

SOUNDINGS

Eden Killer Whale Museum Newsletter

January, 2022

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2022 (AND BEYOND)

So as we move to 2022, I trust you all had a happy time over the break. As far as visitors staying on; so far, so good. The third year might just be on our side.

I'd like to move a vote of thanks to Susie Sarah who has continued with Soundings over quite some years. Out on the road for much of her time. coping with the park and all that goes with that, it was no small feat. The little time she had would, no doubt, be devoted to her favourite pastime, writing for children.

For me, with Soundings, there is a certain amount of déjà-vu, having started the news sheet back in the dream time.

The ability to create and print a format has changed considerably since. Firstly with computer programmes that were simple to the layman like yours truly, then gradually becoming more complex. A Philadelphia lawyer's ticket is needed to navigate around modern programmes.

A common tag, which you don't see now, E.&O.E., was on most documents. I intend to re-introduce it as my "get out of jail card"

Wasn't it only yesterday that we were planning to celebrate our 90th anniversary. just eighteen months away? Plenty of time get a programme together and implement. Well our 91st is just a few short weeks away and as events over whelmed us and everyone else, our cake left unbaked, just a blob of dough, we're heading for our centenary.

I am still keen to see the memorial pavement come about, not only for its obvious sentimental value, but also so we

can rid ourselves of the white stones that we have lived with and cursed for 30 years. I put my hand up as the one who wanted them. As the lawyers say, with the effluxion of time, "I plead the streaker's defence"!

John Logan and Co, prescient as they most certainly were, could not have imagined how far their legacy has developed. Born of the great depression, EKWM has weathered, trials and travails aplenty. World war, bushfire drought and flood not to mention the rise and decline of our basic industries. The result of the work volunteers and in later years, support of loyal staff members contributed, is that professional institution, the envy of many. That a salute to these. just ordinary folk, is quite appropriate.

And of late. Salutation to Board members is certainly appropriate. To borrow from Winston Churchill, "never has so much been done by so few", for such achievement. Keeping this wonderful institution moving in the right direction, under some quite harrowing circumstances, speaks volumes for their determination. "I dips me lid to them"!



The Building Programme

Well the end is within our grasp, but don't get the champers out just yet. It would be great if we could declare *finis* on the 13th February, but I doubt we will quite make it.

Looking back, there were a number of events that conspired to set the Board's collective brain to focus on just where we were headed. What would be required for us to present to the one and all, a professionally managed institution with comforts, appropriate to the 21st century? This, while maintaining vision that remains focussed on the collecting, conserving, preserving, presenting for public pleasure and entertainment, the rich history of our area.

None of our undertakings would be possible were it not for our star from central casting; Old Tom.

And in that role, Tom, once again, needs top billing in the new display.

With the advent of increased cruise ship arrivals. (normal circumstances) increasing the long acknowledged need for more visitor comfort, particularly that of easy access from floor to floor. We have all cringed having to witness people with mobility difficulties and to those with babies making those inter-floor negotiations.

Tackling the issue of providing a lift, was already on the agenda when regular cruise visits put pressure on our facility and became a star that the town was able to hang some future on.

It was about 2015 when the agonising began. We looked at the possibility of retro fitting a passenger lift. There were many difficulties standing in the path of this idea, none the least of which was the possible interference with some structural integrity of the building. To complete the job with a aesthetically pleasing result was also elusive.

We were experiencing bottlenecks of easy access in the Davidson Gallery, not only on cruise

days but also other group visits.

So consideration of the situation resulted in the building addition nearing completion, as I write. It features increased gallery space, on two levels and extra storage on the basement level.

While we set about looking for advice on lifts, air conditioning, climate control, lighting, fire suppression, etc. etc., Brent Dunne's local drafting service drew the plans and other necessary paperwork and submitted them to the authorities for approval.

To have a guide to work to, we engaged a firm of Canberra quantity surveyors, to cost the job for us. On the 25th May, 2017 their Elemental estimate was \$929,012, including GST.

In the event, after adding, changing and agreeing that semi detached lift unit would be the most practical for us, we signed a contract with



Leserbuild for \$1,514,236.63. Site establishment commenced in the first week of May, '22.

Leserbuild assured us that they would employ local tradies exclusively. I believe they have kept that commitment.

For a number of years BVSC have planned and indicated that it would reconstruct Imlay St from the end split section opposite Heritage House, to the wharf precinct. Well after ditching an earlier version of what was intended, which would have been very detrimental to us, they moved forward on the improved plan, now recently completed. This was happening while our programme was getting underway. (continued next edition).

Our People

Angela George

Angela is no stranger to EKWM. She first came to EKWM in the early nineties as a placement for practical experience. She nearing the completion of her uni. studies. While Ange was learning, so were we.

