

The **BLIZZARD**



NEWSLETTER OF THE MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

January 2019

FOUNDATION INSPECTION VISIT TO CAPE DENISON SUCCESSFUL



Marty Passingham (right) and Stan Zamora, Ice Pilot (left)
in Hobart prior to departure



Marty's photo of Mawson's Huts, 8 January 2019

The Foundation was able to make a brief six hour inspection of the huts at Cape Denison in January with the help of the French Antarctic Programme and its French Navy supply vessel "L 'Astrolabe."

Heritage carpenter Marty Passingham was flown by helicopter into the Cape Denison site for two brief visits totalling just six hours on January 7-8. It was the first opportunity for a visit in three years and Marty found the historic buildings in good condition apart from some damage to the eastern side of the workshop area of the Main Hut.

Unfortunately the remains of the Transit Hut, used by Mawson's men to take star sightings, continues to deteriorate and needs further urgent attention following repairs by the Foundation in 2016

Officially designated as a "standing ruin" the Transit Hut is one of three shelters built by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) to conduct and undertake scientific work during their two year stay in 1912-13. The other two structures are the Greater Magnetic Hut which is a standing ruin and Magnetograph House which remains intact.

A veteran of three Foundation conservation expeditions to Mawson's Huts, Marty only required a five minute helicopter ride with the French Navy from the "L'Astrolabe" to Cape Denison with the area almost totally clear of sea ice after a major blow. He accompanied two French scientists who were recovering a tidal gauge from Boat Harbour.

The Foundation is now seeking funding for a four to five person team to spend several weeks at the site during the 2019-20 summer. A full report of his visit will shortly be released on the Foundation's new website due for release next month.

Note: Douglas Mawson's expedition in 1911-14 began recording tide gauge readings in Boat Harbour and these are being continued by the French.

HERITAGE SUMMIT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST

The Foundation has completed a strategic plan for the next few years which include the establishment of an Australian Antarctic Heritage Trust and the staging an Antarctic heritage summit in 2019.

Under the auspices and management of the MHF, it is envisaged the Trust will address the following: -

- Expand the Foundation's current Antarctic heritage education programme to schools through the Replica Museum and Mobile Antarctic Classroom. The Classroom is designed to take Antarctica to regional Australia;
- In partnership with the AAD continue to promote Australia's role and work in the Antarctic and the national importance of the AAD's Antarctic programme;
- Liaise with international organisations involved with Antarctic heritage;
- Assist the Federal Government in communicating the importance and significance of a national Antarctic Museum in Hobart;
- Coordinate ongoing monitoring and conservation works on Mawson's Huts, and the associated artefacts, and stimulate conservation of other Australian heritage sites in Antarctica.

The Antarctic heritage summit will be hosted by the Australian Antarctic Division at its Kingston Hobart, headquarters around the middle of 2019. It is planned to invite all organisations and individuals throughout Australia with an interest in Antarctic heritage with one of its main objectives to define "Australian Antarctic Heritage"

Further details will be announced as they develop.

THERE'S GOLD IN ANTARCTICA

Douglas Mawson didn't know it at the time but he was the first person to discover gold in Antarctica. It was found in some of the many geological samples he returned with in 1914 but this was only discovered when they were examined in detail many years later.

His expedition also found the first meteorite on the continent. This was collected by Frances Bickerton who was given the nicknames of "Spanish Don" or "Bick" who found the 1kg meteorite during a sledging expedition with companions Dr Leslie Whetter (nicknamed "Error") and "Uncle Alfie" or "Hodge" Hodgeman.

The discovery from outer space was the first step in Antarctica being identified as the richest meteorite depository in the world.

CHIMU ADVENTURES ANNOUNCES ITS OWN SHIP



The Ocean Endeavour

Chimu Adventures and the Intrepid Group have announced a new program of sustainable small-group polar expeditions operated by the joint venture partners under the Peregrine Adventures flag.

Starting in October 2020, the charter will operate on the newly refurbished *Ocean Endeavour* and marks the next step in the joint partnership between Intrepid and Chimu, with the two companies now one of the largest sellers of Antarctica globally.

The Ocean Endeavour carries 199 travellers and has a range of accommodation options, including single cabins, as well as a health and wellness centre on board with saunas, a well-equipped gym, yoga classes, and a salt water pool.

