



## Eden Killer Whale Museum ..... Newsletter March. 2022

With the Ides of March upon us, we may well celebrate, instead of a sense of dread. Let us wish for a settled international atmosphere, covid is quiet and we are able to enjoy the sense of accomplishment that we have earned. Our building programme was, indeed, rather ambitious. Who could have foreseen the calamities that engulfed the world and the let downs from our own people in recent times? A bit to go yet but we will triumph over these setbacks.

Today saw what I believe to be, the penultimate payment to Leserbuild, for the job. The last one should be due, post the installation of the lift.

This last Sunday saw for me, another mile peg slip past in my, now, fast closing time with EKWM. In all that time we have never been as cash poor as we are at this time.

When I came on board, our bank showed a credit balance of \$10,000 and change which was our state of liquidity. We have never been below that figure and haven't done so, now. Got to admit, some



Bert Egan at his best, late 70's. Note Tom's chain wire enclosure.

Board members, certainly, have closely gnawed finger nails.

I need to relate a little of that \$10,000. Bertie Law-

rence Melbourne Egan, WAS the Museum just as much as the Museum was Bert.

He was the most flexible old person. (I qualify to be allowed to use that description: now). No matter what I wanted to do to, as I thought, to improve the Museum, he agreed. Even if it meant interfering with any of his favourite pieces, e.g. the sharks jaw or Henry Bolte.

For those not aware Bert's house is where the Twofold Bay Motor Inn stands, today. No matter the day or the time, mid-breakfast included, Bert would answer the door accommodate anyone for a visit to EKWM.

I can see him in my mind's eye, walking stick in hand, hobbling down Corcora Street, favouring the leg wounded sixty years earlier in WW1, To be greeted by the relatively high step at Neil Bucklnd's. Here he would faithfully lodge the takings with Neil. The then Treasurer. The about turn, up Corcora hill to home. No disabled amenities then

Ten thousand dollars might not sound like big bikkies in the twenty first century, but it was the seventies and accumulated at an admission price of 40 cents.

Bert's dream was a greater amount of space to tell Eden's story and to show its best the visual side. He was adamant that Tom deserved better.

Bert passed away at 91. He had knocked off "work", walked home, sat down for his tea and quietly left us. I don't believe he could not have planned it better.



Circa 1976. Bert receives Eden Apex Club's first Citizen of the Year Award

## Memory Lane



Our trip down Memory Lane takes us back to 1996.

We were fortunate to receive a visit from Kay Cottee AM, who was here for the an exhibition opening.

Kay came into prominence in 1988 when, as a 34 year old sailed the world single-handedly. She set many firsts in her career but this, was the pinnacle of her experience. One hundred and eighty nine days on the high seas with only the birds and sea life to keep her company and the “fun” of being knocked into the sea when conditions were rough. At the time of her visit she was a board member of the Australian National maritime Museum.

She bought the hull and deck of her vessel in 1985 and set about preparing it for the round the world voyage. It had two earlier names but settled on “Blackmore’s First Lady” after her sponsors. The venture raised \$1.000,000 for the Ted Noffs centre.

Kay was a very pleasant and interesting guest, happy to move around and willingly engage with each of our crew.

Our wonderful guest now lives at Yamba, no doubt within earshot of the sea. Among her many current interests, as would be expected, yachswoman is listed.

( information from various sources, my photo)

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### Earlier EKWM Tid Bits

It needs to be remembered that our great institution is now over 91 years in being. It’s beginning has gone from living memory. All its early post-war history, likewise. It would be good if we could round up kids of the 50’s and 60’s and milk their memories. Just anecdotes, are good. Bert and his predecessors would have let many memories in these minds of the free roaming kids of the day.

Occasionally there are anecdotal comments on social media. These, I believe, are valuable cargo and need to be garnered. The workload of the very active volunteers and father time seemingly pushing his job along, makes it difficult for any of them to take up the challenge. It could create an interest for someone from outside our membership, with basic computer skills. Could we offer incentives e.g., discount voucher for the shop? Annual Pass? Create a special book in which their memory would feature together with their photo which would be archived into the collection that their grandkids might get to see in decades to come? If we got a result, we might be able to serialise them in the Eden Connection or similar. I believe this is worth following up. Please don’t throw it to the media before we can agree on what we will do to maximise it. Or not.

Here’s one of mine for starters.

In the mid seventies, I got to know and admire Bert Egan as a fellow Freemason and as a man. Like many of the time , my business partner, Jim Rogers and I would, after work, repair to the Australasia, “to have a shandy on a hot day”. Bert, had a craggy face but when amused all the facial lines would become a wreath of laughter lines. It seemed those laughter lines were on show each time he ordered hi drink. A Barmaid’s Blush. It was red!

He arrived one day full of concern. On asking what was wrong, he said “they” want to give the skeleton to Merimbula. I never found out who the “they”, were. At the time I had scant knowledge of the Museum. but I gave him my word I would help him see that Tom remained where he should always be. Half a lifetime later.....



