



GIVING  
THE  
PAST  
A FUTURE  
NOW!

HISTORY  
TRUST  
OF  
SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA

HIGHLIGHTS  
2017 - 2018



*Front cover image: Aunty Ellen Trevorrow and her family with the whale sculpture Kondoli that she created using traditional Ngarrindjeri weaving. (South Australian Maritime Museum).*

## *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. 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*

# *GIVING THE PAST A FUTURE NOW!*

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.

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

*Saving Nellie: Built in 1883, Nelcebee was assembled on Thomas Cruickshanks' slip in Port Adelaide's Inner Harbor. It worked as a tug until 1927 and has been through many changes in its 130 years. The History Trust of South Australia is building the next chapter in Nelcebee's life - to enable us to open the ship to our visitors.*



"History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity so that we can better face the future."

With those words of writer Robert Penn Warren in mind, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am proud to share the record of our past year with you.

That record shows that we are making history part of the lives of many people, of all ages, and in communities statewide.

Our statistics confirm that our mission to "give the past a future now" is paying dividends. From expressing pride in past achievements to exposing difficult truths, to participating in festivals and ceremonies, to taking personal journeys through time, to learning through our museum exhibitions, there is something for all South Australians to pursue and the interest is growing. Across our four excellent museums, a magnetic state History Festival, diverse community history and local museum programs, steady digital and collection investment, and the huge Bay to Birdwood event and more, we are building that interest. We can see that our South Australian "shareholders" are taking up the many benefits available to them.

This community effort not only helps to join up the dots that represent our shared, fascinating and diverse history, it also spurs us on to create more content and better access to our collections, objects and stories.

The incredible impact of digitisation is explained in this snapshot, as is growing web access to information and collections. Although a small organisation, our staff are endeavouring to maintain a leading-edge approach to history and technology. They are being ably supported by volunteers, with 880 volunteer hours donated annually to digital projects alone.

It is a fact that our volunteer headcount outnumbers staff 3 to 1 and that together staff and volunteers ensure that we can meet our charter. Similarly, without external income, it would be difficult to deliver quality, and we are indebted to our volunteers, our fundraising committees, and our many supporters and sponsors for their vote of confidence in us.

I express gratitude to all staff for a year well spent in the service of South Australians, to the Government of South Australia for its support, and to CEO Greg Mackie OAM for his fine leadership of this Trust.

*Elizabeth Ho OAM  
Chair of Trustees*



*Migration Museum  
Barangar Ngangamay  
Installation  
Photo Saul Steed*



The History Trust of South Australia made important strides during 2017-18. As an organisation we carefully managed the State History Collection and worked to promote the programs of our three main museums covering motoring, maritime and migration stories. This was the first full year of operations for our new Centre of Democracy, an ongoing exhibition developed in collaboration with the State Library of South Australia, and located in the historic Institute Building on North Terrace - the birthplace of what has become the state's major collecting institutions.

With core funding support from the Government of South Australia through Arts South Australia, and the generosity of donors and volunteers, it continues to be a privilege to lead our dedicated team of fine museum and history professionals. In 2017-18, under the the wise stewardship of a Board of Trustees, ably led by our Chair Elizabeth Ho OAM, we have seen increased visitation and growing earned income - through our Migration Museum, National Motor Museum at Birdwood and South Australian Maritime Museum at Port Adelaide. In May of 2018, South Australia's History Festival reached more people than ever and provided a record number of events featuring our state's unique stories and past experiences. I commend to you this snapshot of the History Trust's achievements - and I invite your interest in our important mission.

*Greg Mackie OAM  
Chief Executive Officer*

# OBJECTIVES 2018-2022

## 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.

## History matters

We champion the contemporary value of history.

## Understanding through knowledge

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

## Keeping our past safe and accessible

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

## Raising our profile in the community

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

# 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.



*...history is a complex tapestry woven of many stories, some incomplete.*

*Temporary exhibition  
Sym Choon: Changing  
Fortunes in White Australia  
at the Migration Museum.*



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

# MUSEUMS

We manage three museums: the Migration Museum, the National Motor Museum and the South Australian Maritime Museum. Complementing these long-established museums is The Centre of Democracy – an exciting collaboration with the State Library of South Australia officially opened in May 2017. We also partner with other Australian museums to present exhibitions nationwide.

