

The BLIZZARD



NEWSLETTER OF THE MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

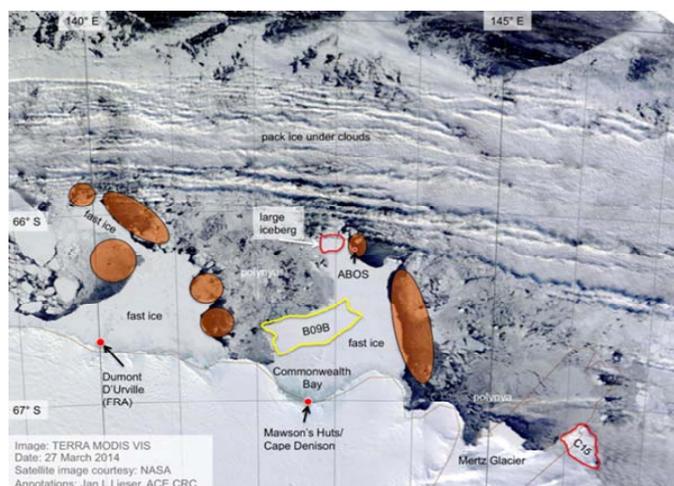
OCTOBER 2014

The next conservation expedition. By Expedition Leader, Rob Easter

Our plans to continue the conservation work at the historic site at Cape Denison have been at the mercy of the Antarctic sea ice for the past three years and we only managed to get two members of our team to the site last summer through the auspices of a private expedition to the region on the Akademik Shokalskiy, an ice strengthened vessel previously hired by the Foundation in 1997. Our team travelled for 75 kilometres over the ice from the ship and spent 36 productive hours at the huts. One critical task they achieved was to drill the sea ice for a distance of one kilometre from the shore to assess the viability of landing an aircraft for future deployment of a team of conservators and support staff to work on the huts.

This information was provided to the Australian Antarctic Division and their aviation contractors and the news is promising. A reconnaissance and possible landing is planned for next summer to confirm the safety of landing our team with supplies and equipment for up to six weeks ashore in the following 2015-16 summer. Ironically, this option will only work if the sea ice conditions that have prevented our deployment and visits from tourist vessels for the past three years, remains stable over the next 18 months.

Our team would be delivered to Casey Station where the aircraft would collect them for the 1400 kilometre flight to the huts. In the meantime, we plan to pre-position some equipment at Casey station this coming summer by ship to reduce the cargo required by air the following summer.



The presence of a grounded iceberg 35 kms long (code named B09B by scientists) has trapped the sea ice to the shore as an impenetrable barrier to shipping. Although our team made it over the ice last summer, it would be far too expensive to charter a vessel to deploy a full conservation team over the ice for any productive length of time.

More volunteers needed for Replica Museum

One of the major factors for the success of the Replica Museum has been the knowledge of Mawson and the AAE that the team of volunteers share with visitors. Visitors contributing to www.tripadvisor.com have heaped praise on the work of the volunteers and staff who have built up an immense knowledge on the AAE which they are sharing with visitors. A very busy summer period is expected particularly when cruise ships are in Hobart and more volunteers are sought to help cover the five hour shifts. Anyone who believe they can help please contact David Jensen (0414 333381) david.jensen@mawsons-huts.org.au or Warwick Arnold at the Replica Museum Hobart 03 62311518 or mhrmfrontdesk@gmail.com

Vice Regal Patronage

The Governor General of Australia His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) has kindly agreed to be Patron of the Foundation. Chairman David Jensen and fellow director Greg Holland met with recently at Admiralty House, Sydney and were impressed with his knowledge of Douglas Mawson and the historic huts. "Sir Peter has a strong interest in Mawson and the Foundation's work and is looking forward to inspecting the Replica Museum during his next visit to Hobart," said David



TASMANIAN TOURISM AWARDS FINALIST

The Mawson's Huts Replica Museum has been made a finalist in the 2014 Tasmanian Tourism Awards. The Replica Museum is one of five finalists in the New Tourism Development category and the winners will be announced in Hobart on November 7. After opening on December 2 last year the Replica Museum welcomed its 20,000th visitor in July and is set for a busy summer

