



Cuttings and Clippings *News from the papers*

Willaston Wesleyan Methodist Church

“A sealed bottle was placed beneath the spot which the stone was to occupy, containing a copy of the South Australian Register of that day's date, and one of the Gawler Bunyip of the preceding Saturday. The Rev. Mr. Lloyd observed that no coins were placed in the bottle, he coinciding in opinion with an old minister, that it was better to put money on the stone, than beneath it.” [Bunyip 26 Jan 1867]

Waikerie Uniting Church

“On Wednesday morning the s.s. Waikerie arrived with the Rev. J. D. Langsford, sec. of the Home Missions, Adelaide, and the Rev. W. H. Hanton, chairman of the district, from Riverton. Later in the day the Rev. Jones, from Morgan, and the Rev. T. P. Willason, of Renmark, arrived on their bicycles to assist in the ceremony.” [Renmark Pioneer 16 Aug 1912]

Tickera Bible Christian Church

“Mice by the tens of thousands (some estimates run into millions) have invaded the Tickera district, north of Kadina . . . The mice have eaten seed wheat after it has been planted in the ground and have even forced the local Methodist Church to close down. The plague has been going on for months. . . The church had to close down last month because of distraction to worshippers caused by swarms of mice running about during services.” [Chronicle 16 Jul 1953]

Wallaroo Congregational Church

“At the time of the accident the Sunday-school was meeting, and it is certainly a matter of congratulation that no injury was sustained by any one present, for the twisting and shaking of the building smashed the windows and upset the lamps, scattering the glassy fragments in all directions. Of course considerable alarm was created; the juveniles scampered out and ran away as fast as their legs could carry them, whilst it is said the exit of the others, if made with more dignity, was scarcely less nimble.” [Weekly Chronicle 30 Jul 1864]

Walloway Methodist Church

“A meeting was planned at Walloway Plains. On arrival at the church, we learned that sports at Johnburgh had taken the population thither. Apparently the key of the church had also gone and an entrance into the building could not be effected. Two young ladies, two men, a boy, the pastor, and the deputation made up the number present. Two motor cars were brought to the side of the church, the audience ensconced comfortably under the hoods, and in the starlight we proceeded with our meeting. Somehow we went home with no feeling of disappointment. A deep sense of the Divine

presence with the little gathering made us feel it was an evening well spent.” [Aust Christian Commonwealth 8 Jun 1923]

Towitta Wesleyan, later Congregational Church

“Towitta Congregational Church held its anniversary service, but the appointed minister was unable to attend. Instead, Mrs K. French, of the Eden Valley Church, undertook the responsibilities, and those who have had the pleasure of hearing her will know that the address was one to be remembered.” [Leader, Angaston 2 Nov 1950]

Thomas Plains Methodist Church

“On Monday night the building was crowded to the doors, - and even beyond, when the Wallaroo Mines Endeavour party contributed a lengthy programme of songs, recitations, phonograph selections, and dramas each number being well received. The usual vote of thanks was moved by Mr T. H. Rodda, seconded by Mr Pearse, and responded to by Mr W. Thomas on behalf of the visitors. After which something less than half a ton of fruit was handed around among the audience, and when all had eaten to their utmost holding capacity they took up of the fragments that remained - several baskets full. The proceeds were highly satisfactory, and a living proof of practical thankfulness.” [Kadina & Wallaroo Times 30 Mar 1901]

Tanunda Uniting Church

“In time for an opening service yesterday afternoon, a Methodist church was brought from Nuriootpa to Tanunda, a distance of four miles, last week, and was set down on a specially prepared site. The church was formerly the Methodist church of Nuriootpa, which was replaced recently by a new building. It is the first Methodist Church at Tanunda. But Methodist services have been held in various places at Tanunda during the past 70 years. Great care was required in the transport of the building, which weighs four or five tons, and is made of wood and iron. The structure was lifted by levers, the flooring removed, an axle placed beneath the two side walls, and wheels attached to the axle. The contractor, Mr. J. B. Traeger, of Nuriootpa, supervised the work. Before the building, which apart from the flooring, and a very small section of the roof was intact, was moved from Nuriootpa, the front portion was lifted on to a motor lorry. Several times during the journey along the bitumen road between the two towns, the church went dangerously close to the guard rail on the side of the road. If it had struck the rail it would probably have been necessary to take it to pieces and rebuild it at Tanunda.” [Advertiser 7 Jun 1937]



Uniting History SA March 2019

Guest Editor: David Houston

David Unaipon - The Face on the Fifty Dollar Note ...

