



THE LOCKDOWN UPDATE



Issue 1 - 22 April 2020

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAVID CARTER:

"It has now been over a month since the decision was made to close the Tunnels and to restrict access to Irwin Barracks and in sending you this News Sheet my first concern is for your well being and how you are coping with the restrictions that have been brought about by the magnitude of this pandemic.

Our Team of volunteers are in the susceptible range of age groups most likely to be affected by the virus or, at least have older family members who fall into that category. In my own case, my Father Stan is 95 years of age and two of our active Members are over 90 and I am sure that many of you will have similar family connections.

I wish you and yours well in your attempt to keep on top of the crisis.

It is my intention to keep you informed on how the Society is involved in what is going on in our relative world of Commerce and Industry over whatever period the current restrictions may apply.

Stay Safe – Stay Well!"

COVID 19 - HOW HAS THE SOCIETY BEEN AFFECTED ? :

As the significance of the Corona Virus impacted on us, your Committee decided to voluntarily close the Tunnels to all visitors with effect from Sunday, 22nd March 2020 due to the confined dimension of the passageways, display rooms and the possibility of elevated levels of humidity.

Suitably worded messages were attached to the Car Park and Gun Profile Signs and Neil arranged with the West Australian to similarly endorse our weekly Friday ad in the "What's on in the West" section. This ad will be withdrawn from Friday, 24th April until further notice.

Unfortunately vandals did not take long to deface the Carpark Sign!!



Members of the Volunteer Busy Bee Team were notified that their activities would be on hold until further notice – but, we wish to advise them that their services will be in demand for a "spring clean" prior to re-opening the Tunnels for "business as usual". You will be kept informed.

The Town of Mosman Park applauded our early action and shortly after made us aware that a lack of presence on site may well lead to a potential increase in vandalism. David and others have volunteered to visit the site spasmodically to check our security.

Regular mail clearance from our Claremont Post Box is being looked after by Neil and John is checking the voice mail message bank several times each week.

Our Sponsor at Irwin Barracks, 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA, strongly recommended that we discontinue meeting on Wednesdays except for real emergencies on which occasions we limit attendance to two persons. The Barracks remains open for normal training activities although members of the Regular Army Staff are encouraged to work from home where possible.

Because of these restrictions your Committee had to quickly decide how we were to conduct our Management Committee Meetings in future. As an experiment we conducted an email “hook-up” on 8th April and after a lot of tedious effort on Secretary John Bly’s part collating responses we concluded this was not the way forward in future! From 13th May we intend meeting via the ZOOM Programme that will enable a visual and audio connection among all committee members – this should be a great achievement!

To put your mind at rest – none of the foregoing will affect current arrangements for your salary being paid directly into your personal bank account!!

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE:

Despite the negative aspects of the shut down, things are still on the move in a positive sense so far as planning and implementing some of the structural and ecological commitments we share with the Town of Mosman Park.

Roofing the 5.25 inch Gun Emplacement:

For those of you who may not have visited the Heritage Site since the end of February, it is pleasing to report that the roofing project is now completed and the site cleared, allowing planning for the enclosure of the Stairwell Entrance to move forward.

A recent photograph is attached that clearly shows the raised rectangular section of the roof around which the proposed mock Turret and Barrel will sit and the mounting base for any proposed air ventilation requirement that may be necessary when the emplacement is opened as a further Visitor destination.



Stairwell Entrance Enclosure:

Engineering plans for this project were circulated at end February and Tenders recently closed. We are waiting on a decision from our Structural Engineer and the Town of Mosman Park as to the award of the contract and when work is planned to commence and be finalised.

The removal of the unsightly mesh enclosure will be visually appealing!

Town of Mosman Park Conservation Management Plan:

The Society contributed with other interested parties in formulation of the plan that was undertaken by a professional organisation on behalf of the Town. Following lengthy discussion after the plan was announced for public comment the amended document was adopted. The Society is most pleased that it includes “Height Management Control” of the introduced vegetation to be carried out by the Town – this will introduce a clearer vision of the coastline in front of the two Gun Floors and most importantly from the Observation Post. Implementation requires Ministerial approval of the Department Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions – a requirement we are reasonably assured will be successful.

Another aspect of the Plan refers to relative responsibility of the Town and the Society regarding the control of vegetation intruding into access paths and driveways – we are confident that this matter will be mutually agreed.

Radar Shack Protective Mesh:

The Town was recently directed to fit mesh screening to the roof rails as a safety measure to prevent small children falling to the ground. This work was completed mid March and painted green to blend with our colour coding of the building.

Two photographs give a good impression of the appearance.



SITE WELCOME SIGN:

Some months ago it was decided to permanently mount a welcome sign on the limestone wall to greet visitors as they entered the site. This was designed to relieve daily placing and removing of the portable sign that has been in use for several years. A simple decision that led to protracted delay as we were required to apply for Heritage approval and pay a Building Fee.

