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# THE FRIENDS OF MAWSON INC

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From the desk  
of the President  
2010~August

Dear Members and Friends,

What was probably the most significant event in the history of the Friends of Mawson took place on June 21, 2010 with the launch of the "Adelie Blizzard", the newspaper produced during the second winter of the 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition led by Douglas Mawson. This event is covered elsewhere in the newsletter by Pamela Karran-Thomas, our Vice-President. Our thanks go to Don Howell whose enthusiasm was one of the main reasons that the publication of the "Adelie Blizzard", as well as other members (Gareth and Pamela Thomas, Peter Attard, Ian Flannery and Clive Amis) of the FOM committee who actively assisted at the launch. I would also like to thank Peter Attard for preparing a short address on living and working in Antarctica; this was meant to be delivered at the opening but due to an oversight this did not occur. We were in England and hence unable to attend the launch. While in Cambridge we visited the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) and inspected their newly opened display, a report on which is given in this newsletter. Although the new SPRI display is quite good and well worth visiting, the excellence of the Mawson exhibition within the South Australian Museum should not be underestimated. It is, in many ways, much more detailed and informative than the SPRI exhibition.

Jim Jago

*Editor's Note:* I would like to add to Jim's letter a note about him. At a *Science Alive!* Adelaide event recently Jim was recognised with the award of "Unsung Hero of SA Science 2010" for his sustained contributions to palaeontology – congratulations Jim!

On a sad note, in the last newsletter the death of Mawson Centre volunteer and FoM member Gavin Dougherty (1947-2010), was briefly reported. I'd like to thank Paola Dougherty for the newspaper article about him over the page:



People travelled long distances and waited for hours to catch a glimpse of royalty on their recent tour.

It was the other way round for Gavin Dougherty of Johnsonville. Royalty — Prince Edward — came to visit him; on two occasions.

It happened at Christmas, in Antarctica.

Gavin Dougherty was working with the national museum's conservator, Jack Fry, on a preservation programme for historic huts at Scott Base, Cape Royds and Cape Evans, all "Antarctic tourist attractions". The two men took Prince Edward (and his bodyguard) out to Scott's Discovery Hut at Hut Point near Scott Base. Later, while they were working at Shackleton's hut built in 1908 at Cape Royds, the royal visitor dropped in by helicopter for another look at their activities.

But although Gavin Dougherty — whose part-time occupation is as photographer for the Independent Herald — came home with 65 rolls of exposed film, he didn't have a picture of the prince.

Though the royal visit was fairly informal, there were still some protocol rules to observe, in the interest of giving the prince a "fair go". Among these were a ban on photographs — and on asking questions about his mother.

Seventy-year-old huts — equipped with, among other things, stacks of stinking seal blubber, intended for use as fuel — seem an unusual type of tourist attraction.

But as a unique record of some of the first Antarctic explorers, they are important, archaeologically, historically and as museum pieces in situ.

Though an amazing amount has been preserved in the freezing temperatures, there is still some deterioration and decay. Jack Fry and Gavin Dougherty were assigned to conduct a detailed study of the historic huts, which will provide the basis for a report and management plan to decide further preservation action. It has even been discussed whether part or all of the huts and their contents should be brought to New Zealand and set up again in museums rather than remain in Antarctic conditions.

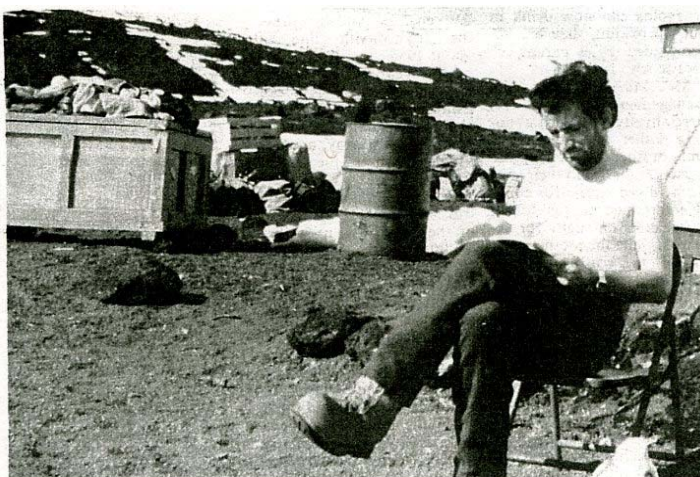
For Gavin Dougherty, the assignment involved him in both his "hats" as scientist (he works for the Chemistry Division of the DSIR) and as his weekend role, photography.

At Scott's Cape Evans hut, for example, a complete photo inventory was made. The two men recorded temperature and humidity, and put in place an experimental roofing material on the latrine.

#### FOUL

"We checked the volume of the hut, and recorded details for fire prevention, including whether the stored chemicals were a fire hazard," Gavin Dougherty said.

"We also removed all the tins of jellies and jams to take back to the museum for conservation," he said.



