



Contact

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Hello Everyone

Yamba Museum is in a unique position of being both a not for profit organisation and a business. Not being just one or the other, means that we are often confronted with issues when considering the implementation of something new.

In recent years, technology has been a challenge to all of us in ways we could never have imagined. Whether we use a computer, a mobile phone or a credit card, adapting to the fast changing digital world is enough to send our minds into meltdown. However, regardless of our initial fears, we have come to terms with it and can look back with some satisfaction to see the increase in our productivity, improved visitor service and more immediate communication with one another.

There is little doubt that, as a nation, we are using more plastic cards and less cash and for the museum to survive and thrive we need to keep abreast of the times.

While it may seem easier to run a "cash only business", the reality is that our visitors are requesting more flexible payment options. This has been confirmed, as in more recent years, we have missed book sales because of our cash only policy.

During the planning stages of our fundraising art auction it became obvious that we would need to provide credit card facilities for those wishing to purchase the artworks. We proceeded with negotiations to acquire *Albert*, which is the bank's name for their credit card merchant terminal. It was a very wise decision, as at the completion of the auction, people waited in line to pay for their purchases with a credit card.

Now that the auction is over, I think we ought to bring *Albert* into the mainstream of our daily operations. While it may, initially, appear to be a daunting prospect, I am confident that with appropriate instruction, our members, in particular museum guides, will quickly become familiar in its simple use. So, the next time a visitor asks if we accept credit cards, we can cheerfully say, "Yes we do"!

Congratulations and special thanks to everyone who came to, or helped at the art auction. The quality, and display of the artworks in the Old Kirk venue received high praise from a very discerning audience. The event was a HUGE success, due to the tireless efforts of our auction coordinator Lesley Pickering, the generosity of the artists, and the support of local businesses that donated their services. All in all it was a fun way to bring people together, to applaud great art, but importantly to foster pride in our museum and community.

Until next month, Marea.

RAISING THE ROOF....

and raising our spirits - Gary Whale

When we learned last year that the urgent replacement of our roof was necessary, the mood among our members darkened. We were grateful to past committees for their prudent fiscal oversight and to those many members who toiled for over thirty years to keep the museum viable, but the realisation that most of our assets would go in providing a new roof dampened our spirits. Meetings were held, brain storming sessions were conducted, and eventually it was decided that the money had to be spent but that we needed to engage in some major fund raising to restore our finances.

“Cometh the hour, cometh the man” as they say, but in our case it was a woman our new Secretary, Lesley Pickering. Lesley suggested that we hold an art auction! Scepticism abounded - were we biting off more than we could chew? Would the good folk of Yamba support something that had never been tried here before? But Lesley’s self-confidence prevailed, and plans for the occasion went ahead.



The first challenge was to have enough quality artworks donated to generate interest in the auction. Lesley’s first master stroke was to approach Ken Done AM, who was visiting Maclean at the time, for a donation. Having lived in the area for five years as a boy, Ken was eager to help and donated a small ink drawing *Blue*

Boats, Blue Sea. So when Lesley and her team of Janet Pickup, Kerrie Huxham and Diane Hope, approached local artists and were able to say “We’ve already got a drawing of Ken Done’s to auction”, the response was positive. Our own members joined the party, while local artists were very generous in their support. The Museum itself decided to make high-quality prints of ten of its archival photographs and ten of its extraordinary “J.T.P.” fish paintings to add to the collection of artworks. All told, there were ten of John Pickup’s prints for sale, 31 items in the silent auction and 52 works of art for the live auction.



But that was just the beginning. Many artworks themselves had to be prepared for the exhibition (thank you Jane Mitchell) and displayed (thank you Bob and Marea Buist), a catalogue had to be prepared (thank you Debrah Novak, Antony Perling and Lesley Pickering) and made available online (thank you Ben Dougherty). Delicious canapes were prepared by Margaret Lawrence, Venette Hedges, and Sally Huxtable, and wine was donated by Angus Fay, John Ibbotson, Yamba Golf Club and the Palmers Store.



The public started arriving before the advertised Viewing time of 4.00 pm to register for their paddle if they wanted to bid in the live auction, or to make bids in the silent auction or to buy one of John Pickup's prints.



Members busied themselves serving food and wine to the guests and Ryan Enns provided delightful background music on his guitar.



By 6.00 pm over a hundred people had been through The Old Kirk, marvelling at the quality of the artworks on show, and a similar number



were gathered in and around the yurt especially erected for the occasion. Right on 6.00 pm, Lesley welcomed everybody and introduced our auctioneer for the night, Simon Dougherty. He quickly ran through the auction protocols, and then the fun began.

At first the bidding seemed a little slow but Simon's bright patter soon had people in the mood and the bidding became more spirited. At about the halfway point, Lesley announced the successful bidders in the silent auction





and then it was on with the second half. By this stage there was some lively bidding with a lovely painting *Skipping* by Yamba artist John Bee-man bringing \$700 and Ken Done's pen and ink sketch topping the night at \$760.

Raising the Roof Art Auction was a hugely successful event. It raised many thousands of dollars, it raised the spirits of the members and it kept the profile of the Port of Yamba Historical Society high in the community.



The next day at the Yamba River Markets I heard many favourable comments with more than one saying something like "It was a typical museum event - great atmosphere, great food and everything running like the train in the Breakwater Room - smooth and efficient". It makes you proud to belong.

