

Soundings

NEWSLETTER of EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Established 1931

November, 2022

In her own gracious style, Kristy McBain, MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government, and Territories, Member for Eden Monaro, declared the recently completed additions, officially opened. Kristy, an alumnus of the great Eden Marine High School, was generous in her praise of the efforts of the EKWM crew, who brought this major addition to fruition. The Museum will be enhanced by it and continue to be the most visited venue in the Bega Valley Shire..

To open proceedings, Ossie Cruse offered a welcome, not only to country, but a general homily on living together, in peace and harmony.

Mayor, Russell Fitzpatrick, endorsed The Local Member's words, also emphasising the work of the team, especially that of the volunteers.

BVSC Museums Adviser, Greg Lissaman shone the light forward, to indicate a path of EKWM will take to maximise the new gallery space. Greg emphasised this once in a lifetime opportunity to further present our treasured collection of artifacts and visual arts.

In the late 1970's we organised many functions in a programme titled Operation Newhot, (New Home for Old Tom), which, when achieved, set the pattern for the four decades following. It has been one of gradual progress and development, in all aspects of Museum management. We standing now, on the cusp of another era. This one, though, will include the benefits of those decades in the strides that have been achieved in electronic and digital sciences.

We were pleased to welcome Peter Clancy to the podium. Peter is chair of South East History Group, (SEHGI) which is a gathering of NFP historical societies which meet quarterly. Different home venues from Berridale, Bombala, Mallacoota, Eden, Genealogists at Pambula, Merimbula, Bega, Cobargo, Bermagui and Tathra, Wharf, provide the venues. Many of these bodies were present for our opening.

Peter related the progress of EKWM, his personal appreciation of local history. He noted the aspirations of member bodies of SEHGI. He wished EKWM other member groups, god luck on their various journeys.

Rob Whiter, paid a very respectful and fitting tribute to Structural Engineer, Mr. John Moffatt. John has been a quiet supporter of EKWM for several decades. No matter the many other sleep arresting happenings, Board members have had to cope with in the build, no such concern was that in the hands of John, where reliability and skill are ever paramount. Always with a cheery disposition and the wont to tell a yarn, John has advised us and overseen work for us, on many occasions. A Rob noted, ours is by no means the sole interest of his generosity to community, with anonymity always his preference.

State Member, DR Michael Holland was unable to attend. We were pleased to meet Sarah Kerkham, Senior Electorate Officer, who represented Dr Holland, for the occasion.

Talking to Scott Bignall, whose company, Leserbuild, was the successful tender, on joining us for the morning. Scott prefers be have "hands on" than be in the office. The company has a couple of quite big jobs on the go, with that of the one at Short Point and he mentioned would be in work gear. I assured him that there was not to be dress



Kristy McBain, Team photo.

EKWM Soundings Newsletter, November 2022

From P.1

parade and we would like to have with us as we had a agreeable association during the build and a satisfactory culmination. And he made it!

Each of the people who I asked to assist us in the Opening Ceremony, agreed unhesitatingly, notwithstanding several knew their time would be tight for other commitments. I tried to keep the ceremony to an hour, but went a bit over. Doesn't it always?

A special thanks to Steve Mahoney, and Peter Skelton, ever ready to help.

And too, The Twofold Ladies Club for their unbounded loyalty to us and the town. Their skill and competence, shone through in the very tasty morning tea provided. They, too, had another booking on the day.

A final cheer to the fifty or so people who joined us on the morning. Great to see some old faces among them. Sadly, many of the oldies who supported over the years are no longer here to see this latest chapter. No doubt, their spirit remains.

Though not a student of Shakespeare, one can't but imagine the last three years as a giant Witches Brew; in a whale pot.

To finish setting that scene, imagine all the Board members and the handful of loyal volunteers and staff standing around the boiling pot, giant ladles in hand, Macbeth like, chanting, "Double, Double, Toil and Trouble" and trying to get some movement into the brew, With ingredients that included bushfire, highway closures, lockdowns, roadworks, state border closures, an instance of staff disloyalty, cash reserves blinking orange, staff resignations, electricity exploitation. And you can add some etcetera to those. Sweeteners were in short supply.

