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Lord Howe Island Historical Society and Museum

Newsletter summer 2013/14



Annual members and supporters function

2013 was a big year at the Museum and at the annual members and supporters function held at the Museum on 28 November, President Robyn Warner outlined some of the major achievements:

- Construction of the new front verandah.
- Completion of major displays in the Environmental gallery.
- Conducting video interviews of recollections by residents.



Local member Leslie Williams visits



Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker visits

Leslie Williams, our local State member of parliament, was on the island for Discovery Day 2014, and presented to the Committee the contract agreement for a grant from the NSW Community Building Partnerships Program, to complete an upgrade of the cafe kitchen in June 2014.

NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker visited Lord Howe Island in early December, for a number of meetings with Board staff. While here she visited the Museum and presented Robyn Warner with a certificate for a grant of \$10,000 to produce a display featuring the success of flora conservation on the Island.



New Displays completed

In 2011 Leslie Williams announced that the Museum was successful in its application to Arts NSW for funding to complete displays on the geology, biological colonisation and biogeography of Lord Howe Island. Museum Curator Ian Hutton and local artist Margaret Murray have been working on the text, images, and design elements to tell these fascinating stories.

Input on themes and text from LHI Board and Marine Parks staff; construction by Ken Lees; editing by Chris Murray; as well as suggestions from Museum Committee and residents have added to what are outstanding displays.

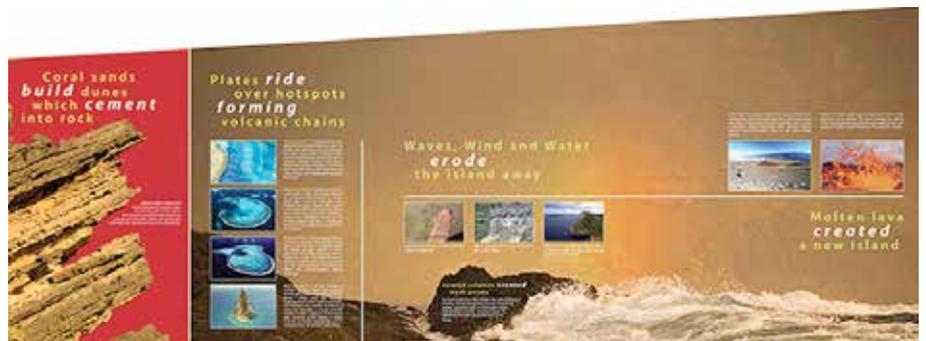
In January the display panels were installed by staff from Definitive of Sydney, Joan Marbutt and Matthew Voke.



Our cabinetmaker Ken Lees working on wall construction.



John MacLulich assists with graphic design



Phasmids at the Museum

The Museum took delivery of five live phasmids on November 1st last year. The phasmids have been housed in a classic old display case known as a “Wardian Case” – originally designed to hold live plants on the deck of a sailing ship to protect them from salt and wind during transport across the ocean.

Melbourne Zoo keeper Rohan Cleave gave advice on how to modify the enclosure, and feed and care for the phasmids. Their favoured food plants are the leaves of the Banyan and Melaleuca, and to a lesser extent Scalybark and Bloodwood.

They have now been in the Museum for four months and have adapted well to their new home, which is in the Environmental gallery. During the daylight hours the phasmids sleep in special red Perspex boxes provided by Rohan Cleave, and they are out feeding at night.

On Sunday and Thursday nights there are special phasmid viewing sessions and visitors can see the phasmids walking in their enclosure.

The LHI Board will maintain a larger enclosure with a breeding population of phasmids.



Wardian case with the adult phasmid display



Adult phasmid above



The phasmid nymphs (at left) feed and are active during the day, and we have a small enclosure with 6 nymphs for visitors to see.

The adult phasmids are laying eggs (right) - usually 8 at a time, in special sand dishes provided in the enclosure. Surprisingly the incubation period is 8 months!!

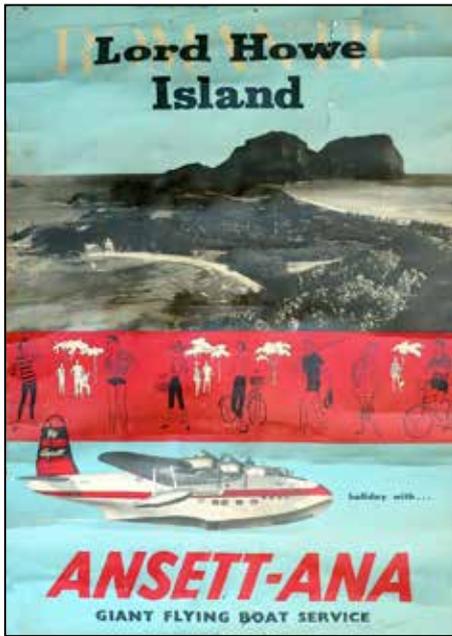


Welcome to our supporters over summer

Lord Howe Island tourism is noted for the large number of “repeat” visitors, who return year after year, and enjoy the island and the friendly community. The Museum relies on many local volunteers and visiting supporters for ongoing operations and improvements to the displays and facilities. It was a pleasure to catch up to so many of our regular visitors and supporters over the summer holiday period enjoying the new verandah, the displays and internet facilities.