Yes, he's sunbathing in Antarctica.

Gavin Dougherty enjoys a spot of Antarctic sun at Cape Evans. That's not sand glinting in the sunshine behind him — it's ice.

Unfortunately, we can't reproduce here the striking colour shots that made up most of the 65 rolls of film Gavin Dougherty used in Antarctica. Many of them will feature in the report and management plan now being prepared about the conservation of historic Antarctic huts.

"The hand-made tins, after seventy years, have begun to corrode, so there was jelly and jam spread everywhere."

The tins are likely to be refilled with an inert material and replaced. The foul-smelling heap of seal blubber, (the fat which Scott was to have used as a fuel), is also likely to be replaced by a less objectionable substance.

They also looked at an earlier conservation attempt which had gone sadly wrong. Items of interest had been set aside ten years ago in a special storage case, but snow had got into it, and mixed with salt, had done a very ef-

howling gale. You wore woollen underwear, top and bottom, woollen trousers, dacron ski overalls and vest, down jacket, balaclava and fleece lined gloves. When you stood still you were cold, and if you did anything, you boiled over," he remembers. "You virtually had to crawl outside, rather than walk. We only went outside to go to the loo or to eat. Eating was forbidden in the hut itself, because of the conservation work."

It wasn't all work. There was a memorable Christmas dinner with about 90 other people — and "everything" on the menu at Scott Base.

On Boxing Day keen skier Gavin Dougherty was able to fulfil a life-long ambition. He negotiated the Scott Base ski field, thus becoming a member of their ski club.

After the three week assignment was up, there was a two week wait before the men could get a place on the ski-equipped Hercules to come back home.

Waiting was a "bit of a drag" because the two men weren't prepared for it. But there were diversions — watching a rugby game between Scott Base and the New Zealand Army base.

More than once they took a late night walk, calling in at the American base for hot dogs and ice cream along the way.

And when they finally headed home it must have been with some of the most unusual luggage ever — 120 elderly cans of food for conservation, along with ten dead skuas and a 120 lb Antarctic cod for museum study.

Four local men spent their Christmas "on the ice".

Herald photographer Gavin Dougherty's special conservation assignment for some of the Antarctic's historic sites is described on this page.

The officer in charge of the summer Antarctic programme was John Thurston of Broadmeadows. Dr Ian Thomas of Khandallah and Doug Martin of Johnsonville, were members of the scientific team.

cient corrosion job.

At Cape Royds there was a "discovery"! They located the second anchor of the ship Aurora, which left ten men stranded when it blew away from the depot in 1915.

"It was known to be there somewhere but no one had plotted its location exactly as required for an archaeological site," Gavin Dougherty said.

Working conditions at Cape Evans, and at their first stop, Discovery Hut near Scott Base, were surprisingly pleasant.

"At Cape Evans I worked shirtless — a rarity even in Wellington," Gavin said.

#### WINDY

But during their stint at Cape Royds he learnt that Wellington's windiness has nothing on an Antarctic gale. "It was 1°C, with a continuous 50-60 knot wind — a

This article appeared in NZ's *Independent Herald*, on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1983 titled 'Christmas with a prince and penguins' and gives a sense of his work. It is important to acknowledge that New Zealand has generally played an important role in Antarctic exploration. And the historic expeditions of Mawson, Scott, Shackleton and others always involved New Zealand. All the polar expeditions of which Mawson was a member of either left from its South Island, or were explicitly named — 'Australasian...; 'British, Australian New Zealand...' — in recognition of the important role played by our southern neighbour. These connections will hopefully be fully developed in the centenary exhibition of the AAE currently being planned by the National Archives of Australia and partners (including SAM), with expeditioners Eric Webb and Leslie Whetter just two of the more prominent men at the Main Base who were Kiwis.



Gavin life-long interest in Antarctica was cemented with his experience carrying out this important work at these McMurdo Sound historic huts sites. © Dougherty family

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Since our last newsletter considerable media attention has been given to the death of Alf Howard, who was the last surviving member of a Mawson-led expedition also sadly died recently. More can be read about him by accessing this link to the media, or below: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/antarctic-never-lost-its-fascination-for-mawsons-hydrologist/story-e6frg6zo-1225904791948>

**Dr Alf Howard AM**  
biographical notes by Anna Bemrose

Alf was a member of Douglas Mawson's final venture to the Antarctic, the *Discovery* Expedition (1929-31). These ship-based territorial and scientific voyages were captained by John King Davis (1929-30), and Kenneth N. Mackenzie (1930-31), and led to the Australian Antarctic Territory.

**1906, 30 April** Born in Canterbury; raised in Camberwell, Melbourne.

**1912-23** Educated at Camberwell State Primary School 888, Gardiner Central School and later University High School, Melbourne.

**c.1914** First official Wolf Cub in the First City of Camberwell Scout Group (*Melba's Own*) at "The Den" in Palmerston Street and then a Forrest Rover Scout with the same group.

