

Ice, Icon and Identity: The Meaning of Mawson's Huts

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Just a Timber Shed?

A noisy local Council truck has just collected a pile of broken pine boards and redundant hardware from the front of the house; remnants of a dilapidated shed that was recently removed from our backyard. The shed was demolished and sent to the rubbish tip with little thought, other than the impracticalities of yet another repair job and the better options available for using the space. Ironically, as the refuse truck clatters up the street with the remnants of our back shed aboard, my thoughts are turned to another pine hut on another continent: one that is larger and perhaps more sophisticated in its construction, but which is made of the same materials and, frankly, over recent years, has had far less visitation and use than our old back shed – the Main Hut from Mawson's legendary Antarctic expedition of 1911–1914, still standing at Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica (Figure 6.1).

The fabric of both huts is essentially similar, yet the cultural values attached to them and the consequent resources devoted to their care and maintenance differ markedly. If I were to ask friends and colleagues to make a cash contribution towards the upkeep of the back shed, they would be scornful or perhaps amused, but some of the same people have made generous donations towards the 'urgent conservation' of the Mawson's Huts Historic Site. The value with which we endow significant places – their 'cultural capital' – can sometimes relate to innate fabric, design or form, but is more often a function of their meaning: what we believe them to be or to represent.

Changing approaches to the conservation of Mawson's Huts reflect developments in Australian conservation philosophy, practices, and techniques. The paradox between the mighty Mawson myth and the

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fragile, physical fabric of the site itself, provides a case study within which to explore the role of heritage places and the iconic myths of national identity – a subject which is timely to explore as Australia develops its new National Heritage List.

The Mawson's Huts Historic Site¹ also highlights the contrast between fabric and meaning: it is a place where much effort has been expended in looking after physical remains, on behalf of a community who will never see or touch them. Precariously perched on a pile of rocks at the windiest place on earth, the ever-thinning Baltic pine boards of Mawson's Huts are a physical testament to the determination of Antarctic pioneers and a continuing source of avid debate among heritage practitioners and bureaucrats, revealing much about contemporary societal dynamics and inherent strained relationships between elite and popular values.

Ravaged by 70 years of extreme conditions and vile weather, the Mawson's Huts Historic Site has hosted at least seven 'rescue' expeditions in recent decades: some corporate, some philanthropic and some government, but all clouded by tension between competing experts, regulators and more populist perceptions from a fascinated Australian community. They have all been front page news.

Mawson's Huts Historic Site²

Mawson's Huts Historic Site is a cultural landscape that includes a complex of buildings, structures and relics of the Main Base of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE), 1911–1914, led by Douglas Mawson (later Sir Douglas Mawson, 1882–1958). The precinct includes an intact prefabricated timber Main Base winter headquarters, generally referred to as 'Mawson's Hut', three scientific huts (one intact and two ruins), a memorial cross and an extensive artefact scatter.

The Australasian Antarctic Expedition was a major undertaking for its time and the focus of great public interest. Two factors set it apart from other international expeditions of the period known as the 'Heroic Era' of Antarctic exploration: a focus on scientific research as well as exploration and the epic story of Mawson himself and his survival of a sledging expedition that claimed the lives of his two companions.

Mawson's stated objectives for the expedition, in his proposal to the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, included

magnetic charting for navigational purposes, geological and biological studies and the establishment of a wireless weather station.³ The expedition made use of several recently-invented technologies including aeroplane and wireless communication, as well as Mawson's own previous experience as a member of Shackleton's 1907–1909 British Antarctic Expedition.⁴

Mawson based his design concepts for accommodation at Antarctica on his experiences of the conditions during the Shackleton expedition. He believed Antarctic huts should be designed as a 'pyramid on a square base, to ensure the stability in heavy winds'.⁵ Mawson obtained huts from building companies in four Australian states. Two square-plan, pyramid-roofed accommodation huts designed to Mawson's model were acquired, and combined to form the living spaces and workshop of the Main Base hut.⁶ They were erected in a valley between two ridges 60 m from the edge of Boat Harbour, a natural indent in the coast at Commonwealth Bay (Figure 6.22). Other pine structures constructed in the surrounding landscape included the Magnetograph House, the Absolute Magnetic Hut and the Transit Hut.⁷

