



GIVING
THE
PAST
A FUTURE
NOW!

HISTORY
TRUST
OF
SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

HIGHLIGHTS
2016 - 2017

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 the public presentation of South Australian history.



From left to right: Active II at the South Australian Maritime Museum, video games at the National Motor Museum, In This Place - a history of the Migration Museum site exhibition, Changing Places: migration now at the Migration Museum, South Australian Maritime Museum, Sunburnt Country at the National Motor Museum.

Right, main image: Point McLeay Mission Choir, from South Australia's Community History project - Telling our stories. Photograph courtesy SLSA Prg1258/2/2000



**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.

Message from the Chair



Elizabeth Ho OAM

As a long time promoter of our unique history, it is a privilege to be chairing the History Trust of South Australia, and with other dedicated Trustees, to be advancing our cultural and educational contribution to this great State. I welcome your interest in our mission and our work and encourage you to learn how we are giving the past a future... now!

Here is a quick snapshot of our statewide connections with the SA community for the 2016/17 year. 650,000 visitors and 38,000 school students came to our Museums and events.

1,807,000 connections online.

155,000 people visited our touring exhibitions across regional South Australia and around the nation.

132,803 people engaged with our SA History Festival and we registered 615 events.

174 people volunteered with the organisation, giving an estimated 13,013 contributed person hours

The 41,472nd item was added to the SA History Collection, a treasure trove of SA life.

Our Community Museums Program assisted organisations across metropolitan and regional South Australia.

The South Australian History Fund supported aspirational research and publication for worthy SA projects, extending what we know about our heritage and people.

Opening The Centre of Democracy in partnership with the State Library of South Australia was a significant highlight. This innovative new gallery at the Institute Building on North Terrace tells the story of South Australia's standout leadership in the development of democracy. We invite visitors to understand this special story, interact with our displays, and even cast votes!

I would like to thank those Trustees who retired during 2016-17, and especially acknowledge the contribution made by my predecessor as Chair Person, Sue Crafter. Thanks also to all who have partnered with us and continue to provide valuable support - our sponsors, media, government and community organisations. My appreciation also extends to our staff and over 174 volunteers who make all the difference to what we can plan and do.

Of course, our viability is dependent on the support of the Minister for the Arts through Arts South Australia. We strive to consistently demonstrate our value to the wellbeing of all South Australians on behalf of the Government of South Australia. Our achievements derive from the hard work of our dedicated teams and I thank them for their commitment and creativity.

I invite you to explore this snapshot of our successes over the 2016/17 financial year and to engage with the History Trust of South Australia in the coming years.

Elizabeth Ho OAM



Message from the CEO

In May 2016 I commenced as CEO, and 2016-17 was therefore my first full year in the role. Having observed and supported the History Trust of South Australia from other vantage points over the preceding 13 years I continue to be inspired by the diversity of missions and am privileged to now lead this small, energetic and robust organisation.

I am delighted to share this snapshot of 2016-17 year's achievements. We are working to a plan - and we need your help and encouragement to ensure that the whole continues to be greater than the sum of its parts. With a range of programs and collecting missions, museums, learning initiatives, active social media, and brands, we have something to offer - and plenty to share! Together we are strengthening community trust in 'The Trust'. Please feel free to contact me on 0402 890 598 or gmackie@history.sa.gov.au.



Greg Mackie OAM

Photographer: Alex Frayne

Left: The Centre of Democracy

Objectives

Where have we come from and where are we going?

We inspire curiosity and interest about South Australia's diverse histories and our place in the world for locals and visitors alike.

History matters

We champion the contemporary value of history in the community.

Understanding through knowledge

We develop, promote and share research that deepens the community's appreciation of history.

Keeping the past safe and accessible

We collect, develop, preserve and share the State History Collection and make our history accessible through our museums and exhibitions.

Raising our profile in the community

We build a sustainable, relevant and effective contemporary organisation bringing our collections, museums and expertise to the attention of our communities in creative ways.

