

Curator's Report to RIG Committee February 21st 2022

1. Our local RIG collection is now part of the national repository.

A primary curatorial objective has been reached: to transfer the RIG Collection to the National Library's Collection "Trove" for public access.

- After preparatory actions the MoU has been signed and sent to the National Gallery.
- A weekly migration of the collection from eHive (online catalogue system) into Trove is now occurring and will continue at no cost until June 2022.
- At some time we will be notified of a fee.
- Trove, deprived of much of its federal funding, has indicated it will consider, kindly, small orgs such as ours.
- Meantime we get to trial how our collection looks and how searchable it is, in Trove, for free.

2. Display of the Falie plaque and the Jubilee plaque

Until RIG has a display space, once known as a museum, now called an interpretive centre, they will stay locked away in a blue metal cupboard, or viewed online.

3. Bin Monitor Report

Bin rules are being met satisfactorily thank you everyone.

4. Check out sailing vessels in the RIG Collection

Past regattas are at record 28

<https://my.ehive.com/accounts/200519/objects/1382239/regattas-at-american-river-from-1922-to-the-1970s>

Photos of 8 sailing boats (and a scribbled list of boats sailed/owned by the Bates family) are at Record 33

<https://ehive.com/collections/200519/objects/1459321/8-sailing-and-fishing-boats-names-and-owners-unknown-from-a-collection-held-by-tony-klieve-resident>

The photos have no names, of boats or owners. Please if you recognize these vessels can you click on ADD at the bottom and tell me the name and owner of each or any one vessel.

This note comes from my April 2021 Monthly report to RIG: it may help you in identification.

““Wooden Fishing Boats”, Gifford Chapman 1998, is a leather bound volume of which is a record of every wooden boat from Achenar to Zephyr, approx. 680 in all. “A documented and pictorial history of the wooden fishing vessels that have fished the waters off Kangaroo Island”. It's impossible for me to summarise it but it's a must read for anyone keen on fishing history of KI. Unfortunately there were only 250 copies printed, and Tony's is one. One of the boats in the photographic collection is Tony's Jann Lee, aka African Queen. Other craft will be familiar to fishers on KI. It's also a list of KI fishers of note, when it comes time to contacting them.

5. Meralte

I have a personal interest in the scribbled list because it reminds me that Glenn Bates was once the owner of Meralte, and Tony K tells me Glenn kept it in the shed where we live now. I often wondered what the old tin shed had been used for. Knowing nothing of its history my brother John bought Meralte from Ron Bates for a slab of beer and restored it to former glory. We fished in it for years until John sold it to the film company that used it in the remake of Storm Boy a few years back. You can see a record of John's meticulous restoration of Meralte at this link in the RIG Collection. <https://ehive.com/collections/200519/objects/1459337/meralte-a-fishing-boat-american-river-meralte-was-built-about-1950-by-searles-in-port-adelaide-for->

You can also read the recounting of the history of *Meralte* and her restoration.

6. Fishermen Hall of Fame.

This has been on hold for lack of info. Time to get back to it.

The objective is to feature fisher(men) of KI in a museum or what they call these days, an *interpretive centre*.

We could start with wall boards in our current Boat House.

Wall boards have photos and key text (with these days, a QR code for deeper drill-down into more info).

I have skeleton information about some fishermen.

I have a lot of photos of vessels, and a few links to names of some owners.

I have content for two wall boards: Spog Ward & Tony K.

It isn't wall-board ready. I need to talk it through with people who know.

Members need to tell me exactly who else to feature on these displays.

1. whole of KI? Or just AR?
2. we need to spend money. That means either dipping into RIG funds, or getting a grant.
3. Perhaps a meeting would be productive to progress this. Who should attend?

Why don't you print out the next two pages, and ask around for info?

Either "somebodies" find the info or the project goes down the gurgler.

You can see what info I have on the following pages. Thanks to Tony K for putting it on paper. It's been online for months and no one has looked at it let alone added information or commented to correct it. You can read it here:

This list has been compiled for RIG members to view and comment. All information welcome. It needs work but is a beginning. Thanks to those who have helped to put it together.