By any measure, the exploration and scientific outcomes of the Expedition were an outstanding success. Many scientific observations were made at the Main Base, particularly during the autumn and winter of 1912. These included meteorological readings, specialised and customised methods for measuring barometric pressure, wind gusts and atmospheric conditions. The special astronomical instruments in the Transit Hut were in regular use and after some difficulties, two-way radio communication was established.⁸ Much of the day-to-day activity associated with the science has been recorded in a wonderful array of historic photographs by Frank Hurley. A similar set of processes and observations occurred at a western base, some 2,000 km to the west of Commonwealth Bay.⁹

A series of inland sledging expeditions took place from the Main Base at Commonwealth Bay. Of these, the most notorious was the 'far east party' comprising Douglas Mawson, Dr Xavier Mertz and Lieutenant BES Ninnis. This expedition was beset by disaster. In December 1912, barely a month after leaving the Main Base, Ninnis, along with his sledge (containing food supplies) and dogs, fell into a crevasse and was killed.¹⁰

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Following the death of Ninnis, Mawson and Mertz attempted the near 500 km return journey to Cape Denison. The remaining dogs died or were killed and their remains were used for food. In early January, Mertz died from what was later diagnosed as vitamin A poisoning from eating the dogs' livers.¹¹ Mawson therefore made the final journey of around 160 km back to Cape Denison alone, arriving on 8 February 1913, just hours after the departure of the expedition ship *Aurora*, on its return trip to Australia. Although the *Aurora* returned after being contacted by wireless, bad weather prohibited a landing party going ashore and Mawson and a six-man team that had elected to stay behind to look for him remained in Antarctica for another year. During the course of that year a timber memorial cross and metal plaque to Ninnis and Mertz were erected on Azimuth Hill to the northwest of the Main Hut (see Figure 6.3).¹²

Following successful retrieval of the waiting expeditioners in February 1914, the site was effectively abandoned and left to its own devices for 65 years, apart from an overnight stay by Mawson in 1931 during the 1929–1931 British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expeditions¹³ and use by New Zealand, American, Australian and French scientists in the 1950s and 1960s as a shelter.¹⁴ One of the latter visitors apparently left the door of the Main Hut open, allowing ice to enter.

Rescue Expeditions

Over the last 25 years Mawson's Huts Historic Site has been the subject of at least seven expeditions to undertake conservation works, the most recent at the end of 2002. The purpose and program of these expeditions reflect changes in the prevailing heritage management philosophy and practice in Australia at the time.¹⁵

An Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) expedition of 1978 investigated whether Mawson's Huts could be returned to Australia; removing ice from part of Mawson's Hut, only to see it fill again in a matter of a few years.¹⁶ At this time, methodologies for heritage management and decision making were still being developed in Australia.¹⁷ The expedition efforts focussed on physical works, with little overt connection between those works and the values they were ultimately intended to protect. They were not, for example, guided by a written assessment of the heritage significance of the place.

In the mid-1980s two privately-arranged 'Project Blizzard' expeditions witnessed the first clash between eager and enthusiastic expeditioners and cautious public sector heritage managers in the Australian Heritage Commission.¹⁸ The tension evident between good intentions to save the huts through physical work and the emerging role of the Australian Government as heritage manager meant that the works themselves were regulated and the level of physical intervention was limited.

