

MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

PATRON: HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL SIR PETER COSGROVE AK MC (RETD)
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA



Mawson's Huts Foundation

Pre-Budget Submission

2017 – 2018 Antarctic Expedition

Executive summary

The Mawson's Huts Foundation (the **Foundation**) was founded in 1997 as a not-for-profit charity with the support of the Federal Government to save the Historic Mawson's Huts (the **Huts**) at Cape Denison, East Antarctica.

The Foundation is seeking Federal Government funding of \$576,500 to assist sending a six person Expedition to carry out essential conservation and maintenance work on the Huts during the summer of 2017 - 2018.

The total cost of the Expedition will be \$951,000 with the Foundation and in-kind sponsorship contributing \$374,500 (Foundation: \$139,500; In-kind Donations and Sponsorship: \$235,000).

The work will be undertaken by the Foundation in partnership with the Australian Antarctic Division (**AAD**) a part of the Federal Government Department of Environment and Energy.

The Foundation and the AAD have previously partnered in thirteen Expeditions.

The attached budget and notes detail the amount required and the financial contribution by the Foundation to the Expedition together with in-kind donations and sponsorships from suppliers.

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Cape Denison Historic Site (the Historic Site)

Mawson's Huts are a collection of buildings located at Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay, in the far eastern sector of the Australian Antarctic Territory.

The buildings were built and occupied by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) of 1911 - 1914, led by geologist and explorer Dr (later Sir) Douglas Mawson.

The Huts included a magnetograph hut, used to measure variations in the south magnetic pole; an absolute magnetic hut, which was used as a reference point for studies in the magnetograph hut; and the transit hut, an astronomical observatory.

The most important building at the site is the winter living quarters, known as "Mawson's Hut". This pyramid-roofed hut was home to the eighteen men of the AAE main base party in 1912, and the seven (including Douglas Mawson) who stayed on for an unplanned second year in 1913.

Mawson's Hut combines two sections - the living quarters and the workshop, prefabricated in Sydney and Melbourne respectively, and shipped to the site for construction in 1912 by the AAE team.

The Hut is made from Baltic pine cladding with Oregon timber used for the structural framework.

Mawson's Huts are the foundation stone of Australia's modern day Antarctic programme operated by the AAD and are the birthplace of Australia's Antarctic heritage.

The Huts and the surrounding Historic Site were included on the Commonwealth Heritage List in 2004 and the National Heritage List in 2005.

The Huts are of national and international heritage significance and are rare in a world context as one of just six complexes surviving from the 'Heroic Era' of Antarctic exploration.

The buildings are also unique in the context of Australian history as the only surviving site representing the work of an AAE during this period.

The Site also has great heritage values for Australia's Antarctic interests, since Douglas Mawson's AAE established, in reality, Australia's Antarctic science program.

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Why Conservation and Restoration?

The conservation of Mawson's Huts is a long-term project.

The Huts are located in Antarctica where there are extremes of weather, and in the world's windiest place at sea level.

Unless conservation and restoration work is undertaken the site is very vulnerable and the Huts are in danger of being blown into the Southern Ocean.

Conservation work is necessarily staged year by year because of the Historic Site's great remoteness and the limited window for operating in the Antarctic in the brief summer period.

Constant on-the-ground monitoring of the Huts is not possible and annual Expedition visits are required to attend to damage that may have occurred.

Recent access to the site and Huts has been prevented by a giant iceberg blocking the approaches to Cape Denison since 2014 - 2015.

When the Foundation launched its first Conservation Expedition in 1997 - 1998 the Huts were full of ice and snow, and were in imminent danger of imploding with main structural beams broken and splintered.

The Foundation's work has ensured that the Huts are stable and in the course of thirteen expeditions it has re-clad the roofs of both buildings to prevent further ingress of ice and snow.

The original fabric remains fully intact underneath the new cladding which used timber from the same region in Finland as the original; it is of the exact same dimension and was imported into Australia by the same merchant that supplied Douglas Mawson in 1911.

When ice conditions allow, Mawson's Huts are a major tourist attraction.

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The Expedition and Works Programme

Since its first Expedition in 1997 - 1998, the Foundation has developed significant expertise in the conservation of built heritage in the Antarctic and the preservation of artefacts.

The Foundation has the necessary technical skills and access to qualified and experienced field personnel to complete the detailed works program prepared by the Foundation in consultation with the AAD.