In the September issue of our Newsletter last year, I described the work of George Taplin, the Congregational teacher and missionary at Raukkan ‘The Ancient Way’ from 1859-1879. The mission was known by the Europeans as Point McLeay. I said at the end of that article that the life and work of David Unaipon illustrates the positive influence of Taplin on the Ngarrindjeri people among whom he worked. Here is a glimpse of the spirituality and creativity of this famous son of the Ngarrindjeri people.



His genial face greets us whenever we look at a \$50 note. The note carries the image of the Raukkan Church which is set in the centre of the township. It was an influential place in his Christian formation. Sketches of three of his inventions, noticeably a sheep-shearing hand-piece, are also remembered. His invention, the basis of modern mechanical sheep shears, was introduced without Unaipon receiving any financial return and, apart from a 1910 newspaper report acknowledging him as the inventor, he received no contemporary credit. (Jenkin, 1979, p.234)

Born on September 28th 1872 at the Point McLeay Mission, Unaipon was the fourth of nine children of James and Nymbulda Ngunaitponi, a member of the Portaulun (Waruwaldi) people within the Ngarrindjeri nation. David began his education at the age of seven at the Point McLeay Mission School and soon became known for his intelligence, with George Taplin, his teacher and mentor, stating in 1887: 'I only wish the majority of white boys were as bright, intelligent, well-instructed and well-mannered as the little fellow I am now taking charge of.' (Jenkin, 1979, p.185)

Unaipon left school at 13 to work as a servant for C.B.

Young in Adelaide where Young actively encouraged Unaipon's interest in literature, philosophy, science and music. In 1890, he returned to Point McLeay where he was apprenticed to a bootmaker. His music interest led to his being appointed as the mission organist.

In the late 1890s he travelled to Adelaide but found that his colour was a bar to employment in his trade and instead took a job as storeman for an Adelaide bootmaker before returning to work as bookkeeper in the Point McLeay store.

On 4 January 1902 he married Katherine Carter (née Sumner), a Tangane woman. Unaipon was later employed by the Aborigines' Friends' Association as a deputationer, in which role he travelled and preached widely in seeking support for the Point McLeay Mission and providing advocacy for his people. He retired from preaching in 1959 but continued working on his inventions into the 1960s. (Jenkin, 1979, p.234)

Unaipon was obsessed with correct English and in speaking tended to use classical English rather than that in common usage. His written language followed the style of John Milton and John

(continued page 2)

News from the History Centre

Volunteers continue to serve the church and the wider community by providing advice and assistance for those involved in researching church, local and family history.

The centre welcomes volunteers to help manage the large and growing collection of documents, memorabilia, books and records of churches and agencies.

The Centre at 44a East Avenue, Black Forest, is open on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

(Other contact details can be found on page 2.)

The UCA History Centre

Open Wednesdays 1 - 4pm

44A East Ave
Black Forest

Website:
historicalsociety.unitingchurch.org.au

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/UCAHistoricalSocietySA

CORRESPONDENCE:

E: manager@ucsahistory.org.au
Post: UCA Historical Society
44A East Ave, Black Forest, SA, 5035
Phone: 08 8297 8472

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Judith Raftery (President)
David Houston (Vice President)
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Judy Eland
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Bill Harris
Barbara Hayes
Don Hopgood

You can receive this newsletter via email. Send your email address to office@ucsahistory.org.au and we will send you our up-to-date news and other items of interest.

Membership of the Society

Individual—1 year	\$20
Individual—5 years	\$80
Individual—Life	\$250
Congregational—Life	\$250

Contact the Centre for more information.

(from page 1)

Bunyan. (Harris, 2004) He was the first Aboriginal author to be published after he was commissioned in the early 1920s by the University of Adelaide to assemble a book on Aboriginal legends. From 1924 onwards he also wrote numerous articles for the Sydney Daily Telegraph. He published three booklets of Aboriginal stories in 1927, 1928 and 1929.

He was an inquisitively religious person, believing in an equivalence of traditional Aboriginal and Christian Spirituality. His employment with the Aborigines’ Friends’ Association, collecting subscription money, allowed him to travel widely. The travel brought him into contact with many intelligent people sympathetic to the cause of Aboriginal rights, and gave him the opportunity to lecture on Aboriginal culture and rights. Although he was much in demand as a public speaker he was often refused accommodation and refreshment due to his race. (Gale, 1997 p. 41) In response to these refusals he is known to have said, "... in Christ Jesus colour and racial distinctions disappear..." and that this thought helped him at such times. (Hosking, 1995, pp 85-100).

