

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Est 1931

SOUNDINGS

NEWSLETTER January, 2023

ISCSN Co AGAIN ANCHORING in TWOFOLD BAY

After 70 years, the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company has returned to Twofold Bay. No, not actually. But in the form of a remembrance exhibition at EKWM.

With any living memory of the coastal shipping service almost gone, it was fitting that some form of homage be paid to the ISNCo for what was the lifeline of the coast south of Sydney for decades. Much of the hinterlands, too, relied on the service. It was indeed the life line, long before trafficable roads, crossable water courses and mountain cuttings were available to carry the yet to be reliable motor vehicle.

People, produce, poultry and of course pigs, were regular cargo. The latter item was the subject of many bush yarns (much of it true) and with the wonderful hisses and whistles, not to mention the smells around steam (and pigs?), little wonder it became known as the Pig and Whistles line.

The incoming cargo and passengers were just as eagerly awaited the ship's arrivals

The complement of cargo was anything but incomplete. In August 1937 and according to his wish, the body of our founding committee President, John Ronaldson Logan, was taken on board the ISCSN Co's



Andrew Gray with the nominal pig, which, yes, had a whistle. Eat your heart out, Miss Piggy!
(RBW photo)

steamer, Cobargo, which steamed out of Twofold Bay to just over the continental shelf for burial.

The newspaper of the day covered the journey thus, "On the night of Friday 20th, the body, embalmed and encased in a sealed casket, was brought to Eden and in the presence of a assemblage of returned soldiers was put aboard the SS Cobargo which, under the command of Captain O'Connor, after leaving the harbour before dawn on Saturday morning, steamed due east to a distance of about 20 miles from Eden. There, when the selected position had been reached, the burial service was read by the ship's second officer, Mr W Nicholson, and with formalities appropriate to the occasion, the body was committed to the mighty deep."

About forty people attended our opening including local Arts Officer Andrew Gray, Chair of South East Arts, Clr. Helen, Clr. Joy Robin, SEHGI President Peter Clancy, representatives Liz & Don Bretherton from Merimbula Allan & Wendy Douch Of Bermagui

Fittingly, our own Annette Evelyn and Robert Whiter performed the opening honours. Each recalled a story of the grand-rely who had worked for the old company.

Congratulations to Angela George in her recognising the importance of the subject and bringing the exhibition into being. It is able to be shown in even small venues, to whom it has been offered along the length of the south coast.

A big thanks to Stephanie Rawlings, Rob Whiter, Jeff Swane and others who assisted to set Pigs and Whistles in its launch venue, at EKWM.

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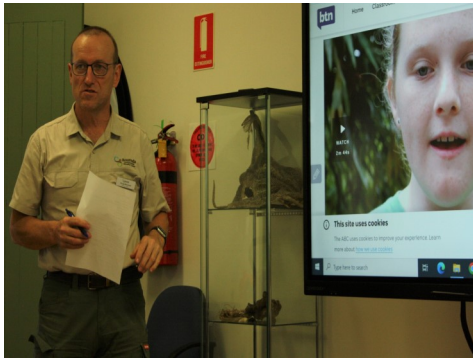
SEHGI

The November quarterly meeting was arranged by the Merimbula group. Though the attendance wasn't as large as usual, those who attended had an interesting day.

Held at the Bournda reserve, the story of the founding and on-going management of this facility, which operates under the auspices of the Education Department was told.

Manager Doug Reckord gave over his Saturday to explain the workings of the reserve with its educational benefit as well as a fun place for

kids. Though his having been many years in the job, his enthusiasm came to the fore, telling of the buildings, the facilities and their use. Until 1976 as the former Jellat public school where blackboards and chalk told the stories, to the sophisticated electronic whiteboard that he now uses to good effect. Some of the least able stopped back and yarned, while quite a number did the walk to Scotts hut, built in 1890 which is actually in the surrounding National Park.



Doug Reckord



Doug also gave a run down on the Bournda Bird Olympics which was of particular interest to Rob Whiter who had been involved in the rero event, also. This, too, has been one of Merimbula's favourites particularly the bird callers of yesteryear.

I need to give a shout out to the Merimbula Group members who organised the interesting day. Special mention to Liz and Don Bretherton, though unable to attend, prepared a literal smorgasbord of great finger food for us to enjoy in their absence.

Busy Times

Trading over the holiday period has been really busy. Records have been broken. And broken again.

With the clients arriving in droves, under constant pressure, the ladies at the "front gate" have done an excellent job in satisfying needs of our visitors.



A special salute

Annette and another satisfied customer

to the guides. Christmas is a time when family is most paramount and the desire to visit friends at its highest. These volunteers turned out, nonetheless, to present the best possible experience for people from all over. So a huge vote thanks to them all for a job well done.

Have you ever thought that you'd like to have a go at guiding? A little hesitant? May be a little self-conscious? May consider that you do not have enough knowledge of the Museum or the local area?

Well, don't let any doubts concern you. Everyone started with limited information resource. Gathering it as they went, soon became proficient.

A good way to start is to spend a time with a guide to see if it is for you. Any of the guides would be only too happy to have you along. Talk to one if you know one or leave your contacts with the office.

A cheery disposition and a welcoming smile overcomes all other perceived disadvantages.

While the visitors have been spending well here, we hope this has been so, over the whole area. The weather has been mainly fine but only a couple of days bright and clear. We've nearly come to expect it this cloudy weather, it having been the pattern for many months now.

