

# The BLIZZARD



NEWSLETTER OF THE MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

April 2019

## LIMITED EDITION MAWSON \$1 COIN

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to purchase a Limited edition Mawson \$1 coin



The Foundation has secured a limited number of Mawson \$1 coins set in first day covers to commemorate the Centenary of 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) led by Dr Douglas Mawson.

Only 12,002 were issued in the Royal Australian Mint folder which sold at a premium of \$15 in 2012 and a much smaller number were supplied to Australia Post for inclusion in a cover to mark the centenary of the expedition. The coins were not released into general circulation so you will never see them in your change.

Australia Post covers with the coin are keenly sought by collectors. Each coin is presented in a commemorative cover featuring stamps produced by Australia Post for the occasion. The 60 cent stamp show Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison and the \$1.20 se-tenant pair shows the expedition's ship "Aurora" alongside the Shackleton ice-shelf when unloading supplies for the AAE's Western Party. The stamp has a design error which incorrectly states Cape Denison.

The Foundation has overprinted a limited number of these covers with an exact copy of the AAE's official cachet on the back and the words "No ## of 333 to help conserve Mawson's Huts, Cape Denison, East Antarctica" on the front.

The covers can be purchased directly through the Foundation for \$30 which includes postage anywhere in Australia or from the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum in Hobart while supplies are available. **An order form is attached.**

## CHIMU ADVENTURES MAKES ANTARCTICA AFFORDABLE



**The Ocean Endeavour**

The Foundation's Principal sponsor Chimu Adventures is planning to operate its own ship to make voyages to the Antarctic more affordable.

Beginning in the 2020/2021 season Chimu will operate the 12,907 tonne Ocean Endeavour which carries just 199 passengers, offering cabins from just over AUD\$7000.

Their 11 day Discover Antarctica itinerary takes in the South Shetland and the Antarctic Peninsula and offers kayaking, snowshoeing and other activities. In partnership with Peregrine Adventures the summer's 15 voyages will all depart from the colourful and world's most southern city of Ushuaia.

All voyages will have no more than 199 passengers and aim to operate with no single use plastics on board. Every expedition will be carbon offset and only sustainable seafood served.

Chimu's voyages will also support the conservation of Australia's Antarctic heritage through the Mawson's Huts Foundation which works to conserve the historic huts at Cape Denison, East Antarctica which were built and used by the 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition led by Dr Douglas Mawson.

For further details see

[Chimu Adventures - Ocean Endeavour](#)



## EXPEDITION TO CAPE DENISON IN THE PIPELINE

The Foundation is planning for a small expedition to Mawson's Huts next summer with expedition Manager Rob Easter in discussions with the Australian Antarctic Division regarding logistical and operational support. It will be the 15<sup>th</sup> conservation expedition to the historic site since the Foundation was established in 1996 with a busy six week programme planned including work on the increasingly fragile Transit Hut.

"It will all depend on whether the French can accommodate a team of 3-4 on board their resupply ship L'Astrolabe," says Rob.

These expeditions are expensive and the Foundation will be applying for a grant under the Federal Government's Protecting National Historic Sites Programme combined with financial support from the Foundation.

The work programme will hopefully include the installation of a replacement automatic weather station at Cape Denison for the University of Wisconsin. The existing AWS has not generated data for several years. Having details of the actual weather at Cape Denison in real time is an important aid to the accuracy of forecasting by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology who provide the service for helicopter and shipping operations in the area which is notorious for extremes even in summer.

This satellite operated system provides accurate weather information at the site 12 months of the year, allowing the AAD and MHF to more effectively monitor the conditions endured by the huts and plan for future conservation work to ensure their longevity.

## DATES SET FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC FESTIVAL 2020



Next year's Australian Antarctic Festival in Hobart will have a large international presence as it coincides with two Antarctic conferences—SCAR (The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's Standing) and COMNAP (Council of Managers of National Antarctic programmes).

Scheduled for July 30-31 And Aug 1-2, the highly successful festival may be extended to cover 5-6 days but newly appointed chairman Greg Holland says this will depend largely on budgets and availability of volunteers who are essential for its success.

Founded by the Mawson's Huts Foundation in 2016 to help promote Hobart as a gateway to the Antarctic, it is held every two years with visitor numbers doubling in the first two events. "We're looking at 30,000 plus visitors next year and over 10,000 school children being involved including schools from many of the 53 Antarctic Treaty nations," says Greg who takes over the chairmanship of the festival from David Jensen who continues as Foundation chairman.

Greg has been involved with the Foundation since its establishment in 1996 including being one of the founding directors. He is also a founding director the festival and represents the Foundation on the executive committee of the Tasmanian Polar Network.

An Antarctic philatelic section will be included for the first time with collectors and dealers from overseas looking to attend. Australia Post is looking to participate along with dealers from all over Australia and possibly from the UK and USA.

