



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 156, March 2026.

Society meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court, Adelaide 7.30 pm., visitors welcome.

Postal address **P.O. Box 312 Magill 5072.**

For further information, contact the Secretary, Richard Welling; secretary@sanumismatics.org.au

NSSA web page -- sanumismatics.org.au Webmaster: Mark.

Newsletter edited and illustrated by Mick Vort-Ronald, primarily from minutes of Society meetings recorded by the Secretary. Contact details for Mick are; phone (08) 8522 4490, mobile 0417 212 906 (no text or SMS messages please) or P.O. Box 653 Willaston S.A. 5118. email vortronald@yp-connect.net

Annual membership **subscriptions now fall due in January** each year, \$30 for members in Australia and overseas. They can also be paid by EFT to BSB 015 590 A/c 4981 20308 (ANZ) stating surname and/or postcode. If paying by EFT please email Treasurer Virginia, at treasurer@sanumismatics.org.au

Members attending meetings speaking on various topics are encouraged to provide the secretary with brief details of the subjects and examples produced in writing on the night or preferably sent by email to allow accurate recording in the Society minutes. This will make his task much easier and ensure that correct information is later used in this newsletter for the information of other members and clubs. Most items are photographed by Mick at meetings, but members can also send text and images of their items direct to Mick.

Newsletters are sent via email to financial members who have the capacity to receive them. In this way you get your newsletter quicker and better than a printed version, **AND IN COLOUR**. Please advise the Secretary of your email address for future issues.

This is more efficient and saves the society money. For those who do not have access to the Internet, or still want hard copy in black and white, some copies will still be produced and posted if requested.

As a result of sending our emailed newsletters to other clubs in Australia and New Zealand, we receive their emailed newsletters and these are also being forwarded on to our financial members by email.

NEXT MEETING Thursday 16 April 2026, 7.30 pm, Saphil House, 22 Gray Court, Adelaide.

Annual membership fees now due please, unless exempt, check with Richard.

Meeting 1029 held at SAPHIL House, Adelaide, 15th January 2026.

Present: 18 members, 6 apologies, 3 visitors.

Door Prizes: Gerry kindly donated some door prizes, thank you Gerry.

General Business:

Mick asked everyone to indicate if they would buy a book of Numismatic presentations from the NSSA for \$75. About a dozen people said they would. Gerry said that he would talk to Richard regarding a bulk buy.

Gerry talked about celebrating the 100 years of the NSSA we should go out and have Dinner with a subsidy from the NSSA.

The NSSA notes with sadness the passing of former Rundle Coins owner **Stef Stefanos**.

Stef ran his coin business for many years and was a personable character with whom many of us had dealings with over the years.

Subscriptions.

This year we will be striking a medal for our 100th anniversary and awarding one to each current financial member of the NSSA.

We will contact everyone on our list regarding their subscription status.

If you have helped us with our Coin Expo, you do not have to pay subs.

Otherwise, there are quite a few people on our list who have not paid subs for a while now.

This is partly our fault. We have been busy with the Expo and get most of our income from that, so have not chased up subs over the past few years. To get the NSSA 100th anniversary medal, you need to have paid your subscription, which is only \$30 for the year.

28 people are exempt from paying subs this year, either because of their help at the Expo, or because of their help with the NSSA, or because they are a life member. If I have missed anyone (and this is quite possible, please don't be insulted) please let me know.

Numismatics:



Paul J. spoke about and showed ancient silver denarius coins of **Augustus and Tiberius**, the first two Roman Emperors, who ruled in the period 27 BC to 37 AD. Augustus was the first and many consider the greatest of the Roman Emperors. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ took place during the reign of Tiberius.

Augustus 27BC-14AD. Silver denarius (18mm, 3.70 grams). Laureate Head facing right Tiberius in triumphal quadriga holding branch and eagle tipped sceptre. Obverse translation Of Caesar Augustus and Reverse translation the senate and the Roman people.

Augustus restored and kept the empire stable by using Pax Romana this caused the economy, the arts and agriculture to flourish. He started an ambitious building program; he claims to have built 82 temples in one year, as well as the public Roman baths.

Augustus passed many sweeping reforms; to maintain stability in marriage and to raise the birth rate in Rome, making adultery illegal, offering tax incentives to families with over three children and penalties for childless marriages. So strictly did Augustus himself adhere to his laws that he banished his own daughter, Julia, and his granddaughter, for adultery.