Unaipon died in the Tailem Bend Hospital on 7 February 1967 and was buried in the Raukkan Cemetery among his own people. Much more could be gathered and said about this earnest and gifted Ngarrindjeri nation’s man. He was a leader among his people. He advocated strongly for their recognition by European society of their culture and integrity. His scientific inventions, his writing, preaching and speaking, has gained him lasting recognition. Indeed, the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education And Research at the University of South Australia is a memorial to his extraordinary achievements. (Houston, 2017, pp35-37)

David Houston

Sources:

Harris, John (2004). *"Unaipon, David (1872-1967)"*. Evangelical History Association of Australia. Archived from [the original](#) on 6 July 2011 – via webjournals.

Hosking, Susan (1995). *"David Unaipon-His Story"*. In Butterss, Philip. Southwords: Essays on South Australian Writing. pp. 85–100, Wakefield Press. Adelaide

Houston, David J., *By Word and by Deed* (pages 35-37) MediaCom Education Inc, Adelaide.

Jenkin,Graham (1979) *Conquest of the Ngarrindjeri*, Rigby, Adelaide.

Gale, Mary-Anne (1997). *Dhanum Djorra'wuy Dhawu: A history of writing in Aboriginal languages*. Aboriginal Research Institute, University of South Australia.

2:00pm The Annual General meeting of the Historical Society

2:30pm *Making our history accessible and the future clear—Maughan Church, Adelaide Central Mission and U City Uniting*. The presentation will conclude with a tour of the new building.

4:00pm Afternoon tea with our hosts, Rev. Peter McDonald and Rev. Dr Andrew Roberston

When: 2:00pm—4:30pm
Where: U City Building
43 Franklin Street, Adelaide

(Assemble on ground floor.)

August 8 2019—Aboriginal Missions: Neglect, Failure, Atonement and Legacy

In association with *The Seminary of the Third Age*, Rev. Dr William Emilsen, Associate Professor, Charles Sturt University will be bringing this presentation.

When: 7:00pm
Where: Effective Living Centre,
26 King William Road, Wayville

Cost: \$15
Bookings: 8271 0329

Sunday 25 August—Presbyterians and the Uniting Church

What is the significance of *Presbyterianism* as a form of ministry to the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches in Australia?

Join us as a panel of ministers and lay leaders from both traditions will reflect on its significance in the continuing life of their denominations.

Presbyterianism describes the Reformed Church’s understanding of church and ministry. It is a form of church governance which is administered locally by the minister and a group of elected elders, and regionally and nationally by representative courts of ministers and elders. It is foundational to both traditions.

The panel discussion will be followed by afternoon tea with our hosts, Rev. Dr Peter Trudinger and Rev. David Houston.

When: 2:30pm—4:30pm
Where: Scots Church Hall,
237 North Terrace, Adelaide

Sunday 27 October—Theological exploration in Adelaide: recalling the contribution of Methodist, Congregationalist and Presbyterian scholars

Join us as Dr David Hilliard OAM, Research Fellow in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Flinders University presents a paper on the history of the Adelaide Theological Circle. Over its eighty-year history (1924—2005), scholars from each of our antecedent denominations were members. Other papers on individual theologians will be presented by members of our Historical Society.

The presentations will be followed by afternoon tea with our hosts, Dr David Hilliard and Dr Don Hopgood

When: 2:30pm—4:30pm
Where: Uniting College for Leadership and Theology
312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park

2019 Events

This year's program is jam-packed with interesting events and includes some that are being held in conjunction with other groups and organisations.



Sunday 31 March—Open afternoon at the History Centre

Visit the History Centre between 1:00pm and 4:00pm ... and meet the staff and volunteers who look after it. View the wide collection and the stories that relate to it. Meet other people interested in the history of the Uniting Church, and our preceding denominations.

2:00pm Welcome and some general remarks—with refreshments (coffee and tea, etc.) available across the time of your visit.

If local congregations or members have an historic item (with its description) they would like to display, they are invited to contact Rosemary Hocking, our Historical Records Officer at manager@ucsahistory.org or 8297 8472.