*Left: Images from The Centre of Democracy*

# 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, public and private collectors, and heritage. We partner to present great community events such as the Bay to Birdwood run and other events, festivals and celebrations on South Australia's cultural calendar.



*Left: Entrants in the Bay to Birdwood event.*

*Below: Dive in and Dig event at the South Australian Maritime Museum.*

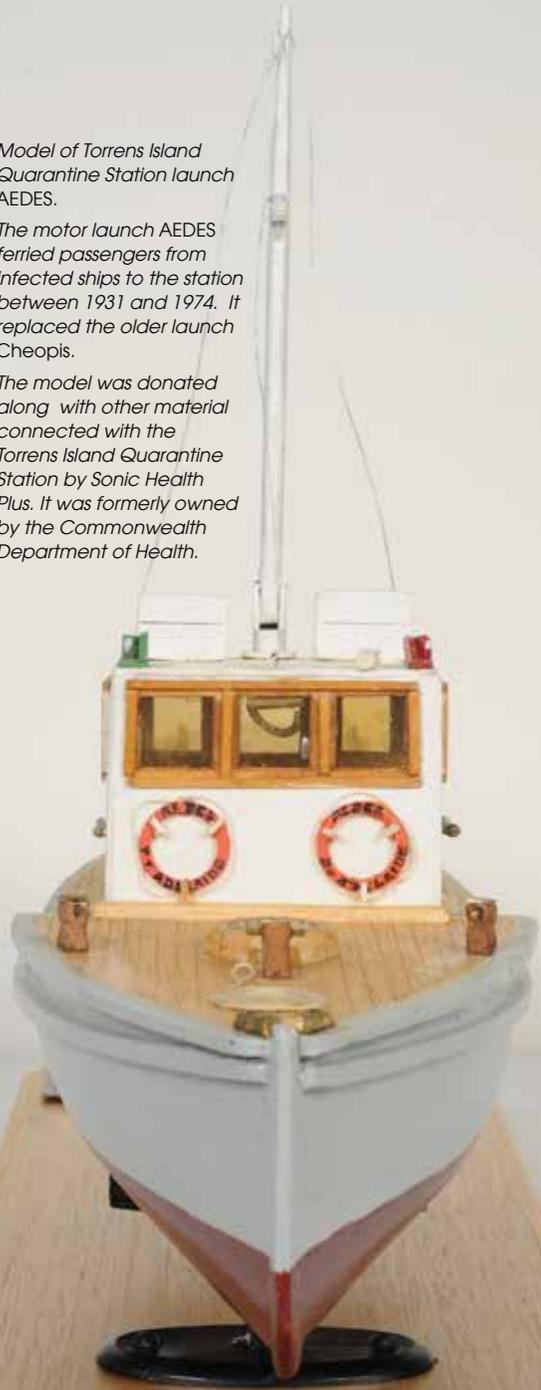
*Right: Uncle Mick O'Brien welcomes guests to country.*



*Model of Torrens Island Quarantine Station launch AEDES.*

*The motor launch AEDES ferried passengers from infected ships to the station between 1931 and 1974. It replaced the older launch Cheopis.*

