



Diary of a Lady

17 February 2012

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Happy New Year to all - Hope you all had a pleasant and safe Christmas and like me look forward to this 100th Year with great excitement.

It is never a problem to fill this Newsletter - The Lady Denman Heritage Complex is indeed a newsy place to work and to be involved with. This month we have Vera Hatton AM, announced at the Australia Day Honours, Director Robyn Williams who by the time you read this is Mrs Hopper, with residences in Canberra and Sanctuary Point. A very big congratulations to both ladies. Read a little more in depth in the following pages.

Robyn's marriage and the expected new first grandchild due in March has prompted Robyn to put forward a retirement date from the Denman which is anticipated to be towards the end of The Lady's 100th year celebrations. Robyn has been Director for some 15 years and has seen many changes in that time. Morgan Sant would like to involve as many people as possible in the wide-ranging discussions on the future of the Denman and how best to meet them. There is anticipated to be a number of opportunities to be part of this and most certainly the General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 22 February at 11am is one such opportunity. Lunch is held after this meeting and, if attending, please contribute by bringing a plate of salad or a dessert.

On another but otherwise related topic Volunteering Australia has released the **World Giving Index** for 2011. It is only the second one to be released - the first being in 2010. The figures are very interesting, enlightening and gathered from 153 different countries. The body responsible for their release, Charities Aid Foundation, are keen to get your response to the survey's finding. Volunteering Australia website relates the following. "Using data from Gallup's Worldview World Poll, the report is based on three measures of giving behaviour-giving money, volunteering time and helping a stranger. The results show that the USA is

cont/next page.

Some big changes in and around the life of Museum Director, Robyn Williams.

Double congratulations are in order.

Firstly, by the time this newsletter arrives, Robyn will already have married Alvin Hopper (10th February). Alvin is a retired lawyer - a Doctor of Law in fact. He has worked as a barrister but spent the latter part of his life drafting legislation for the Commonwealth Government and Office of Territories. He has two adult children. Alvin lives in Canberra and this will eventually become Robyn's main place of residence.



Some restructuring of future plans has ensued. Robyn has advised the Board that she intends to retire before the end of 2012. It seemed fitting to end her 15 plus years at the Lady Denman, as the Museum's first staff member and Museum Director, in the Lady Denman Ferry's 100th year.



And secondly, at the end of March Robyn will become a grandmother for the first time. Her daughter, Christian, is expecting her first baby - a little girl provisionally known as "The Popsicle". She is after all the latest production by "Marshmallow Productions", Christian and her husband, Ulysses, business name. Christian herself was known through her babyhood as "The Poppet"!!

Robyn and Alvin photographed
in the Butchart Gardens
Vancouver Island, Canada
September 2011



World Giving Index (cont from pg1.)

officially the most charitable nation in the World, moving from fifth place in 2010 to first place this report. Ireland is the second most charitable country and **Australia the third.**" New Zealand was a close fourth. The previous year Australia and New Zealand tied for first place. In this survey both Australia and New Zealand increased their percentages however the USA and Ireland increased theirs' even more. CAF would like to hear from Volunteers, from people that give. They would like you to share your general views and thoughts on their report either by tweet #WorldGivingIndex or email research@cafonline.org To view the report go to <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org> and look for World Giving Index on the home page.

Vera Hatton honoured for museum work



AUSTRALIA Day honours are a family affair for the region's latest Order of Australia member, Vera Hatton of Huskisson.

Mrs Hatton has been honoured for her service to the museums sector through the Lady Denman Heritage Complex, and as a supporter of youth, social welfare and historical organisations in the Shoalhaven 13 years after her husband John was appointed an officer of the Order of Australia.

A former Shoalhaven mayor and long-serving independent South Coast MP, Mr Hatton said he was tremendously proud of his wife and the way she had worked to help reflect and shape her local community.

That started when Mrs Hatton's three children were young, and she became involved in a baby health committee, school P and C groups, school canteens and was secretary of both the Huskisson Scouts and Girl Guides for many years.

As her children grew up, Mrs Hatton became a pioneer at Jervis Bay Meals on Wheels and helped start the Sussex Inlet Toastmistresses Club to gain better public speaking skills, all the while meeting the challenges that came with her husband's work, including frequently having to move her family at short notice because of death threats emanating from Mr Hatton's work spearheading the Woodward Royal Commission on police corruption.

