

## **Curator's Report to RIG Committee June 21st 2021**

### **"An uneventful month"**

#### **Two additions to the Collection.**

Record no. 26 consisting of 13 photos of the toolbox and tools

I have contacted the donor for more information and you can find it at

<https://ehive.com/collections/200519/objects/1354994/wooden-box-storing-a-number-of-caulking-tools-for-wooden-boat-building>

Record no. 27: I have scanned in and transcribed the letter from Doug Short re his donation of three brass bolts, and have added the photo of same to the Collection. His kind donation of timber does not warrant recording in the Collection.

#### **History Festival Event May 9**

This passed with no fanfare, and no wonder given their search engine which was designed to hide our event and probably many others from the eyes of the public. I have written to the Trust about the flaws. The only positive outcome was the printing of our name and information in the History Trust brochure. I left a number of copies on the staff tables at the school.

#### **Funding submission 2021 for a new display cabinet**

This month I'm thinking about a person who has built a museum from what is on hand. She has gathered artefacts and put them in a space in an imaginative way that preserves and teaches, a way that tells a community's story. That collection is not yet digitized and risks immolation in the next bushfire but it is a humbling example. That person is Pat Brooksby at the Parndana Soldier Settler Museum, the curator.

As nominated curator of the RIG Collection I am a pale shadow of Pat, because my focus is sheerly on recording collection items and putting them online, where yes, they are preserved, in a sense, but few people go there. There is no physical museum, no display in a real world sense. And people, visitors want to see that. RIG cries out for space to display, and tell its story, and when *Independence* is moved out, there's a new goal for RIG and that is the Marine Museum. RIG could aim to create the calibre of museum that is the Soldier Settler Museum at Parndana. A worthy goal.

This year we have again submitted a bid for some space to display artefacts, which you could say is a starting point for a museum. Results of RIG's bid are due July 31<sup>st</sup>. RIG could apply for a more adventurous Community Heritage Grant towards that goal in 2022.

#### **Research:**

##### **The A.D. Edwardes Collection**

A letter written in 1985 refers to the Edwardes Collection, containing a list of shipping in SA waters. This world renowned collection contains about 8000 photographs, mostly of sailing ships from around the world, taken between about 1865 and 1920, mounted in 91 albums and arranged by country of ownership, with some special volumes such as 'Shipping at Port Adelaide' and 'South Australian outports'. The collection is housed only at the Information Desk SASL - meaning a visit to the SA State Library.

##### **Naming of Union Harbor**

In **Voyages & Discoveries In The South Seas 1792-1832** by **Fanning**, Captain Edmund (a Native of Stonington, Conn.) there is information about the naming of the harbour: Union Harbour. SASL do interlibrary loans so I need to go to the local library and they will organise it.

## **Murihiku: A History of the South Island of New Zealand and the Islands ...**

By Robert McNab Sealing history: I have found part of this book but the full volume is again not avail online.

In general, SASL say:

“ Normally a book can be borrowed for about \$16 through your public library. However, this book is the only copy, and it is not actually under the auspices of the State Library, but held by the Royal Geographical Society, SA Branch, who have rooms in the same building and whose catalogue is merged with that of the SLSA. An old, rare book of almost 500 pages you will understand that we just do not have the ability to lend this to you. I am concerned that you are unable to come in and view the book, but cannot find a simple solution. Hopefully in the fullness of time it will be digitised by some organisation and placed online. You could contact the New Zealand national library/archives and ask if this is planned. Thank you for using our service. I trust this answer is helpful.”

**Digitisation of resources is seriously underfunded: viz the recent budget cut to TROVE.**

**Last of all: a repeat reminder.**

**Have you looked at the RIG Collection, online?**

In the event of a fire this online collection will survive, to interest the curious, to reward the donors, and to remind us of American River's maritime heritage. Of course it is in its infancy. It needs this community, you, to build it.

You can see it at this link: <https://ehive.com/collections/200519/the-rebuild-independence-group-rig-collection>

You will not need to log in.

Comments, complaints, notices of error truly welcome.

Thanks, Anne A'Herran

Curator, RIG collection