With an industry-leading ratio of one expedition leader to eight guests, a superb range of on- and off-board activities, and rigorous sustainability standards, Greg Carter, Co-Founder of Chimu Adventures says travellers can feel assured the most important details are taken care of.

Travellers will have the chance to explore the White Continent on a range of optional activities with specialised guides such as sea kayaking, snowshoeing, photography tours and even ice-camping.

All departures will be carbon offset and eco-friendly measures will include no single-use plastic on board, a reusable water bottle for every guest and only sustainable seafood will be served on board.

“We are seeing an increasing appetite from travellers of all ages to visit Antarctica, they want to get closer to nature and understand the world we live in,” said Greg.

“Antarctica needs advocates and tourism creates a global constituency of people ready to support - and indeed fund - its preservation. When you’re there, you see how fragile the earth is and that really does inspire travellers to come back with a renewed momentum to protect the planet.”

Voyage pricing starts from AUD\$7090 making Antarctic cruising more affordable than ever before without compromising on sustainable tourism. The ship will operate from Ushuaia at

the southern tip of Argentina and operate 15 voyages a year between October and the end of March

“The response to our announcement has been very strong with bookings already been made and any done through the Foundation will attract a 10 per cent discount,” said Greg.

For more information visit.

[Chimu Adventures Ross Sea Expedition](#)



LARGE PAINTED PENGUIN FINDS A HOME IN AMSTERDAM



Oswald by Sheri Matthews

One of the one metre tall penguins painted by Hobart artists for the 2018 Australian Antarctic Festival has been given a home in Amsterdam.

Painted by artist and art teacher Sheri Matthews her strikingly beautiful penguin caught the eye of a Dutch couple when visiting the Mawson’s Huts Replica Museum in Hobart. Titled “Oswald”, it has been freighted to Holland where it will be added to the couple’s art collection.

“I’m so pleased and excited,” said Sheri who also painted a penguin for the inaugural festival in 2016. “I really enjoyed the challenge of creating something a bit different and decided on the evil character featuring in Batman and other villains with a comic style touch.”

“I’m also delighted that the sale has helped toward the cost of conserving Mawson’s Huts and getting a heritage carpenter flown in this Month (January)”

Replica Museum Manager Joan Harrison who negotiated the sale said the Dutch couple were wonderful to talk to and really excited to buy the penguin.

“Now the Replica Museum has its own gallery we’re able to display all the penguins along with paintings, prints, books and memorabilia. We’ve now sold several of the penguins and have potential buyers interested in some of the others,” said Joan (Images and Artists bios can be viewed [here](#)). Please contact joan.harrison@mawsons-huts-replica.org.au or mhrmfrontdesk@gmail.com for further details.

(The Foundation has opened the Antarctic and Tasmanian Gallery immediately adjacent to the Replica in the former Kent and Kent Antique shop which is owned by the Hobart City Council. The Foundation negotiated the use of the shop while it is vacant)

RECOGNITION AT LONG LAST FOR SIDNEY



A book on the life of Sidney Harry Jeffryes, a forgotten Polar explorer who was awarded a Polar Medal and had a glacier on Macquarie Island named after him, is underway.

Jeffryes was the relief wireless operator for Douglas Mawson’s Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) of 1911-14 and spent almost all of 1913 at Cape Denison, East Antarctica, the AAE’s main base. He was responsible for achieving regular two-way communications with the AAE’s relay station on Macquarie Island, but suffered a mental breakdown around midwinter and eventually had to be relieved of his duties.

The Foundation is assisting with the book being written by Elizabeth Leane, Associate Professor of English and ARC Future Fellow at the University of Tasmania and Hobart journalist David Killick, who has been a member of three Foundation conservation expeditions to Mawson’s Huts.

The primary gap in Jeffryes’ story is his early life at Toowoomba where he was born in July 1884. The Foundation would like to hear from anyone who can assist with details of this part of his life.

Associate Professor Leane has spent years researching his life and has obtained records of his time spent in the Ararat ‘Hospital for the Insane’ (later Aradale Mental Hospital) where he was a patient for nearly 30 years.

After the ship returned Mawson and his men to Adelaide in February 1914, Jeffryes boarded a train to his home in Toowoomba but left the train near Stawell, Victoria and wandered through the bush for 6 days before being taken into custody and committed to the asylum. Jeffryes spent the rest of his life as a patient there before his death in October 1942. He was buried the day after his death in an unmarked grave.