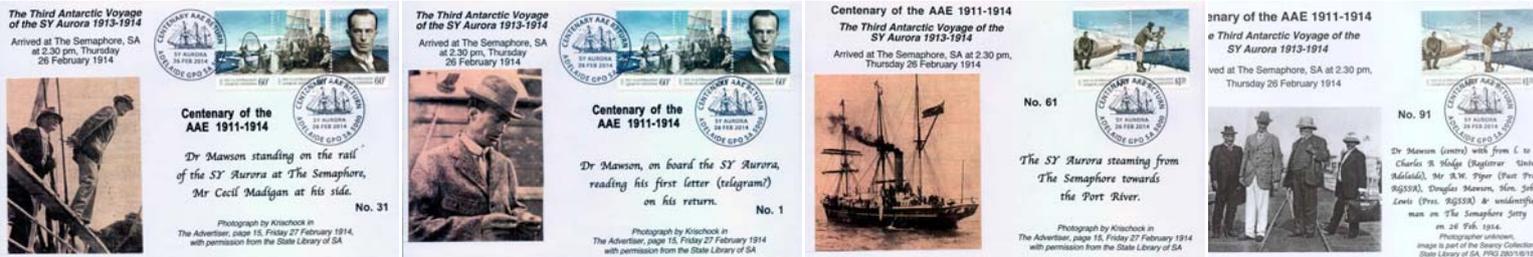


Hobart's Antarctic history

A brochure detailing Tasmania's Antarctic history is being produced for visitors to the Replica Museum informing them of other places of interest in and around Hobart which have a connection with the Antarctic. Sponsored by [Chimu Adventures](http://ChimuAdventures.com) and Clennetts Mitre 10 at Kingston, the brochure will be distributed free and list over 20 places and sites visitors can explore to learn about the State's link with Antarctica. It will also contain a timeline featuring significant dates.

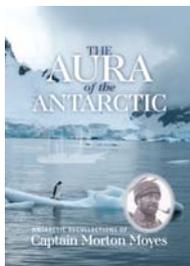
NEW PHILATELIC OFFERING AND AAE POSTCARDS. & PHILATELIC MATERIAL SOUGHT

Our hardworking philatelic consultant Peter Cranwell has just released Part 2 of stage V the AAE's homeward **Bound** voyage using several images not published before.. There are eight magnificent covers with unique images and three mini sheets see www.petespolarplace.com/mawsons-huts-centenary-V-pt2.htm Peter has spent hours as part of an incredible sleuthing job in identifying some of the people in images which he found by researching records of the AAE's return to Adelaide from Cape Denison in February 1914. Stamps used on the covers are Australia Post's final series on the AAE's return. During his research Peter also uncovered some rare postcards and covers with the AAE's own postmark which features a solitary penguin. All proceeds from the covers goes to the Foundation's conservation programme. The Foundation would love to hear from anyone who have any AAE mail so that it can be shared with our growing number of members and supporters.

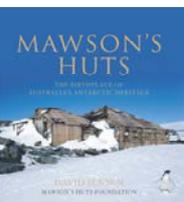


New AAE books

Monica Moyes, the niece of Morton Moyes of Western Party fame, has personally funded the publication of her uncle's manuscript of 22 stories published under the title of **"The Aura of the Antarctic."** Just one hundred copies have been printed by Monica to honour Morton's wish. Copies are available through the Foundation and a limited number at the Replica Museum for \$35.



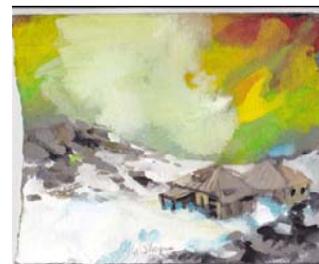
Allen and Unwin are releasing a paperback version of David Jensen's coffee table style book **"Mawson's Huts – the birthplace of Australia's Antarctic Heritage."** This contains over 200 large images of the AAE at their three bases along with spectacular photographs taken by members of Foundation expeditions working on Mawson's Huts. It will be available in November for \$39.95



Foundation art exhibition at the Australian National Maritime Museum

An exhibition of Antarctic paintings by Sydney artists Wendy Sharpe and Bernard Ollis will be held at Sydney's National Maritime Museum in March/April next year. Their work is a result of a cruise sponsored by Chimu Expeditions in February this year which traced Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous voyage in 1916. TV presenter Andrew Denton and Hobart historian Andrew Jackson were guest lecturers on the voyage which Chimu organised to support the Foundation. Funds from the exhibition which will run in conjunction with the Maritime Museum's own major Shackleton Exhibition, will go to the Foundation.

Wendy and Bernard's painting's will be displayed on the Foundation's website prior to the exhibition opening. It was Wendy's second visit to the Antarctic after being included in the official party which visited Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison in February 2012 to mark the Centenary of the AAE's landing.



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MACQUARIE ISLAND MEMORABILIA

Three wooden pulley wheels used to separate guide ropes on the flying fox used to transport the wireless masts and goods to the top of Wireless Hill, 305 feet above sea level have been displayed in the Replica Museum, on loan for permanent display by Horst ("Harry") Munstermann who spent a year on Macquarie island as a weather observer for the Bureau of Meteorology after migrating from Germany in 1955. Horst worked on Macquarie Island in 1958 and then followed this up with a year at Mawson Station in 1960. He also kindly donated photos he took of the remains of the engine hut on Wireless Hill which housed the wireless and generator and several Elephant Seal teeth from beaches on the island. On his return was given a photograph of Douglas Mawson taken just after stepping onboard the S Y Aurora for the voyage home from Cape Denison in December 1913. It has been personally signed by Mawson. With it is a handwritten letter from Dr Archibald McLean who stayed behind at Mawson's Huts for a second year with four others helping to nurse Mawson back to health after his ill-fated sledging journey. While working at Mawson Station for the Bureau, Horst collected the body of a baby Emperor Penguin from a rookery and became a taxidermist. A Gentoo penguin was given to him as a gift by the Museum of Victoria for research work he did for them and both penguins are on display in the Replica.



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