

South Coast History Society Inc. *Recollections*

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Australian Government
Culture, Heritage and Arts
Regional Tourism Program

Issue 33 – The Museums Issue

Treasures Await



Welcome...

Local museums have their doors open again...and look forward to welcoming YOU.

Step inside any local museum and be prepared to be beguiled...amazed...intrigued, because museums are, essentially, fascinating discovery centres.

As this special issue of *Recollections* reveals, when it comes to Museums, we're spoiled for choice in the South Coast-Monaro area. There are ones close by, wherever

you live...or you could spend a weekend – or a week – away exploring those that are slightly further afield.

Some, like the St Mary MacKillop Hall and Museum in Eden or the Snowy Scheme Museum in Adaminaby, have a singular focus...others, like the Bega Pioneers' Museum with its collection of over 30,000 objects, reflect the broader story of the surrounding area.

We encourage you to hop in your car now, contribute

to renewal in our local area following closures resulting from the bushfires and Covid, and discover what's currently on offer in local museums. Then let us know what's particularly appealed to you – you might even win a copy of the richly-illustrated book, 'Museums!' (For details, see below)

[We thank all the museums featured in this issue of Recollections for their assistance in compiling this issue, and we thank the Australian Government Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism Program and the Australian Museums and Galleries Association for greatly-appreciated financial assistance. Opening hours of individual museums have generally not been included because of changing Covid circumstances and, before visiting, we suggest you confirm current open times.]


**WIN
"The Museum"**

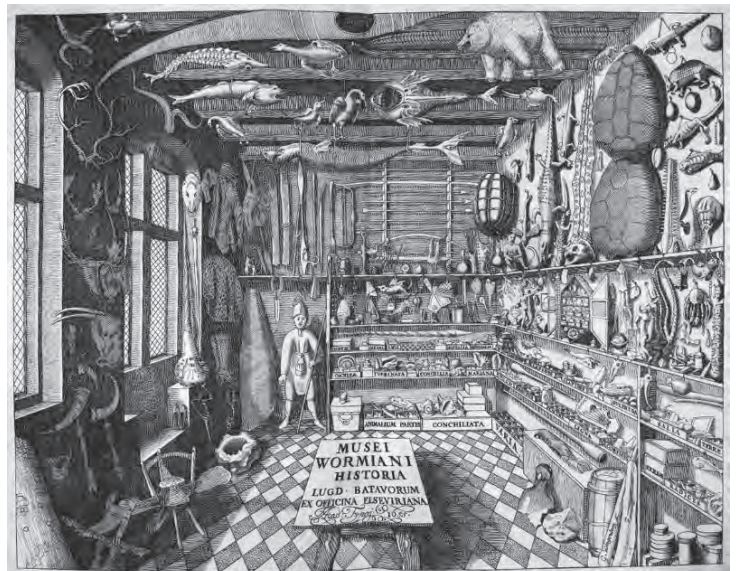
After you've visited a local museum, simply tell us in 100 words or less what you discovered or what particularly fascinated you. You could win one of three copies of architectural historian Owen Hopkins' lavish new book 'The Museum', courtesy of Murdoch Books.

Simply email your entry to southcoasthistory@yahoo.com before May 30th 2022.



Ole Worm's 'Museum Wormianum'

Ole Worm, a 17th century Danish physician, linguist, and natural philosopher, created one of the first iterations of what became the modern museum. The Museum Wormianum, or cabinet of curiosities, was in his home and is illustrated in a catalogue that was published after his death in 1655. Interestingly, even today, some museums seem to have embraced Worm's way of displaying his collection – *'every surface, apart from the floor and windows, is covered by some object or other... a veritable menagerie of different animals: tortoise shells, reptiles and lizards of all types, birds, fish, even a bear hanging from the ceiling. Lower down we see a range of smaller objects and specimens: various metals, roots and fungi, both from Europe and the New World of North and South America. At the end of the room we see something perhaps stranger still: a miniature figurine, the presence of which signals the numerous man-made artifacts or artificialia that are also contained within the room, many of which are equally as 'exotic' in origin as the objects from the natural world.'* 



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Email 'Send Recollections' to southcoasthistory@yahoo.com and we'll email you future issues as they become available.

Past issues are at bit.ly/RecollectionsX where X is the issue number (1 to 32, except issue 3 which is 3- and issue 10 which is 10-)



Killer Whale Museum, Eden



The Eden Killer Whale Museum is the home of Old Tom, a famous killer whale (Orca) that helped local whalers by 'driving' migrating Humpback whales into Twofold Bay where the whalers could then harpoon them. In return, Old Tom and the other Orcas in his pod would be rewarded by receiving the tongue and lips of the Humpback.

Orcas were revered by the local Indigenous people who believed they were reincarnated Elders returning to the area to bring food to their people.

The Eden Killer Whale Museum has been the most popular tourist attraction in Eden for more than 90 years. Today it attracts over 55,000 visitors per year.

It has evolved from a small museum that simply honoured Old Tom to one

that now tells the wider story of Australian whaling. It is also a significant Australian maritime museum, features other aspects of Eden district's history such as its important timber industry, and is home to an impressive collection of landscape and maritime paintings by acclaimed artist and collector John Downton who grew up in Eden. **R**



Old Tom's skeleton. The Eden Killer Whale Museum was originally constructed to perpetuate the memory of this remarkable Orca, but now houses a much larger and much more diverse array of exhibits.



Some of the small vessels, including a full-scale whaleboat, on display at the Killer Whale Museum in Eden.

Eden Killer Whale Museum,
184 Imlay Street, Eden

www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au 6496 2094

*Taking the South Coast's
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KRISTY MCBAIN MP
MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO

P 02 6492 0542
W KristyMcBain.com.au
E Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au



Authorised by Kristy McBain MP A/P, 1/21-25 Hopara Street, Gungahlin NSW 2200

Ben Boyd History Centre, Boydtown

The Ben Boyd History Centre tells the fascinating story of Benjamin Boyd (1801–1851), a man whose vision and exploits arguably were more responsible for the early development of the NSW South Coast than were those of any other pioneer.

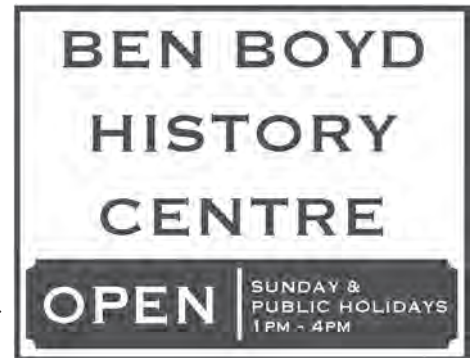
Boyd had plans and the capital necessary to establish a major town – which, unsurprisingly, he named ‘Boydtown’ – and he had intentions to provide infrastructure that would link the South Coast with Sydney, Melbourne...and with the world.




Benjamin Boyd. Image: State Library of Victoria, H38849/448

Boyd was a stockbroker...a banker...a merchant...a whaler...a pastoralist...a shipping magnate...a town planner...the owner of vast tracts of land...an entrepreneur...a visionary...and he was (and still, today, remains) a controversial character!

