

Soundings

NEWSLETTER of EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

EST 1931

MAY 2022

It's pretty late in the month. but felt I needed to get some form of a sheet out. Fading energy is the culprit with my time as well as output being expended on other Museum demands. That capacity, I might add is in general, short supply in this household, at the best of times.

I have been battling with this new version of Publisher, which is far more involved than my earlier programme. To intimate that I have now mastered it, would be a huge overstatement. So it's a matter of regular usage to slay this dragon.

The email list I have has also cost me some grief but hope that too, might be starting to behave itself. As a result of this, I am not sure who might have received which of earlier editions so I will try to send them out so

you can sort and retain or despatch as you choose.

The construction side of the building programme could be said to be complete.

There are always small bits and pieces to bring together before the builder vacated the site and that is much of what is happening at the moment.

The lift is in situ and in operating condition. It, among other aspects need to be signed off by Council inspection, and the first such visit was a waste of everyone, who was involved's time. Late to the appointed time, nothing was achieved, so it's back to zero 1 for another try at a later time.

Carpet on the Mezzanine level has been laid and it's looking pretty smickey. The way is now open to look to the fitting out of this gallery. Collection Manager, Angela George has been burning a long candle to get some exhibition in there to get us over the knot pending the

major fit out bound for that area.

For those not familiar with the intentions for the Mezzanine, it is intended that Tom and Beryl be re-sited in that new area. As you can imagine. That will be quite a major undertaking. It may well need be. Suitable to remain as set for some decades, so earnest thought and care needs to be applied.

We had toyed with the idea to borrow a large sum to do the fit out. That decision was taken some months ago and now we have decided otherwise. We considered our cash position, which is quite favourable, the interest outlook, doesn't fill one with joy, the geo-political outlook, and the fact of a financial tie for some years and other committees into the future, we decided otherwise.

Angela is also seeking the services of a professional who is able to be engaged to actually or supervise the movement of the skeleton and maybe a little articulation of the bones. So too, the overall design.

Greg Lissaman is a widely experienced museum professional. He has worked in a number of the big institutions in Sydney and Canberra. Besides being in private consulting, Greg is working for BVSC, taking over the role, recently vacated by Angela. He specialises in gallery design (only). Other trades take over any building work required. So, we are negotiating with Greg to maybe have him design the whaling gallery.

When the whaling area is settled, the now Davidson Gallery will become a visual arts area. We see this, quite apart from an area to exhibit our fine collection of works, as a place where, on arrival, people can find the comfort of the building, use the facilities and sit while either enjoying such works or regrouping with family or friends.

So there is plenty of challenges ahead. Plenty of excitement to enjoy, fulfilment to savour, to satisfy and enjoy.



THE OPEN DAY

The 21st May saw the dawning of a magnificent Autumn day as only those can be experienced in this town of ours. That it was polling day for the Federal; Government and that of the town markets, it was chosen that we might open our doors and invite townsfolk and visitors to come to inspect. On display was a what has been happening here over the past year and an indication where we head .



Clrs Joy Robin and Liz Seckold popped in for a look

The response was most gratifying to those who had been at the coalface, for that period; and more.

The response from our core group of volunteers was equally gratifying with some staying for the whole session. Others stayed on for that time which they had to spare.

About four hundred people answered the call . Comments from the people were very favourable and when they took in the panorama from the widows of the mezzanine floor it took the breathe away from more than one out of towners. Funnily enough, the view from the deck had a similar effect on us regulars. I don't know what it is, maybe the increased size, or the further projection, but it certainly casts a spell on you.

It was more than a tad disappointing that the lift



Log time supporters, Sandra Symonds, Jenny & Peter Phillipps, were impressed with what they saw

hadn't been commissioned in time for the event but, having been without it for 91 years, another few weeks can be handled easily.

What was great was the number of old resies who came to have a look. These were faces we knew. There were undoubtedly many who have come to live among us over the last few years and certainly many from nearby towns.

Angela George did her best to get some display up. Once again, reliables saw to it that the place was clean and tidy and ready for inspection.

Notwithstanding the FOC entry, people responded with purchases and unsolicited donations.



Val & Len Bobbins look at the stock, ready, as always to lend their support

And too, importantly, we had a couple of membership applications and I had one lady well known to us who is interested in the Librarian roll. I hope this one happens. I believe It will be great for more than the obvious. I passed the information on to Angela and we will await developments on this score

So all in all ,the day could certainly be deemed a success. Thanks to all who made it happen

So, our other promotion was to treat residents over ninety years of age, as is EKWM, to a morning tea. The idea is we can record them as being the first of to experience the lift. The friends are happy to do the catering. All we need for the green light to allow to release lift and we can proceed to arrange the time to receive these guests

SEHGI

For the benefit of those who are new to our group. SEHGI represents the SOUTH EAST HISTORY GROUP INCORPORATED. This is an association of representatives from museums and historical societies from across the south east of NSW.

While that is the notional area, the boundaries of which were discussed and discussed, literally, years, and finally agreed to by Museums Australia NSW. Then that same organisation, like many centrally governed bodies, demanded of us all our funds that they would manage them. If we decided to expend any of our money they would dole it out to us. All \$600 of it. So so it was goodbye MA NSW. We also withdrew our individual association membership.