Augustus died at Nola and his official last words were, "I found Rome a city of clay but left it a city of marble" which aptly describes Augustus' achievements during his reign as emperor. According to his wife Livia Drusilla and his adopted son Tiberius, his last words were actually, "Have I played the part well? Then applaud as I exit."

ROME. Tiberius. AD 14-37. Silver Denarius. (18mm, 3.71 g). "Tribute Penny" type. Lugdunum (Lyon) mint. Laureate head facing right; one ribbon on shoulder the legend is Tiberius Caesars, son of the Divine Augustus, Emperor. The reverse Livia Pax (Livia was mother to Tiberius from her first marriage grandmother of the emperor Claudius, great-grandmother of the emperor Caligula, and great-great-grandmother of the emperor Nero. Livia was deified by Claudius in AD 42, bestowing her the title Diva Augusta.), holding sceptre and olive branch, seated right on chair, feet on footstool; ornate chair legs, single line below deeply toned. In an attempt to entrap Jesus, he was asked if Roman taxes or tribute should be paid, and he was shown coin (a tribute penny), Jesus avoided the trap by saying to it should be given back to Caesar, because it was his anyway. Another interpretation is that he is quoted as saying render unto Caesar what is Caesar's.

Reference. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki www.worldhistory.org/augustus/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/www.worldhistory.org/augustus/) en.numista.com/247519 Wiki Commons

Mick spoke about his latest 400 page book, which is a compilation of the **NSSA meeting talks** over the past decade. This book has photos and information about many of the items that have been shown by NSSA members at the meetings. This book is available for \$75. Mick also showed a \$50 note being sold as a supposed error, which was in fact very common. All 25 available copies of the book later sold.

Gerry spoke about the 1966 round silver 50c and how the staggering rise in the silver price over the past few months may affect the future availability of these coins as more are melted down.



Piero spoke about and showed a William III 1696 shilling from the shipwreck of HMS Association. William III Shilling 1696 (REF: S.3497) professionally mounted on sterling silver mount and chain. Legend of mount inscribed "TREASURE FROM 'ASSOCIATION' 1707". The coin was likely mounted sometime after the Sotheby's sale* in the late 60s-early 70s. There is no accompanying documentation to guarantee the coin was recovered from Association but the piece shows wear, style, and condition consistent with other verified similar examples online** and his assessment of the piece is that it is authentic.

*See Sotheby's, Treasure Recovered from the Site of HMS Association, London, 14 July 1969. 80.05 grams total, box 85 x 65mm. Recovered from HMS Association shipwreck, sank Gilstone Rock, Isles of Scilly, 1707; pendant mount added later.

**See TimeLine Auctions February 2017 Antiquities & Coins Auction Lot 1238

HMS Association was a 90-gun second-rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy, launched at Portsmouth Dockyard in 1697. She served with distinction at the capture of Gibraltar, and was lost in 1707 by grounding on the Isles of Scilly in the greatest maritime disaster of the age. The wreck is a Protected Wreck managed

by Historic England. The wreck site was rediscovered in 1964 by the Naval Air Command Sub Aqua Club. Members of the club recovered gold coins, a bronze cannon and many other artefacts from the Association site. More than 2,000 coins and other artefacts recovered from the wreck site were auctioned by Sotheby's in July 1969.

Meeting 1030 held at SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court, Adelaide, 19th February 2026.

Present: 25 members, 7 apologies.

Door Prizes:

Gerry and Hadeep kindly donated some door prizes. Winners included Gerry, Michael, Paul J. JK, Paul S, Greg and Peter L.

General Business:

Mick has now sold all books of Numismatic presentations from the NSSA for \$75. Well done Mick for a nicely presented book.

It is the intention of the NSSA to hold a dinner for the June 18th 2026 meeting, probably at the Broadway, Glenelg, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the NSSA. This cost of this dinner will be subsidised, to a large extent, by the NSSA. Further details will be announced soon.

A **100th anniversary bronze medal** will be produced and one given to each active financial member. A single gold plated 100th anniversary medal will also be produced, to be auctioned.

NSSA Expo Report – Expo Number 9 – 3rd and 4th October 2026 at Torrens Parade Ground.

76 of the 99 tables for this Expo have been booked, and Richard is still waiting for 10 other dealers to confirm their bookings. 8 dealers have also expressed interest in having more tables than last year. So, filling the hall should not be a problem, in fact space is becoming an issue.

