



## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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### Our September Meeting

#### Darryl Gray:

##### The History of the Marion Sports Club

We had an interesting talk by Darryl Gray on the Marion Sports Club for our September meeting.

Originally called the 'Sturt Memorial Recreation Ground', this community facility was opened on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1908 by G. K. Soward. Many fundraising efforts were undertaken for the various needs, including a set of goal posts costing £3-3s. On 19 July 1913 a £300 pavilion was opened, also by G. K. Soward. The pavilion had been designed by architect, William Anderson. Many celebrations accompanied the opening of the pavilion.

Many district clubs had their home at this ground, beginning with football and cricket. Soon the 'Sturt District Trotting Club' began using the oval for practice, and the 'Sturt and Marion Horses-in-Action Society' used the ground for its shows. Tennis courts were laid in 1920, and motor cycle and boxing clubs were added in due course. In 1945 a bowling green was added.

In the 1950s some novel lawnmowers were introduced in the form of a small flock of sheep. Maintenance of the grounds and pavilion were financed by fundraising activities. The grounds took some maintaining, as there was a considerable drainage problem.

In 1949 the grounds were incorporated as the 'Sturt-Marion War Memorial Oval Inc'. War Memorial gates were added in 1953. In time, the pavilion became too small and was demolished.

A plaque in the present-day clubrooms, unveiled by Mayor Newberry on 9<sup>th</sup> March

1980, commemorates the official opening of the 'Sturt-Marion War Memorial Oval and Sports Club'.

Today the Marion Sports Club is a popular community hub, home to many sports clubs and community groups, and the venue for markets, quiz nights, shows, dining and private events.

Politics plays its part in most areas of life and Darryl's talk was no exception, providing a lively topic of conversation between members, Mayor and Councillors! Where would we be without it?

### What a Spectacle

We may think that spectacles are a modern invention necessitated by modern living as people did not retire when the sun went down but insisted on straining their eyes with reading and writing.

Not correct! The knowledge of magnification has been around for hundreds of years.

It was as far back as the 1300s that 'spectacles' were in use. Friar Alessandro Della Spina of Florence recognised their value to humanity and shared his knowledge about them.

Venice was the centre of the mediaeval glass trade where the early manufacture of spectacles took off and portrait paintings began to portray the fashionable wearing spectacles.

Bifocal lenses were invented by Benjamin Franklin in 1748. In 1827 it was suggested that lenses could be fitted directly to the eye (contact lenses) but it took another 60 years until this became practical.

These days laser surgery is altering our eyes without the need for spectacles of any type.

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## From the newspaper 100 years ago

The war is coming to an end and talk moves to the coming of peace.

*Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923),  
Thursday 17 October 1918, page 1*

### **AUSTRALIANS AT REST.**

*Visited by Mr. Hughes.*

*LONDON October 16.*

*Mr. Hughes stayed one night at Amiens and returned to London on Tuesday. Motoring from the coast, he visited two composite brigades which were resting from their fights in the Somme villages. He said the troops had rightly earned their period of repose. He felt strongly that this period should not be short. He said: —"I hope it will not be your job again .to draw the sword, but if the occasion arises, I know you will do it. Lately the tide of war has changed our way. Nobody three months ago dreamed, that we were standing on the threshold of victory. No troops have done more to bring about the amazing change in the fortunes of war. During the black days when the German avalanche was sweeping on Amiens and Paris, the Australians stopped and pushed back the foe's armies. You showed not only that you did not fear the Germans, but despised them. M Clemenceau sends you a message. He regards you as the beau ideal of soldiers. France will never forget the greatness of your work for her. You have made the name of Australia famous and worldwide. Although your battalions have been reduced to mere shadows, you can go back to Australia with the lasting satisfaction. that you have done your duty in the hour of crisis. I hope the troops will show the possession of qualities which will make Australia great in peace time, just as your valour and heroism have made her great in wartime. The people of Australia will show how much they admire your fortitude and sacrifice."*

The sacrifices and losses are summed up with feeling in the short and simple statement.

*"Although your battalions have been reduced to mere shadows"*

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

### **Dates for your diary**

**'Remembrance Day at the Cove'  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November,  
10 am – 12 midday.**

The Centre will be supporting this council event with a display, slideshow and two showings of the documentary made about 4 of our local WW2 veterans.

Come along to the Cove for a special day of meaning, remembrance and enjoyment, suitable for the whole family.

### **Heron Way Reserve, Hallett Cove.**

Experience the first  
**City of Marion Volunteer Expo**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December,**  
**10 am – 2 pm**  
at the Tonsley Innovation District.

For more info phone: **7420 6455**  
Email: **heritage@marion.sa.gov.au**

## **Marion Historical Society**

**Next meeting:**  
**Our Annual Christmas Lunch**  
Meet at 12pm for a 12.30 start on  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November,**  
at the Marion Sports Club.

RSVP please by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>.  
phone Judy 82985585 or email:  
[marionhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:marionhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).  
Partners are, of course, welcome.

*The program for the early part of next year will be given out at the lunch.*

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