



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 119– August 2017

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Our July Meeting

Tour of Parliament House with Kris Hanna

There were 18 members, partners, and friends who met at Parliament House on the 19th July. Kris Hanna met us in the foyer and took us through to the Old Parliament House. He gave us a brief history of the old S.A. Parliament.

A Constitution Act was proclaimed in S.A. for a Bicameral Parliament. The two houses were to be known as the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council. From 1856 S.A. introduced adult male suffrage, including Aboriginal men with no property qualification for the House of Assembly. In 1894 S.A. granted adult women the right to vote including adult Aboriginal women, and was the first place in the world to grant women the right to stand as a member of Parliament.

Following one of the world's first secret ballot elections, the first State Parliament met on Wednesday 22nd April 1857.

Kris then took us through to the House of Assembly chamber which is all green. We could sit on the front bench and look up at the impressive ceiling. The speaker sits on the throne and the mace is positioned in front of the hall, representing the Queen.

Kris pointed out that many of the issues which were prevalent in the 1850s are still the same issues that they deal with today.

The Legislative Council chamber is all red. This is a newer and less ornate building opened in 1939. Currently the Legislative Council has 22 members, each of whom represent the whole of the state, and the House of Assembly has 47 members, each of whom represent an electorate of

approximately 22,000 voters.

We were then lead into the library with many old books on the shelves. Ian noticed the two Marion history books written by Alison Dolling and Bob Donley on the shelves. The reading room was very impressive and probably has not had many changes since 1939. There were maps of electoral boundaries which have changed over the years.

Thank You Kris Hanna for the tour of Parliament House.

Articles for our newsletter

If you have any snippets or short articles of an historical nature that you would like to share with other Marion Historical Society members please contact a member of our committee.

Articles should be in Word format with less than 500 words,

So - if you feel the publishing bug coming on – get writing.

Did you know that

In May 1854, a horse-drawn railway using iron rails was opened between Goolwa and Port Elliot in South Australia, being in due course extended to Victor Harbor and connected to Adelaide. At the turn of the 21st Century the greater part of this line was still in use as a tourist line and consequently this is now the oldest railway in Australia still in use.

Source “A history of the South Australian Railways. - Volume 1: The Early Years

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From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago

On the local front, before cheap, quick interstate road transport

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 16 August 1917, page 2

THE VEGETABLE SHORTAGE.

Vegetables are still scarce, though a few good cabbages are coming forward from the Sturt district. An indication of the limited nature of the supplies, however, was furnished by a merchant on Wednesday when he remarked that double the quantity now being received could be disposed of without easing the present high prices. No relief can be expected for another couple of months. At the end of that period the supplies from the Brown Hill Creek district should be coming forward in appreciable quantities. Root vegetables are scarce, owing to the recent floods. Damage was also occasioned by the last hailstorm. Early crops, however, are now reported to be making good headway.

On the other side of the world

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 16 August 1917, page 5

AUSTRALIANS IN FRANCE,

A Splendid Army.

[By the Australian War Correspondent, C.E.W. Bean]

HEADQUARTERS, FRANCE, August 12.

Gen. Sir William Birdwood has recently reviewed the various Australian brigades route marching along the country roads and elsewhere. The Australian army on the western front at the present moment is certainly the most magnificent force which has ever represented Australia. The troops are in wonderful health. One or two divisions have lately had heavy and continuous fighting, but the remainder are in such a condition, spirits, and fitness as have not been reached before in this war. The efficiency, spirit and discipline of the Australian troops have always been largely due to the quality of the officers; one result of the searching test of the past year's heavy fighting, and of the selection for promotion

employed in the Australian army in France, has been in the quick eradication of the majority of the inefficient and the swift coming to the front of a set of young commanding officers and others certainly unsurpassed in any army. A stronger friendship has always existed between the officers and men in the Australian Imperial Force than in any other army I know of, and, with the splendid intelligent material still coming, these men make a set of sun burnt bouvent divisions. The confidence of these in one another, and in the New Zealanders, is boundless. They are never so satisfied as when together; and wherever they may be, even those little technical units which are now around every part of the British front, all consider themselves part of the same Australian army fighting the Australians' battle against those ideas which every experience of the German makes the more utterly hated. The Australian troops are one solid army in sentiment. Australian tunnellers away in a corner of some other army will say they never found such divisions to work with as the Australians. The outstanding fact is the tremendous enthusiasm of the Australian troops amongst themselves and for their own army.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

Please join us **at 2pm on Wednesday 6 September** for a talk by Tony Stimson, President of the SA Boer War Association, titled *Australia's First War: The Anglo-Boer War 1899 – 1902*. Tony will talk about why this war happened and why it had such an impact on South Australia. As the 'lesser known' war in Australia's history, it will be fascinating to learn more about it and reflect on the impact it had on our ancestors. Bookings are essential
Please call us on 7420 6445 or email heritage@marion.sa.gov.au

Marion Historical Society

**Wednesday 20th September 2017
7.30pm at Cooina**

Dr Bruce Munday

"Those Wild Rabbits"

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