When: 1:00pm—4:00pm

Where: Uniting Church SA History Centre, 44A East Avenue, Black Forest

Wednesday 15 May—Port Adelaide UnitingSA Centenary Celebrations

Celebrate 100 years of service to the Port Adelaide and wider SA community by the Port Adelaide Methodist Central Mission—now known as UnitingSA. It will be an all-day forum with the theme... *Together We Can: Building Stronger Communities*—reflecting on the way we learn from history and respond to the changes that occur in local and wider social contexts. The story and work of the Mission and UnitingSA will feature mainly in the morning sessions.

Further enquiries about the program contact the Rev. Dr Dean Eland (djeland@bigpond.com)

When: 9:30am—4:00pm

Where: Port Adelaide Uniting Church, 169 commercial Road, Port Adelaide

Monday 20—Friday 24 May—Beyond the Armistice: How did we respond?

After returning home, how did the soldiers, nurses, churches and communities remember the Great War and the sacrifices made by so many? This exhibition records the memorials erected by communities—churches and pipe organs, hospitals, halls, monuments, honour rolls, roads and suburbs.

This exhibition will be part of South Australia's History Month

When: 10:00am—3:00pm daily

Where: Scots Uniting Church,
237 North Terrace, Adelaide (corner of North Terrace and Pulteney Street)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S
**HISTORY
FESTIVAL**
27 APRIL - 31 MAY 2019

Friday 7—Monday 10 June—2nd National Biennial History Conference

Join us in Melbourne at the Centre for Theology and Ministry for our 2nd National Biennial History Conference. The theme this year will be *Finding a home in the Uniting Church*.

For more information, refer to the announcement and call for papers on page 2.

Sunday 23 June—Visiting Uniting Communities in U City Building Annual General Meeting

Meet with us as we visit this new community and ministry development of the Uniting Church.

History Centre Open House

Sunday 31 March

1:00pm—4:00pm

In our first event for 2019, come along to the History Centre Open House. You will be able to meet the staff and volunteers; explore our collections; meet with others interested in the history of the Uniting Church (and the denominations that came before)

Drop in anytime. Refreshments available through the afternoon

44A East Avenue, Black Forest

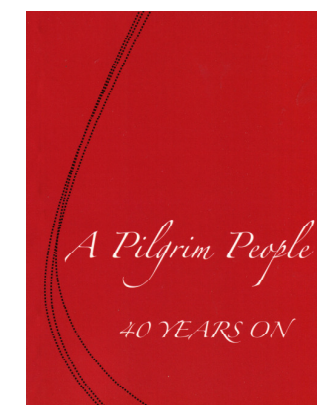


Free Publication for All Members

Have you collected your copy of *A Pilgrim People 40 years On* yet?

All members of the UCSAHS are entitled to a free copy of the proceedings of the inaugural Uniting Church National History conference held in Adelaide in June 2017.

If you don't have your copy yet, please collect it from the History Centre soon, or get in touch with us so we can make arrangements for you to get your copy.



Uniting Church National Historical Society

DATE SAVER AND CALL FOR PAPERS

2nd Biennial History Conference

FINDING A HOME IN THE UNITING CHURCH

At the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Melbourne

29 College Crescent, Parkville, Victoria 3052.

7-10 June 2019

What does it mean to belong to the Uniting Church? Many grew up Congregationalist, Methodist or Presbyterian. Others have grown up in the Uniting Church. Some have only ever known the Uniting Church as their spiritual home and others have transferred in from other denominations. What does it mean to find a home in a church that describes itself as Evangelical and Reformed and is at the same time committed to theological diversity? Papers are invited on this theme and on any other topic related to the history of the Uniting Church or its precedent churches.

Invited Speakers will include:

Dr Meredith Lake, Honorary Associate of the Department of History, Sydney University, and author of the 2018 Australian Christian Book of the Year, *The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History*.

Dr Joanna Cruickshank, Senior Lecturer in History at Deakin University, author of *Pain, Passion and Faith: Revisiting the Place of Charles Wesley in Early Methodism* and editor of *The Journal of Religious History*



For further information,
please contact
robert.renton@bigpond.com
0427 812 606



It happened in February...

Several events in the third week of February provided an opportunity for the UC SA Historical Society to meet with church and community agencies to celebrate the gifts and skills of historians and archivists and to hear from others providing support to those working on family history.

The aims of the UC SA Historical Society include sharing historical information and cooperating with other societies interested in South Australian History and the history of the Uniting Church and the bodies from which it was formed.

