



## Our April Meeting Annual General Meeting

Mandy welcomed those attending: Ian Morphett, Mandy Coote, Sheila Graham, John Hoult, Peter Stretton, Geoff Grainger, Avril Pendlebury, Rob Pendlebury, Stuart Thomson, Marilyn Linn, Geoff Linn, David Jarman, Max Bowden, Malcolm Ingram and Cr Raelene Telfer. Apologies were from Judy Morphett, Heather Latz and Mayor Kris Hanna.

The minutes of the previous meeting were received, and in business arising out of the minutes Judy's resignation from the committee, which was announced last year, and is now effective. Judy was thanked for the work she has done over the last eight years. A small discrepancy in the previous year's financial report was also explained by Ian. Ian read both the Committee Report and the Treasurer's Report, and both were received.

In other business it was announced that the membership fees are now due; that Sheila Graham had also found it necessary to resign from the committee and we thank her for her work over the last three years; and that new committee members are needed.

May is History Month and MHS is hosting a cemetery walk at O'Halloran Hill, while Marion Historic Village is having a guided tour. History Month Programs were available at the meeting. The committee and John Hoult were thanked for their work throughout the year.

All committee positions were declared vacant and Cr Raelene Telfer chaired the elections. Ian Morphett was returned as Treasurer, Heather Latz became Minute Secretary, and Mandy Coote was returned as a committee member. The meeting closed at 7:50. The next AGM will be on 15/04/2020.

## Show and Tell 2019

Marilyn Linn told us about Samuel Lewis who is related not only to Marilyn's husband Geoff, but also to Mandy Coote 3- or 4-times great grandfather.

## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 126 – May 2019

Contacts      Mandy Coote      0401 540 024  
                 Ian Morphett      8298 5585

[marionhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:marionhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

Samuel Lewis arrived in Adelaide in 1839 and was a stone mason and marble carver. He was commissioned to make two monuments. The first one to Colonel Light was erected in Light Square, but after some time it deteriorated and crumbled. Samuel was commissioned to make another - sadly it was erected after Samuel's death.

The 2nd monument, to Mathew Flinders, was erected in Port Lincoln. Marilyn told us that she and Geoff went to Port Lincoln to see the monument but couldn't find it and assumed that this one also had deteriorated and crumbled, but Mandy verified that it is still standing. He did so much more.

In the 1840s Samuel bought land in Brighton, hotels including the Flagstaff and established the suburb of Darlington.

David Jarman held up a framed picture that had been presented to him. David told us it was a sketch taken from a photograph of Colonel Light's brick cottage that was built in Thebarton.. The bricks came from George Gandy who, with his sister Maria, sailed from England on the same ship as Colonel Light.

Maria lived with Colonel Light as his mistress, carer and housekeeper. Colonel Light was known to be a most successful gardener who produced the best vegetables in the colony. Maria cared for Colonel Light until he died of tuberculosis in 1839. The Reverend Howard refused to see Colonel Light or conduct his funeral because he was living in sin.

Maria inherited his house and some debts. She later met and married Dr George Mayo who paid off the debts. They had four children. Sadly, Maria died of TB in 1847. There is a monument to Maria Gandy-Mayo in Albert Street, Thebarton.

Despite protest from people who cared about it, Colonel Light's house was demolished in 1926.

John Hoult showed us pictures of moulds used in the production of diamond drills heads and pictures of the drill heads that were used in oil exploration. The diamonds were raw industrial diamonds. The company was located on Marion Road just north of the Council Depot and closed in 1977 - a Marion industry that was part of international oil exploration.

Now on Facebook – Type in “[www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/)” and Please “Like us on Facebook”

*Raelene Telfer* showed us a lovely ornament named Sally. The ornament was brought back from Jerusalem by her father after WW2. It is wooden and inlaid with lovely mother of pearl. Raelene couldn't tell us what it was or what it was used for, but it was delightful to look at and we were happy to see it.

*Avril Pendlebury* was a school teacher and this year is the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Seaview Downs Primary School. Avril told us she and Rob built their home as the school was being built in 1968. In 1969 she started teaching at the school which was in grounds surrounded by treeless paddocks; not helpful at all in summer or winter weather. The school had a headmistress which was very unusual at that time - that job was usually taken by a man. The headmistress was very strict; some of the teachers and parents were frightened of her. Eight new teachers who started were told by the headmistress that because of shortage of grants they needed to bring to school their own teaching materials, including course books, radios & etc. The parents were very supportive and in 1970 one of the parents started the school magazine.

A reunion was held a short while ago and in May there will be another reunion of students and teachers.

*Ian Morphett* showed us an appliance and we were asked to guess what it was. Someone suggested a dentist drill from long ago. It had a long pole that was attached to a round bowl-like feature on the floor. The drill was attached to string or wires and a foot pedal got the drill going. No one volunteered to try out the drill!

### **Vale Rhonda May Woodward** nee Hamilton 18-12-1927 - 21-4-2019

When the former President of the Marion Historical Society, Bob Donley, died, I described him as a heritage hero for Marion, and I think that Rhonda has also earned that description.

Back in 1986, when the Marion Historical Society was formed, Rhonda joined the committee as the assistant historian and in 1989 she was elected as the historian, - she wouldn't have imagined that she would play such an important role in preserving and communicating Marion's history for future generations.

By the time I joined the committee in the mid-2000s, Rhonda had been organising the annual program of meetings for the Marion Historical Society and supper for the meetings for about 20 years. She maintained connections with many people and was the "go to" person when anyone asked questions about people and events in Marion's past.

Importantly, she wrote and illustrated, with maps and drawings, her recollections of her life in the Marion area. These records have become an important part of Marion's heritage as they tell us things that no other historical records and documents can, such as what it was like to shop and work in the general stores in Sturt and Warradale; what Sturt Road was like when only half a dozen cars drove down it each day; what her grandfather's property Warracowie was like, before it made way for the Marion Cultural Centre; and hearing a train leaving the Brighton station and coming across the paddocks and gardens while she cycled furiously from her Sturt Road home to get to the Oaklands railway station just in time to catch the train to work in the city.

By the time Rhonda's health prevented her from regularly attending Marion Historical Society meetings, I had become the President because of Bob Donley's untimely death. Every month, Rhonda and I would have a long conversation, during which she was keen to hear about our progress towards establishing and operating the Marion Heritage Research Centre and the Marion Historic Village Museum, and she would never fail to encourage me and thank me for my efforts. I appreciated her support.

Heather Latz

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

The MHRC is open throughout the year on Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am - 4pm. Visitors are always welcome and there is plenty to keep you interested.

As part of May SA History Festival the MHRC held a display, 'Historic Gems of Glenthorne National Park', at the Cove Civic Centre. If you missed this, it may be relocated to another location in Marion.

Watch out for our events in the Marion libraries' What's On! booklet, the local newspaper or this newsletter.

For more information please call the Heritage Research Centre on 7420 6455.

## **Marion Historical Society**

**Our next meeting will take place on  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
7.30pm at Cooina**

**Robert Pitt**

*The History of West Terrace Cemetery*

**Now on Facebook** – Type in “[www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/)” and Please “Like us on Facebook”