The Ben Boyd History Centre is adjacent to one of Boyd’s most important surviving local buildings, the Seahorse Inn, at Boydtown, 8½ km south of Eden.



Boyd’s life story is the focus of this history centre: from his early days as a stockbroker in London, to his arrival in Australia with a chest containing £200,000 in gold (the equivalent today of \$40 million) that had been provided to him to set up a Royal Bank of Australia (this never eventuated), to his pioneering activities in Sydney, on the South Coast and elsewhere, and ultimately to his mysterious death at the hands of natives in the Solomon Islands. The equally intriguing story of his luxury ship, the ‘Wanderer’, is also featured.

A one-hour easy-walking trail around the original Boydtown site provides visitors to the Ben Boyd History Centre with a further opportunity to appreciate Boyd’s bold vision to ultimately establish a Twofold Bay-based ‘empire’. 



Historic Ben Boyd’s Tower in Ben Boyd National Park after the 2020 Bushfires. Photo courtesy Fire and Rescue NSW Station 286 Eden

Ben Boyd History Centre, Boydtown
Park Road, Boydtown

St Mary MacKillop Museum, Eden

St Mary MacKillop Museum is housed in a former church that was built to replace one destroyed by fire in 1877.

This building, beautifully restored by volunteers, is listed on the Heritage Register of the Bega Valley Shire Council.

For many years this building served the dual function of a church and a school, with composite classes being held at either end of the room.

As an introduction, visitors can view some early pre-parish and parish history.

Do You Know St Mary MacKillop, Australia’s first canonised saint?

This museum was established to highlight the story of St Mary MacKillop who was canonised in Rome on 17th October 2010.

A piece of cedar from Mary MacKillop’s original coffin, and a copy of marks given to the children when St Mary MacKillop visited to examine the children and see that they






Flora McKillop

had all they required for their education, are on display in the museum

Flora MacKillop, St Mary MacKillop's mother, also features in the museum. It was on a journey from Melbourne to Sydney, laden with goods for a bazaar to raise funds for Mary's orphanages, that Flora, along with 70 other people, lost her life when the Ly-ee-moon was shipwrecked off Green Cape in 1886.

It was this tragedy that was the catalyst for the Sisters of St Joseph coming to Eden to commence the school. St Mary MacKillop was so grateful for the care and reverence shown to the body of her mother by the people of Eden she arranged for her sisters to establish a convent and a school in Eden. 

St Mary MacKillop Museum,
cnr Chandos Street and Calle Calle Street, Eden



St Mary McKillop

6496 1715

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the beagle

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Moneroo Bubberer Gudu Keeping Place, Broadwater



This is the local Aboriginal keeping place — preserving artefacts, stories and histories of importance to the local Aboriginal communities.

Join a guide from the Aboriginal community to visit it and learn stories of people and place.

Displayed inside the building are stone artefacts, an important scar tree (see www.bit.ly/begahh83), other artefacts and paintings. Follow a short (approx. 800 metre) Cultural Trail to learn more about different aspects of

Aboriginal culture - everything from how Aboriginals made a canoe to the bush tucker that is available. And then finish the experience with some fun and learn to throw a returning boomerang and a spear. **R**

Moneroo Bubberer Gudu Keeping Place,
Jigamy Farm,
4381 Princes Hwy, Broadwater
www.bundianway.com.au/the-keeping-place-experience
experiences@edenlalc.org.au

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Merimbula Old School Museum.

The Old School Museum is centrally located in Merimbula township, immediately across the road from the Merimbula RSL Club.

It is housed in a heritage school building, built from locally quarried sandstone in 1873 and completed in 1875. It is managed and manned by volunteers of the Merimbula-Imlay Historical Society.

The Museum building is a rare example of a teacher's residence and school room being under the same roof, and it vividly reflects earlier life in Merimbula.

Local Industries are featured in the grounds, including a tanning works, dairy plant, Tipping Dray, an Australian National Maritime Museum historically-listed 100-year-old Oyster Punt, and 'Merv', the World's Biggest Oyster.

By entering the residential part of the building you step back 150 years into a mock-up

school room, a kitchen, plus a large, unique collection of oyster plates that are significant to the important local oyster industry. Also, there is an 1858 ambrotype photograph of mutineers from the American whaling ship "Junior". Their story is one of many fascinating incidents in local history that can be sourced at the Museum. Another relates to the sinking of the "William Dawes" by a Japanese submarine during WWII.

In the old school room, reached by separate access, the



Merimbula Old School Museum. The school and the teacher's residence were in the one building.

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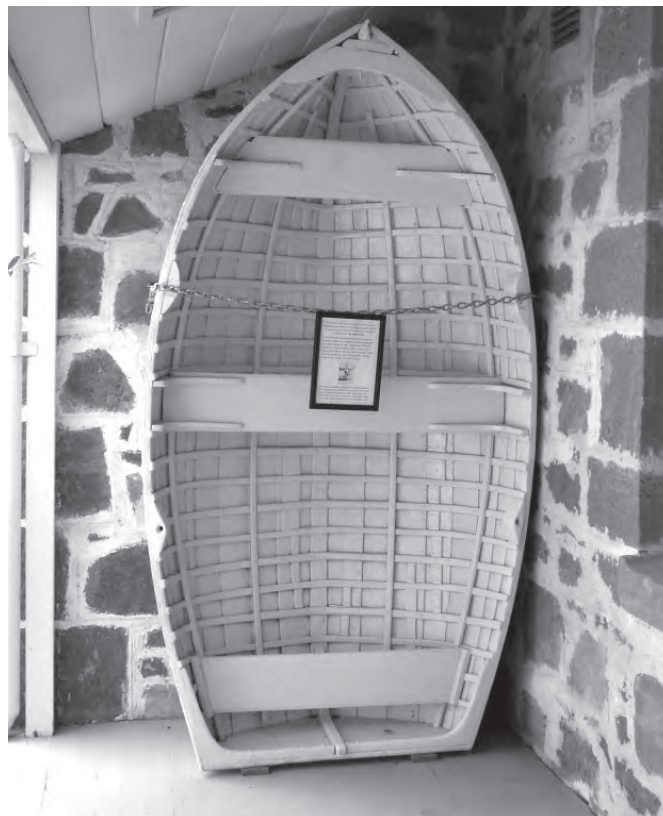
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story of Merimbula is depicted, from Aboriginal time to the present, in an extensive collection artefacts, photos, and information boards. At the back of this room is a special display of the colourful mining industries that extracted gold, pyrophyllite and other metals from the local area.

The Museum also holds extensive documents, photos, newspapers, maps, original artworks and other historical materials, many irreplaceable, which have been maintained, updated, and indexed by volunteers even throughout the Covid lockdown. All are available to researchers on request.



Merimbula Old School Museum, 
 85 Main Street, Merimbula
www.merimbulahistoricalsociety.org.au 6495 4844



Historic 100 year old oyster punt before and after restoration

Bega Pioneers' Museum

If a museum is essentially a discovery centre, the Bega Pioneers' Museum can only be viewed as a **great** museum because, as visitors discover, it houses an extraordinarily impressive array of absolutely intriguing objects.