Finally, with all relevant approvals in hand the sign was erected on Friday, 17th April. It looks great but no doubt will become a target for graffiti vandalism – we have taken the precaution of treating the surfaces with an anti graffiti film.

The following photographs show how the visitor is greeted on arrival and departure.



YOUR NEW COMMITTEE



After several years of valuable service as a committee member, Sue Lawrence decided not to re-nominate this year but is continuing as a Guide — thanks Sue for your support and dedicated contribution. The vacancy has been filled by — someone you all will recognise as Guide, Electrician and willing volunteer! Jim can now add “Committee Person” to his CV!

In another move, the Committee resolved that Stan Davies (IT Consultant) and Don Rae (Curator) should be elevated to full committee person status thus giving them voting rights as in the past this was denied them – only their expertise was sought!

That committee comprises:

David Carter	President
Graham McKenzie-Smith	Vice President and Project Coordinator
John Bylevens	Secretary
	Neil Lodge Treasurer
Committee persons	Phil Rowson Matthew Adams Jim Archibald Stan Davies (IT) Don Rae (Curator)

GUIDE / CASHIER ROSTER

Although the end of the current crisis may optimistically conclude sooner than later, you are reminded that the Second Quarter Roster is still current and will resume date wise whenever a relaxation of the lockdown is announced. Meanwhile, the Third Quarter Roster is in course of preparation – when you receive your copy please contact John as soon as is possible if you are unavailable on any listed occasion. Thank you.

HOW ARE YOU FARING?

The editorial sub – committee is anxious to hear from YOU! For those in the work force and in retirement we are most interested in your story – for example, we are aware that Mary and Don Coley frequently volunteer their services to act as caretakers of our National Parks – how has the crisis affected their efforts??

Please drop a line via John as an insight in how you are affected – this is one way of keeping in touch.



Locked Down, but happily not in **COLDITZ**

It's come to my attention that some people are going crazy over the lockdown.

I've actually just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and all of us agreed things are getting worse.

I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on things and certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant.

I did discuss it with the Hoover and he said the whole thing sucks. Meanwhile, the blender has mixed feelings and the taps kept running hot and cold about the idea. The whisk refused to talk about it because she didn't want to whip things into a frenzy and the eggs kept quiet because they didn't want to get a beating. I didn't check with the oven because she's far too hot-headed. The bin spouted a whole load of rubbish about the situation and the freezer just gave me a frosty reception.

In the end, the iron calmed me down: she said everything will be fine - no situation is too pressing.

The tin at the back of the cupboard with no label on thinks it's a total mystery.

The spoons reckon I'm going stir crazy and the knife made some very cutting remarks then told me to fork off.

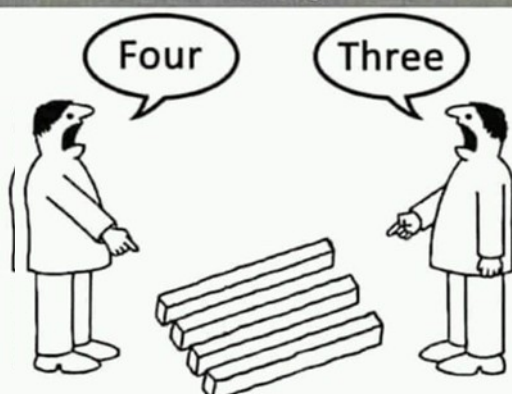
The squash was very cordial about it all. Unlike the lemon who was extremely bitter about the whole thing.



3? or 4?

This is really confusing!!

who is right

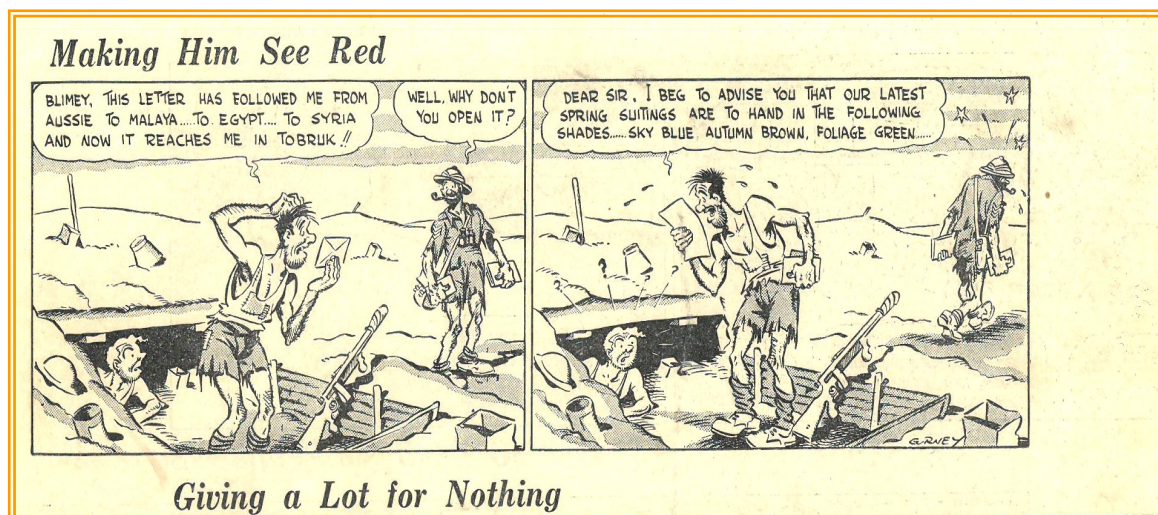


Our six-year-old handed us a note. His teacher had called my wife and I in for an emergency meeting. We asked our son if he had any idea why and he said, "She didn't like a drawing I did." We went in the next day.