Her attention turned to history in 1981 when community members, headed by Mr Hatton, returned the locally-built Sydney Harbour ferry the Lady Denman to Huskisson, and Mrs Hatton wanted to give it a fitting home.

She inspired an active group of volunteers to preserve the region's boat building, fishing, indigenous and non-indigenous history, leading to the creation of the Lady Denman Heritage Complex that continues to grow and thrive.

Much of that growth has been due to Mrs Hatton's enthusiasm and drive, which saw her twice win the Queensland Museum's prize as the most outstanding student in a university course for community museum management.

Article courtesy of the South Coast Register

Published 27 January 2012



The Birth of a YouTube Channel.

It started in September last year when I was involved in shooting, providing PA facilities and subsequently editing a Video which I eventually found out was destined for YouTube.

The job was finished and finally uploaded to YouTube and to my surprise looked fantastic. Thinking about this I thought - “why not start a YouTube Channel for the Lady Denman?”

After a bit of online reading and research and finding 2 suitable videos, I thought we needed another one. The twilight markets were coming up so why not shoot and edit the markets and kick off the channel with the 3 videos?

The rest was a piece of cake. There were a few little issues to sort out but at least it is up and running now.

The hits were slow at the beginning, but now it is integrated with the Web Site the Video hit list is soaring.

The beauty of the whole exercise is that it doesn't stop there. It is an ongoing exercise, and a great way of promoting the Denman.

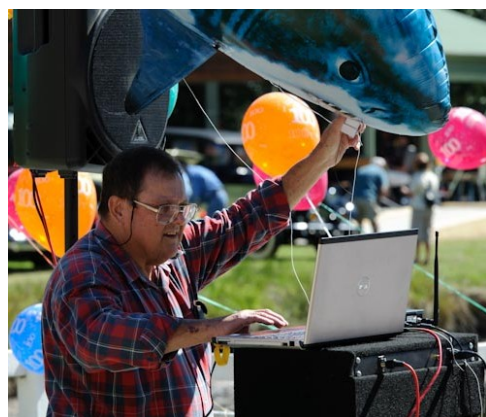
I have just finished the latest exhibition with Bridget and it is now on our YouTube channel.

Karin Smith has an exhibition in October so we will be promoting that through YouTube too. It is very exciting and opens up a new ball game for the Lady Denman. If anyone has any ideas that we could shoot and put to air please let me know.

John Hill

Technical Officer.

John Hill orchestrating all things electronic at the 100th Birthday Celebrations.



Check it out at <http://www.ladydenman.asn.au> and look for the YouTube button on the home page

History of the Wirreecoo Native Garden

Part 1 of a 5 part series

The Nowra branch of the Australian Plant Society (APS) was established in 1980. Four years later in 1984, when the Lady Denman ferry was moved back to Huskisson, an area was set aside for what was first thought to be a park. It was then the idea of establishing a native garden at the Lady Denman Heritage Complex was first raised by members.

At that time APS was known as 'The Society for Growing Native Plants'.

John Hatton was approached and found to be more than willing to help.

The Lady Denman group set aside land and offered it to plant society members, it was then, a garden committee was formed. The area set aside for a garden was accepted by APS members after some discussion as to the suitability of the location which was on a heavily treed and sloping site with clay-based soil (not the ideal place for a garden). It was nevertheless the best and only spot available.

In 1985 Plant Society members began work, with support from John Hatton and the Lady Denman Committee. At this stage it was made clear to the Australian Plant Society that the Lady Denman volunteers had enough on their plate and the garden was entirely an APS project. (a statement considered fair enough). Nevertheless, after seeing the commitment of APS members and the planting of numerous native plants the Lady Denman committee donated \$500 to help with initial costs.

Gardening was difficult amongst the trees and many of the original plantings did not thrive when drought conditions prevailed. Thankfully, enough plants did survive to form an attractive garden that was maintained and managed by Nowra APS members on a monthly basis.

Ian Bremner.

In the mid and later part of the nineteen nineties the APS garden coordinator was Ian Bremner, the husband of Dorothy, and, like Dorothy was a highly valued Lady Denman volunteer. Ian's work on footings for the classrooms and his work, with Peter Stark on the church as well as many other projects can be seen in all areas of the complex. Unfortunately Ian died at the start of the new century and a new coordinator was to be found. Dorothy, as you are no doubt aware, passed away only recently but like her husband chose to have her ashes scattered in the gardens that they had a big hand in creating.

