



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT



Presented to the Annual General Meeting on Monday 30 September 2013

by Bob Stace

President's Annual Report

Introduction

This is my first Annual Report as President and highlights the activities and issues experienced by our Association during the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

Membership

The details of membership numbers for the various categories appears below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>30 June 2012</u>	<u>30 June 2013</u>
Patron	1	1
Life Members	208	200
Pioneer Members	429	417
<u>Associate Members</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>46</u>
Total	679	664 (- 15)

During the year 44 new members (Pioneer + Associates) joined the Association. The number of incoming members did not quite match the outgoing with a net loss of 15 members overall.

Whilst this is not a serious decrease, this data highlights the challenge of ongoing membership regeneration which is being experienced by many community/volunteer organisations like ours. We need to aim at attracting 50-60 new members each year to ensure that our Association remains vibrant and on a sound financial footing.

Our **Junior Pioneer** group had a total membership of 99, which was an increase of 3 from the previous year. With appropriate "marketing" there is plenty of potential for growth in our Junior Pioneer numbers.

The PASA Council

Twelve Councillors, being Bob Allan, Sue Coppin, Jill Davy, Peter Dunn, Judith Francis, Margaret Grierson, Ken Jacobs, Rose Miller, Jenny Neill, Di Skull, Pam Skurray and Bob Stace were elected to Council at the 2012 AGM and Warren Lewis was later coopted and joined in February 2013 making a total of 13. Council meetings have been held monthly and have been well attended. All members of Council have made a positive contribution to the wide ranging business of the Council and have worked together in a cooperative and harmonious manner. My particular thanks go to the leadership team of Pam Skurray (Vice President and Programming Director), Jenny Neill (Secretary) and Di Skull (Treasurer) for the very effective way they have carried out their responsibilities.

My thanks also to the following members of Council who provided support and leadership in a number of areas and contributed to the smooth running of the Association: Bob Allan (Health and Safety Officer), Sue Coppin (Publications, Website management and IT support), Jill Davy (Librarian), Judith Francis and Warren Lewis (Constitutional Working Party), Margaret Grierson (Membership and Genealogy), and Rose Miller (Minute Secretary and Public Officer).

Two long serving and highly respected members of the current Council, Bob Allan and Margaret Grierson have announced their "retirement" and are not seeking re-election at the AGM. Both have been great contributors to the work of Council over many years and their passion for the purpose, and values of our Association and their knowledge of its history and its members, will be missed at future Council meetings. Thank you Margaret and Bob!

The loss of 2 such experienced Councillors highlights another challenge we face. With a membership of over 650 we are struggling to find enough Councillors to fill the 13-15 positions; ongoing regeneration of the Council is just as important as it is for membership in general. I encourage members, and particularly those who have joined in the past 2 years, to give serious consideration to joining the Council. The new Council will need to coopt at least 2 new members in October so please let us know if you are interested.

The PASA Office and our Volunteers

Apart from the usual month's break during January, our Office in Leigh St has been open from 10.00-2.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year. During this time it has been "staffed" by a small group of loyal and dedicated volunteers who have carried out the wide variety of tasks in a most effective and harmonious manner. These tasks have included membership enquiries and applications, family history research requests, subscription and event payments, banking, posting of the Journal, handling the mail, managing resources including the Library, organising and preparing for events, and a range of general clerical work. They enjoy their time in the Office, they enjoy each other's company and they find the "work" satisfying and rewarding. Our volunteers are the public face of our Association and its engine room. Without them we would not be able to function and provide the level of service that we have all come to expect.

And here is another challenge! All the services that the Association provides for our members, including the enjoyable and sociable events, are organised and provided for by no more than 25-30 volunteers (members of Council plus volunteers) who give freely of their time and skills to support the needs of over 650 members. Our challenge is to broaden this base of volunteers so that the load is spread more equitably. Can you help for a few hours on a weekly or occasional basis?

Events and Activities

A full review of the year's events and activities, compiled by Programming Director Pam Skurray, is included as an Addendum to this report. As you will see our programme has provided a range of events to meet the differing needs of our members. The upward trend in attendance at these events indicates a growth in member interest and satisfaction.

Our events have provided members with the opportunity to meet socially with fellow members and to experience a programme which not only helped to celebrate the life and times of our pioneer ancestors but also provided informative learning and sharing experiences for participants. The happy atmosphere at our events, and the positive feedback received, is an indication that our programme has been enjoyable and satisfying for those who attended.

Communication and Publications

The majority of **PASA's small publications** have now been reformatted electronically to enable easy print production in the future, as well as possible electronic distribution. The first electronic-only work to be published by PASA is undergoing its final editing phase. Brian Stace's "Early South Australian Deaths", which was previously published in 3 parts in the Pioneer Journal, has now been updated and combined into one publication and will soon be available online for viewing or download.