During the mid-to-late 1990s, a strong focus on corporate philanthropy and fundraising, driven by the newly established AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation¹⁹ heralded no less than three significant expeditions, but also an intriguing three-way tension between the Australian Antarctic Division (as responsible government agency), the Australian Heritage Commission (as statutory authority responsible for Commonwealth heritage management) and the Foundation itself. During the initial stages of the Foundation's involvement, physical conservation works were identified in a 1996/1997 investigation expedition. Some of these works, including ice removal, repair of internal structures, re-erection of the Memorial Cross and addition of new cladding, were subsequently implemented in 1997/1998 by an expedition that was resourced through the Foundation's successful fundraising and sponsorship initiatives.²⁰

The opportunity for such private sector involvement in what was essentially a publicly managed site arose through a curious set of circumstances. In the 1990s, the position of the Australian Antarctic Division was that it would do what it could to assist conservation, but would not be proactive in managing the Mawson's Huts Historic Site, as such intervention was not seen as a 'core responsibility'.²¹ This reactive approach created a void into which both lay enthusiasts and professionals were happy to move. The initial Foundation's expeditions, therefore, in addition to providing information essential for evolving conservation philosophy, also revealed a management environment that fostered a contest for site 'ownership' between enthusiasts, heritage professionals and scientists of different persuasions. The wider community, though given no formal role, was well informed through media coverage and invited to participate through direct donation.²²

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The 1997/1998 expedition returned to Australia with a strong desire to see an agreed 'conservation vision' for the site. This viewpoint accorded strongly with advice provided to the Australian Antarctic Division by the Australian Heritage Commission. Consistent with evolving best heritage management practice, an inclusive planning process was used to resolve an agreed policy, which, in turn, became the foundation for a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan.²³

Cultural Values

Agreement about the significance of the Mawson's Huts Historic Site did not emerge easily, even though a formal technical assessment process was undertaken and a Conservation Management Plan was prepared. While an earlier conservation plan had been prepared by Dr Michael Pearson in the early 1990s²⁴, preparation of an agreed 'Statement of Significance', required an iterative process including a seminar for interested stakeholders²⁵, an expert team workshop²⁶ and sustained consultation with the AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation, the Australian Antarctic Division and the Australian Heritage Commission.

What is most interesting about the resulting 'agreed' statement of significance, as presented in the Conservation Management Plan, is that it moves conceptually from the iconic intangible to the physical evidence, perhaps symbolically reflecting the nature of the heritage value of the place itself:

Mawson's Huts Historic Site, Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay, Australian Antarctic Territory, and the site of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE), 1911–1914, Main Base, is a place of national and international significance. The site is one of the small set of Heroic Era expedition bases which symbolise the first period of land-based scientific research and geographic discovery in Antarctica – the last continent to be explored. The era is one of great human adventure and achievement. The Mawson's Huts Historic Site is unique in the context of Australian history and rare in a world context as the only surviving site representing the work of an Australian expedition. It is one of only six remaining sites from the Heroic Era.²⁷

As the statement of significance proceeds, additional historic context is added. The connections are with the scientific achievements of the expedition itself, rather than with any attribute evident in the surviving fabric. The values are associative – with the event and the people. The

link with Mawson himself is explicit, but there is no suggestion made that the fabric of the place has any demonstrable rather than symbolic capacity.

In the third section of the statement of significance the specific attributes of the physical environment rate their first substantial mention and analysis. The evocative qualities of the place in its setting are described as are its scientific research potential and the importance of landmark elements, such as the Memorial Cross, within a wider physical and visual setting. Then finally, the statement concludes that:

The extant buildings at Mawson's Huts Historic Site demonstrate development of Antarctic building design during an era of great experimentation in response to the uncertainty about conditions to be overcome. The Main Hut embodies Mawson's own experience in other earlier Heroic Era huts and strongly reflects design concepts implemented in collaboration with team members and suppliers. The external form and internal structure of the Main Hut, together with the functional, impressive internal space, demonstrate a simple but strong architectural concept.²⁸

Taken as a whole, the statement leads the reader logically from iconic, international importance, as part of a legendary phase in recent history, through the related events and people to the setting, design and fabric of the building itself.

But why is it seen to be so important today? Why is it that this timber hut, at the edge of a far away continent, beyond the reach of most ordinary Australians can attract the political interests, bureaucratic fervour, corporate benevolence and community support that underpins two-and-a-half decades of active and expensive physical conservation?

