



ISSUE 52 — DECEMBER 2019



THE WAYFARER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ADAM LINDSAY
GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC.

**THE POET OF AUSTRALIA 1833-1870
WHO LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR LITERATURE AND THE ARTS
IN AUSTRALIA**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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GORDON
COMMEMORATIVE
COMMITTEE INC.
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**THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
INCORPORATED WISH ALL OF OUR READERS A "MERRY CHRISTMAS"
AND A "HAPPY NEW YEAR"**



Here's a health to every sportsman , be
he stableman or Lord, If his heart be
true, I care not what his pocket may
afford; And may he ever pleasantly each
gallant sport pursue, If he takes his
liquor fairly, and his fences fairly, too.

Adam Lindsay Gordon



Top: Getty Image

Above: SLV Accession no: IAN31 12 80 supp 261d

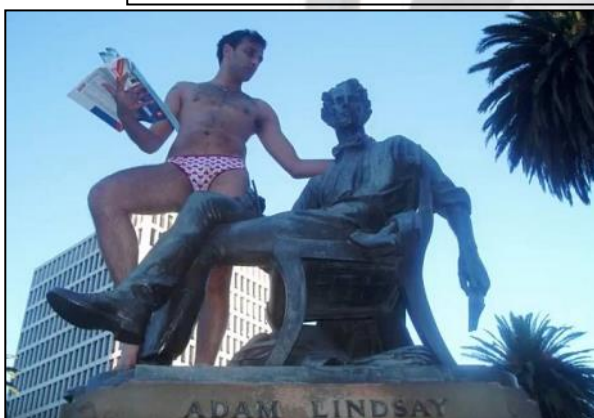
THE GORDON RESERVE-SPRING STREET MELBOURNE



Left to Right: A.C. Collis, J.D. Jennings, Newton Wanliss, C.R. Long, Julius Grant, Edmund Duggan, E. Slater, A.J. MacKay, S.H. Watson, Seated P.C.E Widdop (Secretary) Photo taken 30 October 1932
We would like to thank The Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society Incorporated for this clear photo.

The West Australian Perth, WA Tuesday 21 September 1915 Page 8 In the course of a recent address at the poet Gordon's grave, Brighton Cemetery, Melbourne, Mr. Edmund Duggan, the actor, said that he had been asked to explain how the movement originated. Five years ago, in the Green Room Club, Melbourne (where actors assemble), in a conversation on Australia's poets, it, was agreed by Messrs Julius Grant, Bert Bailey, Edmund Duggan (of the Bert Bailey Company), D. W. McCay and Albert E. A. Cherry (journalists), to make a pilgrimage' to the grave annually on the first Sunday of September. The day was chosen because Gordon sang so much of the wattle bloom, and the waft of the wattle is in the air in September. The first public pilgrimage took place on Sunday, September 11, 1910. As an outcome of that movement the Gordon Memorial Committee, which had its headquarters in the Green Room Club, was formed with the object of raising money to-erect a statue of Gordon on the St. Kilda-road, Melbourne, changed to Spring Street. In August 1933 The Gordon Lovers' Society was formed, mainly of women, to help the men commemorate the poet, through events.

GORDON—APPEALING TO THE POPULACE AS "ONE OF THEM" IN CALENDARS AND SPORT



THE FIRST EDITION OF OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER "THE WAYFARER"
WHOLLY SET UP AND PRODUCED BY VIVIENNE AND TRAVIS M SELLERS
DECEMBER 2006 "THE WAYFARER" NAMED BY ELRAE ADAMS



ISSUE 1 - DECEMBER 2006

THE WAYFARER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ADAM LINDSAY
GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC.

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THE ADAM LINDSAY
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FROTH AND BUBBLE DAY

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc. came alive on Saturday 24 June 2008 when Champions - Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame hosted the inaugural 'Froth and Bubble Day' at Melbourne's Federation Square.

The event was the brain child of Gordon enthusiast and historian John W. Adams of Torquay (Vic), who first became inspired by Gordon in 1972. Many readers will be familiar with John as the painstaking Secretary of The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc.