The **PASA Website** has been upgraded with an additional two new pages, one for archiving the monthly editions of the Pioneer e-Xpress newsletter and the other as a photo gallery. The website has been updated regularly and with its connection to our blogsite provides a very positive insight into the life of our Association. The **PASA Blogsite** itself continues to receive a steady number of "hits" with over 8,000 since it was established in 2011. There are now over thirty "posts" which include reports and photographs of Association events. If you have an internet connection and want to keep with up with PASA news, then I encourage you to check in to the web and blog sites on a regular basis.

The quarterly **Pioneer Journal** continued to set high standards as our premier means of communication with all members. Its combination of original research articles and stories which generally concentrated on the pioneer years, reports and photographs of PASA events, news from the Council, special articles for Junior Pioneers, lists of new members and the quarterly listing of the programme of events, all make up what is now a well respected Journal within our Association and in the broader history community. Special thanks to our editor Peter Brinkworth and publisher Richard Venus for the quality of our Journal.

The monthly email newsletter the **Pioneer e-Xpress** was produced for the first time in February 2011 and during the period of this report firmly established itself as a very convenient and effective means of regular communication with members who have access to the internet. Currently the newsletter is sent to over 180 members and their families.

The development of a new PASA logo to suit the digital age followed by the purchase of a 'pop up" PASA banner incorporating the new logo, and the purchase of a new printer, have all added to our ability to communicate more effectively with members and the public. Our membership brochure has also been upgraded utilising the new logo and our colour printer.

Library and Resources

During the year the Council, with the leadership of our librarian, Jill Davy, invested over \$1000 into purchasing new books and resources for the PASA Library. These purchases have added many new references and stories of the time and lives of our pioneer ancestors. The Council has recently established a borrowing policy which allows members to borrow all but the reference books and any deemed to be rare or valuable.

Constitutional Review and Change

During the past year the Council has spent a good proportion of its time considering a range of issues relating to the Association's constitution. The Council was aware of some inconsistencies in our present constitution and was also contemplating reviewing aspects of our membership criteria. During this process the Council sought and received advice from a member who is a retired lawyer with considerable experience in this field.

The advice received highlighted that there were many discrepancies within the existing constitution that needed to be resolved and many improvements that could be made to enable better decision making and provide for the Association's future.

The Council accepted this advice and established a Working Party to support the process. Members of the Working Party are: Bob Stace, Judith Francis and Warren Lewis, (all members of Council) and Peter Whimpress. Retired lawyer and PASA member Brian Stace has been providing support and advice to the Working Party and to the Council.

Following advice from the Working Party the Council has adopted a 2 stage approach to the process with stage 1 culminating in the Special General Meeting which has immediately preceded this AGM. At this meeting members were asked to vote on amendments to our constitution which would allow in the future for proxy and postal voting by members who cannot attend general meetings. These changes are aimed at enhancing the participation of the considerable number of members who live beyond the Adelaide metropolitan area and recognising their rights as members to be involved in Association decision making.

Whatever the result of the vote to amend the constitution, the Council is committed to Stage 2 of the process which will be a necessary general review and upgrade of the constitution. The Council will ensure that members are consulted and informed during this process which is scheduled to take 9-12 months before a revised constitution is put to a vote by members.

In Conclusion

As I completed this report and reflected on the past year I have concluded that it has indeed been a good year. Feedback from members and my own personal observations indicate that members have enjoyed their PASA experiences and the opportunities they have received via the programme of events and our Journal and Newsletter, to celebrate and perpetuate the memory of our pioneer ancestors. For this we need to thank the Council, our volunteers and the members who have supported us through their interest or attendance at functions.

The next few years present some challenges to our Association and I highlight some of these again:

- ❖ Ongoing membership regeneration to ensure the future vitality and viability of our Association.
- ❖ Increasing the number of volunteers who support the servicing of members.
- ❖ Improving the level of participation of members in the life of the Association.
- ❖ Bringing about constitutional reform and change which will provide us with the appropriate purpose, organisation, structure and membership base to meet the needs of our Association for the next decade and beyond.
- ❖ Continuing to expand our use of information technology and the electronic media to improve our ability to manage our organisation and to communicate more effectively with members and the wider community.

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as the President of this rather special Association and commend this report to you.

Bob Stace

30 September 2013

ADDENDUM

PROGRAMMED EVENTS & ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY PASA FROM 1.7.2012 – 30.6.2013.

