



# The Blizzard



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

ISSUE 1 • NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2010

## Mawson's Hut replica for Hobart



A full scale replica of the AAE's Main Hut at Cape Denison is to be built by the Foundation on the Hobart waterfront subject to planning approval and funding.

"This is the most ambitious programme we've ever undertaken but we're confident of having it open before the Centenary celebrations for the departure of Douglas Mawson's AAE from Hobart on December 2 next year," said David Jensen AM Chairman and CEO of the Foundation.

Approval in principle for the replica was given by the Council on September 27 but is subject to appropriate planning approval and funding.

"It will be a major new tourist attraction for Hobart and also enhance the city's image as Australia's gateway to the Antarctic. The replica will help generate revenue for conservation of the huts and will create employment for five to six people during construction and when completed," said David.

"Importantly it will also help focus activities to celebrate the Mawson Centenary, assist in featuring Hobart's role as host of the 2012 Antarctic Treaty Meeting to be attended by 47 member countries, boost Australia's credentials as a long term contributor in Antarctica and stimulate interest in conserving Australia's Antarctic heritage."

The proposed site is on land owned by the Hobart City Council, opposite Mawson Place, 50 metres from the

*Artist's depiction of the historic huts on the Hobart waterfront.*

water and a short distance from the **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery**. It is envisaged that the replica will be built by heritage carpenters who have worked on the conservation of the Main Hut at Cape Denison. A heritage architect who has also worked on the historic huts will be engaged.

"Mawson's team built the Main Hut in just a few weeks but the replica will take a bit longer," said David. "The biggest and most expensive task will be to make the replica look just like the original both inside and out. We hope to have community support in finding artefacts like those in the real huts so visitors entering will see exactly what there is at Cape Denison."

It will cost \$750,000 and discussions are already underway for potential funding.

**Johnstone McGee Gandy (JMG)**, a professional engineering and town planning firm based in Hobart, has agreed to assist with preparing the development proposal to be submitted to the Sullivans Cove Authority.

*Site plan*



## The Blizzard

Welcome to The Blizzard which has been named in recognition and honour of The Adélie Blizzard, the newspaper which Douglas Mawson and six members of the 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) produced while awaiting rescue from Cape Denison. They commonly referred to it as The Blizzard.

Mawson and his six companions helped pass the long winter months of 1913 writing The Adélie Blizzard which contained a mixture of fiction and fact, poems, letters to the editors, births, deaths and marriages and, most importantly, humour.

The original newspaper has recently been reproduced and can be purchased from Friends of the State Library of South Australia at [www.slsa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=192](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=192)

The Foundation's Blizzard is just fact and hopefully useful information, aimed solely at keeping members of the Mawson's Huts Society and anyone interested up to date about the conservation work being carried out at Cape Denison and plans to raise funds for continuing this important work.

It will be distributed to all sponsors and members and will also be available on the Foundation's website [www.mawson-huts.org.au](http://www.mawson-huts.org.au). It will be published several times each year and any comments and suggestions will be most welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my warmest thanks to the Foundation's sponsors, members and supporters and the Australian Antarctic Division which shares our aim of conserving the birthplace of Australia's Antarctic heritage.



*David Jensen*

David Jensen AM  
Chairman and CEO  
Mawson's Huts Foundation

# Sponsors

The conservation of Mawson's Huts would be an impossibility without the generous support from sponsors who have donated cash, goods, services and encouragement over the years. The Foundation would like to extend its warmest thanks to all those who have assisted in helping to conserve the Cape Denison site. I apologise if the following list inadvertently omits any sponsors and this will be rectified in the next edition.

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# TRANSIT HUT RESCUE PLAN

The Foundation's 2010-11 expedition to Cape Denison will focus on the conservation of the Transit Hut which has deteriorated significantly during the last few years, with some of the fragile cladding being blown away by the incessant high speed winds.

Heritage architects and structural engineers have been called in to provide expert advice on the most appropriate ways of preventing further damage to the fragile structure which has great significance for the Historic Site.

Adrian Welke, a Principal of Perth based **Troppo Architects** and Geoff Ashley of **Godden, Mackay Logan**, who have both worked at the Cape Denison site as members of MHF expeditions, jointly prepared a detailed plan for the Transit, submitted by the **Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)** for approval by the Heritage Division of the Department of Environment, Heritage Water and the Arts in Canberra.

