



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our July Excursion Glandore Community Centre

What a shame that our only daytime excursion for the year should fall foul of the Coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent lockdown when the City of Marion announced that there would be no public access to neighbourhood centres.

The oldest buildings in the Glandore Community Centre were purpose-built for a girls' reformatory in 1889 and were added to the State Heritage List in 1994. In 1898 the centre became the 'Edwardstown' Industrial School for orphaned and neglected children.

The change of the names of a suburb can be confusing if searching for information in Trove, a website or a book index. As Beth Ingram indicated in her talk to the MHS in July the suburb changed name from Darlington to Sturt in the time between buying the block and building the house.

The early history of the Glandore Community Centre buildings is interesting. During the 1880s, delinquent and destitute boys were confined in a leaking hulk moored in Largs Bay, while girls lived in a reformatory at Magill. Construction of the girls' reformatory at Glandore, meant that the boys could be moved to Magill. The cottage system at Glandore was innovative for the times. The best-behaved girls could live in the 'first class' cottage and the unruliest were kept in the 'third class' cottage. The remainder were housed in two 'second class' cottages. The complex was surrounded by a spiked iron fence. The girls were trained for home service and had to chop firewood, tend vegetable gardens and an orchard, milk cows and do the laundry for their own and other institutions.

George Street Reserve, Marion by Heather Latz

In the suburb of Marion, the George Street reserve is on land which was formerly a brickworks established by Charles Boots in 1898. His father Thomas had been a senior brickmaker for Henry Shearing. Charles and his brother George ran the brickworks on George Street until 1906, when Charles sold it to Robert William 'Bill' Wade, who ran it with other family members. He sold it to the Metropolitan Brick Company in 1927. The company fared badly during the Depression and sold the yard back to Wade in 1936. Bill Wade died in 1941 and brickmaking had probably ceased there by 1947, after which the large, deep pughole (from which the clay had been dug) was used as a rubbish dump then turned into a park from 1973.

The City of Marion is working on upgrades to many of its playgrounds and reserves and many of these have different themes. When turning their attention to the George Street Reserve, the council's landscape designers consulted Danielle Trewartha and me at the Marion Heritage Research Centre (MHRC) to learn more about the history of the site as they were keen for the redeveloped reserve to have a historical theme.

In May–June 2020, the City of Marion released plans for the redevelopment and invited feedback from the community. Representing the Marion Historical Society, I commended the council for the historical references in the design but said that we thought that their significance would be better understood by its users if there was an interpretive sign installed. The council agreed to incorporate this in the revised design.

I prepared the content of the sign in late 2020. Fortuitously, in 2019 I had answered the 'phone during my shift at the MHRC when a descendant of Thomas Boots called. Through

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correspondence with him and further research I found that much of the information about the Boots family published in Alison Dolling's history of Marion is incorrect. Since then, I've spent numerous hours researching all of Marion's brickmakers and was assisted by Geoff Grainger with rate assessment research at State Records in September 2020.

In the lead-up to the launch of the redeveloped reserve on the 26th of June 2021, council's event organisers asked for suggestions and assistance from the MHRC and the Marion Historical Society and I roped in the Marion Village Museum. Several of us dressed in period costumes or brought items to display, and David Jarman, Danielle Trewartha and I each led a short guided walk of the Marion Village. The Marion City Band added to the occasion by playing tunes from the early 20th century, when the George Street brickworks commenced. Several people commented on how much they appreciated that there were organisations devoted to publicising and celebrating the history of the area.

My subsequent post to the Marion Historical Society Facebook page attracted the attention of a descendant of Bill Wade, who contacted the MHS to arrange to give some Wade brickworks photos and memorabilia to the Marion Village Museum.

This story illustrates the roles that the Marion Historical Society can play in our community, to celebrate and educate people about the history of the area and its residents.



Heather, Liz, Avril and Danielle at the George Street reserve launch

The 1920 Olympics

The 1920 games were awarded to Antwerp to honour the suffering that had been inflicted on the Belgian people during World War 1.

It was at these games that the Olympic flag was used for the first time with five rings signifying the five continents. It was also the first time that the oath was taken by an athlete on behalf of all athletes and that doves were released as a symbol of peace.

Looking back, it is interesting to see the differences to recent games. There were 2,626 athletes but only 65 of these were women. There were 165 events and 29 countries competed.

The Australian team of 13 (12 men, 1 woman) competed in 4 sports and won 3 medals (2 silver, athletics and swimming, and 1 bronze, swimming).

The majority of categories of events in the 1920 games are still used in 2020. Two are no longer in the program. One was Equestrian Vaulting (gymnastics while on horseback) and the other was the Tug Of War. It is hard to think this was a serious international competition and it was the last time it appeared in the Games. Five nations participated and Great Britain took the Gold.

Olympics.com provides a comprehensive website on all the Olympic Games

Marion Heritage Research Centre

It is Australian National Family History Month, and the MHRC still has one talk left on family history topics:

*Looking After Your Family Treasures
2 pm, Tuesday 24th August*

*Book soon, as places are limited.
Call 7420 6455 or heritage@marion.sa.gov.au*

Watch out for all our events listed in the Marion Libraries' What's On! brochure, and on the City of Marion/Libraries social media pages.

Marion Historical Society Next meeting:

September 15th
at 7.30pm at Club Marion
Hills View Room 2/West

David Jarman

Marion's Wetlands

All visitors are Welcome

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