

GIVING
THE
PAST
A FUTURE
NOW!

HISTORY
TRUST
OF
SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

STRATEGIC
PLAN
2018 -2022





HTSA

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The History Trust of South Australia respects the primary place of Aboriginal people in the history of this place. We acknowledge that this story commenced long before Governor Hindmarsh proclaimed the new Province of South Australia on 28 December 1836. Aboriginal people have a history that extends millennia into the past. We acknowledge that Aboriginal lands and sovereignty were not recognised, and that building a shared understanding of history is critical to reconciliation. And we affirm our role in reconciliation as an essential part of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal South Australians co-creating a positive future.

State Library of South Australia,
PRG 1491/25/64



History Trust of South Australia,
HT 2017.1218



Migration Museum, Settlement Square

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. These become anchors for many of us now living in a more fragmented world.

Understanding and appreciating our connection with those who came before us and what they did is critical to 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)

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The Centre of Democracy

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. This means that they will continue to 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 of 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 and produce exhibitions and an annual History Festival. We promote programs that assist community museums and historical societies in every part of our State. We provide policy advice to the Minister of Education.

Good budget management is critical to the sustainability of our mission. We are mindful that the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly-changing world lead us to embrace digital platforms, diversify our sources of income, and focus on the most pressing and worthy areas for the benefit of all South Australia's citizens.



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 a digital by design approach.

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.

We celebrate diversity in all its many aspects.

H TSA

South Australian Maritime Museum,
the replica ketch, *Active II*



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 our 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 and extensive 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.