Hobart's most experienced festival organiser Paul Cullen has been engaged to manage and co-ordinate the event.

"This event has enormous potential to develop into a major festival, not only in Hobart but the whole of Australia and is a major undertaking for the Foundation," said Greg." Its main objectives are not only to promote Hobart as an Antarctic gateway and Tasmania as the Antarctic state, but to promote Australia's role and work in Antarctica, help to educate school children and visitors of Douglas Mawson's legacy which includes a territorial claim to 42 per cent of the continent and engage all organisations and individuals involved with the world's fifth largest continent."

Anyone interested in being involved as a volunteer or another role please email [director@antarcticfestival.com.au](mailto:director@antarcticfestival.com.au)

## **FRANK WILD'S ICE AXE IDENTIFIED?**

If you believe in physic power you should enjoy this. A visitor to the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum held in her hands one of the original ice axes issued to all members of Mawson's expedition. All axes used by the 31 on-shore members of the expedition are individually numbered but there is no known record of who was given which axe.

The lady held the axe which is secured by a steel wire to the wall for a minute or so and told staff "...this belonged to someone named Frank." There were three member of the expedition called Frank. Several minutes later after inspecting another section of the Museum she excitedly informed staff and volunteers: "His name was Frank Wild".

Brief details of all the men including Frank (Francis) Bickerton, Frank Hurley, Frank Stilwell and Wild are displayed.

The ice axe is on loan from the de Beauzeville family in Sydney who were given the item in 1920 by Harry Whitehead, a well-known bush-walker and climber who lived in the Beecroft area of Sydney.

It is numbered 21 and has "made in Basle (Switzerland)" and "1911 Australasian Antarctic Expedition" stamped on the head.

Louise de Beauzeville said the axe was given to her grandfather and the family decided to loan it to the Mawson's Huts Foundation after her parents visited the Replica Museum.

## EMPEROR PENGUINS EGGS A HIT WITH SCHOOLS

Replicas of Emperor penguin eggs are proving a big hit with school children when the Mobile Antarctic Classroom visits their schools.

Craftsmen at the Quirindi Men's Shed, NSW are producing two dozen full scale eggs from Jacaranda wood which children (and adults) love to try and move around on their feet like penguins do.

"They just love trying to shuffle around without the eggs falling or rolling off," said driver/lecturer David London. "They have games trying to get the eggs to an imaginary nest and they provide a good opening to talk about the life of penguins and the world's 17 species,"

The eggs are full scale copies of Emperor eggs which range between 11.1 to 12.7 cm (4.4 to 5in) and up to 8 cm diameter high at the highest point. The eggs weigh between 345 to 515 g (12.1 to 18 oz.)

Only Emperor and King Penguins lay one egg and all other species two. Based at Quirindi on the North West slopes area of NSW the bus is getting rave reviews and David's presentation include a number of simple scientific demonstrations which help children better understand some of Antarctic's and the world's secrets.

A schedule covering the towns around Parkes, Orange and Dubbo is planned for May after covering some of the schools around Tamworth and Wallabadah.

For schedule details please contact [david.london@mawsons-huts.org.au](mailto:david.london@mawsons-huts.org.au) or ring 0417 725 609



## MAWSON GALLERY OPENS IN HOBART



The Mawson Gallery is Hobart newest and only gallery which predominantly features Antarctica.

Immediately adjacent to the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum the gallery includes paintings, photographs and memorabilia donated to the Foundation over the years together with paintings and art by Tasmanian artists.

Included in the gallery is the striking large oil painting by Alasdair McGregor of Mawson's Huts in a blizzard. The painting was commissioned in 1998 by Australian Associated Press and hung in their Sydney boardroom. It has since been donated to the Foundation for fund raising. Measuring 1.8m by 1.2m it is beautifully framed and valued at \$22,000. The Foundation is open to offers.



The premises, are owned by the Hobart City Council which has kindly leased it to the Foundation for a peppercorn rent while considering development plans for the site, was previously an antique store and dates back to 1857 when it was first used by a timber merchant. Mawson's Gallery is open Monday to Saturday 10 am to 3 pm

## DR MAWSON'S BUSINESS CARD FOUND IN OLD STAMP ALBUM



A business card used by Dr Douglas Mawson when in London finding sponsors for his 1911-14 expedition has been donated to the Foundation and will be displayed in the Replica Museum.

Peter McGrath of Hobart found the card in the front of an old stamp album he bought from Gowans Auction house in Hobart.

'When I saw it I knew immediately it's new home had to be the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum,' said Peter when he handed it over to museum staff. Number 9 Regent Street, London was the office address of the AAE for part of 1910 -11 while Mawson and his team found sponsors and suppliers for the AAE. In Piccadilly Circus, it was the site of many dramas, failures and successes as Mawson and his team planned the expedition, purchased their ship the Aurora and negotiated for funding. British explorers Sir Ernest Shackleton and Sir Robert Falcon Scott visited at times.