If anyone can volunteer to help with car park marshaling duties for a few hours either on Saturday or Sunday, this would be greatly appreciated by the NSSA. Greg has offered to help on Saturday for half a day, thanks very much Greg for your assistance. We need a few more people to assist with this duty, please contact Richard at secretary@sanumismatics.org.au or phone 81653446 noon-6pm, if you can help. Your subscription will be paid for and food/drink provided.

Numismatics: T.V. screen not available – no pictures possible.

Paul J. Spoke about and showed two ancient silver denarius coins of **Nerva (96-98 AD)** One of the “good” emperors, Nerva was well regarded by the Roman people and introduced many reforms during his brief reign.



Nerva 96-98AD Silver Denarius. (18mm, 3.04g) Rome, struck in 96AD. Laureate head of Nerva facing right, reverse, clasped hands holding aquila (which is a Legion Eagle and to lose it was to bring sham on the Legion, none of the legionary eagle standards are known to have survived) set on a prow.

ROME - Nerva, (A.D. 96-98), silver denarius. (18mm, 3.27g), Rome mint, issued 97 AD, obverse. laureate bust of Nerva facing right, IMP NERVA CAEES AVG GERM P M TR P II, translation (High priest, holder of tribunician power, consul for the third time, father of the nation) reverse. priestly implements a simpulum, (ladle) sprinkler, ewer, and lituus (augural staff, like a Bishop's crosier, but shorter) -- the emblems of the augurate and pontificate meant that the priests could deliver their omens believing them to be correct. (IMP II COS III DESIGN IIII P P translation: (Imperator Nerva Caesar Augustus, Pontifex Maximus, Tribunicia Potestate Secunda, Consul Tertium, Pater Patriae).

Born in A.D. 32, Nerva was consul with Vespasian in A.D. 71 and with Domitian in A.D. 90. Upon Domitian's assassination, he was proclaimed Emperor and in his short reign, he did much to improve the condition of the State. However, he was unable to command the army and only ever received half-hearted support. To satisfy the army Nerva adopted Trajan who became the emperor after his death.

To curry favour with the populace Nerva introduced a one-off handout to citizens of 75 denarii per head, while the soldiers of the Praetorian Guard received as much as 5000 denarii per person. This was followed by a string of economic reforms intended to alleviate the burden of taxation from the neediest Romans.

He exempted parents and their children from a 5% inheritance tax, and he made loans to Italian landowners on the condition that they pay interest of 5% to support the children of needy families

Nerva's expenses straining the Roman economy so he setup a special commission to drastically reduce expenditures. The first expenses to be cut were religious sacrifices, games and horse races. New income was generated from Domitian's (the former Emperor) possessions, including ships, estates, and even furniture.

Nerva also raised funds by melting down silver and gold statues, and he banned similar images be made in his honour. This decree turned out in an unusual way as Nerva now has contemporary statues of him in Gloucester, Rome and St Petersburg. As Nerva reigned briefly, his public works were few.

In 2002, Gloucester Civic Trust erected a bronze statue of Emperor Nerva, who is acknowledged as the founder of the city in AD97.



Statue of Roman Emperor Nerva, Via dei Fori Imperiali, Statue of Nerva in St Petersburg

Reference: en.wikipedia.org en.numista.com www.cointalk.com Wiki commons www.downies.com
en.numista.com



Mick spoke about **Banknotes printed on phonecards** and calendars and is doing an article about them for the Coin Review.

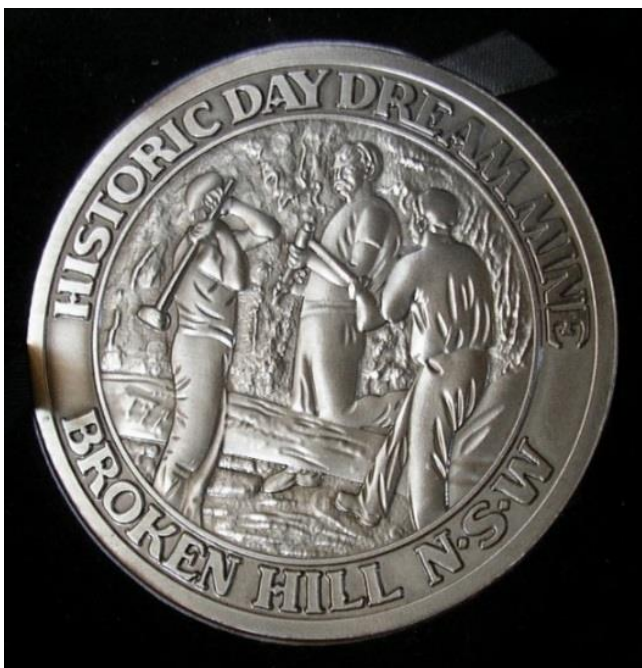
Gerry spoke about Tolmer and the **Gold Escort** days of SA (circa 1851-52) and also about some ridiculous prices people had put on common pennies via the internet.

