



CHANNEL Museum



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www.channelmuseum.org.au secretary@channelmuseum.org.au

Museum – Research Room – Gallery – Camera Collection - Café

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11th June 2024 1:30 pm in the Museum Library

All welcome, afternoon tea to follow

President's report

Welcome to Winter and the crisp mornings and chilly evenings. I am looking forward (not really) to keeping fit over these cold months carting firewood from shed to house.

We have hosted many school groups and bus tourists these past three months and continue to welcome more interstate visitors and locals.

The “Night at the Museum” continues to be popular and is booked out nearly every month. Please contact Sheila if you or someone you know would like to give a presentation.

The Memorial Wall is now full and closed to further plaques being added. Some interesting insights can be gleaned from the short descriptions. Please have a read when you next walk past.

During election day on Saturday 3rd May we held a museum open day together with Oliebollen sales. \$808 was raised, to be shared equally between the Museum and the HKHMN. We thank Kees, Irene and their helper Nellie for giving their time.



Irene and Nellie on the day



We also welcome our newest volunteers, Andy and Bob to our team and hope you will enjoy your time with us. Election time at the museum is upon us again and I would encourage you to nominate for positions on the Execu-

tive and general committee. Any member can nominate and forms will be available in the next few days. Our AGM will be held at the museum on June 11th at 1.30pm followed by light refreshments. All welcome to attend.

Temporary Exhibitions for the next 3 months are:

June - Apple Industry in the Channel
July – Lyn - Craftwork – Fabrics
August – Frank Hurly’s Banzare (Antarctica)

Many of you may have noticed the carpark has been patched and is now free of those dreaded potholes. We thank the council for making this happen.

Finally, I would like to thank all our volunteers for your continued support and commitment to the Museum. A wonderful team without whom the museum would not be here.

Stay safe, happy and keep smiling
Kind regards

Judi Castle

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Huon Kingborough History & Museum Network update Beth Bartlett

The HKHMN held a forum on April 12th at the Huon Hub. The meeting was well attended and the afternoon tea was memorable. Helen Lindsay was invited to the meeting, representing HuonFM radio. She talked to attendees about appearing on the radio on a Wednesday at 3 in the *Local voice* segment so that they could talk about their museum on-air.

Sheila Shewry spoke about the Channel Museum’s “Night at the Museum” program, Peter Horobin spoke about museums and their role in our community, and Suzanne Smythe talked about self-publishing.



There was also discussion about the Network’s Exhibition and Conference, which is planned for 6th to the 12th October 2025 at the Kingston Hub. Setup will be on 6th October, and the Exhibition will be from 7th October. The Conference will be held on Saturday 11th October. These events will be free to all. It is hoped they will better inform the community of the two municipalities about the Museum and History Groups.

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Research and History Group excursion to TFHS



On Wednesday 28th May, the Research and History Group of the Channel Museum visited the Tasmanian Family History Society (TFHS) at Bel-lerive. The TFHS is housed in the old Post Office. Maree Da Costa volunteers at the TFHS, and she facilitated our visit.

The TFHS have a substantial Library and their members are constantly working on indexing resources to make them accessible to family historians. Their CSI (Comprehensive Subject Index) is available through their website <https://www.tasfhs.org/index.php>, but a lot more material is available if you visit the centre.

Left: Judith Mudiliar (TFHS Librarian), Kees Wierenga, Chris Nelan and Judi Castle

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Introducing... Anthea Wallhead

I have been a volunteer at the Channel Museum since November 2022 and have been particularly interested in the range of curatorial tasks required to store, maintain and display the objects donated to the museum.

With my background in visual arts and exhibitions, as well as in small business management, trade shows, writing and networking, I believe my range of experiences, described below, will be useful for taking care of museum objects, helping to maintain displays, plus providing ideas for publicising the museum.

I am a first-generation Tasmanian, whose parents, sister and older brother moved to Tasmania from Western Australia in the 1940s. My father was a design engineer at the Zinc Works (now Nyrstar) and my mother was a gifted artist. After attending Claremont Primary School and the Friends School, I followed my brother to the Tasmanian School of Art, where I received a Teachers Diploma of Art, then a Diploma of Education at UTAS (not Degree courses in those days). I spent two years being the only Art Teacher for 230 students at Glenora District School, then took a year off to travel the world visiting art galleries and museums. On my return to Tasmania, I taught at Ogilvie High School for eight and a half years, including a term as Senior Art Teacher.

