



We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Sibelco Australia in the production of our Newsletter.

GETTING EQUAL

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL ABORIGINAL WAGES CASE

Exhibition Opening

On Friday 30 July the museum launched the Getting Equal exhibition. The event was a great success with many community members and visitors coming to learn more about the story of the wage campaign here on the island. The exhibition traces the story of a nearly three decades long campaign by Aboriginal workers at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum to be paid the same as white workers. In 1944 the Government agreed to pay Aboriginal workers at the Dunwich Asylum according to the relevant Industrial Awards. The exhibition is on until February 2022.



Image: Getting Equal Exhibition Opening, NSIMM



Image: Getting Equal Exhibition Opening, NSIMM

Community Launch

On Saturday 11 September the museum held a community launch of the Getting Equal exhibition. It was an opportunity for the community to have lunch and look at the exhibition.



Image: Getting Equal Community Launch, NSIMM



Image: Getting Equal Community Launch, NSIMM

The exhibition was made possible by a Regional Arts Development Fund grant, which is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Redland City Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



Explore The Footprint And Remains Of The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum Event

On Saturday 18 September the museum held a guided heritage walk, lunch and panel discussion about the workers at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum. The guided walk had three groups, two on foot and the elders in a bus, to explore five heritage registered sites around Goompi/Dunwich. The panel discussion was chaired by Howard Guille and panelists included: Aunty Evelyn Parkin, Avril Quail and Tegan Burns. The museum would like to extend a huge thank you to Minjerriba Respite for the use of their bus to transport our Elders for this event as well as the delicious catering provided.



Image: Getting Equal Community Event, NSIMM



Image: Getting Equal Community Event, NSIMM



Image: Getting Equal Community Event, NSIMM

ABC, 4ZZZ and NITV Coverage of Getting Equal



Image: Tegan & Elisabeth at 4ZZZ, NSIMM

Our Getting Equal exhibition has received some great media coverage since we opened the exhibition. On 2 September Elisabeth, Howard and Tegan were interviewed on ABC Radio and on 7 September Elisabeth and Tegan were interviewed on 4ZZZ Radio. We also had a film crew from NITV attend the museum to view the exhibition as well as attend our event on 18 September. They aired a story on 'The Point' on 21 September, you can watch the story and listen to the interviews on our website. <https://stradbroke-museum.com.au/getting-equal-australias-first-successful-aboriginal-wages-case/>



Image: Tegan & Elisabeth in the studio at ABC, NSIMM

Museum AGM

We held our AGM on Saturday 25 September. We would like to welcome Stephanie Parkin as our new President and Sonja Carmichael as a new committee member. Committee members are: Howard Guille, Evelyn Parkin, Sonja Carmichael, Karen Rylance, Joan Benham, Tracy Ryan and Stuart Cameron. We would like to thank the Stradbroke Singers for their performance.

Contemporary Collecting

The museum made a submission to the Gumpi Draft Masterplan which can be viewed on our website.

<https://stradbroke-museum.com.au/news/> The museum has archived submissions made by community members. We would welcome copies of other submissions from community members to add to our archive.

The Museum is also photographing the deconstruction of the mining infrastructure around Dunwich. We would like to thank Steve Kendall from Sibelco for providing access to the sites for photographing the layers of the past which are being unearthed. It is disappointing that there has not yet been a comprehensive archaeological survey undertaken of Dunwich. Some of the remains being uncovered possibly date from the Quarantine Station (1850-1864) and the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum (1866-1946).



Image: Mining Deconstruction, NSIMM



Image: Mining Deconstruction, NSIMM

Art by Ian Quiller Orchardson

Ian Quiller Orchardson was born in London in 1883, son of the renowned UK artist Sir William Quiller Orchardson. Ian spent much of his life at Kericho in Kenya's Western Highlands district where he planted and farmed coffee. At some time during the 1950's Ian came to Australia and boarded at the Headland Chalet at Point Lookout. It was during his stay that he produced a series of oil paintings depicting various coastal scenes around the Point which he exchanged for his board. These art works hung in the Headland Chalet dining room. In 2020 Gordon Rackley, grandson of the former owner Pearl Waller, brought the artworks to the North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah for preservation.

The Headland Chalet is the island's last surviving example of a 1950's guest house. Ian Quiller Orchardson passed away in Brisbane in 1956. His art works featured in the museum as part of an island wide Arts Trail exhibition in October 2020. The museum now has these artworks printed on teatowels available in the museum shop.



Image: Annette showing off the Ian Quiller Orchardson Teatowels, NSIMM

Volunteers

Our monthly volunteer get-togethers are back (barring any more lockdowns)!

At our September session, we did a background tour of our exhibition *Getting Equal*, so that we could provide our visitors with information about its development, and particularly its key features. We were all in awe of the exemption certificate on display: this object was loaned by Aunty Sharon Costelloe, and is one of the most evocative items in the exhibition. This certificate meant its holder was exempt from the *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act* - in other words, the holder was "allowed" to control their own life.

Our 6 October get-together took us into the collection, rehousing our artworks to better protect them and also to save space.

Meanwhile, our volunteers are busy working on various tasks, including clipping the newspapers, indexing a book collection and recording object captions. Of course, our key need is staffing the front desk - without our wonderful reception volunteers, our paid staff would not be able to complete their core tasks.