Our National Heritage

Understanding why Mawson's Hut has become such an icon is timely in a year during which the Australian Government has proclaimed new legislation which establishes a 'National Heritage List'.²⁹ Although the legislation has been operational for more than six months, and enjoyed a gestation in the Parliament of more than two years, at the time of writing there is nothing actually included on the National Heritage List. However, it is summarised as comprising places with outstanding heritage value to our nation.³⁰ In recognition of the importance of such

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places, the Australian Government seeks to provide protection and good heritage management and, in doing so, to assume additional statutory control – for the purpose of ensuring that identified ‘National Heritage Values’ are retained.³¹

The creation of this list gives rise to intriguing questions of perception and status. While the technical process for listing is defined in the Act, the conceptual process is less clear. Is listing a recognition of what the community already knows, or is it a ritual of initiation that confers legitimacy, defining national icons and thereby framing our reaction to them? Indeed, over time it is likely that the very act of including (or not including) a place on the National List will itself contribute to community perception of what constitutes our identity.

Heritage listing is, of course, a process that has been underway in Australia since the advent of the National Trust Register in the 1960s. However, even with the establishment of the Register of the National Estate in the mid-1970s the Australian Government recognised the enormous diversity that contributes to the community’s sense of place, allowing places of local interest, as well as major treasures, to be included. While the new National List may increase the profile of heritage and may herald rationalisation of Commonwealth involvement in heritage regulation and funding, the advent of such a list may shift emphasis in the community’s perception of its heritage away from the ordinary. The very existence of a National List may thereby have the collateral effect of increasing the role of ‘heritage’ in defining national identity, by focusing on particular elements of the past and their connection with the present, thereby insidiously, perhaps patronisingly, telling the community which places are fundamentally ‘Australian’. Mawson’s Hut, already touted by the former Chair of the Australian Heritage Commission as an early entry on the National List,³² illustrates this process.

Icons, Image and Identity

The Mawson image is iconic, not only because of the huts in Antarctica, but because of the man himself. Contemporary community memories of Sir Douglas Mawson are highly manufactured and, typically, feature his balaclava-covered head to illustrate the ‘hero’ – as on the original Australian \$100 note. It is no coincidence, therefore, that the AAP Mawson’s Huts Foundation, in connecting with the (nonetheless

photogenic) huts site, use the same image in their logo. The iconography of Mawson's personal image takes the associative value a further step away from the physical hut itself to an iconic image of an associated person.

Reliance on associated values and the perception of hero/icon is also evident in the Mawson story itself and the language used to describe the Australasian Antarctic Expedition: 'epic', 'remote', 'Heroic Era', 'hardship', 'isolation', 'intrepid'. The expedition story uses a powerful emotive language which, in turn, imbues the place that is now a symbol of those events with these values.

The story is truly wonderful: the expedition would reflect a magnificent episode in Australian history, science and geology if it had gone to plan, but the tragedy of the death of Ninnis and Mertz and the awesome struggle of Mawson in returning alone and then missing his transport ship by a matter of only hours is matched by few other classic Australian tragedies – the fate of Burke and Wills being perhaps the closest parallel. The huts therefore, as remaining physical evidence of this story, allow connection; an opportunity for a contemporary community to reach out to this dramatic history in a way that is beyond oral tradition, written narrative, photography or even multi-media. The place is real. It may be isolated, illusive, hard to visit and beyond the experience of most Australians, but therein lies much of its attraction. The hierarchy implicit in the statement of significance attaches primary value to the place as an icon associated with events and people of epic proportions in Australian history. The social values of the place are therefore perpetuated in our contemporary community because of the opportunity provided to participate in today's Mawson's Huts adventure.