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

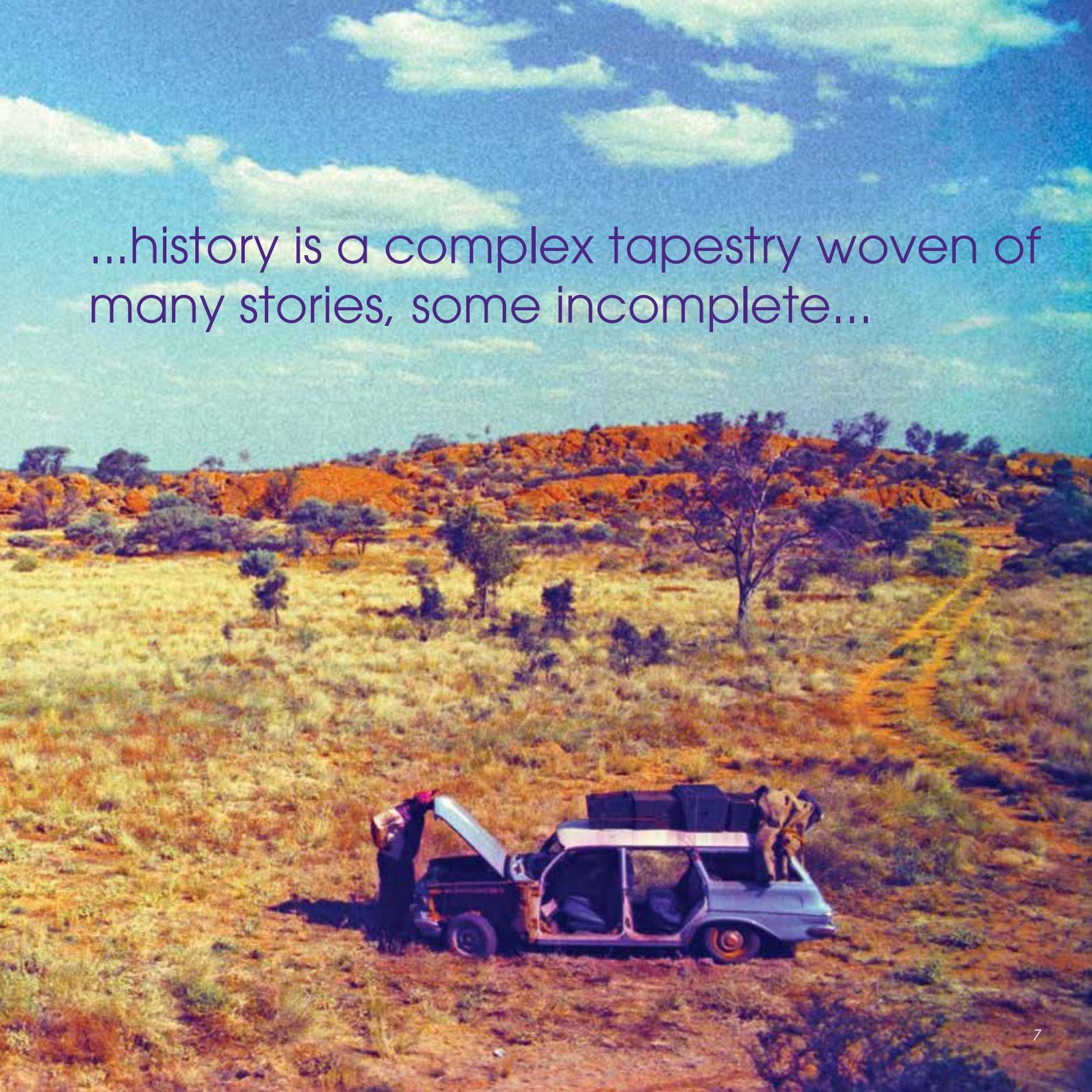
We respect the dignity of every person, alive or deceased. We treat colleagues and the public with respect, demonstrating this through the highest standards of service, professionalism, honesty and integrity.

We connect with people in all locations and use digital communication tools to optimise impact and to reach a broad audience.

We celebrate diversity in all its many aspects.

Right: Photograph from the National Motor Museum's Bush Mechanics exhibition. National Film and Sound Archive collection

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



MUSEUMS

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

We manage three established museums: the Migration Museum, the National Motor Museum and the South Australian Maritime Museum. Complementing those long-established museums is the new 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.

