

The Muriel Matters **Society Epistle**



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Department of Education and
Children's Services



No: 16 (October 2012)

Hello Members and Friends!

Our next event will be to commemorate the

**104th Anniversary of The Grille Protest on
Sunday, 4 November, 2012
from 1.00pm to 3.00pm**

at MRC/Lions Community Centre, 23 Coglein Street, Adelaide 5000
(located between Gouger and Wright Streets, near Central Market).
RSVP (helpful!) to 0437 656 700 or murielmatterssociety@gmail.com.

Mr Ron Potts, a highly regarded speaker, has kindly agreed to bring along his 'magic lantern' and address us on the history of the 'kinematograph' - the technology Muriel brought with her to Australia to 'vividly illustrate with pictures' her lectures during the 1910 Tour to Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Accompanied by her great friend, Violet Tillard, (who may have operated the lantern), the tour informed her eager audiences about her adventures in England, assisting British women to secure the franchise.

The secrets of 'magic lantern' operation will be revealed!! An event – like the original – not to be missed!

(Invitations have already been emailed to members who have supplied their email address. If you didn't receive an email, and have access to email, please advise your email address asap. Newsletters can then also be emailed. Thanks!)

Memberships Due: for those yet to renew, payments can be made at the meeting or by cheque or direct bank transfer via the form enclosed.

Please remember - your subs keep Muriel projects happening – thank you!

UK News

The recent London Olympic Opening Ceremony **did** feature a vignette on suffrage. Women and girls, in Edwardian costume, carried a suffrage banner in the segment choreographed by Australian Danny Boyle, while the story of the struggle for Votes for Women was narrated by Sir Kenneth Branagh. Relatives of Sylvia Pankhurst took part and one wore jewellery on loan from our friend and UK member, Irene Cockroft. Sadly, best laid recording plans failed, which means we are seeking a copy of the segment for our archive from anyone who was clever enough to have recorded and kept a copy of the opening ceremony – so please contact us if that's you!

The Muriel Documentary Begins!

After securing the final funding OK, work has begun! A 30 minute production will feature Muriel's artistic life and how her elocution and theatrical accomplishments were used to further The Cause. The MMS is assisting writer/director Sonia Bible (of 'Recipe for Murder' fame) with information and we very much look forward to seeing the finished work.

Speaking of docos, another documentary on the struggle by women for the vote screened recently on ABC TV. 'Utopia Girls' told the story of how Australian women gained the right to vote – some mention of the SA perspective. If you missed either doco, and would like to buy them, you can get copies from ABC Shops – both around \$20 or contact The Society.

Embroidered Banner Update

A brief (but concise!) design brief has been sent to The Embroiderers Guild of SA, incorporating the idea of Muriel's hat trick of firsts - The Caravan Tour, The Grille Protest and The Balloon Flight. Further discussions will take place in due course to finalise the design.

Chapter News

No trips to report this newsletter although it is hoped to make visits to **Perth, Hobart and Melbourne** some time soon. Looking forward to also catching up with members in **Sydney and Brisbane** - whenever the opportunity arises.

Members from these cities (& Darwin, too!) are asked to advise of any forthcoming special events as it is often possible for Frances and Steph to co-ordinate travel to coincide.

Ballarat will have an exhibition at their new soon-to-be-opened (early 2013) Museum of Australian Democracy (Eureka Street) featuring **Melbourne Museum's** sterling silver UK suffrage muffineer and a NUWSS suffrage badge – both well worth seeing on a visit!

Please let us know of any suffrage items you see (Australian, UK or US) on display anywhere – we are compiling a list for members to use when they are travelling.

Merchandise

Sales continue reasonably briskly. **Card Packs** (4 cards in each) and **Society Badges**, now priced at \$5 each, are moving quickly. WMM commemorative **Programs** remain at \$5 and the never again to be reprinted **Commemorative Hankies** are sold out, so too the **Balloon Commemorative Tea Towel**. The lovely sturdy **silver Key Ring**, featuring the 1924 drawing of Muriel we use as our logo, is still in limited stock and priced at \$15 each. Please secure your items by email or use order form on the web site. **Great Gifts!!**

Presentations

Regular presentations, to groups of all sizes, continue. As it is updated continuously as new information comes to hand, the presentation is never the same twice. Frances is covering a good deal of Adelaide and beyond, and will be travelling to Victor Harbor again shortly. New members regularly result and merchandise sales are popular, bringing in revenue for our other projects. Please recommend us to any group to which you belong.

Current Lines of Investigation

* New photos of MM have come to light! We are indebted to Marie Maddocks (as usual!) and a new member from Victoria – Eileen. Thanks to both for their continuing efforts. William Arnold Porter still remains elusive and will receive special attention in the next little while.

Please send in anything you have or find – everything is important.

* Elizabeth Crawford's new catalogue has arrived from the UK. Frances will again purchase some new items (for her collection) and exhibition at future meetings.

Diary Dates

4 November – Guest Speaker on 'magic lanterns' – see you there!

12 November – Muriel's Birthday Anniversary (1877 – 135th)

19 November – Muriel's Death Anniversary (1969 – 43rd)

The Muriel Matters Society Inc.

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