Opened in May 2017, The Centre of Democracy

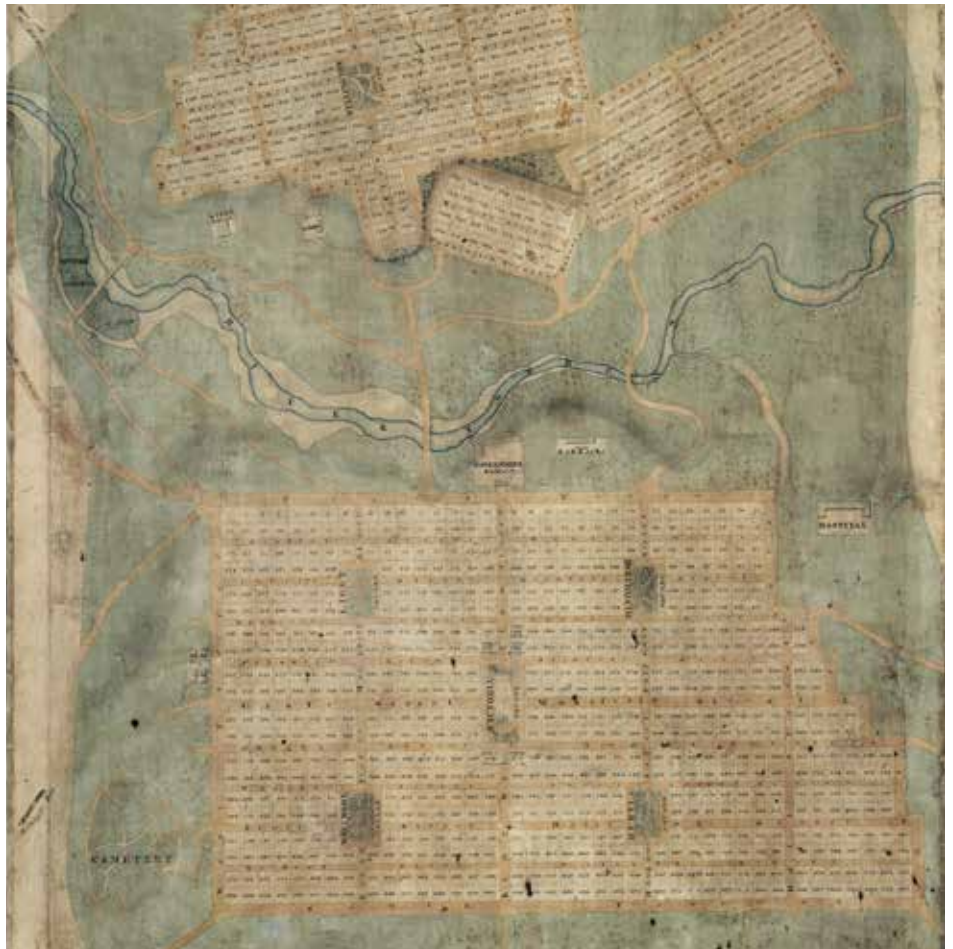
YOUR MUSEUMS

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 those established museums is The Centre of Democracy – an exciting collaboration with the State Library of South Australia. We also partner with other Australian museums to present exhibitions.

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Colonel Light's original plan for the city of Adelaide, History Trust of South Australia collection



YOUR COLLECTIONS - PROTECTING MEMORIES

As guardians of the State History Collection we care for approximately 42,000 objects that tell stories of our past.

We preserve Captain Cook's travelling chest and Colonel Light's original plan for the City of Adelaide. We keep safe Governor Gawler's duelling pistols and Mrs Catford's collection of 2000 costumes dating from the 1830s to the 1980s. We hold the 1908 Talbot – the first car to cross the Australian continent, and the Regent Garage that stood on Anzac Highway in 1928.

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



Dressing Up: one of the 'pop up' museum events of South Australia's History Festival

YOUR COMMUNITY HISTORY - TELLING LOCAL STORIES

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

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

H T S A



Glass negative aerial view of Port Noarlunga, January 1931, History Trust of South Australia collection

OBJECTIVES 2018-2022

1. Where have we come from and where are we going?

We inspire curiosity and interest about South Australia's diverse histories for locals and visitors alike.

2. History matters

We champion the contemporary value of history.

3. Understanding through knowledge

We undertake, promote, support and share research with broad and diverse audiences.

4. Keeping our past safe and accessible

We collect, develop, preserve and share the State History Collection.

5. Raising our profile in the community

We raise our profile by delivering public value to the audiences and communities we serve.



Picking grapes in the Adelaide foothills, January 1948

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Interned: Torrens Island 1914 - 1915
exhibition, Migration Museum



OBJECTIVE 1

1. Where have we come from and where are we going?

We inspire curiosity and interest about South Australia's diverse histories in locals and visitors alike.

STRATEGIES - Our job is to:

Employ a digital first approach to communicate South Australia's stories and provide engaging experiences for both our local and global audiences

Create compelling exhibitions that present new research, provide immersive and emotional experiences for our audiences, and showcase our collections

Build highly collaborative partnerships with South Australia's Aboriginal communities, culturally and socially diverse communities and regional communities

Bring the community into the museum and revitalise our museums to generate greater public value in our cultural institutions

Tell stories that provide a window into our history for every age group

Develop new, culturally diverse and cross-generational audiences in the community



South Australia's History Festival has become a major event on South Australia's calendar

OBJECTIVE 2

History matters

We champion the contemporary value of history.

STRATEGIES - Our job is to:

Provide leadership and build digital literacy and capacity through the South Australian history network and the broader community

Develop the profile and content of the History Festival to embed the event on South Australia's cultural calendar

Become a trusted and valued commentator in current debates about important and relevant topics

Expand the impact and reach of our programs, stories and knowledge to the benefit of our local and global audiences

Communicate South Australia's hidden and untold stories to reach new audiences



Three Weddings and a Cook event
Migration Museum and OzAsia Festival



OBJECTIVE 3

Understanding through knowledge

We undertake, promote, support and share research with broad and diverse audiences

STRATEGIES - Our job is to:

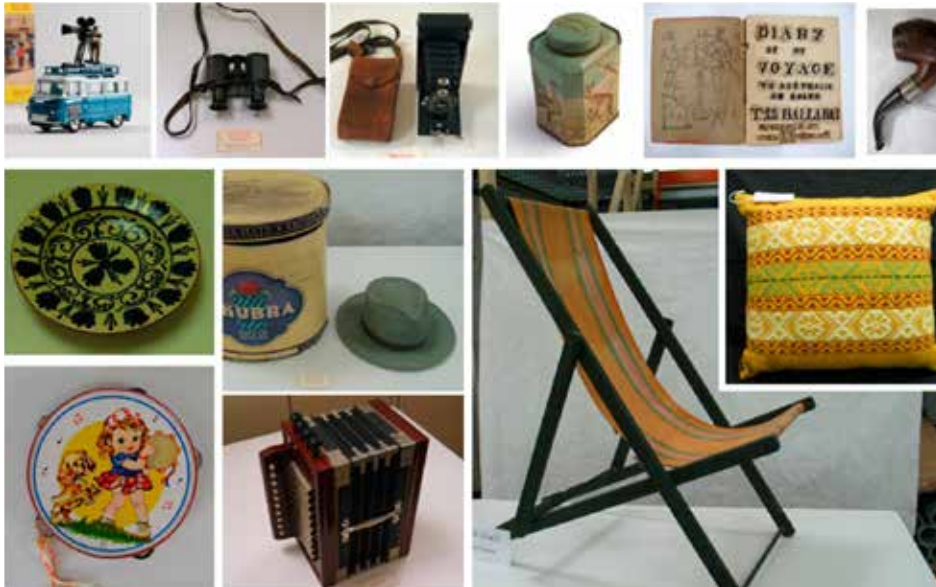
Employ a digital first approach to the undertaking and communication of research projects and outcomes to broaden audience engagement with South Australia's stories

Strengthen research partnerships with cultural institutions, universities and other research organisations in Australia and internationally

Support, share and promote academic and popular historical research that is diverse, independent and inclusive

Work with all of our communities to articulate the contemporary role and function of museums in society, including the South Australian History Network

Champion reconciliation and find new ways of engaging with South Australia's Aboriginal communities



History Trust of South Australia collection items

OBJECTIVE 4

Keeping our past safe and accessible

We collect, develop, preserve and share the State History Collection.

STRATEGIES - Our job is to:

Improve digital and physical access to all of our collections including the State History Collection

Work with our audiences to showcase our collections and their stories to the public in innovative ways, reaffirming the contemporary relevance of collections

Safeguard and improve the depth and standard of the State History Collection, ensuring that it reflects the diversity of South Australians, including: culture, location, gender, sexuality and disability

Ensure collections preservation through improved collections management and storage

Provide timely and professional advice to other government departments about the access, care and documentation of their collections of objects

Work with individuals, groups and communities to improve access, care and documentation of community, regional and privately held collections of historical importance

HISTORIA

On display at the National Motor Museum Tom Kruse's restored Leyland Badger truck: Tom delivered mail to isolated communities along the Birdsville Track



OBJECTIVE 5

Raising our profile in the community

We raise our profile by delivering public value to the audiences and communities we serve.

STRATEGIES - Our job is to:

Maximise public impact in all that we do, ensuring museums matter to our communities and that history is valued and celebrated in contemporary society

Leverage digital technology to transform our physical museum experiences, and apply a digital by design methodology in servicing the community history network and our audiences

Undertake research within the organisation and foster a culture of knowledge sharing throughout the sector

Work with our communities to demonstrate public value and a growing desire for an enhanced physical and digital footprint through which to present the State History Collection and our stories

Become the leading voice for best practice in museums, education and engagement within the broader history, collecting and museum sectors

Collaborate and partner with industry, government, and non-government including education, tourism, the arts and other collecting institutions

Enhance the Trust's financial sustainability



The Centre of Democracy

SO WHERE WILL WE BE IN FIVE YEARS TIME?

By 2022 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 know that our plan has succeeded because more South Australians will know who we are as "The History Trust of South Australia".

HTSA

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Elizabeth Ho OAM

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THE CENTRE
OF DEMOCRACY



Government
of South Australia