Below: The Centre of Democracy



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, public and private collectors, 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.



Above: The Embroiderers' Guild of South Australia.

Above right: Entrants in the Bay to Birdwood event.

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



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

Protecting memories

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



Above: A pair of travelling pistols belonging to Governor Gawler.
State History collection.

Main Image: Colonel Light's design for the city of Adelaide, drawn by Robert Thomas in 1837.
State History collection.



We preserve and interpret objects as diverse as 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.



Far left: One of many items of costume in the Migration Museum collection.

Left: Afghan herbalist Mahomet Allum's remedies. Migration Museum collection.

COLLECTIONS



Above: A brightly painted toy tin boat, 1920s.

South Australian Maritime Museum collection

Left: Child's tricycle. Migration Museum collection.

2016-2017

 = 10,000 people

Visitors to History Trust Museums 318,732



School attendances: 38,165



 = 100,000 people

Online Engagement across the History Trust

Website visits: 533,042



Website hits: 1,750,522



 = 1000 people

App downloads: 8,943



 = 1000 people

Facebook audience: 28,793



Instagram followers: 5,753



Twitter followers: 22,696



Revenue increased by 20%
(from 2015/16)

 **2,134,000**

 = 10,000 people

Onsite exhibitions

10 exhibitions with a total attendance: 198,517



Travelling exhibitions

13 exhibitions toured with an attendance: 154,431



Collection Management activities

 = 1000 items

Acquisitions made: 2,284



Total items in the State History Collection: 41,472



 = 1000 items

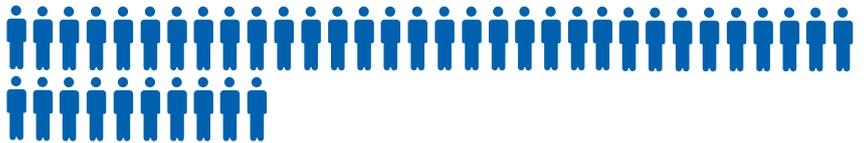
Collection items available to the public: 18,558



**Festivals, events, performances, talks,
workshops and holiday programs**

 = 1000 people

214 events with a total attendance: 43,989



Total attendance to Holiday programs: 15,917



Total attendance to Talks: 971



Total attendance to Performances: 1017



Total attendance to Workshops: 155





Migration Museum

The Migration Museum works towards the preservation, understanding and enjoyment of South Australia's diverse cultures. It is a place to discover the many identities of the people of South Australia through the stories of individuals and communities.

On Sunday 27 November 2016 the Migration Museum celebrated 30 years at an event attended by over 250 guests. His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, spoke of the achievements and continuing relevance of the Migration Museum and emphasised the importance of our work with communities.

A new temporary exhibition, *Changing Places: migration now* was launched in November 2016. The exhibition captured the changes in contemporary migration and featured thirteen stories of individuals and families who have arrived in South Australia in the last three years.

The Migration Museum's Forum Community Gallery showcased four very different exhibitions during the year, reflecting the diversity of South Australians.

Community engagement at the Migration Museum during the year ranged from large community events including Harmony Day in the City in March (presented in partnership with a range of community organisations and enjoyed by over 600 visitors) and the Tirgvan Festival in July (co-hosted with the Persian community and attracting over 400 visitors) to smaller, but no less significant events including commemorations at the museum's Memorial Wall by the Istrian Italian, Armenian and Bosnian communities, as well as by the Baltic Council of South Australia.

The Museum continued its program of renewal, improving visitor experience through much-needed minor capital works. The first stage of this program was recognised when *In This Place*, the redeveloped gallery showcasing the history of the site which opened in May 2016, won a national MAGNA award and an SA Chapter of Australian Institute of Architects commendation.

Annual Visitation: **196,156**



Above: Changing Places - migration now exhibition.

Migration Museum

Right, main Image: In This Place - a history of the Migration Museum site exhibition.



DEPARTMENT
OF CHEMISTRY.
GOVERNMENT
ANALYST.
CHIEF INSPECTOR
OF EXPLOSIVES.



