

Soundings

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Established 1931

Newsletter, October, 2023

TWO WELL EARNED RETIREMENTS

Retiring from their administrative posts after over half a century of sterling service between them, Margaret Sheaves and Leone Fairweather have called it a day on from management offices they held. but will continue to give support where time and circumstance permit.

The "Friends" Sub-Committee, largely unsung as it maybe, has given untold support to EKWM over the years.

Taking a lead from the late Aileen Bowles, Margaret took the Chair of the Friends and dedicated herself to the task.

She was a one person recruitment committee who had the knack of, not only bringing ladies (and the occasional bloke), into the EKWM family but also to the several other groups to which she belonged.

So as the Friends continued to develop, it was, at times, difficult to see where one group finished and another started. The same faces were common in the Eden Singers, View, Book Club, Gentle Exercise, Warren's Walk Regeneration are some that come readily to mind. It wasn't uncommon for people from these and other organisations to become an homogenous group for outings and support for the variety of town activities.

International Women's Day breakfast under the sails, was one of Margaret's "must do's" and Australia Day was not to be passed unheralded. She was elected to the Board over many years.

Then along came events that shook Eden and the eastern states, not least to us on the south-eastern corner of the continent. We were thrust into a period of concern and disruption with the onset of bushfires, the severity of which surpassed any other since settlement. The smoke had barely lifted when we joined the rest of the world to suffer the scourge that was the Covid pandemic.

Leone Fairweather, who had served the Museum in many roles took the reins of the Friends group, of which she had been an active participant for many years.

Retiring after 35 years teaching at Eden

public school, EKWM joined the pursuits that she had launched herself into including her church and bible reading group, Eden easy walking group and local choir to name but few. She made sure to keep time to visit former colleagues and friends, most of whom were house bound, which were greatly appreciated by these folk and no less so by Leone.

Leone was Chair of the Friends and a Board member with a number of year's service, at the time of her retirement. She enjoyed oral history gathering, and guiding, not surprisingly none more so than school groups



Leone enjoying a Museum function



Margret

In her element in fancy dress

The Friends Go To The Races (circa 2000)

Radio 2EC conducted a period fancy dress promotion at a Kalaru race meeting. The prize was a \$3000 advertising package. Never being guilty of missing a "dress up", the Friends rose to the occasion. And won. A group of people less interested in racing, you would not find in a country mile, or even eight country furlongs!



Extreme back: Wally Rawlings. Standing: Celia Hannan, unknown, Ted Spinks, Leone Fairweather, Val Lambert, Rosalie Dickenson, the next bloke looks like he's just done a motza on the favourite, Les Whalley, June Whalley. Seated: Janet Freeman, Stephanie Rawlings, Margaret Sheaves.

Soundings

October, 2023

MOUNTAIN BIKES

For yet another team of volunteers, the feeling of success must bring with it satisfaction that the result of several years of planning, negotiating, grant seeking and just hard graft, is now a reality. It brings with it a popular pastime and exercise regime, as well as precious tourist dollars to help in filling the gap left by industries, lost over the past couple of decades. With it will come multiplier benefits for the whole district

And the do-nothing naysayers, haven't got their keyboards fired up on social media to knock it. Yet.

That the committee was able to straddle the various parcels of land and their existing use, controlled by different entities, government and others, would be a

daunting task. Enthusiasm, persistence, support from the town that they had in spades, combined with successful grant applications they brought it off. No doubt it would seem forever-but in what my untaught mind, sees as a relatively short time.

Congratulations to all concerned.

At EKWM

catering for riders has been on the "must do" list following discussion with Stan Siroca a couple of years ago



Facility for the secure parking of the bikes at the Museum was highly desirable. Many of these machines are of quite sophisticated technological bundles, the owners of which, need to be offered appropriate accommodation for them while they take in our offering.

Two bike parking facilities were planned for the CBD and for us to complement those. will auger well for the cycling community as well as our reputation. What-Jen Drenkhahn's photo shows, is a good example of what needs to be avoided, for the welfare of the machines

The safety of other clients, should bikes fall over onto the pathway, is paramount. The Board is planning to have work done along these lines, before the height of the forthcoming peak season.

Another addition suggested is keyed lockers for helmets, back packs and the like. A refundable deposit system would be easy to implement and the mountain bike bush telegraph would do all the promotion, necessary.

We lament on the several "bombsites" that we have, but take on board this latest of developments. Some that come to mind are; the AFL clubhouse, the soccer ground lights, the skate park facility nearing completion, netball courts, the exercise trail not the least is constant improvement EKWM to world standard and we aren't doing too bad. Though I will say, the public space at the wharf is a disgrace of major proportions.

Annual Meeting

Stand by for the announcement of the call to the overdue AGM. The disruption caused the two past staff members whose lack of the skills to which they claimed they held, has caused an enormous amount of headaches for the Board over the last three years and more. Coming at the time of Covid and the closedowns, the major building project aggravated by disruption by the disruption at the auditor's office it has been a perfect storm of events that have affected the finalising accounts and meeting compliance requirements to government bodies. Let's hope that is all behind us now with focus able to be concentrated other management matters. It is mandatory that the financial results be presented at the annual meeting, to which all eligible members are invited.

Soundings

October, 2023

Oral History... To Be or Not to Be ?

Just the mention of oral history can ignite a discussion on the pros and cons regarding the value of the subject's outcomes. There are stalwarts on both sides. I definitely line up with the pros.

I hear the arguments and appreciate that of those who believe that accepted history is that which is the written, while memory is too fallible. While that is certainly true, so that most contemporary writings are recorded by biased pen, however slight or unintended

What more glaring, contemporary example, now passed into written history, is the non-factual deluge of information surrounding the "Voice" referendum? What will future students make of such and how an educated community in the 21st century, responded?