In early 2008, John approached Champions with the idea to stage a froth and bubble event with the aim of raising Adam Lindsay Gordon's profile. And what better way than over the 'froth' of a cap-

puccino and children blowing 'bubbles'.

Hosted by Champions, this year's event coincided with Gordon's nomination for induction to the Australian Racing Hall of Fame. Over 100 people turned out for the day with the highlights including an entertaining Bernard Caleb dressed as Adam Lindsay Gordon, speeches by Prof. Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Geoff Denning and Dr. Helen Kintoch who launched her booklet "Adam Lindsay Gordon - Horseman and Poet".

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc. plan to hold an annual "Froth and Bubble Day" each year on the anniversary of Gordon's death.

We acknowledge Champions and the help of Jackie Fenton for staging the successful event.



Adam Lindsay Gordon aka Bernard Caleb at the inaugural 'Froth and Bubble Day'



Jackie Fenton (second from right) entertaining the kids with bubbles

RESURRECTING INTEREST IN AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL POET

SOME PAGES FROM THE PAST

Geoff Denning

<http://www.starnow.co.uk/geoffdenning>

CD "The Ballad of Adam Lindsay Gordon"
DVD Presentation "Champions" Racing Museum

Brenton Manser

<http://www.brentonmanser.com.au/admella.html>

DVD "The Wreck of the Admella" 2009

The Torquay Froth and Bubble Literary Festival

<http://www.torquayfrothandbubbleliteraryfestival.com/>

Lorraine Day

<http://www.freestylepublications.com.au>

"Gordon of Dingley Dell": The Life of Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870) Poet and Horseman

"Reef of Despair." The wreck of the SS Admella – COMING SOON !

Michael Wilding

<http://www.scholarly.info/home/>

"Marcus Clarke" Edited by Laurie Hergenhan, Ken Stewart and Michael Wilding

"Wild Bleak Bohemia"; Marcus Clarke, Adam Lindsay Gordon and Henry Kendall- OUT SOON !

Dr. Helen Kinloch

Adam Lindsay Gordon-Horseman and Poet

Xavier Brouwer

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xavier_Brouwer

Xavier Brouwer

"MacKillop" The Musical

At present exploring the poems of Adam Lindsay Gordon For "Sighs of Sorrow"



AL GORDON

I see the wattle shine
And hear you sing.
Charged with its fragrance,
You will ride again,
Across a landscape
Waiting for your pen.

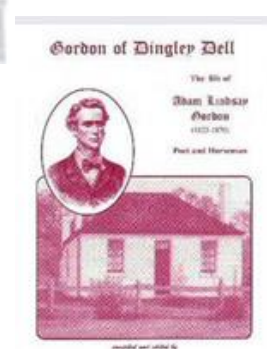
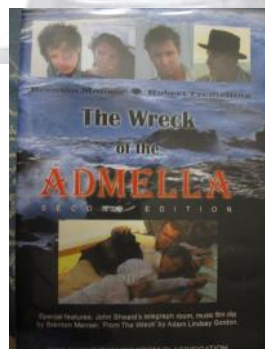
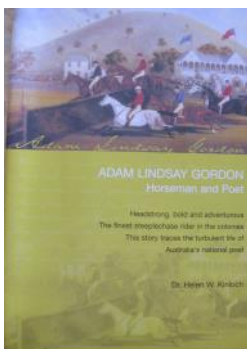
Your life amounted
To a steeplechase,
More hazardous than those
At which you rode,
And fell – or triumphed,
Dashing to the front.

We ride with you in spirit,
And we weep
That life's sharp thickets
Proved too sleep
To leap.