2001 bushfire.

The disastrous bushfire of 2001 swept through the local area wiping out the native garden and threatened the whole complex. It was lucky indeed that the museum escaped being destroyed. A decision needed to be made about the garden. What to do?

Norm Webb, Garden Coordinator, Lady Denman Heritage Complex

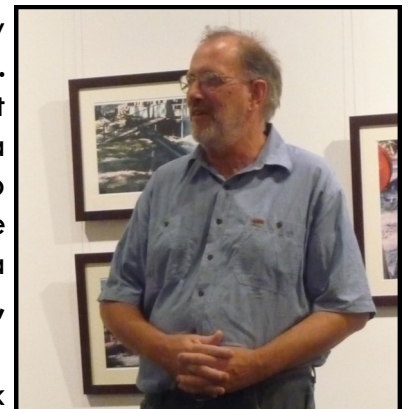
Out and about at the Denman January, February and March

January and early February witnessed several celebrations and special events at the Lady Denman, including private functions: weddings, birthdays and christenings. One of the first public events was the opening of the whaling exhibition in the theatre where we were invited to - A Whale of an evening. Claire Baddeley, a post graduate student from Canberra had a fellowship, from the Powerhouse Museum and chose to catalogue the whaling material at the Lady Denman and as part of this she created an exhibition. On Friday 20th January about 50 people assembled to hear three very



informative speakers. Claire spoke first about the history of whaling in Jervis Bay and truly brought her exhibition titled ***From Commodity to Conservation*** to life for all present. The exhibition includes works-on-paper, paintings and objects from the Halloran collection associated with the history of whaling in this region, Australia and internationally. Claire was followed by two local whale observers, Frances Clements from the Marine Park on managing the bay, the whales and the people who come to see them, and Scott Sheehan from Marine Mammal Research with stunning photographs. The success of the exhibition has resulted in the exhibition remaining on display until March. Don't miss this added opportunity.

The following day the exhibition on the Life and Times of the Lady Denman was opened by Tony Prescott, a ferry historian. Unfortunately the beautiful diorama of the Dent ship yard was not ready for the opening, but it was certainly worth waiting for. It is a scale model recreated from old photographs, constructed by Bob Clegg and painted and adorned by Lyn Winslade. Everyone should make a point of looking at this wonderful creation, with a model of the Lady Denman as she would have been at her launch, before being towed to Sydney for the fit out.



On Australia Day Vera Hatton was awarded an AM for her work creating the Lady Denman and for her community work. We celebrated this event with an afternoon tea the following week. Lots of people came to congratulate her and a number of people spoke very warmly about her achievements and what a wonderful friend she was to so many people.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE LADY DENMAN - In honour of the 100th birthday celebrations. Exhibition on show in the Vera Hatton Gallery through to 11 March.

LIGHTHOUSE TALES - The Cape St George section of Lighthouse Tales is still on show at the end of the Long Gallery.

CELEBRATING A MARITIME YEAR - exhibition runs from 17 March 2012 to May 2012 - The Australian Society of Marine Artists (ASMA) joins the Lady Denman Maritime Museum to celebrate the 100th birthday of its wooden Sydney harbour ferry the *Lady Denman* by holding an exhibition of their paintings. This is the first time the Australian Society of Marine Artists have exhibited at the Lady Denman Museum. We are excited that this highly skilled group of artists have agreed to bring their work to our gallery. Many of the artists are painting especially for this exhibition. A number of the works will be available for sale. (cont. next page)

Out and about at the Denman (cont.)

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CELEBRATING A MARITIME YEAR - exhibition runs from 17 March 2012 to May 2012 - (cont.)

John Downton, marine artist from Foxground near Gerringong will be opening the exhibition at **2 pm on Saturday 17th March**. All Lady Denman members and friends are invited to attend the opening. ASMA website <http://www.marineartistsaustralia.com.au/>

MODEL WOODEN SHIPBUILDING - Exhibition planned for June. Ken Jones, a new volunteer in our ranks will be assisting Robyn Williams with this sure to be exciting exhibition.

JERVIS BAY ALIVE - Karin Smith is bringing together her exhibition planned for September October. Soon to be on YouTube.