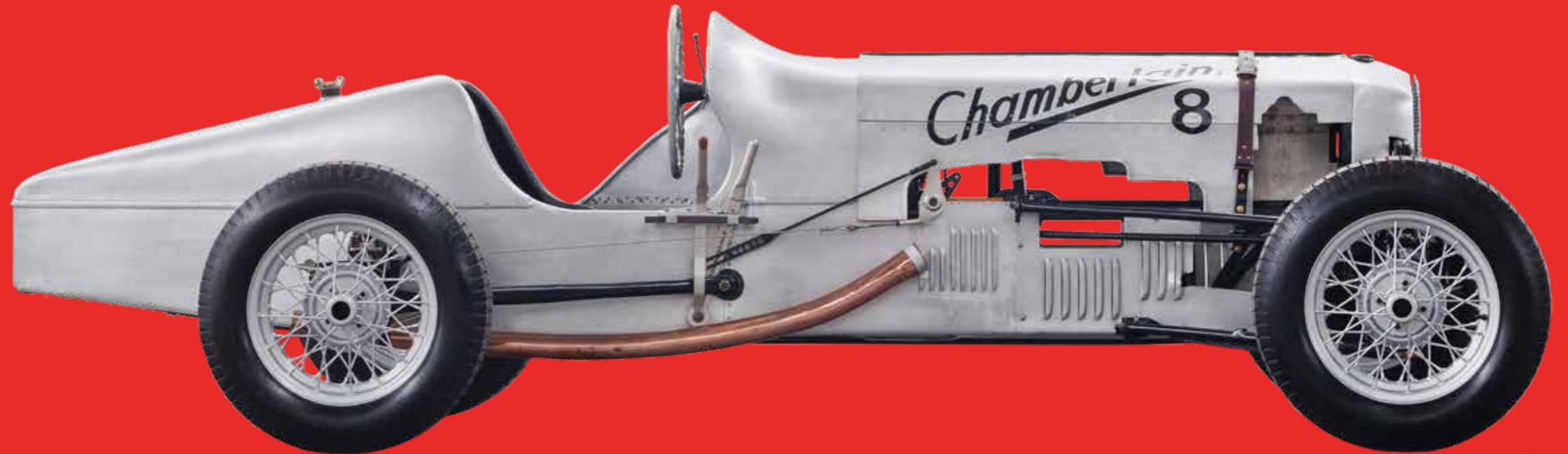
*The model was donated along with other material connected with the Torrens Island Quarantine Station by Sonic Health Plus. It was formerly owned by the Commonwealth Department of Health.*



*Gold Slippers: Maria Koinias (nee Karipi) was born on the Greek Island of Kastellorizo. When she packed her trunk to migrate to Adelaide in 1923, she included these gold slippers. Probably originally part of her wedding outfit, she continued to wear them for special events and celebrations. HT2018.94*



*Below: Chamberlain 8, a celebrated Grand Prix car built by the Chamberlain brothers in Melbourne in 1928. It is the only known early 'Australian Special' race car known to be entirely built and designed in Australia (not using imported parts) and is a beautiful example of innovative engineering. This acquisition was made possible through grants from the National Cultural Heritage Account, and the Government of South Australia, and generous contributions from National Motor Museum patrons and friends. HT2017.0309*



# COLLECTIONS

## **KEEPING THE PAST**

As custodians of the State History Collection, we care for over 48,000 objects that tell stories of our past, from dresses to dinghies and cars to cartoons. Here we introduce you to some of the treasures acquired in the past year.

# 2017/2018

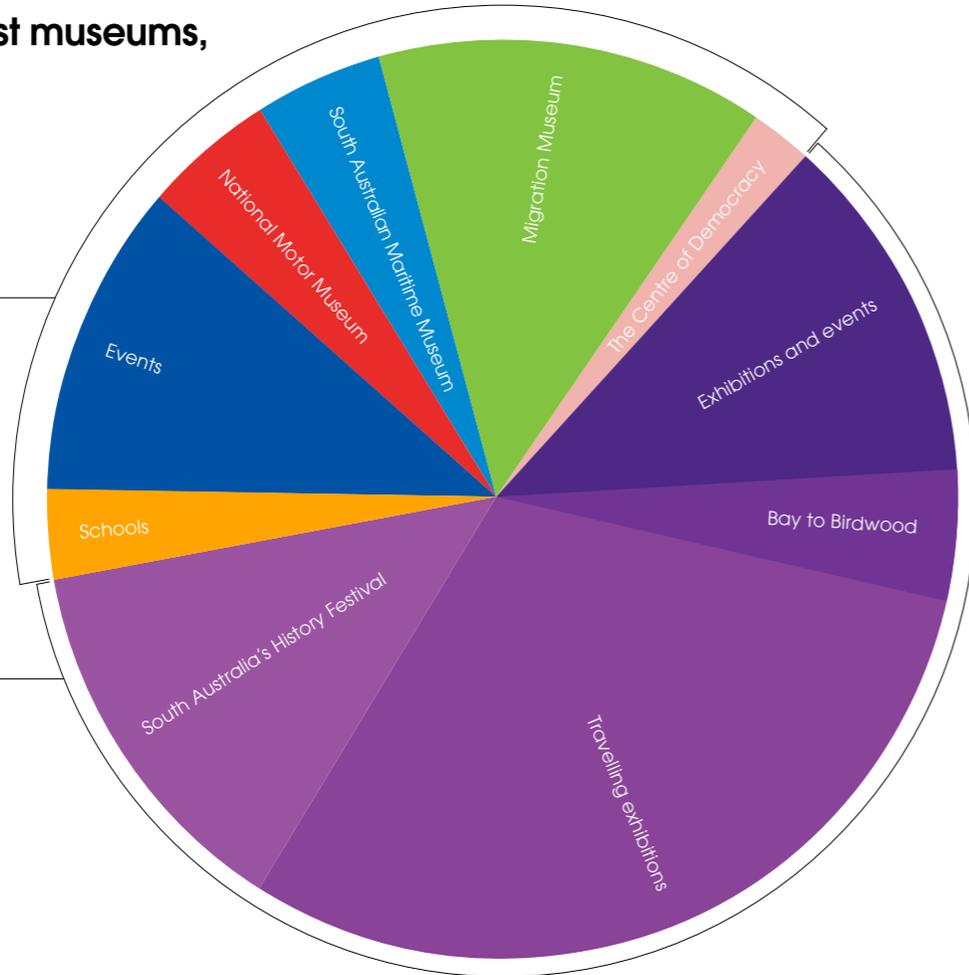
**Total visits to History Trust museums, exhibitions and events**  
**945,488**

