

The History Council of South Australia notes with deep sadness the passing of John Bannon.

John is best known for his life in politics, but he also devoted much time to his passion for history. After retiring from politics he undertook postgraduate study in history at Flinders University. One of many outcomes of that work, focused on the history of Federation, was his 2009 book *Supreme Federalist: the political life of Sir John Downer*. John became President of the History Council of South Australia and advocated vigorously for the interests of history in this state. Fellow historians are particularly grateful for his concerted efforts to keep an office of the National Archives in Adelaide. When the History Council established annual awards for historians in 2012, John acted as a judge, a role he carried on capably each year into 2015.

Even into the last months of his life John was serving history by recalling the Bannon decade to young historians researching it. He sorted and catalogued a vast collection of his papers deposited in the Flinders University Library. That collection will provide a lasting testament to a man who was a great friend to the history community.

Professor Peter Monteath

President, History Council of South Australia  
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