



CHANNEL Museum



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

Museum – Research Room – Gallery – Camera Collection - Café

October conference of the Huon and Kingborough History & Museum Network (HKHMN)

The Channel Museum is part of the HKHMN, along with the Cygnet Living Museum, the Dover History Group, the Franklin History Group, the Ida Bay Railway Preservation Society, the Geeveston Archives & History Society, the Upper Huon History Group, the Bruny Island Historical Society, the Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station and the Middleton History Group. More than 300 volunteers run these museums and history groups to preserve and present the wonderful history of these areas. More volunteers are always needed to help care for the objects and collate information about the large area of the two Municipalities.



The Network is planning an Exhibition/Conference to be held from Tuesday 7th October until the Sunday 12th October 2025, starting at 9:30 am and finishing at 3:30 pm each day. Each of the HKHMN members will be able to set up an exhibit to better inform the community of the two Municipalities about the Museums and History Groups in their area.

The exhibition and conference will be a free event to all members of the Huon & Kingborough History and Museum Network Inc. Non-members are very welcome, with a gold coin donation appreciated, and children free.

Set up of the exhibition will be on Monday the 6th October from 9.00am until 4.00 pm—each participant association will be able to display photos, banners, brochures, large items, advertising for any future events etc. During the exhibition, there will be 2 people supervising the exhibition— we'll be asking for volunteers for this! The Conference will be held on Saturday 11th October. This will take the form of guest speakers with breaks for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. The AGM for HKHMN will be held at the end of the day. People wishing to attend the conference should email the HKHMN at hkhmnetwork@gmail.com to register or to obtain more information.

The conference will be moderated by Michele Mason. Speakers will include Andrew Tomes, who will talk about using eHhive to manage museum collections; Warwick Lee will talk about the Tasmanian parliamentary papers 1856-1901 which have recently been digitised in a large project, Dr. Imogen Wegman will speak about the Family History programme at UTAS, and author and historian Richie Woolley will also speak.

The HKHMN website is being developed and is now available at: <https://hkhmn.weebly.com>—**Beth Bartlett,**

President HKHMN

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CHAFMA now a registered charity

The Channel Historical and Folk Museum Association Inc. has now been registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. The advantages include a free presence on the ACNC Charity Register, reduced regulatory requirements for reporting, and potentially increasing the availability of grants. The application process was quite extensive, however approval acknowledges the contribution the Association makes to advancing culture through the operations of the Channel Museum. — **Andrew Tomes**

President's Report

Spring has sprung and what a pleasure to see the daffodils blooming, buds appearing on trees and the wonderful display of yellow wattle. It is a time of regeneration, renewal and growth.

The internal space in the storage shed has started to take shape, with walls being installed to plan. We will need funding for this space so we will be looking at appropriate grants, fundraising events and possible sponsorship opportunities to complete the area to museum standards.

The 'Night at the Museum' is continuing to be popular with ever increasing interest, often fully booked well before the presentation date. Unfortunately, we have limited space, however if a topic is very popular, we can arrange for a repeat by request. We have introduced afternoon sessions for those who cannot attend the evenings, and these have attracted full bookings. Bookings are essential and can be made by phone or registered at the reception desk. Once again, many thanks to Sheila and her team for organizing such a great variety of speakers and topics. We have received many a positive comment, thus encouraging us to continue the program in the new year.

Coming up – September 10th – The History of Brookfield
 October 8th – Ida Bay Railway History
 November 12th – Quiz Night
 December 10th – Ireland with Neil Sorensen (TBC)

Andrew and Helen W. and family offered oliebollen on election day in July as an impromptu fundraiser. This was surprisingly successful considering the weather and lack of advertising. Thank you for your efforts and the fun we had on the day.

Our temporary exhibitions have also been many and varied and continue to draw visitors. Please remember if you are an artist, we would love to display your work at no charge. Feel free to discuss with reception staff or email to secretary@channelmuseum.org.au.

The school groups continue to enjoy the museum experience with our guides doing a fantastic job imparting their knowledge about the "olden days". Well done Andrew and the team.

Once again, I would like to thank all our volunteers for your dedication and enthusiasm without which the museum would not thrive.

Until next time, smell the flowers, stay happy and healthy.

Judi Castle

Museum Extension — we're nearly there!!