There are too many to mention all of you, but we do enjoy seeing you and catching up on how you are going.

New project for 2014 - Gallery lighting



Sponsor found to frame flying boat poster.

John Considine and his partner Sky, from Bellingen, were holidaying on the island, as one of the first guests at the new *Bowker Beachhouse*. They were both so impressed by the island and the Museum that they wanted to contribute, and have offered to sponsor framing of this Flying Boat poster donated by Dick and Noelle Hoffman.

Table sponsorship a success.

In our last newsletter we detailed an offer for people to sponsor a Place Name on the cafe tables for the new expanded cafe verandah. The 20 place names available were keenly taken up, and nameplates have been produced and are being delivered for application.

Sincere thanks to our sponsors: Allan and Evelyn Golding, Leon Brice, Margaret, Zoe and Chris Murray, Nonie Low, Daphne Nichols, Garth Nichols, Barney Nichols, Gower Wilson, Les and Dulcie King, George and Robyn Warner, Helen Tiffin, Ian and Rosie Sinclair, Ian Hutton, Jack and Cindy Shick, Jim and Jenny Elliott, Karen and Rod Giles, Mark McCoy, Pam Wilson, Terry Wilson, Shirley Hines, Veronica Lambert, Rymill Abell, John Pemble, Ian Sinclair, Robert Pallin, Warwick and Rosemary Dunn, Robert and Lindy Jeremy, Gai Wilson, May Shick, Liz Stevens, Lorraine deRusset, Kate Nichols, Robyn Curtin, Gail Cameron, and Veronica Douglas.

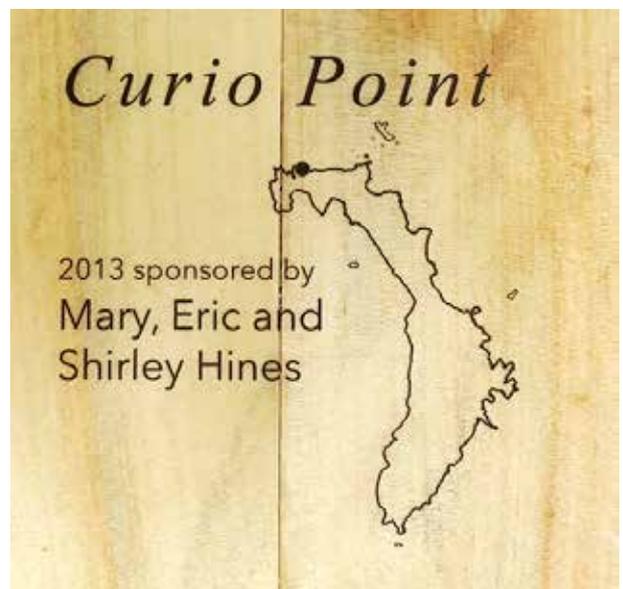
We still have a number of available places for named sponsorship of chairs (\$200 each) if anyone would like to take part in this project. The donations raised by the tables and chairs have helped offset the investment costs in the new verandah and fittings.

With the considerable refurbishment of the displays over the past ten years, it has become evident that the original lighting system is inadequate. This is so for two reasons. The first is that the current light installations cannot illuminate the new displays properly. The second is that the existing 150 watt spotlight bulbs have huge running costs.

John Considine is a lighting technician, and has kindly offered to design and install new lighting systems for the two galleries. He will use the latest LED technology to highlight the displays properly and replace the 150 watt bulbs to enable us to cut power consumption. The cost of this project is estimated at \$20,000.

Kelly and Jan Crowle, from Byron Bay, have very generously donated half the amount required. With this significant start we are confident we will be able to engage John Considine to undertake the full gallery lighting project. Kelly and Jan are regular visitors to the island, and Kelly first travelled here on the yacht *Cadence* in 1974.

If you would like to contribute to this important project, please contact the Museum.



