



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our November Meeting Breakup Lunch

Thirteen people came to our Christmas Lunch, with Council, Research Centre, and the Museum all represented along with MHS at the Marion Sports Club. We had a great time, with good food, company and conversation.

As usual, the program for the following year was handed out at the lunch (thank-you to Mandy for arranging the program and John for preparing the handout). We have an interesting year's line-up ahead, which we are hoping can proceed.

Unfortunately, after the AGM we will have only two committee members remaining, unless others step forward. We cannot run on less than three and even so, if anyone goes on holiday or gets sick, we cannot hold a meeting at all as per the constitutional requirements. We urge you all to consider whether you may be able to help, even for part of the year.

Thanks to all members for your continuing support of MHS. We hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you a happy and prosperous 2020.

From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago

It is not only the content of articles that is interesting when selecting pieces from the newspapers for our newsletter. Changes in spelling, in the use of words and the style and tone of writing over time become apparent. The tone of the article on the drought seems quite "brutal". I think a softer approach would be used in today's newspapers

The articles also show the huge changes in technology, infrastructure and communications.

Fire

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Thursday
19 February 1920, page 1

THANKS TO PLUCKY FIREFIGHTERS.

Mr. R. Carroll, of Aldgate. writes in reference to the bushfire which raged round Aldgate and Germantown Hill, praising the "wonderful work" done in fighting the fire. Nothing was too hard nor distance too far to travel for the workers. The fire raged right through Germantown Hill, but every house except one. was saved. The trooper asked me to go to Deadman's Gully to try and save the houses there. I went to Deadman's Gully, and informed the settlers that at the rate the fire was travelling they would be burn out in half an hour. The settlers were quite unaware of their danger and the closeness of the fire, and, in fact, they seemed quite stunned and unable to realize their danger. I told them to get out of there as quickly as possible, and helped a lady who was very ill up to the top of Germantown Hill, and then I rushed to Bridgewater and telephoned Aldgate for men to enable me to make a break round the various houses where the scrub and tea tree was very thick, and quite 14 ft. high. The men were sent by motor kindly lent by residents in the hills. On the arrival of the willing helpers we started a break around the houses at once, but none too soon, as the fire was approaching at a terrific rate, and flames were 40 ft. high. We had no sooner finished these breaks, and let them back, when flame met flame, and thus we were able to save all the houses in Deadman's Gully, barring two old places." Mr. Carroll says thanks are due to all those who placed their motor cars at the service of the men who were fighting the fire, and thus were able to move from spot to spot so quickly. This helped considerably to stop the first [sic] from spreading. The work done by the fire

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fighters was splendid, as very many of them had had a continual fight day and night for at least five days, and many had their clothes burnt while fighting the flames. Everybody did his best, and workers came from miles around to give a helping hand, without being requested to do so.

Drought

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924),
Thursday 19 February 1920, page 2

OUTBACK PRIVATIONS

SUFFERINGS CAUSED BY DROUGHT.

A visitor from Tibooburra (N.S.W.) said on Wednesday: —"People in the city think the drought is broken. but this is far from being the case. The drought has not broken, and conditions in the west are so serious that many townships are existing on tinned rations. Every where around Tibooburra, and Malparinka district, you see the bones of stock stripped of their flesh by dingoes and lying in the sun. Tibooburra school has been closed up until the drought breaks. The people carry dirty clothes three miles to a bore to wash them, and it costs 20/ per 100 gallons of soupy water in the town. One station far out, which had 26.000 sheep, has only 5400 at present. For seven months the people have been without fresh meat, and for forty miles at a stretch there is not even a tree to give shade. The temperature stays in the vicinity of 112. If fresh meat is required it is necessary to go to Broken Hill, 426 miles away. All the water holes are now dry, and each one has a circle of dead stock. The animals stayed until the water gave out, and being too weak to travel, lay down and died.

Irrigation

Irrigation was also a topic for the newspapers of the day with a scheme that the writer thought should be not be ignored. Would it have worked?

Southern Argus (Port Elliot, SA : 1866 - 1954),
Thursday 19 February 1920, page 3

THE ANGAS IRRIGATION SCHEME

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To the Editor.

Sir — The alarming shortage of water in Strathalbyn at this time of the year, and indeed for practically nine months of every year, is a shocking state of affairs, and a reproach to the inhabitants of the town and surrounding locality. I say alarming, and it surely is alarming, increasingly alarming, to see and know of so many people in and about Strathalbyn being practically starving for want of water though a beautiful stream runs through the place all the year round. It is madness — the people of the place are fifty years behind the times. Sufficient water flows wastefully down the Angas each year not only to supply every house with an unlimited quantity but to irrigate the country between here and Langhorne's Creek and Angas Plains. The whole area is a god-fitted on [sic] for an irrigation scheme, with fertile soil sloping in a gentle descent from the hills and it could and would carry a population of from twenty to thirty thousand if properly provided with the water scheme that so easily could be ensured.

I am, Sir, etc

A. BEVISS.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

Happy new year to all heritage friends and enthusiasts! The Heritage Centre is now open for the year, and you are welcome to call us on 7420 6455, email us at heritage@marion.sa.gov.au or drop in from 10am to 4pm, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

We have another great year of workshops, talks & fascinating historical information to share.

Watch out for our events listed in the Marion libraries' *What's On!* brochure, and the local newspaper.

Have a great historical year!

Marion Historical Society Next meeting:

7.30pm at Cooinda
Wednesday 18th March 2020
Stephanie James
Irish South Australia