I THANK YOU PYHS MEMBERS
merci beaucoup-mille grazie-muchas gracias—
arigatou gozaimasu - Lesley Pickering

Raising the Roof Art Auction – Saturday 22nd April 2017

Big occasions take big efforts and for our inaugural fundraiser Raising the Roof Art Auction, we stepped up big time. As a volunteer group in a small community, it was a significant achievement on many levels: our financial gain was very substantial; donating artists felt proud; guests were thoroughly buoyed by the atmosphere and commented on the delectable canapes prepared by the in-house catering team; the event and Yamba Museum were the subject of talk around town in the days following; and we enjoyed ourselves very much.

I wish to thank all members of the Port of Yamba Historical Society for their trust in taking the plunge with me. The following deserve my special thanks:

Auctioneer: Simon Dougherty

Auctioneer Assistant: Janet Pickup

Auction Organisation: Kerrie Huxham

Catering - food: Margaret Lawrence, Venette Hedges, Sally Huxtable, Anne McCallum, Colette Mann, Yvonne Redman

Catering - drinks: Anne-Marie Wardrop, Narelle Porter, Gary Whale

Display of Artworks: Marea and Bob Buist

Electrician: Chris Wardleworth of All Star Electrical Services

Framing of Artworks: Jane Mitchell

Graphic Design/Catalogue: Antony Perring

Music: Ryan Enns

Photography: Debrah Novak

Registration: Bev Mansfield, Rosie Whittock, Barbara Whale

Sales: Anne Dinham, Sandy Eames

Webmaster: Ben Dougherty

Wine: Angus Fay, John Ibbotson, Palmers Store, Yamba Golf Club

Yurt: Donnie Corbin, Mark Maunsell, Bob Field, Keith Spence, Graeme East, Chris Moran

On behalf of the PYHS, I'd like to acknowledge the generosity of the 36 artists whose artworks were donated:

June Alexander, Harrie Badgery, John Beeman, Jill Bradshaw, Stacey Conridge, Kay Cottee, Neil Cryer, Ken Done, Roy Ellery, John Giese, Rosemary Hain, Elise Hassey, Janet Hauser, Bernard Hides, Tanya Howard, Sally Huxtable, John Ibbotson, John Jackson, Pat Jenkins, Malcolm King, Graham Mackie, Peter McGrath, Julie McKenzie, Suzanne Monin, Fiona Nicholls, Debrah Novak, Wendy O'Brien, Frances Belle Parker, Wes Penberthy, John Pickup, Karl Rubli, Owen Sanders, Christina Seale, A.J. Scheelbeck, Bev Scofield, Robyn Tyhsen.



100 YEARS AGO - John McNamara

People and events from the Daily Examiner April/May 1917

100 years ago... The April and May 1917 Issues

of DEX had Business Notices by Peter Wood Smith, late manager of Ramornie Meat Works, that he is the new licensee of the Yamba Hotel. At this time, Peter Wood Smith purchased the license of the Yamba Hotel, which was owned by William John Hancox at the time, taking over from George Pressick. Peter Wood and Theresa Annie Smith purchased the freehold from Hancox in May 1921. Ramornie, on the Gwydir Highway west of Grafton, was the home of the first successful meat preserving factory in Australia. Meat preserving commenced at Ramornie in 1866 and continued till 1922, when the meatworks was closed down because of lack of orders after the Great War period.

The Yamba Hotel was built by Grafton building contractor, James Moyes, on Allotment 3 of Section 4 in 1884 for Robert Muirhead, a tobacconist of Grafton. The complex, substantially built of wood on a brick foundation, was known as Muirhead's Family Hotel. It comprised three distinct buildings, forming three sides of a rectangle, the side facing the river being occupied by the main two-storey building, and the other two sides by a Billiard Room, and two-storey servants' quarters and kitchen. The original main building had 11 bedrooms. It had a number of owners and licensees over the years.

At sitting held in the Maclean Licensing Court on 2 July 1927 an application for alterations to the Yamba Hotel was made by owners Peter Wood Smith and Theresa Annie Smith. Inspection by the District Licensing Inspector of Grafton and Police Constable Buxton of Yamba on 2 February 1927 found a number of defects in the building and vermin infestation. As it was the only Hotel in Yamba, they felt it should be brought up to modern standards. The Public Works Department Architect of Lismore found the same defects and commented that the whole building was in a poor state of repair. In January 1928, repairs and rebuild of the hotel were approved, estimated to cost £4000. The owners were given 7



Yamba Hotel located on land presently occupied by Numbers 15 –19

months to complete but no action was taken. However, William John Zeitsch purchased the Yamba Hotel from Smith in May 1928 and he indicated to the Licensing Reduction Board an intention to put up a better class of building than that previously ordered.

An extension of time for affecting the required improvements to January 1929 was approved. Francis J Robertson, a builder of Maclean, began the alterations in late 1928 but was not until 05 November 1929 that it was officially opened. The premises burnt to the ground on 26 May 1933.

DIARY DATES - May

Tuesday 2nd	Grafton Probus Group at 2pm U3A Classic Film Night at 6pm
Friday 5th	"Down River" Exhibition
Sunday 7th	Official Opening of "Down River" at 3pm
Wednesday 10th	Iluka Sandpipers Club at 11.15am
Friday 12th	Members' Meeting at 2pm
Friday 19th	Committee Meeting at 1.30pm
Thursday 25th	"Down River" Exhibition closes

MUSEUM GUIDES - INFORMATION DAY & WORK PLACE AND SAFETY TRAINING MAY 19 & 22

Please indicate on the clipboard on the front desk which day you will attend or phone the museum 66461399