Since the last newsletter progress on the Channel Museum's extension has been considerable. The most important has been the signing-off of the Government Grant, as we have reached the limit of expenditure on the construction portion of the project. Additional expenditure had been authorised by the Museum's Committee to enable completion of this portion and to commence the fit-out of the interior whilst still pursuing grants which would complete the project. This will include the creation of a "sensitive items room" for delicate artefacts such as materials and old documents, indeed anything likely to be adversely affected by temperature and or subject to damage in a normal Museum environment.

The internal layout of the storage extension has been drawn up by the Curator's team, which has utilised our existing racking in addition to shelving kindly provided by Mawson's Hut and others, which will allow for immediate usage of the extension area once internal construction is completed.

The new concrete floor has been painted in two parts and has now dried, including the marking of the emergency exit route. The electric underfloor heating is wired to power and ready for commissioning after the internal partitioning is installed.

In short, the Building Committee anticipates the storage extension will be available for the use of the curators' team within the next 4 – 6 weeks, to start the onerous task of moving the artefacts from the clean store and inward goods store to their new home.

Mike Jackson

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“Marie Giblin, a life well lived”

1946 - 2025

Marie was an enthusiastic and devoted volunteer for the Channel Historical & Folk Museum Association (CHAFMA). She was a long-time member of the Association and over the years made significant contributions to a variety of Museum activities and projects, including as a CHAFMA Committee member.



The current Museum facility in its initial planning and build, lent itself to Marie employing her landscaping and land management skills to leading the planting, and later the maintenance of the vegetation around the Museum.

Marie’s positive connections to CHAFMA extended to advancing the history of the Channel, for as a devoted history buff, she enjoyed researching and then documenting her individual history interests. Her affable nature facilitated her engagement with other historians and likewise encouraged positive connections with local history sources in the community. To that end, in one instance Marie teamed up with Peter Macfie, the notable historian, to research and publish a number of publications dealing with North West Bay and Birchs Bay Sawing (Convict) Stations.

Marie used her training as a cartographer to facilitate her understanding of early charts and projections of the Channel and on one occasion used this knowledge to facilitate

Parks & Wildlife Tasmania conducting an archaeological study of the Birchs Bay area. This in turn lead to a successful foreshore ‘convict’ restoration project.

Apart from using her plant propagation skills to add native plants to the museum garden, Marie made other physical contributions to the Channel Museum. Over the many years of her association with CHAFMA, Marie donated a variety of “Giblin” family artefacts to the Channel Museum collection. As an aside, her family connection to the Museum collection dates right back to the initial establishment of the “Channel Folk Museum”, with the founder Jim Waldie.

Marie’s altruism extended to the Research Room where can be found an array of history related books and documents which have over the years been donated by Marie.

Marie’s amical nature. and enthusiastic involvement with CHAFMA will be sadly missed.

Peter Hughes and Marie’s family

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Introducing — Cathy Fyfe



I am one of those people who drove past the Channel Museum regularly and thought “I must call in there one day”. It wasn’t until a couple of years after I retired that I was looking to undertake some sort of volunteer role that I walked in the door.

You will find me on the reception desk with my offsider Mark on Mondays. I was nominated on Committee last year and now find myself as Secretary (still have my “L” plates on). I help with the school tour groups, which is great fun exploring what it was like in the “olden days” with young children. I enjoy listening to their questions, comments and expressions of disbelief of life without electricity, plumbing,

Enjoying a day sailing with my little mate Ruby, exploring the Channel

transport and schooling. I have met some amazing people, guiding them through the reading room resources, even

having discovered some distant relatives through sharing of stories with people who come to visit.

I married Andrew in 1991, and we have two wonderful daughters that both now live in the Kingborough Municipality. Both girls grew up in Margate on a small acreage next door to their grandparents who had subdivided the family property.

My parents and grandparents have influenced my interest in family history and collections. My mother had undertaken researching her family tree and has traced back to the convicts, the first fleet, and back to the UK. As a young child, visiting my grandfather’s workplace when he was the Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, spiked an interest in the various collections, especially insects, animals and the arts.

Looking back, I spent the first 5 years of my life living in Kingston. Dad worked in banking, so the family moved to Burnie for a couple of years before moving back down south to live on the Eastern Shore for most of my childhood and teenage years.