First, its collection is enormous – a collection that would take days to view and fully appreciate. Some of it is displayed indoors, but there is also a large collection to be found outdoors and in open sheds at the back of the museum building.

Much of the Museum's collection reflects the unique European history of the Bega district and surrounding area. After all, it is the Bega *Pioneers' Museum!* In fact, you will be greeted by the portraits of many of these pioneers as you make your way into the museum – each with numerous fascinating stories that they could tell about their lives 'way back then'.

Then there is a gallery of historic photographs from the area (the Museum's photographic gallery is immense – one of the largest in the State)...a fabrics and fashion display...a military room...a yesteryear kitchen...and, out the back, a well from which you can still hand-pump water...and many, many other intriguing exhibits!

The Bega Pioneers' Museum also houses artifacts of national significance. For example, the Museum's collection includes an Australian flag that was flown above the Australian Gallipoli Base from April to December 1915 and was then taken with the Australian Imperial Force to the Western Front battlefields. Similarly, the Bega Pioneers' Museum owns and displays an extremely rare (the Australian

War Memorial would love to have an example) hand drawn and coloured coat of arms of the Australian Light House that lists all the battles in which the ALH participated in





the Boer War and is a roll call of the members of the ALH in 1905.

As you'll also discover, the building itself has an extraordinarily interesting history. It was originally the Bega Family Hotel which opened in 1857 – a hotel that became well-known for the food it provided and the pretty girls who served it. Today, it is the second-oldest surviving building in Bega. **R**

Bega Pioneers' Museum,
 cnr Auckland and Bega Sts, Bega
www.begapioneersmuseum.org.au
 6492 1453



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The Old Courthouse, Pambula



A local history display has been mounted in the old Courtroom, and interesting information about a number of the policemen who once lived or worked in the building can be found throughout the complex. **R**

The Old Pambula Courthouse,
42 Toallo Street, Pambula
www.bvgenealogy.webhive.com.au 6495 7794

The old Courthouse, Jail, Police Station and Policeman's Residence complex in Pambula is now home to the Bega Valley Genealogical Society, custodians of an extensive collection of valuable, local historical records and general genealogical records. These records include the Bega Municipality, Imlay Shire and Mumbulla Shire rates books, and the company records from the Kameruka and Ayrdale Estates, many of which have now been indexed and digitised.



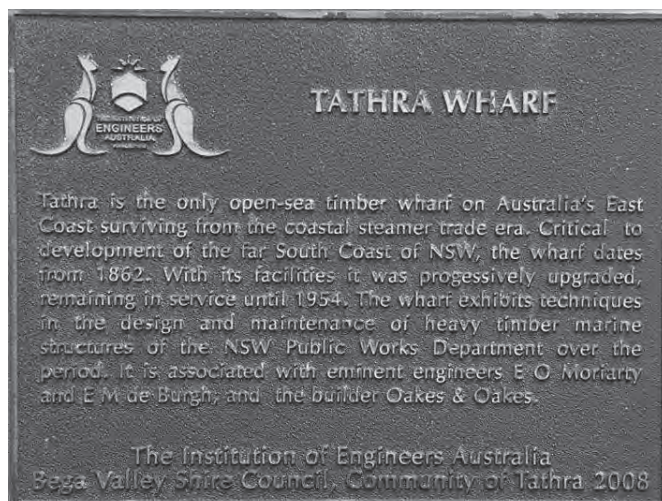
Tathra Wharf Museum



A couple of Tripadvisor comments sum up this 'really lovely little museum at Tathra which gives you some fascinating glimpses of local life, now and in the past. The swish of the ocean under your feet is an atmospheric backing track to tales of shipwrecks, steamers, farming and aboriginal rites. Wonderful stuff'... 'I'm not usually that 'into' history. But the way it is shown at the Tathra Wharf Museum explains life when the only transport was by ship. It was truly fascinating and very worthwhile. I was particularly interested in the number of shipwrecks - astonishing. What made it even better were the number of whales we saw really close off the wharf. They were SO close we could hear them blow. Highly recommended.' **R**


Tathra Wharf Museum, Wharf Road,
Tathra
tathrawharfmuseum@outlook.com
0417 662 175

10 ★ southcoasthistory@yahoo.com



Cobargo District Museum



A selection of fascinating objects from the Cobargo district, one of the earliest areas settled on the South Coast, are on display in the Cobargo District Museum 

Cobargo District Museum,
52 Princes Hwy, Cobargo
www.cobargodm@outlook.com
6493 6961

Bermagui Museum

A visit to the Bermagui Museum will connect you with the local history of the Tilba and Bermagui areas. Displays focus on the activities that were vital to development in the early years of European settlement – farming, timber-getting, fishing, and mining – along with the story of the Djiringanj people, the original occupiers of the land.


The museum's digital collection includes over 11,000 photographs, including a collection of 840 images reproduced from glass negatives that were produced by Tilba resident William Henry Corkhill between 1890 and 1910. This is a unique record that captures the lives of communities in Bermagui, Cobargo and Tilba.

A special exhibition, "People and their boats", organized by Bermagui Historical Society, is being held on Sunday 24th April in Bermagui Community Hall. Be sure to save that date!

Bermagui Museum, Bermagui Community Centre,
Bunga Street, Bermagui
www.bermaguihistoricalsociety.org.au
6493 4722



The Sam Sinclair display in Bermagui Museum. Sam was the local blacksmith and was widely respected for his kindness and sense of humour. Over


a 60-year period his talents expanded to being the local dentist, undertaker, boat-builder, fisherman, big-game weighmaster, boxer, strongman and emergency midwife. He rarely drank, but Sam featured in Toohey's advertisements for half a century, quipping 'Here's Toohey'. 



Montreal Goldfield

There are interpretive panels on the wall telling the story of Australia's only goldfield that extends into the sea, telling the story of a gold rush that ended almost as soon as it had begun, telling the story of the mystery disappearance of a government surveyor and four other men. And on display in the Heritage Centre there are artefacts recovered from the site and from other goldfields in the surrounding area.

But the real highlight for visitors is to wander through the goldfields with a guide, seeing the many shafts that were sunk by hopeful prospectors, learning the history and geology of the area, hearing the anecdotes from times gone-by that are related by the well-informed local guides.

Unlike most other museums, admission to the site is by guided tour only. Tours are conducted daily. 

Montreal Goldfield,
769 Wallaga Lake Road, Wallaga Lake
www.montrealgoldfield.org.au 6493 3054



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Moruya & District Museum


The Moruya Museum has a collection of furniture, books, artefacts and memorabilia that is intended to show visitors something of the lives of the ordinary people of this community from the middle of the nineteenth century. Most items on display were donated by local families. The result is an eclectic mix of considerable charm and interest.

The Museum is housed in a semi-detached house – one of a pair built in 1875 by shopkeeper Abraham Emmott, a migrant from Yorkshire who reached Moruya in 1859.