National

Motor Museum

The National Motor Museum reveals stories of the vehicles and people who have shaped Australia's motoring history. 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 their motoring dreams are presented in all their fascinating glory.

As an international centre for the collection, research, preservation, education and display of Australian road transport history, the National Motor Museum is much more than a collection of vehicles. It is social history.

2016/17 Achievements:

In April 2017, The National Motor Museum launched *The Bush Mechanics* exhibition, based on the popular TV series. This major exhibition, designed for touring, spent three months at the Museum followed by extensive touring through Central Australia. *The Hawker Vans* exhibition, which focuses on two hawker vans used by early migrant workers to distribute goods and services to remote and regional South Australia, was also launched in the first half of 2017.

Two Major annual events, the Bay to Birdwood Finish and the Rock & Roll Rendezvous were great successes, attracting over 15,000 visitors to the Museum site and an additional 50,000 people witnessed the iconic Bay to Birdwood Run in September 2016.

Over 14% of the visitors in 2016-17 came from outside of Australia, with approximately 45% of visitors coming from interstate.

Annual Visitation: **54,623**

Bay to Birdwood Run attendance: **65,000**





*Above: 1936 Auburn 653
Cabriolet.
National Motor Museum*

*Left: Entrant at the
National Motor
Museum's 2016 Rock
and Roll Rendezvous*



*Above and left: National
Motor Museum Bush
Mechanics exhibition.*

*Above: Image courtesy
of National Film and
Sound Archive collection*



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 Store with three floors of exhibitions, the Port Adelaide Lighthouse from South Neptune Island, the schooner Archie Badenoch, and the much-loved steam tug, Yelta.

2016/17 Achievements:

The South Australian Maritime Museum's most ambitious exhibition to date, *The Art of Science: Baudin's Voyagers 1800-1804* brought to Australia some of the earliest European paintings of Australian plants, animals and marine life and a remarkable collection that included Nicolas Baudin's personal journal, and the printing plate used in Paris in 1811 for the publication of the first complete chart of the Australian coastline. It offered new perspectives on the exploration of our coast.

In producing *The Art of Science*, the Maritime Museum brought together a partnership of six Australian museums to work with France's Museum d'Histoire Naturelle Le Havre.

The exhibition won audience acclaim and was visited by 29,840 people at the SA Maritime Museum, by 40,803 at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart. It will now travel to Sydney, Canberra and Fremantle.

Rough Medicine: Life and Death in the Age of Sail was the first exhibition to explore the gruesome and fascinating world of medicine at sea. On tour, it was seen by 34,702 visitors in Fremantle, Geraldton, Albany and Port Pirie.

The Museum commenced a preservation program and fund-raising campaign for the *Nelcebee*. Launched in Port Adelaide in 1883, *Nellie* is Australia's oldest steamship and due to a remarkable history of adaptation and reuse it is also one of the last of the ketch fleet that was so vital to the economic development of South Australia.