Growing up most of my time involved being around and owning horses, being an active member of pony club and competing. I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do so after college I worked at an agistment and riding school for a couple of years. I soon worked out that whilst the lifestyle with horses was enjoyable, it was hard work with long hours and didn’t pay the bills. I was heavily involved with the Tasmanian Showjumping Association Southern Branch for many years both competing, on committee and as an accredited Show Jump Judge which took me around the state.

Whilst I didn’t set out to make records and information management a career, I really enjoyed seeing how an organisation ticked. My first administrative role was as a records clerk with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, then progressed to other government organisations including Premier and Cabinet, Tas Fire Service, Health & Human Services until I moved to the University of Tasmania as Manager, Records & Information, in 2000.

Throughout my career I undertook many roles which involved project management, education and training, policy and procedures, compliance, research, classification, archival and preservation of business records, advice and information technology. I have seen and been apart of the transition from paper-based systems to digital, which kept you engaged and learning all the time. I am sure I can utilise some of these skills in my volunteer role.

But that is enough about me, come in and say hello, would love to meet you.

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Temporary exhibitions

Wool, thread and memory — July 2025



July's exhibition showcased the work of Lyn Butler, whose expertise with textiles can be traced back to her childhood in England, where her grandparents had a London business mainly doing alterations for a local wedding shop. After a career in IT as an analyst programmer, Lynn escaped to the country and was able to follow her creative instincts. The exhibition included many pieces Lyn had crafted, along with the Millennium Quilt made by the Garden Creek CWA members.



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Frank Hurley and the BANZARE: a frozen legacy — August 2025



The exhibition showed extraordinary photographs from the British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition (BANZARE) - 1929-1931. It showed the icy world of early Antarctic exploration through the extraordinary photographs of Frank Hurley, best known for his dramatic images of Shackleton's Endurance and Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911—1914. Hurley returned south in the late 1920s to document the BANZARE which was led by Sir Douglas Mawson. The exhibition was complemented by Lara Colrain's 'Night at the Museum' in August, which discussed BANZARE and showed more of Hurley's photographs.



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Nights at the Museum

Ian Johnston—adventure at sea — Wednesday 9th July 2025

Ian Johnston held the record for the solo Trans Tasman race for 28 years, the solo Trans Pacific race for 12 years and was 5 days ahead of the second Australian boat in the round Australia 2 handed race. Ian told the audience about "...a series of extraordinary events that gave an unusual direction to the rest of my life."



Ian and his large model. photo courtesy of Mary Tomny

Ian's stories were funny, describing the most dangerous circumstances at sea. He brought a large model of a timber ocean voyaging craft that had its own story to tell.

Ian is one of the 3 co-founders of the Australian Wooden Boat Festival and is still strongly involved.

Ian's book 'The Shank' has sold out its third print run. A second book is nearly finished.

Ian's timber sculptures have been sold into national buildings in Canberra and our own TMAG.



Ian and his dog Riley on ningher photo courtesy of Mary Tomny

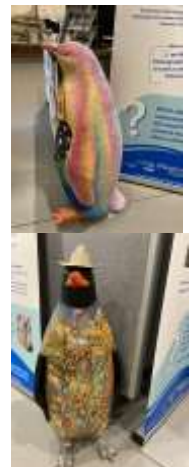
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Frank Hurley and the BANZARE: a frozen legacy — Lara Colrain, 20th August 2025



Lara's presentation explored Hurley's life and legacy, the achievements of the BANZARE, and the striking images that emerged from this pivotal expedition. Guests also had the rare opportunity to view several original Hurley photographs from the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum's collection.

Lara gave a guided tour of the exhibition which accompanied this Night at the Museum. See Page 5 for more on the exhibition.



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Grants and defibrillators

The Museum has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$3,500 from the Australian Government 2024-25 Volunteer Grants Program. The purpose of this grant is to enable some of the Museum's aging personal computers to be replaced.

A defibrillator has now been provided to the Museum through the State Government Community Defibrillator Fund. Given that the Museum, including the Cafe, are frequented by many elderly people, there is a higher risk that one of our patrons may experience cardiac arrest.

Andrew Tomes



The defibrillator is to the left of the Museum entrance, above the mail box

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Afternoon at the Channel Emporium

Are you being served? Grocery stores in the Channel

Michele Mason Sunday July 13th 2025



Michele treated attendees to a very interesting and entertaining presentation about her childhood in Woodbridge. She provided a brief history of the general store in the Channel area, together with personal memories of growing up in a family who ran the local general store.