On Wednesday 20th the annual ecumenical thanksgiving service was held at Pilgrim Church Flinders St and the liturgy included a prayer asking for guidance for “staff and volunteers working in archives and records management that they may act honestly, seek the best for their communities, and promote the common good.” Hymns and music chosen for the service were chosen to reflect the theological expressions of our Catholic and Reformed traditions.

At the conclusion of the service I introduced the topic, Reading a Building. This subject was taken from a quote of Eileen Power in her 1924 book *Medieval People* suggesting “that history need not be written down; for it may...be something built up, and churches, houses, bridges or Amphitheatres tell their story as plainly as print for those who have eyes to read.”

Church buildings play their part in history as they embody a story for those who make a building their second home. Members meet week after week and become communities of memory. The DNA, character and identity of faith communities are made up from many experiences over time and across generations.

As public buildings, heritage-listed sites are artefacts or anchors of memory. They embody a story that cannot be understood without reference to the people who began the journey, worked to ensure its completion and held strong convictions about its purpose. In many ways many significant SA UC buildings symbolise those who were adventurous, took risks, committed and created a legacy we build on today.

The footprint or language of a building, its style,

visibility and street presence also contribute to place making. Place making today for local government and other community organisations is about providing an experience of generous hospitality, finding a welcome, openness to neighbours and sense of belonging. As meeting places churches are also associated with those who campaigned for justice, social reform and were motivated to work for a better world.

Many UC congregations are now celebrating 150 years and in the second half of the 19th century lay leaders and ministers were committed to building a strong sense of community. Church buildings became associated with those who worked to affirm equal rights for all, support for public education, legislation to ensure the safety of women and children and the suffrage movement that led to votes for women.

On Thursday 21st the Uniting Church was invited to make a contribution to an all-day seminar on resources for those working on family histories. This session was supported by family history librarians from the State Library of SA, Genealogy SA (Library and Research Centre at Unley Road) and Unlock the Past, Gould Genealogy.

Most denominations were present and spoke about the resources they have for those researching their family history. The seminar was held in the Hetzel lecture theatre and it was a great privilege to comment on the way the late Basil Hetzel, a former member of Pilgrim Church, made a significant contribution to church life in Australia as well as to medical science.

Each denominational speaker was asked to outline their origins and arrival in SA and provide information for those hoping to access church records. The afternoon session provided a lively forum as church archivists and historians outlined the way they provided historical information and access to archive material. Lutheran, Anglican, Baptist, Quaker and the Uniting Church representatives were able to assist those who asked questions and made comments.

A lunch time tour of the main floor of the State library demonstrated the priority this team now has for records researchers and those interested in SA history.



A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR ARCHIVES AND THOSE WHO WORK IN THEM



9.30 Wednesday 20 Feb 2019

Pilgrim Uniting Church
12 Flinders St Adelaide

For more information visit
<http://www.marymackillop.org.au>

Order of Service cover for the ecumenical service of celebration and thanksgiving

On Friday 22nd I met with a planning team at UnitingSA, formerly known as UnitingCare Port Adelaide and before church union, Port Adelaide Central Methodist Mission. 2019 is this agency's centenary year and in cooperation with the UC Historical Society a team is organising a one-day forum on the theme, Together We Can: Building Stronger Communities. Presentations on the day will include Community Identity and Changing Times and Learning from History by Reflecting on Experience. The afternoon programme includes eight special interest seminars and concludes with shared insights that are generated through collaboration and partnership.

The forum will be held on Wednesday 15th May with registrations at 9.30am and hosted by Port Adelaide Uniting Church 169 Commercial Rd. All interested in SA's history of social reform and contemporary community development policies and practices are invited. Detailed information will be available shortly.

Rev. Dr Dean Eland.

Calling all treasure hunters and puzzle enthusiasts...

Do you enjoy

- ◇ Treasure hunts;
- ◇ Solving mysteries and puzzles;
- ◇ Learning more about people, places and events?

If you answered yes to these, you might like to consider volunteering at the History Centre on Wednesday afternoons.

These are the sorts of tasks that our volunteers undertake each week.

We never know what treasures might be found as donations to our collection are unpacked, sorted and catalogued, and volunteers help other researchers with their queries.

Get in touch with us at the History Centre if you'd like to help.

Beyond the Armistice: How did we respond?

After returning home, how did the soldiers, nurses, churches and communities remember the Great War and the sacrifices made by so many? This exhibition records the memorials erected by communities—churches and pipe organs, hospitals, halls, monuments, honour rolls, roads and suburbs.

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