



## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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### Our April Meeting - AGM

Our AGM last month was reasonably well attended, and we once again welcomed the Mayor, Kris Hanna, as well as Crs Janet Byram and Nick Westwood.

The same committee members agreed to serve again this year, and Ian Morphett also agreed to come back on the committee.

Judy gave a report on MHS involvement in recent and future projects and events, including Heather's oral history project and two guided tours; Judy and Ian's 'Then and Now' photo display at the 'Marion Celebrates' event; and the photo display at Bunnings. She also read the financial report.

Sheila gave the committee report and called for more people to serve on the committee. Heather took the minutes – thank-you!

The meeting closed at 8pm. Please see the meeting minutes for the finer details.

### Show and Tell

Avril Pendlebury showed us her wonderful family tree going back to the 12th century and told us about her ancestor, Mary Ralphson, who fought in battles alongside her husband, yet lived to be 110!

Peter Stretton showed photos from the forthcoming History Month display at Bunnings, including an 1890s women's cycling club and a penny-farthing rider. He also brought a curious and unidentified item which Rob and Cr Westwood thought may have been for heating soldering irons, etc.

Heather gave some background on the oral history project with the Herseys, and read some extracts from the interview. Ian showed us a comparison of building bricks from yesterday and today; and Stuart shared memories of his Warradale home: the yard

with the trees & veggie garden, his tricycle and the many memories of life back then.

### Interesting - Founding of South Australia

The decision to found a new settlement was made by a number of gentlemen combining philanthropy with business. The site chosen for this experiment was southern Australia. The site of the headquarters of the new venture had not been decided but was to be on the southern shores. The Tropic of Capricorn was to be the northern boundary but was altered to the 26<sup>th</sup> parallel with the 132<sup>nd</sup> meridian as the frontier and the 141<sup>st</sup> as the eastern frontier. The ocean was to be the southern boundary and the name South Australia chosen for practical purposes.

This all seems rather vague compared to the meticulous plans that are needed for any ventures these days!

At the time little was known of the country and things changed fairly quickly. The boundary of Western Australia was the 129<sup>th</sup> meridian and the boundary of South Australia was the 132<sup>nd</sup> meridian so there was a strip of land, presumably part of New South Wales, between SA and WA. In 1861 this was remedied by annexing the area to SA - an area nearly equal to Victoria.

More changes came two years later when the Northern Territory was annexed to SA.

The new SA was then more than twice as large as NSW, Victoria and Tasmania put together and covered as much ground as a dozen of the smaller nations of Europe

The dividing line between SA and Victoria was surveyed in 1847 but subsequent improvements in the accuracy of surveying showed an error of two miles in fixing the 131<sup>st</sup> meridian. Victoria therefore holds a two-mile strip, 242 miles long which is

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claimed by SA and which to my knowledge has not, to this date, been resolved.

Perhaps the current slogan “**Just Do It**” was the methodology for achieving progress at the time of colonisation.

### **From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago**

*Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Thursday 17 May 1917, page 1*

#### **WILD BEAST FIGHTING.**

#### **FLAMING HELL OF BULLECOURT. LONDON, May 16.**

*Mr. Philip Gibbs says:—Since Sunday, after 12 counter-attacks against the Australians alone, the Germans made several thrusts (sic) at and into Bullecourt. Each time they were broken against our machine guns and rifle fire. The enemy is attempting to link up with the Germans, who are still holding out in the lower part of the village. They nearly succeeded on Tuesday night, and on Wednesday morning, when some British posts in the village were destroyed, and the defenders were obliged to fall back temporarily. Clearly the tunnels in which the German garrison is holding out, enable the men to be fed and supported, otherwise they would have been forced to surrender days ago. They still lie hidden behind ruins, and are sniping and grenading and keeping up a constant stream of machine gun bullets. When the British heavy guns shell them, they retire to their tunnels, but are able to re-establish their machine guns within 30 seconds.*

*This morning's counter-attack was of unusual strength. After the heaviest gunfire the remains of the village now constitute a ghastly battlefield. Dead men are lying in heaps on the ground. They are piled with shellholes and mingled with a chaos of debris. The British fought with the utmost determination, holding every little post, shell crater, and fragment of a wall until the troops behind came to the rescue. Then they flung themselves with bayonet and bomb upon the German gun teams. The men fought like wild beasts in the shallow trenches, in flower gardens and orchards, or bombed one another over fallen timbers, and sprang at one another's throats when their bombs n*

*were used up. The men in the lower half of the village heard the tumult of the fighting where the Australians were coming, and bombing a passage through the breach in the Hindenburg line. The Australians, who are keeping guard in the night time, where they have been for many days isolated without help on either flank, hear the chatter of English machine guns, and have faith in our men. A few days ago it was reported that the English had lost the village. The Australians would not believe the report. "The Tommies will stick it all right." they said, "and there are some Scotties who will hold on till all's blue." The, Australian boys were right. Bullecourt has been held against all counter-attacks. Our men to-day have beaten back the enemy with heavy losses, and are now awaiting the fresh assaults in this flaming hell of blood and shell fire.*

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

A repeat of the popular “Introduction to Trove and Ancestry session” will be run again on 24 May and 14 June and are filling fast.

Please note that if you are researching at the Centre you can always ask for one-on-one help. Call to make a time, or just walk in!

Once again look in the Messenger and the “What’s On!” booklet for info about our events each month.

The Centre is hosting a workshop on 26 July called “Finding Your Family History at the MHRC. 2 – 4pm, free, with refreshments provided. And watch out for a State Records talk in August.

Bookings for events are usually required. Please call us on 7420 6445 or email [heritage@marion.sa.gov.au](mailto:heritage@marion.sa.gov.au)

### **Marion Historical Society**

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st June 2017 7.30pm at Cooina:

*Glen Woodward:*

*‘S.A.s Firsts’*

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