Mawson was a geologist and the writing on the back of the card mentioning Kalgoorlie and gold ore is thought to be his own.

The great grandson of Happy Jack McGrath, one of the last whaling captains (name to be inserted) to operate out of Hobart, Peter is a keen historian with an interest in Hobart's early waterfront history. "My great grandfather used to tell my father about Blue whales in the Derwent but those days are long gone," said Peter. "Unfortunately he didn't live long enough to properly record stories of his life but we have photographs of him on his ship which was the "Waterwitch".

Foundation Chairman David Jensen said the card was an important and valuable addition to the artefacts being donated by visitors and supporters. "We're delighted to have it."

## **ANTARCTICA FLIGHTS LOOKING AT 747 REPLACEMENT**

Contrary to reports the popular day flights from Australia over the Antarctic will be continuing after QANTAS phases out its fleet of 747s.

Antarctic Flights General Manager, Bas Boschietter, has confirmed to the Mawson's Huts Foundation flights will be continuing after November 2020 when 747 aircraft are phased. "We've been talking to QANTAS for some time and looking at a range of aircraft and the popular flights over the Antarctic for the past 25 years will definitely be continuing," said Bas.

Antarctic Flights is a strong supporter of the Foundation with a raffle and auction staged on board each flight to help raise funds for the conservation of Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison, East Antarctica.

"Demand is very strong and we've got bookings for five flights between November 2019 and February 2020," said Bas.

## **FOUNDATION STARTS ANTARCTIC WALKING TOURS OF HOBART**

Two and three and a half hour walking tours of Hobart's Antarctic history, science and geography are now available through the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum in Hobart conducted by Antarctic experts.

The two hour \$80 tour includes Mawson's Huts, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's Antarctic exhibition (Islands to Ice), a presentation on Hobart's Antarctic history and a documentary on the Antarctic and Mawson's Huts.

The \$110 three and a half hour tour includes all the above plus guided visits to Hobart's top Antarctic Research facilities at IMAS, (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, CSIRO's fish museum and visits to historical Salamanca and Antarctic bronzes on the waterfront with expert commentary

Tour groups will be a minimum of 6 and up to a maximum of 15 people. Tours start 9:30am at Mawson's Huts Replica Museum. Bookings are essential.

## **STORY IDEAS FOR THE BLIZZARD**

If any reader has an idea for a story for inclusion in The Blizzard please send details the Foundation would love to have them. Please email [carole.borsboom@mawsons-huts.org.au](mailto:carole.borsboom@mawsons-huts.org.au) or [david.jensen@mawsons-huts.org.au](mailto:david.jensen@mawsons-huts.org.au).

## **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

The Foundation is looking for volunteers to help in its Sydney office (Crows Nest) and would warmly welcome hearing from anyone interested who could spare a day or two each month. "We would love to hear from anyone who can help with research or who has skills in marketing or design or social media," said David Jensen.

If anyone is interested please call David on 0414 33381 or email [david.jensen@mawsons-huts.org.au](mailto:david.jensen@mawsons-huts.org.au)

## FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

The Foundation is seeking new members of the Mawson's Huts Society. The cost of \$110 per annum provides a number of benefits including automatic entry into a draw to win two seats on a flight over the Antarctic with Antarctica Flights. It also offers a 10 per cent discount on all tours, trip and cruises to Antarctica and South America offered by CHIMU ADVENTURES ([www.chimuadventures.com](http://www.chimuadventures.com)) Chimu also offers the same discount on tours offered by its sister company GETABOUTASIA ([www.getaboutasia.com](http://www.getaboutasia.com)).

In addition you will enjoy free entry to the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum during the period of membership and a 15 per cent discount on all items purchased through the Replica museum shop or the Foundation website.

Membership forms can be downloaded [here](#)

## TRIPADVISOR NOW TAKING BOOKINGS



The world's most popular website travel advice is now selling entry tickets for the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum in Hobart which they rate the best museum in the Tasmanian capital. "We regard this as a great honour," says Manager Joan Harrison, "People from all over the world use TripAdvisor to plan visits in advance."

## ANTARCTIC FLIGHTS

Antarctica Flights, a subsidiary of Croydon Travel, continues to support the Foundation its flights over the Antarctica. Two Foundation representatives on board talk about the work at Cape Denison and run a raffle and auction to raise funds for our conservation work. Further flights this summer are Perth (Jan 26), Melbourne (Feb 10) and Sydney (Feb 24).

<https://www.antarcticaflights.com.au/>



The Foundation's principal sponsor is:



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# MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

## ORDER FORM

		Qty:
Limited Edition Mawson \$1 coin with commemorative cover	30.00	

Freight: O/S - \$5.00

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**PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD: Visa or MasterCard only**

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