



Moonta & District Progress Association Community News

Autumn 2020

Inside this Issue

2020 Show 'n' Shine

Sunday March 8 saw another successful and highly enjoyable event at the Moonta Oval. A record entry of vehicles and a record crowd were testament to the growing popularity of the Show 'n' Shine. The event raised over \$7000 and also boosted the coffers of the Moonta Football Club who catered for the day. \$1500 of the money raised has been donated to the Kangaroo Island Calisthenics Club whose members suffered considerable losses in the recent fires. The funding will help to enable them to attend state championships later in the year. The National Trust organised simultaneous markets in Queen Square which were similarly well attended with their train shuttling regularly between the two venues. A list of the winning entries follows on Page 5.

- 1 Show 'n' Shine
- 2 Moonta Lions
Moonta Weight watchers
- 3 Easter Egg Hunt
Yorkes Emporium
Copper Triangle
Writers
- 4 Open Gardens
Moonta Mines
Uniting Church
Moonta CWA
Moonta Gallery of the Arts
- 5 Show 'n' shine winners
- 6/7 Moonta Champion Rowing Team
- 8 Business Partners



Thanks to the volunteers at the Moonta Tourist Office for printing this newsletter on equipment supplied by the Copper Coast Council

MOONTA LIONS

Moonta Lions hosted the Remembrance Ceremony as part of the recently held Copper Coast Lions 201 C1 District Convention. The Ceremony is held to remember Lions or Partners who have passed away over the last twelve months in our district. The C1 district encompasses a large part of South Australia with over 60 Clubs. The Ceremony took place in the Arura Group Stays & Function Area at Port Hughes being an ideal venue for this type of event. A Remembrance Ceremony and lunch was held for the almost 100 Lions and Partners who attended.

Work has commenced on the fountain at Queen Square with the fountain bowl being grit blasted and coated inside and out with water connected in time for the Christmas Markets and Carols by Candlelight. Further work to properly install the water and cover the fountain bowl and base to stop leaves and debris entering the water and blocking the pump is to follow.

Lions have reinstalled the repaired shades to Splash Town in time for summer and to provide some much needed shade until the New Copper Coast Council proposed shades are installed .

Christmas trees were gathered and installed in the Business District and to the Queen

Square Rotunda for Carols By Candlelight and shelters were erected for the Pageant Markets . Lions also acted as Traffic Marshals during the Christmas Pageant.

We have donated \$5734 to charitable and local causes so far this financial year. This includes \$1850 to Queens Square Fountain repairs.

Preparations are underway to celebrate our 50th Anniversary to be held in April this year.

Work will commence soon to establish a remembrance garden for Ike Nicol in Francis terrace.

If you are interested in becoming a Lion then contact Moonta lions President Lorraine Darling on 0418 830 639 or Membership Director Des Watts on 88 253138. Ladies are most welcome.

MOONTA WEIGHT WATCHERS

Come along and join us – make new friends and lose weight. We meet on Mondays at the RSL hall in George Street at 12 noon.

We have lots of healthy food ideas, guest speakers and social activities.

We had a wonderful steak sandwich stall at the Christmas Pageant markets and donated to the Flying Doctors, CFS and Moonta Lions. The money donated to Moonta Lions is going towards fixing the fountain in Queen Square.

So come along – low joining and weekly fees.

Maureen
0407606050
0439180411

Bev



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Easter Picnic and Egg Hunt

Family event
 Sunday 12th April 11:00am
 Queen Square

Children are invited to bring their furred friends

Easter egg hunt at 11:15am
 If you are willing to help organise the picnic please

contact Taste the Yorke
 88253121

QUEEN SQUARE COMES ALIGHT!



**YORKES EMPORIUM
 Friday 27th March 2020**

Yorkes Emporium is a unique market style food experience! This fully licensed event will showcase foods, wines and beverages from the region. Queen Square Moonta is the backdrop for the twilight event from 5pm – 11pm.

