

INSIDE STORIES

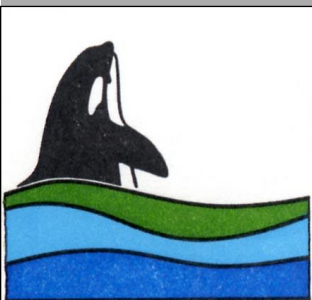
Relaunch of the "Admiral"
Tasmania

Searching the Library
Collection

Discovered in the
collection:
Little Red Book!



A very Merry Christmas
to all.
And best wishes for a
Happy and Healthy 2010



Animals in our museum!

Touring from the Australian War Memorial is "A Diggers Best Friend" A-Z of Animals in War. Staff members from the War Memorial were at the museum to assist with mounting of this impressive exhibition for which Eden Killer Whale Museum is the first venue.

On Sunday 6th December Andrew Gray, the South East Arts Region officer, spoke about curating the initial full exhibition at the War Memorial with first hand knowledge of the work in detail. Barry Beck President of Eden RSL officially opened the exhibition. This touring version is a "cut down" form developed especially for touring and is at EKWM until the end of January 2010. Thanks again to the



friends for their work in assisting with the mount and catering for the opening day. A great attraction for the coming holiday period.

Above: L to R
Jack Dickenson Pres. EKWM,
Andrew Gray S.E.A.R. and
Barry Beck, Pres. Eden RSL

Significance Assessment funded by NLA



Craddock Morton, Director, National Museum of Australia presenting Jody White with the award for Significance Assessment of the EKWM Collection

Following the success of our application to the National Library for Significance Assessment of the Eden Killer Whale Museum's collection, Collection Manager Jody White travelled to Canberra in November to attend preservation workshops on subjects including sound preservation (audio and video content), disaster preparedness, digitisation and storage systems.

Jody has written a comprehensive report on these workshops.

Consultant Shar Jones will be conducting the significance assessment of the EKWM collection.

Relaunch of Australia's oldest commercial vessel ADMIRAL

While in Hobart recently I visited good friends of the Eden Killer Whale Museum, Jan and Bern Cuthbertson. Bern had visited Eden several times in recent past on *Elizabeth* and *Norfolk* replica vessels built to re enact the voyages of discovery by George Bass and Matthew Flinders.

Bern and a band of willing and skilled helpers have restored *Admiral* a very beautiful vessel. She is in fact a window on the past, back to the days when men convicted in England for what today would be classed as petty crime, were transported out of sight and (mostly) out of mind to the most far-flung colony in the British Empire. It is the way in which a small part of these men, the ferry

boatmen (later watermen) of Hobart Town, handled their exile and rose to become important contributors to their new home

Admiral was "found" on Mitchell's Island in the Manning River in 2006 named *Myra*, and after much research (to establish her identity), organisation, work and travel, she was in a disused shed on an apple orchard South of Hobart and restoration was underway.

Three years later she was ready for relaunch on 28th November. After rowing and sailing to Hobart, visiting towns along the way, she arrived at Hobart's Waterman's Dock on Saturday 5th December, at 12 midday with the Governor of

Tasmania aboard.

Bern wrote and published "In the Wake of Matthew Flinders" a journal of those previous projects and voyages, and has recently self published "Small Ships that have Shaped My Life" an autobiography giving a glimpse of a remarkable life on the sea in the waters around Tasmania and beyond. Both well worth the read. Congratulations Bern and crew on another job well done and thanks for providing such precious information for others to share.

More detail on this amazing project can be found at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~admiral/index.html>

Clockwise from top left: ADMIRAL on launch day in August 1865

Relaunch in Huonville 28th November 2009

Sailing from Huonville to Hobart December 2009

Arrival at Waterman's Dock Hobart 5th December 2009 with the Governor of Tasmania on board (note the change of flag to state flag with the governor on board)



Little Red Book Rockets onto Display !!

Examination, investigation and cataloguing are essential in the care and interpretation of objects held in a cultural institution. For those of us in the business of caring for collections, there is nothing new in this opening statement. This week, a simple exhibition changeover revealed just how important this process is.

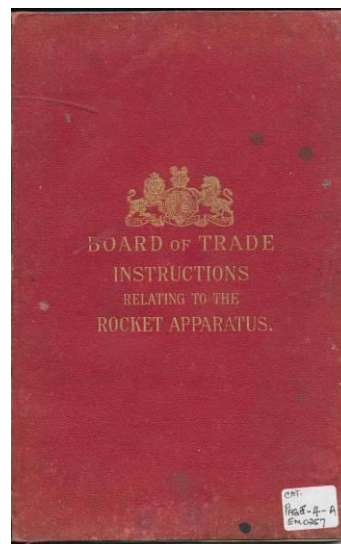
A change in the expectation of gallery usage for travelling exhibitions resulted in a gap in display content. A solution was to relocate part of the exhibition material that would have been stored during this period. It was an easy enough solution. Based on shipwrecks on the far south coast, material relating to lifesaving equipment and particular wrecks was either reproduced or retrieved from the archives.

