

Soundings

NEWSLETTER of EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

December, 2022

Local Member Visits

The 3rd, November saw a flying visit by Member for Bega, Dr Michael Holland and Shadow



Minister for Tourism, David Harris.

Well known in his home base of Moruya and surrounding districts, Dr Holland was elected upon the resignation of Andrew Constance. He is a gynaecologist.

The call was fairly hasty, as the Shadow Minister's trip in the area was a whirlwind. Wishing to cover as many venues he could manage, limited each to thirty minutes. This was quite a tight schedule, particularly in a 'get to know' both, for the first time.

We were equally under the pump. Unfortunately, at the same time, after all the wait and anxiety regarding the 20/21 financial results, the auditor was on Zoom in the time conflict.



However, the two visitors separated which allowed for several of our people to be with each, and others to "time share".

Both were suitably impressed, as most are, particularly on an initial visit. Operations like ours are not common in towns of this size. Indeed, self sufficient public Museums and galleries, are pretty light on the ground anywhere.

Our Financial Reporting Woes

I think we are all somewhat aware that the accounts were left in a parlous state with the departure of incompetent and misleading staff. I don't believe there was any money taken, but it certainly created a tough gig for the Board, among all else that was happening.

So, the auditor has supplied the accounts, and met with Board members by Zoom, to explain and comment. A qualified attachment is supplied in hard copy.

The documents will be presented for members attention at the AGM, before being forwarded to the appropriate statutory bodies.

I'd like to be able to say amen to that, which is the partly possible, but there is a bit to go yet, to clear it off the Board table.

The BBRF GRANT

While it was a well appreciated, it was, indeed, a headache to keep up with bureaucratic necessities to advise of mileposts and the like.

For those not aware we received a \$640,000 grant for the building, a sum of which we were to match equally. This we did. AND THEN SOME. Management of the grant was, but another chore that had to be attended to, among all else that was going on in that torrid period.

And now, though we believe we have completed our obligations of completion, and submitted the last of those requirements some week ago, we have not received the final payment. It is not an insignificant sum.

I have written to the Local Federal Member's office to see if they might be able to chase the money.

An Orca Tale

Talking to a couple the biking cruisers from Seattle. They told me that there is still have 3 pods of "local orcas, with a total number of about 75 beasts. Further, that these are endangered, and as their diet is predominantly salmon, which numbers are diminishing and too, are endangered.

Nature builds the food chain, humans interfere with it!

EKWM Newsletter SOUNDINGS December, 2022

The Lifeboat

The in-tray on the Board table is seemingly like the proverbial barrel of oil and defies any lowering. In this case, as soon as a matter is dealt with, another brings the demand for attention, back up.



This time the focus is on the lifeboat which comes into play, with the in-principle decisions taken on the new siting of Old Tom. It will need to be re-sited.

The boat officially became a feature on 4th November, 1995, when

Valerie Bobbins, poured champagne on it in a symbolic reference to a true launch.

It was that attached to the tug, *Iron Cove*, which vessel had, among other locations, worked in Port Jackson at a time when the harbour was a full-on commercial shipping centre.

Following a semi retirement role with Eden company, Charter Craft Marine Services, she was scuttled to create a reef. The life boat found its way to the local Sea Scouts' troop. Ideas here didn't work out.

At its last port of call, EKWM, it was taken under the wing of Hector Davidson, Val's Dad, who brought it back to exhibition life, The "launch" was to celebrate its restoration, its arrival and to thank Hector, accordingly.

Photos show Val administering the bubbly Late Hector Davidson, Val & Len Bobbins, Robert Whiter



The Wedding

All good Soaps have their weddings. So it was, that we at EKWM, had ours. The couple did not "tie the 'knot'", legally there, (though actually they were so), they just played their respective roles, as pros., in the best exhibition launch promotion, before or since. It was circa 1994 and we were very excited to be receiving an exhibition, on loan, from the Lilydale museum. This Museum was established in the home of Dame Nellie Melba to honour that great Australian. If you should wish to see that museum, I don't think there is regular hours. Contact the Lilydale historical Society for details.

