



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 109 – August 2016

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Our July meeting

A tour of the Army Museum of South Australia. Keswick

We had a fascinating tour of the museum in which we travelled through time and across the globe.

The tour was led by Jeff Ayles and took us from the times before Federation, when South Australia had its own armed services and coastal defences at Fort Glanville and Fort Largs were constructed along with Military Road, to involvement in the Boer War by Colonial forces which, on Federation, became the fledgling Australian Army. He told us how experiences in the Boer War brought about changes in the relationship with the British regarding the command of Australia Soldiers.

From there the museum traces the involvement of the army through to the present time with displays on covering the involvement in World War 1, including the Australian action in PNG before Gallipoli, the Australian Light Horse, Gallipoli, Palestine and the Western Front.

Displays for World War 2 include Tobruk, Singapore and Kokoda. One of the unusual items in the display is an Aussie rules football that was used by the troops in North Africa. Apparently this item is much coveted by other museums

Post WW2 displays cover the involvement in Korea, Malaya, Indonesia, Vietnam and Afghanistan, Australia's longest war.

Other displays include "women at war" and a fine collection in the Medal Room.

Many of the exhibits are interactive so children of all ages will find something to interest them. It is well worth a visit,

The museum is self-funded from donations and entry fees and is maintained by volunteers. It is open to the public on Sundays, noon to 4pm.

Group tours can be arranged. Visit the website <http://www.amosa.org.au/>

Unusual and Interesting



Photo John Hoult

The picture is of Big Lizzie, a tractor located at Redcliff's near Mildura.

The machine is colossal and was built in 1915-16 and used for transporting heavy loads and scrub clearing. The tractor and two trailers could carry almost 90 tons. The trailers also carried fuel and water, the tractor had to be self-sufficient as there were no service stations around.

When it was built Big Lizzie was the biggest tractor in Australia and thought to be the biggest in the world, at 34 feet high by 18 feet wide, and weighing 45 tons. The tractor and two trailers were constructed with dreadnaught wheels designed to a 1906 patent by Frank Bottril. The wheels were designed to work in sandy soils His invention was soon usurped by the more famous caterpillar track.

There is a local connection with this magnificent machine. Frank Bottrill was

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born on 1 April 1871 into a Methodist family in Sturt, Adelaide. His father, John Lucas Bottrill, was a market gardener. His mother was Eliza Bottrill, née Macklin. He apprenticed as a blacksmith, and worked in the Moonta and Wallaroo mines in South Australia, qualifying as a steam engine driver.

More information can be found on this magnificent machine by entering Big Lizzie into your search engine,

From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) Thursday 17 August 1916 p 9
Article

VIEWS AND COMMENTS.

THE STANDARD OF LIVING.

From "The Mother of Six-foot Soldier" — "The question of the cost of living now under discussion should make us realise that it is owing to the good conditions under which we live that the Australians have become famous all the world over as fighters and as fine and brave men. The people in Europe perpetually express surprise at the fine physique, the courage, the Initiative of the Australian soldier. Our men are of the same race as the admiring Britisher, but our men are the sons of healthy and well-nourished women. They themselves have had plenty of good food, fresh air, and the education of a democratic country. Read what Mrs. Pember Reeves has to say about the life of the working classes in England in her tragic record called "Round About a Pound a Week," and see for yourselves the root causes that make the difference between our Australians and the anaemic sons of over-worked and underfed mothers. If we value our freedom, if we love our country, let us withstand every effort made to reduce the standard of living."

Port Pirie Recorder and North Western Mail (SA : 1898 - 1918) Thursday 17 August 1916 p 4 Article

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RACKS THE NERVES.

Continual coughing inflames the throat, wears out the patient and racks his nerves. A remedy that will relieve a cough promptly is most desirable in the treatment of throat and lung troubles, but it must be absolutely free from opium or other narcotics, which deaden the cough without removing the cause. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is an ideal remedy for the treatment of coughs of any description. It is absolutely free from narcotics, and will not injure the most delicate person, Chamberlain's Cough Remedy loosens and relieves the cough, and helps throw off the cause. Sold everywhere.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

There are a couple of events coming up in September and October so now is the time to put them in your diary.

Wednesday 7th September, 2 – 4pm:
A story telling performance by Tony Wight, ‘C J Dennis’s 140th Birthday’

Tuesday 27th September, 2 – 4 pm:
Talk by Ian Morphett, ‘The Story of Sturt Road’

Monday 25th October, 2 – 4 pm:
Talk by Major Chris Roe of AMOSA ‘Australians in Battle 1916’

Booking for these events is essential to ensure a place, so please book with Danielle.

For more information, please contact Danielle on 7420 6455 or email heritage@marion.sa.gov.au

Marion Historical Society

Next meeting

**Wednesday 21st September
7:30 pm at Cooina**

David Jarman

**Up the creek
A history of the Sturt River**