During this time, I met and married Malcolm Wallhead. We bought property in Kettering and our first house was a hand-built log cabin using standing, air-dried eucalypts burnt by the 1967 bushfires. I spent my long service leave from teaching by helping to haul logs through the bush to build a two-storey log cabin.

Malcolm manufactured fibreglass products and is best known for designing and manufacturing fibreglass Igloo Satellite Cabins, which the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) first purchased in 1982.

After the birth of my older son, I decided not to return to teaching but to assist Malcolm run the business. When not looking after two young children and maintaining the house, I was either in the log cabin office preparing documentation, drafting instruction books or in the workshops cleaning moulds, drilling holes, and packing panels into large crates. Soon we were attracting interest from other countries doing research in Antarctica and not just selling more Igloos to AAD but to other overseas polar institutes.

In 1993, I was one of the inaugural members of the Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN, which I named), that consisted of representatives from businesses supplying goods and services for use in Antarctica plus institutes and government departments involved in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean as well. In 1997, Malcolm and I produced a quarterly magazine called 'Ice Breaker', which publicised Antarctic business activities and I continued with the magazine for a total of 15 years, before and after Malcolm's sudden death in 2000.

I kept the fibreglass manufacturing business with the help of the few fibreglassers we had, but then decided to offer it for sale because running the business and looking after my teenage sons was too much to cope with. Although the sale was not successful, in 2004 Penguin Composites in Penguin offered to manufacture the Igloos and other products under licence.

I continued with marketing and administration until 2022, having had several opportunities to participate in Antarctic trade shows overseas with other TPN members. I also studied for Certificates in Journalism and a Small Business Management. However, the Covid pandemic meant no Igloo enquiries or sales, so I decided to retire, hand over my responsibilities to Penguin Composites and after 40 years, move from Kettering to the Kingston area.

In 2022, during the Covid lockdowns, I was busy clearing out 14 rooms or sheds on the Kettering property; writing, finding photos, proofreading, editing and launching a book with the assistance of Forty South; moving to the Snug Caravan Park for a 6-month stay until my Kingston unit was available; celebrating my 70th birthday and 40 years of Igloo production; and organising several storage places until I could move some of them into my new place.

The book is called 'Igloo Ripples' which is now available in the Channel Museum's Gift Shop as well as bookstores in Hobart.



Currently, as a 'retiree', I still have time to read a good book and enjoy a glass of wine - when I am not sorting out more Kettering things; communicating and visiting Penguin to discuss Igloos with the new owners and view any Igloos sold; contributing to the Antarctic Women's Network; and assisting our Curator Lara with organising the move of items into the new storage space at the Channel Museum. The last is a challenge I am enjoying without being solely responsible for a change.

Anthea with Rod Ledingham at the launch of her book

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DID YOU KNOW?

John Basil Waldie, commonly known as Jim, had a weekend property at Lower Snug. "The Rockery" as it was named was the weekend residence of Jim and his wife Amy. After Amy passed away in 1972, Jim stayed on at "The Rockery" and his keen interest and passion for the history of the Channel area began in earnest. He was a great believer in recording the history for posterity and collecting items and information to share with the community.

Jim gave his home, property and collection of memorabilia to the Channel community prior to his death in 1986. The proceeds of the sale of the properties were used to purpose build our existing Museum, (together with a government grant) thus enabling his legacy to continue. All items in the Museum have been kindly donated by community members and their families.

The Museum is solely run by volunteers, and we rely on donations, fundraising events and grants to keep the doors open.

I believe we are very fortunate to have had such a remarkable benefactor and hope he would be proud of his vision being officially recognized as being an accredited museum with the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA).

Judi Castle



Jim Waldie, 1942
(Channel Museum image collection)

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Channel Museum School Visit Program



At the start of the visit—Andrew talking to students

The school visit program for 2025 is now well underway. At the end of May 2025, we have had close to 200 primary students from 5 schools already visiting the museum. A further 5 schools have already been booked for the next few months. Over the last few years, we are averaging about 550 primary school students annually.

Our school visit program is very popular with schools as the exhibits in the museum complement part of the younger primary syllabus, where students are educated on how we lived in the past and how technology has changed our lives. Teachers have given

high levels of praise on our program with most schools being repeat visitors annually. Most of our students are in Grades 1 and 2.

The school visit commences with an introduction in the library where students are encouraged to think about how life was in the past and what life was like before electricity. Students are then divided into smaller groups where our

museum school guides take them around the museum and provide an insight into the displays, the life of people and the objects used in earlier times. A highlight of the tour is the museum schoolroom where students can gain an insight into early schooling. On completion of the tour, students are then assembled again in the library to give their thoughts on living in earlier times and to pose any questions.