Taste freshly baked bread, sticky wattle-seed balsamic and hearty lentils, local Spencer Gulf king prawns and King George whiting, local chickpea curry or a local mini beef mignon. And the kids may like the hot dogs, fairy floss and soft serve ice-cream. Complement the delicious food with espresso martini, local craft beer, locally produced gin and vodka. Plenty of soft beverages will also be on offer.

Enjoy a relaxed evening with family and friends under festoon lights and the stars! Sideshows and clowns will add to the fun and live music will play from

6:30 pm.

Yorkes Emporium is a chance to celebrate local producers and fast emerging new destinations.

Contact Jo Gibbons for event details

Info@tastetheyorke.com.au

**COPPER TRIANGLE WRITERS' GROUP
 LITERARY COMPETITION
 2020**

Open theme

Category 1 Short story up to 2000 words

Category 2 Poetry up to 100 lines

All sections: 1st prize \$300
 2nd - \$100 3rd - \$50

For conditions of entry see official entry forms available at Copper Coast libraries and Copper Coast Poets and Writers Facebook.

Closing date 30th June 2020.

Community Activity Centre

Now offering flat pack assembly

Nominal fee

please call

08 8825 1107

Tuesdays 9 – 12 noon

OPEN GARDENS

A few garden enthusiasts are keen to resume the Open Gardens scheme in the Moonta district.

It's planned for a weekend in spring.

A couple more people are needed to help organise the event.

If you are willing to assist please contact Rosalie Ferris on 0458 535363.

If you are interested in opening your garden for the event, please also contact Rosalie.

Moonta Mines Uniting Church will be holding an Anzac Memorial Service on



**Sunday 19th April
11am**

Daryl Parker will be playing the pipe organ from 10:30am.

There will be interesting memorabilia on display.

We cordially invite everyone who wishes to pay tribute to the Anzacs and all Diggers to come. You will be made very welcome.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Brenda Talbot

SA CWA News

On **Thursday 23rd April** we are having a trading table in the Moonta main street in front of Drakes.

We will have a selection of cookery books including our latest edition of *The apple Cookbook*.

This book has been so popular with all ages that the production team have been 'flat chat' keeping up with the demands.

This little book is well put together and costs \$122.00 and would be a great Mother's Day gift.

Our table will be there from 9am to 2:20 unless sold out beforehand.

There will be some cooking items as well, so come and support the SA Country Women's Assoc. Inc. Moonta Branch.

Moonta Gallery of the Arts

Peter Aitchison's exhibition *Journeys of the Mind* will be on display until 12th April.

Featuring landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, birds and animals in watercolour, pastels and acrylics, this exhibition has something for everyone.

This will be followed from 13th April by Country Arts Sa travelling exhibition *My Paintings Speak For Me* by Kunyi June Anne McInerney in the Oodnadatta (Duntjiba) Children's Home,

The artist draws upon her childhood to reflect on her own dispassion, revealing an often-invisible part of Australian history.



