



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FLOOD WARNING COMMITTEE

THE HISTORY OF FLOODS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEW POSITION TITLES

It has always been the view within the History of Floods Project that the Work for the Dole Programme is primarily about providing participants with new skills and knowledge to enable them to better their chances of gaining permanent employment rather than keeping unemployed people “off the streets”.

In keeping with this view, the positions held by the Project’s Work for the Dole Programme Participants (WDPP’s) are now referred to as Research Assistants, Editorial Assistants, IT Assistants or Administrative Assistants, depending upon what position they hold within the Project. This provides the assistants with a sense of belonging and a feeling of self-worth as opposed to being looked upon as just another “Work for the Dole Programme Participant”.

NEW PARTICIPANTS

Since our last Newsletter, the following people have joined the project:

- Rebecca McMahon – Editorial Assistant
- Eric Wood – IT Assistant
- Kartanya Russell – Indigenous Studies
- Roy Parrott – Advertiser Newspaper research
- Greg Harris – SLSA Pt Lincoln Times newspaper research.
- Kyung Soo Hayden – Northern Argus newspaper research
- Kent Wewzow – SLSA Pt Lincoln Times newspaper research
- Nadim Shami – SLSA Renmark rural newspaper research

Julia Dunn has re-joined the Project team after agreeing to come back into her original role as Administrative Assistant to the Project’s Manager, David McCarthy, for another 6-month period.

PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE LEFT THE PROJECT

Since our last newsletter, the following assistants have left the project:

- Brian Hams – Copper Coast Flood Research (finished contract)
- William Scott – SLSA “Northern Argus” Newspaper research (gained employment)
- Garry Bell – BOM Flood Plains Reports research (finished contract)
- Celeste Corin – Editorial Assistant (gained employment)
- Rebecca McMahon – Editorial Assistant (gained employment)
- Wolf Norkowski – Kangaroo Island research (finished contract)
- Mark Ambrose – SLSA “Pt Lincoln Times” Newspaper research (finished contract)
- Eric Wood – IT Assistant (gained employment)
- Kent Wewzow – SLSA Pt Lincoln Times Newspaper research (gained employment)



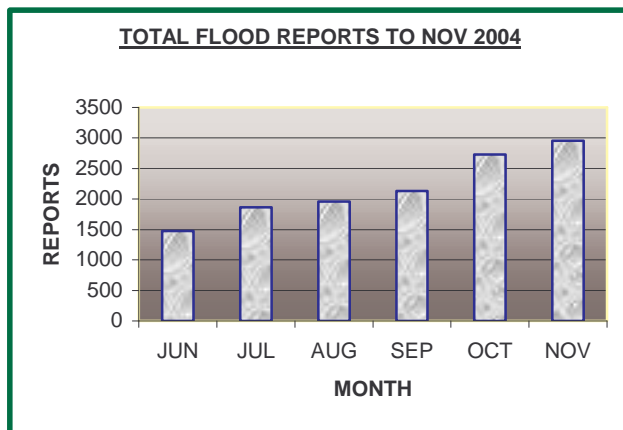
River Torrens in flood. 30th August 1992.
Photo courtesy of BOM Hydrography Unit

DATA COMPILATION

The Project has enlisted the skills of another Editorial Assistant. Her name is Rebecca McMahon and she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing and Communication.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Metropolitan researchers recently met with David McCarthy, the supervisors and the editorial assistants to discuss any issues they had and the direction that the project is currently taking. The researchers provided valuable feedback on issues such as accurately recording the dates on the flood records and the current length of the flood records being recorded (now being done as a short synopsis as opposed to being more detailed).



As of the 19th November 2004 the project had amassed almost 3,000 flood event records. Due to the fact that these records have come from a variety of sources, it is expected that a few of them will be duplicated reports of the same event.

SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

The Project currently has only 5 metropolitan research assistants, 2 country research assistants and 1 Indigenous research assistant. We are still seeking Assistants to work in the following areas:

- Ø SLSA country newspaper research
- Ø SLSA metropolitan newspaper research
- Ø Writing and collating

THE DATABASE

The development of the flood report database is almost completed. A number of records have already been transferred from Word format into the Access database, but there is still some fine-tuning to be done to make the transfer process more simplified and hassle-free.

PRESENTATION TO THE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES (SA)

David McCarthy is a “silent” member of the State Headquarters Unit of the SES, and he recently gave a presentation providing an overview of the History of Floods Project. The presentation was called “Chronology of Flood Events in S.A”.

David provided a detailed outline of the aims of the project, the people who were involved in it, and what the final result would include.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

Supervisors: On behalf of the History of Floods in South Australia Project Steering Committee, David would like to express the Committee’s sincere gratitude for the work undertaken by Sharon Gullickson and Margaret Phillips in supervising their respective researchers as part of the project. Sharon provided supervision to a researcher in the Kangaroo Island area, and Margaret supervised a researcher in the Yorke Peninsula area. Both provided invaluable support and assistance to the researchers during their time with the project.

Researchers: Congratulations are also extended to Brian Hams and Wolf Norkowski, two of the Project’s country researchers, for the excellent work that they produced on behalf of the Project. It has become known that working in an area that is remote from the Project Office can sometimes be challenging but also rewarding.



River Light in flood 25th December 1999
Photo courtesy of Tim Eckert

WORK FOR THE DOLE PROGRAMME GRANT

The current Work for the Dole Programme (WDP) metropolitan area grant period expires on 9th January 2005.

During the period of the Grant the Project has engaged some 38 participants who have collectively provided the equivalent of 22 persons working 2 days per week.

Much has been achieved in that time, however owing to the inability of the unemployment and WDP system to provide participants in 16 of the 20 country areas, much of the time spent in research by the Research Assistants in the State Library of SA has been spent reviewing country newspapers and not the planned city and statewide papers. There was, therefore, a need to negotiate a further grant to complete the research, writing and editorial work. It is proposed that this additional work will be undertaken in the city.

A further grant application for 29 additional participants, which is proposed to expire at or about the 30th June 2006, was recently made through Ask Employment and Training Services. Its manager, Mr John Yates, advised on 19th November that this application to further the History of Floods Project, hopefully to its completion, had been approved.

All at Kent Town now look forward to the steady progress open research and writing work leading to the successful publication of a list of South Australian floods which will serve those who need such information in their professional endeavours.

FLOOD RECORDS

Anyone who has any information or photos regarding floods in their local area that they would like to share with us, is more than welcome to forward them to us either by mail to:

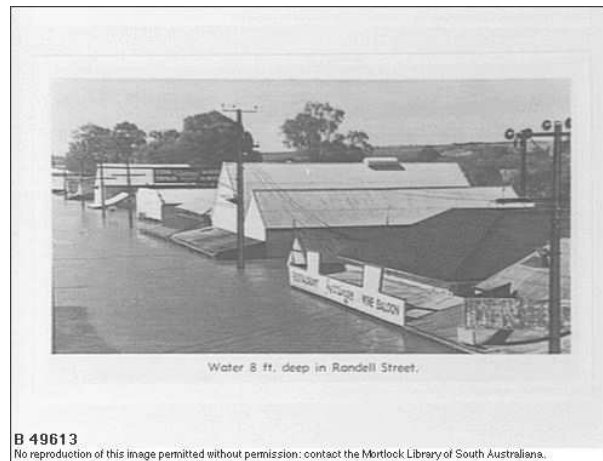
History of Floods Project
Bureau of Meteorology
PO Box 421
KENT TOWN SA 5071

Or by email to flood_history@bom.gov.au

All photos will be acknowledged wherever used, and will be returned to the sender after scanning and saving onto computer.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Manager, supervisors and staff of the History of Floods Project would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming New Year. May you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday period and we look forward to corresponding with you again in the New Year.



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1956 Flooding on Randell Street, Mannum
Photo courtesy of Mortlock Library of South Australiana