



Contact

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Hello Everyone

Our first general meeting after the AGM commenced by welcoming new members, Graham and Christine LaMotte and our new Secretary Lesley Pickering. Lesley was put to work immediately during our brainstorming session.

Lesley used the whiteboard to record the many wide-ranging ideas, on "how to fund our new roof". Everyone then broke up into small groups and participated in lively and stimulating discussions. Significant decisions were made and I wish to thank everybody present for their helpful and positive contribution.

As an outcome, and with the support of the *Clarence Valley Independent* newspaper, a community appeal was launched on 21st September. Contributions will be added to the \$15,000 we received from Museums & Galleries Building Improvement Fund.

By now, you would have received an email or letter offering you the opportunity to donate if you wish. Many members have already responded in a generous manner. However, not all of us can afford to give large amounts, but from small gifts big things can grow. I am asking family and friends if they would be willing to give up the cost of a

“cup of coffee and cake” and join me in the \$10 challenge.

Our goal is to raise a further \$20,000. You may hear about some of the fundraising events in the months to come. In the meantime, donations are being solicited from community clubs, organisations and community-minded individuals.

I wish to acknowledge that many of our conscientious members work on various tasks outside of the meeting environment. Monthly general meetings give all members the opportunity to come together to determine the society’s goals, its plans for achieving them, and who will do what and when. So the October meeting will once again take on a different guise.

There are a few jobs, mostly not strenuous, inside and outside the museum, that need attention. So come prepared, wear work clothes and a big smile. If you are unable, or do not want to “roll up your sleeves”, then there is still the job of supervision! After a brief meeting we can tackle these jobs together and then enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

Until next month, Marea

WHAT IS OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANTARCTICA - Lesley Pickering



To celebrate History Week, Rohan Howitt from the History Council of NSW presented an informative talk on how Australia came to lay claim to 5.8 million square kilometres of Antarctica: *Australia’s Southern Empire – How Antarctica was made Australian*. As part of his PhD work at the University of Sydney, Rohan has researched how Australians have been fascinated by Antarctica since the early 19th century – governments, wealthy individuals and the general public.

Our interest was first captured by a map showing the extent of the Territory of Australia – from Christmas Island in the far north west, to Norfolk Island in the east, and then south to Enderby Island and Antarctica. We learnt that 30 percent of our total territory lies in Antarctica.

Decades before the well-known heroic voyages of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton and Mawson during the early 20th century, Australian governments funded several expeditions. Rohan gave details of the long history of plans to incorporate Antarctica into the Australian Commonwealth, and reading newspaper excerpts of the exceptional level of popularity by the public in expeditions.

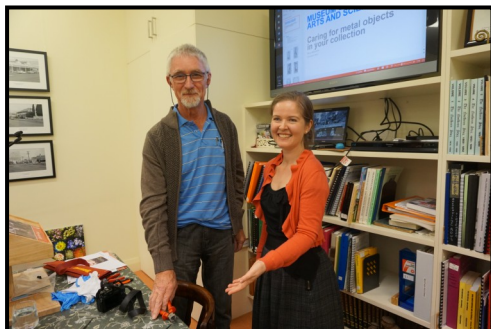
The public's high level of interest and enthusiasm about Antarctica continued throughout the second half of the 19th century. There were debates in the press and discussion on a range of topics: establishing colonies; the properties of sub-Antarctic plants; calls to reap commercial rewards from whaling and sealing; the possibilities of discovering unknown animals and a race of man; that Antarctica was closer to Melbourne than Perth; plans for a steamer for a pleasure trip to sub-Antarctica to escape the summer heat of Melbourne.

The high level of Australian Commonwealth funding of expeditions continued into the 20th century. When Mawson returned from Shackleton's 1907-09 *Nimrod* voyage, he emphasised the benefits of Antarctic scientific endeavours for Australia: geological, meteorological and economic. Mawson envisaged Antarctica as part of the Australian jurisdiction and was keen to set up a colony for mining and whaling. On his 1911-14 expedition, Mawson mapped over 2,000 miles of previously unexplored coastline and examined Macquarie Island.

It was after Mawson's 1930/31 *Discovery* expedition that Australia claimed up to 42% of Antarctica. The Antarctic Treaty that currently exists was signed by twelve (12) countries on 1st December 1959; forty-six (46) countries are now part of the Treaty.

CHAPTER CHATTER - Graham Young

Marea and I attended the Chapter Meeting at Alstonville early in September. Representatives from most of the North Coast Museums were in attendance with Marea being asked to Chair the meeting, as President Jane was not feeling well.



Graham Young & Skye Mitchell

The meeting proceeded in the usual manner. A number of items raised in General Business were discussed. Following the Chapter Meeting, Skye Mitchell from the 'Powerhouse Museum' presented a metal 'object' handling, conservation and storage training session.