Really, they did precious little for us and other small museums. We morphed into SEHGI

Greg Lissaman gives his presentation. Secretary Jenny takes it all in

So our little regional group held and moved on. We have met each quarter. I don't believe we have, over the forty odd years of sharing our triumphs and low times, its continuity has been more tested than that of the current pandemic.

EKWM has had a special association with the Malacoota society, over decades. With the blessing of the other group members, Malacoota was welcomed into the South east NSW group.

So since August 2019, like all organisations, SEHGI went into recess pending more favourable circumstance. As the danger appeared to lift somewhat, we met for an informal get together at the Candelo park. It was well attended and agreement was met that we set a date to return to regular meetings. Candelo was again chosen for the venue. Peter Clancy was elected President. Secretary Jenny Drenkhahn and Treasurer, Margaret Sheaves, retained their posts. We thank the three office bearers for their continuing efforts.

Stalwart, Judy Winters had prepared an interesting presentation on The Candelo Show Society, while Pat Raymond was to conduct us on an historical tour of Candelo cemetery. The weather thought otherwise. A more bleak day is hard to imagine. While Judy fought a gallant battle

against the wind and cold to get some of her vast knowledge across. Pat abandoned the effort. I look forward to another date, if it can be arranged, with the ladies.

The Bega Meeting

The 14th May, 2022 brought with it a feeling of normality, when on a very pleasant morning, we met at the Pioneers Museum at Bega.

With attendance numbers at about 30, representing Bega, Bemagui, Bombala, Cobargo, Genealogy, Merimbula, Tathra Wharf and Eden. Our contingent numbered 8.

After a considerable amount of catching up was done among members, business was suspended to allow Greg Lissaman to present to the gathering.

Greg is recently appointed Museums Adviser to the Bega Valley Council.

While his address pertained to BVSC, there was much that our Monaro colleagues could trans-



Peter Rogers (Bega), Maurine Piesley (Bombala), Liz & Don Bretherton (Merimbula), David (Bemagui)

pose to their own situation. Certainly there was plenty there to take in, both in administration and the digital

side of the business. The promotional opportunities seem endless and given the personnel with the time great strides could be taken promoting our institutions.

One point stayed with me and that was for us to increase our efforts to have Councillors and staff become more familiar with what we are contributing to the community. But once again its time, as well as effort.

Greg has had a vast experience in the museum "industry". His time for Council over a year, is really quite limiting. We certainly wish him every success. It's a tough gig. A big thanks for his time with us. And to our Bega hosts.

My apologies for the lateness of this Soundings. If we thought that the full on input might ease a tad, well that wasn't to be. I have needed to grab a bit of time when available to complete this edition.

All would be aware of our acquisition of the historic fishing vessel the Maureen . It needed action in its early care under our watch. So, while the maelstrom of business requiring the Board's attention, this matter needed attention without delay.

Cocks' allowed us to leave th boat on Glen Giggins' shared trailer, in their truck yard, so that we might move it from Quarantine Bay. We appreciated their generosity and the obvious and the security benefit, but t was still in a yard, big as it is, with many vehicle movements. Glen had loaned us the trailer in which he had a co-ownership. He would have been happy for us to continue using it. Of course, the inevitable happened with the partner requiring the use of his own vehicle. So it was agreed that we should get Acora Engineering to build a permanent cradle for the old girl. With this accomplished and with Robert Whiter at the helm, arrangements were made with Charles Helmore that Maureen could be stored in his shed at Dar El. It was a marvelous gesture on Charles' part and we thank him accordingly. Knowing the significance of the vessel, Charles would be, as we are, quite excited at the acquisition.

As the construction phas was closing other decisions demanded attention.

With the desire to have an open day for local residents floorcoverings were high on the list. The executive gve it the attention that it gives each matter presented. The choice colour has had favourable comment since being placed in situ. So, tick to the Board. The tiles arrived within seven working days of order. With the date for the public's visit to coincide with the federal polling day, approaching fast, the area was accordingly, covered.

It was disappointing that the lift though complete now weeks ago, had not been signed off by the authorities. Now at the end of May that situation continues.

While investigating means to lessen the light to the gallery where Tom with reside, the ultimate decision to have film attached to the glass has proven quite pleasing. Collection Manager Angela, has taken readings which show quite a reduction in lux reading. Please be aware and advise others, that no chemical or abrasive cleaner is to b used on these windows.

A continuing "running sore" is the quantity of power that is available for us. As we increase the need with the high needs of dehumidification , air conditioning and the lift has us on the brink of what the cables can deliver. This matter has some distance to run before it is overcome. But overcome it will be. Yet another that your Board with will handle with care and caution.

CALENDAR

May.

1st. Entry charges alter
12th. Board meeting
14th. SEHGI meeting
16th. Curatorial meeting
18th. Friends meeting
21st. Open Day

June

9th. Regular monthly Board meeting
13th. Queens Birthday holiday.. Rally, (maybe big weekend)
15th. Friends meeting
20th. Curatorial meeting
21st. Winter solstice
24th. Vic Schools break up
?90 year old's morning tea

July

1st. NSW Schools break up
11th. Vic Schools return
14th. Regular monthly meeting
18th. Curatorial
19th. NSW Schools return
20th. Friends

Dates to be decided.....

Official opening.

AGM.

Re-siting of exhibits



Cheers....

Go safely,

Jack