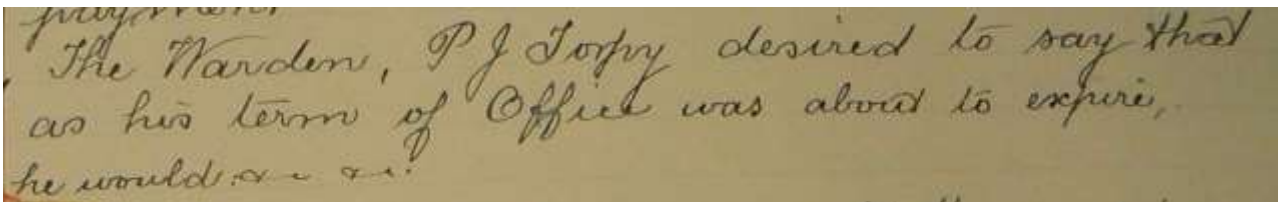
The general store was an important part of the social history of the towns and farms in the Channel area. They served both the families that lived in the townships, as well as the farmers, orchardists, fruitgrowers and fishermen who lived around them. These stores stocked all manner of items from fresh food, medications and personal items, through to hardware and animal produce, including gelignite!

Michele is a volunteer researcher in the Museum Library. Her parents operated the Woodbridge general store, one of three stores established by her grandfather, Albert Mason, for 50 years. The other stores were located at Middleton and Gordon.

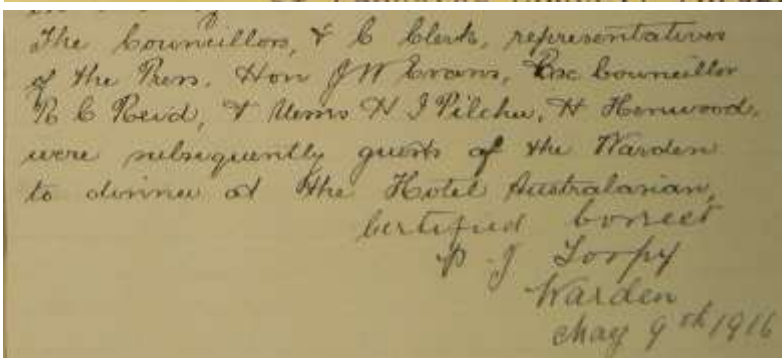
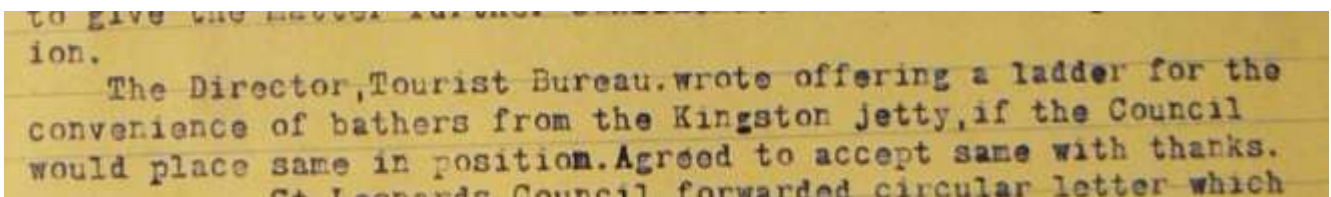
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Kees' tidbits

What would the Warden do? Who can read the ancient hieroglyphics?



October 1919—the Tourism Department makes the Kingborough Council an offer it can't refuse!



The Warden was paid a small, nominal stipend for performing his duties. The Treasurer was given an even smaller amount.

Every year, the Warden hosted a dinner at a local establishment.

The net effect was that all the money stayed local, and everybody got a benefit.

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Library news

Numbering and preparing our video and sound collections for simple viewing and/or listening is now complete. Digital versions can now be accessed from shortcut icons on the desktops of the three library and the reception computers (log on as Volunteer, or Secretary on that PC). Reception staff may like to catch up on some local history between visitors.



There are 46 videos with subjects including: the 1967 bushfires, scallop and cray fishing, history of various locations (the U3A series), the old museum at Lower Snug, the opening of the new museum, various ABC television clips with local content including Wolfe's berry farm and interviews with Peter Klein, the Noonans, Dutch immigrants and Betty Brown (scallop splitting).