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Show 'n' Shine Results

Description	Ranking	Name	Vehicle	Prize Donated By
Best Classic Car Pre 1978	1	Roy Tassell	1971 Holden HG GTS Monaro	AH Electrical
Best Classic Car Pre 1978	2	Trevor Floyd	1953 Holden FJ Ute	Auto One Kadina
Best Classic Modern Car 1978 - 2008	1	Ross Knibbs	1985 Mercedes W126 2805SE	Tradelink
Best Classic Modern Car 1978 - 2008	2	Jarrold Thomas	1982 Holden VH	Copper Coast Mini Skips
Best Lady-Owned Car	1	Sandy Olsen	1951 Holden FX	Make it a Home
Best Lady-Owned Car	2	Carol Wilkin	2017 Ford Mustang GT	Port Hughes General Store
Best Muscle Car Pre 1978	1	Roy Tassell	1971 Holden HG GTS Monaro	Moonta Gourmet Meats
Best Muscle Car Pre 1978	2	Tony Morby	1976 Holden Torana SS	Marshalls Mens & Boys Wear
Best Public Interest Car	1	Haydn Andrews	1924 Dodge (4) FOUR	Main Street Takeaway
Best Public Interest Car	2	Don Sayers	1964 VP VP Princess 4L R	Moonta Hardware & Camping
Best Restored Car Pre 1978	1	Trevor Floyd	1953 Holden FJ Ute	Moonta Newsagency
Best Restored Car Pre 1978	2	Steve Arnold	1967 Holden HR Premier	Auto One Kadina
Best Restored Car 1978 - 2014	1	Jarrold Thomas	1982 Holden VH	Buildlogix
Best Unrestored Car Pre 1978	1	Carly Watkins	1966 Holden HR Special	DMR Automotive
Best Unrestored Car Pre 1978	2	Barry Dayman	1977 Holden HX Statesman Deville	AH Electrical
Best Unrestored Car 1978 - 2014	1	Rusty Miller	2010 Holden Commodore SS	Peninsula Air Conditioning
Best Unrestored Car 1978 - 2014	2	Graeme Moore	2008 Jaguar XF	AH Electrical
Best Vogue Car 2014 - 2020	1	Carol Wilkin	2017 Ford Mustang GT	Moonta Crash Repairs
Best Vogue Car 2014 - 2020	2	Jeoff Cox	2017 Ford Mustang GT	Café Capella
Best Classic Motorcycle Pre 1978	1	Ross Knibbs	1949 Panther 75 - 350cc	Dermac Construction
Best Motorcycle - Open	1	Andrew Bradbrook	2010 Custom Motorbike	Podiatry Central
Best Motorcycle - Open	2	Luke Dixon	2006 Suzuki M109R	Southern Cross Marine
Best Car Club/Group	1	Maitland Auto Preservation Society		



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Moonta Champion Rowing Team

Sherrie Simms-Farmer

At risk of being lost, this true story of Moonta's Champion Rowing Team of the late 1800s begs to be told.

The eldest child of Joseph and Blanche Simms of Moonta Bay, Hector Orlando James Ximnez Simms was simply known as X. He was born in Adelaide on 19th June 1865. Apprenticed to his father, X learned how to fish from a very early age. A strong swimmer and good sailor X, with his younger brothers, were also well known at Rowing Regattas along the coast of South Australia.

Redrigo Geronimo Savegy Simms was an apt name for a young man born in Moonta on 16th April 1867. Rick as he was known, had no formal education, but the sea enabled this son of a fisherman to become a master mariner and successful fisherman.

Francis Joseph Stanislaus Simms born on 7th August 1870, went by the name of Joe and followed his father and brothers into the fishing industry in Moonta. In its heyday Moonta Bay could claim to be one of the biggest fishing ports in the state. Joe lost his mother soon after the birth of her eleventh child, when he was only sixteen years old and also lost his first wife in similar circumstances three days after their first wedding anniversary. There is no doubt that life in the late 19th century was full of hardships. However, they made time for sport and some socialising.

Their younger brother Benjamin, christened Benjamin Geoffrey Claude Simms on 21st October 1879, was the ninth child and sixth son of Blanche and Joseph Simms. Ben joined his older brothers as a cox for their rowing team as early as seven years old. Ben and his older brother Joe worked their boats together often fishing around Shoal Water Point north of Cowell.

With the rigors of fishing and the necessity to be ready when the fish were biting, it was not the usual nine to five job. However, the four found time between fishing trips to develop, administer and partake in local rowing and sailing competitions throughout the state of South Australia. Rowing was not just a job for these brothers although that served them well, they made it into a sport of which they were champions.

Regular beach-side regattas were well attended in the latter part of the 19th century with thousands of locals contributing to the crowds thronging along the beaches. People came to Yorke Peninsula from Adelaide and the townships in between as well as up and down the Spencer Gulf to participate in the festivities. Some spectators sailed from Adelaide in a variety of boats that served as transport allowing the visitors to enjoy a weekend by the seaside and be home for work on Monday.