**Museum attendances**  
**341,435**  
7% increase

229 events attendances  
**122,650**  
School attendances  
**39,999**

**Total offsite attendances**  
**604,053**

Travelling exhibition attendances  
**307,161**  
South Australia's History Festival  
**139,000**  
Bay to Birdwood  
**65,000**



## Total Revenue

**\$ 2,300,000** 8% increase from 2016/2017 (non Government)  
Includes \$1,071,000 admissions - 21% increase from 2016/2017

**\$ 6,529,000** (Government)

## Collection Management

Total items in the State History Collection  
**48,057**  
Acquisitions made  
**1,106**  
Core collection digitised 28%



## Online Engagement

Website hits  
**1,921,512** 10% increase  
Website visits  
**571,325** 7% increase  
Facebook audience  
**37,893** 32% increase  
Twitter followers  
**23,514** 3% increase  
Instagram followers  
**7,037** 22% increase  
App downloads  
**18,943** 112% increase

## Volunteers

169 volunteers contributed  
**14,766** hours

# MIGRATION MUSEUM

The Migration Museum tells the stories of South Australians and celebrates cultural diversity. It is a place to discover the many identities of the people of South Australia through the stories of individuals and communities.

## 2017/18 Achievements

One of the highlights of this year was the development of the successful temporary exhibition *Sym Choon: Changing Fortunes in White Australia*. Another was the presentation of the exhibition *My Paintings Speak for Me: Kunyi June Anne McInerney in the Oodnadatta (Duntjiba) Children's Home*.

The Museum co-presented key community events including a ceremony to receive an embroidered banner commissioned by the Overseas Chinese Association for the collection; *Our Shared Table* exhibition launch and Harmony Day event (with Ethnic Link Services, Uniting SA); and *Showcasing Palestinian Culture* (with *Glimmer of Hope*). The Museum was also the venue for the Adelaide Thai community's observation of the final stage of the funeral rites for King Rama IX.

The Forum Community Gallery presented three exhibitions: *Planting Dreams in a New Land: Voices of Syrian youth*; *1976 - the Italian Festival is born*; and *Croatians in South Australia: community and identity since 1945*.

Another highlight was the Museum's participation in many of the festivals that mark the state's cultural calendar. The exhibition *Macau Days*, presented in partnership with the University of Adelaide's JM Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice, was part of the OzAsia program.

Amanda Jane Reynolds' *Barangaroo Ngangamay* exhibition was presented as part of the Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art. *Gals Revisited*, a photographic exhibition by Jenny Scott, was presented as part of Feast. The Museum also provided a venue for the *On The Terrace* chamber music event and evening projections as part of Zest Fest. 2018 saw the Museum present a record number of events as part of South Australia's History Festival, from tours in community languages to special events themed around our exhibitions.