**1922** Awarded the King's Scout Badge.

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- 1924** Commenced tertiary studies at the University of Melbourne on a State Senior Scholarship.
- 1927** Awarded BSc with majors in physics and chemistry and sub-major in maths.
- 1928** Awarded MSc in chemistry specialising in research in syntheses and relative activity of nitro-brom styrol halides. Shared Kernot Scholarship. Member of Royal Australian Chemical Institute.
- 1928-29** Worked at the Dunlop Rubber Company for a short time as an industrial chemist then returned to the University of Melbourne's Chemistry Department on a Commonwealth Research Grant to work on organic syntheses.
- 1929-31** Joined Sir Douglas Mawson's British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition (BANZARE) as expedition's chemist and hydrologist; two Antarctic voyages aboard Robert Falcon Scott's former ship *SY Discovery* analysing waters of coastal regions of the now Australian Antarctic Sector and Macquarie Island.
- 1931** Joined the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)--became the Commonwealth SIR Organization (CSIRO) in May 1949--and initially posted to Irrigation Research Station, MIA, NSW. Involved in soil physics and chemistry, plant nutrition and irrigation engineering. Inaugural member Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.
- 1933, Dec.** Married Elizabeth (Betsy Jane) Beck.
- 1942** Transferred to CSIR Division of Food Preservation and Transport, Sydney to work on dehydrated vegetables, fruit and meat for the armed forces.
- 1949** Appointed Officer-in-Charge of Cannon Hill's meat research laboratory in Brisbane initially to re-establish exports of chilled carcass beef to the UK and later the storage of packaged meat and the quality of fresh meat. Awarded fellowships of RACI and AIFST.



Alf is first row, and furthest from Sir Douglas, with it seems, a rather extended arm of Hurley's - actually Lt Karl Oom's - on him. Photo by Hurley © the SA Museum

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- 1952** Visited meat research institutes in England, Scotland, USA, Canada and N.Z.
- 1956** Enrolled at The University of Queensland (UQ) in Arts majoring in psychology as an aid to the study of consumer reaction to food stuffs.
- 1960** Enrolled for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at UQ.
- 1962** Visited meat research institutes in England, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Russia, USA, Canada and New Zealand.
- 1964** Awarded Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc. Attended ANZAAS in New Zealand.
- 1968** Admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Queensland.
- 1970** Awarded Fellow of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology Inc.
- 1971** Retired from CSIRO.
- 1972** Toured Papua, New Guinea and the Solomon Island.
- 1975** Re-enrolled at UQ to complete Arts degree.
- 1976** Admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts (UQ).
- 1980** Admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours in linguistics (UQ).
- 1981-82** Part-time lecturer in statistics at UQ's Department of Psychology and Research Consultant at the Departments of Psychology and Human Movement Studies (HMS).
- 1983-2003** Honorary statistical consultant and computer programmer Department/School of Human Movement Studies devising statistical programs for post-graduate students.
- 1984** Enrolled in HMS 300 and participated in research tour to Greece to study the Games of Ancient Greece.
- 1985** Attended ANZAAS in New Zealand;
- 1990** Bronze bust of Alf - by Brisbane sculptor Cam Griffin - unveiled in his honour at the Department of Human Movement Studies, UQ.
- 1990-91** Cruised on board *Frontier Spirit* visiting Macquarie Island, Commonwealth Bay, the Ross Sea and New Zealand sub-Antarctic islands.
- 1991** Visited West Antarctic Peninsular, South Georgia and neighbouring islands. Also visited Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands and Easter Island.
- 1992** Toured Norway and Finland, voyaged to Franz Joseph Land and Spitzbergen.
- 1993** Awarded Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science for "his outstanding contributions to the advancement of science and service to The University of Queensland". Antarctic voyage to Commonwealth Bay and the Ross Sea scientific bases. Cruise with the English Chamber Orchestra in the Mediterranean calling at Greece, Crete, Turkey and Italy.

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- 1994** Toured Japan with patrons of the Australian Ballet. Voyage to Arctic Circle.
- 1995** Pacific Ocean cruise with the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra calling at Vanuatu and Noumea. Classical music cruise in the Mediterranean.
- 1996** Flew to Korea and then to Vladivostok to board icebreaker *Kapitan Khlebnikov* to sail along the Kuril Island to Kamchatka, returning via Alaska.
- 1996-97** Three-month circumnavigation of Antarctica in *Kapitan Khlebnikov* visiting Emperor Penguin colonies and a number of international scientific stations.
- 1997** Segment: "Alf of the Antarctic" shown on ABC's *Australian Story*.
- 1998** Awarded the Order of Australia (general division AM).
- 1999** Toured Mauritius, Seychelles Islands, Reunion and Madagascar.
- 2000** Recipient of a Senior Australian of the Year Award (Queensland Division). Safari tour of Kenya and Tanzania and visit to the Victoria Falls.
- 2001** Awarded gold medal for lifetime of adventure by Australian Geographic. Visited London, Scandinavian capitals, New York and Toronto with the Australian Ballet.
- 2002** Cruise on the *Coral Princess* from the Kimberleys to Darwin.
- 2003** Guest speaker at the State Library of New South Wales, Sydney. Travel to the Canadian Rockies followed by cruise up the Alaskan coast.
- 2005, May** Opening of the Alf Howard Computer Laboratory, School of Human Movement Studies, UQ.
- 1970s - 2006** Visits to Brisbane primary schools recounting BANZARE experiences with slides and answering questions. Also participated in numerous interviews including those for local, interstate and overseas radio and television programmes. Interviewed in June by BBC TV Scotland for a series to be screened in the UK early next year.
- 2006** **CELEBRATED 100th BIRTHDAY ON SUNDAY, 30 APRIL**
- 2007, March** Documentary with Alf's 2006 interview by BBC TV shown on BBC 2 Scotland.
- 2010, 30 April, CELEBRATED 104<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**Sunday, 4 July 2010 Alf's passing**