The tangible connection with adventure provided by the object itself may explain why the place has attracted such contemporary interest and support. It provides opportunities for links with events that are important to the Australian psyche, yet by virtue of its isolation and the need for complex and dangerous expeditions, the place has an exotic allure that makes it attractive to politicians, corporate benefactors and even the wider public, because the current expeditioners can still do exciting and profound things on their behalf. It is the ability to connect with the place through a 'surrogate adventure' that is at the heart of recent interest in Mawson's Huts. This may be why the then Governor-

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General of Australia was prepared to be patron of the Foundation; why Sir Edmund Hillary agreed to be involved, why leading corporations devote executive time and real dollars to mounting expeditions and why they have such enthusiastic and extensive media coverage. This reality is even reflected in the expedition team itself which in addition to the technical and conservation experts included an official artist and photographer (see Figures 6.4 and 6.5), to provide a late twentieth-century means of conveying the drama of both place and expedition.³³ Hurley's photographs of Mawson's expedition in progress are echoed by newer images of heavily clad, burly conservationists, also wearing balaclavas – still relishing the hardship, isolation and ultimately the sense of achievement brought by a job well done in such a difficult and challenging environment (see Figures 6.2 and 6.3).

Associative Value

It may seem ironic that much of the recent attention received by the Mawson's Huts Historic Site focuses on the fabric. Fundraising efforts have played upon the perilous condition of the eroding huts and deleterious effects of the harsh environment. Much of the effort required to produce the Conservation Management Plan was directed at resolving both an understanding of the extant fabric and appropriate policies for its management. Yet, the iconic nature of the site suggests that perhaps its value rests far more in its associations and meaning than in the fabric itself; after all, access is difficult and concerns have legitimately been expressed about potential visitor impact³⁴. The story could be told and the community could be engaged, irrespective of whether the huts complex stays where it is, blows away or is even repatriated to Australia. One saving grace, in a political context, is that its very existence provides a physical basis for part of Australia's claim to 42% of the Antarctic territory³⁵ – perhaps that is its primary physical value *in situ*.

Repatriation was seriously considered by the Australian Government in the 1970s and has been suggested on a number of occasions since. Yet the Mawson's Huts Historic Site is not only important because of what it is, but because of where it is. The fabric of the place warrants the attention it has received because it provides the focus for the meaning and a direct connection to the Mawson legend and the story of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition. Those involved in 'saving' Mawson's

Huts are justly proud. Their pride explains why the resourcing allocated to this relatively modest complex of timber structures and the funding levels achieved through the effective efforts of the AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation may represent the greatest collation of private sector resources for conservation for its own sake that has ever occurred in Australia.

A Place of Paradox

Ultimately, the Mawson's Huts Historic Site is a place of enormous paradox, stemming from:

- Fabric and myth: Mawson's Huts Historic Site cannot be experienced by the vast majority of people to whom it is important. Its epic history, stories and sagas could survive alone in theory, but rely on the known physical presence of the distant remains.
- The temporary and the long term: Mawson designed and intended the Main Hut to be a temporary shelter for a single expedition, yet contemporary actions seek to achieve its longevity and are predicated on multiple visits.
- Function and meaning: the place was established as an expedition base but has now, in its late twentieth-century manifestation, become the focus and destination for exciting new Antarctic expeditions.
- The location: selected by Mawson for its bare rocks and suitable foundations belies the fact that the rocks were bare because it was the windiest place on earth – later characterised by Sir Douglas Mawson himself as 'the home of the blizzard'³⁶. Those very katabatic winds and the abrasive action of driven snow and ice now represent one of the greatest physical threats to the longevity of the site.
- The environment: its freezing cold both preserves and potentially destroys the hut fabric. The low temperatures effectively prevent many of the biological threats that would normally affect timber of this age, but resulting snow and ice both abrade the fragile fabric and, inside, have caused structural failure.
- The ice: the Conservation Management Plan clearly establishes that while the total history of the site is important, its primary significance relates to the 'frozen moment' of the Australasian Antarctic

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Expedition in 1911–1914. Ingress of ice, therefore, while evoking the passage of time and potentially creating a stable thermal mass and microenvironment, obscures the internal visual qualities and ability to appreciate the most significant period of occupation.

Managing Conflict: Tension on Ice?

