

The **BLIZZARD**



NEWSLETTER OF THE MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

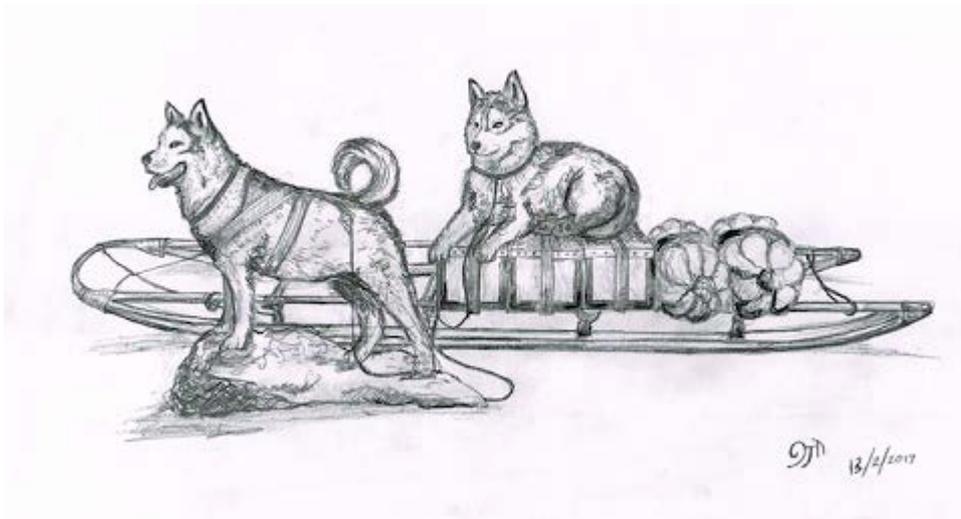
March 2017

MEMORIAL TO HUSKIES WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ANTARCTIC

A life sized bronze monument to commemorate huskies who have worked in the Antarctic has been commissioned by the Mawson's Huts Foundation. Featuring two huskies and sledge it will be placed on the lawn outside the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum in Hobart and is scheduled to be installed this September.

Funded in part by a \$58,000 grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund the bronze is being designed by Hobart artist Dan Tucker and will show two of the huskies and a sledge used by Douglas Mawson at his main base at Cape Denison.

It will be the only bronze of its kind in Australia and is expected to become a major attraction on the Hobart waterfront.



DOUGLAS MAWSON ANTARCTIC ALE

A Sydney based company plans to produce a Mawson Antarctic Ale based on an ancient recipe used to produce a brew for Arctic explorers over 100 years ago.

Stockade Brew Co which currently produces a range of very high quality boutique beers, is looking to launch the Mawson brew in July this year with some of the proceeds going to the Foundation

EXPEDITION PLANNED FOR 2017-18

The Foundation is hoping to send a six person expedition to Cape Denison in 2017-18 and is seeking funding assistance from the Federal Government for this. It will be the 14th expedition organised by the Foundation since it was established in 1997.

Whilst the last expedition in 2015-16 cleared the floor of ice for the first time in over 80 years, considerable ongoing maintenance and conservation work remains. "It is essential for this work to continue with regular visits" says Expedition Manager Rob Easter. "Cape Denison is the windiest place on earth at sea level so it is very important that the conservation and maintenance programme continues."

CHIMU ADVENTURES CAPE DENISON CRUISE

There are still a small number of berths available on Chimu Adventures 26 day voyage to Cape Denison in December-January 2017-18.

In collaboration with the Mawson's Huts Foundation, Chimu has exclusive access to the only tourist cruise departing Hobart, Australia, in the 2017-18 season which is scheduled to visit the historic Commonwealth Bay, where the Mawson story truly began.

This exciting adventure cruise will visit Macquarie Island, Campbell Island, the Auckland Islands, cruise the rugged East Antarctic coast, view the impressive Commonwealth Bay and, if we are really lucky, land and visit Mawson's Huts before making its way back to Bluff, New Zealand. This is truly a cruise for those that love adventure travel and a must tick bucket list item for avid travellers. -

<http://www.chimuadventures.com/en-au/tour/in-the-wake-of-mawson>

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 an 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, there is free entry to the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum during the period of membership with a 15 per cent discount on all items purchased through the Replica museum shop or the Foundation website.

Membership forms can be downloaded [here](#)

BURBERRY JACKET FOR REPLICIA MUSEUM

The Burberry gabardine jacket worn by John King Davis, the captain of the steam yacht "Aurora" which took Douglas Mawson and his men safely to the Antarctic and back in 1911-14, has been given to the Foundation for display in the Replica Museum. In beautiful condition, the Jacket still has Burberry's purple coloured logo.