## **PLANS & EVENTS mid 2010 onwards**

Put the following Mawson or Polar-related dates into your diary

- 24-25<sup>th</sup> September conference at Adelaide University:** German-Australian connections: Trans-national and trans-cultural links between German-speaking countries and Australia – with two papers on Mawson's Swiss(-German) skier.



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**Scott Terra Nova Expedition Centenary events:** with the UK busy commemorating the Centenary of the venture led by Robert Scott, for those interested there are now several web sites highlighting the major events: <http://www.isce2012.co.uk> &...[scott100.org](http://scott100.org)

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**30<sup>th</sup> November 5.30pm for 6pm Tim Jarvis will be talking as part of the Sprigg lectures at SAM.** Tim is an environmental scientist, adventurer and conservationist involved in many environmental projects world-wide. Recently acknowledged for his achievements as a Yale Fellow to Yale University in the USA, he is widely known for his polar exploits.. This talk will focus on his Mawson trek, and provide an environmental and conservation perspective. Bookings essential, 8207 7377, or 8207 7575.

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**Quest for the South Magnetic Pole** exhibition touring details: venues etc – **National Maritime Museum** (2 Murray St, Darling Harbour), 2 July-10 October 2010

**National Archives** (Queen Victoria Tce, Parkes), 6 December 2010-6 March 2011

**Warrnambool Art Gallery** (165 Timor St,) 2 April-10 June 2011

**Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery** 3 Mary Elie St, 16 July-4 Sept 2 '11

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**Proposed “AAE” Centenary Exhibition** December 2011- early '14:

focusing on the legacy of the *Aurora* Expedition in particular, the National Archives of Australia, with support from the Antarctic Division, SA and WA Museums and others, is driving this exciting development.

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**FoM AAE Centenary AGM event in the SA Museum Mawson Gallery:** this early 'night in the Museum' is currently being planned for no later than 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011, and should prove a rare opportunity to enjoy a special tour on the life of Sir Douglas. Watch this space for more – and this link: <http://www.douglasmawson.com.au/>

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**27-29<sup>th</sup> June 2011 ANU Conference:**



© School of Music, ANU

Taking place during the centenary year of Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition, this Conference – the first dedicated to this topic – will look at collaborative work including the sonic medium with creative arts and other disciplines. It will highlight the importance of sound (or lack of it) and music as part of the unique Antarctic environment.

The Conference is open to papers encompassing all of the creative arts with cross-disciplinary presentations (including areas related to science) also welcome, with topics to include -

- Music and Arts in AAE diaries

- Influence of the Antarctic silence on human behaviour
  - Antarctic sound recordings & Music
  - Antarctic sound recordings & Science
- For further details contact -

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E. [arnan.wiesel@anu.edu.au](mailto:arnan.wiesel@anu.edu.au)



Emperor penguins trying beyond *Happy Feet* ©  
School of Music, Australian National University

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**3rd January 2012 SAM-supported Orion Expedition departs.** The latest news from Orion about bookings as of 18<sup>th</sup> August is ...we still have space in all categories from Junior Suite and above. No categories A or B available.

Savings we can offer today are: 10% on the few remaining Junior Suites and 15% saving still available on higher grades.

Please note to book call our Reservations office on 1300 361 012 and make sure they quote "SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM GROUP" when booking.

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- Multi-Media images from the Antarctic
- Sound tracks for Antarctic films
- The role of music in translating the natural environment

Orion are not holding any bookings and savings can drop in the next week or two. So in short, for those tempted, time is running out for any special offers.

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## **Wilkins** on either side of Wednesdays with the Burnside Library (8306 4280 to book)

**6<sup>th</sup> September (Thursday) 1 Book 1 Burnside Launch 6.30 – 8.30 pm** with latest Wilkins biographer Simon Nasht talking, frozen cocktails and supper, plus entertainment by "Not the Andrews Sisters". Bookings essential, cost \$10pp.