The lady who curated and mounted it, M/s McFadyen (if my memory is intact), was coming to Eden to officially open our showing in the recently completed, gallery. The theme of the display was to highlight what a "Glory Box" aka "Hope Chest" meant to young women, in days past. Styled "A Chest Full of Hopes and Dreams", we added our own segments, to give it local significance. The "bride" had been met at the wharf in a horse drawn dray after having migrated to Eden. The couple were married at this site near the Chandos/Imlay Streets intersection. They and a good crowd then repaired to St Joseph's



School weather shed for a "wedding breakfast", prepared by the Lioness ladies, with a good many from the community, joining in. The official opening took place later in the day. The public loved it and we had a lot of fun.

From the left, Peter McCamish, Simone Lavis, Joe Godferey, Samantha Godferey, Gail McCluskey, Alma Allen.

Joy Giggins, who supplied the horse and dray, is just out of shot. Gail made most of the period frocks.

EKWM Newsletter SOUNDINGS December, 2022

The Amazing Oswald Brierly

So entwined with early European history of Twofold Bay and indeed, Australia, it's an injustice to the memory of Sir Oswald Walters Brierly, that his contribution to mid nineteenth century period is not highlighted more. He made and left a wonderful, contemporary collection of art and documentation.

The collection grows in significance as the long overdue recognition and reconciliation of community is more widely discussed.

My memory was sparked on Brierly when considering other aspects that might be considered during our galleries makeover. As such, I have suggested that a joint project be discussed with the Keeping Place at Jigamy, the Bombala-Delegate groups and ourselves, this being an area common to all and to Brierly and his indigenous guides.

In the early part of this century, local author, Mark McKenna honoured us with the local launch of his book, "Looking For Blackfellas' Point". Highly regarded, the book brought him the 2003 Premier's Book of the year, the Douglas Stewart prize for Best Non-fiction in that same year and the Australian Cultural Studies Award, 2002.

While I seldom picked the book up over the intervening years, it had left its mark on me in away that is hard to explain. Just a few years ago BVSC, were place naming around Twofold Bay, the latent memory from the book, caused me to write to that body to urge it to refer to Mark's book on naming a point. I was most pleased when that suggestion was adopted and the point so named.

And so it was that I went back to again, when thinking of Oswald Brierly.

In compiling the book, Mark spent countless hours at the State Library of NSW, researching the extensive journals and papers of Brierly.... I'd like to have been looking over his shoulder!

Growing up in the 40's in Sydney, I was well aware of Ben Boyd's existence, but not until I came to the south east, did I hear of the Imlays and not until I lived in Eden, did I hear of Oswald Brierly. And again, not until I read Mark McKenna's book, did I hear of Budginbro and Toby.

Maybe a little notoriety gets attention.

Really, all played important parts in mid-nineteenth century, European settlement of the area.

O.W.B shines admirably through, at this time. Wealth, wasn't his primary driver. Adventure was.

He met Boyd at the age of twenty and stepped ashore of Twofold Bay four years later, as Boyd's manager, after having been at sea for twelve months. He stayed for 7 years at Twofold Bay.

Poverty doesn't seem to have a hand in his decision to roam, with his father, a doctor, being in a good station of life.

It is mostly from Mark's Book with a little from Wikipedia. that I this retell a little sketch of Oswald.

He was talented in many ways. His art and notes on our area, is arguably the most prolific to be compiled in mid nineteenth century.

"After a general grounding in art, at the academy of Henry Sass in Bloomsbury, he went to Plymouth to study naval architecture and rigging. He exhibited drawings of two men-of-war at Plymouth, *Pique* and *Gorgon*, at the Royal Academy in 1839. He then spent some time in the study of navigation, and in 1841 started the voyage to Australia with his friend. Benjamin Boyd in the latter's yacht, *Wanderer*".

Mark McKenna tells that Brierly was soon become aware indigenous people's intelligence and their ability to hunt, gather and generally provide using their knowledge of the movements of the seasons.

Boyd built his rather youthful manager, a house known as Merton Cottage. It is believed to have been

demolished when John Logan was building Edrom, close by. Local lore is that the front door of Edrom, was that of Merton. What we do know is that an actual, door and frame was in our collection. In the build of the early eighties, we decided to fix this door, made without metal fastenings, in the new extensions. It is that through which you pass, to the staff amenities.