A class in the old school room

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our school visit guides for their time and the high standard that they display in relating to the younger students.

Andrew Tomes

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Temporary exhibitions

ANZAC Spirit through Time by Kingston Beach RSL— April 2025

An exhibition to coincide with ANZAC Day 2025.



Some treasures from the Exhibition



OWLS GALORE – from our President Judi Castle’s collection — May 2025



Owls have always intrigued and fascinated me, from their habits to their uniqueness. Did you know that a group of owls are known as a parliament of owls? My passion for the collection of these magnificent creatures began when I was a child, however it was accelerated by a gift I received from a close friend of a small collection of clay owl figurines. Since that time, I have collected over 5,000 owl items from all over the world – vesta cases, sewing boxes, money boxes, dolls, figurines, trinket boxes, perfume bottles, trinket dishes, bottles; glass, leather,



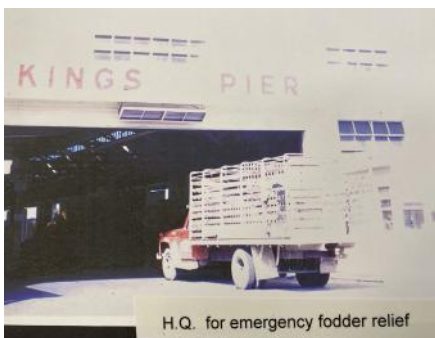
brass, gold, silver, metal, fabric, plastic, bakelite, ivory, bone, cast iron; you name it, I most probably have it. I do like the unusual therefore many quirky items grace my collection. It was a joy to be able to exhibit them this May. The hardest part was deciding which items to display from my vast array.



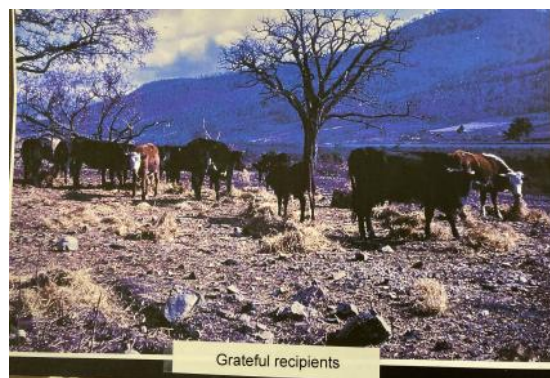
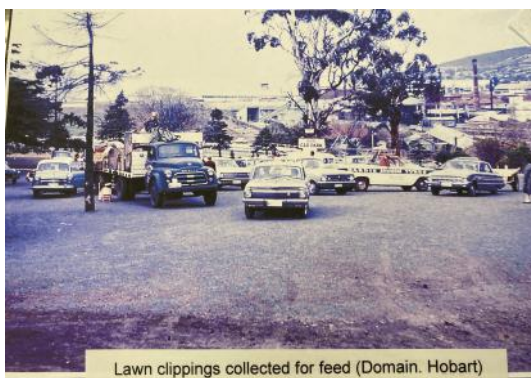
Kingborough Emergency Livestock and Fodder Committee (KELFC)

The Library has recently had discussions with Lyndley and Sue Chopping about a trove of documents they have through Lyndley's father Reg Chopping. After the 1967 bushfires, Reg Chopping was the Chairman of the Kingborough Emergency Livestock and Fodder Committee (KELFC). Lyndley and Sue are donating the papers to the Tasmanian Archives, but the Museum Library will be able to digitise any papers we wish from the collection first.

The KELFC was formed at a Public meeting on 16 March 1967 to find ways of helping Channel farmers who had been burnt out in the fires, and who had livestock which needed feed to survive. The Committee, comprising Reg Chopping, Michael Hodgman MLC, Les Gabriel, Tom Wilson and Bill Bylett, coordinated donations and purchases of bales of hay and straw from across the state, and sold the bales to farmers who qualified for only 50 cents a bale for hay, and 25 cents for straw. Some fodder was also purchased and resold for approximately half the cost prevailing through trade centres. Kings Pier in Hobart was reopened especially for the KELFC and was used as the railhead for distribution. Prisoners were "loaned" to unload rail wagons into the wharf sheds and then to reload them into trucks, utes or car boots with rations of hay.