"The preservation of the 'standing ruin' of the Transit Hut is clearly of great importance in its contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site," said Adrian. "The loss of this structure would substantially detract from this significance and conservation policy and prescribed actions need to be developed for this structure to ensure its long term survival."

"The work planned will strengthen the existing timber frames by supplementing them with new timber section to match the existing. Metal brackets will be fitted and any dislodged boards will be secured," explained Adrian.

The design for the conservation work has been vetted by structural engineers to ensure it will withstand the extremes of the weather at Cape Denison.

The Transit Hut, originally known as the Astronomical Observatory, was built in 1913 to house a theodolite and chronometer to take star sights in order to determine the exact longitude of Cape Denison. The Oregon timber frame braced by metal shelf brackets was lined with packing case timber and clad in sheepskin and canvas. There is a narrow slot in the roof and upper part of the north and south elevations to assist observations.

The structure contained a '10-inch transit instrument' given to the expedition by the Government Astronomer which was positioned on a square pillar set into the rock and which is still a feature of the Transit Hut.



1912



1978



1991



2001



2008

It is one of three scientific shelters built by the AAE at Cape Denison, the others being the Absolute Magnetic Hut (now a standing ruin) and the Magnetograph House (which is still intact).

# Search continues for Mawson's wingless aircraft

The search for the fuselage of the Vickers aircraft the AAE took south to use as an air tractor will continue this summer at Cape Denison.

Last sighted in 1976 and almost totally buried, the Vickers has attracted world-wide interest. Four small fragments of the tailpiece cut off during modifications by the AAE to fit a tail skid, were located on the edge of Boat Harbour by expedition carpenter Mark Farrell during an unusually low tide last summer. The find resulted in 2.5 million hits on the Foundation's website.

The exceedingly fragile tail piece is currently stored inside Mawson's Huts and will be returned for specialist conservation treatment this summer.

One of the original propellers is in a museum at Esperance, Western Australia, and a wheel and a tail skid are on display at the **Australian Antarctic Division** at Kingston, Tasmania.

Amateur aviation historian and expedition doctor for the Foundation in 2007-08 and 2009-10 Dr Tony Stewart who, with Dr Chris Henderson continued the search for the air tractor last summer, explains "This was the first ever aircraft taken to a polar region so it has an important place in aviation history. It was a Vickers monoplane powered by a 60 HP five cylinder air cooled radial engine but its wings were damaged during a test flight in Adelaide prior to departure and Mawson decided to modify it and take it south anyway to tow sledges."

The engine was removed when the AAE departed for home in December 1913 and the fuselage was left on the ice not far from the Main Hut.

Chris Henderson, who was the medical officer in 2008-09 and volunteered last year mainly to continue the search, used ground penetrating radar (GPR) on loan from the University of Tasmania. This



was dragged over the area where the remains of the air tractor were thought to be buried and over 200 holes were drilled into which a metal detector was lowered.

Hobart-based Chris produced a 60-page report on the 2009-10 search and, working with Melbourne-based Tony, spent several weeks drilling and studying readings from a magnetometer and the radar. Chris and Tony are confident they have found the most likely location where the remains are buried.

The fuselage is thought to be under about three metres of ice and this year a trench will be cut to locate the remains. If found, an inspection will be made of its condition by materials conservators and an archaeologist before a decision is made by the AAD to leave it at Cape Denison or eventually returned to Australia for conservation treatment.



*Top, l to r: The Vickers at Cheltenham racecourse in Adelaide 1911; Bickerton works on the aircraft during the winter of 1912. Middle, l to r: Bickerton gives the engine a run in 1912; The frame in 1913. Above: Last sighting of the frame in 1976.*

*Below left: Dr Chris Henderson piloting the GPR towed by carpenter Ben Burdett; Below right: Remnants discovered by carpenter Mark Farrell in Boat Harbour*



## Annual Seminar

The Foundation's 2011 public seminar to outline the ongoing conservation programme will be held at the **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG)** in April. Held annually, this one-day event attracts a wide range of interested parties from Australia and New Zealand.

Bill Bleathman, Director of the **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery**, has agreed to host the event to mark the Centenary of Mawson's AAE from Hobart which will be celebrated in December 2012.