**14<sup>th</sup> September (Tuesday) 10 – 1pm North Tce tour** beginning at the Mawson Centre, followed by State Library café, after which Valerie Sitters will finish the Wilkins tour with their photographs.

**30<sup>th</sup> September (Thursday) 10.30 – 12pm Meet at the Aviation Museum,** Lipson St, Pt Adelaide. Includes morning tea, cost \$6pp to museum.

**14<sup>th</sup> October (Thursday) 7 – 8.30pm Screening of the film "Voyage of the Nautilus"** with Writers/Directors Simon Nasht and Trond Eliassen, followed by wine & supper, cost \$6pp.

Note many great prizes to be won by attending ANY of the *One Book One Burnside* events, so book now!

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**Comment on Recent Events,**  
**News and Views**

A report of a Polar Conference in Hobart that had a strong Mawson component follows over the page.

***'Antarctic Visions: Cultural Perspectives on the Southern Continent'* June 21-23 2010**

This polar conference's mix of historical and artistic specialists in particular sat comfortably side by side in simultaneous sessions the first couple of days, and came together easily on the final day's single stream of sessions, particularly with Megan Jenkinson's 'Ponderable Matter' presentation – she used art to explore the 35 lbs of rocks Scott's South Pole Party carried back with them for 40 days early in 1912.

Academic Max Jones, of Scott fame, gave the keynote address in this Scott Centenary, as well as entertaining us with an evening in conversation with a Scott aficionado.

Mawson's AAE received almost as much attention as Scott matters, with his air-tractor, forgotten newspaper, treatment of expeditioner Sidney Jeffryes, and Western Base exploration, all covered well.

There were a number of additional activities that took many of those attending out of the lovely venues of the University of Tasmania, and Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's Royal Society room.

The most impressive was to Government House, with a reception where we were introduced to the Governor – some adventurous souls even returned another day to see the original facilities the magnetic survey were carried out around in the time of the expedition by Ross. PIC?

A guided tour of some of the polar and seafaring history of the city was also included, leaving me slightly jealous of their unrivalled (in Australia at least) polar heritage. My favourite amongst these excursions was a personal one, and involved at long last climbing Mt Wellington (1,271m). Ascending this remarkable mountain which so dominates Hobart was only achieved thanks to the generous assistance with the early morning start by FoM member Bruce Hull, and the company of Anna Lucas. (Aside from the taxi back in the dark after the bus service had just finished for the day, this was to my way of thinking something of a reconnaissance for the 2012 *Orion* centenary voyage that the SA Museum is supporting, as members of the *Aurora* Expedition are known to have also made this climb before their departure late in 1911 which we plan to repeat as close to possible to that centenary date.)



Panorama of Hobart dominated by Mt Wellington half hidden in clouds. Photo by Flying Freddy

**LAUNCH OF THE ADELIE BLIZZARD**

**Mawson's Forgotten Newspaper**

On the evening of mid-winters day, in the Pacific Gallery at the South Australian Museum, the *Adelie Blizzard* publication was finally launched some ninety eight years after it was first created on a typewriter in Mawson's hut in the Antarctic.

The event, organized by the Waterhouse Club, Friends of Mawson and the Friends of the State Museum was a resounding success. Extra seating was hurriedly produced and the sales

### *No. 3/2010 News Update. Adelie Blizzard book update!*

desk was swamped with orders. The catering was arranged by Mary Lou Simpson on behalf of the Waterhouse Club.

Don Howell, a FoM committee member and very active proponent for the publication was the MC for the evening and he introduced Valmai Hankel from the State Library who spoke about the process of producing the *Adelie Blizzard*. She was followed by Mawson's great grand daughter, Emma McEwin, who officially launched the publication. She spoke of the purpose of the newspaper as explained in the first issue – "the crystallisation of our ideas, an additional means of social enjoyment, and, incidentally we hope, to voice the spirit of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition".

Sponsors were presented with their specially signed copies of the *Adelie Blizzard*.

After the launch guests enjoyed the ambiance of the Pacific Gallery with wine, nibbles and interesting company.

The phone in the Library sales office has been ringing constantly since, following great media coverage locally and nationally.

Pamela Karran-Thomas (Vice President, FoM Inc.)

### **KONA MAWSON MTB MARATHON** (8-12 June, 2010)

This Mawson Marathon aimed to re-define Mountain biking Marathons in Australia. 350 km non-stop riding on the Mawson Trail in the rugged Flinders Ranges with over \$30,000 in both product and cash prizes, for single-track and trail riding.



Chris Jongewaard and Brett Anderson claimed the title in the inaugural non-stop male duo category of the 2010 Kona Mawson MTB Marathon. They finished in the extraordinary time of 14 hours 9 minutes and 52 seconds.

Over 130 riders rode the iconic Mawson trail, either over four stages or non-stop. In the non-stop categories, Chris Jongewaard and Brett Anderson took a lead in the first 40kms and runners-up Kona riders Jason English (current World Solo 24Hr Champion) and Andrew Bell

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were unable to close the gap and finished in second place. Finishing in a solid third were Torq team riders Mark Fenner and Mark Tupalski.

