



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 115 – April 2017

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Our March Meeting

Ian Morphett - The Story of Sturt Road

Our scheduled speakers for the March meeting were unable to attend due to unexpected work commitments, so we are hoping to hear from them later this year. Thank you to Ian Morphett for bringing his talk forward by four months at very short notice!

We had an excellent talk from Ian on the very 'Marion' subject of Sturt Road. He took us on a journey down this familiar road through the many decades of its history: from a dirt track with horse-drawn carts and very few dwellings to the busy thoroughfare it is today. Ian showed us the heritage-listed homes and other buildings along and near Sturt Road, telling the history of the places and the people who lived and worked in them.

He also showed yesterday and today pictures of most of the houses and other landmarks, including the general store and post office, now a computer shop; the Phelps' house or 'Red House', now the home of the Marion Heritage Research Centre; and the District Hall, now the premises of the Maranatha Christian Assembly.

Ian also showed us photos of Marion's agricultural past, which brought back memories to a greater or lesser degree for most of us. Some of these were of the market gardens, vineyards, almond trees and glasshouses.

The talk was interspersed with relevant readings by Judy from the memoirs of Rhonda Woodward, Dorothy Jean Wade and Cecilia Pitman.

It was a very enjoyable and informative meeting.

Food for Thought

Animals in the Public Service

Since the earliest years of European settlement Australian governments have employed animals to provide services. Some projects were successful whilst some, in the long term, turned out to be disasters.

Perhaps dogs would be regarded as the most visible of these servants, working at airports as sniffer dogs searching for narcotics or the police dogs searching and guarding people in war and in peace.

We should also think of the animals engaged in the control of pests: viruses for rabbits and caterpillars for the prickly cactus, or for the removal of waste, the dung beetle.

Perhaps the cane toad is the best-known failure: the toad was introduced to control beetles but became a major pest in its own right.

Literature on the introduction of cats to Australia provides several explanations for their introduction: as pets or possibly bred and released to control rats, mice and rabbits. One article suggested that cats escaped from Dutch ships prior to British settlement.

In wars the pigeon provided communication services.

When it came to building the railways the sleepers and tracks were hauled into place by camels, horses, donkeys and mules.

Outside of Australia we remember the transport services provided by the huskies for the Antarctic expeditioners.

With modern communications and transport and with city life becoming more remote from the nature it is easy to forget the work of the various animals that brought us to the present time and are still working for us.

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From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago

With the war continuing the care of those troops who had returned war was in the hearts of the residents of Australia.

Southern Argus (Port Elliot, SA : 1866 - 1954) Thursday 19 April 1917 p 3 Article

ANZAC DAY.

To the Editor.

Sir— On Wednesday, April 25th, at the Cheer-Up Hut, all returned soldiers are to be entertained at luncheon, and country branches are asked to co-operate with the parent society in showing this recognition of the brave men who have suffered (and many of them unfortunately will always suffer) for our honour and safety. Now will the patriotic people of Strathalbyn do what they can to help us send a hamper worthy of the town we live in. It does not matter how small the donation as it all mounts up splendidly. Butter; eggs, and poultry are most needed. The Cheep-Up Room (sic) will be open on Tuesday 24th inst to receive contributions.

I am, Sir, etc..

M. RICHARDSON.

The gravesites of those who died between Australia and the war fronts were also considered, so that relatives and friends would find some peace in knowing their final resting places.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) Thursday 19 April 1917 p 6 Article

HONOUR TO AUSTRALIAN DEAD.

The following letter was addressed to The Register from Durban, (South Africa) on March 15 by Mr. H. Fellows-Smith (Chairman), and Mr. John Morley (Treasurer) Australasian Graves' Committee:

Sir— "A committee of the Australasian community, in Durban, Natal, has been formed, with ' subcommittees in Pieter-

maritzburg and Johannesburg, to preserve a distinct area in the military cemetery at Durban for the burial of Australasian soldiers going or coming from the seat of war, and to erect finally a fitting monument to record their last resting place. The committee has been fortunate in obtaining from the military authorities an area allocated for the purpose. Arrangements have been made for a register to be kept by the committee of those buried within the area, so that relatives and friends will at any time be able to obtain full particulars of their dear ones. The mausoleum that will be erected at the end of the war will be photographed, and a copy sent to the nearest relative of those buried therein. It is intended to decorate the monument annually, on Anniversary Day. Communications requesting information may be made .to us. Box 82, P.O., Durban."

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

Watch out for a special invitation to the invite-only screening of 'In their Own words: Marion's Unsung Heroes' documentary. A Council & MHRC ANZAC commemorative project.

A repeat of the popular *Introduction to Trove and Ancestry* session will be run again on 24 May. Or you can always ask for one-on-one help.

Once again look in the Messenger and the What's On! booklet for info about our events each month.

Bookings for events are usually required. Please call us on 7420 6445 or email heritage@marion.sa.gov.au

Marion Historical Society

Our next meeting will take place on
Wednesday 17th May 2017
7.30pm at Cooida

Graham Jaunay

**Colonel Light's Plans for a Great
Southern City 1836 - 7**

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