*Anyone wishing to attend, please contact the Foundation.*

# The Conservation Expedition for 2010–11

Orion Expedition Cruises flagship *Orion* and the French Government Antarctic supply vessel *L'Astrolabe* have combined to help the Foundation deliver a five-person team of specialists to Cape Denison this summer.

Following the tragic loss of four French expeditioners when a helicopter from *L'Astrolabe* crashed on the sea ice while flying from the ship to the scientific base Dumont D'Urville on October 28th, the **French Antarctic programme** had to reschedule their plans for the summer season.

However, Patrice Godon, Leader of the French operation who has taken a personal interest in the conservation project, is keen for the work to continue this summer and offered to still take a team of three on the next voyage of *L'Astrolabe*, expected to depart Hobart on December 9 or 10. In order to reduce the demands on the French programme, the Foundation revised its plans and is sending a smaller team this summer (see page 5). Two heritage carpenters and a medical officer will join the French voyage.

Sarina Bratton the Founder and Managing Director of **Orion Expedition Cruises** stepped in offering to take two expeditioners free of charge to Cape Denison to allow critical work to be done prior to the Centenary of Mawson's expedition.

"Without the personal support of Sarina and Patrice, the Foundation would not have had an expedition this summer," said Chairman David Jensen AM. "As a result of Orion's generosity, a conservator and archaeologist will travel in luxury on board the *Orion* departing Dunedin NZ on 28th December to join the three other members of the expedition at Cape Denison for the final two weeks of work on the Transit Hut and the crating of the tailpiece of Mawson's aircraft."

"Orion's support is absolutely fantastic. They have helped us immensely in previous years taking supplies and personnel south as well as supporting our fund raising and membership activities during their voyages," said David.

The Foundation's Expedition Manager Rob Easter AAM said the first three members of the team will arrive at Cape Denison around December 17th and be joined by the *Orion* contingent about January 5th. They will all depart for home with the *L'Astrolabe* around 20th January and arrive in Hobart on Jan 29th 2011.



P&O Maritime



Orion Expedition Cruises

Top: *L'Astrolabe*; Above: *MV Orion*

"The team is a good blend of newcomers and veterans of several trips to the huts with a high level of Antarctic and outdoor experience which is critical for operating at Cape Denison where even in summer, the weather is a constant challenge. I am very pleased with how the team has gelled following our first gathering in September to go over the work for the summer. Everyone is eager to take on extra tasks for the expedition beyond their individual areas of expertise and I'm confident they will do well this summer on the ice," Rob said.

All work undertaken by the Foundation is approved by the **Australian Antarctic Division** and the Heritage Division of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Communities and Population in Canberra.

"We work in close partnership with the AAD which provides invaluable operational and logistic support for the conservation work," explained Rob.

"And the support provided by the French and Orion Expedition Cruises has become a real bonus to the expedition," said Rob.



## Keeping an eye on the Huts

A webcam to transmit real-time images of Mawson's Huts will be installed at Cape Denison this summer.

Designed specially to withstand the blizzards and minus 40 degree temperatures, the camera can be programmed to transmit images at pre-determined intervals. These photographs will be available for viewing on the Foundation's website.

"Cost will determine the frequency of images transmitted but they will allow us to monitor the hut and the weather throughout the year for future planning," said Rob Easter, Expedition Manager for the Foundation.

# An introduction to the Expedition party

## Expedition Manager - Hobart



**ROB EASTHER**  
AAM\*, Tas

**Expedition  
Manager\*\***

Rob's Antarctic expeditions in the roles of station, voyage and field leadership span

22 years at the Australian Antarctic Division. He has planned all of the Foundation's conservation expeditions and is responsible for selecting expeditioners, organising supplies and equipment, developing the annual works plans, environmental and safety documentation, training and managing the team.

Rob led the Foundation's conservation expedition to Mawson's Huts in 2000. Based in Hobart, Rob's experience of working with the AAD, local businesses and wharf operations is important to the Foundation's expedition work.

