



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our November Meeting Breakup Lunch

Unfortunately the final meeting for the society for the year reflected the year in general and the lunch had to be cancelled due to virus cases.

The November Newsletter and the Program for 2021 had been produced but instead of being able to hand them out at the lunch a mailout was our method of communication.

Copies are also available on the City of Marion website.

We can look forward to interesting meetings through the year, viruses permitting, **at our new venue at Club Marion.**

Thank you to Mandy for arranging the program and thank you to our committee for their work through the year.

Proposal for Henry Nixon's Grave in West Terrace Cemetery

When the Friends of Annie Doolan's Cottage Inc. had to wind up in December 2018 because the church leased the cottage to a private business, they gave just over \$4,000 to the Marion Historical Society Inc.

The MHS committee has been discussing projects that we might spend this money on. During our July 2020 excursion to the West Terrace Cemetery, we realised that the grave of Henry Nixon – one of the two founders of the village of Marion – was completely unmarked. A line has been superimposed on the photo below to show the approximate boundary of Nixon's grave.

A few rows away, the grave of the other founder of the village of Marion – Boyle Travers Finniss – has a headstone and an additional interpretive sign explaining that he was the first Premier of South Australia (and mentions that he was part

of Light's private company that laid out Marion and Gawler).

Henry Nixon was only 39 years old when he died in 1843, and his wife and four children returned to England in the next year. Although his two sons returned to South Australia in the 1850s, they both died childless, so Nixon has no descendants in Australia, as far as we know.

Two members of the Marion Historical Society committee – Ian Morphet and Heather Latz – have been meeting and corresponding with Robert Pitt, the CEO of the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority (ACA), about doing up Nixon's grave with a simple border and plaque. Robert Pitt has offered to provide \$500 seed funding from the ACA.

Geoff Grainger and Heather Latz have been researching the life and career of Henry Nixon since the cemetery visit and Heather has drafted the wording for a plaque. Stay tuned for an update on progress and a launch.



Now on Facebook – Type in “www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/” and Please “**Like us on Facebook**”

Vale Carol Bouwens

Carol Bouwens, who served on the Council of the City of Marion from 1997 to 2014, died on 22 November 2020. Carol provided great support to Bob Donley and me during the campaign to establish the Marion Heritage Research Centre. She also provided a lot of personal support and friendship to me after Bob died, as Bob had done for her after her husband died in 2006.

Among the notices that appeared in The Advertiser on 12 December was a great tribute from several members of the Council and staff of the City of Marion who had served with Carol. In part it read, '... we pay tribute to the efforts Carol made to represent her ward and the wider Marion community. Her feisty, dogged pursuit of issues and her determination to improve everything we did on council was a source of inspiration. Carol always let you know what her views were, but, she could be persuaded to change them with good evidence ... and we loved her for that.'

Heather Latz



Councillors Luke Hutchinson and Carol Bouwens unveil the plaque at the opening of the Marion Heritage Research Centre on 2 May 2013.

(Exciting) News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

First of all, we wish a very happy 2021 to all our heritage friends and enthusiasts! No matter what the year brings, we know we can face it, adjust, and continue to deliver our heritage services.

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We have some very exciting news to share. Marion Council has endorsed an architectural design for an extension to the 'Red House' to provide gallery/exhibition space for historical displays, enhanced public & staff workspace, and increased archival storage space (both of these last two being needed in particular).

Their concept is beautiful & meaningful, encompassing clever references to the history of the house and to Marion's people & its agricultural past, while being a modern design that marries well with & takes nothing from the character of the old house. An extension such as this will improve the services we currently provide in many ways, as well as lifting and enhancing the profile of Marion's heritage, both in Marion and beyond. If you like the sound of this, please let your Elected Member know you support it. Thank you. Stay tuned for ongoing updates! ☺

The Heritage Research Centre is now open for 2021, 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 on the City of Marion social media pages.

Have a great historical year!

News from the Marion Historical Society

New Venue

This year we will hold our meetings in the Hills View Room 2/West in Club Marion.

Next meeting:

7.30pm at Club Marion

Wednesday 17th March 2021

Stephanie James

Irish Immigration to South Australia.