The Museum continued its staged program of renewal, opening the redeveloped permanent gallery *Superdiversity: migration in the twenty-first century* in November 2017. The gallery was highly commended in the Museums and Galleries National Awards.

Annual visitation: 185,447

Offsite attendances: 508



MIGRATION MUSEUM

The new Twenty-first Century gallery at the Migration Museum.

# NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM

The National Motor Museum tells the stories of the rides of our lives. It revels in the tales of the people who shaped Australia's history through motoring and the vehicles they built, rode, lived, and explored in. From the stately to the absurd, from the hand-built to the mass-produced, the vehicles people have loved and loathed, thrashed and pampered in the pursuit of motoring dreams are presented in all their fascinating glory.

## 2017/18 Achievements

In June 2017, the National Motor Museum began its tour of Central Australia with its award-winning *Bush Mechanics* exhibition. Created in partnership with Pintubi Anmatjere Warlpiri (PAW Media), the exhibition toured to the home town of the *Bush Mechanics* TV series, the Central Desert community of Yuendumu, then on to Tenant Creek, Darwin and Alice Springs, before returning to Adelaide as part of Tarnanthi at the Art Gallery of South Australia. In 2018 the exhibition was presented at the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at the Melbourne Museum and will continue to tour Australia throughout 2019. The accompanying book of the exhibition was published at the end of 2017 and the exhibition was awarded a major national award for best temporary or travelling exhibition at the 2018 Museums and Galleries National Awards.

In September 2017, the Museum launched a major exhibition that changed the look of the museum itself when the *(Re)Assembled: Australia's Automotive Manufacturing Journey* was opened. With significant

contributions from GM Holden and the South Australian Government, the exhibition features six production-line vehicles suspended from the ceiling of the museum, as well a display of iconic vehicles from Australia's manufacturing heritage beneath the hanging vehicles.

In November 2017, the Museum opened the *Alice Anderson's Motor Service* exhibition, which looks at the significant and little-known figure of Alice Anderson – Australia's first female garage proprietor – and explores the experience of being a woman in the motor industry in the early twentieth century.

In February 2018, the Museum took in on loan one of the world's most expensive and fastest cars, a 2008 Bugatti Veyron EB 16.4. This rare car is one of only three known to be in Australia and is the only one on public display in Australia.

One of the world's great historic motoring events, the annual *Bay to Birdwood*, was held in September 2017 with a focus on classic vehicles. The event attracted over 1,750 vehicle entries from citizen-collectors and enthusiasts as well as an estimated 60,000 spectators along the route. The other major cultural event held at the Museum was the *Rock & Roll Rendezvous*. Held in April, this event continues to attract enthusiastic crowds celebrating all things 50s, 60s and 70s.

Annual visitation: 68,500

Offsite attendances: 241,553

Bay to Birdwood attendance: 65,000



NATIONAL  
MOTOR  
MUSEUM

*(Re)Assembled: Australia's Automotive Manufacturing Journey* exhibition at the National Motor Museum

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MARITIME MUSEUM

The South Australian Maritime Museum explores and celebrates the human history of our oceans, coasts and rivers.

The museum incorporates the historic Lipson Street Bond Stores with three floors of exhibitions, the Port Adelaide Lighthouse, the timber launch Archie Badenoch and much-loved steam tug Yelta.

## 2017/18 Achievements

*Leviathan: An Astonishing History of Whales* was the centrepiece of our changing exhibitions program. *Leviathan* traced the history of whaling as South Australia's first export industry and explored the place of whales in the cultures of Asia and the Pacific. The Museum was delighted to host the exhibition *Women of the River Country* having previously supported the Mannum Dock Museum in developing it.

More than 75,000 people visited *The Art of Science: Baudin's Voyagers 1800-1804* (produced by the SA Maritime Museum) when it toured to the National Museum of Australia in Canberra and the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

The South Australian Maritime Museum was instrumental in bringing together a partnership of six organisations that found South Australia's oldest and most significant

shipwreck. The barque *South Australian* was lost at Rosetta Harbor in December 1837 when it was driven onto a reef during a gale. It had been purchased by the South Australian Company the previous year and arrived in the newly-formed province in April 1837 carrying British and German emigrants and equipped for whaling.

