



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our September Meeting

David Jarman

Marion's wetlands

David Jarman introduced his talk by stating that fresh water is the world's most precious resource, but we are polluting and wasting a lot of it. Periodic droughts in South Australia have focused attention on ways of 'water proofing' Adelaide.

Treated water from the three sewerage treatment plants is used to water parks, vineyards and fruit trees. The Adelaide desalinisation plant has been constructed and will be heavily used during future droughts.

Wetlands are a way to capture, clean and use stormwater and the City of Marion has three of them up and running and others being developed. David says people often worry that wetlands will lead to masses of mosquitoes, however a properly designed wetland, with deep and constantly moving water, seeded with native fish, is unsuitable for mosquito larvae.

European settlement has not been kind to our rivers and stormwater. Before water enters a wetland, tonnes of solid matter such as rubbish, mattresses and shopping trolleys are trapped in trash racks and/or manually removed. More insidiously, chemicals such as oil, grease and phosphorus from tyres wash into the gutters and drains when it rains, as do car washing detergents, weedicides and pesticides. Reed beds in wetlands can remove enough of these chemicals for the water to be safely used.

The Warriparinga wetland was the first built in the City of Marion, in the late 1990s. Water from the Sturt River flows into three ponds in succession. The first is a sedimentation pond, as is the case with all artificial wetlands. It slows the inflow of water so that the dirt drops to the bottom. Occasionally, the sedimentation pond has to be emptied of water and excavated to remove the mud. Reed beds in the other ponds clean the water.

The second wetland to be built in the City of Marion, in 2001–02, is in the middle of the Morphettville Racecourse. Two drains that used to run along Bray Street have been diverted into a sedimentation pond in the wetland, after which the water flows into reedbed ponds. An aquifer storage and recovery system allows the cleaned water to be stored underground in winter, when water is plentiful, and pumped up to irrigate the racecourse in summer. David's diagrams clearly explained this system.

Oaklands was the third wetland to be built in the City of Marion and David was on the long-running committee involved in planning the wetland, representing Westminster School, which shares a boundary with the Oaklands reserve. A former driver education centre was converted into wetlands. Construction took place in 2013 and David showed a series of photos of its development since then. David was happy to see that several trees, including Kauri scar trees, in the area were protected and many more native trees and plants have been planted by the Friends of Sturt River Landcare group. In winter, cleaned water is pumped into an aquifer about 100 metres underground. In summer it is pumped up into a large tank and then through a network of pipes (coloured purple to indicate that the water is reclaimed) to irrigate 38 parks and reserves in the district and this number is increasing by the month. There are also two trucks which pump out water and use it to water street trees. The ponds in the wetlands are drained every now and then to remove non-native fish species, so that native fish, frogs and birds can thrive. David has high praise for the City of Marion's Water Resources Co-ordinator, Glyn Ricketts, who oversees the management of Marion's wetlands and, jointly with Flinders University, runs an education program for school groups on the site.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Nixon grave unveiling

12th April 2022

A couple of years ago, Robert Pitt, the CEO of the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority, gave us an interesting presentation about the history of the West Terrace Cemetery. In 2020, we took him up on his offer of a guided tour of the cemetery for our July excursion.

After the tour, I re-visited the cemetery to find the grave of Henry Nixon, co-founder of the Village of Marion, and found that it was completely unmarked, while that of the co-owner of the Village land – Boyle Travers Finniss – has a headstone and an information sign. As we reported in the February 2021 newsletter, we decided to organise the renovation of Nixon's grave.

After Nixon died in 1843, his wife and four surviving children returned to England. As far as we can tell, he has no descendants living in Australia and may have no descendants at all (two sons and a daughter died having had no children and I haven't yet been able to trace the other daughter). Geoff Grainger and I prepared the wording for a plaque for the grave, telling readers about Nixon's life and his roles in the colony of South Australia.

The renovated grave will have a concrete surround, white/grey granite chips, a red SA granite sloper and a bronze plaque. I chose the colours as an allusion to the military uniform that Nixon would have worn for many years before he retired from the British army and sailed for South Australia.

Marion's Mayor Kris Hanna has accepted our invitation to unveil the grave. The unveiling will take place at 10 a.m. on the 12th of April 2022, which is the 179th anniversary of Nixon's death. Robert Pitt will host a morning tea in the caretaker's house after the ceremony.

From the newspaper 100 years ago

Thursday 20 Oct 1921 The Register Adelaide

MOTION PICTURES TO BE PRODUCED IN ADELAIDE.

As the result of a fortnight's visit to Adelaide, arrangements have been concluded by Mr. M. P. Pimentel for the production of motion pictures in South Australia. The initial film — a comedy entitled "The Adventures of Count Bankrupt"—has been begun. It will feature Mr. J. Costello, who has been signed on for two years. Mr. Williams, who is well

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known in the film world as the cinema-photographer of several Australian films, some of which are now being shown in Sydney theatres, will arrive in Adelaide on Saturday to take charge of the cinema photography. The production directors include Mr. Linton H. Moore, formerly of the Hepworth Film Producing Company, of London. Miss Auburn Maxwell, late of the J. C. Williamson's, Limited, "Irene" Company, has been cast to play opposite Mr. Costello. "I am confident" said Mr. Pimentel on Wednesday, "of successfully establishing the motion picture industry in Australia. The atmospheric conditions in Adelaide appeal to me strongly as better suited for film photography than those of other capitals of the Commonwealth. For the present my plan is 'exterior' productions — providing one reel weekly, including comedy, travel, scenic, topical, educational, and industrial films, such as will be readily booked by picture theatres as supports to their feature programmes." Mr. Pimentel, who is staying at the South Australian Hotel, stated that he would be glad to hear from authors and photo-playwrights who have ideas for dramatic and comedy productions.

Marion Heritage Research Centre

Hello from the Marion Heritage Research Centre, as we head towards November and then Christmas, can you believe it! It's been another busy year, in spite of Covid, and it's wonderful to see the knowledge in the archives continue to grow as we respond to more and more enquiries.

This November, we invite you to think of our fallen heroes & those who serve, by viewing our display of war material that is in the display case in the Marion Council Chamber foyer until 10 November.

MHRC Coordinator, Danielle, will be taking leave from mid-November until January 2022. Please make welcome Libraries staff member Lauren Pillar who will be acting for her, until we close for Christmas.

Marion Historical Society

Our Annual Christmas Lunch

Meet at 12pm for a 12.30 start on

Sunday 21st November,
at the Marion Sports Club.

RSVP please by Wednesday 17th.
phone Liz 0439 949 006 or email:
marionhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.
Partners are, of course, welcome.

The program for next year will be given out at the lunch.