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ABORIGINES' FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

SRG 139  
Series List

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The Aborigines' Friends' Association was established in 1858, the inaugural public meeting being held on 31 August 1858 in Adelaide. The object of the formation of a public Committee was stated as "to take into consideration the best means for providing for the amelioration of the aborigines of this province". At the meeting a report on the condition of the aborigines was read, compiled by an informal Committee appointed a few months earlier to obtain "the required particulars", and the first members of the Committee were elected, G.F. Angus becoming the first President of the Association. The major resolution of the meeting was to establish a mission for the aborigines in the area around Goolwa. (1)

The Rev. George Taplin (1831-1879) was a leading figure in the movement to establish the Association, and personally selected the site for the mission founded by the Aborigines' Friends' Association at Point Macleay in 1859, acting as Superintendent of the mission and agent of the Association from 1859 until his death in 1879 (2). When the Aborigines' Friends' Association was incorporated in 1879, it held under lease from the Crown 653 acres at Point Macleay, 1700 acres at Loveday Bay and 1900 acres within the Reserve at The Needles on the Coorong. Under the articles of incorporation the primary object of the Association remained "the temporal and spiritual well-being of the Native inhabitants of this Land" (3).

The Aborigines' Friends' Association ran the Point Macleay Mission until 1912 (the initial annual Government subsidy of £500 increasing to £1000 in 1876), when "owing mainly to the insufficiency of the Government grant to develop the land and meet the needs and requirements of the Mission, the difficulties arising at the station during the year compelled the Committee to wait upon the Government to request them to assume control of the industrial work of the Mission, making adequate provision for the Association to carry on its missionary work" (4). When the Government took over the Mission, the Association leased 2324 acres in the Hundreds of Baker, Bonney and Glyde, 77 acres in the Hundred of Seymour, and separate areas of 18, 3½, 652, 225 and 896 acres in the Hundred of Baker (5) .

The Government also took over in 1912 the administration of the Point Pearce Station and resumed land leased by the Yorke Peninsula Aboriginal Mission. For records of Point Pearce and Point Macleay stations from 1912, see GRG 52 (6).

(1) *Observer* 4 September 1858 p.7

(2) H.T. Burgess *The Cyclopaedia of South Australia* vol.1, p.39

(3) Archives SRG 139/21 (formerly A982)

(4) Annual Report, 1911-1912 (PRG 186/7/14).

(5) Unidentified newspaper cutting, PRG 186/7/11

(6) For annual reports of the A.F.A. 1862-1959, see PRG 186/7/14

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Correspondence 1919-1940 (Files Nos. 1-419) 1940-1952, 1957, 1959-1965, 1977-2000 2.6 m [See special list for files 1-419.] Available on OPEN ACCESS MICROFILM (for 1919- 1978) [Also includes original typescript index to items 1- 414]	<u>1</u>
Minutes of general and committee meetings 1857-1894, 1912-1976 50 cm 7 volumes [Includes newspaper cuttings and other papers. Half of vol. 7 contains minutes of executive meetings 11 Feb. 1977 – 2 June 1980.] Available on OPEN ACCESS MICROFILM (for 1857- 1980)	<u>2</u>
Minutes of Executive Committee 1899-1908, 1922-1968, 1969-1973 (incomplete), 1980-2000 31 cm 4 volumes, 1 folder & 1 envelope Available on OPEN ACCESS MICROFILM (for 1899- 1968)	<u>3</u>
Rough minutes of executive and general meetings 1924-1932, 1933-1945, 1947-1956. 7 cm (3 volumes)	<u>4</u>
Minutes of deacons' meetings of the church at Reid Town, Point McLeay 1870-1898 2 cm 1 volume [Includes lists of church members]	<u>5</u>
Minutes of Kindergarten Department meetings 1916-1919 1 cm 1 volume	<u>6</u>
Visitors' books, Point McLeay Mission Station 1859-1936 4 cm 2 volumes [Includes note re death of the Superintendent, Rev. George Taplin, dated 25-27 June 1879.]	<u>7</u>
Journal 1921-1961 3 cm 1 volume	<u>8</u>
Ledger 1921-1961 5 cm 1 volume	<u>9</u>

