

The Muriel Project Epistle



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Hello Members and Friends!

The AGM has been and gone - thanks to all who attended. The Executive has been re-elected with Don as President, Frances as Secretary and Steph as Treasurer. Renewals have been steady (thanks!) and anyone still needing to renew may want to do so in the next few weeks or at the next function.

The Christmas Get Together

Just as we were planning this function, we had word UK researcher Jill Liddington (see additional information below) will be in Adelaide shortly. So we hope you can come along and meet her at:

**Balcony Room, Parliament House
North Terrace, Adelaide (enter through Centre Hall).**

Tuesday, 20 December, 2011

From 6.30pm - 8.30pm

RSVP to Society mobile service or email (see details at end of newsletter)

Jill will speak on suffrage and her Muriel discoveries during her research and we will have tea, coffee and cake after. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet with someone who shares our passion, so let's make it a great end to the year.

The Grille Exhibition at Parliament House

The exhibition continues to be well received but will not be able to stay much longer! Please make sure you come in to see it before the end of the year – it may be that we are able to assist the National Museum of Democracy in Canberra secure the items for a display. This would be a marvellous way to extend the loan and expose Muriel to an even greater national and international audience. Fingers Crossed!

NSW Chapter News

The Society was welcomed by GG Quentin Bryce to Admiralty House for a morning tea prior to the Sydney launch dinner. We are grateful to the Governor General for her kindness and enthusiasm for all things Muriel. It is our intention to arrange a much bigger dinner early in the New Year (hopefully around Balloon time) and to really work at connecting with our eastern sisters and brothers to promote The Society and its works and to discover as many new Muriel links as possible. On our return home, Phillip Adams interviewed Frances and Eleanor on Late Night Live (see link on web site). This was a great opportunity but unfortunately only a few people were encouraged to contact us. Better luck next time – Fran Kelly has indicated she will interview us again (following her initial interview in 2009).

Merchandise

Christmas – what better time of year to purchase some Muriel merchandise for those you love and who may have everything? Still plenty of stock on hand –

Society Badges (\$10)

Muriel Cards (\$10 for a pack of 4),

WMM Centenary souvenir booklets/programs (\$5) and

Centenary Event Hankies – limited stock now, never to be reprinted (\$20).

No feedback from anyone on the suggestion for new items such as posters, what do you think about producing a perpetual calendar?

Progress Continues

We have another original postcard! – super sleuth Wendy Herbert has located a second original item. And, we now also have original copies of the editions of the London Daily Mirror covering The Grille Incident and The Balloon Flight. Well worth seeing, they will be on display at the Christmas function.

Trip to the UK and US – Plans still underway for this trip to go ahead in the New Year. Will plan to do as much public speaking as possible while away

Research – following up leads on Muriel's early education here in Adelaide.

Have also received information from Colin Cartwright in UK, who has been very generous with his research, especially on Muriel's pioneering efforts in the dirigible, one of the earliest powered balloon flights ever.

Visiting Academics – as mentioned above, Jill Liddington will be in Adelaide in December. Jill began initially as a suffrage historian and is the co-author of *One Hand Behind Us* (Virago Press 1978), now regarded as a classic. Her most recent book *Rebel Girls: Their Fight for the Vote* (Virago 2006) was short listed for the 2008 Portico Book Prize.

Matters Family members – it was great to welcome David Matters into The Society at our Sydney function.

Follow Ups

* Web page will soon be updated (thanks Steven) again.

* We will look at arranging a dinner in Melbourne soon after the Sydney dinner, to be followed by a Perth dinner. If contacts for Brisbane come through, ambitious though it is, we would look to launch there this year too, if at all possible.

Do you have friends or family in NSW, Vic, WA and/or Qld? Please let us know.

Presentations

The power point presentation is regularly updated and bookings continue at a steady pace. Please remember to suggest to friends and family or why not organise something at your workplace? Getting out and about helps spread the word, grows the membership and uncover great leads!

Significant Current Lines of Investigation

* The Parkside School run by the Misses Newman morphed into Annesley College.

* The Unley Museum is a really interesting venue and has supplied a photo of the school (circa 1903). The promising start to these leads indicates a good story not far away.

Diary Dates

* Come and visit The Grille Exhibition before the end of December!

* Christmas Get Together at Parliament House - Tuesday, 20 December.

* Please pay membership (if still outstanding) – or join up a friend!

The Muriel Matters Society

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