Some our people had problems on their home front and may well have "chucked the towel in", but they stayed the distance and I applaud them for it!!!!!!

In my little bit at the opening I skimmed over events of earlier and immediate past..

Just maybe, a sigh of relief is the order, or yet a few hip, hip, hoorays, with the culmination of half a decade or more, which arrived on that Friday, 7th October. It came with this official opening.

With a \$640,000 (ex GST) grant, with an equal amount from our own funds (and then some!) to match, we entered the exercise. We became instant students

continuing

Continued →

Learning My ABC

Some couple of years ago, Jen Hunt, of ABC South East, introduced a segment, Object Lesson, featured at about 9.30 Tuesdays, designed to promote local NFP Museums and Historical Societies. The format was that a member from each group, present a background of an item from that collection.

We have It has been around to us about four times. On this most recent EKWM slot, I put my hand up. Don't be backward in having a go. You may think that ten—fifteen minutes is a long time to talk, but really, you are only on air for several minutes.

I chose "doors" as my subject, of which we have about four in the collection, a couple of which we have integrated into building works.

C.M. Angela, turned out information. As it happened, having added another, I still only got to door 2, in the time. The added door was our old original entrance door. I allude to what it had witnessed and the fact that it is now the only remaining part of the original building, save for re-paints, exposed too view.

My other door was Brierlie's Cottage

In my discovery exercise, I realised just what a fascinating bloke he was, more, I think, than that of his boss. I'll put a bit of copy together on Oswald (later Sir) Brierlie for inclusion in next month's Soundings

The other three doors? I'll save them up for another tilt at Object Lesson.

continuing of the vagaries of the commercial construction. Having gained that knowledge, I don't believe any of the directors are anxious to ply their newly acquired skills, in the immediate future.

However, we believe we have complied with all conditions of the grant and consequently, have applied for funds still outstanding.

On receipt of this money we can draw a line under the construction phase and concentrate the collective brain power, on the fit out.



EKWM Soundings Newsletter, November, 2022

Gone With the Wind

Since the sails were erected over the ground level, concrete concourse, in early in 2006, they have weathered the vagaries of nature. In the warmer months, anyway.

Lessons were learned in the early seasons that the wind is wont to loosen the turnbuckles and allow the sail to drop at that point. So it was, that a regime was established. to double-check lock nuts, on re-erection.

Anxious to “get them up” in time for the Official Opening and optimistic in their need on the occasion, the team, lead by Jeff Swane, duly mounted the sheets. Each turnbuckle and shackle, was double checked. Being satisfied that all was well, following the standard check, the crew retired from the task, with a few days to spare.

Well, a blast hit on the Wednesday night bringing not one corner, but every unit back to earth. There were reports of similar out of the ordinary wind damage during this squall.

It staggered those who have been familiar with the sails’ history, to the extent of the loosening. Unfortunately, some tearing did occur on this occasion.

The weather of the 7th, of was as ornery as ever, being overcast and threatening so the sails looking forlorn as they were, were no needed on the day,



It’s always fun getting the (“come along” or (“handy billie”), to see life from your point of view. Jeff and Harald Farinski may well be explaining that to the instrument, at this moment. Could be with words of gentle persuasion!

The oldest Museum in Australia (1827), the Australian, Sydney, is keen to show off its multi-million dollar make over. I understand it is certainly worth a visit, so as I’ve said before , if you are in Sydney, check it out.

But at a glance what seems at first glance ,an oxymoron and **HARD** to believe that comedian Tom Gleeson is featuring the ABC, on Tuesdays, of a walk through . Admittedly, I dozed at about the halfway mark , biut what I saw proved interesting, And there was nary an expletive to be heard.

Every Historic Picture Tells a Story



Quite late in its history, the Heinz cannery at Cattle Bay, switched to gas for its boiler fuel. Prior to that the fuel was briquetts. The earliest, more than probably ,wood.

As can be seen the tank was of quite large capacity, hence the task of the two, quite large, cranes in what was a tight corner for their operation.

This was the last piece of plant to be removed from the site, four years after production ceased.