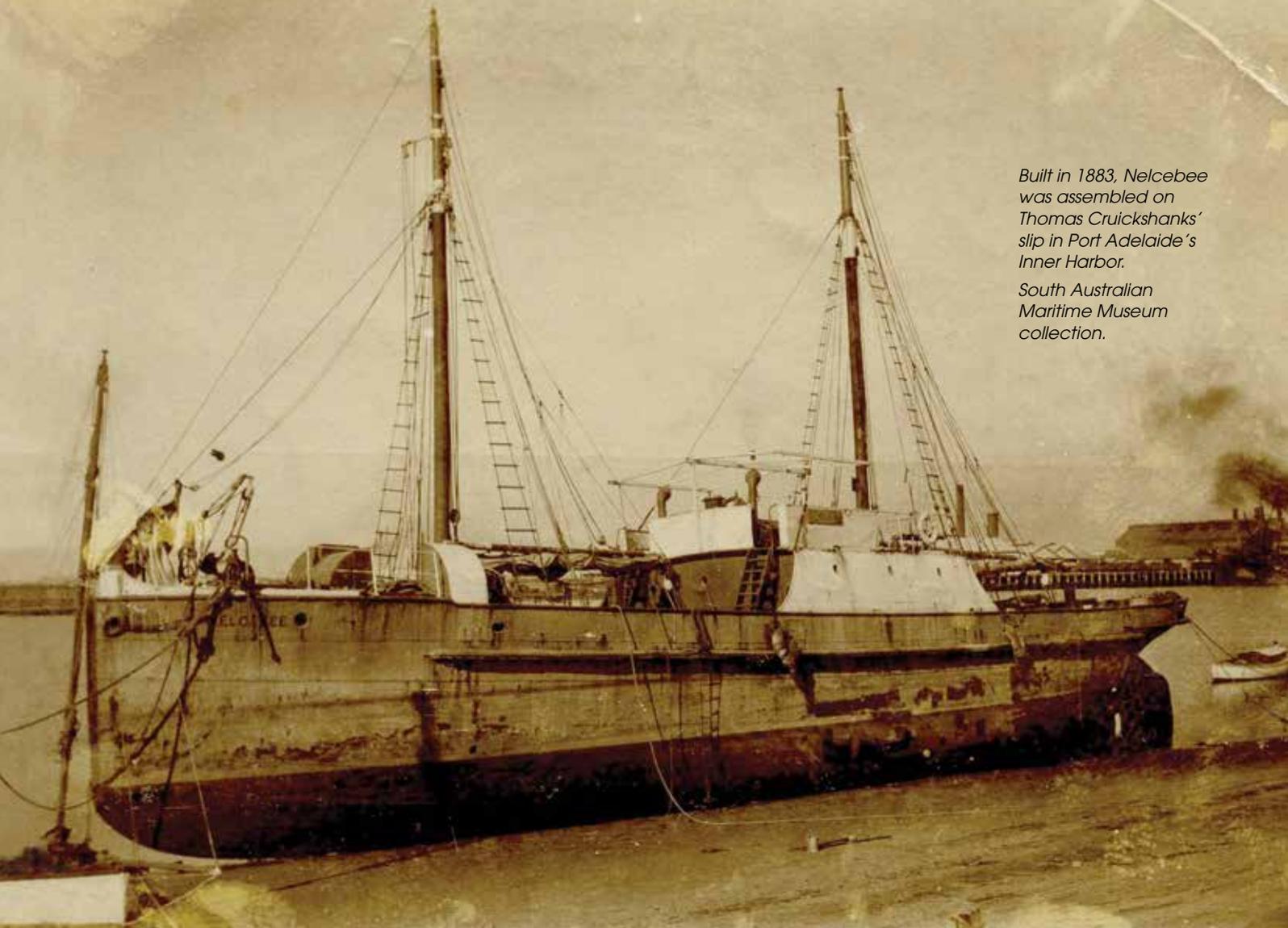
Annual Visitation: **139,143**

75,505 to our touring exhibitions

63,638 on site



Above: *Poisson Diodon* (porcupine fish). Charles Alexander Lesueur from the exhibition *The Art of Science: Baudin's Voyagers 1800 - 1804*.



Built in 1883, Nelcebee was assembled on Thomas Cruickshanks' slip in Port Adelaide's Inner Harbor.

South Australian Maritime Museum collection.



Left: Rough Medicine: Life and Death in the Age of Sail was a travelling exhibition seen by over 34,000 visitors.



Left: The Art of Science: Baudin's Voyagers 1800 - 1804 was founded in an agreement with Édouard Philippe, then Mayor of Le Havre, now Prime Minister of France.



The Centre of Democracy South Australia

The Centre of Democracy was opened by the Minister for the Arts, Hon Jack Snelling MP, on 23 May 2017. Located in the Institute Building on North Terrace, it tells the story of South Australia's leadership in the development of democracy and invites visitors to engage with aspects of contemporary democracy.

The development of The Centre of Democracy was led by the History Trust of South Australia, and delivered in partnership with the State Library, and is an example of what can be achieved through collaboration. Historical objects on display, which will be changing regularly, are drawn from the collections of the History Trust, the State Library, the Courts Authority, Parliament House, Government House and private collections.

The newest attraction on Adelaide's North Terrace cultural precinct, The Centre of Democracy is the hub for a vibrant program of education and public programs that engage children, students of all ages and visitors in the ideas behind democracy and political participation.