Many artefacts on display depict the history and culture of Moruya and its district, and a Research Library contains detailed information and documentation on local history and genealogy. The collection has been created over many decades and includes significant object and photographic collections as well as archives, research files and oral histories about the district's local history which are housed in the Museum's Research Library.

Other exhibition spaces include a “technology and tools” collection showcasing agricultural machinery, objects and artefacts - the everyday working objects from the past. One unique exhibit is a granite lathe that was used in the Moruya quarries for the production of the granite pylons on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the columns of the Sydney GPO.

The Museum's exhibits and collection trace the history of Moruya through the people and businesses, such as Mylott's Bakery and Emmott's store, that have shaped the community over time. Objects like a snake vertebrae necklace and a pretty brooch made from fish scales give a sense of what makes Moruya special. They tell stories about the granite quarries, gold mining, dairying and tourism. They are about the community. 



Moruya and District Historical Society Museum,
85 Campbell Street, Moruya
www.mdhs.org.au 4474 3224

WHY DO PEOPLE COME TO NAROOMA JUST TO VISIT NAROOMA NEW & USED ?

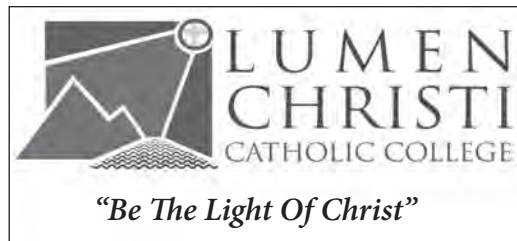
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Batemans Bay Heritage Museum



No-one needs to be a 'history buff' to appreciate the place we choose to live – or the places others choose to live – and to note the changes influencing our lives.

For those in the Clyde River area, the Batemans Bay Heritage Museum is where their stories live...and where their stories are told.

Next to the six-acre Water Garden Town Park, the museum is in several connected buildings, including the old Batemans Bay Courthouse, the former Nelligen one-room school house, the Police Station and residence.

The Batemans Bay Heritage Museum explores the local history of the Batemans Bay area, including the early days of European settlement when timber cutting and milling became the first major industry of the area. Each room in the Museum tells a different, but related story of the Bay's developments in areas such as its Aboriginal heritage, medicine, education, crime and punishment, industry, military history and domestic arrangements.

Because the Museum is located between maritime museums at Jervis Bay and Tathra, it is ideally situated to 'fill the gap'. So, it's now also focusing on presenting the Bay's rich maritime stories from indigenous harvesting to commercial fishing, ship building, river industries, recreational use,

and of course, iconic bridges. Soon to be opened will be 'Crossing the Clyde', a permanent time-line exhibition in the Museum grounds, with displays from pre-punt times to the latest bridges memorabilia. **R**

Batemans Bay Heritage Museum,
3 Museum Place, Batemans Bay
www.oldcourthousemuseum.com 4472 1635

Below left: Batemans Bay Heritage Museum has its own local cinema.

At right: Interact with history with the Museum's dress-up collection



Snowy Scheme Museum, Adaminaby

The Snowy Scheme Museum provides a multi-dimensional insight into the greatest engineering project ever undertaken in Australia – a project that provided a monumental chapter to Australia’s development and to the nation’s history.

This museum highlights the achievements of the Scheme’s construction workers and their families. It reveals their ingenuity, explains their construction techniques and the primitive (by today’s standards) machinery they used, and celebrates the role the project played in the development of mid twentieth century Australia.

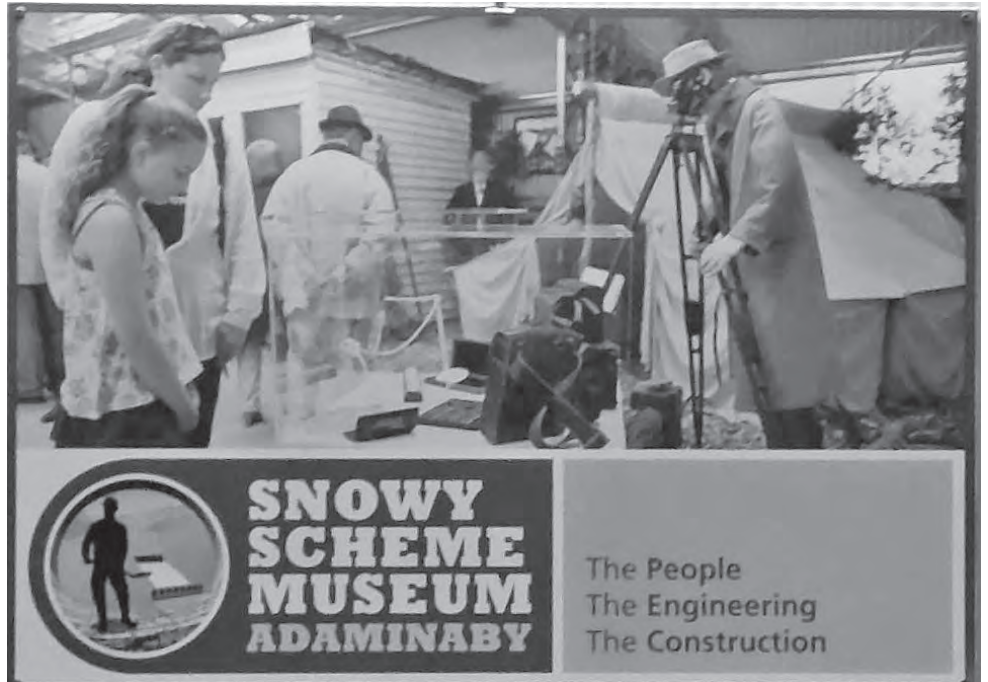
There are some serious ‘boys’ toys’ on display: bulldozers, large and small; a Harman Face Shovel; a le Tourneau Scraper; a snowplough; a tunnel train; a restored ‘Utah’ Holden EK Ute; a 1965 Mark 5 Rover that was the SMA Associate Commissioner’s car; an original SMA Land Rover Series 1; and Land Rover ‘Fire

Fly’ fire-truck.