The wreck was found by a consortium including the Department for Environment and Water, SilentWorld Foundation, Australian National Maritime Museum, Flinders University, and MaP Fund. The *South Australian* is an unusually rich archaeological site and the consortium plans to study it further as part of a five-year research program.

The Museum's digital enquiry programs on exploration and immigration led the education calendar and a third program on the history of whaling was developed, demonstrating the power of new technology to engage younger audiences. The cruises on the Port River, tours of the historic Torrens Island Quarantine Station and the Museum's walking app took visitors beyond our walls to embrace Port Adelaide's wider history.

Annual visitation: 134,943

Offsite attendances: 77,670



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MARITIME MUSEUM

Figureheads at the South Australian Maritime Museum.

# THE CENTRE OF DEMOCRACY

The Centre of Democracy operates a gallery in the Institute Building on North Terrace and runs a variety of programs designed to encourage people to explore and participate in our democracy.

## 2017/18 Achievements

2017/2018 was the Centre's first full year of operation. The Centre of Democracy is a joint initiative of the History Trust of South Australia with the State Library of South Australia.

With only a small team, and operating across two organisations, The Centre of Democracy adopted a partnership approach to programming and audience development. The Centre of Democracy participated in Open State in October 2017, collaborating with Northern Sound System from Elizabeth, and in the Adelaide Fringe. The team also worked on a project called *Democracy in Action*, led by the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, designed to engage teenagers in the election process. A lecture program, *Think Global*, was presented in collaboration with South Australia's three universities, and an occasional talk series, *I am an activist* launched during the History Festival.

School visitors are a very important audience segment, and throughout the year more than 400 teachers participated in professional development activities, which has translated into strong bookings. The education team has developed programs in different formats to respond to school needs, including digital programs and onsite learning.

The Centre of Democracy was honoured to be awarded a Museums Australasia Multimedia & Publication Design Award for exhibition branding, and acknowledge the significant contribution of designers Arketype.

Annual visitation: 23,046

Offsite attendances: 1,549



Badges exhibition  
at The Centre of  
Democracy



THE CENTRE  
OF DEMOCRACY

South Australia's History Festival is one of South Australia's largest community events. Delivered annually by the Community Programs team, the Festival provides an opportunity for South Australians and visitors alike to explore the stories of people, places and events that have shaped us. The success of the Festival is due to the hard work and enthusiasm of event organisers around the state, including thousands of volunteers, who share our passion for the past.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S  
**HISTORY  
FESTIVAL**

1-31 MAY

# *SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY FESTIVAL*

## **2017/18 Achievements**

Launched by Lord Mayor, the Hon Martin Haese, with special guest the Hon Steven Marshall, Premier of South Australia, 2018 marked 15 years since the first History Festival began as SA History Week in 2004.

The History Festival continued to grow in 2018, with more event organisers than ever before presenting a record number of events: 666 events presented by 374 organisers around the state.

A new partnership with ECH complemented the existing sponsorship agreements with City of Adelaide and SA Power Networks. The media partnership with Advertiser Newspapers Limited continued, which saw 230,000 copies of the program distributed in April. The regional launch for the Festival took place in Yankalilla in partnership with the District Council of Yankalilla.

Additional media partnerships with Weekend Plus and ABC Radio Adelaide ensured the Festival received excellent coverage.

The History Festival team has been working to create a more inclusive and accessible Festival, and in 2018 the program included a strong multicultural program (thanks to a partnership with the Multicultural Communities Council of SA), a series of talks focussing on LGBTIQ+ histories, and a range of events exploring aspects of Aboriginal history. The Companion Card was promoted to event organisers, and a workshop exploring the creation of accessible events was held.

Total attendance: 139,000

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY NETWORK

Through the History Trust of South Australia's Community Programs team, we promote South Australia's history through public events, grants and support to local museums and historical societies.

In addition to the flagship History Festival, the History Trust's annual programs are designed to support the network of historians, museums, collections, historical societies, and others doing history. The Trust offers a series of events and workshops and provides online resources and services to assist and enable a wide range of activities.

