



The time ahead for the MHS

With the future uncertain for the Marion Historical Society there are, at this stage, only two further meetings scheduled for this year.

These are:

March 16 Bruce Munday
Those dry-stone walls: stories from South Australia's stone age

April 20 Annual General Meeting
Members Show and Tell

If a full committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting the new committee will organise a program of meetings for the rest of the year.

From the Newspapers 100 years ago

(Telling it like it is)

Daily Herald - Thursday 17 February 1916

CHRISTMAS BILLYCANS

A DRIVER'S GRATITUDE.

The following is from a letter from Driver E. A. Halliday, written on Christmas Day in Malta, in a convalescent camp: —"It is Christmas day, and we are spending it in camp. We were all going out to Christmas dinner, but it fell through at the last minute, so we are making the best of a bad job and are having it in camp. It's not up to my usual Christmas dinner, but we must be thankful for small mercies. We got a very nice little present from the Australian branch of the Red Cross Society, and, speaking for myself and tentmates, it is much appreciated. There are packs of cards, a tin of cigarettes, a tin of tobacco, box of chocolate, handkerchiefs, writing pads, pencil, &c. It is really very good of you all to help to cheer us up, as you are doing, and I hope we will all be able to return, and thank you for what you have done for us. I am getting along just middling. I don't know whether I shall get back to the front or not. I am hoping that they will soon do something one way or another, as I am fed up

INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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of doing nothing. I have had no letters since I left Gallipoli, so don't know how you all are. I left the peninsula on November 23, so it is nearly time I had a letter from some of you.

From the Newspapers

BABY TRAIN

Railways were an essential means of transport for people, goods and even services in the days before the motor car and truck. From the 1930s to the 1950s three Baby Health Trains took clinics to small, isolated communities.

The Mail - Saturday 30 July 1932

BABY WELFARE TRAIN TO BE EQUIPPED Help for Country Mothers

SOUTH Australia is to have a Baby Welfare Train. The committee of the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association is planning, in conjunction with the South Australian Railways Commissioner, to equip a carriage as a baby health centre.

This will be hauled by the railways through the Middle North, keeping to the broad gauge rail way line.

"WE hope," said the secretary of the association (Miss Kathleen Hilfers) today, "that the first trip of the Baby Welfare train will be made before the summer begins.

"Much interest in the project has been shown by the railways officials, and every possible assistance is being given to the committee. Plans for altering the interior of one of the narrow-gauge carriages which has been converted into a broad-gauge one, are being prepared by the Chief Mechanical Engineer (Mr. Shea).

EIGHT WEEKS' TRIP

"There will be a division in the centre with a doorway. Half the carriage will be fitted up as a baby health centre with all necessary equipment, and the other half as the nurses' living quarters, with kitchen, stove, sink, bathroom and sleeping accommodation for two. There will be an ice chest, wardrobes, and plenty of cupboard room.

"The carriage will remain for two or three days at each of the stopping places on the tour, and the towns to be visited and the times will be advertised.

By this means the baby welfare nurse, who will travel and live in the carriage, will cover a large area and visit many districts. She will be able to help and advise hundreds of mothers with babies. The trip will take eight weeks. This will be repeated to enable the nurse to see the babies every two months.

“The committee realises that this is not so good as having a separate nurse in each district all the time, but, as that is impossible for financial reasons, it is hoped by this alternative scheme to give a maximum service at a minimum (sic) cost.

“When times improve we feel sure that many of the more thickly populated districts will be able to have a full-time nurse of their own and the travelling clinic can then go to hitherto unexplored ground.

CO-OPERATE WITH DOCTORS

“This scheme became possible as a result of Baby Week, organised recently by the association. The committee has sufficient funds to run the carriage for a year, and its continuation will depend on the receipt of voluntary donations from people in the districts concerned.

“The sister-in-charge will work in co-operation with the doctors who have already been approached (sic) and have approved the scheme

“Each year matron receives hundreds of letters from country mothers seeking advice on the feeding and upbringing of their babies. How much more satisfactory and reassuring it will be for these women to be able to go to the Travelling Baby Clinic when it passes through or near their town, and speak personally to the sister.”

The Mail -Saturday 19 November 1932

South Australia's first baby health centre train will leave Adelaide on Monday, November 28, fully equipped with all that will be needed, and Sister W. Lapworth will be in charge. Riverton will be the first stopping place, and after two days there the following towns will be visited in turn: —

Clare, Burra, Terowie, Hamley Bridge, Blyth, Moonta, Wallaroo, and Kadina.

The Baby train must have been of interest to the community as public viewings were arranged.

BABY HEALTH TRAIN OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Advertiser - Saturday 1 April 1933

The baby health car returned to Adelaide yesterday, having completed its second tour of the middle north. At each of the 17 towns where the train stopped for several days there was a good attendance. Hundreds of babies were enrolled, and there were many visitors.

The carriage will be open to the public at No. 1 platform, Adelaide, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of next week, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

Happy New Year to all MHS members & friends.

The MHRC is starting the year with two workshops, “Introduction to Trove and Ancestry”.

The workshops are free and will be run on Tuesday the 16th of February and Tuesday the 15th of March. Each workshop will run from 2.00 to 3.30pm and afternoon tea will be provided.

Bookings are essential as places are limited

To book a place at this popular event, please contact Danielle on 7420 6455 or email heritage@marion.sa.gov.au

Marion Historical Society

Next meeting

Wednesday 16th March

7:30 pm at Cooina

Bruce Munday

Those dry-stone walls: stories from South Australia's stone age