Left and below: The Centre of Democracy.

Right main image: The Centre of Democracy with Premier Don Dunstan's pink shorts.





South Australia's History Festival

SA's History Festival is one of South Australia's largest community events. Delivered annually by the Community Programs team, the Festival promotes the State's wonderful collections, places and stories through an amazing range of history-related activities. Its popularity and success is due to the hard work and enthusiasm of event organisers across the state, including thousands of volunteers, who are passionate about sharing our history.



Above: Exploring South Australia's History Festival.

2016/17 Achievements:

The 2017 History Festival featured a total of 615 events, organised by 355 groups from all around South Australia.

Thanks to a new partnership with News Corporation, South Australian History Festival programs were distributed through *The Advertiser* in April, increasing distribution from 30,000 to 220,000 copies.

South Australia's History Festival continued to work closely with event partners City of Adelaide and SA Power Networks, as well as media partners ABC Radio Adelaide and Channel 9 and wine sponsor O'Leary Walker Wines.

Approximately one-third of History Festival events took place outside metropolitan Adelaide, demonstrating the importance of the History Festival and local history to South Australian communities. Events were held in Yorke Peninsula, Riverland, Murraylands, Limestone Coast, Kangaroo Island, Flinders Ranges and Outback, Fleurieu Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula, Clare Valley & Mid-North, Barossa and Adelaide Hills.

Total attendance: **132,803**

Right: South Australia's History Festival.



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

South Australian Community History

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 South Australia's History Festival, we deliver a range of programs and training workshops aimed at museum and history practitioners, interest groups, schools and families.

2016/17 Achievements:

Ten travelling exhibitions were presented in 44 venues around South Australia in 2016-17, and were attended by 194,327 people.

The Community Programs team presented events in other South Australian festivals, including Tasting Australia, The Adelaide Festival of Ideas, Open State and the Every Generation Festival. Our *Talking History* lecture series remained popular, with 12 lectures and panels taking place during the financial year. A highlight was *Making History: the Peterborough Project*, which brought together 50 people working in the state-wide history network for a weekend of intensive workshops in Peterborough, in South Australia's mid-north.



Assistance was provided to 253 different history organisations all around the state, through programs, workshops, enquiries, site visits and grants.

Managing two annual grant programs – the Community Museums Program, allocated up to \$150,000 per year and the South Australian History Fund, distributed up to \$35,000.

Above: Melrose Courthouse Heritage Centre.

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.

2016/17 Achievements:

We undertook a website renewal project to ensure our websites meet the needs of our museum visitor and online audiences. Five new websites representing the History Trust and our four museums were launched in May/June 2017.

We developed leading-edge digital products, engaging visitors within our museums and online, including two Augmented Reality apps for the South Australian Maritime Museum exhibition *The Art of Science* and the National Motor Museum exhibition *Bush Mechanics*.

A major collections digitisation project has resulted in almost 20% of the State History object and photographic collections being digitised to industry standards and made accessible online to broad audiences. We released via API (application programming interface) through the State Government's Open Data Portal, the History Trust collections, numbering some 18,000. This was cited as an exemplar of open access to cultural material in South Australia.

*Below: Augmented Reality app for the South Australian Maritime Museum exhibition *The Art of Science*.*



App downloads have increased by 102% on last year (8,943 vs 4,424 in 2015/16).

Website visitation 13% increase on 2015/16.

Website page visits 21% increase on 2015/16.

E-commerce – facilitated \$79,656 of sales, ticketing and event registrations online.

18,000 historical images released into the public domain, providing free and open access to cultural collections.

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 - Chairperson

Prof Margaret Allen (retired 18 September 2016)

Dr Eva Balan-Vnuk

Ms Sue Crafter (Chairperson - retired 12 November 2016)

Mr Joost Den Hartog

Ms Christine Elstob (retired 18 September 2016)

Ms Chloe Fox (retired 3 November 2016)

Mr Peter Goers OAM

Mr Michael Lennon

Prof Peter Monteath

Mr Ian Short (retired 24 November 2016)

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.