Memory does play tricks, but it would be foolish not to mine for the opals that might lay amid the "potch" of a memory.

The song from Gigi, "Yes, I Remember It Well" is oft quoted to remind of the fallibility of memory, Margaret Sheaves and myself sang that the song in a concert as a conversation, not that long ago. We weren't quite sure whether we were seen as the "most suitable" or the "most likely". Whatever the label, it was a lot of fun.

I also believe that each of us, from those who may have lived a most humble of lives to those at the opposite end of the scale, have a story to tell. On that point, so much

so that I advocated that, we should endeavour to gather, stories of the lives of those buried at Eden cemetery. Having gathered that material, have it available by raising a Q.R. code and with family permission, attach it to the grave site. Big job? Impossible? Sure. But what stories they would tell to family history seekers the social history of the town and to graveyard tourists, generally. Like everything else in our business, we need someone young interested and eager, the likelihood of which is quite remote.

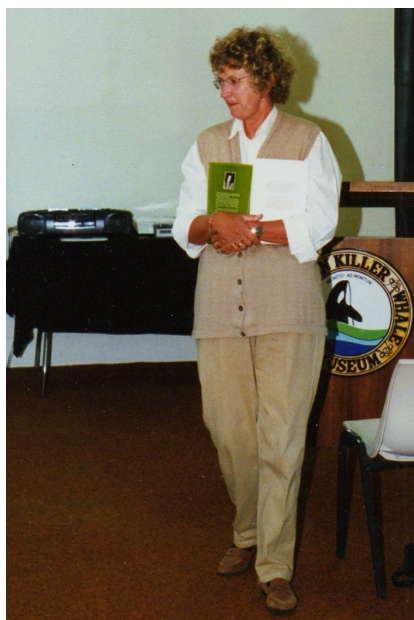
EKWM has valued the exercise of oral history for some decades. For a variety of reasons, continuity is difficult to maintain as time continues to rob us of the mental libraries of life. The recent is a period of massive change in the world, arguably more rapid than any other time in recorded history.

My own peers will be the last with any experience of life in the years of war, '39 - '45 and its aftermath. The massive degree of change in travel, communications, the rise, fall and industry and education may not be such again. And yes, so has the degree of recording of happenings. But rate but of recording the voice of the ordinary Joe and Josephine generally, might have been greater.

In March 1996, we were fortunate to have Rosemary Block, Oral History President, University of NSW come to EKWM and workshop oral history.

Rosemary was as charming as she was knowledgeable. She discussed means of approach and the tools an interviewer requires to undertake task and obligations flowing as a result We invited member groups of our local Museum Association Chapter, as well as any interested individual. The response was most heartening with people from Bombala and coastal towns attending.

When the workload lifts, a similar function might be considered.



Rosemary Block
Oral History President, University of NSW



Some of the Attendees
March 1996



?, Steph Rawlings, Harry Woseen, Jenny Drenkhahn, Nola Allan & Mary Walker, ?, Lauris Jarvis, John Helmore 3

Soundings

October, 2023

PEOPLE

Our thoughts are with Leone Fairweather at this time a she mourns her son, George, who passed away recently. Though George's health had been indifferent in the recent past, his passing at an all too young age, came as a profound shock to Leone, his sisters, partner and children.

To Leone and the family we extend our deepest of condolences, love and understanding.

Welcome to new member of the crew, Sue Trotter. Sue's "baptism to fire" having her came with guiding for the first cruise ship of the season. David Sinfield shared his knowledge with Sue to help her on this first day.

We hope you have a happy time with us, Sue, while extending a welcome to our visitors.



Bridie Timms had been having a great time with visitors. She was able to be present when some whales put on a show to everyone's delight.

Bridie was, of course, familiar with the siren sounding to alert the community of whales in the Bay, but not so on how the sound came to happen. Calling in at an opportune moment, she was invited to press the magic button and whoosh, the town is alerted.



Our Calendar

November

6th Majestic Princess, Arr 7.00AM
 9th Brilliance of the Seas. Arr 9.00 AM
 9th Board meeting 2PM Library
 11th Ovation of the Seas Arr 8.00 AM
 12th Pacific Adventure Arr 7.00 AM
 15th Friends meeting 9AM Theatre All welcome
 20th Curatorial meeting 2PM. Library. All welcome
 26th Majestic Princess, Arr 7.00 AM

December

7th Seabourn Odyssey Arr. 7AM
 13th Silver Whisper Arr.11AM
 14th Board meeting 2PM
 18th Curatorial meeting 2PM. Library. All welcome
 20th Friends meeting 9AM Theatre All welcome
 18th Brilliance of the Seas Arr. 8AM
 19th Silver Muse Arr.8AM
 19th NSW School holidays commence
 20th Vic School holidays commence
 22nd Silver Muse Arr 10AM
 25th Christmas Day Museum closed
 26th Boxing Day
 30th Azamara Journey 10AM

January

1st New Year's Day
 26th Australia Day
 30th NSW Scholls resume
 30th Vic Schools Resume

Alexander Weatherhead, aged 82, Nangutta, c1892. wrote

" My race having been very nearly run, being now in my eighty-second year, I think I have got to the foot of the hill and m patiently my turn to cross the river and while waiting I may as well jot down few events ofmy life in a plain way"

Alexander Weatherhead's book recalls the life and times on Nangutta Station and gives a very contemporary sketch of life from 1834-1892. He died in 1901 and is buried at Nangutta. The book, Leaves From My Life, is available at the Museum shop

well, I made it...

Cheers... Jack