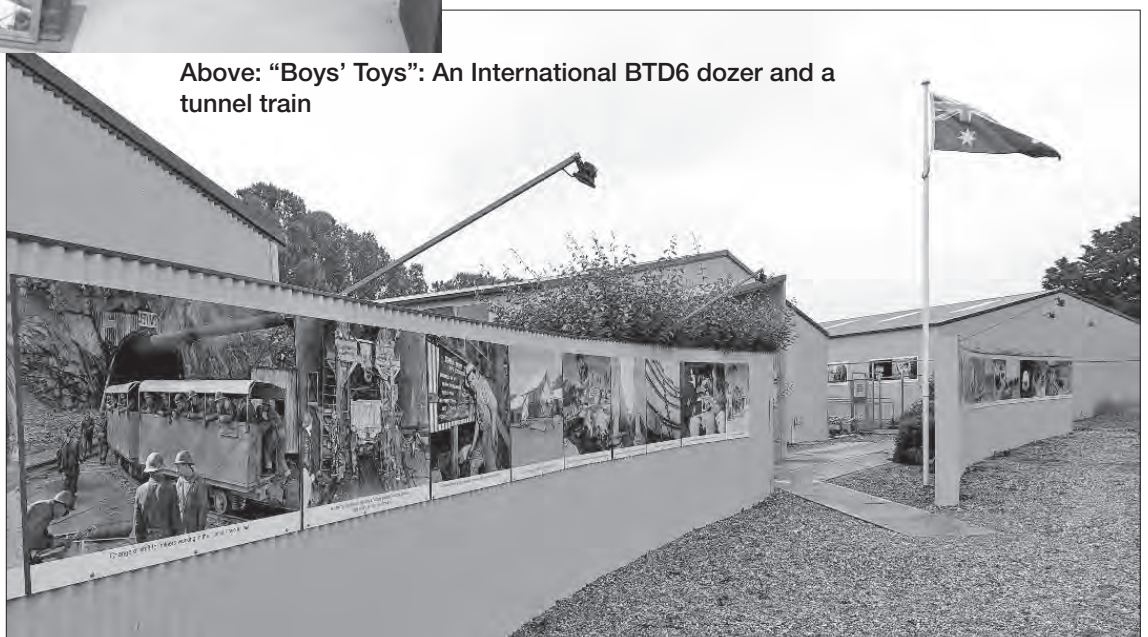
‘Life’ features include a worker’s hut, a surveyor’s tent, items from the SMA Laboratory that were used for soil and rock testing, a Rock Bolt display; the original Snowy Scheme Control Panel; even the office of SMA Commissioner, Sir William Hudson! A new, just-opened feature honours the Kids of the Snowy – those whose parents helped build the Snowy Mountains Scheme and those from families of landowners displaced by the Snowy Scheme.

A short video, ‘Best of the Years’, provides visitors with a good overview of the history of the Snowy Scheme. Some fabulous historic photographs and insightful cartoons are displayed throughout the museum and along the exterior walls of the museum. **R**

Snowy Scheme Museum,
Adaminaby (directly opposite the ‘Big Trout’)
www.snowyschememuseum.com.au 6454 1643



Above: “Boys’ Toys”: An International BTD6 dozer and a tunnel train



Crime Through Time Museum, Cooma



You MUST Go to Jail...Go Directly to Jail!

The Crime Through Time Museum (or, more correctly, the Corrective Services NSW Museum) in Cooma is surely one of Australia's most unusual museums.



If you've ever wondered what it was like to be a prisoner in 1788, 1888, 1988, or today, then the answer can be found here.

If you've ever wanted to walk into a prison cell, see a straightjacket or a padded cell, see a whipping post and a cat o' nine tails, see a hangman's noose,

see displays of contraband that has been smuggled into jails, learn of some of the most audacious prison escapes, then the Crime Through Time Museum is a 'must visit' for you.

If you want to role-play the hangman who pulls the lever that drops the trapdoor that takes a condemned man to his death, you can even do that here!

If you want to know, in detail, what prison life is like today, you'll certainly learn that here.

The very best way to appreciate this fascinating museum is to join a guided tour, then go back and have a good look at the displays that most interest you. Your tour guide will be either a low-security inmate from the adjoining Cooma Correctional Centre, or a prison guard. (In fact, this Crime Through Time Museum is the only museum the world that employs serving offenders as tour guides). And, finally, be tempted by the large array of arts, crafts and Aboriginal artefacts that have been created by Cooma Correctional Centre inmates that are available for sale in the museum's gift shop.

You'll be intrigued and fascinated by what you will find in this museum. You're sure to leave 'gobsmacked!' **R**

**Corrective Services NSW Museum,
1 Vagg Street, Cooma**

www.correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/csnsw-home/about-us/museums-and-galleries 6452 5974



Snowyhydro Discovery Centre, Cooma



The 25-year history of the construction of the Snowy Scheme and the current story of Snowy2.0 are the main themes of the impressive

Snowyhydro Discovery Centre on the outskirts of Cooma.

Archival photographs, displays, and a film 'The Snowy

Story' recall what life was like during the construction of the Snowy Scheme; models and raised relief maps illustrate the work being undertaken to install the pumped hydro 'Snowy2.0' scheme.

A spacious café, a gift and book shop, complete the attractions at the Snowyhydro Discovery Centre.

**Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre
1 Monaro Hwy, Cooma**

www.snowyhydro.com.au/visit/ 6453 2004




Part of a display and a very impressive wall of well-explained historic photographs at the Snowyhydro Discovery Centre in Cooma.



The 14metre-wide screen and floor projections at the Snowyhydro Discovery Centre

Thredbo Alpine Museum

The Thredbo Alpine Museum displays a selection of memorabilia, equipment, photographs and documents that reflect Australia's snow sports history and it traces the history of skiing and snowboarding in Australia. 

Thredbo Alpine Museum,
Thredbo Village

www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au 0447 648 478



The 1976 Australian team uniform at the Winter Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies. This uniform was designed by the famous fashion designer Pru Acton OAM, in response to a request by athletes for a more colourful uniform than the standard green blazer hitherto worn by the Australian team at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Games.



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Cooma Car Club's Motoring Museum



The Cooma Car Club's Motoring Museum is the newest museum in the area. And it's huge – occupying what was once an indoor cricket field.

At the other end is a replica 1950s diner.

The walls of the museum tell the story of Australian motoring history through posters, photographs and the other images. There's even a collection of cast alloy model cars to attract the attention of visitors. **R**



A reproduction 1950s style service station - Montague Motors

Naturally, there are cars on display. Lots of them – Holdens, Fords, Chevrolets, Cadillacs, Chryslers, Ferraris... family cars, sports cars, an amphibious vehicle, a tiny BMW Isetta bubble car, a 1924 charcoal-burning Dodge Ute, and motorcycles.

At one end of the museum is a 1950s-style service station.




A 1924 Charcoal-burning Dodge Ute, on the way to the Cooma Car Club Museum



A replica of a 1950s diner at the Cooma Car Club Museum.

Pioneer Women's Hut Museum, Tumbarumba

The Pioneer Women's Hut at Glenroy Heritage Reserve, Tumbarumba is one of the best and most unusual small museums in Australia. Cleverly themed, it reflects the ingenuity of women in finding solutions to the challenges of looking after a family in early rural Australia. 



