



Lord Howe Island Historical Society & Museum Incorporated

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Newsletter 2 May 2008

New Museum reception desk installed

The completion of the museum annex to lock-up stage, as reported in the last newsletter, has now given the committee space to complete some urgent projects. The first of these was the construction of a new front reception desk at the museum. This is a combined desk for the Visitor Information and Museum reception. The desk was designed by George Warner, who also built the unit, with assistance from Ken Lees. The desk is constructed out of Norfolk Island pine mainly from large trees cut down outside Thompson's store, and milled locally by Michael Nobbs. It is a very attractive unit. Call in to the museum and have a look.



George is coordinating fitting out the interior of the annex, with electric wiring, insulation and gyprock lining. The annex will not be fully functional until it has flooring material, shelving, a ventilation system, work benches and paving. Sponsors are being sought to purchase these components.

Supporter's acknowledgement Board

Also completed recently and on the wall behind the museum reception desk is the Supporters Board. A

contemporary display to acknowledge all of the contributors to the museum who donated \$500 or more towards the construction and displays in the museum. This highlights the support from the local and broader community, which allows the museum to be open without charging admission fees, quite a rare situation with museums around the country today.

Museum web site.

The museum committee has been successful in finding a sponsor to set up a dedicated museum website. Several workshops held by the committee members have drafted an outline of the site structure and we are working with the designers to present a dynamic website to showcase the Island, its history and the museum.

Donation of cabinets and shell collection by Philip and Michelle Whistler.

In April Philip and Michelle Whistler donated several wooden display cabinets to the museum. One of these Philip had specially built from Huon Pine and cedar, for the foyer at Capella. The other came from the Lord Howe Island Shell Museum which was owned and displayed by Bill and Ronnie Thornton until the early 1980s when purchased by Philip. Along with the cabinets are extensive collections of marine mollusc shells from Lord Howe Island and the Pacific. When time permits these will be incorporated into displays at the museum.

Weddings photograph function

The idea of gathering weddings photographs, mentioned in last newsletter has created a lot of interest. It was decided to include a few more activities to go with this afternoon, so more time is needed to plan. It is now intended to hold a weddings function where people can bring in photographs and memorabilia from weddings. Next newsletter will give details of the planned event to be held in October.

Flying Boats Display

At the Museum of Sydney

10 May – 14 September 2008 |

Sydney's golden age of aviation

1938 saw the dawn of a golden age of aviation when Rose Bay became home to Sydney's first international airport, servicing the mighty flying boats – large, luxurious, four-engine aircraft that alighted on water.

This was the beginning of an era when air travel was new, exciting and glamorous and a ticket cost more than the average annual wage. Passengers on the journey from Sydney to England enjoyed a leisurely ten day trip in first class comfort with over 30 exotic stopovers.

Flying boats played a vital role in World War II, and after the war they opened up the South Pacific and Lord Howe Island as popular holiday playgrounds for Australians. As a result Sydney operated the last major flying boat base in the world until 1974.

Featuring photographs, posters, film, models, flight crew uniforms, a recreated cabin, a flying boat engine and the fascinating personal stories of travelers, crew and the workers at the Rose Bay base, Flying boats celebrates the early days of transoceanic air travel and presents a definitive account of this extraordinary chapter in Sydney's history.



Museum shares photographs

The LHI museum has been able to share some of its photographic archives with other museums. For the current Flying Boats Display at the Museum of Sydney, quite a few of the Dick Morris photographs are being used.

In March 2008 a request from the UK was made for some photographs of Francis Chichester at Lord Howe Island for displays at the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon, London.

Pacific Ocean Seafloor Map available.

For some time the Museum Environmental gallery has had on display a Pacific Ocean Seafloor map published by the National Geographic. This map features the continental plate boundaries, seamounts and continents. Following requests from tourists, we have now purchased some from National Geographic Map Division and have these for resale at the Museum shop.

Also more copies of the book *The Ships I Flew* by Brian Monkton have arrived. These books provide a fascinating first hand look at the Flying boat service.

Rodent eradication documentary.

The documentary showing rodent eradication on Anacappa Island off California has been screened each Sunday at 11 am for interested residents and visitors.

School display running

The school children's display in the Environmental gallery now has a digital screen displaying work done by the school for SEAWEEK 2008.

Winter hours

Over winter months many of our volunteers who run the reception and sales desk are away for extended periods and it will be necessary to cut down on the hours that the museum is open each day. From 1st June to 31st August the opening hours will be 10 am to 2 pm. If you are able to do a shift as the reception/sales desk volunteer please contact Chris Murray on 6563 2015.

The café will be open 9.30 am to 2.30 pm daily.