Piero spoke about and showed a lead **Byzantine Empire seal**, from the period of the 10-11th century.

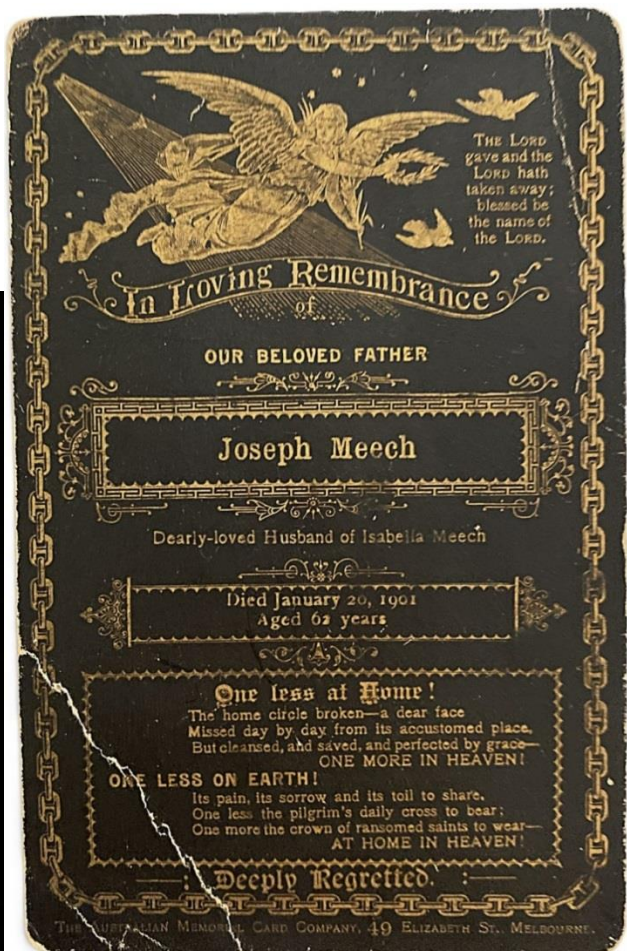
Richard spoke about and showed a couple of different **USA silver dollars** from 1900 and 1922.

David spoke about and showed an exhibition medal for **Australian VPex**, 50mm diameter.

Helen spoke about and showed a couple of commemorative medals, including the **Day Dream Mine** (1882-1929) 60mm, Zinc and a medal of 140 years of Broken Hill Mines. Peter L. provided more information about the Day Dream mine and the prospector Joseph Meech (1839-1901) who discovered it.



Day Dream mine medallion



John Meech 1901 Memorial Card. 16.8 x 10.8 cm

The card records John Meech died on 20 January 1901 aged 62 and his widow was Isabella Meech, and they had surviving children. The memorial card followed a standard format of this era with names and dates simply added. It was printed by The Australian Memorial Card Company, 49 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne and handed out to those friends and family paying their respects at the loss of a loved one.

The Card Company seems to have been in business for about a decade from around 1892 and the owners of the card company were Henry G Downman (father) and Frank Downman (son). Before establishing the card business Henry was the bank Manager of the Taradale Branch of the National Bank and in 1869 he was accused to embezzling £180. In 1899 father and son were charged and convicted of assaulting Philip Acton of the Art Engraving Company who they believed tried to steal their customers.

The deceased: Joseph Meech (c1839-1901) prospector.

For at least a number of years in the 1870s he and his family were living on a property near Gladstone SA. In the early 1880s he seems to have become a prospector and was working in the Barrier Rangers of NSW, near Silverton. In December 1882 he discovered silver at Day Dream Mine. The story behind the name is that he noticed this distinctly coloured outcropping ironstone upon waking from a snooze during the midday heat. This was the first large mine in the region, the biggest mine in the region was discovered some two years later at what is now called Broken Hill. Meech sold out for a “satisfactory figure” shortly after he discovered the silver mine. Production from the Day Dream Mine between 1884 and 1889 totalled 8,487 tonnes. The mine had a smelter and when the Broken Hill mine first went into production their ore was carted to Day Dream Mine’s smelter and the furnace is still there. Today the mine is a tourist attraction and is open to the public.

