

## MEDIA RELEASE

# History Greats - History Council of South Australia 2017 Award Winners Announced

*History greats were recognised in a ceremony held at the State Library of South Australia to mark the conclusion of the 2017 South Australian History Festival.*

Five South Australian historians were honoured with History Council of South Australia Awards tonight (31 May). The Awards recognise and celebrate the range of activities of South Australian historians in research, writing, teaching, and raising community awareness of history and heritage. The annual Awards are sponsored by Wakefield Press.

His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO presented the Awards in four categories to:

**South Australian Life-long History Achievement Award – jointly awarded to Lois Zweck and Bernard Whimpress**

**South Australian Regional History Award – Gill Starks**

**Emerging South Australian Historian of the Year – Allen Tiller**

**South Australian Historian of the Year – Philip Payton**

History Council President Professor Peter Monteath said, ‘**Lois Zweck** is a most deserving recipient of this 2017 History Council of South Australia **Life-Long History Achievement Award**. Her work to promote the history of the German presence in South Australia has seen her conduct research across many areas, including genealogy, family history, German literary studies and German history. Lois has a breadth and depth of knowledge in this area that is second to none and she has been consistently and unerringly generous in sharing it with all those who have solicited it. She has been the President of the Friends of Lutheran Archives for nearly twenty years and has undertaken countless years of tireless work for their journal and for the Lutheran Archives.’

As for joint winner, sports historian **Bernard Whimpress**, Professor Monteath said, ‘As a former journalist and photographer, Bernard’s historical work has a wide audience among cricket fans and sports enthusiasts. He has published more than twenty-nine books, twenty-two booklets and numerous other publications. Since 2010, he has acted as a historical consultant to the South Australian Cricket Association and Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority. In addition, Bernard was a founding member of the Australian Society for Sports History and has worked as an oral historian for the Adelaide City Council.’

**The South Australian Regional History Award** was made to **Gill Starks**, who was nominated in two categories. Her citations stated that Gill is a leader in the Community History Network for her outstanding work as Chairperson of the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum and her efforts to share her knowledge and expertise with other regional community

history groups. In 2016, Gill presented a talk at the History Trust of South Australia's *Making History* event in Peterborough where she shared her vision and approach to audience-focused history work. Those attending commented that Gill's presentation was a highlight of the event and her approach to generating public involvement in community museums was inspirational.

Winner of the **Historian of the Year, Philip Payton**, has had a busy year authoring a book about the history of Labor and radical tradition in South Australia, publishing and promoting another book about Australia in the Great War, editing a collection of essays in honour of historian Eric Richards, and working as the editor of the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* – in effect, the historical journal of record in the state. In addition, Philip has presented many public lectures across the State, supervised a number of doctoral students and contributed to the mentoring of junior university staff.

Finally, for the award of **Emerging South Australian Historian of the Year**, Professor Monteath said that while **Allen Tiller** has been highly active for several years promoting the history of Kapunda, his recent appearance on the television program 'Haunting Australia' ensured the promotion of South Australian history to a wide and varied audience both here and overseas. His more recent work to design and host historical tours, publish a book, and curate a blog called 'The Haunts of Adelaide' is further demonstration of Allen's commitment to history and heritage work. In 2016, Allen took up a four-month residency for Adelaide City Council Libraries. His work at the library focused on haunted buildings and historical sites across the State and it received extensive TV, radio, and newspaper media coverage, proving to be one of the most popular residencies hosted by the library. 'Allen was nominated for an award in 2016 and it was great to see him win in 2017', said Professor Monteath.

Other finalists across the four categories include Tony Slavotinek, Stephanie Evans, Keith Conlon, Dene Cordes, Lyndell Davidge and Jeff Nicholas. We congratulate all of the 2017 finalists and the five winners, and we thank them for their contribution to History in South Australia.

**For further information or comments, please contact President of the History Council of South Australia, Professor Peter Monteath: [peter.monteath@flinders.edu.au](mailto:peter.monteath@flinders.edu.au)**