

Discovering SA's History

All meetings commence at 7.30pm Friday,
Burnside Community Centre, Cnr Portrush Road and Greenhill Road, Burnside

4 June

Dr Cameron Raynes

The Last Protector of Aborigines

Dr Cameron Raynes has worked as a barman, welfare worker, anthropologist, historian, archivist, publisher and editor. His work on the illegal removal of Aboriginal children in South Australia, *The Last Protector*, was published by Wakefield Press in 2009. He also writes fiction and has been shortlisted for the Wakefield Prize and the Fish Short Story Prize. In 2008, he won the Josephine Ulrick Literary Prize for his short story, 'Taxi'. He has a PhD on the moral subtext of Aboriginal oral history.

The Last Protector is the first book to show that an Australian government removed Aboriginal children in a manner contrary to the legislation that was in place. That is, illegally.

The presentation on 4 June 2010 will look at aspects of the research and writing of this book, including:

- the central mystery that informed the research process
- the patterns to be found in historical material
- difficulties with accessing certain government records
- the relationship of the work to the Trevorrow case and involvement in the Trevorrow trial.

The presentation will also:

- refute some of Windschuttle's findings in his most recent work *The Fabrication of Aboriginal History, vol. 3*
- touch on the deficiencies in Windschuttle's scholarship
- consider the question of whether we, as historians, can pass judgment on the actions of the historical figures we write about.



2 July

Richard Venus

Engineering a City (Adelaide)

The first European settlers waded ashore at Holdfast Bay and set about building a city. They had Colonel Light's plan to guide them so they knew where the streets were going to be and where the houses could be erected – but how did they go about establishing the urban infrastructure and creating the industries that would support the fledgling economy?

The South Australian division of Engineers Australia (EA) set out to tell some of this story when they published *Engineering A City*, a guide to the engineering heritage of the City of Adelaide. The booklet was based on a simple guide to finding the buildings, objects and sites around the City of Adelaide that helped tell the engineering story.

Engineering A City was compiled and written by Richard Venus with the assistance of colleagues from EA's Engineering Heritage & History committee and the generous support of many organisations and individuals who provided information or illustrations, not the least of these being the Adelaide City Council Archives.

Richard will dip into the booklet and recount some of its many stories. He'll also bring along copies of the booklet which contains some new photographs.

Richard Venus, BTech, BA, MIEAust, is deputy chairman of Engineers Australia's Engineering Heritage & History committee. He acquired his interest in engineering history in the mid-70s when he was asked to assist local authors Colin and Margaret Kerr to research electricity supply in the state.

Richard is currently undertaking post-graduate studies at Flinders University based on his extensive research into the history of Southcott Pty Ltd which will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year. He is becoming increasingly concerned that 24 years worth of research still mightn't be enough to complete the story of this remarkable Adelaide company.