



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 106 – May 2016

Contacts

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Our April meeting

Annual General Meeting and “Show and Tell”

We had a good turnout for the AGM and were pleased that the Mayor of the City of Marion, Kris Hanna, attended. Kris has been a member of the Marion Historical Society in the past and has led guided walks of the Marion Historic Village.

Heather said that, as previously advised, she, Ian Morphett and Liz Donley would not be continuing on the committee. Judy Morphett was prepared to continue on the committee and in the last few months our two newest members, Sheila Graham and Mandy Coote, have said they were willing to be on the new committee. Ideally (and constitutionally), a fourth committee member was required. Heather suggested that the new committee could sort out among themselves who would do each role at any given time.

The committee then vacated their positions and handed over to Kris Hanna to facilitate the remainder of the AGM. He asked for someone to volunteer to fill a fourth position on the committee, but no-one stepped forward. A few people offered to help with setting up chairs for the meeting and sending suggestions about speakers to the committee and there was some discussion about whether or not to have tea and coffee and whether to have meetings during the day.

Mandy had had to leave the meeting early, but Judy and Sheila agreed that the new 3-person committee would continue to run the association. Heather and Kris both said that if the job proved too difficult or a committee member had to drop out they should not hesitate to request help and/or

arrange a Special General Meeting to vote on a motion to close the association, as had nearly happened tonight. This would be a shame because our membership has grown considerably since 10 years ago and our meetings consistently spark interest and positive feedback. Kris closed the AGM at 8:15 p.m.

Show and Tell

Judy Morphett chaired the Show and Tell part of the evening.

Bronte Prescott had brought a locket that had been given to her in 1992 by her aunt Jean Wade (who wrote “Tomorrow is Yesterday”), who had inherited it from her Miller grandmother (i.e. Jean’s father’s mother; Bronte’s great-grandmother), who had been given it before her marriage, when her name was Helen Robertson. She came to Australia from Scotland in 1873 and married David Miller in 1879, so assuming she brought the locket with her from Scotland it is now at least 143 years old. Bronte also passed around an 1885 photograph of her great-grandmother wearing the locket and with baby Harold (Jean’s father) on her lap. The locket opened on two sides. On one side was a portrait of David Miller and the other side contained three curled locks of hair – one from David Miller and the others from their two sons, David and Harold.

This generated a lot of conversation about 19th century items which included hair and another somewhat ghoulish item popular in the 19th century called a Frozen Charlotte (a small doll based on a tragic tale).

David Jarman related the story of tracking down the location of the bell from the “Joseph Albino”, which was the ship which Samuel Kearne had bought to transport him and his family and household to South

Australia, after which he sold it. The bell had been used for many years to call Oaklands Estate workers in for lunch. The bell is now in the home of a grand-daughter of William Pethick. After David explained the origin of the bell to Fleur's husband, Gordon Johnson, Gordon retrieved it from his shed and had it restored and put on display in their house in Canberra. David showed us a picture of it in its current location. This week Gordon called David to say that he had asked the Canadian ambassador if he could find out more about the Joseph Albino, which had been built on Prince Edward Island in 1839, and the ambassador had passed the query to the curator of Canada's maritime museum in Nova Scotia.

Heather Latz had brought three things. She passed around an album containing photos of events in which the Marion Historical Society had participated, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s. She had asked Rhonda Woodward to add labels to each page so that we could identify some of the people and occasions, and wanted to give members the opportunity to look at it tonight before she deposits it in the Marion Heritage Research Centre.

Heather had also brought a bucket made out of a kerosene tin, which was now part of the Marion Heritage Research Centre collection. This had come from the back yard of the state-heritage-listed "Wattiparinga" in Clovelly Park, which she had visited several months after Maggy Ragless died in order to collect some of the Marion-related things that Maggy had stored there. Maggy's cousin, Rhonda Pech was sorting out and distributing Maggy's collections and gave Heather the bucket after noting her excitement on seeing it. This excitement stemmed from Heather having read a lot about kerosene tin buckets in Jean Wade's memoirs and in her own father's partly-written memoirs, which was the third thing she had brought. She read a passage describing how kerosene tins were turned into nesting boxes for use on the poultry farm on Cross Rd, Edwardstown,

where her father had lived with his family in the 1940s–50s.

Finally, Stuart Thomson showed us photographs he had taken at the Sir Thomas Playford ETSA Museum, 31-33 Broughton Avenue, Kurralta Park. These showed us a wide range of 20th century electrical

appliances and street lighting, bringing back memories of old radios, washing machines and Mixmasters. The Museum is open every Tuesday <http://www.etsapastemployees.org.au/Museum.html>.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

The Centre has two Trove & Ancestry workshops coming up in May and June which are nearly booked out. 2 spaces only are left for Tuesday 7/6 so call asap to secure a place. Would you like to see more of these kinds of events? Let us know what else you would like to learn about.

The centre's collection continues to grow with one of our latest acquisitions being two school workbooks that belonged to a Doolan family member when she was aged about 14. Beautifully written in copperplate writing and illustrated with hand-painted water-colours, it is a lovely little treasure!

The Centre has an interesting collection of books in the library that could keep you occupied for considerable time. Call in to see the collection and to investigate the topics on offer. Over 500 items now!

For more information, please contact Danielle on 7420 6455 or email heritage@marion.sa.gov.au

Marion Historical Society

Next meeting

**Wednesday 15th June
7:30 pm at Cooida**

Beth Duncan

Post World War 2 Development in North Glenelg