Because Mawson's Huts Historic Site is a place of paradox, it is also a place of tension and conflict. Competing interests remain at work behind the rhetoric, bravado and bushy beards of intrepid late-twentieth century expeditioners and their bureaucratic masters. In addition to the now-dismissed suggestion that the hut be repatriated, concern about the impracticalities of ongoing maintenance in such a remote area resulted in proposals for protection of the fragile original timber building with a new cover – despite the effect that this would have on its visual presence and integrity.

Ice retention or removal exemplifies the resolution of conflicting cultural values at the site. The interior of the hut is still the subject of argument about whether the ice that now entombs former living areas should be removed, so as to reveal the living spaces, visual qualities and the 'frozen moment' of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition. While there is no suggestion that the ice itself is significant, an alternative argument has been made that its presence represents the passage of time and part of the historical process affecting the hut.³⁷ In addition, a number of professionals, particularly scientists who had been involved in expeditions, raise issues about ice removal for fear that it may lead to consequent impacts on artefacts inside Mawson's Hut, or other adverse changes to the microenvironment.³⁸

During the conservation planning process, proof was sought that long-term conservation achieved by ice removal was demonstrably better than ice retention. Questions arose as to whether the thermal mass of the ice was critical to either the internal microenvironment or to the structural stability of the hut. The Conservation Management Plan concludes that ice removal is an appropriate conservation action as it would reveal significant aspects and spaces, as long as adequate risk assessments had been undertaken.³⁹

The dialogue on ice removal is typical of that for any place where there are conflicting values and alternative professional perspectives.

While particular values did seem to reflect the professional skills or preoccupation of the people involved, there was general consensus, throughout the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan, within the team, at the public seminar and in dialogue with government, that measuring and monitoring site conditions was important.⁴⁰ An interesting question arose as to whether indeed it was the assessment of heritage values and decision-making that was leading the science, or conversely the available science directing the decision making and heritage assessment.

The key to good heritage management is that it needs to be firmly based in an understanding of the values of the place, rather than technical ability to achieve 'miracles'. In the case of Mawson's Huts, the significance assessment reflects the tangible value attaching to the buildings and artefacts themselves, as well as the intangible values that arise from an appreciation of the sense of place, redolent of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition presence and its image in Australian history. The conservation policy for Mawson's Huts is framed by the perception of the place in the popular psyche and its image, rather than by the opportunities created by evolving conservation technology.⁴¹

Conclusion

A photo of Dr Mawson's own chair resplendent in a shaft of sunlight hangs proudly in our office as a visible sign of our involvement in the conservation of the Mawson's Huts Historic Site (see Figure 6.5). The image encapsulates much of the meaning of the place – we too bask in the reflected Mawson glory.

Mawson's Huts Historic Site is evocative of a celebrated phase of Australian history and relies for its perception as a national icon on associations with the legendary Sir Douglas Mawson and events that took place over a few years at the beginning of its 75-year history. While the fabric of the place is important in providing a tangible connection with that history, it is beyond the likely experience of most Australians, yet the narrative and stories that attach to the place imbue it with a high degree of contemporary community esteem. Places like Mawson's Huts illustrate how perception and image can become arguably more important than the place itself.

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Although heritage conservation efforts at the Mawson's Huts Historic Site do focus on the place and its fabric, it is its association with the heroic legend of Sir Douglas Mawson that marks it as a national icon. The site's remoteness provides opportunities for surrogate adventures and participation in its conservation and management from afar. The allure of this detached adventure facilitates corporate philanthropy and an unusual collaboration in cultural heritage conservation between the public and private sectors. The physical conservation is expensive, but pleasing to a distant populace. The establishment of the AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation and its well-publicised 'rescue' expeditions in turn serve to extend, if not perpetuate, its contemporary value.

The Mawson's Huts Historic Site does have historic and aesthetic values and is a potential research resource. However, when all is said and done, its greatest value is social, deriving from the strong reaction that it evokes in many Australians through its iconic status, larger than life stories, rugged remoteness, dangers and complex technical challenges. The long-term conservation of a set of simple sheds at the edge of a distant continent relies less on its overt heritage values than upon its enduring ability to grab a headline.