Noticed June Whalley in the Facebook line-up of the local fitness Club. The club is a great addition to the town's social and health well being. Hope you are enjoying both those avenues, June.

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Ran into former front liner, Jan Freeman, recently. Jan has had some mobility problems but otherwise o.k. As might be expected, she is soldiering on.

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Julie Williams has resigned from her position. We thank her for her efforts and wish her well into the future.

Was also pleased to meet up with another of our front liners, Denise Switzer. I think it was our first meeting since she retired from our crew.

Denise, at the moment, is close to having surgery for her joint problem and is counting the sleeps to the operation while looking forward to getting around, once more without any aids. Good luck, Denise from us all.

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The Dickenson's are celebrating at the news that another great grandchild is on the way. The first for our third grandson and partner, couple. GGm is thrilled but took it in her stride as is her wont. The GGGgf (grumpy great grandfather) says that already he has had to take one, then two mittens, then one sock and now the second sock needs to come off, to keep count of them all...but we love them all!

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Great to see Liz and Don Bretherton (Merimbula-Imlay), in the Museum, recently. They are stalwarts of that organisation and have concentrated on the collection and its welfare. Angela George has been, over many months to do a complete

Don also voiced that they have been a tad disappointed at the visitation over the peak period. This sure is a pity as their small crew of enthusiasts (a common ailment among all voluntarily managed museums), have put many hours in changing and upgrading their showing.

The Lamacrafts had planned to head to their mountain retreat, recently. Access was non-existent in parts of the unsealed road, after the recent rain.

Looking at the photos, anything smaller than D8, would have "mine and buckley's", negotiating the trail.

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Barry and Vivian Hughes are off to the Apple Isle for a couple of weeks to take in the undoubted beauty that abounds. Much will surely remind them of New Zealand.

The Hughes' had a deposit languishing in a travel agents trust account for a considerable period for an international tour of Britain and Russia. Time conspired against them with covid, false starts and Russian leader's belligerence, Tasmania looked a really good option.

Tassie will, I'm sure, be a great second prize!

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The use by date (30th June), for Dine and Discover vouchers, draws nyc. The scheme has been very good for us and certainly helped us to get up off the canvass, readying for the next round.

Keep this in mind and remind your friends that any Discover voucher they may have are usable in the Museum shop.



Our working bees take many forms. The Lighthouse beanie nearly ready to fit

I am keen to have a birthday reminder pra in Soundings, any one who would like to give me theirs. The year not so important.

## NEWS

That light that we have been looking for, in the building tunnel is burning brighter, now. Likewise, much of the residue of the BBRF grant is expected to brighten that tunnel in the very near future.

Signs of completion are it is that the extensions are nearly completed and now that the concrete slab outside the new store and that around the base of the lift shaft, is completed.

Apart from some other minor finishing off, the lift remains yet to happen. We need this last segment to allow us to plan dates for openings etc. One timeline I have read quotes installation by the lift people as 28 days from start to completion. The last tentative date advised, is for an April 4 commencement.

Otis would not have escaped the disruption of the last couple of years, so let's hope that this date is of recent setting and not be subject to further delay. The original date, if I remember correctly was for a late November finish.

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Council's Museum advisor Greg Lissaman visited us recently. It was a Friday afternoon. I was fortunate to be in the building at the time.

Greg has had a wide experience in the "industry". Particularly in the A.C.T. He has a private consultancy with gallery design in his portfolio.

I suggested to him that we ask him to come to address a meeting of the Board to discuss that very subject. He is keen to talk with Angela, who would need to be with us at a meeting.

I will suggest to Angela that she give him a call and we can move forward from there.

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The casters on the two-up, boat cradle failed and scattered plastic tyre fragments over the floor of the Founders'. On obtaining a new set, Rob Whiter duly fitted them.

That display is now ready for its new situation.

The old casters can be re-deployed on in a situation requiring less load capacity and run on the inner disc on which the old tyres were attached,

## OUR Calendar

### March

10th Board meeting 2pm EKWM Library

14th Monday Canberra Day

16th Friends meeting EKWM Theatre

21st Curatorial meeting EKWM Library

### April

Official gallery opening\*

Local residents inspection\*

8th Friday End term 1. NSW

8th End Term 1. A.C.T.

8th End Term 1. Vic

14th Board meeting

18th Curatorial meeting

20th Friends meeting

15th Good Friday

18th Easter Monday

25th Monday. Anzac day

26th ACT & Victoria term 2 commences

27th NSW Term 2 commences

### May

1st entry charges alter

12th Board meeting

14th SEHGI meeting\*

16th Curatorial meeting

18th Friends meeting

\*to be confirmed



To quote Peter Cundall,

"that's your bloomin' lot" for the month".

Cheerssss Jack