\* Australian Antarctic Medal

\*\* Rob will not be travelling with the team

## Expedition team – Antarctica



**PETER MCCABE,**  
NSW

**Field Leader,  
Heritage  
Carpenter**

Pete is making his third visit to work on the historic huts

having spent 14 months previously living in Antarctica, working from two of Australia's Bases; a full summer and winter at Casey station then two months at Davis laying foundations for a new accommodation building and wandering the Vestfold Hills guiding scientists and TV crews. He appeared on Channel Ten's "Totally Wild" and "Scope Antarctic" series.

When at home on the far north coast of NSW he lectures to apprentices at the local TAFE in between building custom homes on the Tweed Coast and appearing as a motivational speaker at corporate team building seminars. Pete is an active surfer, rock climber, yoga student and plays guitar and harmonica. He has recently finished building his own home.



**TONI ROSS, Vic**  
**Materials  
Conservator**

Antonia is an objects conservator who has worked at the National Museum of Australia, Museum

Victoria and the Museum of Old and New Art. She has experience working with a wide range of collection materials from Australian ethnographic, historic and contemporary objects to Roman and Egyptian antiquities. She has worked closely with conservators of other disciplines to prepare handling, treatment and storage plans for large collections.

As Exhibitions Conservator at the National Museum of Australia, Toni was responsible for the care, preventative maintenance and environmental monitoring of objects selected for travelling exhibitions. Through this role she has had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout Australia but this will be her first journey to Antarctica.



**DR DAVID  
TINGAY, Vic**

**Doctor, Postmaster,  
Communications  
Coordinator,  
General Hand**

David is a Physician, currently working

in Neonatal/Paediatric Intensive Care in Melbourne. He has had a 15-year interest in expedition medicine that evolved from his own mountaineering experiences. In 1995 he was part of the first successful Australian expedition to Makalu and then worked as a base camp Doctor on Everest in 2001. He first visited East Antarctica as a member of a small team filming a documentary on Douglas Mawson's survival after the loss of both his sledging partners. This involved 50 days on the Antarctic plateau travelling by skidoo. He has made numerous trips to the Antarctic Peninsula as a medical officer on tourist vessels.

David is the honorary medical officer for Alpine Search and Rescue Victoria and has been the Australian medical representative of the International Committee on Alpine Rescue since 2010.



**STIRLING SMITH,**  
NSW

**Archaeologist,  
Assistant  
Postmaster**

Stirling is a Sydney-based archaeologist and heritage consultant

who undertakes work on maritime, historic and Aboriginal sites. He has worked for a variety of Government and private sector employers and undertaken projects throughout Australia, England and the Solomon Islands. He has also worked as a professional diver in both the recreational and commercial dive industries and is an active member of the Australian Army Reserve.

Stirling has travelled extensively; starting with a childhood spent travelling overland from England to the Middle East. After living in Iran his family continued their overland travels to Australia. He spent his teenage years living on a yacht in North Queensland and cruising around Australia and the Pacific Islands and has always had a professional and personal passion for the ocean.

His passion for the sea led Stirling to undertake an extended unsupported kayaking trip through the Inside Passage from Kodiak Island, Alaska to Vancouver Island, Canada.



**MATT TUCKER,**  
Tas

**Heritage  
Carpenter**

A New Zealander by birth, Matt grew up sailing the South Pacific with his parents and

four brothers before settling in Tasmania. In 2005 he sailed a 34 ft yacht *Snow Petrel* with his father and brother from Hobart to Mawson's Huts and made a documentary of the voyage which premiered at the Longest Night Film Festival in 2006. The film's success led Matt to study film and television in New Zealand before working on one of New Zealand's most successful long running television drama series. In 2008 he returned to Tasmania and resumed his work as a carpenter with occasional work on film projects.

# FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Foundation has launched a drive for members of the Mawson's Huts Society to help raise funds for the conservation of the historic huts.

All members will receive a unique range of benefits including a two year subscription to **Australian Geographic** magazine and historical publications by the Foundation. Membership of the Society means participating directly in the campaign to ensure the Cape Denison historical site, which is on the National Heritage List, is conserved in perpetuity for all Australians.

Memberships range from \$200 per year for Bronze to \$5500 for Platinum which is limited to just 100 members in any financial year.

Platinum members have an opportunity to win a luxury voyage for two to Cape Denison with **Orion Expedition Cruises**, a long-time supporter of the Foundation. Valued at \$50,000 the two berth junior suite fully donated by Orion is offered in 2011 and 2012 in addition to other membership rewards valued in excess of \$5000.