Acknowledgements

My involvement with Mawson's Huts occurs as a direct result of the establishment and efforts of the AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation and I thank the former Chair, David Jensen, AO, and other Foundation members for the opportunity and congratulate them on their achievements. The thoughts and observations in this paper, for which I take responsibility, were founded on my role as adviser over the course of two expeditions and as team leader for the preparation of the *Mawson's Huts Historic Site Conservation Management Plan*. I particularly thank my colleague Geoff Ashley, participant in two expeditions and co-author of the Conservation Management Plan, for his enthusiasm, expertise and photographs, as well as other colleagues at Godden Mackay Logan and staff at the Australian Antarctic Division and Australian Heritage Commission. I also acknowledge the insight and thoughtful comment from the anonymous referee. Figure 6.2 is provided courtesy of the 'Home and Away' collection, State Library of New South Wales; Alasdair McGregor has kindly consented to the reproduction of one of his many

splendid paintings and his photograph titled *Dr Mawson's Room*. William Crook provided invaluable research and editorial assistance.

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Notes

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- 1 The name 'Mawson's Huts Historic Site' was adopted during the course of the projects undertaken in the late 1990s under the auspices of the AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation. The site encompasses not only the main 'Mawson's Hut' but also associated structures and the immediately surrounding landscape.
 - 2 Unless otherwise stated, all references to factual information in this chapter are drawn from Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, *Mawson's Huts Historic Site Conservation Management Plan* (Sydney: AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation, July 2001).

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- 3 Jonathan Chester, *Going to Extremes: Project Blizzard and Australia's Antarctic Heritage* (Sydney: Doubleday, 1986), 51.
- 4 Godden Mackay Logan, 21–22. Mawson joined Shackleton's 1907–1909 British Antarctic Expedition at the suggestion of Sydney University Professor Edgeworth David. It was on this expedition that Mawson demonstrated his flair for leadership and endurance in the harsh Antarctic climate.
- 5 William Blunt, 'Mawson's Huts Antarctica: A Conservation Proposal', Vol I Background and Significance (Master of Built Environment [Building Conservation] Thesis, University of New South Wales, 1991), 41.
- 6 Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle Architects, 'Mawson's Huts, Antarctica: Statement of Significance' (Report prepared for the Department of Science, August 1988), 26–27.
- 7 Godden Mackay Logan, 42–43.
- 8 Blunt, 22. Godden Mackay Logan, 45. Two radio masts were erected between April and September 1912 but were demolished by wind during October 1912. Two-way communication was recommenced successfully in February 1913.
- 9 See Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle Architects, 33, and John L Moyes, *Exploring the Antarctic with Mawson and the men of the 1911–1914 expedition* (West Gosford: JL Moyes, undated), 42.
- 10 Sir Douglas Mawson, *Home of the Blizzard: the Story of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911–1914* (Adelaide: Wakefield Press, 1996), 162. First published in two volumes in 1915 by William Heinemann, London.
- 11 Godden Mackay Logan, 48.
- 12 Godden Mackay Logan, 49. The Memorial Cross was erected in November 1913.
- 13 See Godden Mackay Logan, 69–74. Also see Fred Jacka and Eleanor Jacka (eds) *Mawson's Antarctic Diaries* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin 1988), 366; Harold Fletcher, *Antarctic Days with Mawson: a personal account of the British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition of 1929–1931* (London: Angus & Robertson Publishing 1984).
- 14 Godden Mackay Logan, 73. Also see Blunt (Vol 3, 5–52) for a summary of the previous visits to Cape Denison.
- 15 G Ashley and R Mackay, 'Mawson's Huts Historic Site, Antarctica: the Conservation Management Plan as a Decision Making Tool', in Barr S and P Chaplin, *Cultural Heritage in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions*, (Norway: Monuments and Sites Series, ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee 2004).
- 16 Godden Mackay Logan, 76–77.
- 17 Australia ICOMOS had been established in 1976 and the work that would lead to the adoption of the Burra Charter (the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance) in 1979 was underway.
- 18 Godden Mackay Logan, 76. Also see Chester, 62.
- 19 The AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation was established in 1995 by the Australian Associated Press (AAP) Group of companies to 'conserve in perpetuity for the Australian people, the historic building erected at Cape Denison by the 1911–1914 Australasian Antarctic Expedition', now known as the Mawson's Huts Historic Site. For more information about the Foundation see <<http://www.mawsons-huts.com.au>>