Sound recordings (29) include interviews with Helen Davidson, Phyllis Norton, Josie Brereton, Reg Chopping, Phil Barrett, David Reynolds, Don Norton, Margot BurrIDGE, Adrian Dean, Kevin Waldie, Kelly Eckel, Des Minehan, Betty Hansson, Robin Meredith, Christopher Waterhouse, Max Gordon and more. There is also a copy of an ABC Radio broadcast from an open day at the Marine Discovery Centre, Woodbridge in 2009, with several interviews, and the "Brag at Breakfast" event during the 150th Anniversary of Margate celebrations in 2016 with several speakers on aspects of the township's history.

If you are not on duty in Reception there will usually be a computer free in the Library, except on Tuesday mornings.

David Tulip

If you're looking for something in the Library with a prefix 'PAM' you'll find them in pamphlet boxes at the start or the serials sequence. We received a lot of new material (well new to us!) of very slim booklets, which tend to get hidden between normal books. Hence the separate shelving. We will go through the normal books and add flimsy ones to this collection as we have time.

We have a new folder compiled by David Tulip—it's entitled *Mission Afloat at the Montgomery Park Coningham*, identifier SNUMA0001. David has brought together material which tells the story of the Anglican Church marine education camp which operated from 2001 until 2018. Worth a read.

Our latest Channel Museum booklet is now available—it is *Fruit in the Channel* by Gail Foster. The booklet covers the history of fruit growing in the Channel, the reasons why the industry did so well, and the end of much apple growing due to changes overseas. You will find a copy in the Library at SER 994.62 CHA No.25017, or it is in the Shop for sale.

We've been given some interesting research materials—information used by some of our researchers when they compile booklets and create local folders for us. These materials may be of interest to others, so the Library is making them available on the shelving behind the volunteer PC. When catalogued they will have the prefix 'RES'. Please feel free to have a look at this material if you are interested.

Di Worth



Kees recently stumbled on this photo that he took many years ago. The “house” was on a property on the corner of Maranoa Road and Sophia St. in Kingston. The house was taken away on a Hazell Bros truck - the shed must have gone too, because twelve units were built on this block. Kees wondered whether this hut was one of the workers’ huts on the Lewan Avenue subdivision project. The Council was not happy about this accommodation - it is mentioned several times in their minutes. Something to do with hygiene and sanitary arrangements. An odd situation, because Lewan Avenue was the first street to have the sewerage installed.

Water came from the first reservoir, on top of Boronia Hill. The Council may also have had concerns about disposal of rainwater. Maybe this hut is a precursor of the PWD huts for workers on remote road projects?

Lewan Avenue was a project of John Bloomer, an English emigrant, who was a large scale builder of houses in the UK but who was fed up with post-war conditions in England with its ongoing shortages of materials-and probably man power. He intended to farm in Tasmania but was asked to build a house for an acquaintance. Then with a building workforce to hand he fell back on his old profession.. He was pretty entrepreneurial for all that - buying a gravel quarry in Taroona to get gravel, and buying shares in the Granton Brickworks to ensure supply.

In 1950 he started building Kingston’s first subdivision - i.e. 10 houses in Lewan Avenue. He used three or four house plans, each repeated at least twice, and all fronted with a wooden picket fence. His idea was to build affordable homes at a time when it was difficult to own a home. According to his daughter, Joan, he helped several of his purchasers with low- interest loans. Most of them were emigrants from the UK, apart from the Komaromy family who were Hungarian. Locally their street was known as Immigrant Road for some years. They were “out in the sticks” as there was no development around them, just a few random houses etc. Julie’s friend Maria lives in Lewan Avenue, and recalls their first toilet as the outdoor dunny, the pan system, which was emptied weekly by Council workers. The people in the street eventually funded their own sewerage system - and were more than a tad annoyed when just a few years later they had to pay for the installation of the Council’s sewerage system.

Joan Humble, John Bloomer’s daughter, is the landscape watercolour painter. She still lives in Taroona.

It is believed that John Bloomer may have bought the land from Brinsmead - he owned much of Maranoa Road, including the block Kees lives on (title transfer processed by law clerk Peter Underwood, later Governor of Tasmania). Brinsmead also owned the site of Kingston Town, and possibly Patonga Street. The Kingston Town site & Patonga Street were originally earmarked by Council for a sports centre.