From previous audits of the collection, I had knowledge of three books relating to rocket lifesaving equipment. All three books contained the same catalogue number with little information on the database. I knew one was quite obviously a treasure, a black rectangular hardcover containing the places, dates and times of drills conducted by the Eden Rocket Brigade, which in more recent years lists members attending the drill. I knew this to be an interesting little historic record containing entries from the 1920s to the 1970s and an obvious choice to show alongside the rocket lifesaving apparatus already on display. The other books were two plain red covered books with simple gold lettering both, on cursory examination, appearing to be instruction manuals. One belied the resplendent and diverse history contained within. On closer inspection in preparation for display, one of the

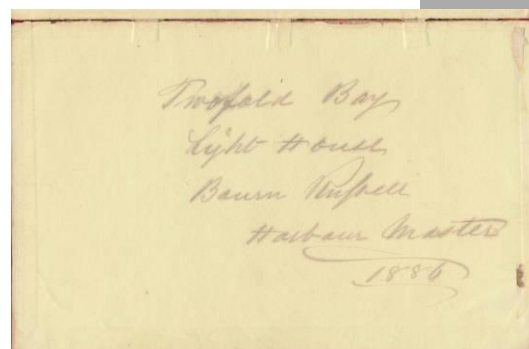
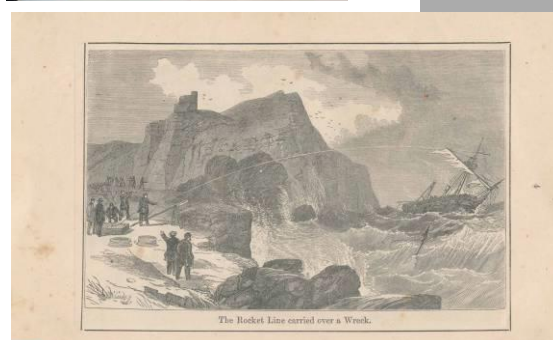
instruction manuals clearly dated it to c1927. The other contained beautifully intricate black and white etched illustrations of the rocket brigade team firing a range of equipment at shipwreck events. From the illustrative style and the printing technique whereby the letters were imprinted deep within the page, I felt this had a great age. The rear inside cover revealed all. Handwritten in ink was the flourishing notation made by Eden's first Harbour Master, dated 1886 (see image). This plain covered book was a key publication for our Harbour Master. Not only an instruction manual on how to erect, light, launch and command the drill squad members, it also contains a list of equipment, alongside which are pencil notations marking the number of items kept and those not in working order at the time. In addition to the local connection (as mentioned previously), the book is also a wonderful example of illustrative and printing techniques of the 1880s. The worn areas where the spine and pages meet reveal bookbinding techniques of the period. It is also obviously a rich resource on the styles of lifesaving equipment, techniques for revival and medicinal remedies prescribed.

This single unassuming item is in no way bedazzling to look at from the outside. The multiple significances such as the connection with Eden's first Harbour Master together with the historic practices of our culture in the late 19th century do however shine brilliantly from each page.

The book is now on display after being catalogued in detail, earmarked as a high priority for professional preservation assessment, and digitised so that

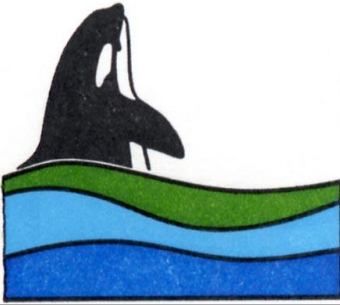


Rocket Apparatus Instruction booklet donated from the Maritime Services Board (unknown date) Notation by Bourn Russell, Harbour Master Twofold Bay 1886 inside the rear cover, shown in picture below.



researchers can access the information contained within. Cataloguing an item is much more than describing and assigning a number. A key part of the process is identifying its links with the local, national and international community through close visual and intellectual interrogation. The book will be on display until May 2010.

Jody White
Collection Manager



Exhibitions.

A Digger's Best Friend:
A to Z of animals in war
5/12/09 to 31/1/2010

School Holidays

NSW
17/12/09 to 26/1/2010
incl.

VIC.
19/12/09 to 31/1/2010
incl.

Cruise Ships in Port

World 27th December '09
Albatros 10th March '10

Library collection on Mosaic and Readily Searchable

After the Friends meeting in November, Collection Manager Jody White demonstrated the search options for the library collection, which has been entered onto Collections Mosaic software on the Museums computer network.

Librarians Aileen and Carole have done a marvellous job, under instruction from Jody, in digitising this massive amount of information and preparing the details

with much care to maximize the results of searches for books, authors or subject matter. Jody has prepared an instruction booklet to be kept on the library table and used by members when searching for a book or subject in the museum's library.

This booklet takes you step by step through the process of the search (right from turning on the computer to turning it back off again). A big thank you to Aileen Carole and Jody for their work in bringing yet

another of our "dreams" into reality.

There were many smiles of glee on Friend's faces when watching how easy this has made the job of searching for books in our library without the librarians needing to be present. I'm sure it will aid the librarians and collection manager also in their task of research at times. A wonderful asset to add to the museum's service to the general public. The wonders of technology well mastered!!

Upgrade in Retail Area

Recent installation of cabinetry in the museum shop has improved the entry space. In keeping with the colours of existing counters, a glass fronted cabinet facility with storage drawers was constructed by Mark Davis, for display of stock or special exhibits.



Birthdays and Anniversaries!!

Some celebrations held during recent times include the 50th wedding anniversary of Jack and Rose Dickenson and the 25th wedding anniversary of Wally and Stephanie Rawlings. Congratulations to both couples and may there be many more happy

years for you to enjoy together. Lee Mulcahy enjoyed the most part of her birthday in the museum with the many visitors we had from the cruise ship Seven Seas Mariner, on 20th November and earlier Jan Freeman, Stevia

Goldworthy and Jack Dickenson all celebrated their birthday on the 17th October. An extra cuppa and cake was enjoyed with Rose Dickenson for her birthday after the exhibition opening on Saturday 5th Dec.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Schedule of meetings

Monthly Business Meeting	7:30pm	2 nd Wednesday each month	Museum Theatre
Curatorial Meeting	1:00pm	1 st Monday each month	Museum Library
Museum Friends Meeting	9:00am	2 rd Wednesday (commence 2008)	Museum Library