

Historic Day at Port Elliot

Conditions would have been less than ideal for sailing ships approaching Port Elliot in the 1850's with a strong easterly breeze and choppy seas for last Sunday's historic events at Port Elliot. However, the crowd which braved the winds to gather on Freeman's Noll for the official unveiling of the Harbourmaster's Cottage Memorial were reminded of the conditions which faced the Harbourmaster of the day.

The president of the National Trust of S.A. (Mr. Warren Bonython) and Mrs. Bonython, the National Trust Director (Mr. Toogood) and the Mayor and Mayoress of Victor Harbour (Mr. and Mrs. S. Eddy) were among those present to hear Mr. J. Williams, chairman of the South Coast branch of the National Trust, introduce

local historian and co-author of several books, Mr. J.C. Tolley, who officially unveiled the plaque of the Harbourmaster's Memorial.

Mr. A. Gillissen, Senior Lecturer Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, University of Adelaide, and member of the Early Buildings Committee of the National Trust, who designed the

memorial, explained the symbolism of the granite lintels of the Harbourmaster's cottage which are the six horizontal stones and the two uprights which are doorsteps of the first Congregational Church which was situated at Montpelier Terrace.

The circular base symbolises the fact that the pulse of Port Elliot and the waters beyond were under the watchful eye of the Harbourmaster. The stones radiate in a simple

way, like a hand stretched out in the direction of these waters and the town, all intimately linked; the far right stone points to the obelisk and the sea, the one on the left to the town centre. Between the two upright stones the rocky outcrop on the far side of Horseshoe Bay can be seen; the line of sight separates the sheltered bay from the treacherous open waters.

In congratulating the National Trust on their foresight and explaining the work carried out by the Lions Club, Mr. G. Schellhase said the township and State now had a lasting tribute to the history of the Harbourmaster and the activities of the town as a port for S.A.

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Mr. G. Tolley, prior to the unveiling ceremony, recalled the days long gone by when the Har-

bourmaster would have looked over the bay one morning in April 1861 and seen the 457 ton sailing ship *Atrevida* waiting to enter and moor. With the sun shining on a mild sea this must have been a wonderful sight. The large mooring anchor which was recovered from the bay during the building of the cairn and its placement at the memorial represents the shipping which entered Port Elliot.

The group then proceeded to the R.S.L. hall where Mr. Tolley related the history of the courthouse, built in 1866, which is now used by the R.S.L. as their clubrooms. The National Trust has classified this building as one for preservation and at the conclusion Mr. Tolley unveiled the National Trust emblem placed on the building.