## 2017/18 Achievements

The 2017 State History conference, *Hearts and Minds: Revaluing the Past*, was held in October at Immanuel College and attracted more than 180 participants. The keynote speaker was Dr Stuart Candy, a futurist, originally from Adelaide, now at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

Assistance was provided to more than 250 different community museums, collections, historical societies and others, through programs, workshops, enquiries, site visits, and grants.

In 2017/2018, the Trust's two grants programs distributed \$200,000 for research, projects, training, and programs to support the South Australian History network. This included the milestone of the 1,000th Community Museums Program grant, which was awarded to the Embroiderers' Guild Museum, to locate and document South Australia's wartime signature cloths, and to tell the stories behind them.

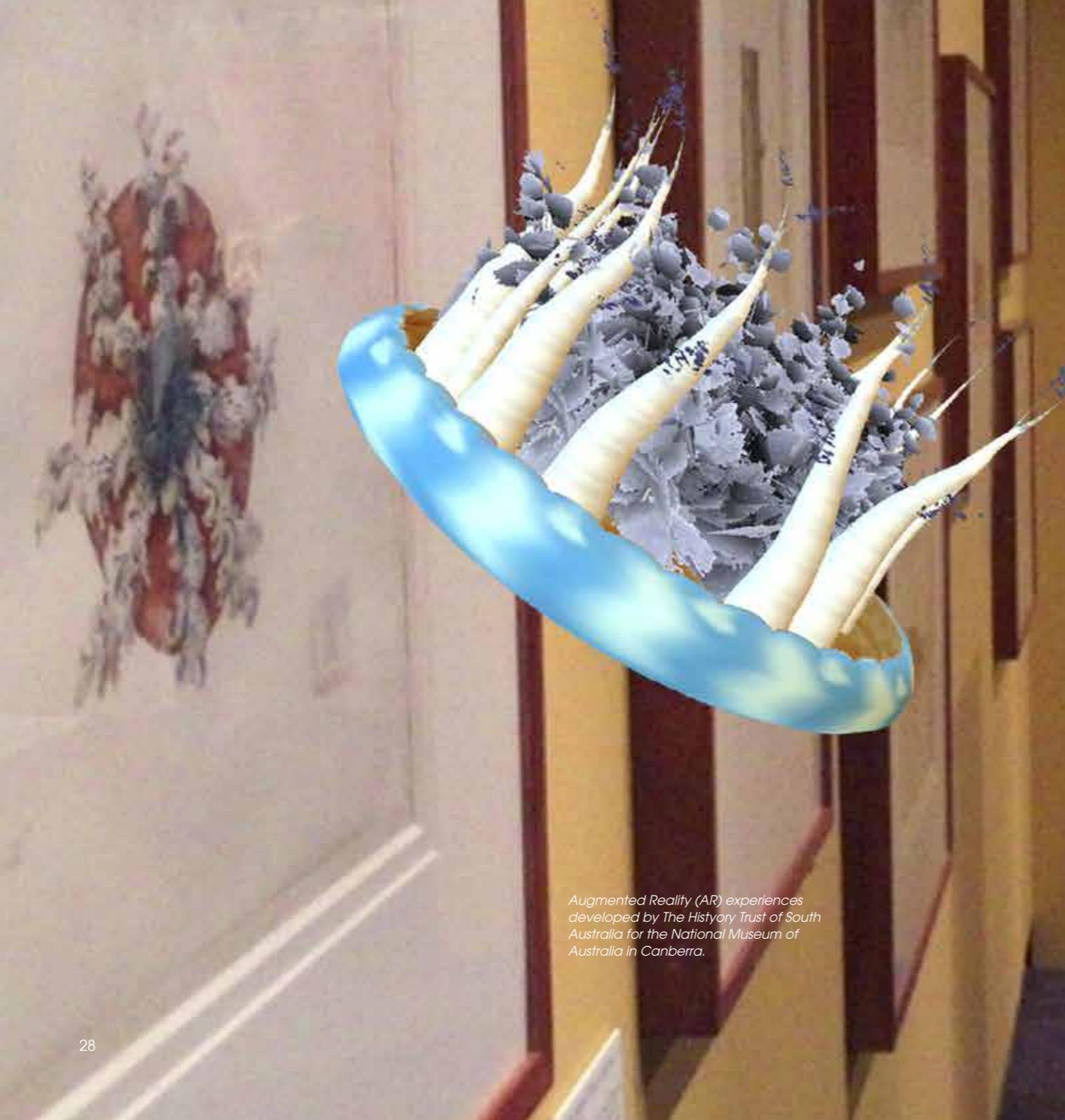
The *Talking History* lecture series continued to grow, with full attendance at many of the monthly presentations, and thanks to the generosity of sponsor O'Leary Walker Wines, the talks have always been convivial gatherings.