Meech also held an interest in many of the mines around Silverton. At Teetulpa gold field, near Silverton he discovered the Great Ironclad Mine in 1886, there were syndicates that had an interest in this mine and they were Moonta, Maitland and Meech & McKay. At the Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition of 1887 gold quartz specimens from the mine were exhibited. However, owing to the want of a proper crushing plant the mine had to be abandoned.

Joseph Leach left Wooltana and headed west and died of thirst at Balcanoona on January 20 1901. Shortly after his death his widow and children moved to Gray Street Norwood, an Adelaide suburb.

Provenance

In 1910 one of Joseph’s daughters, Gertrude, married Cecil Lane, and the Memorial Card was kept by Gertrude all her life. About the time of their marriage they moved into a new home at 10 Martindale Ave, Monreith (now Toorak Gardens) and they had a daughter Shirley Lane who lived there until the late 1970s. While Shirley was downsizing she gave the card to her neighbour.

Alan spoke about and showed a newly released **50c Koala coin** from the RAM with King Charles portrait.

M.H. Spoke about and showed a **gold sovereign** that had been inserted into a piece of a **former Perth Mint flagpole**. A quirky and original souvenir produced by the Perth Mint.

What’s On.

SA Farmers Market, 7am-noon, cost \$1.50 Held every Sunday.

Brighton Market, 8am – noon, free entry, every 2nd and 4th Sunday.

Christies Beach Market 121 Beach St 1st and 3rd Sundays 8am-1pm, free entry.

Rod & Custom Show, Gleneagle Reserve, Seaton, Sunday March 1st - \$5 fee.

Tarlee Country Market, Tarlee Oval, Monday 9th March, 9am-2pm, free entry.

Woodside swap meet, Woodside Oval 15th March from 7am - \$5 fee.

Clare Swap meet at Racecourse 4km from Clare, Sunday 15th March from 7am - \$5

**Meeting 1031 held at SAPHIL House 20-22 Gray Court, Adelaide,
19th March 2026 commenced at 7.30 pm preceded by Numismatic Bourse at 6pm.**

Present: 28 members. 6 apologies, 4 visitors.

Door Prizes: Hardeep generously donated two bottles of wine and we gave away the ACR magazine.

General Business: Welcome to new members K.D. and S.C.

K. D. presented and showed an interesting range of old English and Scottish coins including silver pennies of **Offa, Alfred the Great and other Anglo-Saxon kings**, also William the Conqueror plus some Scottish medieval period coinage. Some images following are from his power-point address.





Plate siege money

It is the intention of the NSSA to hold a dinner for the June 18th 2026 meeting, probably at the Broadway, Glenelg, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the NSSA. This cost of this dinner will be subsidised, to a large extent, by the NSSA. Further details will be announced soon.

Barrie is working on some changes to the **NSSA By-Laws** which he will present to the meeting later in the year.

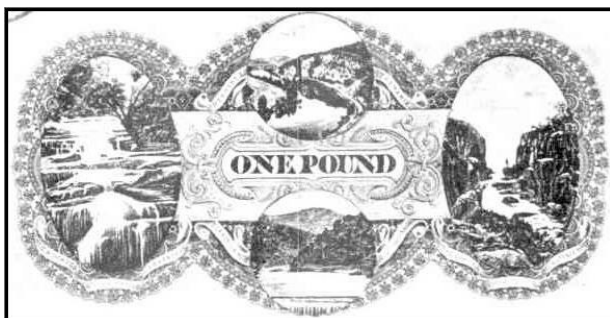
NSSA Expo Report – Expo Number NINE – 3rd and 4th October 2026 at Torrens Parade Ground.

All dealer tables for this Expo have been booked, price is \$250 per table.

