



## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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### Our June meeting

#### Clem Latz

#### The Dunera Boys

At the May meeting fifteen of us heard a great talk, illustrated with a powerpoint presentation on the Dunera Boys from Clem Latz. The following is a condensed and paraphrased version of his talk.

In the 1930s the Nazi party was taking over Germany, and during this time thousands of people emigrated from Germany to England. Although they were considered by the British to be refugees of Nazi Germany, when WWII broke out they were interned as enemy aliens, and remained in prison camps for the duration of the war.

In 1940 about 2,500 men, comprising 2,000 Jewish refugees; 200 German and 200 Italian prisoners of war; and 42 others were shipped to Australia on the troopship, Dunera, to be interned in Australian camps. As well as the “enemy aliens”, the ship carried 7 officers, the crew, and 309 guards – a total of about 3,000 men on a ship with the capacity for 1,600. Conditions were appalling on the ship. The overcrowding meant that they were literally walking over bodies if they had to get up for the toilet during the night. They suffered from dysentery and skin diseases from the unsanitary conditions, and they were badly mistreated by the guards. Also, the few possessions they had with them on the ship quickly disappeared if they were of any value. This journey lasted 57 days.

Some were disembarked at Melbourne and were from there taken to Tatura in Victoria. The rest were taken on to Sydney, where they were ordered to shave before coming ashore, the razors available being yet another painful burden. After disembarking they were put on trains to Hay in NSW, where prison camps had

been hastily erected, and surrounded by three barbed-wire fences.

In camp seven at Hay there were 922 internees, and roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of these were single men. 922 were Jews, and the rest were from the various Christian denominations. There were 577 Germans, 239 Austrians, 82 Stateless and 24 various. More than half were aged between 17 and 30.

The Dunera boys experienced extremes of heat and cold at Hay, and were eventually transferred to Tatura. They made the best of their lot in the prison camps, organising concerts, football matches and learning from those whose professions gave them material to teach others. Their occupations were various, including professionals, tradesmen and artists.

After the war the Dunera boys were each paid 20 pounds in compensation. More than half were repatriated, but 900 chose to make Australia their home. Among these were doctors, academics, mechanics, musicians, artists and artisans, who brought their talents to their new country and had families here. In 1960 they had their first reunion, followed by others including their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion in 1990. Last year two of the very few remaining internees were present at the 75<sup>th</sup> reunion, which was mostly attended by the descendants of the Dunera boys.

### Interesting and Unusual

In the beautiful small town of Koolunga in the Mid North stands a small War Memorial erected in memory of those who fell.

The date on the memorial for The Great War is August 1914 – June 1919.

Unusual in that it doesn't state the end of the war as 1918 but I have seen these dates on other memorials.

Both dates are correct. The 1918 date refers to the date of the signing of the Armistice and the

end of fighting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1918.

The June 1919 date refers to the signing of Peace Treaty of Versailles in June, which ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers.

1918 The end of Fighting

1919 The beginning of Peace



Photo: John Hoult

## From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago

Southern Argus (Port Elliot, SA)  
Thursday 15 June 1916

### MATTERS FEMININE CARE OF THE HAIR

*To keep the hair and scalp in a good condition, the head must be washed often enough to ensure cleanliness; about once a month is sufficient for most people, but if the hair is very oily a washing once in every two weeks will be necessary. Brush the hair and scalp thoroughly, though gently, every night, and be sure to keep the hair-brush clean. Women or girls with long hair should never use a wire hair-brush, although there is a kind with soft wire 'bristles' that may be used with entire safety by men. When brushing the hair, part it, and brush the scalp until it tingles. An excellent method of promoting scalp and hair health is to massage the scalp thoroughly with the fingers for at least five minutes every night. A very little olive oil, applied to the roots of the hair twice a week with a child's tooth-brush, is recommended for very dry, harsh hair. Dryness, by the way, often causes premature greyness. If preferred, a little*

*vaseline or carooline may be used instead of the olive oil. Pulling the hair to keep the skin of the head loose from the bone will also help to keep the hair long and thick.*

## News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

Make a trip to the Marion Council foyer later in July to see a small display in our new display cabinets, 'Going to the Marion Show', a look at Marion's agricultural and horticultural history. Before then you can see the History Month display by the Marion Village Display centre in the foyer.

Here's a date for your diary: Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>:

As part of Australian Family History Month, we will be hosting a talk by Elaine Beales 'Writing Your Family History with Trove', based on the recently-published book on the life of her grandmother.

The Centre has a wide and varied collection of books, photographs and maps that could keep you occupied for considerable time.

Call in to see the collection and to investigate the library for topics on offer.

For more information, please contact Danielle on 7420 6455 or email [heritage@marion.sa.gov.au](mailto:heritage@marion.sa.gov.au)

## Marion Historical Society

**Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th July and will be a guided tour of the Keswick Army Museum.**

**Time 10.30am for a 10.45 start**  
**Entry price \$5.00 per person**

We will need to advise the museum of approximate numbers so please let Judy (phone 8298 5585) know by 15th July if you are proposing to attend.

The Museum is located within Keswick Barracks with access via Gate 4 from Anzac Highway.

Off-street parking adjacent to the Museum is available within the Barracks.