

## EDITORIAL

Some months ago Rhodes University Library invited our Society to allow a digital version of *Toposcope* to be hosted on the **Rhodes University – Hosted Journals** platform. This is not only a compliment to our Journal, but an important development for our Society, because it extends our readership. We thank Wynand van der Walt, Head of Technical Services RU Library, for his guidance in this process. At the same time we formalised our Editorial Policy, and those details may be found at the back of the Journal. For the first time, too, a new Editorial Sub-Committee was chosen and I thank Heather Howard, Avonne Pickering, Margaret Snodgrass and especially Gwynn Crothall for their time, support and good ideas. Suzette Grist did meticulous proofreading once again. What an excellent team!

This edition otherwise strikes a more sombre note than the last issue. Some articles seem to reflect the past year of pandemic, loss and lockdown and this is at odds with the commemorative feel of *Toposcope* 2020. Indeed, Covid 19, along with its devastating global effects, scuppered nearly all plans to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the 1820 settlers.

One exception was Graham Dickason's special service planned for Seven Fountains in September 2020. It came off memorably, but we didn't know then that it would be Graham's last visit to his ancestral property. He, a long time pillar of LAHS, died two months later.

Relocated to Cape Town a few months ago, but with our best wishes, is Sally Poole who served on the LAHS Committee for many years as researcher, outing planner and meticulous proofreader.

In April a contributor to our Journal, Dr Sandra Shell, won the Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor's Prize 2020 for her book on the Oromo slave children who were cared for at Lovedale Mission (see page 50, also *Toposcope* 2017). In this edition we include the poignant story of Gilo Kashe and the legacy of 'first and middle passage' slave trauma.

We feature a short wartime anecdote by LAHS member Rolfe Matthews, whose memories of nearby Motherwell and Coega are from a different time – while the proximate city of PE has only this year acquired a new name: *Gqeberha*.

William Martinson's excellent article celebrates past engineering achievements: the Kei River bridges made possible in their heyday communication and travel across our province.

The reimagining and expansion of the Toposcope Monument in Bathurst in 2019 by Historic Bathurst engaged the creativity and hard work of some of our members. Cairns were added to represent the Xhosa chiefs and kings of the 1820s, described in this issue by Margaret Snodgrass. The extended Monument is right for our times and embraced – quite literally (see page 22) - by the wider community. Nearby is Bathurst's old Powder Magazine where an exciting restoration project led by Tom Barrett is underway. David Forsdyke brings us up to date on this on page 23.

Finally, this springtime we should celebrate our area's *clivia nobilis*, discovered and named by the extraordinary botanist-adventurer William Burchell when he explored the E Cape in 1813. Other places and plants encountered on his travels will be familiar to our readers. We thank Roger Stewart for his presentation on Burchell in 2020, at one of the very few public lectures our members were able to attend.

*Sue Gordon*



*Clivia nobilis*  
(Photo: Random Harvest Nursery)