The Pioneer Women's Hut,
449 Wagga Road, Tumbarumba
6948 3333

Above right: A small sample of the Museum's Apron Collection
Right: Women's Work



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Batlow Historical Society Museum


Batlow Historical Society Museum is located in the old Batlow Scot's Presbyterian Church that was constructed in 1933. Its large stained-glass window was relocated from Scot's Presbyterian Church in Jamieson Street, Sydney when that Church was demolished to make way for the road approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



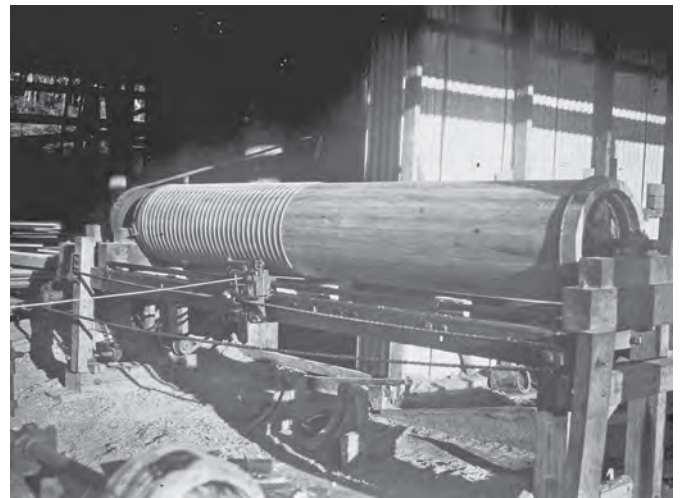
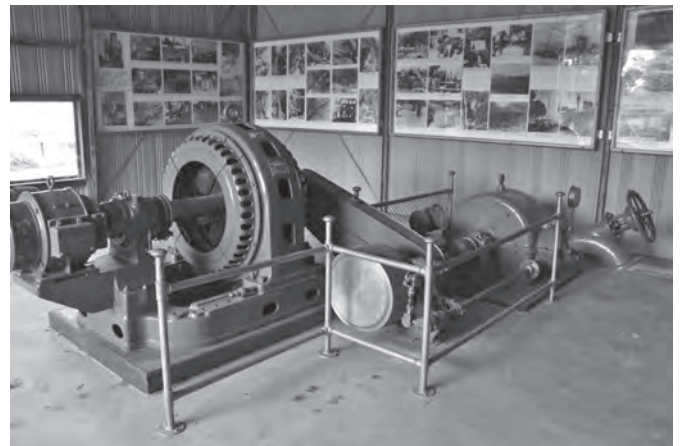
Right: The Batlow Hydro Electricity Turbine with the pictorial story boards of its history

Below: Lowering components for the Batlow Hydro Electric scheme in position by hand


Below Right: Making the water pipes for the Batlow Hydro Electric scheme at Brown's Batlow Case and Timber Mill

Among the exhibits are those honouring H.V. Smith, 'the Father of the Fruit Industry' who was instrumental in establishing the Mountain Maid Co-operative in Batlow, the Australian Women's Land Army, and the Batlow Hydro Electricity plant that was built in 1933 by George Charles Brown. 

Batlow Historical Society Museum,
12 Tumbarumba Road, Batlow.
batlowhistorical@yahoo.com.au 0429 491 769



Tumut & District Historical Society Museum

The main focus of the Tumut and District Historical Society Museum is on Miles Franklin, the Australian writer and feminist who was born in nearby Talbingo and is now best known as the author of the 1901 novel 'My Brilliant Career'. The Museum also has a large collection of memorabilia, historical photographs and items of agricultural machinery relating to the Tumut district. 

Tumut Museum,
63 Capper Street, Tumut
tumutmuseum@hotmail.com 6947 9899



Adelong Alive Museum

Stories of miners and magistrates, storekeepers and schoolteachers, hoteliers, hawkers and housewives await you at this small but vibrant Adelong Alive Museum.

Narratives of the gold mining era that started in 1852, and of the commercial development of the town form the framework of the museum's collection that essentially highlights the accomplishments – and failures! – of the people of Adelong and district.



There is a whole room dedicated to the history of the Adelong CWA. A meticulously detailed diorama of the Adelong gold fields, made by local man Tom Wiles, and models explaining gold mining are also particularly popular attractions with visitors. **R**

Adelong Alive Museum,
86 Tumut Street, Adelong
adelongalivemuseum@bigpond.com 6946 2417



Yass & District Museum

Nineteenth and twentieth century personalities who contributed to the community are the focus of the current exhibition at the Yass & District Museum.

The renowned explorer **Hamilton Hume**, naturally, is featured ... as is baby health care worker **Sister Rae Burgess** ... as is **Arthur Bryant Triggs** a bank accountant who became a grazier (at one stage running a flock of over half a million sheep), businessman, collector and philanthropist, and of whom it was said 'when Mr Triggs was prosperous, Yass was prosperous' ... as are **many other interesting locals** who were actively engaged in improving the lives of fellow Australians.

Other Museum highlights include:

Alfred Shearsby, a geologist, photographer, astronomer, philatelist, tourist guide compiler. A selection of his historically-valuable collection of over 500 photographs tracing the construction of the nearby Burrinjuck Dam, Great War soldiers and community events are displayed.

A model of Yass' main street, **Comur Street**, in the 1890s – before the days of motor vehicles, paved footpaths and traffic lights.

A pictorial '**pub crawl**' of the 22 hotels that once served



the (obviously thirsty!) Yass community.

'**On the Sheep's Back**' exhibition, acknowledging the district's position as one of Australia's most prosperous fine wool producing areas.

A tribute to the 'lost city' of **Barren Jack**, a small township of temporary buildings and tents

that disappeared under rising waters when Burrinjuck Dam was completed.

Yass & District Museum is easy to find – it's just two doors along from the Yass Valley Visitors Information Centre and Coronation Park. **R**

Yass & District Museum,
247A Comur St, Yass

www.yasshistory.org.au/museum

Phone Yass Visitors Centre, 02 6266 2557, to confirm current opening hours.

Below left: Alfred Shearsby's photograph of Archie, one of four Krauss locomotives used during the construction of Burrinjuck Dam. Archie, Dulcie and Robin were named for the children of Charles Cunningham, the surveyor of the Burrinjuck Railway line. The origin

of Jack, the name of the fourth engine, is unknown. Image courtesy Yass & District Historical Society.

Right: Burrinjuck City being inundated by the rising waters of Lake Burrinjuck, June 1913.


Image courtesy Yass & District Historical Society.



Yass Railway Museum

The Yass Railway Museum is located in the original Yass Town station building which was erected in 1891 and has the shortest platform in Australia – because when the railway line was built south from Sydney it by-passed Yass township (much to the disappointment of its townfolk) and only a modest shuttle service was then needed to provide a link between Yass Town and Yass Junction.



The yard, the main station building, the station master's residence, an original loading bank, goods shed, the mighty black 1307 Steam locomotive that was in service for nearly 95 years, an open-ended platform carriage and other original rolling stock are all there to see...as is the interesting railways display inside Yass Town station building. 



Yass Railway Museum,
8 Crago Street, Yass

yassrailway@gmail.com 0412 586 634




Cooma Cottage, Yass

Cooma Cottage is a heritage-listed former farm and tuberculosis sanatorium that now houses the Cooma Cottage museum.



It is one of the oldest surviving rural houses in Yass. It has historic significance because it is a relatively intact complex of rural buildings demonstrating what the first settlers built for themselves, their families and servants. The handmade bricks and crafted woodwork are the result of local skills and manufacturing. It also has important heritage values because, for more than 30 years from 1839, it was the home

of explorer Hamilton Hume after he ended his travels and became a grazier. It also played a valuable part in the early development of the merino wool industry in Australia.

