

The BLIZZARD



NEWSLETTER OF THE MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

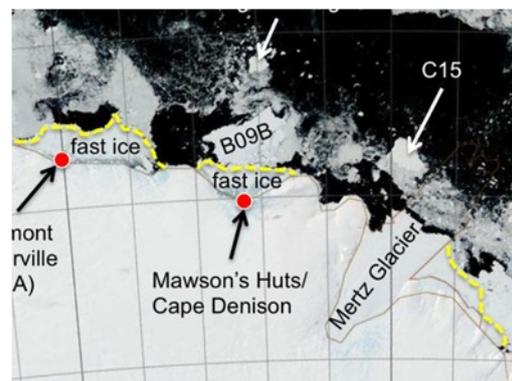
February 2015

ICEBERG ON THE MOVE? The next conservation expedition.

By Expedition Leader, Rob Easter

As the current Antarctic summer season reaches the half way mark, the Foundation has commenced planning for a 2015-16 expedition to continue our conservation program. The challenges of conducting activities in the Antarctic continue as we look to the sea ice conditions in Commonwealth Bay and the feasibility of getting our team safely in and out of Cape Denison. Our fortunes are tied to the fate of the big iceberg scientists call B09B and at the moment, it is teasing us by wriggling about whilst grounded on the ocean floor. If it stays roughly where it is for the next year, the sea will freeze in autumn once more and likely prevent any further movement until it thaws in late spring and B09B will again prevent the ice attached to the adjoining coast from breaking out. If that happens, we would plan to deploy our team by air with a landing on the sea ice by ski equipped aircraft. This would be quite an expensive option.

But if the big berg happens to break free from the ocean floor as parts of it did a couple of years ago, then the dynamics of ice movement in the area would return to what they were before B09B rolled up and we would have open water into Cape Denison, enabling a landing by boat or helicopter, with the French resupply vessel L'Astrolabe or a tourist ship. This would be a much cheaper option and is the mode of operation we have enjoyed for ten previous expeditions. Meanwhile, all eyes are on the big berg to see what he or she does next!



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1911 EDITION OF ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA RETURNS TO MAWSON'S HUTS

A rare set of the 1911 Encyclopaedia Britannica which was rescued from a builder's rubbish skip in Cambridge, UK, will shortly be on display in the Replica Museum. It will sit in exactly the same position as the set used by Douglas Mawson's 18 man team during their stay at Cape Denison.

It has been generously donated to the Mawson's Huts Foundation by **Gordon Johnson**, a former deputy Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University (2002-2010) and President of Wolfson College (1997-2010).

The donation was arranged by Adelaide born Meredith Hooper, 2014 Australian of the Year in the UK, a former Australian Antarctic Arts Fellow and a member of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, who suggested to Gordon on behalf of the Foundation he donate his set for the Replica Museum. It is being kindly freighted to Australia by Sydney based company Paccon.

The set was printed on India paper and all 29 volumes are bound in limp leather.

Gordon explains: "From internal evidence, the copy I own seems to have been purchased originally for some Light Infantry Regiment's Officers' Mess, though the stamp is not forthcoming enough to be able to identify which particular regiment, and in the first decade of the last century there were many such regiments raised, particularly alongside the regular standing army units. At some point, the book came into the possession of Jacob Leveen who was a Fellow of University College (from 1973 renamed Wolfson College). He gave his copy to the College in 1980 and a bookplate commemorating that is pasted into volume 1.

"Wolfson had a new library, opened in 1994, (I became President of Wolfson in December 1993), and the Encyclopaedia was not transferred from the old library room to the new building. The then librarian officially de-accessioned it and there are stamps throughout the volumes recording this. I discovered that he had, in fact, simply thrown it in a builder's skip as rubbish.



We know just where to place them too, you can see them on the bookshelf to the right of the photograph

I rescued the volumes from the skip and have inserted my own bookplate in each one. The volumes were on a shelf in my College room until I retired as President in September 2010 since when they have been in storage, with other books of mine, at Cambridge University Press (I was a Syndic of the Press for thirty years, and chairman from 1993 to 2009)" Gordon wrote.