"The third period of the artist's career, during which he received the constant patronage of the royal family. In 1863. accompanied Count Gleichen on the *HMS Racoon*, then again on the *HMS Galetea* and many roamings of the Mediterranean. On all his journeys he sketched his surroundings, which were exhibited back home.

In 1880 he was elected a full member of the Royal Watercolour Society. In 1881 he was appointed curator of the Painted Hall at Greenwich.

Oswald Brierly was knighted in 1885 and died in London on 14 December, 1894, after what was, indeed, a full life. ³



EKWM Newsletter SOUNDINGS December, 2022



Rosalie Dickenson celebrates on the 6th. She is more than happy with the gift has already been received. And a wonderful gift it was Our latest (no.16) nine week old. great grandson, from Nathalia, came to meet her. Joy is no greater than new life.

We are losing Shiralee Hjorth, who is moving on to other challenges. We will miss her happy presentation. Every good wish goes with her, so too, for success in the new venture and particularly, continuing good health.

The ISN Company has a huge place in in the history of the coast, south of Sydney for a period of close to a century up to the nineteen fifties. Its vessels were the virtual life blood to every navigable township in that run.

Certainly, while the ranks of those with memories of this coastal shipping are thinning, the written history will endure

Emphasising the need to share the knowledge of the Company, with those who have come after, our Collection Manager, Angela George, has acted. She applied for , and received, grant money to curate and tour an exhibition to do just that.

The exhibition will be offered to coastal societies or other interested bodies , that they may show it . With the addition of any artefacts from their own collection .

It will debut at EKWM, on the 15th December

Though welcomed and supported by EKWM, this is dolely Angela's production.

OUR CALENDAR

December 2022

2nd Friday Coral Adventure* 120 pax 140 crew
 4th Sunday Pacific Adventure* 2,600 pax 1,100 crew
 8th Thu. Regular monthly Board meeting
 9th Board Meet w/-Greg Lissaman 2 Pm library
 15th ISN Exhibition opening
 16th Friday Caledonian Sky* 110 pax 75 crew
 16th Fri. NSW ACT School hols commence
 17th Saturday Le La Perouse* 264 pax 112 crew
 19th Monday Curatorial meeting
 20th Vic School hols Commence
 21st Wed. Friends meeting theatrette 9AM TBC**
 23rd Friday Norwegian Spirit* 2018 pax 912 crew
 25th Christmas Day Museum closed
 26th Boxing Day
 28th Commence summer extended hours
 30th Friday Azmara Quest* 686 pax 408 crew

January 2023

1st Sunday, New year's Day
 5th Thursday, Seabourn Odyssey 450 pax 335 crew
 8th Sunday, Azmara Quest 686 pax 408 crew
 14th Saturday, Norwegian Spirit 2018 pax 912 crew
 15th Sunday, end longer trading hours
 22nd Sunday, Silver Whisper 388 pax 302 crew
 26th Thursday, Australia Day

Dates to be decided.....

*AGM.

*Check ship arrivals when dates are close. Schedule correct as 3rd October, 2022.

This is the last edition for 2022. I trust you have found a little value in Soundings, over the year
 Seasons greetings to all. May you stay safe and well.



Brierly.. The bi-centenary of the following event is in a couple of weeks. Maybe worth a minute or so contemplation?
M. McK. " On New Year's Day, 1843, Brierly crept out of his tent 'in the grey of the morning' and sketched the 'sylvan' scene round him. 'long shadows around the smoky embers, Toby fast asleep—rising sun gradually lighting up mountains —throwing long shadows —tufts of grass —black mother earth.....His words 'black mother earth' suggested more than Brierly might have realised when he wrote them. Although he had come to view Ben Boyd's stations, as each day passed on his journey from the coast to the Monaro plains, his understanding of the land to Aboriginal culture, deepened. When the party camped at 'Murderer's Range', near Bombala, named in memory of a white stockman who had been killed by local Aborigines, Brierly was overcome by the 'haunting' atmosphere of the place — 'the mourning of the wind' and the 'mysterious sounds of the lone spot'.