

The Muriel Project Epistle No: 6 (July 2010)



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Greetings Members and Friends!

As we move into our second year of operation, there is much to celebrate. Many successful events have taken place and we look forward to sharing an even better 2011!

The 1910 Town Hall Centenary Performance & Adelaide Cabaret Festival Fringe performances at La Boheme

Those lucky enough to have been in the Town Hall audience on Sunday June 13 witnessed a very special night. The standing ovation said it all: great script, acting and music, great visuals and lighting, great costumes and make up – great production team! La Boheme was no different in front of a smaller, intimate audience over 5 shows. The excellence has already been recognised with a contract looming for a suburban season in 2011 and a regional tour also in the offing. The Executive thanks everyone who worked so hard to make 'Why Muriel Matters' (WMM) such a brilliant success.

2010 – 2011 Membership Renewals Due

Accompanying this newsletter will be the 2010-2011 renewal form. We thank you for your support so far and hope you will continue by renewing as quickly as possible to ensure The Society's good work can continue.

Please also encourage friends and family members to join so that our membership base is broad enough to attract the funding needed for the big projects ahead.

Progress Continues

Arrival of The Grille!! – Through great work by our Clerk of the House, we are proud to announce a panel from the Ladies' Gallery has arrived in Adelaide and will form the nucleus of an exhibition in Parliament House which is hoped will be ready in time for October 28. It's a beautiful piece of metalwork (as featured in *The Advertiser* 30/7/10) and we are thrilled to provide it a new home – for as long as possible! Our attention has now turned to securing a set of chains from the Museum of London to make the exhibit as authentic as we can – the first time anything like it will be seen in Australia.

Media Promotion – several spots on all sorts of media advertising WMM has meant that Muriel's profile has grown substantially over the past few months. This will undoubtedly help as we continue into our second year of operation.

Documentary – The Society has been approached by recognised local producers and work is already under way. This particular production will take some time to complete and the results should be well received and another success – nationally and internationally.

Trip to the UK - Frances will be leaving for Hastings and London in the first week of August. The Blue Heritage Plaque will be unveiled on Muriel's last home in a ceremony with a host of Hastings dignitaries. Further work with the Hastings Library (thru our friend Zoe) and other UK contacts should uncover many new leads and provide detail on lines already under investigation.

Research – A good deal of new information has come to light on Violet Tillard. Thanks to Marie for all her invaluable help. We look forward to continuing work on Matters Family members – several new contacts should provide good information.

Follow Ups

*Web page launched and will be updated shortly. Thanks to Steven, there will soon be photos from the WMM performances on display and others, in due course, from the UK trip.

*Extensive work of the Matters Family tree has come to light through contacts in the UK via one of our new members. During the forthcoming visit, Frances will pay a visit to express The Society's thanks for this wonderful resource.

Merchandise

Plenty of merchandise still available – Society badges (\$10), Muriel cards (\$10 for a pack of 4), WMM Centenary souvenir booklets and programs (\$5) and limited stock of Centenary hankies – never to be reprinted (\$20).

Presentations

Public speaking opportunities continue to roll in, usually about one a week. If you are in touch with any groups and would like to have a presentation, please let us know.

Significant Current Lines of Investigation

*Still work to do at the Lands Titles Office (LTO) on various addresses. Zoe is already looking into LTO type work in UK on 7 Pelham Crescent.

*Pt Augusta visit planned next month. Muriel's brother Charles was born there and the family lived in the area for at least a year or so.

Work to Do

*Still to discover our first link on William Porter's life and professional work in the field of dentistry.

*Still need to know more on MM's theatrical and music life – before and after arriving in London.

Diary Dates

*A date will be set for the AGM shortly and advised in next newsletter.

*The next event will be for The Grille Anniversary on October 28.