The final works program will be submitted to the AAD for approval along with permit applications, environmental impact statement and risk assessment.

All work is carried out in accordance with the AAD Management Plan for the Historic Site.

Of urgent priority is to continue efforts to prevent entry into the Huts of wind-blown snow and ice and damage to the structure and associated artefacts.

With approximately 80% of the ice now been removed from the interior of the Huts on previous Expeditions, the 2017 - 2018 Expedition will focus on removing the remainder of the ice.

The Expedition will also carry out on-going conservation and documenting of the numerous artefacts in and outside the Huts.

The main conservation priorities are the maintenance and stabilisation of the main Hut and associated structures, removal of interior ice, and prevention of ingress of snow.

Conservation of artefacts in the Conservation Laboratory, which the Foundation constructed and equipped on site, will also take place.

Also required will be the down loading of data from an extensive system of environmental monitoring equipment that operates year round throughout the interior of the Huts.

The monitoring equipment is a critical part of the conservation program to ensure that temperature, humidity and vibration levels remain within appropriate levels for the continued conservation management of the Huts.

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Previous Expeditions

The 2017 - 2018 Expedition will be the fourteenth major conservation expedition to the site to be mounted.

The Expeditions have been planned and managed by a qualified Expedition Manager with decades of experience as a station, voyage and field leader with the Australian Antarctic program.

The Manager is highly skilled in project management, including risk identification and mitigation.

Since the Foundation's establishment it has achieved its Expedition objectives without serious accident or environmental incident, while operating in a particularly remote and hazardous part of the world.

All Expedition staff are subject to medical examination to AAD standards and a doctor is a member of each Expedition Team.

Expedition staff will mainly be drawn from personnel who have previously been engaged with The Foundation.

The Foundation has developed excellent relationships with the AAD with respect to Expedition planning and has negotiated access to AAD equipment where necessary.

The Foundation has also established close relations with the French Antarctic program on whom the Foundation depend for the primary logistics for access to the site.

Other bodies, including commercial sponsors, who provide equipment and consumables required for our Expeditions, have provided considerable in-kind support.

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The Mawson's Huts Foundation

The Foundation is a not-for-profit registered charity committed to the ongoing conservation requirements at Mawson's Huts as determined by the Mawson's Huts Management Plan (2013 - 2018).

The Foundation was established in 1997 with the support of the Federal Government and has funded and organised thirteen major Expeditions to the Cape Denison site.

Its Mission statement is:

The Foundation exists to conserve in perpetuity for the Australian people the unique historical buildings known as Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison on Commonwealth Bay, base for the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14 led by Australia's greatest Polar explorer Sir Douglas Mawson."

The Foundation has raised in excess of \$9 million in cash and in-kind support with \$2.5 million being provided by the Federal Government in the form of special grants.

Work undertaken by the Foundation in partnership with the AAD has saved the Huts from almost certain destruction.

The Foundation continues to work on a number of initiatives aimed at securing a long-term program for conservation and maintenance of the Historic Site.

These initiatives include a full-scale replica of Mawson's Huts that the Foundation has built and operates as a museum in Hobart.

The Mawson's Huts Replica Museum opened on 2 December 2011, the centenary of Mawson's departure from Hobart.

The Replica Museum is currently rated on Trip Advisor as the No 1 museum in Hobart, and enables the Foundation to contribute to the total cost of the Expedition.

Other fundraising activities include the inception and ongoing Australian Antarctic Festival held biannually in Hobart that includes a large number of community and school based programs and activities.

The Foundation operates a proactive sponsorship and supporters program of fundraising events and has established corporate sponsorship that enables the operation of a two person Secretariat and other in-kind support.

The Foundation has enjoyed since its inception the Patronage of the Governor General of Australia.

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Mawson's Huts Foundation Pre-Budget Submission 2017-18 Antarctic Expedition Budget

	Budget	MHF	In Kind	TOTAL COST
Shipping [1]	\$ 15,000.00			\$ 15,000.00
Helicopters [2]	\$ 170,000.00			\$ 170,000.00
Personnel [3]	\$ 188,400.00			\$ 188,400.00
Travel, Accommodation and Meals [4]	\$ 36,000.00			\$ 36,000.00
Training [5]	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 16,000.00
Insurance	\$ 8,000.00			\$ 8,000.00
Clothing [6]	\$ 7,200.00			\$ 7,200.00
Medical [7]	\$ 15,000.00			\$ 15,000.00
Equipment & Supplies [8]	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 236,000.00
Storage [9]	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 9,000.00
Administration [10]	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 215,000.00
Audit	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,500.00		\$ 5,500.00
Contingencies 5.5%	\$ 29,900.00			\$ 29,900.00
				\$ -
	\$ 576,500.00	\$ 139,500.00	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 951,000.00