His teacher pulled the drawing below out and said, "I asked him to draw his family and he drew this. Would you mind explaining?"

"Not at all," my wife said. "Family vacation. Snorkelling off the Bahamas."





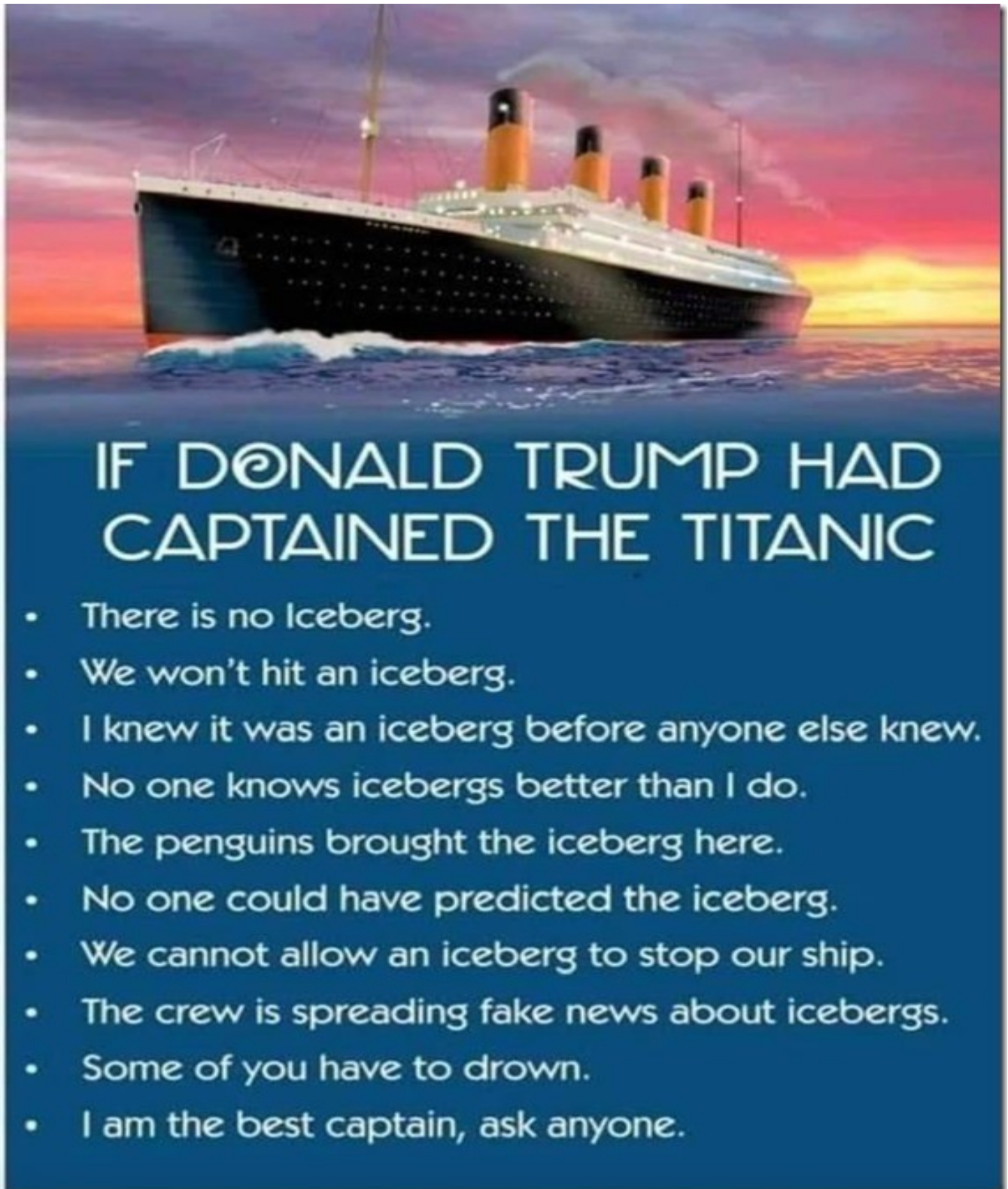
THE FRONTLINE

My Granddaughter and her husband. If you can't tell me which one is Emma, you are in real need of an optician.

Editor



ANOTHER TRUMPEDO



I've got to tell you that it's more fake news from those guys in Western Australia.

Donald Trump