Sets of Encyclopaedia Britannica were extensively read and used by heroic era Antarctic expeditions. In addition to Mawson's set at Cape Denison, Sir Ernest Shackleton had two sets which were donated by two of Mawson's team. Capt John K Davis, skipper of the Aurora, and Frank Bickerton, a well read member of the Cape Denison team both donated sets to Shackleton's 1914-16 expedition.

Bickerton's set went with the Ross sea party and the one from Davis went with the ill fated main party on the Endurance which was crushed in the ice. In 1912 a Christchurch NZ bookshop was selling the 29 edition set for £28 sterling.

The Replica Museum is now rated by www.tripadvisor.com.au as the best museum in Hobart with a 92 per cent approval rating. This puts it ahead of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery which is rated two of 14 museums.

Just over 30,000 visitors paid to visit it in the first 12 months of operation after opening in December 2013 on the 102nd anniversary of the AAE's departure from Hobart. Visitors not only rate the museum highly but also the group of 20 volunteers who guide them through the building and the team of front desk staff, all of whom impress visitors with their knowledge.

The museum is also ranked FIFTH of 51 tourist attractions in Hobart thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and staff.

Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove to visit the Replica Museum

The Patron of the Foundation the Governor General of Australia General Sir Peter Cosgrove AC MC (retd) will visit the Replica Museum on March 23 during his first official visit to Hobart.



He will also launch a book on Mawson men written by chairman of the

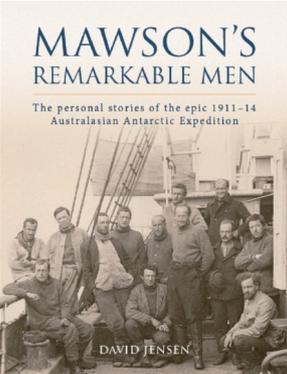
Foundation David Jensen. Titled "Mawson's Remarkable Men *The personal stories of the epic 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition*"

It covers the lives of all of the AAE's 32 land based members and Aurora skipper Capt. John K Davis before, during and after the expedition.

This will be launched at the Waterside Pavilion in Mawson Place, just 50 metres from the Replica Museum.

Signed copies of the book can be ordered through

the Foundation and will also be sold in the Replica Museum. The cost will be \$35 plus postage of \$15



AAE Ice axe donated

An ice axe used by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) 1911-14 will shortly be on display in the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum.

The exact history and ownership of the ice axe is not known but it was given to a well known bush-walker and climber Harry Whitehead, Sydney in 1920 who later gave it to the de Beuzeville family who were friends and neighbour at Beecroft. It has the name of Mawson's expedition inscribed on the steel head.

Wendy Sharpe & Bernard Ollis exhibition at the Maritime Museum for the Foundation and Chimu Adventures.

Their work is a result of a cruise sponsored by Chimu Adventures in February last year which traced Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous voyage in 1916.



The official opening of the Shackleton exhibition at the Australian National Maritime Museum at Darling harbour is on 1st April 2015, which will incorporate some of Wendy and Bernard's works. We will also have a separate dedicated section of the museum, the Tasman Light gallery,

to exhibit more work inspired by the wildlife and geographical features that took their breath away. All profits from the works sold from this collection go towards the conservation of Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison. The works will be on our website very soon. The Foundation is grateful to have the support of such talent

All members of Douglas Mawson's AAE were issued with ice axes and some still remain with relatives, museums and private collections.

Louise de Beuzeville, whose grandfather was given the ice axe, decided the Mawson's Huts Foundation could use it for display in the Replica Museum following a visit to Hobart by her mother Susanne & father Peter last year.

"It's a great item & such an historic piece of Australia's Antarctic history. It deserves to be on public display and the replica museum is the ideal place," said Louise. "My parents were very excited following their visit to the museum and thought it would make the perfect home for it." "What member of the AAE gave it to Harry Whitehead nearly 100 years ago we may never know and possibly the true story may emerge after it goes on display." David Jensen, Chairman of the Foundation said they were honoured to be entrusted with such an historic item. "It's an exciting addition to our growing collection of AAE artefacts and will bring pleasure to thousands"

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