Gold and Silver members will also have the opportunity to see the Antarctic but from

the air. **Croydon Travel** has donated seats on a 12-hour Qantas flight over Mawson's Huts and part of eastern Antarctica.

Since its establishment in 1997 the Foundation has raised in excess of \$6 million with just over \$2.5 million of this from special Federal Government grants. With each expedition costing in excess of \$500,000 the Foundation is working to establish a Trust Fund which will eventually ensure regular visits for ongoing maintenance once the main conservation work has been completed.

"This is an opportunity for all Australians to participate in the conservation of Australia's most significant and important Antarctic heritage site," said David Jensen AM, chairman and CEO of the Foundation.

"Antarctica remains the only continent on earth where human's first dwellings remain standing and although blasted by ice particles driven at over 300 kilometres an hour, the main hut at Cape

Denison is still intact but constantly in need of maintenance and conservation."

Annual visits will be necessary for several more years until the main conservation work at Cape Denison site is completed. Only then will the size of the expedition groups be reduced to undertake maintenance only.

"The Foundation has constructed a specially equipped conservation laboratory at Cape Denison with the assistance of several of our sponsors (**Kordia Solutions, Perpetual Philanthropic Services, Thermo Fisher Scientific and Olympus** and this allows us to remove artefacts from inside the hut, treat them on site and return them to their original position," explains David.

"This work will need to be continued for many years in addition to ongoing maintenance of the main hut and other wooden structures built by the AAE."

See [www.mawsons-huts.org.au](http://www.mawsons-huts.org.au) for membership forms and more details.

## Joint venture for Macquarie Island's heritage

Hundreds of artefacts from Macquarie Island's oil industry based on harvesting penguins and seals are to be recovered, conserved and documented as part of a five year programme to conserve the rich history of this World Heritage sub-Antarctic island.

The programme is being spearheaded and funded by the **Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service** in partnership with the Mawson's Huts Foundation. Work will begin on the island next April with a four person team including an archaeologist, materials conservator, heritage carpenter and photographer spending eight days on the island.

The party will also recover remnants of the wireless relay station established by five members of Sir Douglas Mawson's 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) which spent two years on the island relaying signals from Mawson's main base at Cape Denison and transmitting meteorological data which continues to this day.

Peter Mooney, General Manager of Tasmania Parks and Wildlife said the project is an important one for his organisation which has had it on its drawing board for many years.

"The Mawson's Huts Foundation has the expertise and experience to help us with this large task and we're excited to be able to get it underway next year which is fitting as it also marks the Centenary of Mawson's departure from Hobart for the island in December 1911," he said.

"Our aim next April will be to take immediate action to recover and conserve the more vulnerable artefacts and begin planning for an appropriate way to house and display the island's history for the growing number of tourists who visit Macquarie each year," Mr Mooney stated. "It is very important these priceless artefacts are properly conserved rather than slowly eroding away. Many are buried so it will be a huge task taking at least five years."

Macquarie Island, which covers 128 square kilometres, is administered by the Tasmanian State Government.



1912



2010

# Best-selling author to write book on Mawson

Sydney based best-selling author and journalist Peter FitzSimons is writing a book on Sir Douglas Mawson which will be launched at the Centenary dinner of the polar explorer's departure from Hobart in December 2011 (see page 8).

His research will include a visit with his wife and three children to Cape Denison this summer, the base for two years of Mawson's 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE), onboard the luxury cruise ship *Orion* operated by Orion Expedition Cruises which is supporting his work.

Peter is looking forward to the challenge of bringing new perspectives on the great Antarctic explorer and scientist.

"Always on the lookout for great Australian stories, I have become transfixed by Mawson. Like many of my subjects he is, in the 21st Century, something of a forgotten icon. That is, like other of my subjects, Les Darcy, Kingsford-Smith, the battles of Tobruk and Kokoda, most Australians recognise the name, without knowing much of the detail that goes with it. It will be for the readers to judge whether I succeed or not, but let me state my aim at the

outset – to make Mawson live and breathe again, at least in the pages of my book. I have been researching his life widely and deeply and am really looking forward to going to Antarctica to try and capture that extraordinary environment."