We welcome new volunteers, if you're interested in finding out what happens behind the scenes, get in touch: volunteer@stradbroke-museum.com.au



Image: Karen and Tamara assisting with the installation of the *Getting Equal* exhibition



Image: Tamara assisting with the installation of the *Getting Equal* exhibition

Trees Trimmed

We would like to thank one of our local tree loppers, George Caruana of Straddie Tree Care, for the professional work at the museum to trim our trees. The museum's yard and now looks a lot tidier. George's services were provided at no charge to the museum.

If you want a professional tree lopping job on Minjerribah, George can be contacted on 0419 785 444, or at 1 Illawong Crescent, Dunwich. He has all the necessary safety equipment and insurance.

Remembering Barbara Smith



Image: Barbara Smith, NSIMM

At the Museum AGM on Saturday 25 September Geoff Moore delivered this Eulogy for Barbara Smith.

Barbara sadly passed away on August 1st at Wellington Point Aged Care Centre. Barbara was a real stalwart and enthusiastic supporter and volunteer at the Museum for over twenty years. She was a Committee Member from 1999-2017 and was elected as Vice President in 2007 standing until 2013. After that she served as Secretary from 2013 until 2016. In many ways, we did not know just how much she used to do at the Museum until she left, or was unable to do them. She was the classic quiet achiever. She and Ellie were jointly responsible for creating most of the displays, many of which are still around us today. Ellie, Barbara, Elisabeth and I had many interesting discussions about those displays.

Ellie and Barbara complemented each other with their skills and personalities but sometimes they were not very complimentary about each other! Barbara put together many themed displays and was very good at getting the Museum to participate in industry events. She was dedicated and passionate about displays and she had a sharp wry sense of humour, which at times I think is what saved her. Friday was Barbara's day at the Museum. The Friday group of volunteers mostly from Amity were a busy group for a number of years and Barbara was the prime organiser. She was an Oral History interviewer in the 2000's working with QALSMA collecting stories in the local communities.

I think the Museum is doing great things with the Jandai Language Map, the shop, the publication "A Paltry Paradise", and now the historically significant Getting Equal Exhibition. But it was almost a different era for Barbara and Ellie and Margaret Nash, who are no longer with us and for many others here today. Then it was about creating and building a viable and vibrant institution from almost nothing, and as an important part of the Island community.

Barbara was the sort of committed and dedicated volunteer who are such a vital part of an institution like ours. She was an important member of the Museum, and the Museum was important to her. Vale Barbara may you rest in peace.

Christmas

The museum will hold its annual Christmas and end of year function on Tuesday 14 December at 12.30pm. All volunteers and members are welcome. If possible please bring a plate to share. Contact the museum to RSVP or if you are unsure of what to bring. We are curating a feast.

Our shop committee have been hard at work stocking our shop with amazing books and merchandise from local suppliers. A huge thank you to Tamara and the shop committee for all your hard work. The shop is looking wonderful and the revenue has almost tripled. If anyone is looking for some Christmas gifts make sure you stop in at the museum shop and check out the great range we have available.



Farewell to Errol Stock

A tribute by Gail Bell

A Memorial Service was held for Errol Stock on Saturday 18th September at the Cleveland Light House Restaurant.

Errol was a staunch and valued friend of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island). It is difficult to remember a time before Errol was with us. He was there way back in the late 70s directly after the inception of SIMO and during our protracted fight against the proposed bridge to the island. Errol brought scientific veracity to support the overwhelming community sentiment to oppose bridge construction on sound environmental, cultural and sociological grounds. Together, and thankfully, we prevailed.

Over the ensuing years, Errol visited the island with many groups of students who were exposed to the beauty and precious, but fragile, nature of the island. Collectively we spent many enjoyable hours with Errol and these students, developing in them a sound information base together with an appreciation for this valuable place. We teamed up with Errol for many jaunts off the beaten track observing and documenting natural and cultural attributes that demanded preservation. Errol's passion for geomorphology and the island's history and dunes were a neat fit. He really got his teeth into the discovery of a giant coral reef which was uncovered at the Amity mine site.

Although unwell, Errol was an honoured guest at SIMO's 40th Anniversary party held at the museum a couple of years ago. Everyone enjoyed the telling of tales of past campaigns – both successful and otherwise.

Errol was a great warrior for Straddie. With his quiet, calm and knowledgeable voice, Errol not only provided the compelling argument, but invariably got things done!

Our sincere condolences to Heather and family. The island and its people are indebted to Errol and his good work. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed."

Staff News

Tegan Burns is having a baby and will be on parental leave from early December. Replacing her is Amanda Richardson. A big welcome to Amanda, we are very happy to have you on the team.



Jam

A big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who commit time and energy into jam making for the museum. We have had a great season with the cumquat trees this year and are greatly appreciative of the wide variety of jams, pickles, chutneys and marmalades provided by our volunteers. This contributed over \$4,000 to the running of the museum in the last financial year. We have a great range of jams etc for sale in the shop just in time for Christmas.



Redland City Council is proud to provide funding for the North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah as part of the Community Grants Program to assist the Redlands Community.



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