

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Home of Old Tom - Est. 1931

SOUNDINGS

NEWSLETTER February, 2023

If you have ever been in the position to supply a regular epistle such as this, you'd know well that the deadlines come around in seemingly no-time, with demanding regularity. Just like a car payment.

While mine is self inflicted, it pales to insignificance to that of five decades ago, likewise self inflicted. That experience was to supply a column to the weekly edition of the Bombala Times, to document the doings of a very active Apex Club.

Hand written and likewise delivered to the Times office, where it would be received by the Johnson family, typed and passed on to Arthur Jones, who would produce the lead slug which would be used in the printing process. Nobody needs to get up from their chair today from the scribing to feed the printer, or anything else. Sounds good, but the passing of that old technology has contributed to the demise of the local paper. That loss has, in no small measure, taken with it very much of the soul of country towns.

The season has certainly been a cracker. In our own small domain, even allowing for relativities, no earlier period has come near it. There was a noticeable, early influx before Christmas. It has been said earlier holiday starts of the Victorian private schools, contributed to this. The crowds continued to build as is the norm. Usually at the end of the second full week of January, the really big exodus happens with a smaller group coming

in. That group too, appears to be larger this year. The weather pattern has not been very generous for the beach goers, which is disappointing for them but in turn would have had a favourable effect on us.



For planning purposes, there are so many variables from this year that looking at it for guidance will be more difficult than ever.

Was the extra visitation pent up eagerness to getaway post-covid? Was the savings that built over the lockdown there for the spending? Did the city find the country? Was it the price gouging by the airlines, even though international bookings skyrocketed in December? Did the savings morph into 4 wheel drives which in turn had to be tried out in the bush? There is plenty of head scratching there, in preparing for season 23-24. By that time, at least, we should be sorted out remaining issues in our building, which will create much better people flows.

A big shout out is due to the ladies in the front line who welcomed our guests. Never underestimate that first impression. Cheers too, to the guides who told the stories and answered the queries, around the galleries. These people can be the difference of the memorable visit and a reason to talk about EKWM, or leave with an indifferent a good impression. Thanks to you all.

TREASURERS REPORT 2021

The Covid pandemic continued to affect the Museum again this Financial Year.

In July the Victorian Government closed the border with NSW and we then had to remain closed until November 2020.

During this time, through the Government's Job Keeper Grants, we were able to keep on 2 permanent staff and 2 casual staff on very restricted hours. The rest of staff had to be stood down but were able to get some relief independently through Jobkeeper.

A very trying time for everyone.

For the full year there were no cruise ship visits to Eden and only about 15 coach tours came. This alone deprived us of many potential visitors.

In October the Museum was hit by lightning causing \$35,192 damage, fortunately covered by Insurance. It took us well into December before all was rectified.

In October four building companies were invited to quote for our long awaited building extensions and by 21/12/20 all quotes were in. In February 2021 the job was awarded to LesserBuild of Bega and the contract signed in March. The building commenced May 2021.

The extensions were financed by a Federal Government Grant (the Building Better Regions Fund) of \$640,000 matched \$ for \$ by the Museum.

Under the circumstances, despite the scourge of Covid and the upheaval with construction the Museum has had quite a good year.

We had 44,967 admissions (compared to our best year before the fires and Covid 2018/19 (52,535 people).

Admission charges remain at \$12 adult and \$3 children and schools within the shire children are free.

The Financial Report 2021 shows admission charges of \$357,734, trading income of \$284,925 and a net profit of \$229,109.

It also shows that we received \$103,200 in Jobkeeper grants and a NSW Govt Bushfire Rel Grant of \$23,000.

A bonus for us was that the NSW Govt issued Dine and Discover vouchers worth \$25 each and available to families who could apply for up to 4. This was an attempt to stimulate the economy and many were redeemed with us.

We are indeed fortunate to have a wonderful band of people in retail who always seem to be happy and most welcoming and helpful to customers. As can be seen in the Financial Report is a very valuable part of the Museum, we thank them for their dedication.

In November 2020 Shiralee Hjorth joined the team and in January Denise Switzer retired

Soundings February 2023

Aside from cleaning that up, she has a major job on her hands redesigning exhibits and layouts to suit the new building.