Davis gave it to a friend in Melbourne saying he wore it as the ship departed Hobart on December 2, 1911 but the Irish born skipper preferred to wear his dark blue navy uniform and it's had little use in over 100 years.

His friend Lionel Adams, who inherited the jacket, served with Davis as a junior seaman on board a fully rigged sailing ship for four years from 1900. Both men eventually retired to Melbourne and met frequently at the Melbourne Club. Adams later left it to a sailing mate, Harold Wilson, whose grandson has given it to the Foundation for display in the Replica Museum.

All members of Mawson's expedition were issued with gabardine jackets, trousers and hoods and some of these are in museums in Sydney and Adelaide but none are in the pristine condition as the one Davis used.



ANTARCTICA FLIGHTS

Flights over the Antarctic are proving as popular as ever and the four flights this summer operated by Antarctica Flights were all sold out with a waiting list.

Melbourne based Antarctica Flights is already taking bookings for a flight from Sydney in November and more than half have already been sold. Two other flights are also from Melbourne with one of New Year's Eve which is always popular. Flights this summer were from Melbourne (2), Perth and Sydney. Antarctica Flights plans a flight out of Hobart once the runway has been extended, scheduled for March 2018.

Long-time sponsor Antarctica Flights generously provided two seats for the Foundation on each of its four flights this summer which assist with fund raising through a raffle and auction. "We're extremely grateful for this support and the flights provide a wonderful opportunity to promote our work," said Foundation Chairman David Jensen. "Antarctica Flights do us proud and they are wonderful and very generous supporters."

REPLICA MUSEUM IS POPULAR

A record number of people visited the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum in 2016 with the number of children in particular taking an interest in the story of Douglas Mawson and his 1911-14 expedition.

Since the museum opened in December 2013 visitor numbers increased by 14 per cent in 2015 and by nearly 20 per cent in 2016.

Over 5,500 schools were involved with the Australian Antarctic Festival in September and a record number of schools visited the Replica during this time.

ANTARCTICA FACT SHEETS

The Foundation commissioned the not for profit charity Book End Trust to produce a series of Antarctic Fact Sheets covering weather, geology, Mawson, the Antarctic Treaty, Australian Antarctic Territory, Dinosaurs, flora/fauna, huskies, Mawson's Men and scientific work being undertaken.

The fact sheet commission was supported through funding from the Australian Government's Community Heritage and Icon's Grant programme.

All facts sheets will be available for schools to download from the Replica Museum website.

AWARD FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC FESTIVAL

The inaugural Australian Antarctic Festival held in Hobart last September has been awarded the Hobart City Council's Community Event of the Year Award. An initiative of the Mawson's Huts Foundation, the festival attracted an estimated 12,000 visitors. 5,500 school children from 110 schools participated by each painting 30 cm high plywood penguins which were then displayed during the festival.

This festival will be a bi-annual event with the next being held in September 2018. Foundation Chairman David Jensen AM said the festival helped to promote Hobart as the gateway to the Antarctic and Tasmania as the Antarctic State of Australia whilst attracting more tourists.

"We are particularly grateful to the large number of volunteers who supported this four day event, it could not have been staged without their wonderful contribution" he said. "I would also like to thank Paul Cullen of the Australian Boat festival, who showed his remarkable skills in event management by pulling the event together. He's the best in Tasmania and we were very fortunate to have his services."



Paul Cullen and David Jensen with Hobart City Council award

SCHOOL BUS DONATED TO THE FOUNDATION

Long-time Foundation supporter Charles Lindall has donated a small bus which he has converted into an Antarctic museum to help promote the conservation of Mawson's Huts to schools.

Charles has made two visits to Mawson's Huts and for the past two years have been driving the bus to schools in NSW to help spread the story of Douglas Mawson's 1911-14 expedition.

He converted the interior of the Toyota Coaster into an Antarctic museum with maps, images, books and replicas while the exterior was painted with Antarctic scenes.

"We're moving house and it's also time to move on," said Charles from his home at Camden, NSW. "There is no room for the bus in our new house and my wife Muriel and I want to spend more time travelling. I'm delighted the Foundation has plans for it. I've really enjoyed driving it to schools and talking to children as well as Probus groups around the area."

Foundation Chairman David Jensen said the Foundation had great plans for the bus as part of an expanded schools programme with Chimu Adventures which will also be involved.