As the year progressed, and we well aware of the need for a professional, it was a happy co-incidence that Angela was also ready to move into the museum world . It was that happy co-incidence that Ange became part of our crew.

After a number of years, Angela moved on to open her own consultancy. She advocated for all local volunteer artefact collecting groups, including EKWM. As well as professional advice, she was regularly called upon, not only by museum groups, but also by many organisations which groups benefited from her grant writing skills.

Welcome back Ange,



New Faces

Welcome to several other folk who have come to join us in recent days. After a period where it seemed that Murphy wasn't far away and that anything that could go wrong, did go wrong; among these travails were the need for new staff to, particularly, see us over the busy holiday period. We were fortunate to have Annette Evelyn and Ben Neville agree to dive into this deep end. Thanks to you both as well as those regul;ars who brought us through, undoubtedly, the toughest holiday period, we and many others have experienced.

As I write, Jessica Sturch has joined us to complement the engine room crew. Welcome aboard Jessica. We wish you a happy stay with us.

Obituary



Sheila Kebby

I regret to advise the passing of long time supporter of our organisation. in the person of Sheila Kebby.

At the shop counter, Sheila's experience showed through immediately, as she welcomed our visitors while ensuring they were aware of what was available to them. Always reliable, she was to serve there for quite a number of years.

Sheila joined in many of our social events,. A regular at celebrations and events, particularly those that we held to promote International Women's Day..

After retirement ,Sheila travelled, mostly on her own, for which I thought she was "right out there".

She was a Justice of the Peace. This service she performed over many years, helping friends and others not known to her, to swear and confirm a variety of documents required by the various bodies.

Sheila lived into her nineties , a determined lady, it's not surprising that she lived in her own home until not long before her passing.

Our thoughts and condolence a with Sheila's family at this time. We will miss her from our gatherings



Carrying out Royal Duties. Sheila as QE2, at Edrom,, receiving the cast in the green room, after the show.

News

The path that was set for us over the past two years does not appear to be straightening at all. Each time we think that this might be the last turn in the maze, another obstacle presents itself. As I write, the tradies are returning to work after the holiday break. However, covid is no respect for anyone and some of our builders are affected. As a result, we can expect a slowdown over the next few weeks. Luckily, we are safe from the weather. Apart from another delay, it won't affect us to any marked degree. As we await the delivery of lift hardware we are able to be comfortable in that the overed area required by the lift company, can easily be met

The collection has continued to grow over the lockdown and its aftermath. A long wish of many of our group, that is to have in the collection, a locally built, wooden fishing boat. It was always a big ask. Such are an endangered species, no less so in Twofold Bay. Slap bang in the middle of this annus horribilis, our cup overflowed. Having been a regular sight on Tf B for longer than most of us have filled our little bit of space on this planet, the Ike Warren built Marurine, was going about its business. And now, it will rest ashore at EKWM. This vessel, together with its builder and subsequent owners, is fairly dripping with history.

Needless to say, we didn't have to be asked twice whether we were interested in taking over ownership of the vessel. It is now resting in a local yard, awaiting our further attention.



Rob Whiter photo

2. Another of our treasures, is the Downton Collection. It received a great boost over the break. John brought three more of his works in to donate and another donor two originals and one print. We thank them for their generosity. As he has done since the year dot, John brought also, another framed original for the Festival Committee to raffle.



21/22 Christmas Card. It is by John Downton OAM, F.B.A.S. F.R.A.S. F.A.S.M.A., chosen from his collection for this latest festive season.

"Getting the Job Done" (Australian Shearing.)

Oil on canvas 91.4 x121.9 cm

OUR Calendar

January

- 13th Board meeting St John's hall 2PM
- 17th Curatorial meeting (cancelled)
- 19th Friends meeting in Museum library...9AM . Enter via Teepee gallery and stairs
- 20th Visit by local member Kristy McBain
- 26th Australia Day. Nothing organised by us
- 31st Start Term 1. Victoria
- 31st Start Term 1. A.C.T

February

- Local residents' gallery visit/s*
- 2nd Start term 1. NSW
- 10th Board Meeting EKWM Library
- 12th SEHGI at Bermagui.. Postponed
- 13th EKWM 91st Anniversary
- 16th Friends meeting
- 15th Curatorial meeting EKWM Library

March

- Official gallery opening*
- 10th Board meeting 2pm EKWM Library
- 12th SEHGI Bermagui*
- 14th Monday Canberra Day
- 16th Friends meeting EKWM Library
- 21st Curatorial meeting EKWM Library

April

- 8th Friday End term 1. NSW
- 8th End Term 1. A.C.T.
- 8th End Term 1. Vic
- 15th Good Friday
- 18th Easter Monday
- 25th Monday. Anzac day

May

* to be confirmed