Voted Australia's best-selling non-fiction author in 2001 and 2004, Peter has written nearly 20 books including biographies of wartime hero Nancy Wake, ALP politician Kim Beazley, sporting legends Nick Farr-Jones, Steve Waugh and John Eales together with books on the Kokoda Trail and Tobruk.

A former Wallaby, he played seven tests for Australia and following his international career played four seasons in France with CA Brive, the club's first ever foreign player. Married to TV personality Lisa Wilkinson, Peter is active in community affairs as Patron of the Newport SLSC which



Peter FitzSimons

his grandfather helped establish in 1913, Patron of the AFS Intercultural Programmes (a student exchange programme), Patron of the Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library (devoted to getting second hand books to the homeless), on the Senate of Sydney University, Board member of the Sydney Writers festival since 2003 and President of the Northern Suburbs Basketball Association.

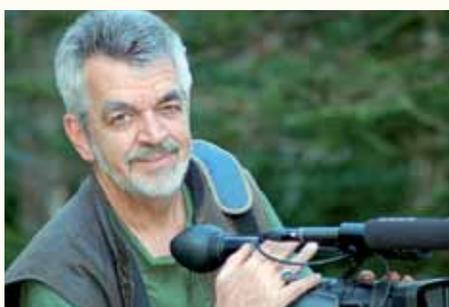
## Documentary screening soon

An hour long documentary on Douglas Mawson, the AAE and the conservation programme since 1997 is being produced by the Mawson's Huts Foundation for screening on national television.

The documentary is being produced by **Hark Attack Productions**, utilising the talents of Director Jon Harker, Producer Paul Steindl (long time producer of the Gold Walkley award winning Sunday Program) and cameraman David London who spent six weeks in Antarctica as part of the Foundations 2009 Expedition.

It will feature original footage by Frank Hurley, some of it being shown for the first time, interviews with key individuals including Paquita Boston, one of Mawson's seven grandchildren who has vivid and endearing memories of her grandparents.

**Telstra** CEO Thodey talks about the historic wireless transmissions from the



Antarctic which Mawson pioneered via his relay station on Macquarie Island, AAD Director Lyn Maddock speaks candidly about the importance of the work being done by the Foundation; Peter FitzSimons, author, journalist and raconteur and currently writing a book on Mawson, gives his views on the great Polar explorer and Greg Mortimer, who has visited the huts over 100 times, speaks about the need to look after the historic buildings. Antarctic historian Steve Martin discusses the Heroic era.

Negotiations are currently underway with national television outlets and the documentary will be completed during the next few months with a public screening during the Centenary year.

Filming of the last segments for the documentary at Cape Denison was made possible last summer with a generous donation by the Melbourne based Dyson Bequest. Initial work on the film was supported by **Perpetual Philanthropic Services**.

## Booklet for tourists



A book designed primarily for tourists visiting the Mawson's Huts is being published by the Foundation and will be available before Christmas.

Written by the Foundation's Chairman and CEO, David Jensen AM the book, *Douglas Mawson's Antarctic Bases – Cape Denison, Macquarie Island and the Shackleton Iceshelf*, will provide passengers with a brief history of the three bases. It also has both historical and contemporary images of AAE buildings at the three bases.

The 76-page book with over 100 images can be purchased on the Foundation's website for \$39.95 at [mawsons-huts.org.au](http://mawsons-huts.org.au).

# Australian Antarctic Territory – newest Post Office

Australia Post's first new post marker for the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT) in over 40 years will be used by the Foundation's 2010–11 expedition when it continues its conservation work at Cape Denison this summer.

It will be the first Post Office established in the Antarctic since the Australian Antarctic Division's Casey Station replaced Wilkes Station in February 1969, and will be operated by the Foundation each summer when it sends a team of conservation specialists to Cape Denison.

It will also be only the seventh AAT post marker ever produced by Australia Post. The others are:

- Heard Island opened December 25, 1947 (closed March 9, 1955 but operates during modern expeditions)
- Macquarie Island March 7, 1948
- Mawson Station March 15, 1954
- Davis Station January 14, 1957
- Wilkes Station February 1, 1959 (closed February 1970)
- Casey Station February 7, 1970

Postal Manager at Kingston Post Office, Tasmania, Rosanne Warren said two pictorial post markers would be supplied for Cape Denison. One will be a First Day of Issue (FDI) and the

second an "everyday" post marker. Both will have interchangeable datelines but the FDI will only be used to service mail with the latest AAT issue stamps on the day the Foundation's expedition arrives. The second post marker will be used throughout the period the expedition remains at the historic site.