We thank her for her efforts and dedication.

On 3/6/21 the Executive met with the Business Manager regarding office procedure. Grah Stubbs resigned that afternoon.

On 10/6/21 Office Assistant Julie Williams was invited to take on office responsibilities until replacement for Graham could be found.

We thank Julie for the effort she put in, not only because there are normally two in the office but it was also the end of the Financial Year, the accounts for the new build were coming in and dealing with the administrators of the BBRF.

Treasurer Barry Hughes resigned from that position on 16/7/20 and I was drafted in to replace him. With his accounting background he was a great Treasurer and thankfully he stayed on a member and is a wonderful help to Julie.

In February 2021 Richard Lamacraft resigned from the Board after making a valuable contribution over his time. He has a very analytical mind and being a practical man stayed a member and is a great help to Jody.

As can be seen by the financials the Museum is profitable, has current assets exceeding current liabilities and is therefore not trading while insolvent, generated more cash than it spent and has met all of its statutory obligations including taxation, employee payments and their superannuation.

In conclusion I would like to thank members of the Board of Management and staff who have assisted me through the year.

Jeff Swane

Treasurer

FRESH AIR

The Board has been most conscious and quite concerned as to the quality of the air in the upper galleries, particularly. This worry has been with us over the Covid period, which circumstance required more than usual the need to exchange the atmosphere regularly. We did implement some band aid solutions while making enquiries from different sources, regarding what action we should adopt.

It was hoped that we might have in place something to be considered permanent, before the warmer months arrived. Having agreed that a reverse cycle series, would control air movement and temperature comfort in tandem, we sought and accepted a quote, with high hopes that our summer time frame would be met. And it looked promising until delivery delays, wharf holdups and the like, ran us into our busiest weeks and the supplier's time out period, the job of installing commenced in the last week of January. It was somewhat of a gift that temperate-wise, the summer has been quite mild.

The supplier, having organised the supporting trades, showed a great example of efficiency in the installation. Switch on is due on the 1st of February.

Soundings February 2023

About People

Sadly, yet another of our people are grieving a loved one. Heather Love has lost a much loved sister after she having suffered, considerably, over her final weeks of life. Our thoughts are very much with Heather and the family at this time.



BIRTHDAYS

3rd Jan Allan

17th Marie Miller

24th Kerrie Wilson

Happy birthday from us all, ladies. Birthdays are always special. Extra cheer to Jan who will enjoy one of the special, special ones, this year.

SEHGI

Just a reminder that the SEHGI quarterly gathering is at Bombala on Saturday, 11th. It will be at the Court House at 10AM. We usually car pool if that is your wish. If it is your first time at that venue, the Court House is "over the river" on the corner of High and Dickenson Sts. Arrive in time for a cuppa before the proceedings commence.

The guest speaker is Bronwyn Wright, whose late father sculpted, among other works, the Eden Timber Memorial figures. The Wright family has other connections with our town. Should be good.

Give Jenny a call if you want more detail.

From Russ Tyson

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the most qualified in the room.
Sometime that you think that your going
Would leave an un fillable hole,

Just follow this simple instruction
And see how it humbles your soul.
Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to your wrist
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is a measure of how you'll be missed....
You can splash all you like when you enter
You can stir up the water galore. But Stop!

You'll find in a minute
That it looks just the same as before!
Now the moral of this quaint example
Is to do the best that you can
Be proud of yourself—yes
But remember....
There's no indispensable man...



The Calendar

February

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

1st Wednesday, Celebrity Eclipse 2,850 / 1,271

3rd Friday, Norwegian Spirit 2,018 / 912

4th—11th Eden Amateur fishing Club Competition

5th Sunday, Norwegian Spirit 2,018 / 912

7th Tuesday, Pacific adventure 2,600 /1100

8th Wednesday, Seabourn Odyssey 450/335

13th Monday, Victorian Labour Day

17th Friday St Patrick's Day

19th Sunday, Pacific Adventure 2.600 / 1,100

20th Monday, Seaborn Odyssey 450 / 335

27th Monday, Norwegian Spirit 2,018 / 912

30th Grand Princess 3,100 / 1,100

April

7th Good Friday

23rd Majestic Princess 3560 / 1346

Cheers Jack