The women's non-stop duo race was won by Anne Antrecht and Jac Connell in a time of 20 hours 9 minutes and 30 seconds.

The solo stage race was won by Solo Male rider for Giant, Adelaide-born Ben Hogarth, in a cumulative time of 12 hours and 29 minutes and 37 seconds. Runner-up was upcoming talent Robbie Hucker of TORQ with Andrew Mock coming third. The women's solo stage race was won by Torq rider Jenni King.

(Source: Bicycle SA E-Newsletter 17.06.10)

**THE POLAR MUSEUM, SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

On June 22, 2010, Adrienne and I visited the new Polar Museum at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), Lensfield Road, Cambridge. We had previously seen the museum in May 2007 (see report in FOM Newsletter, August 2007), but it has been completely revamped, with the reopening taking place on June 8, 2010. i.e., only two weeks before our visit. As with many museums in the UK, entry is free; opening hours are 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

The first obvious change is that one now enters straight off Lensfield Road which is the original entrance. The foyer is quite spectacular with a ceiling dome on either side, one with a map of the Arctic regions and the other showing Antarctica; the SPRI deals with both polar areas. Although the exhibition space is not large, it is greater than that previously available. There is a special exhibition area that currently contains a display of Inuit artworks including both paintings and stone carvings. There is also quite a bit of Inuit material in the main part of the museum.

The bulk of the museum concentrates on British polar expeditions with a series of panels and display cases that contain quite a lot of information as well as items (flags, personal effects and equipment) pertaining to the particular expedition. The expeditions are dealt with chronologically starting with the Royal Navy efforts to discover the North West Passage (John Ross, William Edward Parry, James Clark Ross and Sir John Franklin and the subsequent searches for Franklin) in the first half of the nineteenth century and early attempts to reach the North Pole by Sir George Strong Nares whose expedition achieved a new farthest north of 83° 20'N in 1875-76.

There are some excellent panels on the "Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration (1895-1925)". Not surprisingly these concentrate on the two Scott expeditions, but there is also good information on the Bruce and Shackleton expeditions. A change in attitude is shown by the fact that there is much more information on, and credit given to, Amundsen than there was previously. From our point of view it is disappointing that the only mention of Mawson is incidental, e.g., the fact that Mawson used *Discovery* in the 1929-31 BANZARE expeditions. There is no mention at all of the Mawson 1911-1914 AAE and for that matter no mention of the very considerable expeditions of Borchgrevink (Norwegian, but largely funded by an English newspaper), Drygalski (German), Nordenskjöld (Swedish) and Charcot (French) in the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century, although there is recognition of the earlier efforts of Cook and Bellinghausen. Personally, I would rather have seen good information on these expeditions at the expense of some of the display of Inuit artwork, in which I confess to having very little interest.

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There are several detailed panels dealing with the 1910-1913 *Terra Nova* Expedition. These are quite interesting and include information on Photography (with high praise for Ponting), Science, Transport, the polar journey, Amundsen, Scott at the pole and the return journey. There are lots of artefacts including Scott's sledge repair outfit, crampons, a man hauling harness, Scott's skis and pole, cigars, a chocolate bar, Ponting's camera (or replica), Scott's camera. One of the contentious issues regarding Scott's polar journey was his decision to rely mainly on man hauling. In the Transport panel, there is a brief discussion on the methods used, i.e., dogs, horses, tractors and man-hauling, but there is no real recognition that the decision to man haul probably cost the polar party their lives. On the other hand, the main reasons for the "Scott of the Antarctic" legend are that the entire party died on the return journey, the bodies of Scott, Wilson and Bowers and their effects were found and that Scott wrote up a lively journal plus copious letters right to the end.

One pleasant surprise was that the John Rymill led British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE) of 1934-37 rated a detailed panel of its own with the comment that "The first 'modern' British Antarctic expedition used innovations in travel and diet and avoided many of the problems faced by earlier explorers". The artefacts from the Rymill expedition include two photos of Rymill, scientific equipment, a sunshine recorder, a hydrometer, snow goggles, a tide gauge, knife, steel and a morse code outfit. The only mention of Hubert Wilkins is a brief comment within the BGLE panel.

In a side room there is good general information on Ice, Climate and Science in Antarctica, why polar science is important and Antarctic politics. There are several informative touch screens in the museum. Quite a lot of display material is in drawers that can be pulled out for inspection. This is very effective, although some of the material was unlabelled, suggesting that the overall display is still being finalised. Material in the drawers include Scott's bible, a copy of Bowers' navigation log, a copy of a page from Bowers' journal, the canvas wallet found on Scott's body protecting his journal and various medals awarded to Wilson.

The overall appearance of the museum is "light and airy" with the walls and the background of the display cases and panels painted white. This gives the whole museum a modern and welcoming appearance. Although the museum is perhaps not as big as one would wish, it is a decided improvement on its predecessor and a must for anyone interested in polar history who is visiting Cambridge.