The name "Cooma" is intriguing and is said to derive from the diminutive of County Murray (Co. Mur) in which region it lies. The main street of Yass is called Comur Street, pronounced like the property. The Humes seem to have simply used the name "Cooma" with their numerous surviving letters simply headed "Cooma, Yass". 

Cooma Cottage,
756 Yass Valley Way, Yass

coomacottage@nationaltrust.com.au 6226 1470



Queanbeyan Museum

The Queanbeyan Museum has a strong focus on the history of Queanbeyan and surrounding district, with a broad collection of over 3,500 items that includes furniture, textiles, technological objects, costumes, pictures, maps, photographs and other objects. It is located in an historic former Police Sergeant's residence that was constructed in 1876.

Themes in the Museum's ten galleries and extensive outdoor areas explore topics such as the Ngambri people before Europeans arrived, the development of Queanbeyan, Bushrangers and Larrikins, and Queanbeyan during WWI 1914–18. Among the interesting objects on display are a magnificent 30-metre mural of late-19th century Queanbeyan, William Farrer's parlour piano and an original Both Iron Lung used in Queanbeyan during the 1950s poliomyelitis epidemic. **R**



Queanbeyan Museum,
10 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan

www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au 6297 2730

Braidwood Museum

The Braidwood Museum building was built for surveyor, James Larmer who surveyed the town in 1839. From the mid-1840s it functioned as the Royal Hotel before being extended in the 1870s and becoming the Order of Oddfellows Lodge.

The museum collection tells the story of the Braidwood district: the first Australians, settlers and convicts, rural development, businesses, gold and bushrangers. Among items featured in the museum is a beautifully restored original Araluen gold escort wagon that was attacked by Ben Hall and his gang of bushrangers in 1865.

A new Law and Order exhibition has other items of interest about the Clarke Gang, local bushrangers who terrorised the district between 1865 and 1867. Also featured is a door from the now-demolished Braidwood Gaol; The Black Book, which was used by local police to identify harbourers of bushrangers; an exhibition of paintings by Greg Willis telling the story of the Clarke Gang; photographs and models dressed in costumes of police and bushrangers; photographs of the old court house, police barracks and goal, and information from the Braidwood Court Records known as the Bench Books, dating back to the convict days.

There is a comprehensive display of photographs and memorabilia from the many films made in the district, including the 1969 Mick Jagger version of *Ned Kelly*, *The Year My Voice Broke*, *On Our Selection* and 1920 version of *Robbery Under Arms*. A feature of the display is reproduction armour worn by Mick Jagger in the 1969

Ned Kelly film and the original projector from Braidwood National Theatre dating back to the 1920s.

Indigenous heritage is acknowledged in information on the original inhabitants of the district, stone tools and artefacts of local significance; Dr Braidwood Wilson's jacket and desk; a Nomchong family wedding dress; remnants and reminders of the days when Chinese made up a large percentage of the goldfield's population; the old telephone exchange; many archival records; books and family history resources.

The extensive back yard of the museum houses the old lock-up from the Mongarlowe police station and an extensive collection of gold mining equipment, farm machinery and tools. **R**

Braidwood Museum,
186 Wallace Street, Braidwood

www.braidwoodmuseum.org.au 4842 2310



Canberra: The Museum Capital

Canberra is, without any doubt, the museum capital of Australia. You could spend weeks in Canberra just visiting museums and still not see them all. Here's a selection of those with a history/heritage focus:

The Australian War Memorial. Arguably, the grand-daddy of all Canberra museums. The Australian War Memorial



combines a shrine, a world-class museum, and an extensive archive. The Memorial's purpose is to commemorate the sacrifice of those Australians who have died in war or on operational service and those who have served our nation in times of conflict. Its mission is leading remembrance and understanding of Australia's wartime experience.

The National Museum of Australia. The National Museum of Australia brings to life the rich and diverse stories of Australia through compelling objects, ideas and events. It focuses on Indigenous histories and cultures, European



settlement and our interaction with the environment. It's current major exhibition (to 1st May) is, curiously, *'Ancient Greeks: Athletes, Warriors and Heroes'*.

The Museum of Australian Democracy. The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House helps people to understand Australia's social and political history



by interpreting the past and present, and exploring the future. Its current major exhibition is *'Behind the Lines*

2021: The Year in Political Cartoons'

National Capital Exhibition. The National Capital Exhibition tells the Story of Canberra as the capital city of



Australia. Displays feature the people, events, history and design of this unique, modern, planned city. A focus is on the people behind the design – Walter Burley Griffin and his wife Marion.

National Archives of Australia. The National Archives of Australia can best be described as the memory of our nation – collecting and preserving Australian Government



records that reflect our history and identity – all 40 million of them!! Its current exhibition (to 8th May) is *'Marion: The Other Griffin'*

National Film and Sound Archive. The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia is Australia's audiovisual archive that preserves, maintains, promotes and provides access to a national collection of film, television, sound, radio, video



games, new media, and related documents and artefacts. Its collection ranges from works created in the late nineteenth century, when the recorded sound and film industries were in their infancy, to those made recently.

National Dinosaur Museum. The National Dinosaur Museum is Australia's largest permanent display of prehistoric specimens. Its exhibitions follow the evolution

of life, with a particular focus on dinosaurs. It's a museum particularly popular with the kids.



Canberra Railway Museum. Travel back in time to the golden age of rail travel, at Canberra Railway Museum.



All its locomotives and carriages are open and explorable, revealing a variety of unique and fascinating stories. Board the footplate of steam locomotive 1210, which brought the first train to Canberra in 1914...trace the evolution of the railway sleeping car, from a lavish 1901 Pullman car to the art-deco stylishness of the 1960s Southern Aurora...step inside a carriage that's hauled politicians to Parliament, wounded soldiers to hospitals, and skiers to the Snowy Mountains.

Lanyon Homestead. The restored 1850s homestead, the Convict-era outbuildings, the stunning gardens at Lanyon



Homestead date back to a time well before Canberra was established.

Calthorpes' House. Calthorpes' House is a window into an almost forgotten world. Built in 1927, this is a treasure house of Australian domestic history. Its original furnishings, household appliances and photos reflect the fashionable ideal of style and taste in a middle-class Australian home of the late 1920s:



Mugga-Mugga Cottage. Mugga-Mugga Cottage, an 1850s stone cottage, tells the story of Canberra after federation



through the intact domestic collection of the Curley family who lived there from 1913 to the 1980's.

Blundells Cottage. This stone dwelling on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, now known as Blundells Cottage, was built in 1860 to house Duntroon's head ploughman, William Ginn, and his family (1860-1874).



It was then occupied by George Blundell, a Duntroon bullock driver and his family (1874-1933), and finally by shepherd Harry Oldfield and his wife Alice (1933-1958). It is particularly interesting for the way it reflects a way of life on a nineteenth-century agricultural estate.

St John's Schoolhouse Museum. Step back to the days of slate boards, slate pencils, blackboards, chalk and inkwells at the St John's Schoolhouse Museum, adjacent to historic St John's Church and churchyard. This is Canberra's first



schoolhouse, built in the first half of the 19th century by Robert Campbell of Duntroon for the education of workers' children. Children walked across the fields to attend school and pioneering families on the school roll include the Blundell children who lived in nearby Blundells Cottage.