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Certificate accompanying award of Coronation Medal to David Unaipon 1953 1 item	<u>10</u>
Widows' fund cash book 1938-1945 3 cm 1 volume	<u>11</u>
Newspaper cuttings relating to Aboriginals 1951-1963 1954, 1963-1970 1976-1980 7 cm (3 volumes) 1933-1959, n.d. (loose cuttings) [Also includes separate donation of 22 volumes of newspaper cuttings with index. These have been numbered SRG 12A] 1910-1957 1 m 23 volumes	<u>12</u>
Papers relating to legislation 1901-1946 5 cm [Includes copies of legislation]	<u>13</u>
Extracts from parliamentary questions 1963-1969 3 cm 1 volume	<u>14</u>
Reports 1925-1962, 1976 5 cm [Comprises reports on visits to institutions, northern areas and missions together with report of Western Australian Royal Commission. Also 'An Extensive Survey of Australian Aboriginal Problems', 'Special Report on Native Problems in Central Australia' by Rev. J.H. Sexton, 'Legislation Governing the Australian Aborigines' by Rev. Sexton and 'The Aborigines: A Commonwealth Problem and Responsibility']	<u>15</u>
Papers relating to Namatjira 1957-1958 1 cm Typescript and printed [Comprises articles from 'Australian evangel' and 'Bulletin' together with two obituaries.]	<u>16</u>
Historical notes 1933-1972 3 cm Manuscript and typescript [Comprises survey of missionary work commencing 1858, notes on reserves, Point McLeay and the Aborigines Friends Association and a description of 'Ayers Rock'.]	<u>17</u>

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Photographs ca.1890-1960 2 cm [Includes portrait photographs of T.W. Fleming, Joseph Koolmatrie, William Kartinyeri and Shirley Peisley, and photographs of Point Pearce and Ernabella.]	<u>18</u>
Addresses 1943-1978 1 cm Typescript [Comprises copies of talks and broadcasts on assimilation, legislation, explorers and Aborigines and Aboriginal art.]	<u>19</u>
Political platform papers 1976-1977 0.5 cm Typescript and printed	<u>20</u>
Rules and regulations ca.1880. 44 cm x 28.5 cm Printed. [Formerly accession A 982.]	<u>21</u>
Map of South Australia ca.1948 90 x 70 cm Printed, with manuscript additions. [Comprises published map of South Australia subsequently marked with locations by depots and reserves.]	<u>22</u>
Ground plan ca.1950 20 x 25 cm [Shows layout of mission. Unidentified.]	<u>23</u>
Papers relating to estates 1898, 1928, 1953, 1959, 1962, 1972 15 cm [Comprises copy of deed for assignment of monies by Sir Samuel Davenport and Edwin G Blackmore 1896, accounts in estate of J McK Richman 1928, Frances E Smith & George A H Beacham, 1953, Edith Janet Shierlaw, 1959 and A M Eats 1972.]	<u>24</u>
Balance sheets & financial statements 1928-1929, 1938, 1940-1971, 1975-1999 5 cm [Includes executive & quarterly meetings 1977-1996]	<u>25</u>
Appeal response papers 1976 1 cm	<u>26</u>

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Benefits register ca.1969 1 cm [RESTRICTED. No access until 2030. Includes remarks on desertion, imprisonment and medical condition.]	<u>27</u>
Cash book 1920-1929 2 cm	<u>28</u>
Lease agreements 1951, 1959 0.5 cm [Premises leased by the A.F.A.]	<u>29</u>
Papers relating to David Unaipon memorial 1997 0.5 cm [Erected at Raukkan (Point McLeay) village]	<u>30</u>
Constitution 1976 0.5 cm	<u>31</u>
Roll books of executive meeting attendance 1943-2000 1 cm	<u>32</u>
Day book 1992-2000 0.5 cm [Used as diary to record phone messages and tasks completed.]	<u>33</u>
Treasurer's correspondence 1989-1991 3 cm [Includes some receipts and bank statements.]	<u>34</u>
Lists of addresses 1989, 1999, nd. 0.5 cm	<u>35</u>
Sermon notes 1987 0.5 cm [Given by David Cox, an A.F.A. member, at the Meningie Aboriginal Christian Centre on 4 October 1987.]	<u>36</u>
Notes on address by Graham Jenkin 1997. 0.5 cm [S.A. historian and author of <i>Conquest of the Ngarrindjeri</i> spoke at an A.F.A. meeting in February 1997. Part of his address dealt with the Ngarrindjeri - A.F.A. Alliance. These notes are a summary of his talk and written up by David Cox.]	<u>37</u>

