EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

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.



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

The incoming cargo (RBW photo and passengers were just as egerly 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

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 ithas 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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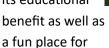
SEHGI

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





Doug Reckord

kids. Though his having been many years in the job, his enthusiasm came to the fore, telling of the buildings, the facities and their use. Until 19 76 asthe 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 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 spe-

Annette and another satisfied customer cial salute

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.

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And so it is that we farewell 22 and welcome 23. There is plenty written on how tough it has been. Any amount of articles can be found. Easily!

In our own way we have had some hurdles but they pale to insignificance with others. Need convincing? Just peek over shoulder. We are fortunate that we are in this town and we are, where we are.

Let's pull some good bits out of the year. To think this bunch of non-professionals brought to conclusion a successful \$1.2m building programme for which had put to tender. At that finish were in a tidy state of liquidity. It would not be generall known but the expenses of consultants fees applications, site plans and engineering drawings, solar upgrades, passenger lift, fire-deck canopy, emergency exit upgrade, etc etc. The gasp becomes louder as the total approaches the two million mark.

And so to 23. We can look forward to the day to day running being brighter with the fruits of our collective labour, much more to the fore.

Collection wise the icing for its cake arrived with the coming true a long time dream. And it materialised with the acquiring of an Eden fishing vessel, timber constructed, which not only plied its trade in Twofold Bay but being greedy, our preference was for it to having been constructed ashore the Bay. With our space resource limited, the dimensions our hoped for craft was accordingly limited. We cracked the jackpot in the Maureen on all counts.

And so the Maurine is high on the 2023 work list. So too, the lifeboat needs to be accommodated.

The plan at this stage is to build a showcase shed in the grounds to follow the contour of the MacKenzie wall while maintainin a wheelchair friendly access-way pound to eventually provide a comfortable close up of the marker budy.

It is envisaged that stone retaining wall will be a feature of the landscaping.

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There is no bigger challenge for '23 than the setting up of Tom, the whaling exhibition in the mezzanine gallery and the re–purposing of the Davidson Gallery.

A successful grant application has provided the opportunity to have the skeleton receive any conservation and articulation thought appropriate. February is fast approaching and work for which grant money has been received, will be undertaken, for the grant to be a



The work was recommended as necessary after a professional the assessment undertaken a short time ago.

Aligned with this is the desire to move the skeleton to where it is planned to be displayed, into the future.

It will be somewhat disruptive but this will be kept to minimum. This undertaking, itself, promises to be somewhat instructive to any visitors present during the time.

Th Board has been concerned that the hole in the bitumen, in the access from Albert Terrace, is becoming more hazardous.

Like all potholes on such a surface, we have patched it often, over many years. With that in mind, quotes were sought to concrete the area. On the grade that it is, concrete was considered the more appropriate material to use.

In tandem with latter project, the white stones will disappear from the entrance area and will be replaced by a solid surface material. Using stones was a bit like the streakers defence; "It seemed like a good idea at the time".

And yet another project we have in the offing is a makeover of the toilet block, with particular emphasis on the disabled / change table, area.

When we installed the disabled toilet some thirty years ago, we were in the vanguard of providing that particular facility. Time has moved on. Our aim is to have hands free egress for the men's and the ladies' and an electronic action door on the disabled. There are other minor repais to be carried out. With a lick of paint, the toileting comfort of our visitors will be enhanced.

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About People

Our condolences are with the Bingham family with the recent passing of Chris' sister.

As we all know Chris has been very much caring for Tina over many recent months, while still fitting time in for

EKWM. We thank him sincerely for his efforts during the time, while answering the higher call of sister's needs.



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Welcome to Maree Miller, who has joined us over the past couple of weeks. Maree will need no introduction to most, she having lived in Eden all her life and with. Best wishes Maree, trust your time with us is enjoyable.

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Kerrie Wilson is heading to the gift fair in Sydney, towards the end of February. In December, we thought we would graban early bird plane ticket, Alas, this wasn't to be. Kerrie will travel overland to the harbour city. Accommodation was tight as well, but she manged to get digs at Edgecliff. The World Gay Pride is happening at that same time, hence the shortage of facilities.

Once again SEHGI meeting is just around the corner. This time Bombala will host the quarterly, on 11th February. New members are particularly invited to attend these meetings. They provide an opportunity to meet like minded people, network and see what other groups are doing.

The format is, roughly, meeting (doesn't usually last too long) and a tour to some historic or contemporary point of interest.

Unless otherwise advised, BYO lunch. Morning tea is provided by the host as is tea and coffee for lunch.

We car pool (or not). Usual time at venue is 10 AM

The Calendar

<u>January</u>

1st Sunday, New year's Day

1st Celebrity Eclipse 2,850/1271

2nd Vic Additional holiday

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

February

27th Start School NSW 7 Vic

5TH Sunday Azamara 686/408
6th Monday Seabourn Odyssey 450/335
7th Tuesday Norwegian Spirit 2018/912
9th Thursday Norwegian Spirit 2018/912
11th SEHGI Bombala
15th Wednesday Viking Neptune 930/465

March

13 Labour Day, Vic

Have a safe and healthy new year





Thought for '23 Olivia Muscat is a blind writer, performer, critic and educator. This is a snippet of a wonderful, long article she wrote for The Saturday Paper, recently. "Every day starts for me, like most people, by scrolling through scial media. Usually that involves sending Pride and Prejudice memes to my sister, but it also involves hearing from disabled friends and community members about instances of discrimination and abuse they've faced. Not in the past—this is not a reminiscence. This is happening. Disabled people are actively being denied basic rights, denied transport, denied choice, denied control, discipline —making and even basic care and amenities. Disabled people are being killed. These things are happening now, in 2022. These things are happening today, on the International Day of People with Disability. "... This paragraph alone, is quite some indictment on our community!