



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our August Meeting

Our belated AGM

Our August meeting began with our belated AGM, in which Liz Donley kindly volunteered her services on the committee, and Heather and Mandy were also returned.

The other main item mentioned was the committee's decision to spend up to \$4,000 on identifying and improving Henry Nixon's grave at West Terrace Cemetery.

Matthew Flinders – a family man

Following the brief AGM, Gillian Dooley presented her talk on Matthew Flinders of Donington, in which she focused on Matthew Flinders as a family man, by quoting passages from his letters and journals.

Matthew Flinders was born at Donington, Lincolnshire, on 16 Mar 1774, the eldest son of Matthew and Susannah Flinders. Matthew senior was an apothecary and man-midwife, who left behind some eye-opening diaries. These were published in two volumes: 1775–1784 and 1785–1802. In the first of these Matthew Snr. said that he was "gratefull (sic) to Providence" that not all of his children had survived infancy! Gillian, and her listeners, no doubt, were more than a little surprised at these sentiments, but then, times were hard.

Matthew's surviving brothers and sisters were Samuel Ward, John, Betsy, Susannah, Hannah and Henrietta. The unfortunate John was considered not only simple, but vicious, and was committed to a lunatic asylum – unthinkable to us in this present day, but quite common in those days.

Matthew Jnr's mother, Susannah, died when he was nine years old. His father married again, and he was apparently on good terms with his stepmother, addressing her as "my dear mother" in letters he wrote to her after the death of his father.

In 1790 Matthew Jnr joined the Navy, having been greatly influenced by the story of "Robinson Crusoe", but doing so much against the wishes of his family and friends. After some shorter voyages, in 1794 he made his first long voyage to Port Jackson, New South Wales as a midshipman aboard HMS

Reliance, arriving in 1795. The ship also carried the newly appointed governor, Captain John Hunter. Samuel Ward Flinders, who had by this time also been allowed to join the Navy, sailed with his brother on this voyage. On that first trip Matthew made two expeditions with George Bass. By 1798 he was a lieutenant, and was given the command of the sloop, "Norfolk". On this, he made the expedition which led him through the Strait between the mainland and Van Diemen's Land, named Bass Strait after his colleague. In 1799 he sailed to Moreton Bay, where he established that Fraser Island was not peninsular. These are, of course, only a few of Matthew's career highlights, as this talk was about different aspects of his life.

After returning to England, Matthew married his childhood friend, Ann Chappelle, in 1801. He had long been determined to marry only after he had achieved financial independence from his father.

Matthew Snr died in 1803, at the age of 52. Matthew Jnr expressed "moral guilt" for having grieved his father in any way.

At some stage, Matthew and his brother, Samuel fell out, although it is not clear why this happened. Samuel retired from the Navy in 1808 on half pay, having been accused (perhaps falsely) of disobeying orders. Matthew grieved over the marriages of his beloved sisters, considering them to have been lost to himself. He strongly disapproved of girls reading novels, believing they gave them romantic ideas.

After his marriage, Matthew had hoped to take his wife with him to Port Jackson, but this was not allowed. It was another nine years before Ann would see her husband again. On his return journey from Port Jackson on HMS Cumberland, he was obliged to stop off at Mauritius in the December of 1803 for repairs to the ship. England and France were at war at this time, and the governor, Decaen, detained Flinders for the next six years. Matthew's beloved cat, "Trim", was in captivity with him, but at some point, he disappeared. Flinders finally left Mauritius in the June of 1810, travelling to England via the Cape of Good Hope. On this voyage he was promoted to Post-Captain. During his confinement at Mauritius, Flinders drafted the first map named

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“Terra Australis” (rather than New Holland).

Flinders was in poor health when he arrived back in England. He worked on his book, “A Voyage to Terra Australis” and an atlas for publication. Matthew and Ann’s only child, Anne, was born on 1st April 1812. This child was only two years old when Matthew died in London on 19th July 1814. His book had been published just one day beforehand.

Ann and her daughter lived with Ann’s half-sister, Isabella, after Matthew’s death. Ann was a gifted painter in water colours, though blind in one eye. She never married again, but outlived Matthew by almost forty years, dying in 1853. Her daughter, Anne, married William Petrie in 1851. They had one son, William. Anne was a writer and published five of her works.

Matthew was buried in London, but his grave was lost to history until 2019, when it was found during excavations for the High-Speed rail project. His remains were removed and will be re-interred at his hometown of Donington.

From the newspapers 100 years ago

Spring is in the air and then, as now, we enjoy the pleasures of the zoo

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 16 September 1920, page 10

The Zoological Gardens are now beginning to put on a spring appearance, and many of the flower beds are in full bloom. The wistaria, which always makes such a splendid spectacle, is well advanced in bloom. Several additions have lately been made to the menagerie in the way of births in the gardens. These include young leopards, a llama, and fallow deer. The hippopotamus lately added to the society's collection is doing remarkably well, and has grown considerably since its arrival. There are plenty of attractions in the shape of animals and birds, which will be especially interesting to visitors from the country, both old and young.

And for the future - bottled sunshine

Southern Argus (Port Elliot, SA : 1866 - 1954), Thursday 16 September 1920, page 4 OUR WINES.

OVERSEAS TRADE.

The following is the substance of a paper read before the recent Viticultural Conference in Sydney by Mr. Cuthbert Burgoyne: — '

— A Summary.—

Nature has endowed Australia with a climate and soil suitable to the vine. Innate British ability assures the production of wine of a quality able to compete with the world. Your own people have learnt to value the beverage you produce. London Merchants have created an export market for your natural unfortified wines among 45,000,000 of people. You own, as Britons, the goodwill of the Empire. Boundless success, in a new source of wealth and prosperity lies

within your reach; and yet there is a political sword swaying menacingly over this wonderful young industry, that curbs progress, initiative, and enterprise, and restricts the force of capital. To me it is the saddest phase in the history of the industry of a great young country that the material welfare of the community should be at the mercy of political factions. Opportunity does not wait— she is here now anxious and willing to shower prosperity upon the heads of those who are worthy and do not deny her. There are seven things necessary to industrial prosperity — enterprise, capital, markets, quality, quantity, the honest, fearless support of a sympathetic Government, and glorious opportunity. Shake hands with opportunity without delay, and Australia should become one of the greatest vineyards of the world.

News from the

Marion Heritage Research Centre

The Marion Heritage Research Centre is open to the public on our normal days, **Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am to 4pm.** Due to number restrictions it is advisable to make an appointment before coming, to avoid disappointment.

Our sanitising & distancing protocols must be observed. **Thank you.**

Contact us via phone **7420 6455** or email heritage@marion.sa.gov.au

Due to covid19, the MHRC has cancelled most of its live events/talks this year.

However, we have an archaeologist guest speaker whose talk will be presented online at **2pm Wednesday 21st October**, on the topic ‘**Digging Up An Irish Past**’. Keep an eye on the City of Marion website, or call the MHRC on 7420 6455 for how to view it.

And Ancestry has extended its remote access for people with library cards until the end of the year! If you don’t have a library card just pop in to one of Marion’s great libraries to sign up for one. They are free.



Marion Historical Society

Next meeting:

Wednesday 21st October 2020

Heather Cox

Cobham Hall

Time – 7.30pm

**Venue - the ballroom at Cobham Hall
4 Gordon Terrace, Morphettville.**

Enter from Alua Grove.

Please do not park on Gordon Terrace.

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