Jim Jago, July 8, 2010.

### ***Adelie Blizzard – Update***

We have sold some 450 plus copies throughout Australia, NZ and overseas, so many thanks to all members for their support. The Deluxe is now sold out, but the Standard version is still available at \$150 [less a discount for FoM members plus postage], and due to demand, a soft cover version will be ready soon.

The *Blizzard* has received wide acclaim as an excellent example of a fine facsimile of early exploration literature in the print media, specialist polar magazines and ABC TV. Printed and bound in Australia on quality paper, it is a large foolscap size book of some 2kgs.

Carolyn Potts, of the Friends of the State Library of SA, is the best contact for further orders. 08 8207 7255 , [friends@slsa.sa.gov.au](mailto:friends@slsa.sa.gov.au) or go to [www.australianpublications.org.au](http://www.australianpublications.org.au)

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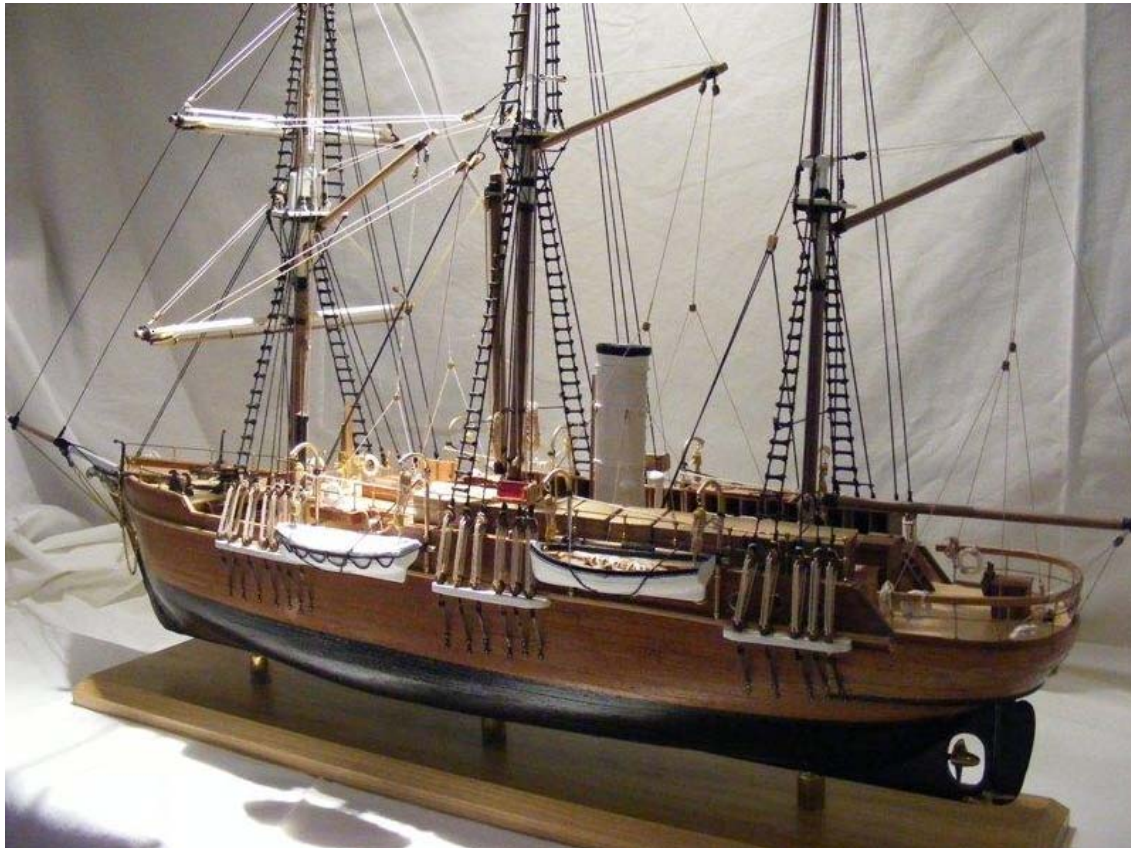
'En route to Aladdin's Cave' – reversed graphic utilised as an impression in silver on the *Adelie Blizzard* outside cover

### **Arkaroola in 2011? - Update**

For those members who have always had a yearning to be inspired by Mawson to do something beyond one's comfort zone, at a somewhat modest price, Bike SA's next Outback Odyssey may be just the thing for you! Be physically and mentally challenged, but with options for varying degrees of comfort and convenience, with a range of optional services that include massages, large comfortable tents set up and taken down for you each day, not to mention the huge advantage of no worries about luggage. And best of all perhaps about these organised rides of less than 200 riders over the three sections of the trail, you will meet the local communities the trail winds its ways through. (For more details, contact Bike SA, or visit their web site: <http://www.bikesa.asn.au/>) And you may be interested to know that at this stage very tentative discussions are about to begin concerning how this centenary year of 2011 may also feature an extended ride of an extra 150 odd km to Arkaroola, Mawson's old hunting ground. In addition, it is hoped that specialised Museum staff – all keen cyclists themselves – may accompany sections of the Trail to share some of their insights into this unique environment. All of this may require special support, probably on a corporate level, and if anyone can help with this particular proposal, please contact Mark at the Mawson Centre (8207 7574).