The Museum

by Owen Hopkins

'The Museum' is a VERY impressive book.

It's a weighty (2.3kg), large format (30.5 x 24.8 x 3.3cm), coffee table-style book spectacularly exhibiting full-colour photographs of the world's leading museums. But those photographs have been included only to support the book's masterly text.

Basically, *'The Museum'* is a history of the museum – from way, way, way back, to recent times, and briefly into the future. Stories about the establishment of many of the featured museums are also included; a standout, in my opinion, being one relating to the mysterious funding of the Smithsonian Institution (now the world's largest conglomerate of museums [19 of them], libraries, research centres, zoos and gardens) and the debates that took place about how this funding should then be used.

Owen Hopkins is an architectural historian, so it's unsurprising that much of the book is devoted to the architecture of museum buildings...and some of

the more modern ones are extraordinarily interesting and eye-catchingly spectacular. (The China Art Museum in Shanghai, the National Museum of Qatar, the Ordos Museum in Inner Mongolia are just three of those well-worth checking out.)

But Owens also provides some interesting perspectives about museums and their roles. He suggests *'we are now living in an age of museums'*, with 35,000 museums currently operating in the USA, and China aiming to soon have one museum for every 250,000 of their people. *'Alongside the traditional museums of natural history, fine art, science or antiquities, we now have museums dedicated to football, to brands and to ice cream. There are museums of erotica, underwater museums, museums of ramen, of spying and toilets. There is even a museum of the French fry.'*

He also suggests that museums are *'the bedrock on which every understanding we have of civilization ultimately rests. Without museums we would drift into a perpetual present'*, but also that *'walking into a museum is like stepping into a different world...a place where the normal rules of time and*

space are temporarily suspended.'

And, interestingly, he sees museums as having more in common with parks, shopping centres, public squares and even streets than with libraries. (Libraries, and the books they offer, focus on just one person at a time; *'museums offer the*

possibility of experiencing an object together with friends, family and more broadly as a society.')

One of the (many) topical subjects that Owen addresses in *'The Museum'* concerns the repatriation of valuable 'stolen' objects that are now held in museums around the world, and he uses the 'Benin Bronzes' as an example of one possible solution to the problem: *'The story of how the 4,000 exquisitely crafted metal and ivory objects ended up in European museums is one of the more clear-cut examples of colonial plunder. In 1897, a British military expedition razed the historic Benin City [now in Nigeria], including its royal palace, to the ground in punitive retaliation for the death at local hands, of British officials.*

During the destruction, the British looted thousands of valuable objects, which were taken to London where many found their way into the British Museum, while others were dispersed to museums across Europe. The Benin Bronzes, as the British Museum's holdings are usually referred to, are some of Africa's most extraordinary works of art and, in terms of artistic achievement and technical proficiency, on par with if not exceeding anything produced in Europe at the same time. The Nigerian Government has been seeking the looted objects' repatriation since the 1960s' but has sidestepped the contested issue of ownership by erecting a new museum – the Benin Royal Museum – for the permanent, rotating display of the looted artefacts. This will enable the return of the contested objects (which, over time, might then become viewed as being jointly owned, for example by the British Museum and the Benin Royal Museum, and having two 'homes' [this would be entirely consistent with museums' views that they are increasingly becoming 'global museums'; and, in any case, today museums regularly surrender parts



of their collections for display in other museums] and it will not result in the creation of a 'hole' in the collection of the museum that currently houses the objects) and it will avoid the feared avalanche of further claims on objects that are held by museums with colonial-era collections.

Whilst it is interesting to learn how museums have evolved over time and how different museums have adopted vastly different objectives (which have then been reflected in what they collect and how they display their collections), Owens' thoughts on the future of museums are particularly pertinent. And, for this reason alone, anyone with any connection to a museum (no matter how small, how local) would be well-advised to beg, borrow, steal, buy (or even win!) a copy of 'The Museum' and be challenged about the way their local museum should operate in the future.

Modern technology, through things like computers and the internet, are changing (and therefore challenging) the sort of objects that museums can (and, if they are to have a future, must) acquire. Once drawings, models, letters, documents and the like were collected by museums to record the process of creation of, for example, the plans to a building. Now that process is undertaken digitally and *'unless the designer has conscientiously kept a record of the various stages, those iterations are all subsumed into the final file. And, of course, because technology moves so fast and quickly becomes obsolete, there is no guarantee that a file will remain compatible with the latest software and hardware... If we think of one of the most influential 'objects' of the last decade, one of the first things that comes to mind are apps. But how does a museum collect an 'app'? Does it collect the source code from the developer? Or the app package that we download onto our phones? But which version? And if the app is a conduit to a broader network or platform, do we have to collect that too?'*

'While potentially threatening the role and status of the museum, the digital revolution has in fact offered new ways [for the public] to engage with museums and their collections, which potentially expand their reach and impact...the more museums put online the more, it seems, people are driven to visit in person.'

'In response to this, a number of museums are working with partners such as Google Arts & Culture (an online platform for high-resolution digital images of objects from [over 2,000] museums around the world [it also does a lot more: it provides virtual gallery tours, with a guide if desired (Michelle Obama is a guide on the White House gallery page); it includes an educational feature; it includes an 'explore and discover'

facility (a search engine); it allows the viewer to build his or her own personalised 'virtual museum'; it even allows the viewer to take 'selfies' in the museums]) *and have developed innovative digital programs...If we accept that the digital offers a new way of experiencing the world, then the museum has the potential to act as a vital platform for the new forms of cultural interaction that will ensue.'*

Review by Peter Lacey

Don't forget...

You could win a copy of 'The Museum'. After you have visited a local museum, simply tell us in 100 words or less what you discovered or what particularly fascinated you.

Why Not Join the Crew?

Having discovered some of the treasures that your local museum holds, please give some thought to joining your local museum 'crew' – the volunteers who keep the doors of museums open and provide such an important service to the local community. You'll be warmly welcomed.

You don't need prior experience or any particular expertise. There are a multitude of different 'jobs' available, and there are sure to be some to suit your particular interests. And your local museum will provide you with whatever training is necessary for you to contribute productively to the functioning of the museum. (Of course, if you do have prior experience or a particular talent or skill that will benefit the museum, you'll receive an EXCEPTIONALLY warm welcome!)

The people who are most valued are simply those with enthusiasm and those willing to volunteer a few hours of their time on a regular basis. Sound like you? But museums also have time-limited projects, and participating in one of these could possibly be tailor-made for you.

Museums welcome volunteers to meet and greet visitors, lead schoolkid- to retirees- tours of the museum, help conserve and preserve objects in their collections, help with research, help with cataloguing and assembling 'libraries' of information (nowadays, often utilising computers), marketing, fund-raising...and many, many other tasks.

Your local museum looks forward to that call from you, indicating you may be prepared to help them...and, in doing so, also benefit your community.

and finally...

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"We looked at buying a stairlift but made the right decision choosing a Compact Home Lift. It has exceeded all our expectations" — Pippa, 56