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2017 – 2018 Antarctic Expedition Budget Notes

[1] Shipping

- a) Cost of victualing (meals, provisions and accommodation) previously on the French supply vessel L'Astrolabe is based on previous costs of \$125 per day for each of the six Expeditioners for the 20 day voyage to and from the Antarctic.

[2] Helicopters

- a) Helicopters are used to transport the six member Expedition Team to and from the transport ship to Cape Denison.
- b) On the voyage from Hobart, the French normally have two helicopters on board for their own use to deliver supplies.
- c) However, on the return voyage during the last Expedition in 2015 the French decided to use one helicopter forcing the Foundation to cover the entire cost of a second helicopter to comply with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) policy of having a back-up helicopter for flights over the sea ice.
- d) The cost for the first helicopter on the 2015 Expedition was estimated at \$25,000 and \$145,000 for the second helicopter.

[3] Personnel

a) Expedition Manager

- i. Begins work in June 2017 on the works program and planning, selection of the Expedition Members, sourcing of clothing and organising supplies;
- ii. Remains in frequent contact with the Expedition until their return in late January/early February 2018, conducts a debrief with the Expedition and writes the final report for the Foundation and the AAD in March 2018;
- iii. Agreed consultancy from June 2017 to March 2018 covering 133 days @ \$300 per day. (\$40,000).



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b) Expedition Team

- i. Cost is \$300 per Expeditioner per day consultancy for the expected 78 days away (November 2017 to February 2018). (\$140,400).

c) Additional Support Personnel

- i. Additional support personnel are required pre departure and post return to address administrative matters and Expeditioners' requirements. (\$8,000).

[4] Travel, Accommodation & Meals

- a) Each of the six Expeditioners requires transportation to and from Hobart, accommodation and meals before and after the Expedition in Hobart.
- b) Meals and sustenance for the Expeditioners to and from and in the Antarctic is costed at \$35 per day per Expeditioner.

[5] Training

- a) The selected Expedition Team will all assemble in Hobart for the Expedition Briefing and training during a three-day camp;
- b) Expeditioners require intensive training in accordance with AAD regulations in: -
 - i. Remote area first aid (\$5,000);
 - ii. Helicopter operations (\$5,000);
 - iii. Quad bike operations and maintenance (\$5,000);
 - iv. Media operations and report writing (\$1,000 to be funded by the Mawson's Huts Foundation).

[6] Clothing

- a) Each Expeditioner is equipped with Antarctic apparel at a cost of \$1,200 per Expeditioner.

[7] Medical

- a) AAD regulations require each of the Expeditioners to be medically examined for Antarctic travel at \$1,000 per Expeditioner. (\$6,000);
- b) The AAD provides a remote area medical kit (\$9,000).

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[8] Equipment & Supplies

- a) Sponsors are sought to supply the wide range of equipment to fully equip the Expedition, e.g. Reuters News Agency provides satellite communications equipment; Honda provides equipment and spare parts for the quad bikes and generators;
- b) Satellite phones, tablets and laptops are leased as it is better value than buying with technology developing so quickly.
- c) Other supplies are provided at cost include gas for heating and cooking, batteries for communication and media, specialist conservation tools, replacement and repairs to existing tools, generators, trailers and similar equipment;
- d) Any other specialist equipment is supplied at no cost.

[9] Storage

- a) Specialist equipment for the Expedition and for the conservation laboratory at Cape Denison will be acquired prior to the Expedition departure;
- b) This will be stored at the Mawson's Huts Foundation's existing storage facility in Hobart, however, additional secure space will be required.

[10] Administration

- a) As for all Expeditions, the Mawson's Huts Foundation secretariat provides all in-house managerial and support services to the Expedition Team and liaison with the AAD for the planning, duration and debriefing of the Expedition;
- b) From previous Expeditions, \$215,000 is required to ensure that the highest level of administrative, safety and logistical support is provided;
- c) The Foundation will contribute \$125,000 and \$35,000 of in-kind support will be provided by specialist Antarctic personnel.