

The **BLIZZARD**



NEWSLETTER OF THE MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

September 2018

2018 AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC FESTIVAL – A BIG HIT



This year's Australian Antarctic Festival attracted over 21,000 visitors and over 8,000 school children from Tasmania, NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

The numbers are almost double those from the inaugural event in 2016 with plans already underway for 2020.

Major sponsors Events Tasmania (the Tasmanian Government), Hobart City Council, Chimu Adventures, the Mawson's Huts Foundation (which began and owns the event) and Damen, the Dutch company building Australia's new ice-breaker are delighted with its success. Visitors came from all over Australia and New Zealand with several Antarctic Treaty nations being involved.

The next event will be held at the end of July, beginning of August to coincide with a major Antarctic international conference with thousands of delegates from Antarctic treaty nations.

LARGE PAINTED PENGUINS LOOKING FOR HOMES

There are several one metre tall penguins painted by Tasmanian artists for the Antarctic Festival still looking for homes. Images and Artists bios can be viewed [here](#)

All proceeds will be shared between the artists and the Foundation with the Foundation's funds being used for the ongoing conservation of Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison.



The penguins make a beautiful and colourful colony. Please contact joan.harrison@mawsons-huts-replica.org.au or mhrmfrontdesk@gmail.com for further details.

RECOGNITION AT LONG LAST FOR SIDNEY



Douglas Mawson's forgotten wireless operator Sidney Harry Jeffryes will at last have a name on his grave at the Ararat Cemetery in October.

Currently being cast in Dandenong South, the bronze plaque will be placed on the plot where he was buried just a day after his death on October 16, 1942 in the Ararat Mental Hospital.

It is planned to unveil the plaque on the 76th anniversary of his death in a small ceremony being arranged by the Foundation which commissioned the plaque which will have the only known image of Jeffryes and a photo of Mawson's Huts.

The Foundation is planning a Go Fund Me appeal for \$7500 to help cover the costs of the plaque, the ceremony and a contribution toward the cost of researching and writing a book on his life.

REPRINT OF HUSKIES BOOK INCLUDES NEW IMAGES

“Huskies of the Heroic Era of Antarctic Exploration” which was launched with the unveiling of the bronze huskies outside the Replica Museum in March this year, is being reprinted in the UK by Erskine press.

This UK edition will include eight pages of new rarely seen photos from the heroic era of huskies used by British explorers Scott and Shackleton.

Copies can be purchased through the Foundation or Erskine Press <https://www.erskine-press.com/>

All proceeds go toward the conservation of Mawson’s Huts

HOBART ANTARCTIC TIME LINE UNVEILED



A timeline detailing Hobart’s Antarctic history has been installed by the Foundation immediately adjacent to the Mawson’s Huts Replica Museum.

The 20 metre long sign was unveiled just prior to the start of the Antarctic festival and was generously sponsored by the Cameron family, long-time supporters of the Foundation.

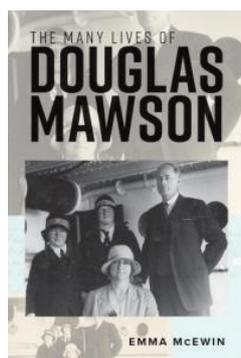
It is hoped the sign will contribute to the colourful history of Hobart’s Antarctic history. Douglas Mawson departed from there in December 1911 and just a few months later the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen sailed into Hobart to announce to the world he had become the first person to reach the South Pole.

He achieved this on December 14, 1912. The Norwegian booked in to Hadley’s Hotel in Hobart and he and his men were treated like royalty during the next few weeks.

Just a week after Amundsen departed Hobart for Norway the British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, with four companions, were dying from the cold and starvation. They had reached the Pole on January 18 1912 but failed in their attempt to return home safely.

The timeline will be published in a small 26 page booklet available through the replica Museum and the Foundation.