The Pioneers Association attempts to provide interesting events for our members to attend. We try to have a mixture which will be enjoyed whether you are 2 years of age or 96... We also take into account that some people are unable to attend evening meetings, which is the reason we have bi-monthly lunch meetings in Leigh Street.

During the last financial year we had **6 Pioneer Group lunch meetings**, with a variety of Guest Speakers. These meetings are very successful, members bring their lunch and we provide tea/coffee & biscuits, and of course the members love to catch up and chat. Generally we have around 25-30 members attending.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Speaker:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Attendance.</u>
August 2012	Ian Schomburgk	British & German Freemasons: Their contribution and influence in the early years of the Colony.	38
October 2012	Brian O'Halloran.	Captain William L O'Halloran – his story.	26
December 2012	George Barry	Captain Henry Cowell Hawson – an early settler on the Eyre Peninsula.	26
February 2013	June Scott	"Quakers & their influence in early South Australia.	27
April 2013	Jim Everett	From Hindley St. to Pirie St. the journey of Early Wesleyans in South Australia.	26
June 2013	Maureen Leadbeater	"Wanted: Land fit for the plough. South Australian Credit Selection 1869-1890.	20

(For more information on these talks please refer to reports on the PASA blog site).

Other Key Events during the year were:

July 14 2012 **Art Gallery Tour & luncheon.** 27 members attended the Art Gallery's exhibition "South Australia Illustrated: Colonial Land of Promise". We had a personalised tour of what was a most interesting and informative exhibition.

August 31st. 2012 **Pioneers Association Annual Dinner** which was held at Ayers House. His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and his wife Mrs Liz Scarce attended this function. Our Guest Speaker was Rosemary Michell, who spoke of the changes which have taken place on North Terrace since the early days of the Colony. We had 89 members attending this event, and they all enjoyed the historical ambiance of the Henry Ayers Room. PASA member Ken Jacobs set up a most interesting and informative "Royal" display to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration. We had rousing toasts to the Queen, to Australia and the Pioneers Association.

Addendum (cont)

September 22nd. **Junior Pioneer Event** at Beaumont House, where our Junior Pioneers enjoyed 'An old fashioned Teddy Bears Picnic'. Children, parents and grandparents enjoyed a picnic atmosphere, exploring historical trails, games, tour of Beaumont House, and capping this off with a very pleasant and educational afternoon for all ages. Nineteen adults and fourteen children attended.

October 8th. **Annual General Meeting** at Burnside Community Centre Guest Speaker was Andreea Jeleascu who is a practising architect, and she challenged us with her passionate views on what makes up Australia's heritage and how contemporary design can interact with traditional architecture. There were 37 members present.

November 15th. A **New Members Welcome Event** was held at the Lyceum Club and the PASA Office. Members who had joined over the past 2 years were invited, giving them an opportunity to find out more about the Association and to socialise with other members. Drinks and finger foods were provided, and it was a very successful event. There were 58 people in attendance.

December 28th. **Proclamation Day** luncheon held at Glenelg Golf Club. This of course is an annual event and generally very well received. We had 96 in attendance. Many members attended the ceremony at the Old Gum Tree prior to coming to the luncheon. We had an excellent speaker Noel Purdon who is a direct descendant of Francis Light, and his topic was "The Extraordinary Family of William Light". Bob Stace in conjunction with Noel Purdon prepared a splendid illustrated booklet on the topic for all present, which included a comprehensive history of the Light family. We were fortunate to have special guests of Noel's – Susan Mitchell and Mary Beasley. Susan Mitchell was so impressed with this event she wrote an article in the Flinders University Magazine giving our Association much praise; it was then re-printed in our Autumn Journal.

March 20th. 2013 **Luncheon** at the heritage listed Caledonian Hotel was attended by 53 members. Guest Speaker was Marjorie Brown, and the topic was "The Planter: the Ship of Shame". Marjorie's ancestor was Henry Durieu who was on that infamous Ship. A diary of the Planter had been purchased by the State Library (with assistance from Marjorie) and it gave a very enlightening description of the bawdy and lurid behaviour that took place on that Ship.

May 1st. 2013. **History Month event** – Luncheon at Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Grounds. Kingsley Ireland was Guest Speaker, and his topic was "Some Early Jews of South Australia". This was a very popular event, and more than 100 people attended. We were fortunate to have members from two Hebrew congregations, and many history "buffs" attracted by the 'About Time' programme. Kingsley took us on a journey through mid 19th.century South Australia where we met the interconnected Levi-Phillipson families who were some of the earliest residents of the Colony. Guests were invited to participate in a Jewish cultural banquet, and a "Kosher" table was prepared for those that wished to partake.

During History Month we also had the **Office Open** for the general public, and many visitors attended.

Pam Skurray
Programming Director