SHIPPING AND SHIPWRECKS Peter Crabb's publication on sale at the front desk for \$15 is well worth a read. As quoted in *Signals* the ANMM journal ..."I'd recommend reading this before visiting a maritime museum in order to have the nautical knowledge needed to appreciate the local offering." Purchase a copy before they run out - it will certainly enhance your enjoyment and understanding of our local exhibition.

LADY DENMAN PRODUCE MARKETS - The Twilight Markets trialled at the start of the year were a huge success and we are sure to see them scheduled again. If you missed them check them out on YouTube (thanks John - a great asset).

Cheryl tells us that due to the February markets being cancelled because of wet grounds they are going all out for the markets set for 3rd March. Cheryl and her team has planned a **HUGE** multicultural day. "So far we have representatives from Russia, Brazil, Arabia, France, Italy and Africa and may have Germany and Scotland represented as well. It is hoped to have food from all parts of the world for sale (\$1.00 a plate for little bits to taste) this is still in the thinking pot. Tony Blackmore will also be a guest with his 9th-11th century middle eastern Hammered Dulcimer. Volunteers are always needed if you can spare a couple of hours contact Cheryl Bullock at the Denman.

THE BLUES NIGHT ON THE FERRY continues to be a big success. - The **night has been changed** to the 3rd Saturday of the month to avoid clashing with the Lady Denman Market Day. The March show will be on Sat 17th [St Patrick's Day]. With more special guests and some surprises in the line up of the house band, 3AM. Bookings are strongly recommended and can be made at the LDHC between 10am and 4 pm. This promises to be another great night, **to be sure to be sure**.

SOME HOUSEKEEPING - **Can you help?** **Firstly** - Our very dear friend and long time volunteer Ruth Anderson is at home recovering from a stroke. Anyone who knows Ruth and would like to drop in for a chat would be very welcome. Please contact Gail Blamey 4441 5454 if you would like more details. **Secondly** - At the Denman we have enjoyed many an evening at the Nowra Players. Dorothy Bremner spent many years organising us all. If you would like to contribute and try your hand at organising the theatre bookings please contact the Denman. **Thirdly** - Chris Burrows, chris.burrows@sanholme.com.au, is eager to round up any and all (long) overdue books originally taken out on loan from the Lady Denman library. Please check at home and if you should currently have any books from the LD library they can be returned to the Library Box currently located in the Board Room. Thank you. **And Finally** - Bridget Sant is still looking for a graphic artist to complement her 'The Centenary of Canberra 2013' exhibition team. If you can help please make contact with Bridget.

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From the *Diary of a Lady*



There is always so much positive news to relate in this Newsletter however this month this section will be put on hold in order to make room for an article only just received from our friend Norm Webb. If you have a submission for the Newsletter please forward to newsletter@ladydenman.asn.au

Dastardly Deed!

After dark on the night of Thursday the 9th of February some dastardly thief stole one of the grass trees planted in the Australian Plant Society's (APS) native Wirreecoo garden at the L.D. complex.

This plant had originally been donated, dug out and relocated to the garden around six months, prior to the theft. The relocation was no small task requiring three APS. volunteers. The grass tree was replanted in a special spot at the bottom of the stairs and was highly valued by Wirreecoo garden members.

It was a sad morning when volunteer workers Maureen and Norm Webb arrived at the garden on the Sunday to find a large hole where the plant had once been. They had been working to prepare the garden for next month's visit of the Gerringong garden club. The shock on seeing the hole was quite profound and left them feeling like abandoning work and going home.

Removal of the grass tree was seen as an arrogant and selfish act and was difficult to understand what makes some people behave so badly. Police were notified and arrived in a short time and recorded the event. Radio 2ST was also notified and relayed the theft to listeners. They were given a phone number for the public to ring to notify if they had either seen someone planting a Grass tree or have any knowledge or information on the theft of the plant. It would be good to catch the thieves to enable the group to have the plant returned and also allay concerns for the future of other plants in the garden.



There have now been steps taken to stop further theft from the garden. If anyone knows anything at all they could ring Norm on 4443 5080.

Ps. If the grass tree was planted locally in another garden it would probably have been planted on either the 10th, 11th or 12th Feb

Lady Denman Heritage Complex

Aims to;

Provide the community with creative opportunities to preserve and express its heritage;

Provide a venue and opportunities for cultural and artistic excellence in the community;

Provide a high quality educational experience for visitors of all ages and backgrounds, and;

Provide freely accessible grounds that showcase the natural environment of the region.

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Volunteers everyone counts - count me in