Brinsmead also owned the land on Mount Nelson on which 7HO built their transmission tower and auxiliary building.

If anyone has any further information about Lewan Avenue, please contact Kees.

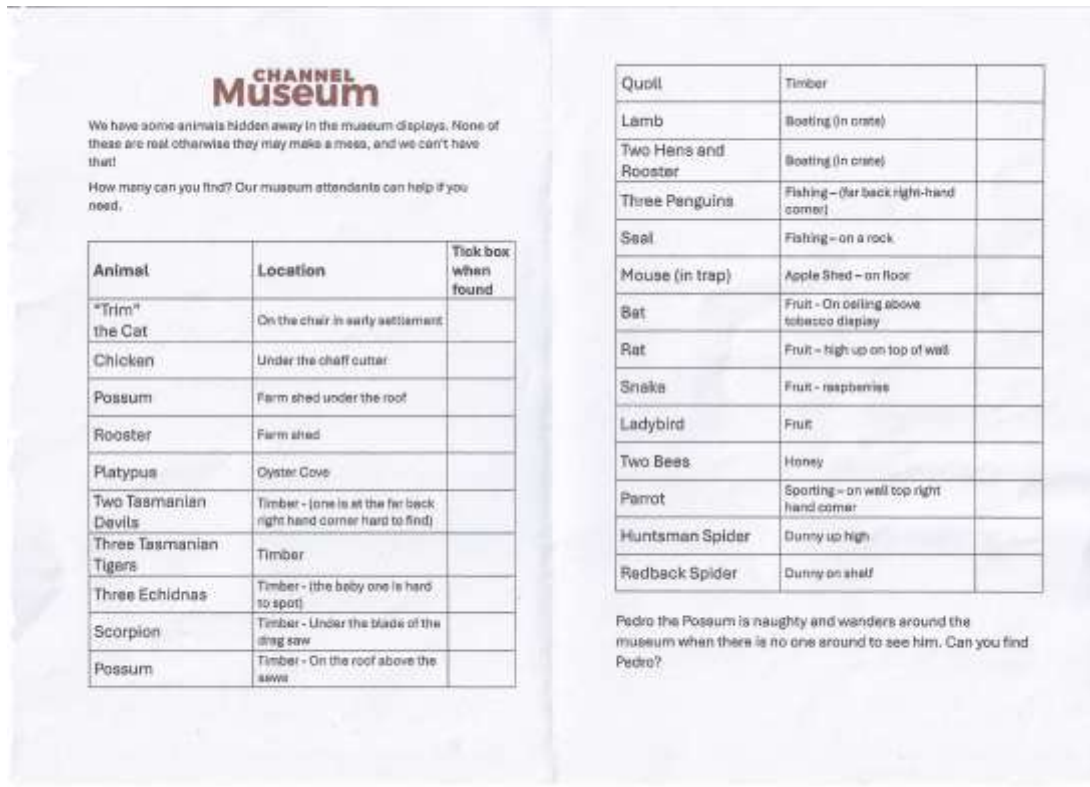
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Apology

In the June 2025 newsletter there was an article about the Kingborough Emergency Livestock and Fodder Committee (KELFC) established after the 1967 bushfires. The article inadvertently omitted Vern Rae from the names of the Committee of the Kingborough Emergency Livestock Committee. The full committee were Reg Chopping (Chair), Michael Hodgman MLC, Vern Rae, Les Gabriel, Tom Wilson and Bill Bylett.

Apologies for this unintentional omission.

Spot those animals!



Reception Staff now have a "spotter sheet" for young Museum-goers. The idea is to find all the animals hidden around the museum.

Once they've filled it in the sheet and handed it back to Reception, we have a pretty, adhesive sticker to put on their sheet and an ink stamp for their hand. The sheet is for them to take away and show to their family and friends.

Mary Tomny

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Office Bearers 2025-2026

President: Judi Castle
 Vice President: Andrew Tomes
 Secretary: Cathy Fyfe
 Treasurer: Sarah Jackson
 Curator: Lara Colrain

 Public Officer: Andrew Tomes

Committee Members 2025-2026

David Tulip	Anthea Wallhead
Mike Jackson	Michele Mason
Andrew Wadsley	Mary Tomny
Colin Hocking	Andy Henebury
Newsletter editor: Diane Worth	