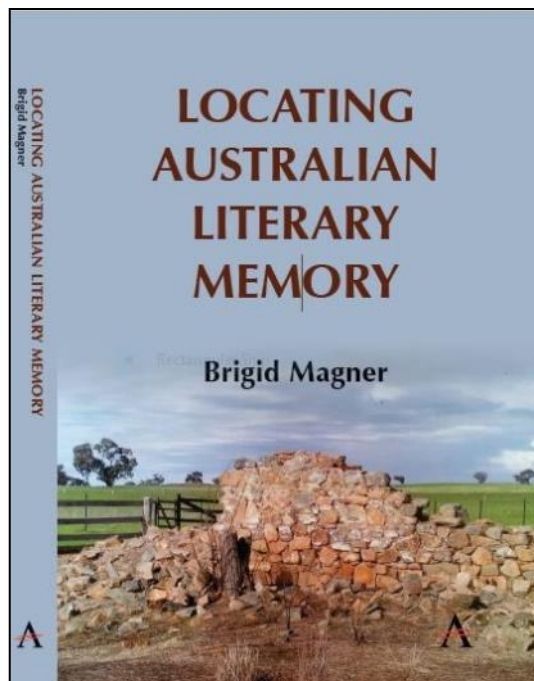
At cottages in Dingley Dell
And Ballarat,
Or Brighton's hitching post
And poignant grave
You are acclaimed.

Now, where the busy
Traffic boils
Your statue speaks
Of spring
Always of spring.
Your winter left behind.

Weston Bate
June, 2012



**A BOOK LAUNCH
"LOCATING AUSTRALIAN LITERARY MEMORY"
BY BRIGID MAGNER**



Thursday 12 December 2020 5.30pm to 7.30pm Free Event
Drinks from 5:30pm for a 6pm launch. RSVP

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne is delighted to host the launch of Brigid Magner's *Locating Australian Literary Memory* which explores the cultural meanings suffusing local literary commemorations.

It is orientated around eleven authors – Adam Lindsay Gordon, Joseph Furphy, Henry Handel Richardson, Henry Lawson, A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson, Nan Chauncy, Katharine Susannah Prichard, Eleanor Dark, P. L. Travers, Kylie Tennant and David Unaipon –

who have all been celebrated through a range of forms including statues, huts, trees, writers' houses and assorted objects.

Brigid Magner illuminates the social memory residing in these monuments and artefacts, which were largely created as bulwarks against forgetting.

Acknowledging the value of literary memorials and the voluntary labour that enables them, she traverses the many contradictions, ironies and eccentricities of authorial commemoration in Australia, arguing for an expanded repertoire of practices to recognise those who have been hitherto excluded.

Brigid Magner's fascinating study sets out the ways in which a nation can build an identity by actively constructing a literary memory, and then using those memories to paper over the deep history of our First Nations and their stories. In doing so she helps us understand both how fragile Australian culture is and also the ways in which literature is a powerful force.'

—Sophie Cunningham

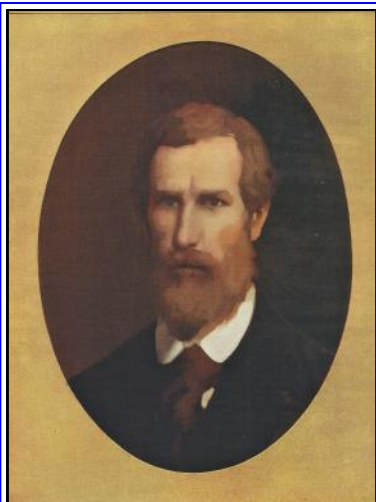
Brigid Magner is senior lecturer in literary studies and founding member of the non/fiction lab research group at RMIT University, Australia. She has contributed to a range of publications on topics relating to Australian and New Zealand literary culture with a particular focus on publishing, authorship, cultural heritage and tourism.



<https://nonfictionlab.net.au/>

The non/fictionLab is an interdisciplinary Research Group of the School of Media and Communication at RMIT University. Closely aligned with the discipline of Writing and Publishing, the Lab focuses on research into writing and allied creative practices. We experiment with contemporary realities through story, dialogue, poetics and partnerships. We foster collaborative research projects in partnership with fellow scholars and artists, and with industries and communities, local and international. We provide support for emerging researchers and a growing community of research students. non/fictionLab helps create events, projects, programs and public presentations that feature a diverse range of local and international writers, artists and academics.

