

Soundings

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Established 1931

Newsletter February, 2024

Euan Osten First Scholarship Awardee

It was an absolute pleasure to meet the first annual awardee of EKWM's scholarship to Eden Marine High School, Euan Osten.

After a measure of background work by Board members in liaison with representatives of Eden Marine High School, the award is up and running. The plan is for this scholarship to be an annual offer. The recipient is able to use it to offset some of the considerable expense that comes with tertiary education.

It may be used for University or TAFE study.

As future students become more aware of its existence, the scholarship will gain prestige and be well sought after. If the talent shown by this early group of eligible applicants is a pointer to future expectations, the small vetting committee will have a lively task. As it is, the initial applicants left a very favourable impression on



Euan Osten

committee members with Euan eventually being successful.

Now more than ever in the recent past, tertiary education is the "ticket" to a satisfactory career and standard of living throughout a life. It is probably safe to say, too, that it has never been more expensive, thus making it harder for lower income family members to become part of that cohort.

Course costs, accommodation, travel day to day expenses and the like combine to a considerable figure. Certainly for country kids. They need to have some fun as well!

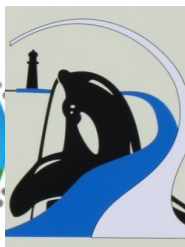
Those aspects were all high on the Board's thinking when the decision was taken to institute this scholarship. Some help, even to one student, could create a different outlook for that awardee as they look forward.

It also indicates to the community, the appreciation of EKWM for the great support received over the years.

Euan is a very impressive young man who will "do his parents, his school, EKWM and of course, himself, proud", as his studies unfold.

It is Euan's intention to study at the Australian National University, Canberra. He's probably packing his bags on this February day, as I write. He will keep us informed as to his progress over the three year life of the scholarship. We will look forward to following his journey.

Euan goes with our every good wish from all at EKWM.



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Matthew Flinders

B.16th March, 1791—D.18th July. 1814

Mariner, Cartographer Extraordinaire

There is much that is bitter sweet around the life of Matthew Flinders, explorer, master mariner and cartographer extraordinaire. His achievements in the forty years (1784-1824) of life is just amazing. It could not be better summed up than by Flinders devotee and Friend of EKWM, Paul Brunton, in his 2002 book "Matthew Flinders...*personal letters from an extraordinary life*"....



"In just twenty-three years, from 1791– 1814, Matthew Flinders transported breadfruit to Jamaica with William Bligh; fought a celebrated battle against the French, discovered Bass Strait, and charted Tasmania; circumnavigated the Australian continent; was shipwrecked and detained for six and a half years at Mauritius; under-

took pioneering work on the effect of magnetism in ships and wrote one of the legendary books of Australian exploration. He did all this before his premature death at the age of forty".

My interest was wetted by and enhanced by the visit to the Museum of Paul, then of the State Library and that of Bern Cuthbertson, himself a modern day mariner extraordinaire. Bern was sailing the south-east coast of the continent and around Tasmania in the wake of Flinders, to commemorate the bi-centenary of the latter's journey, called at Twofold Bay. We joined him in celebration

Flinders named Bass strait on this exploration. He honoured his colleague, George Bass here after confirming that Tasmania was not part of the mainland.



George Bass accompanied Flinders in many of his efforts. Bass' name is a indelibly linked to that of Flinders. One of their earliest exploring efforts was that of the George's River after having an earlier venture, a short way into the that waterway. On a second trip pushed on to the spot where the historic Landsdowne bridge was to be built. Those higher

reaches became known as Banks' Town with the name subsequently combined.

It was of these events we instigated a memorial stone beside the water at Snug Cove, during Bern's stopover I was hoping we may have been able to hold a little gathering on the 250th anniversary on the 16th of March. 2024. of Flinders' birth.. To honour Matthew who, I don't think would mind if we made a I reference to Bern and his

Sir Joseph Banks, naturalist, botanist, President of the Royal Society, was intrigued by Terra Australis. He became a sponsor of sorts for Matthew Flinders.



Their association brought about the circumnavigation of the continent, changing the course of that early settlement history. Charts established on that venture were still being used 150 years later.

Anne Flinders outlived her husband by about forty years. Their 15 year marriage was blighted by separations of about nine years, which included his time of more than 6 years detained by the French on Mauritius

It is quite astonishing that the grave of a man of this distinction could be "lost". Were it not for a major rail construction project, in 2019, it may have remained so.



A lead inscribed breast plate identified the remains, when graves were opened for removal to re-intered buried elsewhere.

Plans were made for a commemoration and re-burial of Matthew Flinders among his kin, at the local churchyard in the village where Flinders spent his childhood,

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Blackout at the Powerhouse

The great Sydney Powerhouse Museum is closed of now. It will stay that way for a nominated three years to allow for a major, major makeover. It is to be hoped that the record of earlier major constructions, that of massive over runs of time and costs, fails to materialise on this one.

The collection is to be totally removed and stored or re-presented, in the western suburbs of Sydney. I think that the controversy around the Powerhouse over the past few years, may be at last, put to bed.

For those not familiar with all the toing and froing, the former government had plans to move the whole collection to a purpose built structure in Parramatta. The consequences of that proposition was the trigger that caused the storm that ensued. Too much to recall here.

