

The Muriel Matters **Society Epistle**

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Hello to All Members and Friends!

I hope this newsletter finds you all happy and well after a great Festive Season – it's hard to believe it's nearly Balloon Day already! We always send the newsletter to all members – even if you are outside South Australia, so at least you know what we are up to!

The Society's next event will be:

The Muriel Matters Society Inc
invites you to attend the
**Dirigible Observance Day and
5th Tea Towel Launch**
Saturday, 15 February from 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Venue: Bridge Hotel
18 Bridge Road, Pooraka (enter via door on bottle shop side)
Plenty of extra parking off Royal Avenue
Celebratory cake will be served.
All Drinks (including tea & coffee) can be purchased from the Bar.
Gold Coin donation please.
Bookings Essential: Email murielmatterssociety@gmail.com or
Phone 0437 656 700 for further details.

Recent News

- The year of events to mark the 125th/Quasquicentenary of Women's Suffrage is now over, with only one more significant event to take place - the re-print of 'In Her Own Name' will be going to press shortly and an event to mark the launch will hopefully take place soon.
- Some new exciting photos of Muriel and the caravan, just after the tour finished (in July 1908), have come to light. Through a series of coincidences, we have been in contact with a dealer in the UK and have negotiated the sale of 2 images which may be here in time to show at the Dirigible Observance/Tea Towel launch. The story is a real cracker and it will be great to share with members.
- The Monograph is ready to go to the printer!! It has been proofed by all of us so any errors will be very disappointing. That said, we look forward to hearing of any you may find – copies available soon.
- A new display has been installed in the display case in Centre Hall in Parliament House. It features a series of old photo images of some of the Daredevil Women for Democracy and some of the Good Blokes and Villains. Call in to have a look next time you are on North Terrace.
- Another play 'Anne Veronica', based on the 1909 H G Wells novel, has come to light, via members Jenny and Anthony. Both have a long association with The Arts and after listening to the soundtrack several times, I can say it is a real toe tapper. More on this later.

- While in discussion about 'Anne Veronica', we discovered an old 1947 Boulting Brothers movie called 'Fame is the Spur', allegedly based on the life of UK PM Ramsay MacDonald, starring Michael Redgrave as the 'hero', Hamer Radshaw. Among other things, it deals with suffrage and actually has a scene devoted to The Grille Incident – although it does not name Muriel; rather it has Hamer's wife Ann as the heroine of the night. Talk about artistic licence! There are also graphic scenes on Holloway and force feeding.
- Elocution has been on our minds lately with a new book coming into the library. Written from a USA perspective, it nevertheless has a great deal of really good and relevant information. Still looking for the names of the elocution teachers in Adelaide (apart from George Reeves) when Muriel was learning the art.
- Two of our society members were granted awards in the latest round of the Order of Australia. SA's Helen Leake AM received her accolade for significant service to film and professional organisations while Vic. Clare Wright OAM was recognised for literature and historical research. Congratulations to you both on well-earned acknowledgement.
- We continue to respond to inquiries while Wendy continues to watch web sites buy (as often as possible!) beautiful or useful additions to the collection which Steven continues to process – special thanks to both of them!

Memberships & Merchandise

Thanks to everyone for responding so promptly this year! We are processing as quickly as possible. Special thank you to Sonya, our amazing volunteer membership officer, who has been working hard on the database.

Merchandise has been selling well. We expect the new tea towel to be very popular, so get in early – still same low price of \$15.00 (thanks to Mark for sourcing artist Deborah and Jack, a new young local printer). The Q Card series packs have proven to be very popular, too.

All merchandise is produced in limited quantities and will be the ephemera of the future – so add to or begin your shoe box today!!

Diary Dates

Further dates for 2020 will be advised ASAP and include:

February, Saturday 15 - Dirigible Observance Day and Launch of the 5th Tea Towel

Monograph Launch - all details to be confirmed (TBC)

May, Tues 5 @ 10.30am & Mon 18 @ 1.30pm - History Month events at Parliament House, email/telephone bookings required (see contact details below)

June - 10th Anniversary of the play 'Why Muriel Matters', all details TBC

August, Sunday 16 – AGM, details TBC

October, Sunday 25 – Grille Observances, details TBC

November 8 - 14 - Muriel Matters Week, all details TBC

Xmas Function – Sunday 22 November, details TBC

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