

# Sunraysia historian dies in Adelaide

DISTRICT historian Mrs Alice Farmer died in Adelaide last week.

Born Alice Lapthorne in Mildura in 1901, she was educated in the district at Miss Batten's Private School, Mildura Central School and Mildura High School, now called Mildura Secondary College.

Mrs Farmer was a keen writer and along with friend Vi Townsend, composed many poems — some of which found their way into the pages of "The Spinner", "The Bulletin", the "Victorian Producer" and "The Mirror".

Mrs Farmer taught at Merbein State School before her marriage to Mr Harry Goldring in 1923.

She and Harry moved to Melbourne where her two children, Lorraine and Ian, were born.

Returning to the district in 1932, Mrs Farmer continued writing as well as taking a position as children's librarian at the Carnegie Library in Mildura — a position she held for 22 years.

Mr Goldring, her first husband, died in 1941.

As the years passed by her love for writing had continued, eventually seeing her join the Melbourne-based writing club "Bread and Cheese Club" which later published her book "Mildura Calling" in 1946.

She remarried in 1958 to Mr Jim Farmer.

Mrs Farmer was a

foundation member of the Mildura and District Historical Society holding office of secretary for 25 years.

Friends said her vast knowledge about Mildura's history meant she became the city's primary reference for facts and information about the subject.

Mrs Farmer's health began to fail following the death of her second husband in 1985.

She moved to Adelaide in 1989 where she lived at a retirement village and later in a nursing home, until her death.

Mildura Secondary School has honored her memory with the induction of a scholarship called the Alice M. Lapthorne Prize.