**A SELECTION FROM OUR 2017 CHRISTMAS EDITION - THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON MEMORIAL VOLUME
EDITED BY E.A. VIDLER PUBLISHED 1926**



Fifty years after the death of Adam Lindsay Gordon, in 1920 a committee was appointed for the purpose of promoting the erection of an equestrian statue of the poet in St. Kilda Road (ed. changed to Spring Street). It was also decided to publish an edition-de-luxe of his poems. This volume, it was considered, would not only form in itself a fitting memorial, in so far as it would be a permanent treasure in

Australian homes and public institutions, but it would be a suitable means of augmenting the fund for the statue.

"The editor has secured the willing and generous co-operation of several of the leading artists of Australia, among whom must be specially mentioned Mr. Hans Heyson, who has travelled several hundred miles to and from Mount Gambier, at his own expense, for the purpose of painting the picture of the Blue Lake.

The task undertaken by Mr. Leslie Wilkie of painting a portrait of Gordon, depicting him as he was known during the latter years, was naturally one of great difficulty; but with the guidance and helpful criticism of one of the poet's very few surviving intimate friends, Mr. George Gordon McCrae, he has succeeded in achieving a faithful likeness and producing a fine painting. Mr. Wil. Aston painted 'Dingley Dell' on the spot; and Mr. Victor Cobb made a labour of love of his drawing of Gordon's grave in the Brighton Cemetery.

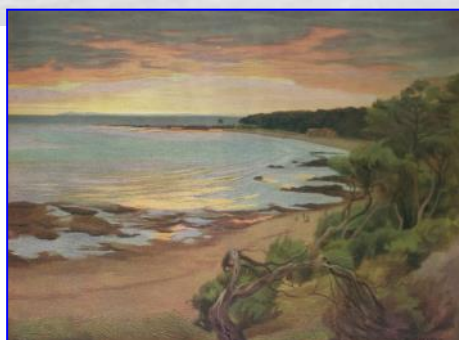
The pictures, all of which were painted or drawn specially for this book, form a collection of original works of art never before (we believe) brought together in any volume produced in Australia, and display not only the varied talents of our artists, but also their kindly spirit in so enthusiastically associating themselves with the memory of Australia's Poet Laureate.

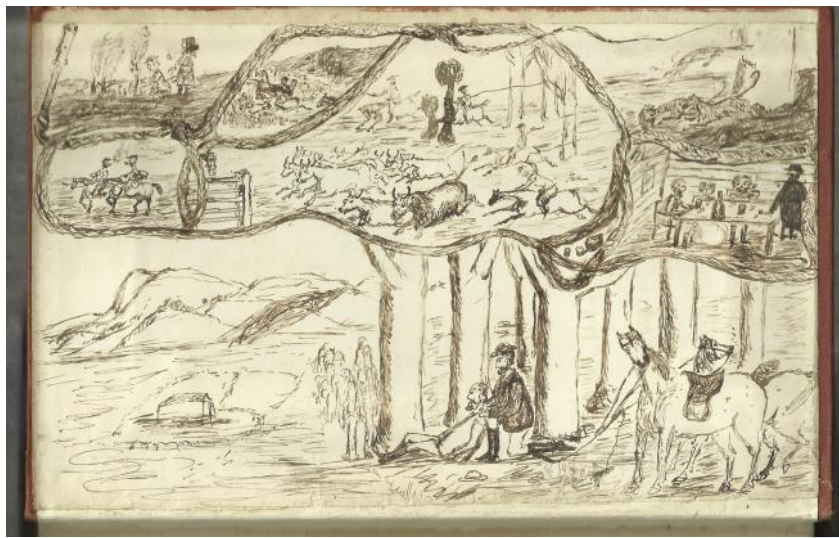


JOURNALIST Edward Vidler, a keen talent spotter.