Other innovative feeding initiatives were developed, including an "Adopt-a-lamb" program. Things were pretty desperate to save newborn lambs which were being killed to save their mothers from dying. Townspeople were offering to take young lambs to their own homes. There was also a "save your grass clippings" program where Hobartians took their lawn clippings to the Domain car park on Saturday mornings for collection and transport to hungry farm animals. There was also a scheme to distribute donated fence posts to



affected farmers.

The Fodder Program ran from May until September 1967, and while the farmers assisted were mainly from the Channel area, the scheme was extend-

ed to all other Southern areas including Huon, Derwent Valley and South East regions, where excessive dry periods were making feeding stock very difficult. In June/July 1967 the ration system had to be maintained as supplies were getting scarcer by the day, compounded by the North West areas having a very dry season with their own stock. The scheme and operations of the Committee was conducted solely on a voluntary basis. Had no fodder scheme been in place, the price of feed would have escalated, and been out of reach for farmers.

The final report of KELFC (December 1967) says that to their knowledge no cattle owned by fire-victim farmers died as a result of starvation in the drought-stricken eight months following February 7th. There was only one case of irregularity whereby a person who was not eligible for the scheme drew a total of 33 bales of hay by declaring that two horses he owned were cows. Overall, the total fodder handled by the Committee was 100,544

bales of hay and straw, 66 bags of oats and barley grain and 1,100 bags of cow meal. Altogether, the Committee's receipts totalled \$47,568 and administrative costs of \$69. After paying all accounts, there was a surplus of \$6,043 (made possible by donated fodder) – the surplus was rebated back at 5 cents a bale to farmers who had purchased fodder.

The Library has currently some information about KELFC in a folder BUSHF0033. We hope to have more information available digitally soon.

Information supplied by Lyndley Chopping.

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Nights at the Museum

“Whitewater” Kingston (homestead and surrounds) 1906-2015 —- Chris and David Nelan



On Wednesday 12th March Chris Nelan and her son David gave a very interesting talk about the “Whitewater” property in Kingston. Whitewater was built in 1870 by Solomon Baynton, from hand-made clay bricks made on the property. The Pearsall family owned the property for 109 years : Chris and David are Pearsall descendants. Chris grew up in Kingston, and enjoys researching the history of the area. David is also historically minded and is currently the CFO for the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

The evening was very entertaining, and we heard about the tribulations of a family owning property close to an expanding centre like Kingston, where multiple compulsory acquisition of farm land by the government and council took place.

Judi Castle, David and Chris on the night Photo courtesy of Melissa Grabert

The Library hopes to have information about Whitewater available soon.

HMAS AE2—the silent ANZAC — Peter Horobin

The *Night at the Museum* for April 2025 was related to ANZAC Day, and was presented by Peter Horobin. Peter Horobin MBE, served in submarines from 1966 to 1985. He had the great privilege to command three of our submarines. In his last job he was the lead responsible for providing submarine escape and rescue services for Australia, Singapore, and the NATO countries.

As the ANZACs (and British, French, and Indian forces) were landing on the western shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Australian submarine AE2 was conducting a submerged transit through the Dardanelles into the Sea of Marmara. Its orders were to proceed into the Sea of Marmara and once there “to run amok!”. AE2 was the first submarine to penetrate the Dardanelles, and in so doing it started the first submarine campaign in history.

Jupiter Mike Groth

On 14th May 2025, Mike Groth spoke about Jupiter. The University of Tasmania has a strong history of radio astronomy research using a network of observing stations in the southern skies and analyse their signals. These included analysis of the radio transmissions from the planet Jupiter, which revealed the strength and polarity of

its magnetic field, and helped determine its true rotation rate which could not be measured from Earth-bound optical telescopes.

During the 1973 apparition of the planet, observations in both Hobart and Dunedin in New Zealand successfully recorded and analysed the short (S or millisecond) bursts, revealing new insights into the interaction of the planet's magnetic field with Jovian moon Io.

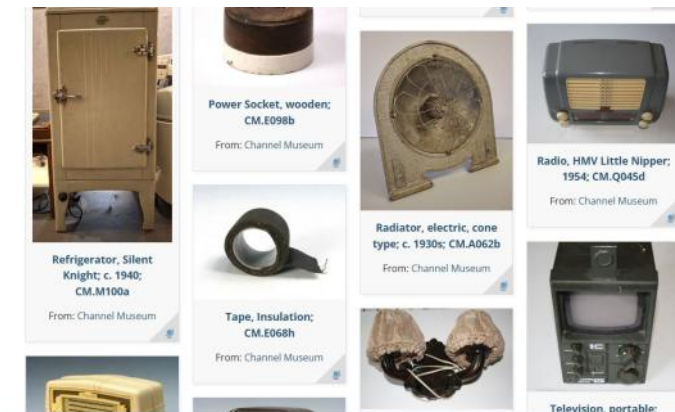
Mike was the PhD student who built and operated the New Zealand station. After graduating from the University of Otago, he worked in geophysics, medical imaging and environmental monitoring, before retiring in 2014. Mike is a volunteer at the Channel Museum.

