

# EXPLORE

The Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust Inc.

## CHARLES STURT MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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This year the celebration of the 222<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Captain Charles Sturt's Birthday on 28<sup>th</sup> April went off this year with a bang – two in fact. The firing of both the 2 pounder Fort Glanville cannon and Sturt's replica cannon.



Surprisingly it was a beautiful day after a morning that threatened afternoon showers. The celebrations were held in the back garden and whilst the numbers were slightly down on previous years, it was a delightful day. The Trust Patron, Hon. Dean Brown AO and his lovely wife Rosslyn, welcomed His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC and his charming wife Mrs Le to the Grange. His Excellency provided an insightful history of Government House and the close ties between Captain Sturt and Governor Gawler. It was a most engaging speech. We also had great pleasure in welcoming Ms Angela Evans, Mayor of the City of Charles Sturt, Councillors Tullio and Torelli.



We thank everyone who was involved in making the event a success:

- ❖ City of Charles Sturt's donation of \$500
- ❖ Vili's Pastries for a very special price on the pastries.
- ❖ Aussie Party Hire who provided 40 chairs free of charge.
- ❖ The Fort Glanville Historical Association and the Victoriana Society of South Australia

And all our dedicated volunteers who prepare the house and grounds prior to the day and those who arrive early to set up, prepare and service refreshments and pack it all at the end of the festivities. A marvellous effort by all.



Hon. Dean Brown AO (Patron), His Excellency the Governor, the Honorable Hieu Van Le AC, Arthur Jeeves AOM (President) Mrs Le, Mrs Brown, Anthony Botten (Chair)

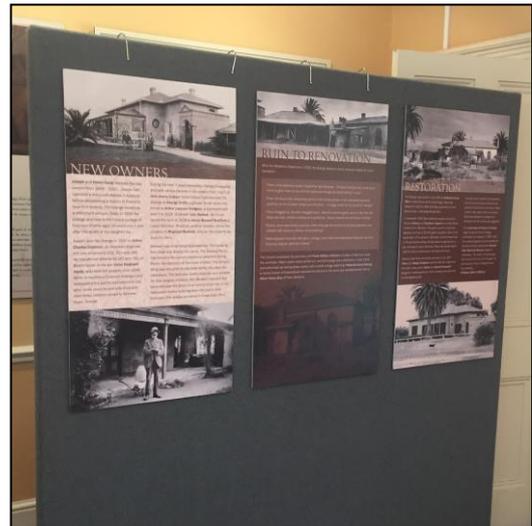
We held our first evening tour in January on request of the West Torrens Historical Society who wished to hold their society's meeting at the museum. An entertaining talk by Arthur Jeeves followed, with our guests given a tour of the Grange afterwards. Supper was enjoyed by all and our twenty one guests left knowing more about Sturt and his home Grange.

The Trust also greeted the National Trust Committee to the museum in March to hold their meeting and to tour the Grange. Morning and afternoon tea and lunch were provided and Margaret Phillips our Hon. Secretary spoke to the Committee about the museum's current activities, the issues that face all volunteer organisations, and our plans for the future. The Committee were most appreciative of the services we offered and were full of compliments for the "little gem" that is the Grange. Their donation to the museum was very welcome.

May was History Festival month, a chance for all history buffs to visit a multitude of events and venues. The program is extensive with each day's schedule as exciting as the next. The History Trust of South Australia have prime responsibility for arranging the Festival

and this year formed a partnership with the National Trust to promote many of the heritage homes across the State.

The History Festival provided an opportunity for the museum to mount an exhibition “A House with a History” revealing the history of the Grange and its many residents. With **\$8,448** funding from the **History Trust of South Australia** we were able to purchase two moveable display stands, and have designed and produced nine exhibition panels. The exhibition increased our visitations by tenfold. Visitors not only discovered the history of the house but uncovered the story of Charles Sturt and his importance to Australian exploration. Additionally the grant provided for the conservation of two Nora Hutchinson paintings of the Grange 1953, and the conservation of Volumes 1 & 2 of Charles Sturt’s, *Two Expeditions into the Interior of South Australia*. We thank the History Trust of South Australia and very much appreciate the continuing support of Pauline Cockrill, the Community History Officer. Pauline provided valuable assistance earlier in the year chairing a strategic planning session with the Board.



During the preparation of the exhibition, another project was initiated, that of the development of a Heritage Garden. In conjunction with the Australian Garden History Society, a four stage plan was drawn up by Richard Nolan. Work began in April to prepare the area to the south of the Grange. A band of thirteen volunteers have been working judiciously to create a beautiful garden that visitors can enjoy, and volunteers can source much pleasure. The Grange Primary School are involved, with the students propagating the Sturt Desert Pea. The project could not have started without the **\$4,400 funding from the City of Charles Sturt** and the dedication of Richard Nolan to the project. If you would like to be part of the garden group please email [markethistory@bigpond.com](mailto:markethistory@bigpond.com). We are working on stage one at the moment, with preparations underway for stage two. .





Some our dedicated volunteers – Anne, Liz, Richard, Craig and Ivan (previous page)



The Trust would like to express our genuine thanks to Heather Sturt-Haaga and Paul Haaga of California, U.S.A. for their annual donation of \$A1000 which this year has been directed toward the Visitor's Centre Building Fund. We are also grateful to Councillors Scheffler and Tuillio of City of Charles Sturt for providing \$2,200 from their Discretionary Ward Allowances for the repair of the toilet facilities.