and community-building

We manage three museums: the Migration Museum, the National Motor Museum and the South Australian Maritime Museum. Complementing these is The Centre of Democracy. We also partner with other Australian museums to present exhibitions.



YOUR COLLECTIONS - PROTECTING MEMORIES



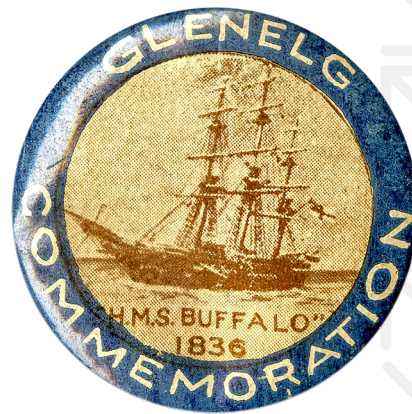
①

HT 2023.0635

As keepers of the State History Collection we care for approximately 35,000 objects that tell stories of our past.

We preserve Queen Adelaide's prayer book and Colonel William Light's plan for the City of Adelaide. We keep safe Mrs Catford's collection of 2000 costumes dating from the 1830s to the 1980s and stock from Gladys Sym Choon's China Gift Store. We hold the 1908 Talbot – the first motorised vehicle to cross the Australian continent. And we continue to collect for tomorrow – right up to badges and placards from the 2023 Voice referendum.

As treasured as these are, the once everyday objects documenting the lives of ordinary South Australians are also safely in our keeping.






②

HT 1985.2037



③

HT 2023.0645

- 1 Miss Tibbits' serving dish 
- 2 Proclamation Day badge 
- 3 Bickford's veterinary chest 

YOUR :: COMMUNITY HISTORY ↙

Telling local stories

Supporting South Australia's community history network of committed volunteer associations and local history specialists, we manage a Museums and Collections Program and offer annual grants for research and writing to promote the value of South Australia's history and our place in the world.

Every year we present South Australia's History Festival – a month-long statewide celebration of community history, collections and heritage. We partner to present great community events such as the Bay to Birdwood historic motoring run and other events, festivals and celebrations on South Australia's cultural calendar.



Above: Commedia dell'Arte Exhibition Launch event at the Migration Museum 2022.

Right: A fully-detailed sailing scale model of the 36-ft sloop "Spray", which was built in Fairhaven, Connecticut, by Joshua Slocum. A wooden body attached to a wooden stand, it has three canvas sails. The deck of the ship contains various detachable pieces, including buckets, ship's wheel, an anchor, rope and a small boat. The two cabins detach to reveal living quarters and the below deck. Inside are personal effects like a doll's pyjamas, books and shoes. Attached to the ship's deck below the wheel is a bronze plaque that reads "Herbert Croker/ builder/ 1972".



TEN-YEAR GOALS

2021 • 2031

Ensure most South Australians have a highly positive experience of the History Trust annually

The people of South Australia are the most frequent visitors to our museums, audience for our public programs and the students who engage in our education programs. Visitors, audiences and students will value the 'History Trust experience' each time they engage with us.

GOAL 1 K

Be recognised as the leading voice for making the stories of South Australia relevant across the world, for the world

Telling the stories of South Australia is a core purpose and our collections are fundamental to these stories. We want the History Trust to be the first organisation people think of when seeking information about South Australia's history and its place in the world.

GOAL 2 K

Explain the complexities of the past and build wisdom for today

We present South Australia's history in all its facets through quality curatorial and research work. We build wisdom for today through advice and guidance across our communities, our museum exhibitions, and engaging public and education programs.

GOAL 3 K

Be a leader of excellence in the network of historical enterprises

We strive for excellence in everything we do. Our Act establishes our leadership role within the South Australian history network, and we will be recognised for our leadership and excellence within South Australia and nationally.

GOAL 4 K

Significantly grow earned income

Growing earned income will help us to continually expand and improve our offerings, including through philanthropy and development activities, grants, sales, paid services, memberships and paid events.

GOAL 5 K



Principles



The following principles underpin the way that the History Trust of South Australia approaches everything we do

- Make formal education a priority focus for History Trust attention, as we rebuild younger generations' access to, and understanding of, South Australian History
- The History Trust and its museums play a pivotal role in lifelong learning. Learning is a process of active engagement with experience
- The History Trust acknowledges both the technological challenges and opportunities the 21st century brings for public institutions. The History Trust employs a digital by design approach to designing and engaging with audiences
- Advance a model of co-development which engages with history stakeholders in ways that recognise history as an ongoing and collaborative practice
- Model a culture of inclusivity in a workplace that embraces diversity, respect, and equity, which drives the engagement, recruitment, development and retention of skilled and committed people
- Build our ability and agility to respond to external challenges and opportunities
- We will be considered and efficient stewards of our resources



Above: Sea Country Stories launch with Major (Uncle Moogy) Sumner AM at the SA Maritime Museum 2022.