From an article in the Kadina and Wallaroo Times (Wed 2 Jan 1889) regarding "Yorke's Peninsula Annual Regatta" we learn that the first regatta was held on the Queen's Birthday holiday in 1866. The enormous success of the Yorke Peninsula regattas is said to be the result of an "energetic committee and a programme" of events that inspired strong rivalry. They brought together "the largest gathering of spectators to grace any public movement". In particular, the Wallaroo regatta held a "premier place amongst the Peninsula gatherings". This was said to be due not only to the "committee who have always taken care to exclude

competitors from prominent positions on the committee” but also because they have opened the events to every oarsman in the colony with the local’s receiving no special treatment.

In addition to this the lay of the land at Moonta Bay and Wallaroo afforded a great view of the full race from start to finish and that this aspect could be achieved from almost any position along the jetties and foreshore. This was not possible at Port Adelaide for example.

Initially it was thought that only the heavy ship’s gig was safe enough to row in Spencer Gulf with the oceanic swells, squalls and storms that could rough up the water very quickly. However, opening the events to river oarsmen meant that the finer, lighter boats were accepted to compete. This caused some dissent on the fine weather days when the lighter boats were sure to win regardless of strength and ability of the oarsmen. Despite this incongruity the local men were usually triumphant, and they were encouraged to purchase a finer class of boat for some occasions.

On the morning of 1st January 1889 a crowd of 5,000 spectators lined the beach. In the words of the journalist from Kadina and Wallaroo Times “the glass was low and there was a stiff breeze from the north which caused a disagreeable choppy sea. It was feared that the light boats would have a rough time”. Fortuitously the committee decided to use the Harbour Master’s boat as a ‘pick-up’ boat should the need arise and arise it did as “two of the sailing boats were capsized, one belonging to the Verulam, and the other to P. Willis’, the owner of the latter narrowly escaping from drowning”.

Despite being summer by midday the wind changed direction from the west and brought with it a storm and heavy rain. Over three quarters of an inch of rain fell within two hours. Such is the capricious nature of the sea in Spencer Gulf. While the spectators were drenched and uncomfortable, by 3pm the sky had cleared, and the rain settled the sea. Fortunately, most of the remaining events were successfully completed. This included the most thrilling events being the champion four-oared and the champion pairs. At this particular event these were the only two races that their strongest rivals, the Port Pirie team, competed in. They had brought two boats, but the weather was too rough for the lighter one. They could not out-match the local crews however, and they did not finish the course in either race on this day.

The Moonta Rowing Team became very successful in the 1880s. The brothers of this famous fishing family won many prizes and trophies in rowing, sculling and sailing at nearly every port in South Australia. It was said that “they were never beaten off the same mark”.

On one event held in Port Adelaide the Simms brothers sailed from Moonta Bay down the Yorke Peninsula’s west coast. It was necessary to sail, with no engines then, around the dangerous Investigator Strait and navigate, with no GPS then, through the Althorpe group of Islands off the south-western tip of Yorke Peninsula. Proceeding diagonally across Gulf St Vincent to Glenelg. From Glenelg they rowed to Outer Harbour approximately 26kms continuing up the Port River to Port Adelaide another 10kms. At which point they competed in six events. As if this was not enough, they then rowed back to Glenelg and sailed home on the evening tide. No doubt they would be fishing again the following day, weather permitting.

In an interview on November 20th, 1943 with Ben Simms Snr and his son Ross Simms we are told “The Simms brothers were not slaves to fishing and they found time to organise an eight oared crew for competition. Six of them had a seat, and nearly fifty years ago their boat won the State eight-oared championship on Port Adelaide River. It was competed successfully at Pirie, Port Augusta, Wallaroo, and Moonta regattas”.

The Simms men were not exclusively responsible for their success and other valiant men competed at their side. To name them all over the decades is a task for another story and one I will proudly attempt.

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The Progress Association is proud to be associated with the following local businesses and would like to acknowledge and thank them for their sponsorship on behalf of the local community.

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