

EXPLORE

The Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust Inc.

CHARLES STURT MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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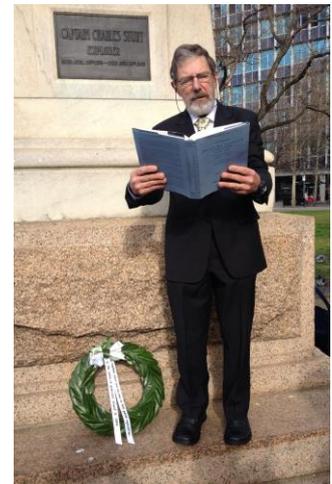


Welcome to a dual issue of Explore as the January issue didn't make it to print so there is plenty to account for over the past twelve months.

On the 19th November, the Trust held its Annual General Meeting. Fresh elections were held with the new Board consisting of Arthur Jeeves, President; Tony Botten, Chair; Margaret Phillips Hon. Secretary; Arthur

Jeeves accepting to continue as Hon. Treasurer until the role is filled, Paul Hilbig, Vice President; Judith Seedsman, Vice President; Graham Pike, Sally Pentland, Merle Weston, David Duffner, Trustees.

We celebrated the departure of Capt Charles Sturt on his Central Expedition at his statue in Victoria Square on Friday 8th August. Dean Brown, our Patron hosted the event, with Kirsten Alexander Mayor of the City of Charles Sturt attending. Arthur Jeeves assisted Dean Brown to lay a wreath in memory of the event and Paul Hilbig read from Sturt's Journal quoting the passage when Sturt made his decision to return to Adelaide. Other members to attend were Sally and John Pentland, Rod Lange, Merle Weston and Margaret Phillips. Members retired to a café for coffee after the event.



Sturt's Birthday was celebrated in usual style on 28th April 2015 and was a great success. Arthur Jeeves providing guests an insight into the history of the Grange. Many thanks to the City of Charles Sturt for their financial support of the event.

John Howland made known his resignation from the Trust Board and it was accepted with much regret. John has served the Trust for many decades as Chairperson, Vice President and a Trustee. He has overseen many changes to the museum, the new gallery wing, the lighting and soundscaping of the Grange, the interpretive signage in the grounds and the most controversial being the drapery and wall paper in the Grange in the late 1990s, which he was rightly proved to enhance the attractiveness of Sturt's home. John has always been the voice of quiet reason at meetings, able to see through the mire of debate, to quickly analyse the important issues and offer the simple solutions.

His most important desire was to build a Visitors Centre where visitors could be welcomed, be provided with refreshments and to start their tour of the museum and grounds. It is his hope that one day his dream will be realised. John has been awarded a Life Membership of the Trust for his dedicated service.



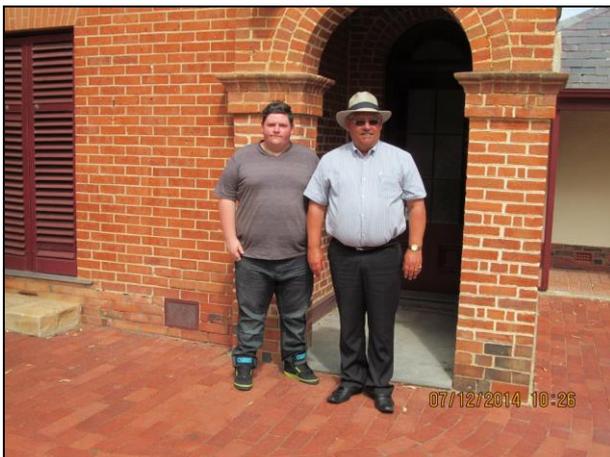
Presentation of Life Membership to John Howland
Arthur Jeeves (President) John Howland, Tony Botten (Chairperson)

As reported a year ago, damage was sustained to the roof of the Grange. Ancillary to this was the damage sustained to the roof of the Nursery Wing by falling fronds from the rear palm tree. The falling fronds have been a continual problem over the years and the damage to the slate and ceiling reached a point that the insurers could no longer call these incidents isolated. It was with regret that we applied to Council to have the palm removed. It was not possible to replant the palm on site because of its height and root system and given the palm did not have significance in terms of the original home built by Sturt, we were given permission to remove.