From my point of view, I am pleased at the course finally chosen, that of maintaining the Sydney site with the Parramatta site going ahead with a not so ambitious building but sharing the Pwr. house collection. I'm also glad that western Sydney is getting a artifact Museum that will be of some status.

And it is a huge collection. Rob Whiter and myself had the great fortune to be invited to a huge warehouse "around the corner" in Jones St., for a visual taste. It was full range of artifacts from the floor to the roof about ten metres high, all tidy and clearly accessible, in safe humidity and light.. We were told that what was stored in this building was only a portion of the whole.

The PHM was a part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, which commenced in the nineteenth century, on the opposite side of Harris St.

If you have been to the Powerhouse you will appreciate the enormity of the challenge. They are hoping to get the building works underway before year's end.

And now, it appears that another row is surfacing as to why the whole collection had to be removed at once. And why the work could not have been carried out by sections. I think the worry should, as stated as to whether the job can be completed in the time allotted

and what the inevitable over expenditure will be!.....

In the early 80's we had our own removal, storage and return of our own collection. Writ small, when compared with PHM, but with its own challenges nonetheless.

There had been no written inventory of what was in the Museum. So we listed the items as they went and checked them in on return. Everything except Tom, went into storage, predominantly into Mrs Bowler's, garage. The little mustard colored Toyota didn't get a look in for several months.

The inventory was the seed from which the cataloguing of the collection took its rise.

For the first time we had storage, we a toilet block on two levels and nobody missed the old pan jobs they replaced. The ability to house the Perico stone and the large boiling down pot, not to mention the pile of timber which was the capstan from East Boyd. Donated by Mrs Boyd from "the Hollies", we were now able rebuild it.

Tom had disassembled, cleaned and treated and re-assembled into the relatively new showcase which had been made by Whiter Bros and donated by Cocks Bros And after all the walkathons, lucky envelopes, raffles. progressive dinners, a successful Back To Eden celebration, plus the good graces of half a dozen stalwarts who put their personal assets on the line to guarantee a loan, we were riding high.

The planets were still yet aligned as along came

Flagstaff Hill

It is alarming to hear that the great Warrnambool facility is in trouble. A land mark and draw card to the town, it is reported that quite of a fall-off in patronage is what is the cause.

The Museum and entertainment venue is a council-run enterprise. With these bodies all of which cash poor, museums tend to be relegated to the bottom of the pile, which gives rise to worry when these situations arise.

Some early recovery strategies has been implemented. Every good wish to our colleagues



This great shot of the James Craig in Sydney harbour was accompanying an article on the ship, celebrating the 150th anniversary of its launching.

Eden claims a special affinity with the vessel.

She was pulled from the mud of the Tasmanian coast after being forlorn and forgotten there for decades,. An excited and determined group brought her to a sufficient level of condition, to enabled her to be towed to the place of restoration.

The destination was the Sydney Maritime Museum situated on the harbour, and ultimately join the Heritage Fleet.

It was an Eden crew of Graham White's company who undertook the tow. They brought her into Twofold Bay for the locals to get a closer glimpse and initiated a group of fans to follow her and new destiny.

In the event, it took nearly three decades, countless hours of voluntary work and \$30,000,000 to have her seaworthy again. One major benefactor supported the James Craig's chance for a second life and has continued that support. It is reported that on his demise, those contributions will cease. With accounts like three yearly dry docking and examples e.g.a re-paint, \$30,000 for paint and \$300,000 for application. They'll need ongoing support.

I have experienced the wonders of the deep; the storms the cold; the sunshine and chill
Clear moonlit nights, tropical and frigid and still.

The golden dawns and blood red sunsets, the blazing sun and the ice-chill moon.

The denizens of the blue sea; whales, sharks, seals, dolphins without use of a harpoon.

The comradeship of good shipmates; brothers; (and the odium of others)

The sight of a windjammer under full sail—days of sun, rain, sleet snow and hail.

From collection of verse by M.J.Dickenson, ex mariner. (My late brother)

EKWM Sound-

February

3rd Disney Wonder Arr. 10 AM
5th Azamara Journey Arr. 7.30
8th Norwegian Spirit Arr. 11AM
10th Norwegian Spirit Arr. 11AM
13th Silver Whisper Arr. 07 AM
14th valentine's Day
14th Viking Sky Arr. 8AM
16th Viking Neptune Arr. 8AM
20th Seabourn Odyssey Arr.7.00 AM
28th Azamara Onward Arr. 7.30 AM
29th Majestic Princess Arr. 7.00 AM

-----March

3rd Norwegian Spirit Arr. 11AM
5th Norwegian Spirit Arr. 7AM
8th Celebrity Edge Arr.9AM
11th Holiday ACT & Vic
12th Grand Princess Arr. 7AM
16th Matthew Flinders. 250yr Anniversary
18th Crystal serenity Arr.8AM
20th Nautical Arr. 1PM
27th Norwegian Spirit Arr. 11AM
28th Vic School break up
29TH Good Friday

AND THEN... Marg Sheaves, Angela George and myself attended a Mus. Aust. Conference at the Entertainment Centre in Sydney. It was not long before the Sydney Maritime Museum amalgamated with ANMM, taking with it the Heritage fleet. We took the opportunity to inspect the James Craig. It was well into its restoration.

Go

Safely, *Jack*

