

# The Muriel Matters Society Epistle

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Hello to All Members and Friends!

The New Year is already well underway – hopefully you are safe, well and happy. Please read below about current happenings:

*The Muriel Matters Society Inc.*

## **2022 Balloon Virtual Commemoration** **on** **Wednesday, 16 February 2022**

**This year, due to continuing COVID restrictions, we invite you to listen to**

*Muriel's Verbatim Account of The Balloon Protest*

(<https://www.murielmatterssociety.com.au/home-page/13-2/>)

### **Recent News**

- Muriel Matters Week 2021 was celebrated with a well-attended outdoor morning tea on 13 November, which started in Muriel Matters Walk, Bowden (not far from the interpretive sign) but eventually moved to Kevin Taylor Park. Thanks to everyone who helped move the refreshments and tables at short notice! The move was necessary because of the gusting wind that persisted in what appears to be a natural wind tunnel. Muriel was 'toasted', and her life and legacy remembered. The sign, erected in February 2017, has been damaged and we will need to approach the City of Charles Sturt to assess and remediate the damage, caused during the construction of the most recent apartments on MM Walk. Thanks to Lise for being a vigilant 'caretaker' and observer of the sign and happenings around it on MM Walk.
- The Christmas Get Together was again well attended. Held at NCW House on 5 December, again with COVID restrictions in place. Thanks go to Wendy and all the helpers who assisted with the refreshments and set up/pack up. Both 'Mrs Pankhurst' and 'Dora' were on display and Frances gave a talk on the significance of the recently purchased (at auction) Acme London Met. Police whistle, circa 1910. Joseph Hudson and his family manufactured hundreds of thousands of whistles (especially for WWI!) and they were used by the police during suffrage rallies and demonstrations.
- There will be another artistic offering about MM's life – this time performed and with music composed by the obviously discerning and brilliant SA woman, Erin McKellar, who visited the MM Room at NCW House in December. It was a delight to provide background information on MM and to present Erin with a cameo similar to the one worn by Muriel. We hope it will bring her good luck at every performance and remind her we are all behind her artistic endeavours.
- Children's book/s – looking forward to finally getting things underway in the second quarter of 2022.
- Interesting suffrage/Edwardian items for sale – anywhere - remain few and far between. We are always on the lookout for anything that will add to our collection and story about Muriel and the exciting times in which she lived.

## **Obituaries**

It is with great sadness we advise of three losses in the past little while:

**Hugh Dunseith** - related to Muriel through her brother, Leonard. Although we never had the opportunity to meet Hugh, we have been lucky enough to form a close relationship and friendship with his sister, Patricia. We extend to her and all Hugh's family our sincere condolences.

**Sr Janet Mead** – Adelaide's 'singing nun', recognised the importance of Muriel and the work of The Society in our very earliest days. Her encouragement, support and interest were of great help and she has been an inspiration to us and many thousands of people in many spheres of life. Her loss is keenly felt by all her family and legion of friends, and they are all in our thoughts. She will be greatly missed and always remembered.

**Anne Newmarch** OAM – a giant in The Arts in South Australia, Anne was well-known for the hundreds of political screen-prints she produced in the 70s and 80s. She was also a pivotal figure in the Adelaide protest arts movement, and a lecturer at the Adelaide School of Arts (1969-2000). Anne also kindly appeared in the 2013 MMS docudrama 'Muriel Matters', included with all copies of the monograph. Our deepest sympathy to her family and friends. She will live on through her enormous body of work.

## **Merchandise, Talks & Memberships**

Group talks at a COVID trickle – only way is up! Merchandise sales also at a trickle – 2022 will see some new items introduced. **Please remember our merchandise items make great gifts (and you can place an order on-line)!**

Thank you to all members who have already paid their subscriptions – we are catching up with mailing od receipts and apologise for any delay in you receiving yours.

**Please up-date any change to your email or postal addresses as quickly as possible.**

## **Diary Dates:**

**16 February – (Wednesday) virtual Balloon Commemoration**

**May – (TBC) Caravan Event**

**August – (TBC) AGM**

**October – (TBC) Grille Protest Event**

**December – (TBC) Xmas Nibbles**

**The Muriel Matters Society Inc.**

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