JANET DAWSON HUSKY DRAWING FOR REPLICA MUSEUM

A former dog handler at the former Wilkes Base in the Antarctic has gifted a large drawing of one of his favourite dogs by award winning portrait artist Janet Dawson to the Replica Museum.

Stephen Grimsley, now aged 95, was an ionosphere physicist at Wilkes 1960-62 and again in 1964. A friend of Janet Dawson, who won the prestigious Archibald Prize in 1973, Stephen asked her to draw his favourite husky, an Alaskan Malamute named Mukluk, from a photograph that he took in 1964.

“When I first saw the drawing Janet had done in her studio at Binalong, NSW, I whistled and I could have sworn that Mukluk heard me”, said Stephen. “Mukluk looked so real. Janet had placed the drawing on an easel at the end of her studio and Mukluk looked as though she was sitting there.”

“I’ve gifted the drawing to the Mawson’s Huts Replica Museum so that it’s on permanent display and can be enjoyed by visitors.”

Muklak (the name given to soft leather boots worn by Eskimos) was Stephen’s favourite of the 15-16 dogs at Wilkes, formerly a United States base which was later handed over to Australia. Born at Wilkes base in 1957, Mukluk worked as a sledge dog and was an “excellent worker and team member”. She produced five litters of pups until she died in 1964 during an operation to remove an infected tooth.

Stephen was awarded the Australian Antarctic Medal in 1961 and again in 1963 and has The Grimsley Peaks in Enderby Land and Mount Grimsley in the Prince Charles Mountains named after him. For his work at Wilkes Station, Stephen was also awarded the United States Antarctic Gold medal.



CAPE DENISON COVERS & OTHER PHILATELIC ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE

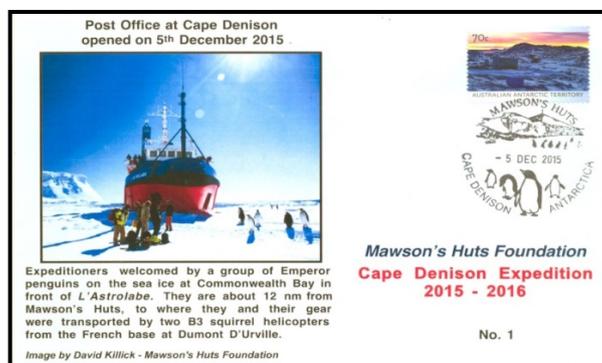
A unique collection of philatelic items are still available from the Foundation's philatelic advisor Peter Cranwell. Those produced from 2009 to 2014 can be viewed on his website (<http://www.petespolarplace.com/mawsons-huts.htm>)

The collection includes covers postmarked at Cape Denison during the 2015-16 expedition which Peter designed especially for the visit of the six person team. The story of the Expedition as well as illustrations of the covers produced can be downloaded here [MHF 2015-16 Expedition](#)

Cape Denison was the seventh Post Office to be established in the Australian Antarctic Territory and the first new one for over 45 years since the one at Casey became operational in 1969.

All the covers from the latest expedition carry cachets from the French supply vessel L'Astrolabe, which transported the team to and from Cape Denison. This will be the last time Foundation covers will carry this cachet as the L'Astrolabe, following the completion of her voyage this summer, was donated by her owners, P&O, to the evangelist organization, YWAM. She has been renamed M/V YWAM Liberty and will operate in the Papua New Guinea region.

Order forms for philatelic purchases can be downloaded here [Philatelic Order Form](#)



Cover No. 1 – Arrival at the fast ice



Cachets on reverse of Cover Nos 1-4 & 9-12

with purple Expedition cachet
OLD SMOKING PIPES AND BOOKS NEEDED

We are seeking old smoking pipes and books for display at the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum in Hobart.

With the possible exception of Mawson himself, all members of his party which occupied the huts at Cape Denison smoked pipes and we are endeavouring to collect as many as possible to help with the authenticity of the replica.

Mawson's team were given huge quantities of tobacco and cigarettes which were rationed out along with chocolate. Both items were used for trading between the men and also for fun-gambling with a hand-made roulette wheel which remains at Cape Denison. Most of the men had several hanging in leather straps around their bunks with books and photographs so any old books would also be most welcome.

With smoking no longer fashionable, old pipes have become difficult to find. The Foundation would love to hear from anyone with some stored away which they would like to donate.

Please email: info@mawsons-huts.org.au or david.jensen@mawsons-huts.org.au



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