



## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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### Our June Meeting

*Was cancelled due to Covid-19*

#### John Flynn - Visionary

The tyranny of distance is a phrase used in Australia to describe some of the social problems with society, today and in the past.

With roads linking our major towns and reliable and cheap motor vehicles, distances are not the problem they were. Air travel further reduces distance and modern technology with telephones, video calls and the internet mean that the services are provided in our homes. We do not need to go to the bank and in some areas we do not even need to go to a shop.

In the early 1900s outside the capital cities there were few towns, and those that were there had few facilities. The horse, walking or railways provided the main means of transport. As late as in 1916 railways were being built to open up the country to farming, enabling farm produce to be transported economically to the markets.

Settlement of the pastoral areas meant isolation, and if there were problems it meant deprivation and suffering and that people died unnecessarily because there was no way of getting help to them.

John Flynn began his work as a missionary in the early 1900s in remote Victoria and was determined to improve the lives of people living in remote areas who had no easy access to medical services, his "Mantle of Safety"

In 1909-1910 John Flynn travelled in Victoria from shed to shed, preaching, yarning and counselling the bush dwellers. The latest technology for communication at the time was the written word, and in 1910 he wrote and published a booklet, *The Bushman's Companion*. A handful of hints for outbackers.

The contents of the booklet give an indication of

his interest in the whole person, body, mind and spirit.

If you enter "The Bushman's Companion" into your computer search engine you should be able to view the 1916 edition of the booklet.

The booklet provides information to help fill the gaps in the material, medical, social and religious aspects of bush dwelling life. His way of closing the gap and improving safety.

As a means of providing medical help the booklet includes a comprehensive first aid section that included ailments, described as common, that would not be found in a first aid book today, typhoid, scarlet fever, hives and pleurisy. It also included recommended items for the medical chest.

The inclusion of the Burial Service in the booklet brings home the terrible isolation that existed in outback areas at the time. As there was no one to provide help and services quickly, people had to undertake the burials and no doubt the inclusion of a Christian service would have provided some comfort as the task was undertaken.

The booklet includes hymns, scripture, psalms, a Children's Service and items of literature including pieces from Lawson, Browning, Patterson and Tennyson.

The Mail Bag concept brings people together, basically as "pen friends". In areas where there may be few, or no, other people to talk to it encouraged and facilitated communications and reduced the feeling of isolation.

The booklet did provide, in the only way possible at that time, an increase in safety and wellbeing for those living in the remote and isolated areas of Australia.

The huge advances in technology later enabled great advances in care across Australia, - the telegraph, two way radio and the flying doctor.

## ***From Newspapers 100 years ago***

These days there are adverts that tell us that some item is a wonder food and great for your health for many reasons. A new idea? **No.**

Pinnaroo and Border Times (SA : 1911 - 1954), Friday 16 July 1920, page 4

### ***THE ONION WAY.***

*Onion eaters, as medical men have noted, are rarely ill, and that [sic] because onions clear, as nothing else does, all the poisons and impurities and germs from the body. Onions, in fact, are strong disinfectants, and if sliced raw, and put about a sick room, would gather to themselves all the infectious germs just as well as an expensive disinfectant would. It is for that reason that it is extremely dangerous to eat a cut or skinned onion that has been exposed to the air. It has cleared the air, but gathered to its raw surface what it has cleared. Medically, onions are excellent for insomnia, and they aid digestion. Further, an onion diet is one of the cures for rheumatism. This is due to the large proportion of sulphur oil in onions. It is that oil, too, which produces a beautiful, clear and velvety complexion. Bretons, great onion eaters; are noted for their smooth skins. Onion-juice too, gives immediate relief from the pain of wasp and other insects' stings.*

Reports of road accidents are a frequent part of news services and have been for many years.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Friday 16 July 1920, page 2

### ***Driving Accident***

#### ***THREE MEN INJURED.***

*Yesterday evening at about 6.15 a driving accident occurred on a road leading off the Solomontown road, near Milnes store. Three men [sic] named Williams, Shepherd, Newman, and O. Pavlich, were driving briskly along Solomontown road, and endeavored to turn the corner by the store. They turned too sharply, with the result that the cart overturned, throwing the men to the roadway. Dr Leitch, who was near the scene attended the men, and it was ascertained that Williams, who was unconscious and Newman, had slight concussion. Pavlich sustained abrasions [sic] to the face.*

*Williams and Newman were taken to the hospital in the ambulance, and Williams regained*

*consciousness shortly after admittance. The horse escaped injury, but the cart had a few breakages.*

These days there are not many reports which relate to horses and carts.

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

The Marion Heritage Research Centre is open to the public our normal days, **Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am to 4pm.**

Due to number restrictions it is advisable to make an appointment before coming, to avoid disappointment. Our sanitising & distancing protocols must be observed.

Contact us via phone **7420 6455** or email [\*\*heritage@marion.sa.gov.au\*\*](mailto:heritage@marion.sa.gov.au)

Finally, we had a little thrill recently when we saw our heritage centre's name 'in lights' in the credits of the tv show *Who Do You Think You Are?* for some research we did for Julie Bishop's story. We didn't know who we were researching for, and had fun trying to guess, which some astute team members did!

## **News from the Marion Historic Village Museum**

The Museum has re-opened to the public from Sunday 5 July. Opening hours are Tuesdays 10am – 12 noon, and Sundays 2 – 4pm.

### ***Marion Historical Society Next meeting:***

***Great News***

***Meetings are starting again***

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Gillian Dooley  
Matthew Flinders**

7.30pm

***in the lounge room of  
The Marion Church of Christ***

*Corner of Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue.  
Enter carpark and Church through Mary Street off  
Alawoona Avenue*