



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAWSON'S HUTS 'ON THE MOVE'

Australia's Antarctic history will travel to the mainland next year, with the announcement today of \$150,000 in Coalition Government funding for a Mawson's Hut Foundation mobile classroom.

Mawson's Huts are one of the few sites that survive on the continent from the 'Heroic Age' of Antarctic exploration. The Foundation will use the funding to take displays and exhibits about the site on the road for the first time outside Tasmania.

"Mining engineer and geologist Sir Douglas Mawson caught the nation's imagination when he established Australia's first base in Antarctica at Cape Denison," said Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP.

"Mawson's Hut Foundation will now be able to share the extraordinary story of this National Heritage listed site with a wider audience, taking it to schools and community groups in regional Australia."

Sir Douglas Mawson and his team designed and built five simple huts as part of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14, the first large-scale scientific inquiry after Federation. More than a century on, four huts remain.

From these remote huts, Mawson set out to learn as much as he could about the forces that carved out Antarctica. His work on that trip and subsequent ones to the continent were instrumental in Australia later asserting sovereignty over 42 per cent of Antarctica as Australian Territory.

"Mawson's Huts Historic Site was added to our National Heritage List in 2005 in recognition of its great historical and social significance," said Minister Frydenberg.

"The Coalition Government further honours Mawson's legacy in our continued support for Australian scientists working on the forefront of Antarctic research."

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