

The Muriel Matters
Society Epistle
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Hello Members and Friends!

Our next event: **MMS Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 23 August, 2015

10.00am – 11.00am

at

La Scala Café (in the private room)

169 Unley Road (Oxford Corner), Unley SA

Along with presentation of annual statements, Steph and Frances will report on their recent visit to London, Hastings and The Hague.

Those who wish can meet for breakfast from 9.00am (at own cost).

RSVP helpful.

Memberships 2015-16 Due

Thanks to all who have already renewed. A reminder will be sent to members still to pay with the next mail out.

Recent News

We have lost several members in the past months: Joan Kirner, Margaret Pressley and Barbara Whitney. Condolences have been sent to all their families.

The Meryl Streep/Carey Mulligan movie 'Suffragette' (about the WSPU and the life of Mrs Pankhurst and her 'foot soldiers') will open in Australia on Boxing Day 26 December, 2015. But don't go to see it then – MMS is having a special viewing at The Regal on Sunday January 10, 2016. Put the enclosed 'save the date' card on your fridge, further details to follow. **Please mark in your Diary now!**

Denise Schumann's talk on Sunday 3/5/15 on the influence of the Wesleyan Methodists was excellent and we will be asking Denise to repeat the presentation for The Society later in the year. A not to be missed future event – details will follow when a date is confirmed.

Work on the monograph is well underway. It will be supplied to all public and private schools and LGA libraries. Additional copies this will be sold (in limited quantities) with funding used for other Society projects. A grant has been applied for to ensure the big print run necessary.

Muriel's biography is gaining pace – noted journalist and author ex-pat Robert Wainwright has visited Society archives during his recent trip to Australia from London to promote his latest book 'Maverick Mountaineer'. Another ripping yarn following the release of 'Sheila', it was great to show him around some of Muriel's significant sites. Both books are recommended reading for those interested in the marvellous stories of notable people lost in history.

Thanks to those members who sent in suggestions for the title caption for the new Balloon Flight tea towel. Already available (for the same low price of \$15) in limited numbers. It will be launched soon (we've been trying to organise an event at the airport with a modern day aviatrix, which was thought fitting!) and notice of the event details will be provided in the earliest possible newsletter.

UK Trip

Steph and Frances achieved many good things during their time in London, Hastings and The Hague in April.

The premiere of 'Muriel Matters!' at Australia House was very well attended and received. Plenty of visits were made and they met with Oliver Waldren, the gentleman in Hastings, aged 93, who actually knew Muriel.

Steven's paper on The Grille Protest was well received by archivist staff at Westminster and we have welcomed their suggested amendments. They have agreed to amend the captions in their literature and as well, the new education centre (opening mid in July) will feature some of Muriel's adventures. We are grateful for this wonderful measure to include MM at the forefront of suffrage agitation.

The sudden sad death of Cr Jeremy Birch, Leader of the Hastings Borough Council, just after the visit was dreadful and our sympathies go to his family and all in Hastings who worked with him. He was a great supporter and will be sadly missed.

Memberships and Presentations

Both continue to be steady. Thanks to everyone who supports MMS and especially to those who have recommended us to their circle of contacts and groups.

Every opportunity to speak to groups and the wider public is taken. We now have presentations on Muriel's Life, The Caravan Tour, The Grille Protest and The Balloon Protest with one on Suffrage Protests and Prison soon to be developed.

History Month saw Frances take 2 morning talks/tours at Parliament House – Wednesday 20 May and Monday 25 May, both were well attended.

Merchandise

Still selling well – all proceeds go to funding other projects.

The Third Edition of the Balloon Tea Towel has started selling, pending the 'official' launch.

Diary Dates

23 August, 2015 – AGM at La Scala, Unley

TBA Late 2015 – launch of the 3rd Balloon Flight Tea Towel and UK Trip Report

Sunday, 10 January 2016 – movie fundraiser 'Suffragette' at Regal Cinema

1st Muriel Matters Oration

The Muriel Matters Society Inc.

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