The Trust's nine travelling exhibitions were presented in 37 venues, with more than 48,000 visitors exploring different aspects of our past.



Main image: 2018 History Festival  
Adelaide Gaol Open Day  
[instagram.com/\\_honeyandbramble\\_](https://www.instagram.com/_honeyandbramble_)

Above: Harmony Day in the City



# DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

The History Trust of South Australia's Digital Engagement team supports the organisation's multifaceted approach to storytelling and leverages technology to enhance the visitor experience. The team develops leading-edge digital products to engage new audiences with the history of South Australia and its rich photographic and object collections.

## 2017/18 Achievements

The History Trust of South Australia developed three new Augmented Reality (AR) experiences for the South Australian Maritime Museum and the National Motor Museum. These apps resulted in deeper visitor engagement with our cultural history, audience development and growth in the Chinese tourism market, and facilitated a national partnership with the National Museum of Australia. While two of the AR experiences were enjoyed on museum provided in-gallery devices, one was delivered as a downloadable, bring your own device, experience. The *Art of Science* AR app for Android and Apple devices was downloaded 3,131 times. The AR experience attracted a high proportion of Chinese tourists with 91% of downloads being from this new demographic alone. The app experience attracted national attention and the History Trust of South Australia was engaged by the National Museum of Australia to develop a separate, customised instance of the app for Canberra.

This separate instance attracted a further 474 downloads and engagements with the digital exhibition experience of the *Art of Science* exhibition in Canberra.

The Digital Engagement team managed over 880 volunteer hours digitising collections and photographs and making South Australia's history more accessible online. This resulted in a further 420 collection objects digitised to industry standards.

The History Trust of South Australia continues to transform its services to the public, including through the facilitation of online payments and event transactions. A series of donation campaigns, online event ticket sales and event registrations have grown online revenue by 48% on 2016/17.

App downloads saw a 111% increase on 2016/17. (18,943 vs 8,943 in 2016/17).

Website visitation saw a 7% increase on 2016/17. (571,325 vs 533,042 in 2016/17).

Website page visits saw a 10% increase on 2016/17. (192,1512 vs 1,750,522 in 2016/17).

*Augmented Reality (AR) experiences developed by The History Trust of South Australia for the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.*

## Our Trustees

As a statutory authority, the History Trust of South Australia reports to Parliament and our Board of Trustees are accountable through the Minister for the Arts.

### Trustees

**Ms Elizabeth Ho OAM - Chair**  
**Dr Eva Balan-Vnuk**  
**Mr Joost Den Hartog**  
**Mr Peter Goers OAM**  
**Mr Michael Lennon**  
**Prof Peter Monteath**  
**Ms June Roache**  
**Ms Carmel Zollo**

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## Senior Management

**Greg Mackie OAM - Chief Executive Officer**  
**Allison Russell - Director, History Festival, Centre of Democracy and Community Programs**  
**Kevin Jones - Director, South Australian Maritime Museum**  
**Mandy Paul - Director, Migration Museum, Research and State History Collection**  
**Paul Rees - Director, National Motor Museum**  
**Dr Kristy Kokegei - Manager, Digital Engagement**  
**Kristy Rebbeck - Manager, Marketing, Communications & Partnerships**  
**Donna Tims - Business Manager**  
**Rebecca Rudzinski - Business Manager**

The History Trust has a valued team of volunteers, each with a strong interest and enthusiasm for history, who assist across the organisation. Our volunteers are invaluable to our mission, assisting to preserve, document, and interpret the evidence of South Australia's history.





Government  
of South Australia