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Museum objects now catalogued in eHive

Andrew Tomes

The Channel Museum has moved its cataloguing system to eHive. Over 7,500 objects which are held by the Museum are now managed within eHive, which is a web-based collection cataloguing system designed for small to medium sized museums. eHive enables contemporary museum cataloguing standards to be applied to our collections. Collections are held under the catalogue types of Archives, Archaeology, Art, History, Library, Natural Science, Photography & Multimedia.



eHive is used by many museums worldwide including the Tasmanian Maritime Museum.

This has now enabled improved organisation and access to our collections together with expanded capacity to record and retrieve information about our objects.

Ongoing work will continue in improving cataloguing details on the museum's objects including information about objects, location within the museum, provi-

dence and condition. Photographs of objects are also continually being added where required.

As a web-based system, eHive also allows the public access to view our collections online. The Channel Museum's collections can be viewed from the following link:

<https://ehive.com/collections/203571/channel-museum>

From
Channel Museum

Name/Title
Refrigerator, Silent Knight

About this object

Edward Hallstrom (1866-1970) was an Australian businessman and inventor. He opened a factory in Willoughby, New South Wales in 1934 to manufacture refrigerators. His business, Hallstrom Pty Ltd produced refrigerators powered by either gas, electricity and kerosene.

These refrigerators were of the absorption type with no compressor and due to the quiet operation they were marketed under the 'Silent Night' trade mark. The Silent Night name was used from the mid 1930's to late 1940's.

This example is electric powered.

Date Made
c. 1940

Place Made
New South Wales, Australia

Measurements
H 1380 mm x W 640 mm x D 700 mm

*Descriptive record in
eHive*

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Kingborough Assessment Roll, 1903

Kees Wierenga has catalogued the Kingston data recorded in the Assessment Roll for the Municipal District of Kingborough, 1903. If anyone would like to catalogue (in a spreadsheet) the other areas of Kingborough, please contact Kees and he will provide you with photos of the original pages of the Roll.

The Roll records Description of property, Location of property, Name of occupier, Name of owner, Area of property, Annual value and Capital value. Kees has added 'gender' of owner, because he noticed a lot of female names on the original Roll.

Kees has produced interesting reports listing number of all the different property types, from paddock and allotment to Pilot Station, and every variation of cottage and house category. He also has a report on the number of properties owned by women (a surprising number), the property owners (the winner of the most properties owned is a woman), a value and gender table, and the number of properties per location, bearing in mind that this list includes Pearson's Point, Leslie, Summerleas and expected locations, but not Margate or the Channel.

Kingborough Council minutes 9th November 1953:

"Truganini Burial: Cr. Watson referred to the recent press controversy regarding the burial of Truganini, the last Tasmanian Aboriginal, and said her bones were kept at the Museum for scientific purposes although her request was that she be buried off the Shepherds at Coningham. The suggestion of Mr. J. McLean, of Bruny Island, that she be buried in a concrete grave at Alonnah should be carried out. Truganini nursed the late Mr. W. Imms, Kettering. Cr. Gill supported, and suggested that Archdeacon H. B. Atkinson be asked to carry out the burial sevice, and this was agreed to. Cr. Ashton said that the request by Truganini should be carried out in detail and the bones interred in a proper coffin and buried at sea. It was agreed that Crs. Watson, Gill and McKay get together in the matter, and Cr. McKay requested that details be obtained in writing".

Kees will see whether later reports on this topic are in the minutes.



Hope everyone has noticed the beautiful patchwork Welcome sign, created by Helen Wadsley for the Museum—it's the first thing visitors see when they come in the Museum—thank you Helen!

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Office Bearers 2024-2025	
President:	Judi Castle
Vice President:	Mike Jackson
Secretary:	Andrew Tomes
Treasurer:	Sarah Jackson
Curator:	Lara Colrain

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Andrew Wadsley	Michele Mason
Helen Wadsley	David Tulip
Anthea Wallhead	Cathy Fyfe
Melissa Grabert	Col Hocking
Newsletter editor: Diane Worth	