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- 20 The Foundation raised in excess of \$2million from the public and corporate sectors, together with financial assistance from the Australian Government and assistance from Australian Heritage Commission and Australian Antarctic Division, to fund the 1996/1997 and the 1997/1998 conservation expeditions. For more information about recent expeditions, see Godden Mackay Logan 2001, 78–86.
 - 21 Godden Mackay Logan, iii (Australian Antarctic Division Preface).
 - 22 The Foundation launched a national appeal to encourage tax deductible donations. AAP used its relationship with the Australian media to promote the appeal. The Foundation also raised funds from the proceeds of the sale of limited edition commemorative prints and original artworks.
 - 23 See Godden Mackay Logan. AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation, with the support of Australian Heritage Commission and Australian Antarctic Division, commissioned Godden Mackay Logan in December 1998 to prepare the Conservation Management Plan.
 - 24 Michael Pearson, *Mawson's Huts Historic Site Conservation Plan* (Canberra: Australian Heritage Commission, October 1993). The Pearson conservation plan was prepared at the behest of the Mawson's Huts Conservation Committee (MHCC) and the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD).
 - 25 A Conservation Management Plan seminar was held in Sydney on 18–19 October 1998 as the first stage of a management review process. The seminar, a joint initiative between AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation, the Australian Heritage Commission and the Australian Antarctic Division, was attended by over 60 people and was successful in identifying various stakeholder expertise and viewpoints. See Godden Mackay Logan, 169, for references of the papers presented.
 - 26 Godden Mackay Logan, 7.
 - 27 Godden Mackay Logan, 110.
 - 28 Godden Mackay Logan, 110.
 - 29 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth), Chapter 5, Part 15, Division 1A, Subdivision B.
 - 30 Department of Environment and Heritage 2003, Department of Environment and Heritage, Canberra, *Australia's heritage lists – which list is which?*, viewed 8 February 2004 <<http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/publications/factsheets/fact2.html>>. The legislation itself defines eligibility for inclusion on the National Heritage List by reference to criteria set out in the regulations, see *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth), Chapter 5, Part 15, Division 1A, Subdivision B, Section 324D.
 - 31 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth), Chapter 2, Part 3, Division 1, Subdivision AA.
 - 32 Speech made by the then Chair of the Australian Heritage Commission, Mr Peter King, at AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation Dinner, Parliament House, Canberra, 28 March 2001.
 - 33 Alasdair McGregor was the official artist and photographer for the 1997/1998 conservation expedition. His personal account of the expedition (together with his paintings and photographs) was published in Alasdair McGregor, *Mawson's Huts: an Antarctic Expedition Journal* (Alexandria: Hale & Iremonger, 1998).

18 *Object Lessons*

- 34 Management of visitor impact was discussed at the 1998 Conservation Management Plan seminar. The Australian Heritage Commission, in commenting on the draft Conservation Management Plan, expressed concern about the impact of tourism and the need for appropriate training and protocols; (email from Dr Barry Reville, Australian Heritage Commission, to Mr Rob Easter, Australian Antarctic Division, 1 February 2001).
- 35 Godden Mackay Logan, vii (AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation Acknowledgements Letter).
- 36 See Sir Douglas Mawson.
- 37 Godden Mackay Logan, 126–128. For references to the 'passage of time' see Pearson, 21.
- 38 Hughes, Janet, 'Issues Concerning Ice Removal' (Sydney: AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation Conservation Management Plan Seminar, 18–19 October 1998).
- 39 Godden Mackay Logan, 154.
- 40 Godden Mackay Logan, 142–143.
- 41 Godden Mackay Logan, 131–149.