

Editorial

Finding ourselves in a season of change we decided on a new-look cover this year – we hope you like the youthful update for our Journal, now 55 years old. I'm indebted to Nick Cowley of Historic Bathurst (HB) and the Newcombe family for the photo taken during an HB tour, when nine-year-old Bella, a direct descendant of 1820 settler Robert Newcombe, showed us that historical landmarks like the Toposcope Monument, are fun to visit. As Nick Cowley points out, she 'symbolises the continuous and ongoing presence of Settler families' in our region.

There have also been milestones in Lower Albany this year: The Pineapple Cricket Tournament marks its 120th 'innings' (thank you, Ross Purdon, for your talk to LAHS) and Historic Bathurst is 10 years old. Congratulations to Tom Barrett and his dynamic team who preserve and promote the important sites and history there, create many enjoyable community events around them, and also manage the publicity and some maintenance. There is much planning and hard work around Bathurst's 'showpiece' historic churches, Bradshaw's Mill, the Toposcope Monument and Powder Magazine. Thank you, Nick and Tom, for your article on HB's history and achievements.

Our Toposcope Journal, named for the Bathurst landmark, is not immune to the trend of change. Printing costs rise and environmental considerations become pre-eminent: digital newsletters are quickly replacing hard copy. Soon we'll be canvassing our members for their views on how to ensure the longevity of our Journal, and also how we are doing as a Society.

Standing on the sites of 1820 settlements is always a privilege and conjures up the atmosphere of the past (Basil Mills did this in his inimitable way at the Karel Landman site celebrating the Voortrekkers' 185th anniversary). Our LAHS outings – like those to historic Glen Avon, Salem village and Hope Farm (special thanks to Daphne McNeill and Darian Keeton, respectively, for those last-mentioned) – are always informative and fascinating, stimulating reflection on the tough times of the past. Yet nothing can match a lived/simulated experience such as Penny Elliot's life-changing half year in the 1983 SABC 'reality' TV show, *The Volunteers*. Her retelling of six months as a 'Settler' had us on the edge of our seats. It's an honour to share her deeply affecting and personal story with you.

Thanks to Rob and Gwynn Crothall for their technical and formatting expertise, and to writers and proof readers on our Committee. As always, getting this issue of Toposcope into your hands has involved good collaboration. Thank you to the LAHS Team!

Sue Gordon