GOAL 1 ↙

Ensure most South Australians have a highly positive experience of the History Trust annually

Strategies

- S1.1** Create considered and compelling experiences in museums, public programs, schools, events and online
- S1.2** Develop education programs that inspire curiosity and creativity in children and young people
- S1.3** Foster deeper relationships with South Australia's many communities and audiences, existing, new and emerging
- S1.4** Ensure people's first experiences of engaging with our shared history offerings are welcoming and enjoyable
- S1.5** Expand the impact and reach of our major events and orations, programs, stories, and knowledge for the benefit of local and global audiences alike
- S1.6** Increase our social relevance, diversify our audiences and strengthen our engagement with those who may experience barriers to participation

GOAL 2 ↙

Be recognised as the leading voice for making the stories of South Australia relevant across the world, for the world

Strategies

- S2.1** Develop a coherent and compelling approach to telling South Australian stories across all our museums and platforms
- S2.2** Strive for best practice in the care, management, accessibility, and scope of the State History Collection
- S2.3** Become a leading voice for best practice in museums, history education programs and engagement with the broader history, collecting and museum sectors
- S2.4** Be a valued source of information and trusted commentator on matters of public interest, where appropriate

GOAL 3 ↙

Explain the complexities of the past and build wisdom for today

Strategies

- S3.1** Utilising our growing school pathways, inspire South Australian history interest among R-12 students through hands-on-experiences that build an understanding of how our history shapes who we are and impacts the decisions we make today
- S3.2** Collaborate with First Nations and culturally diverse communities to support the sharing of their stories and knowledge, in a variety of ways
- S3.3** Build the confidence of educators to tell South Australian stories in an engaging manner
- S3.4** Make effective use of relevant research being undertaken by other institutions and historians

GOAL 4 ↙

Be a leader of excellence in the network of historical enterprises

We strive for excellence in everything we do. Our Act establishes our leadership role within the SA history network, and we will be recognised for our leadership and excellence within South Australia and nationally

Strategy

- S4.1** Resource and implement the growth and development of the SA History Network

GOAL 5 ↙

Significantly grow earned income

Strategies

- S5.1** In order to grow earned income we will:
 - Be more entrepreneurial and innovative
 - Develop and resource capability to create a culture for philanthropy, corporate engagement and development
- S5.2** Adopt a net financial benefit approach to our projects and programs, where appropriate.



SO WHERE WILL WE BE IN FIVE YEARS TIME?

By 2027 our unique South Australian stories and memory collections will enjoy a renewed and respected purpose in our society

We will have grown public recognition of the value of South Australia's own history in our communities

We will see more South Australian young people learning about our distinctive history

We will know that our plan has succeeded because more South Australians will know who we are as "The History Trust of South Australia"

Image: Birdseye view of the now complete Settlement Square in the Migration Museum courtyard.

As a Statutory Authority, the History Trust of South Australia reports annually to Parliament and its Board is accountable to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills.

TRUSTEES

As at January 2024

Ms Elizabeth Ho OAM – Chair

Ms June Roache

Dr Eva Balan-Vnuk

Dr Vesna Drapac

Mr Michael Neale

Dr Jared Thomas

Mr Michael Lennon
(until 16 October 2022)

Professor Alan Reid AM (from 27
October 2022)

Mr John Voumard
(until 18 April 2023)

Ms Carolyn Grantskalns
(from 27 April 2023)

- ▾ The History Trust Learning Advisory Panel
- ▾ Wilkins Project Committee
- ▾ Migration Museum Foundation Committee
- ▾ History Trust of South Australia Foundation Committee
- ▾ Bay to Birdwood Advisory Committee

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP GROUP | SLG

Mr Greg Mackie OAM | Chief Executive Officer

Dr Kristy Kokegei | Head of Audience and Experience

Ms Mandy Paul | Head of Collections

Mr Paul Rees | Head of Museums, Marketing and Major Events

Dr Kiera Lindsey | SA's History Advocate

Ms Donna Tims | Manager, Business Unit

Ms Amber Berkelaar | HR Manager



