

MIHS Presidents Report 2026

The 150th Anniversary

It is my great pleasure to report on the year just gone since the last AGM. It is now 150 years since the first lessons were taught at this school. The school house is the single greatest exhibit & attribute of our wonderful museum. As we know the celebration was cancelled due to wild weather right along the coast with first hand accounts from Eden through to Kalaru.

The Committee

The present committee members each bring talents to the table that are so essential to the overall responsibilities and facets of running a museum.

Principally our curator, Angela George, with her vast experience combined with a bloodline connected to the area for well beyond a hundred years, makes for some very impressive displays of local history. It is a pleasure to work alongside and help her when required.

Our Vice President Nancy brings an effusive enthusiasm which is uplifting to the morale of lengthy detailed meetings. Her co-ordination of the volunteers is invaluable to say the very least. Volunteers are the mainstay of the museum as without them, the museum would not open. These people give of their time and effort and I heartily thank them for that.

Then of course our venerable elder of the tribe, Shirley Bazley. I have the benefit of her great swathe of life experience combined with a sharp and meticulous intellect (though in fairness it was she who invited me to committee, and now somehow find myself President).

And next, The Secretary, Andrew McManus. I am frankly astounded at the attribute of being able to sit and listen to all the babble at meetings and be able to de-cipher the guano from the clay, then succinctly display that as a 'minute' on a piece of paper. His broad knowledge of the entire world , with surprising detail on some of the most obscure periods and regions, amazes.

Last but not least our Treasurer Adrian Pitt. Adrian has the ability to not only put all the pennies in the right boxes but a broad knowledge of administrative requirements which has brought both the museum and SEHGI into proper alignment with corporate statutes. Add to that a mind that is keen to solve and conquer all the mysteries of the modern age technologically speaking in both iOS & Microsoft platforms. He is my go to also in matters diplomatic offering counsel which is preventing my foot in mouth disease from taking hold. He also will turn his hand to maintenance matters and is quite frankly the best tradesman's assistant I have ever had the pleasure of working with . Recently his prowess has procured income for the museum to the tune of some thousands and boy oh boy do we need that.

The Alma Gray

The Alma Gray now sits proudly displayed in the yard and the back story is one of my favourites. There was quite a bit of argy-bargy as to its placement position with ultimately a walk around with the donors & committee and ultimately the curator explaining why it should be where it is. Job done not quite. Thankfully I was made aware (ta Adrian) of the vessel's cradle being constructed so as to only display the one way, and the long deliberated position would have displayed her deck to the bushes in the South West corner of the yard. Hence it's final resting place. Now if we could raise the odd \$70,000 to have a DA produced and shelter built for both vessels then that would be grand!

Hat's off to Nancy's bloke Rob, who gladly allowed the use of his workshop to produce a framework support for the cover over the cockpit of the vessel. Thanks to all concerned for the cradle created at Mr Purcell's yard up the hill there. How the support positions were determined and made is pure artistry. Thanks to Mr Chris Hobil who donated his expertise to move and carry the vessel throughout it's journey here. Mr John Dawson played a role in the improvement of the vessel before display and took possession and storage until the ground work was completed. The donor is Dr John Stephen who gave the vessel and the funding to create its placement needs. We expect to have afternoon tea with he and Christina at a date yet to be determined.

Other Events

I have had the pleasure to sit and attend the 150th Bega Show with a collaborative table organised by Shirley Sproats, and again at the Volunteers Expo at Oaklands. Good relations with the other Society's makes for an enjoyable day out.

Donations

There have been generous donations made throughout the year which help the museum keep functioning. The reality is that attendance and entry fees do not support the outgoing expenses . My thanks to all the donors, you know who you are.

RSL Display

I would like to commend Shirley Bazley and her daughter Nikki for the current and just previous displays mounted at the RSL club. This feature is a great support for the museum and the revenue received is greatly appreciated and needed. On that note, it is the liaison of our Treasurer with the Club management that has facilitated the income. In true Adrian style, a Club grant for \$2,000.00 was also awarded.

My appreciation for the past efforts of Angela George who had my Father's WW2 medals displayed in 2021 , the 100 year anniversary of the RAAF. Angela has had to step away from the display responsibilities as she has so much on her plate.

The Bega Valley Shire Council

I attended a meeting with the Council. It is clear that the Council will only support museums via the contractual obligations of outside advisors to relieve the amount of bureaucratic interaction . The current museums advisor Joan Kelly is a willing help and utilises the SEHGI group quarterly meetings to facilitate interaction with the many museums in the shire.

Conclusion

I look forward to the year ahead and foresee ongoing collective achievement that will keep and maintain the present status quo. The new exhibitions and the aiming at the younger demographic will be interesting to see. Keep on keeping on as the saying goes. Ultimately a thanks to all who participate in this wonderful little museum.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Clancy Esq.', with a stylized, sweeping flourish.

Peter J. Clancy Esq.