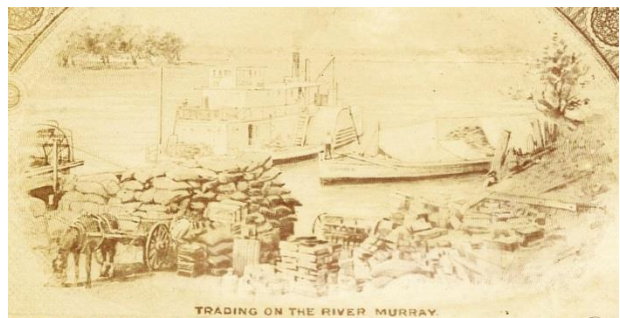
If anyone can volunteer to help with car park marshalling duties or helping at the front desk for a few hours either on Saturday or Sunday, this would be greatly appreciated by the NSSA. Please contact Richard at secretary@sanumismatics.org.au or phone 8165 3446 noon-6pm, if you can help. Your subscription will be paid for and food/drink provided.

We need people to help with the set up from approx. 10am on Friday 2nd and the take down on Sunday 4th October. A few hours of your time helps a lot and food/drink will be provided. Do we wish to hold a raffle at the Expo this year? If so, it is a bit of work, would someone be prepared to organize it?

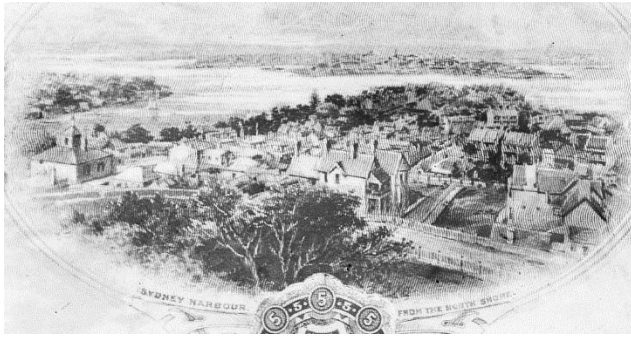
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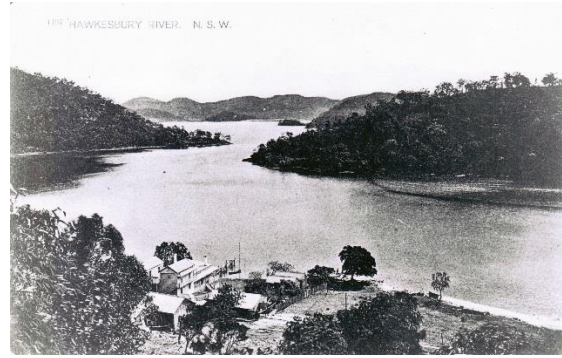
Winning one-pound design.



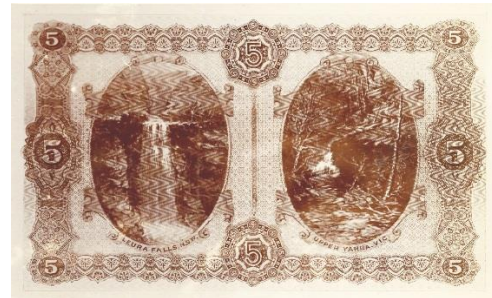
Steamers on the Murray River.



Sydney Harbour



Hawkesbury River



Mick spoke about newly discovered **banknote designs and scenes** on early Australian pre-decimal banknotes, including designs submitted from 1911 onwards for the first national Australian banknote series. Keep a lookout for his Australian Coin Review article on the subject.

Mick advised that due to **scarcity of parking** at the meeting venue he normally has to arrive 2½ hours early, which is becoming more and more physically difficult for him. As a result, he may not be able to personally attend many more meetings and someone else will need to take over the **microscope and newsletter**.

S. C. spoke about and showed some **British coins** from 1865 to 1967.

M. H. spoke about and showed the **Adelaide Pound**, the first gold coin made in Australia, produced in Adelaide in 1852 and spoke about the Adelaide Assay Office Ingots produced prior to the Adelaide Pound. Mark has kindly offered to help organize a tour of the Adelaide Old Treasury and Tunnels which is held on a Sunday at either 1pm or 3pm. If you would like to go on this tour, please contact him.



It is \$30 for adults, \$25 with a concession, but we might be able to organize a cheaper price for NSSA Members, depending on numbers.

Overview. Go underground and journey through winding hallways and hidden chambers to discover the stories within and beneath one of Adelaide's oldest buildings.

Meet some of the colourful characters who shaped South Australia in the building where history was made. From riots to floods to historic reforms the Treasury sat at the heart of South Australia's political life - come explore its secrets and forgotten stories!