The training session included a PowerPoint presentation on recognising metals and their corrosion products and covered most of the metals like iron, brass, copper, bronze, tin, silver plate and silver alloys. Discussion then moved on to the effects of fingerprints, polish residue, tarnishing, stable corrosion and ongoing rusting due to handling, display and incorrect housings of 'objects'. Solutions to resolve the various types of physical damage to the 'object', including either mechanical and/or chemical solutions, were discussed, or if the 'object' was in a stable state, the option to leave well enough alone.

Following lunch, the presentation moved on to the types of materials available to house and store 'objects' in a friendly environment and included a hands-on session using the various display and storage products supplied by the Powerhouse Museum (re-branded MAAS).

A MAAS information pack was provided with details regarding Conservation Resources and other links to websites that contain more in-depth information of the various elements of the presentation. The sessions concluded with thanks to Skye for her presentation and bon voyage back to Sydney.

GAME OF STONES - Anne Dinham



Marea Buist & John Jackson

Around 40 people gathered in The Old Kirk on the evening of Friday 23rd September for the opening of Dr John Jackson's cleverly named exhibition, *Game of Stones*.



Inspired by a mining career and a need to communicate with Ugandan workers, Dr

John (aka The Rock Doctor) explained the genesis of his art works as true pictorial communication tools. His large canvases, influenced by African use of dyes and bright colours, still communicate to us today the magnificence and importance of what is unseen, under our feet.

Of particular relevance is his depiction of the development of the Clarence River in acrylic on canvas paintings *Once Before a Time*, and *Once Upon a Time*, as well as other works featuring our Clarence River.

John shared something of his passion for the earth's formation and its importance to our understanding of sources of energy, food and water.





He particularly enjoys sharing his work with school children and has enjoyed 'artist in residence' status both locally and in Brisbane.

Coordinated by Margaret Lawrence, museum members served wine and delicious canapes at the opening event. Debrah Novak, as one of Clarence Valley's newest councillors added a VIP presence to a gathering of the local artist community, museum members and friends of John and his partner Honey.



Debrah Novak & Honey Jackson

The exhibition continues in The Old Kirk until 20th October.

THE ENGINE ROOM - Eris Flaus

I am the network administrator for the museum computer network and general 'go-to' person for computer problems. I am well supported by Rob Knight and Graham Young in this area. It is great to have their expertise.

In addition, I create flyers and posters for exhibitions as required. I also create slideshows and help source images for exhibitions in the public domain.

I might also be asked to do any number of other tasks; anything from putting out the rubbish to printing photos for clients. I am happy to help in whatever is required.

MEMBER PROFILE

- Graham and Christine LaMotte



Christine and I moved into Yamba approximately 9 years ago. We retired to this town as we liked the place. We have integrated into the community because of the people we have met and the lifestyle here.

We came from a small village in the northern part of the Southern Highlands called Oakdale. The village of Oakdale had about 500 living there, and we moved to this big town of (I believe) about seven and a half thousand people, not counting the holiday crowds.

Christine was a Senior Nurse/Midwife before she retired and I was a Senior TAFE Teacher. As part of my other activities, I spent almost 30 years involved with the Australian Navy Cadets. I consider it to be one of the premier youth training organisations in Australia.

One of our reasons for joining the Museum is that we have seen what the museum is trying to do in ensuring the local history is saved for future generations. Another reason is that we know a number of the members and they have told us what the museum is about, and they seem pleased to be part of this group. That is good enough for us to also be part of the organisation.

We are not sure in what way we can contribute to the growth of the Museum, so we ask you to give us a few months to feel our way around before we start making a contribution that will be of benefit to all our fellow members and the Museum.

ROOF RESTORATION FUND

**Donations can be left at the Museum or direct debited
to PYHS BSB 062 688 A/C 1015 3663**

DIARY DATES - October

Wednesday 12th **Guitar Concert by Matthew Fagan**
 at 7.30pm - see details below

Friday 14th **Members' Meeting at 2pm**
 followed by Working Bee

Thursday 20th **'Game of Stones' Exhibition closes**

Friday 21st **Committee Meeting at 1.30pm**

Tuesday 25th **U3A Classic Film Evening at 6pm**

Friday 28th **Graham Mackie Exhibition**
 Official Opening at 6pm

LORD OF THE STRINGS

presented by Matthew Fagan
10 String Spanish Guitarist

Matthew has performed to audiences
worldwide and regularly in major concert venues na-
tionally and internationally.

Wednesday 12th October, at 7.30pm
in the Old Kirk

Bookings Essential: Eml: mjb2fagan@gmail.com
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