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### **Model making**



A model of Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance* (19014-16) made by UK model-maker Chris Birkett – currently planning an *Aurora* model for the Mawson centenary. © C.Birkett

Ship Dimensions: L 920mm x H 650mm x W: 380mm

Hull: plank on frame construction , mahogany strip  
Deck : Oak veneer  
Super structure and Kennels : Walnut and Mahogany  
Masts: Walnut

Brass and copper rails, pipes, chain etc.

Funnel : plasticard and brass work.

She is , in model builders parlance, a semi scratch build : that is I have used some commercially available fittings, anchors and chains , winches, capstan , portholes and stanchions , the rest I fabricated myself. The hull was built using drawings of a typical Whaler of the period, the stern being altered to suit, and I completed the whole model using Hurley's photographs and drawings from various internet sources.

*LINK TO*

*AURORA –ENDURANCE LINK*

*Aside from the fact that Mawson sold his old expedition ship to Shackleton, and that men such as Wild accompanied Shackleton, other interesting links that conveniently join the AAE to the IT-AE include: Mawson's use of an air-tractor was paralleled by Shackleton's intention of using several such devices – these were taken South on Endurance, but sadly, never able to be utilised. Also, Frank Bickerton, a member of the Main Base in both years, drew special solace from the Ency of Britannica, which he then donated to the IT-AE – Worsely was so attached to this, he kept a page from it after the men had to abandon all non-essentials. It even survived Elephant Island, and is now...*

Use pic from Norway

## 12 August 2010

Six glaciers in the Australian Antarctic Territory have been officially named in honour of historically significant figures and groups who have played an important role in the Antarctic region or Australian history.

The new names were recommended by the Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Committee chaired by Joe Johnson.



Antarctic glacier  
[Photo](#): Eric Woehler

"These glaciers are all situated in the area explored by Sir Douglas Mawson during his Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-1914," Dr Johnson said.

"The names chosen reflect the contributions to Antarctic exploration in the first part of the twentieth century, and especially some members of that first Australasian Expedition whose contributions have not yet been recognised," he said.

The newly named glaciers are;

- **The James Forbes Glacier (69°12' South, 158°0' East)** Named after early Antarctic expeditioner James ("Sails") Forbes who took part in four Antarctic voyages from 1892-1927, including the 1912-13 *Aurora* voyage and the first voyage of the BANZARE. James Forbes originally came from Dundee in Scotland and started his sea going career as a whaler in the Arctic. He was a member of the first Antarctic expedition to be conducted on a ship equipped with steam engines – the Dundee Whaling Expedition of 1892-93. On the *Aurora* voyages he was the sailmaker in addition to performing other duties as an able seaman.
- **Williams Glacier (68°24' South, 149°35' East)** Named after Gus Williams, the Chief Steward on the *Aurora's* 1912 Macquarie Island voyage and two Antarctic voyages in 1913 and 1914. His role included provisioning the vessel and catering, as well as maintaining the various messes and accommodation for the scientists and officers.
- **Jeffryes Glacier (67°4' South, 143°59' East)** Named after Sidney Jeffryes, the wireless officer for the second winter of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition at Commonwealth Bay in 1913. He was described by Mawson in *The Home of the Blizzard* as being "...assiduous at all times, sending and receiving wireless messages (and had) applied himself to work with enthusiasm and perhaps an over-conscientious spirit".
- **AAE Glacier (67°35' South, 145°37' East)** Named after the Australasian Antarctic Expedition led by Sir Douglas Mawson in 1911-14. The expedition was the first mounted by personnel from Australia and New Zealand with a purely scientific focus and is widely regarded as the most successful of the 'heroic age' expeditions.
- **ANZAC Glacier (66°52' South, 109°28' East)** Named after the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps formed during the First World War. The name is in



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recognition of the camaraderie and military achievements of the many young Australian and New Zealand troops who gave their lives in the conflict, including an early casualty at Gallipoli, Lieutenant Robert Bage, who was a member of the 1911-1914 Antarctic expedition.

- **BANZARE Glacier (66°45' South and 108°17'East)** Named after the British-Australian-New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition in 1930-31 led by Sir Douglas Mawson. The expedition made an outstanding contribution to both the contemporary knowledge of the Antarctic continent and to the oceanography of the region. It proved the existence of a continuous undersea land-platform around at least a third of Antarctica, reinforcing the theory that there was a continent beneath the ice plateau, rather than a series of islands cemented by the polar ice cap.

<http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=37938>

Parks Canada news

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/culture/expeditions/introduction.aspx>