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| **Gawler Cultural Heritage Foundation Inc**.  Established 2019  52 Cheek Avenue, Gawler East, SA 5118  Phone: 0413 331 004 Email: GCHF@internode.on.net  ABN: 73 978 251 145 | |
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| Dear COLLEAGUE, It is my pleasure to introduce the Gawler Cultural Heritage Foundation Inc to you.  Formed last year in response to the creation of the Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre within the newly renovated Gawler Civic Centre, the purpose of the Foundation is to provide an independent organisation that enables the community to assist and support the identification, maintenance, procurement, interpretation, display and other activities related to moveable cultural heritage in the Gawler region. The Foundation is a not-for-profit incorporated association.  We aim to do this by raising funds, obtaining grants and assisting in the donation or purchase of appropriate items to expand the significance of the Gawler Heritage Collection or other Cultural Heritage collections in Gawler and the region. This recognises that there are many local organisations that complement the work undertaken by the Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre in preserving our history.  The Foundation has been approached by the staff of the Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre to financially support the restoration and display of a very important item that is proposed to be a major feature in the next exhibition in the Heritage Gallery commencing in late April 2020. This exhibition, titled “Fire the Cannon”, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the laying of the Gawler Institute Foundation Stone in 1870.  The item, displayed in the attached photograph, dates from the first days of the Institute in 1857 and is a painted silk banner that promotes the Gawler Institute. It has been assessed by Artlab as in remarkable condition for its age. But it needs conservation work before it can safely be placed on exhibition. The banner has been identified as a rare example of banner work but is in a fragile state, the silk is brittle and there are some splits and tears. For it to be safely displayed it will need to be mounted on a fabric covered board and slightly inclined to provide the necessary support. It will also need a specialist padded flat roller to ensure that it can be safely packed away after the exhibition and to ensure that it will be available for future generations.  This item has been stored away and not seen by the community for many, many years. In my 35 years association with the Heritage Collection I have never seen it!  The total cost of this project is $7232 and the Foundation aims to raise half the amount. Our challenge is that the timeline is tight, and funds need to be gathered by April this year.  Should we be fortunate enough to raise more funds than this amount, the surplus will go towards future projects.  The Gawler Cultural Heritage Foundation seeks your support to raise funds for this project. All donations will be acknowledged and receipted. Donors contributing $100 or more will be publicly acknowledged (unless the donor indicates otherwise) at the “Fire the Cannon” Exhibition and receive an invitation to the Exhibition opening.  All donations should be marked Banner and can be forwarded to the address above or paid directly to theGawler Cultural Heritage Fund bank account**:** BSB 633-000 a/c 170 730 170. Donations held in the Fund cannot be used for normal Foundation business.  We also invite individuals, businesses and other organisations to apply for membership of the Foundation. A membership form with relevant details is attached.  Please contact me for any further information. I am most happy to address organisations on the vision and purpose of the Gawler Cultural Heritage Foundation.  Yours sincerely  **Helen Hennessy**  **Foundation Chairperson**  0413 331 004  South Australian Regional Historian Award 2019  *presented by the History Council of South Australia* | |