MAWSON'S GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER PUBLISHES NEW BOOK



E ASP will soon be releasing [The Many Lives of Douglas Mawson](#) by Emma McEwin. As the great-granddaughter of the renowned explorer and national hero, Emma McEwin writes intimately about Mawson's legacy and his enduring effect on generations of the family. Narrowly escaping death on Antarctica, his exploits are known to us yet he remains enigmatic and cloaked in controversy

Copies will be available through the Replica Museum and Foundation later this month for

AAD DIRECTOR NICK GALES RETIRING IN NOVEMBER

Dr Nick Gales, Director of the Australian Antarctic Division and Australia's Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission, is retiring in November.

A great supporter of the Foundation, Nick has plans for a long voyage on his yacht and more time for surfing. He has spent 17 years in scientific and leadership roles including four as chief scientists for the AAD.

Nick has filled the position as Director for the AAD for four years with distinction and the Foundation wishes him a very happy retirement.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ANTARCTIC PACKAGES

The Mawson's Huts Replica Museum plans to offer Antarctic classes for primary school children during school holidays. It is developing these in partnership with the not for profit Bookend Trust which seeks to inspire students to be involved with the environment.

"We see the one day classes as an opportunity for school children to learn more about the Antarctic, its environment and the history and legacy of Douglas Mawson," explains Foundation chairman David Jensen. "There is so much Antarctic history around Hobart that is not generally known and this will be included along with Australia's role and work in Antarctica.

FATHER OF ACTOR ERROL FLINN LINKED TO MAWSON'S EXPEDITION



Fascinating stories on Mawson and his men are always emerging from Foundation members and readers of this newsletter. One of the latest from the noted Melbourne philatelist and Antarctic enthusiast Tony Shields is a link between the father of actor Errol Flynn and Mawson. Theodore Thomson Flynn, a friend of Mawson from his days at Sydney University, was a crew member on board the S.S. Aurora when it sailed to collect the 18 men at Cape Denison which included Mawson.

However the Aurora was forced to depart Cape Denison without Mawson on board who failed to return to the main base (Mawson's Huts) on schedule from his epic sledging journey which resulted in the loss of his two companions, Xavier Mertz and Belgrave Ninnis.

Flynn had just been appointed the first Professor of biology at the University of Tasmania but took leave to make the voyage. Errol, born in Hobart in 1909 at the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Battery Point, caught marsupials for his father who used them to study the reproduction of marsupials, before going onto to win fame as a Hollywood actor.

It's worth recording also that when the Aurora did return to Hobart in early 1913 with T.T. Flynn on board, with other members of Mawson's expedition, there was a race for the nearest pub when the ship docked. This was won by wireless operator Walter Hannam, the largest man on the expedition. The hotel was the Custom House which still operates very successfully today.

CHIMU ADVENTURES

Explore the wilds of Antarctica in extraordinary comfort on the world's most prestigious and luxurious expedition ship. This incredible journey will have you cruising aboard the spacious and luxurious Crystal Endeavor, where you will discover the Ross Ice Shelf and the Ross Sea. Explore the Balleny Islands, a snow-covered wonderland of glaciated, volcanic islands and ice floes.



See the historic huts at Cape Adare, the majestic peaks of the Admiralty Mountains, iceberg dotted Terra Nova Bay and the massive Drygalski Ice Tongue. Visit Ross Island, home to McMurdo Station and Scott's Discovery Hut before exploring the fascinating McMurdo Dry Valleys and surveying the Ross Ice Shelf by helicopter, a region that has captivated explorers and researchers for centuries. Cruising through pack ice, glacier landings and quests in search of remote penguin colonies are more highlights of this once in a lifetime voyage. Every suite and penthouse on board is a statement of ingenuity, featuring high-tech amenities and the discreet attentiveness of your own personal butler. There can be no better way to explore the last frontier.

For more information visit. <https://www.chimuadventures.com/en-au/tour/antarctica-and-ross-sea-expedition>

ANTARCTIC FLIGHTS

Bookings for one of these flights can be made at Antarctica Flights (<http://www.antarcticaflights.com.au>).

Antarctica Flights is a long time sponsor and supporter of the Foundation which holds a raffle and a unique in-flight auction on board.



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](http://www.tripadvisor.com) 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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Published by the
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