A plaque produced by the Foundation was unveiled at Ararat Cemetery on the 76th anniversary of his death on October 16, 2018

SEARCH FOR SHACKLETON'S "ENDURANCE"

A British expedition is searching for Sir Ernest Shackleton's Polar steam-yacht the "Endurance" which was crushed in sea-ice and sank in the Weddell Sea in November 1915.



Mawson's photographer Frank Hurley who was a member of Shackleton's Trans Antarctic Expedition of 1914-17 dived into the icy flooded sinking ship just before it sank to recover some of his now famous glass plate photos shortly before it disappeared.

Hurley did so against the orders of Shackleton who feared the Australian would lose his life but all survived.

BASILISK THE KING HUSKY NOW A SILVER CHARM



Basilisk, the King husky in Douglas Mawson's team of dogs at Cape Denison, now features on a silver plated pewter charm necklace. Copied from his bronze statue outside the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum, the beautiful miniature is the result of repeated requests from Replica visitors.

It is available through the Foundation and MHRM for \$40.00. [Order Form](#)

MOBILE ANTARCTIC CLASSROOM



The Foundation's Mobile Antarctic Classroom will be visiting schools and communities in regional NSW in February and will also be on display at Tamworth's Country Music Festival this month.

Now based at Quirindi in the North West Slopes area of NSW on the Liverpool Plains, it will visit schools and communities during the next few months as part of a NSW campaign before moving to other states.

Nicked named "Sir Douglas Mawson" the bus is being driven by David London, a self-confessed Antarctic enthusiast who was the official photographer on the foundation's expedition to Cape Denison in 2008-9. He is extremely knowledgeable on Mawson, his men, Antarctica generally and Mawson's Huts where he has helped to remove ice from the interior.

David produced a one hour documentary on the history and conservation of Mawson's Huts in June last year and will be screening parts of this during his trips.

The bus was donated to the Foundation by Charles Lindall who has visited Mawson's Huts on two occasions and it has been fitted with the assistance of funding from the Australian Government's "Protecting National Historic Sites Program"

Anyone with an interest in the bus visiting a school or community near you please contact David by emailing david@londoncalling.net.au or info@mawsons-huts.org.au

NEW WEBSITE FOR THE FOUNDATION AND REPLICA

The Foundation is designing a new website to be launched early in 2019 which will incorporate the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum which currently has its own site. It will also eventually include the Australian Antarctic Festival which the Foundation initiated.

A feature will be an on-line shop allowing purchases of all the books and memorabilia currently on sale in the Replica.

ANTARCTIC GALLERY OPENED ADJACENT TO THE REPLICA MUSEUM

The Foundation is now operating an Antarctic gallery in Hobart immediately adjacent to the Replica Museum. Formerly the Kent and Kent Antique shop it is used to displays paintings, prints and photographs related to the Antarctic.

The “Antarctic and Tasmanian Gallery” is also stocking books, Mawson memorabilia and paintings by local artists for sale.

It is proving popular, particularly with tourists from cruise ships. The Foundation negotiated a lease with the Hobart City Council which owns the site along with the land on which the Replica sits.



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/>



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) Chimu also offers the same discount on tours offered by its sister company GETABOUTASIA (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](#)

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR THE REPLICA MUSEUM



The Mawson's Huts Replica Museum is looking for additional volunteers with a busy summer predicted.

"Our volunteers do an incredible job in guiding visitors and with our dedicated staff take credit for the replica being rated by www.tripadvisor as the No1 museum in Hobart," said Manager Joan Harrison.

"Their knowledge of Mawson's Huts, the men who lived in them and the Antarctic generally is quite incredible. They're walking encyclopaedias but we just need a few more to help us with a record number of ships due in Hobart," she said.

Anyone interested please email joan.harrison@mawsons-huts-replica.org.au or mhrmfrontdesk@gmail.com or call 1300 551 422

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."

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Level 1 308 Pacific Highway
CROWS NEST
NSW 2060

ACN 077 696 649
www.mawsons-huts.org.au

Written & produced by
David Jensen AM
Carole Borsboom
david.jensen@mawsons-huts.org.au
telephone: 61 2 9458 1219
mobile: 0414 333 381