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Papers relating to the Blackwood Reconciliation Group 1996-1997. 0.5 cm [The group helped organize a permanent memorial on the site of the former Colebrook Home at Eden Hills and a day of reconciliation there on Sunday 1 June 1997.]	<u>38</u>
Papers relating to A.F.A Aboriginal Youth Citizenship Award 1996-1997. 5 cm	<u>39</u>
Notes about A.F.A. history highlights 1992. 0.5 cm [Written by David Cox September 1992. ]	<u>40</u>
Papers relating to Camp Coorong 1994. 0.5 cm Includes the transcript of a interview made at the camp with 'George' and 'Tom' on 21 July 1994, and letters.	<u>41</u>
Papers relating to Aboriginal Christian Community Centre 1983-1991. 1 cm [The Centre at Meningie , known as <i>Wurru Warrin</i> was transferred by the A.F.A. to the Community in 1991 after its acquisition in 1983. Papers include land transfer documents, letters, certificate of incorporation as association (Ngarrindjeri Land & Progress Association Inc), constitution, newsletters, & speech notes.]	<u>42</u>
File: "Information of historical interest" 1982-1987. 2 cm [Subjects in file:1. George Taplin Memorial Fund; 2. Edmund Wanganeen; 3. Nungalinya College - Robert Day's enrolment; 4. Miss Mary Kramer - Kramer Memorial Church, Alice Springs (Grace Dawson fund for ceiling fans) & communion glasses for Point McLeay; 5. Letters to Robert Day, George & Tom Trevor and Cyril Karpany; 6. Lady Mayoress's Charitable Fund; 7. Taxation & Banks; 8. Ern & Vic Clarke Memorial Scholarship Fund; 9. Meningie projects; 10. Bequest from Miss Ida Harris.]	<u>43</u>
Papers relating to 1988 A.F.A. Celebration 1988. 0.5 cm [The A.F.A. celebrated its 130 <sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1988.]	<u>44</u>

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Secretary's reports 1990-1997. 1 cm [Manuscript monthly reports by David Cox, with the annual report by the A.F.A. President for 1998-1999, in which mention is made of the death of Mr Cox that year. Includes an article "The Future of A.F.A." for the organisation's newspaper "Action Review".]	<u>45</u>
Report by Ron Pitman nd. 0.5 cm [Report on visit to Meningie and Camp Coorong.]	<u>46</u>
Papers relating to A.F.A. Aboriginal Health Seminars 1982, 1985. 1 cm [Includes papers on "Justice for Aboriginal Australians" by Rev B A Clarke; "The Port Augusta Aboriginal Medical Service" by Dr M R Drennan; "An Overview of Aboriginal Health" by Dr A J Radford; "The Aboriginal Health Organisation & its present health care programme" by Mr E McAdam; "A community controlled health service – the Pitjantjatjara model" by Mr J D Tregenza; Administration" by Dr Malcolm Collings; "Alcoholism" by Mr C Coaby; and "Health and well being of Aboriginal children" by Louise Bywaters; letters and programmes. The first seminar was held in June 1982 and the second in March 1985. The introduction for the 1985 seminar was written by Laurie Reece.]	<u>47</u>
Photographs of A.F.A. associated projects 1985, 1992-1993, 1996. 0.5 cm [Meningie Aboriginal Christian Centre Hall opening 1985; building Camp Coorong near Meningie 1992; restoration of George Taplin's cottage at Point McLeay (Raukkan) and opening of Community Drop-In Centre November 1992 and Child Care Centre 1993; and Raukkan visit by Belair Uniting Church 1996 and Fijian people. B&W photocopies available; originals in RESERVE.]	<u>48</u>
Youth Citizenship Award Certificates 1997, nd. 0.5 cm [Awarded by the Aborigines' Friends' Association to Aboriginal students.]	<u>49</u>
Song words in praise of Colebrook Home 1993. 0.5 cm [Written by David Cox of A.F.A. in November 1993.]	<u>50</u>

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Obituary for David Cox 1998. 0.5 cm [David Cox 1914-1998 served as secretary and editor of the A.F.A. newsletter and with the Blackwood Reconciliation Group project to create a memorial to the former Colebrook House in Eden Hills.]	<u>51</u>
Letter relating to the Hindmarsh Island bridge controversy 1995. 0.5 cm [Letter written by David Cox for the A.F.A., to the Secretary of the SA Heads of Christian Churches, asking for prayers to be said for healing the divisions caused by the bridge controversy.]	<u>52</u>
A.F.A. membership card nd. 0.5 cm	<u>53</u>
Scrapbook 1936. 2 cm Scrapbook titled 'My Natives and I: Life Story of Daisy M. Bates' consisting of cuttings and pictures from newspaper account of Daisy Bates' life.	<u>54</u>
Index to packets nd. 1.5 cm Exercise book with title 'Index to Packets' arranged alphabetically by subject.	<u>55</u>
Bulletins 1939-1941. 3 cm Bound volume of 'Australian Aborigines: A.F.A. Quarterly Bulletin'. Additional copies bound together with 'An Extensive Survey of Australian Aboriginal Problems' in SRG 139/15]	<u>56</u>