

# Soundings

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Established 1931

Newsletter, August, 2022

## TOM TO HAVE EXHIBITION CONCEPT PLAN ?

Collections Manager, Angela George, has been handed a primary document explain the route that Orion Wayfinding, would take to deliver an Exhibition Concept plan, for what I call at this time, the Mezzex gallery. Director, Greg Lissaman has been on site several times, where he, was given an outline of what we require.

It was agreed by the Board some few years ago, even before the building extension plan was launched, that we would seek professional advice on how we would feature Tom and the ancillaries that go with him, to the best extent we can achieve.

Tom is the star attraction bringing the people to our door. Without Tom, the numbers would be abysmal. So, too, the multiplier benefit to Eden, would also knock a big hole in the town's economy. So, without dissent, the Board agreed to put as much resource as we deemed necessary, to show Tom in a manner that befits

A Queanbeyan firm of design and build, visited. Following this, it was agreed that they would return and make a presentation. This transpired after which we engaged them execute a concept design for us. It cost us a lot of our hard-earned but failed to impress.

Now, with the extensions complete and most of the associated physical demands placed on staff and volunteers behind us, the time to get serious about display was on us.

We had resolved that we would borrow a substantial sum to bring about a rapid resolution to our plans. In late 2021, at our request, Bega Valley Shire Council, it would stand as our loan guarantor. This was to enable us to negotiate such a loan. However, what with covid still rampant, interest rates rising rapidly, not to mention the geopolitical upheaval in the world, we prevaricated. As the months of 2022, ticked away, an no improvement in sight, we shelved that idea and decided to proceed as our own funds would allow. Council has been informed of our decision and thanked it for its offer.

Which brings us up to the present.

The way I read Greg's proposition that his work would cover a period of sixteen weeks. If we accept the quote, it would take us to December. So as that time of the year is always lost into the summer torpor, on the one hand as well as consideration the visitor numbers, it would be February before we get out collective heads and bodies around it and bring the actual work to the starting point. So the timing looks .

The brief includes; making recommendations regarding the design with care for space, traffic environment etc.; Choice of artifacts ; presenting current technological opportunities; particular attention to traffic flow, explanation of the visual identity of the exhibition ; provide aesthetic guidelines and visual examples to guide the design, fully making use of digital exhibition components.

The Board will consider the foregoing at the August meeting and will, no doubt, make a decision it considers most appropriate for EKWM.

It's hard not to be excited but we have had that many kicks



Tom is more than just a pretty face. He did his bit for the Beanie/Cancer wig library fund raiser, in 2015

# The Build

You would, undoubtedly, be aware of the two matters that have been bugging the Board, one for eight months; that of electricity/solar systems and the capacity of the cabling in the building to cope, and the other; finalising the accounts for 20/21. Really, to bring it down to tintacks, the cause of both is a combination of incompetence and slovenly application, where we put our trust and "our" money, in people who let us down. Bigtime. Note especially, no person working for us at this time was involved in these matters.

The former of these two problems has challenged the collective minds of the Board, for far too long. But now signs of some resolution might come about, which will allow us to move forward.

With regards the accounts, well, there are some problems there were leftovers from the incompetence list.

I asked Ben to do some research for detail that I thought would help to move this along. This, he carried out swiftly and looked good to me. I have delivered to the auditor, with fingers crossed, that it would move this problem along. As time doesn't stand still, 21/22 accounts are now due for auditing.

Along with those documents I delivered the records of the history of the building contract and associated document. This is a most important requirement of the Government grant agreement which will cause the final payment to be released to us. It is some tens of thousands of dollars, which, with the possible expenditure what is on the Board's August agenda, will be very timely to receive.

Many thanks to Barry Hughes for the compilation of necessary documents required for acquittal of the BBRF grant and to Ben, for those few that needed to be added.

The certificate that allows occupation was one of the "must haves" before the final submission to the grant department handling this offer. The bureaucratic necessities, can make the casual respondent to despair, probably more so if you happen to be that innocent abroad, and a volunteer.

While we were waiting for said document to materialise from Council, notice was received that the NSW Department of Planning had issued such document. After cooling our heels for another few weeks, enquiries resulted that the Department's certificate encompassed the BVC's own and no further documentation, on that matter, was required.

So, as it turned out, the inspection was carried out on the 2nd June, and the certificate issued on the 25th July. Bad luck if you had a business and happened to be waiting on such a brief to get back into making a quid.