Example of a table Place Name sign

Video history interview project



Peter Taylor

Dick Collingridge

Louise Collingridge

Chris Murray

The team involved in carrying out video interviews with residents in June 2013.

Dick Collingridge is a Sydney based television producer who has assisted the Lord Howe Island Museum on many previous occasions. Working in the U.K. as a film producer, then moving to Australia and working with Film Australia as a producer for 14 years, Dick set up his own production company in 1988, producing a wide range of television programs. Dick first came to Lord Howe Island in 1986 and met Jim Dorman and assisted in compiling a video documentary collection for use at the Museum. In 2001 he teamed up with Ian Kiernan to produce a short program to assist in gaining sponsors to furnish the Museum. In 2004 Dick again visited to document the work of archaeology researcher Kimberly Owens on the early settlement of the Island. Dick edited a short video clip from the footage that we screen in the Museum history gallery.

For the 2013 project Dick brought over his assistant and wife Louise Collingridge, and cameraman Peter Taylor to record interviews with 20 residents carried out by Chris Murray. Dick has now sent over edited copies of the interviews that will be archived with the Museum digital collection and made available for future research into the Island's history. We are very grateful to Dick and Peter for producing these interviews at a very high professional standard, and to sponsors the Lord Howe Island Board and James and Leonie Furber.

Many thanks to the residents who participated in this valuable project: Lance Wilson, Clive Wilson, Gower Wilson, Bruce Thompson, Ysobel Heffernan, Joy Petherick, Kerry McFadyen, Barney Nichols, Robyn Warner, Esven Fenton, Bill Retmock, Les King, Ken Ryan, Daphne Nichols, Betty Lonergan, Bruce McFadyen, Rhonda Wilson, Stan Fenton, Lois Whistler and Ray Shick.

WF277 radar aerial restored



In November 2013 local mechanic Bing Simpson carried out restoration of the WF 277 radar aerial. Bing treated the metal for corrosion, and gave it a new coat of paint to allow it to be part of the outdoor displays for many years to come.

Many thanks to Bing for carrying out this valuable work. The radar unit had to be transported to and from Bing's workshop, and Garth Nichols carried this out with the aid of a forklift. Our groundsman Brendan Kong repaired the paver plinth for the radar unit to sit on.

Built in the UK in 1944, this aerial was part of the WF277 radar brought to the island in 1952 to track weather balloons, and when it was replaced in 1982 it was the last of its type in the world still operating.

Discovery Day

17 February 1788

From: *The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay 1788* (Stockdale 1789)

"On 14th of February a party was sent out in the Supply, to settle on a small island to the north west of New Zealand, in latitude 29° south, and longitude 168°10' east from London, which was discovered and much commended by Captain Cook, and by him named Norfolk Island, in honour of the noble family to which that title belongs."

On 19th March when Lieutenant Ball returned to Sydney:

"A small island, but entirely uninhabited was discovered by Lieutenant Ball in his passage to Norfolk Island. In his return he examined it and found that the shore abounded with turtle, but there was no good anchorage. He named it Lord Howe Island (*). It is in 31°36' south latitude, and 159° east longitude. Part of this island may be seen at a distance of sixteen leagues, and a rock to the south-east of it, may be discerned even at eighteen leagues."

(* Ball named the island after Lord Howe—Chief of the British Admiralty at that time)

A CHART of LORD HOWE ISLAND.

Discovered by
Lieut. Henry Liddell Ball,
in the
Martyr's Arm'd Tender Supply,
on the 19th of March 1788.

T A B L E III.				Winds, Weather, and Remarks.
Time.	Latitude.	Longitude.	Course.	
1788.	-	-	-	
Feb. 14.] Dawn.]	29 40	168 10		W. S. W. Fresh gales, with rain. At six, P.M. made sail down the bay-tow. At noon, Fort Jackson W. S. W. distant 26 miles.
15	28 20	154 40		Southerly. Hard gales and squally, with rain.
16	31 00	150 00		S. S. E. Fresh gales and cloudy. Saw some Shearwaters.
17	32 00	148 00		Easterly. Moderate and cloudy. At a quarter past five, P.M. saw two islands, bearing E. S. E. 12 or 13 miles distant. At noon, the South end of the largest island bore S. 65° E. the North end of the small one S. 70° E. distant 12 miles, the largest was named Lord Howe's Island, and the small one Liddell Island.
18	31 40	139 14	N 12	Variable. Moderate and clear. At seven, P.M. the body of Lord Howe's Island E. S. E. 22 or 23 miles. Sounded, no ground with 120 fathoms. Found the lead five on the 17th to be only one shad. At noon, S. bore N. 21° W. four or five miles distant.