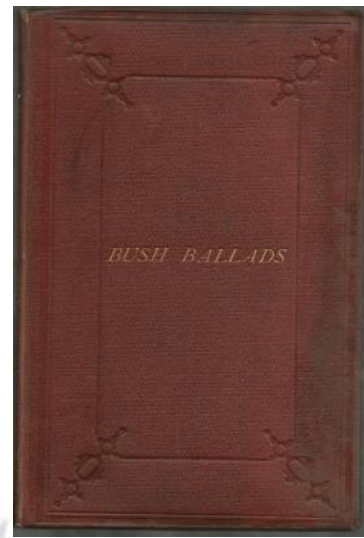
Edward Alexander Vidler (1863-1942) publisher, journalist and author. Born on 13 August 1863 in London. Educated at a private school at Gravesend, London. At 17 was employed by Cassell & Co., publishers where he was largely responsible for the publication of R. L Stevenson's *Treasure Island* in volume form. He migrated to Melbourne in 1888. On 28 December 1889 he married Florence Jessie Byrchall. He became editor of the *Evening News* in Geelong was a founder and life member of the Geelong Art Gallery and life member of the Geelong Public Library. He published commemorative volumes on Geelong (1897) and Warrnambool (1907). Returned to Melbourne by 1897 and at the 9 by 5 exhibition of expressionist paintings on 17 August 1889, Vidler was alone in championing the works of the artists, in particular Streeton, in his 'Table Talk'. In 1908 appointed head of the publishing department of George Robertson & Co., booksellers. Held an active interest in all branches of the arts. After 1918 he began publishing on his own account. He concentrated on work by local artists and authors in an attempt to popularize Australian art and literature. His business folded in 1930 and he suffered financial losses with the demise of the *Spinner*, the magazine through which he promoted Australian verse. A keen naturalist, Vidler wrote and published books on Australian flora and fauna. In 1932, when appointed an honorary joint curator of the Maranoa Gardens at Balwyn, he helped to design the structure of native plantings. He died on 28 October 1942 at Surrey Hills and was survived by his wife, son and daughter. He was buried in Box Hill cemetery. (Australian Dictionary of Biography)

Footnote. E.A. Vidler was a Great Uncle to one of our members, The Late Kelvin Freeman. It was Kelvin's opinion that Vidler put more money, time and effort into promoting our poetry than any other Australian of the time.





SKETCH BY GORDON



ADAM LINDSAY GORDON 1833-1870
POET, STEEPLECHASER AND TROOPER.

In Adam Lindsay Gordon we have a man who led a life packed with adventure and courage in the early days of Victoria and South Australia. Sad to say, he was handicapped by a pessimistic outlook on life, which led to the taking of his own life at Brighton, Victoria, when much younger, perhaps, than your father or your school master. Readers' who set for the intermediate certificate this year may have made Gordon's acquaintance by learning his poem, *A Dedication*.

There is nothing in those lines, however to hint at the fact that Gordon was, one of the best horsemen of his day, a champion boxer, and a brave trooper.

He must have obtained his love for adventure from his father, an officer in the British cavalry, who, while stationed in India would ride out to kill tigers armed with a spear and sabre only.

Adam was born in 1833, on the island of Fayal, in the Azores group, a thousand miles from Spain. (It is now thought that his mother returned to Cheltenham England to have the birth.)

When he was seven years old the family returned to England and settled in Cheltenham, and he was sent to school the next year.

He was on for any prank; he learnt boxing, and his long reach often saved him from a blow that he might have got owing to his weak eyes.

At the same time found great delight in Latin and Greek poetry, and remembered hundreds of lines right through his life.

Still, he preferred the company of jockeys, prize-fighters and horse trainers to attending class—he even played truant to ride in a steeplechase.

When the time for starting work arrived it was decided he should become a soldier. He entered the Woolwich Military Academy, but the work held his interest for no time at all. Although he learnt boxing from Tom Sayers, a hero of the British boxing ring; he was not keen on fighting with steel.

It was next thought he might become a minister!

Perhaps his parents thought such a life would steady him down. There is no need to tell you how long it was before that idea was given up.

One person who might have turned Adam into a peaceable, ordinary person was someone who, he says, at a country dance—

*Spoke to me--touched me without - intent-
Made me your servant for once and all.
Light laughter rippled your rose-red lips,
And you swept my cheek with a shining curl.*

The parents of Adam and this country girl, however, were opposed to the affair. Mrs. Gordon thought Adam too superior in class, and the farmer thought him too unsteady.

At this time the goldfields of Australia were acting like a magnet on young Englishmen. Adam determined to propose that they marry and go to Australia; if refused he would go just the same.

