



## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 113 – February 2017

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### Our Christmas Breakup

About nineteen of us enjoyed an excellent lunch and great company at our Christmas break-up at the Marion Sports Club last November.

As well as our wining, dining, and conversation, four members of the society were recognized for their long-term membership of, and service to the society. These were Claude Rankine, Rhonda Woodward, and Colin and June Lock, who were awarded framed certificates, Charlesworth gift packs and bottles of wine.

Unfortunately, Claude was not able to be present, but he was very happy with his award, which Judy delivered to him later.

John Hoult was also recognized for his tireless efforts in producing this newsletter month by month.

It was a most enjoyable afternoon, all round.

### Interesting and Unusual

George Goyder

Surveyor, Environmentalist and Visionary

If anyone mentions George Goyder the *Goyder Line* is probably the first thing that comes to mind - but in South Australia the Regional Council of Goyder, Goyder Electoral District and the Goyder Pavilion in the Wayville Showground are all named after him.

Goyder was born in Liverpool UK in 1826 and studied surveying and engineering in Scotland. He arrived in Australia in 1848, and in 1851 entered the South Australian public service. as a civil service draftsman. By 1857 he was assistant surveyor-general and in 1861 he was made surveyor-general Goyder's working life was varied to say the

least. He was involved in travelling, exploring and surveying, was an inspector of mines, and had to classify grazing leases and rents and rates of renewal.

Goyder was sent by the government of South Australia, (of which the Northern Territory was then a part) to lay out the street plans for a capital to be named Palmerston, later renamed Darwin. He completed the work in 18 months. Goyder's sympathy and understanding for the Indigenous people came through strongly.

In 1857 as assistant surveyor-general he led a party to explore the northern part of South Australia. He saw Lake Torrens and Lake Eyre full of water and reported exuberantly on the rich possibilities there but they soon dried up and his report was branded as a blunder. Goyder realised that the climate of South Australia was complex, and that overstocking in the good years would destroy the long-term sustainability of the land.

Goyder was influential in encouraging pastoralists to fence their runs for effective stock management and was an advocate for stone walling which also acted as a firebreak for normal bushfires.

He recognised that South Australia was short of timber for building and fences and recommended the establishment of the Bundaleer Forest, Australia's first commercial forestry plantation.

Whilst he is most remembered for the Line, *the rainfall boundary that fairly divides the purely pastoral country from the rest of the colony*, he played an important role in the development of South Australia

Goyder was a local, he had a retreat at Mylor and is buried at Stirling.

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## **From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago**

***The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)  
Thu 15 Feb 1917***

**AN APPEAL FOR MEN.**

*To the Editor.*

*Sir — I want you to give me an opportunity to say a word to some of my old acquaintances. Men at the front are battling bravely for us all. We know many of them — good chaps, with whom We have had good times. If as the result of an escapade any one of them had got into a tight place while here amongst us, who would have been the first to help him out? You, cobber you know you would have stood by your pal and have seen him through like a "sport." What about it now? He is up against it, not in consequence of a lark, but because he went out for the noblest cause that ever actuated a man—to defend his country and his home and you and yours. He wants you badly. Listen to this cry from a soldier to a friend at Goolwa : — ' If Australia wants to help finish this awful war she will insist on sending every single man. Although I took a long time before I made up my mind, I would not have hesitated had I known how much men are needed. Would the single men who are staying behind like to see us play a losing game? That means that we would all be mowed down, and no reinforcements. The men who are lucky enough to return home will not forgive the slacker. I have a mate who has been doing his duty for nearly two years and has had three days' rest. Come along, boys; have a cut in! It is good enough. Please print this for me, sir. I know hundreds of chaps personally who are game as pebbles and true as steel, but they don't realise how much they are wanted.*

*I am, Sir, etc., H. TEESDALE SMITH.  
February 13, 1917*

Dangers were not restricted to the front line as the following extract identifies there were also perils in London

***The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)  
Thursday 15 February 1917***

*AN OFFICIAL VIEW. LONDON, February 13.*

*Gen. Sir Francis Lloyd (General Officer Commanding London District), speaking of soldiers' perils in London, said the public houses ought not to be abused so much. Many publicans were playing the game. He regretted that the Government had no power to deal with street harpies. He would like to see juvenile offenders birched. While soldiers were dying at the front we were afraid to lift our hands against criminals who haunted the streets and preyed on men on furlough. Gen. Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien said men arriving in London at night time were confronted with appalling dangers. If they were not taken care of the numbers lost to the army might become so great as to seriously interfere with the progress of the war.*

## **News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre**

Happy New Year to all MHRC members & friends.

The MHRC is starting the year with enthusiasm. To start with we have a couple of workshops: *Finding Your Family History at the MHRC* (fully booked) and *Introduction to Trove and Ancestry* (1 spot left). We will also have a table at the Marion Celebrates event on Saturday 25 March at the Marion Cultural Centre. Come along and say Hello! Watch the Messenger and What's On! Booklet for info about our events each month.

Best wishes for your year ahead,  
Danielle & the MHRC Volunteers ☺

Bookings for events are usually required  
Please call us on 7420 6445 or email  
[heritage@marion.sa.gov.au](mailto:heritage@marion.sa.gov.au)

## **Marion Historical Society**

**Our next meeting will take place on  
Wednesday 15th March 2017  
7.30pm at Cooinda**

***David and Alison O'Loughlin***

***'Art Deco.'***

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