# SEHGI

As the early hours of 13th August came around so, too, did the which has become monotonous regularity, soft rain. And when it was still thus, at daybreak, I thought, "I hope Jen Drenkhahn will ring to say that the Bermagui SEHGI meeting was cancelled. However, when this didn't occur, I launched into the logistics of getting us ready, cutting the sargas, ready for the 8.30 start.

Well, it did rain throughout the morning but was much lighter as we headed north. The upshot of my misgivings were soon dispersed by the welcome of the Bermi people and colleagues from other societies. None, more so, those stalwarts and intrepid travellers than those from Bombala.

It was one of the better meetings and also the AGM. Peter Clancy was re-elected to the Chair, as was his executive, Jen Drenkhahn secretary and Margaret Sheaves as Treasurer.

The ordinary meeting was addressed by BVSC's Museum advisor who has been very active in his advocacy for the museum sector. He advised on the proposed way ahead Council has indicated, and is keen to see it implemented.

Personnel from each of the member societies gave a brief report on the progress of their organisation. Like us, the after effects of the covid lockdowns and associated interference is still being felt.

The Old School Museum from Merimbula are presenting their Yarn Bombing promotion on Saturday, 20th August. This exercise, suspended over covid, has, in the past, proven a successful way of promoting what they have to offer. The Merimbula crew has done heaps of work to enhance the collection and display over the intervening months, so regular visitors (as well as first timers) be agreeable surprised in what they see.

So, too, Bermagui have a promotional day at the Goldfields on Sunday, 28th.

More detail would be on their websites. If you are able to support these efforts in any way, please do.

Bega has enjoyed great success in their historic street walks. Most participants are surprised in what they see and hear on the tour. Aspects take on different look, with many remarking familiar features take on a new light there after.

Regular and reliable as is their history, a small contingent from Bombala made the trip down the mountain and out to the coast. It was good to see and catch up with Maureen Peisley and Nancy and keep abreast in what is happening on the Monaro, with Nancy well into research and the newsletter.

## Our most valuable asset *People*

Hearty congratulations to Stephanie Rawlings who chalked up 30 years as part of the EKWM crew, on 12th August.



Receiving Life Membership, 2017

Steph has filled many roles since coming on board but her main interest was downstairs where she has spent many hours preparing exhibition components, then following them through to the galleries for positioning. She and late husband Wal, have served on the Board during that period, with Wal passing away some five years ago.

Between covid and all the other interruptions that we have endured over the past three years, knee replacement has grounded Steph over recent time. She is looking to the warmer weather to be out an about

again

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Anne Buljan celebrated her birthday, at lunch t the Country Club, recently. It was a pleasant function with Anne’s friends wishing her well.

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Heather and Wayne Love are off to Mildura in early September, to join the paddle ship and cruise the mighty Murray. They will join a group of other family members for the week’s tour. I suggest that there will be a mighty fun time ahead.

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There was an item without notice added to the agenda of the August Board meeting. While in session, Chris Bingham received a call that he has been presented with a new granddaughter. Little Harper and Mum ar good as gold. Grandfather will recover

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Jenny Drenkhahn has accepted the position of Secretary of the South East History Group Incorporated. So, too, has Margaret Sheaves continued as Treasurer, joining re-elected President, Peter Clancy for the forthcoming year. Both have served many years in these offices.

In a period when new members are scarce, as well as what appears to be, a reluctance to accept an office, it’s pleasing to see people still willing to “step up”. Our thanks to these members.

A footnote to those observations is the awareness that the tyranny of distance and the topography of the area, to manage SEGHI, is not an easy gig.

Further to Charli Mitchell’s trip to Sydney to further her soccer aspirations, while the team did not claim a ribbon, they acquitted themselves very well.

It’s tough going when the make up team, where most had never played with their team mates, of which Charli was one, being pitted against a sports specialty high school team. It was, certainly, a big ask. However she was philosophical about the trip, it being another chance to play against teams of greater experience. Charli is thankful to be one of the limited number chosen to do so.

It is with regret that I record the passing of Norma MacGregor, sister to Margaret Sheaves. Norma has been a resident of Uniting Care, having moved there following the close of Nullica Lodge.

She had lived in Eden for about twenty years and pitched in with the Friends, on many occasions, in earlier times.... Our thoughts are with Margaret and family at this time. We tender our sincere condolences

Vale Norma



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