These lines, written on August 4, 1853, tell the result:

*I loved a girl not long ago,
And till my suit was told,
I thought her breast as fair as snow.
'Twas very near as cold.*

Three days later when barely 20 years old--he said good-bye to his father on the gangway of the barque Julia. of 520 tons. In 14 weeks he arrived in Adelaide.
He did not enjoy the company of the passengers, nor they his. You would imagine a poet to be at home in polite company, but not Adam Lindsay Gordon.
Mr. F. M. Robb, in his edition of Gordon's poems, with its splendid introduction, states that Gordon's friends agreed he was more at home among horse trainers, stable boys and jockeys than in a drawing room.
He, immediately joined the mounted police force of South Australia. The adventure and the open life, and the horses which he craved were there.
Once he arrested a desperate criminal sitting in a hut with his comrades; Gordon was single-handed, and armed with nothing more dangerous than an old pepper-box, which he clapped like a revolver to the criminal's head.
He later drifted into the business of breaking-in horses and many a severe injury he received due to his poor sight. It is said he never saw beyond his horse's ears, but in spite of that he was the gamest of riders in the bush and at race meetings.
His poetry was composed on any scrap of paper about him; he would write using his knee across the saddle for a desk, or sitting on a windy headland near the sea, or on the bough of a gum tree.
His poems brought him very little money, and as he was a poor business man, money troubles began to oppress him.
He moved with his wife to Brighton, Victoria, where he had his morning swim throughout the year, sometimes heading half a mile out into the bay. In the mornings he exercised his racehorses, and some afternoons he would walk to Melbourne and back.
The outlook became blacker; his health was failing through worry, bad head and body injuries from horse falls, and sleeplessness.
The night before he shot himself, he and Henry Kendall, a fellow penniless poet, spent their last two shillings in cheering each other up.
Gordon walked home, went to bed early, and waking before daylight, kissed his wife, and taking his service rifle, walked towards the ti-tree at Brighton Beach.
About nine in the morning a man, looking for his cows, saw his tall figure lying dead among the falling leaves of the ti-tree, with the muzzle of his rifle pointing to his head.
Thus lived and died a poet and a man, who made Australia his home, and whose bush ballads and galloping rhymes will be enjoyed and learnt by Australians, young and old, for many a day.

Western Argus Kalgoorlie Tuesday 26 July 1932 P35

OUR ADAM LINDSAY GORDON ENCYCLOPEDIA Many have offered to submit an entry and have not yet done so. Our closing date for publication is February 2020 and we would urge that those entries be submitted to us before the Christmas season takes over. There are still more items to be covered. If you have the time to contribute, please contact our secretary by email at: adamlindsaygordon@gmail.com Thank you to all those who have already submitted.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ADAM LINDSAY GORDON will be commemorated next year on 20 June with ceremonies being planned by our committee at his Spring Street Statue at 11am and then on to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria 239 A'Beckett St street Melbourne for an afternoon of celebration. All are invited. Particulars to follow . Ph 52612899

BOOK "GORDON OF DINGLEY DELL" 2nd EDITION
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PO Box 272, Yankalilla SA 5203
Ph: (08) 8558 3002 / 0417 856 963



Office bearers elected at our AGM: President, Allan Childs; Vice President, Viv Sellers; Secretary, John Adams; Treasurer, Travis M Sellers; Ordinary Committee, Lorraine Day; Terry Maher; Elrae Adams; Joan Pretty; Lindsay Smelt; Virginia Barnett and a warm welcome to Jenny



At last they were ready for the party.
"Why didn't you have a shave?" asked the wife.
"I did."
"When?"
"Just after you said that you would be ready in a minute."



Visit Adam Lindsay Gordon's
Dingley Dell Cottage.
Port MacDonnell S.A.
Phone Allan Childs 0408 382 222

THE HENRY LAWSON MEMORIAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY meet monthly on the third Saturday of each month (Feb-Dec.) Monastery Hall rear St Francis Church 326 Lonsdale Street. Entry via church car park in Elizabeth Street Melbourne. 1.30. to 4:00pm. \$5 for afternoon tea.