Work was also carried out to replace the box guttering between the Grange and Nursery Wing. We were extremely grateful to the City of Charles Sturt who through a Discretionary Allowance provided the funds. Council also provided \$3,000 from the Historical Funding and Support program for a new interpretive panel on the River Murray Expedition, a display for the Waterloo statues and the printing of education work sheets. Council will continue to provide regular garden maintenance of the park which is a very valuable attraction for locals and tourists to the area.

The West Beach Community Bank is to be thanked for their generous gift of \$1,399.00 for a Toshiba Laptop to be used in conjunction with our power point projector for lectures off site as is Heather Sturt-Haaga and David Haaga of California for their donation of \$2,000 to assist in maintaining the Sturt Collection. Their continued interest in the museum is very much appreciated.

We were pleased to receive members of the Sturt Family. Charles and Cameron Sturt from New Zealand on 6 December and Richard Sturt and his family from England on 27 December and Georgina Marten from Ecuador 26 April 2015. All were extremely pleased to see at first hand, the home of Sturt and appreciated our efforts to sustain his home and the memory of his achievements. Georgina is the daughter of the late Mary Anna Marten, heir of the Sturt family home Crichel Manor in Dorset.



Charles and son Cameron Sturt



Richard, Rosie, Georgia, Isabel and Catherine Sturt

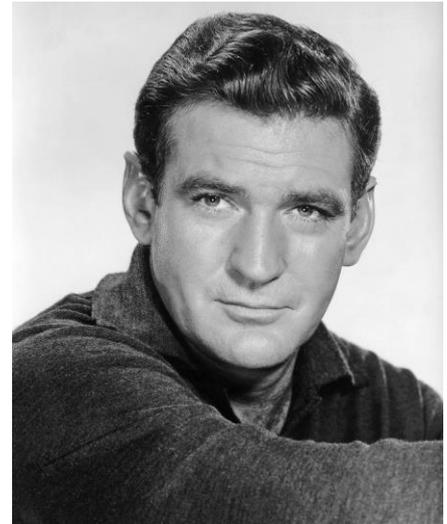


Graham Pike, Arthur Jeeves, AO Simon Sturt-Bray, Georgina Marten, Hon. Dean Brown, AOM, Tony Botten

We mourn the passing of legendary film star Rod Sturt Taylor who died on 7 January 2015, a couple of days short of his 85th birthday at his home in Los Angeles. Born in Lidcombe, Sydney, New South Wales on 11 January 1930, Taylor was the great great grand nephew of Capt Charles Sturt. He was the only child of William Sturt Taylor, a steel construction contractor and Mona Taylor (nee Thompson) an author of children's books. Taylor studied art at East Sydney Technical College, and painted backdrops for Mark Foy's department store; his interest in art never left him, and he continued to paint and draw for the rest of his life. He became interested in drama, and started doing radio work whenever he could. He had a role in the legendary ABC radio serial *Blue Hills*; he played pilot Douglas Bader in a serial adaptation of Bader's life story, *Reach For The Sky*, and he was a famous on-air *Tarzan*

From radio, he went on to theatre and film. In 1951 he took part in a re-enactment of Charles Sturt's voyage down the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, playing Sturt's offside, George MacLeay. A short documentary, *Inland with Sturt* was based on it.

He played an American character in his first feature, *King Of The Coral Sea*. After he appeared in *Long John Silver*, an unofficial sequel to *Treasure Island* that was shot in Australia, its director, Byron Haskin, recommended him to Paramount's Hal B. Wallis. Taylor won a radio talent contest in 1954, and the prize included an airline ticket that enabled him to make his way to Los Angeles. He never really left, although it took a couple of years for him to establish himself.



In 1956 he was put under contract at MGM as a supporting actor but his big break came with his casting as the lead in George Pal's *The Time Machine*, playing a version of H.G. Wells who travels thousands of years into the future in a machine he has built. He went on to appear in dozens of movies, best known being Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, *Sunday in New York*, *Young Cassidy*, *The V.I.P.'s*, and *The Glass Bottom Boat*.

He returned to Australia from time to time to appear in local movies, and made several attempts to get his own productions off the ground here. In John Power's *The Picture Show Man* (1977) he and John Meillon played rival projectionists who travelled around the country, bringing the movies to far-flung places. In Stephan Elliott's 1997 *Welcome To Woop Woop*, he was the lewd and lurid Daddy-O, and almost stole the movie. We acknowledge Wikipedia for the information.