The Foundation's 2010–11 expedition will depart Hobart onboard the French Government supply ship *L'Astrolabe* on December 9. Rosanne said that anyone wishing to have mail cancelled at Cape Denison would need to have it delivered to her by December 6. Any mail after that date would only be cancelled at Kingston and not carry the Foundation's own cachet.

The Foundation's expedition doctor David Tingay has been appointed Australia Post's agent at Cape Denison. He will be trained at Kingston Post Office prior to departure. Douglas Mawson himself asked the Australian Postmaster General's Office in 1911 to

provide a special postage stamp for use during his expedition and engaged an artist to design a special stamp under Mawson's supervision. The request was declined and the drawings of the design have not been seen since. However, the Commonwealth Government did give Mawson permission to make suitable rubber stamps at his own expense for cancelling Australian stamps used on envelopes sent back on the expedition's ship *Aurora*. In 1929–31 when he headed BANZARE (British Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition) Mawson had a new rubber stamp (cachet) made for the cancellation of stamps on letters sent from his ship the *Discovery*.

The exclusive agent for all the Foundation's philatelic items is **Peter Cranwell**, a Polar philatelic specialist who can be contacted at [pcranwell@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pcranwell@optusnet.com.au). The Foundation's philatelic items can be found on his website, [www.petespolarplace.com.au](http://www.petespolarplace.com.au).

## THE ORION CONNECTION

The Foundation is partnering Orion Expedition Cruises in promoting and selling berths on the 5 star luxury ship *Orion* to mark the Centenary of the AAE's departure from Hobart.

With only 100 passengers occupying 50 cabins and being looked after by 75 crew, the *Orion* is the epitome of luxury travel to the Antarctic. The 4000-tonne vessel built in Emden, Germany in 2003 will make two voyages to Cape Denison during the summer of 2011–12.

It will be one of three ships taking tourists to Mawson's Huts during the Centenary celebrations. These celebrations include a \$200 per person dinner the Foundation is organising for 500 guests in Hobart on December 1 next year – the eve of Mawson's departure.

The dinner, which will be a fund raiser for the conservation project, will also be the official launch of Peter FitzSimon's book on Mawson. The Foundation's Patron, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, has been invited to attend. Also attending will be passengers from **Aurora Expeditions** (*Akademik Shokalskiy*) and **Heritage Expeditions NZ** (*Spirit of Enderby*).

## 100-year-old port for Mawson Centenary

Bottles of 100-year-old port are being produced to mark the Centenary of Sir Douglas Mawson's departure from Hobart in December next year.

**Seppeltsfield Wines** of South Australia is partnering the Foundation in the production of a limited and numbered production of 100 ml Italian-made bottles of its famous 100-year-old Para Vintage Tawny which will be available for \$299 early next year. It will also be available in 375 ml bottles for \$975. Both bottles will be in handmade boxes of Baltic Pine, the same timber used for the cladding of Mawson's Huts.

Nathan Waks, Director of **Seppeltsfield**, said his company is delighted to be involved with the Mawson Centenary. "Mawson's work in the Antarctic is an important part of Australia's history and it's a great shame he's not better known. **Seppeltsfield** will do whatever it can to help conserve his historic huts at Cape Denison."

Established in 1851 by Joseph Seppelt, **Seppeltsfield**, like Mawson, is an Australian icon. Benno Seppelt selected a "puncheon (a barrel of approximately 500 litres) of his finest port wine in 1878 to be aged for 100 years in a barrel to mark the opening of a new stone Port Store. The tradition continues to this day.

**Seppeltsfield** is the only winery in the world to have significant stocks of wine laid down in consecutive vintages over 130 years, but no more than 250 litres of the 100-year-old wine is available in any one year. The demand for a particular vintage from individuals and organizations to celebrate special events is growing rapidly.

Orders for bottles of the 100-year-old port can be made now through the Foundation's website [www.mawsons-huts.org.au](http://www.mawsons-huts.org.au) although delivery will not be until March 2011.