CHARTER BOATS

Ian King - "If"

Phillip Connell - Tory M (bought from Russell Coleman)

*Phillip Connell - paid out Charter Licence, Leased Scale Licence

Borchard/Lavers - Cooinda

Lazy Days

Pacific Blue - Garry Fiedler. CH

Valerie Jane - Leon Linnett

Buckaneer (sic) - Gavin Solley

Bob (Redbanks Rd) Markus CH

Waxy Jamieson - Rock Lobster and endorsements. [Ed: an "endorsement" is added to a license.]

David & Ross Jamieson – Waxy's sons

Max Polaco - Abalone diver's son - Diver

- "Y" Lic. Scallops - Sea Urchin

SCALE FISHING LICENCE HOLDERS FROM 1960 onwards

Ian King, B Licence endorsed you A

Ron Thorpe, B - + Buyers Licence

Harold Wood - B

Ozzy Bates - General Licence

Glenn Bates - General Licence

Nils Swanson - net & Shark Endorse

Ema Walschutski - General Licence (Wally)
David Church - A
Les Tipping
Lionel Linnett - General Licence
Fred Linnett - B
Keith Linnett - Rock Lobster and Endorse
Colin? Berryman - Net and Buyers Licence
Neil Tilley - B
Ron Buick - B
Ron Bates - Rock Lobster and Endorse
Jack Darling - B
Jack Thompson - B
Ray Taylor - General Licence
Des Oliver - B
Bill Mansell - B
Mansell Brothers - Netters
John Battye - B
? Leahman (Kingscote) A - scale
Peter ? A - scale
David Langdon - A
Ken Willson - B

Plus Nigel Buick and a mob of various fishers who fished when biting.

JEff Starr??

NETTERS

John Salvemini (Croatian)

Tony Klieve - Rock Lobster/Endorses Scale Fish Netting

George Edwards

Michael Fooks

“Good Old Days”

Mr Martiensen - General

Horry Ratcliffe - General

Percy Kerr - General

CRAB LICENCE HOLDERS

Vic Bell

1 unknown crab boat licence

Gar dabber, Penneshaw- Stephen Noack

Gar dabber Penneshaw - Florance

Don't forget:

LInnett's "Surprise". & "Warrigal"

Lierich's "Lauriana"

Both fishing flat out.

7. Trivia: "Darting the Barbed iron"

Did you know? the author of *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville sailed on three Australian whalers in the 1840s. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/493039>

OK, whalers, not sealers, but the two industries had much in common, to feed Melville's famous yarn. For example: Folger is an old Nantucket whaling family name that crops up in the *Independence* story. Citing Cumpston 1970, in "Chronological List of Antarctic Expeditions and Related Historical Events" p. 294 R. K. Headland has Owen Smith, middle name Folger, on *Independence* in 1805 sailing out of Sydney.

1805 New South Wales sealing voyage (from Sydney) 294
Owen Folger Smith *Independence*
Isaiah Townsend, the mate, sailing a small schooner built on Kangaroo Island by Isaac Pendleton (*Union*), made a sketch chart of Stewart Island (New Zealand) and established the existence of what was later named Foveaux Strait; initiated sealing in this area. (Cumpston, J. S. 1970)

And in Ch 22 of "Moby Dick" Herman Melville mentions the Folger Nantucket connection to whaling: "Mary Morrel [...] the ancestress to a long line of Folgers and harpooners [...] darting the barbed iron from one side of the world to the other."

8. Readings.

- Thanks to RIG member Dave Gillieson and apropos his paper recently distributed to RIG members 17-01-2022, "Story of the schooner Independence, from contemporary sources ", I am reading a paper he has sent me by Jean Nunn called 'A Social History of Kangaroo Island 1800-1890". I recommend it to all RIGgers as it throws light on much. For example when the question "who were the first settlers on KI" comes up many historians will opine that the sealers were not "settlers" in the full sense of the word. Nunn disagrees, but you'll have to read her paper yourself (P. 30 for example). (I am not finished: it is 390 pps long.) There is more: I am taking copious notes as it improves on my knowledge of the history of *Independence*.
- David has also made available to me a facsimile (?) of Fanning's *Voyages Around the World* - another must for all RIG members. Hard to get hold of, much appreciated, greatly recommended.

There is a store of donated books locked in the blue cupboard at the Boathouse, and you will find it worthwhile looking through them. If you borrow any, please leave a note of what, who and when. The full library is being recorded with donors in the online RIG collection so we will come after you. IN PROGRESS: Maritime History Library: Donated books for the RIG Library. <https://ehive.com/collections/200519/objects/1459392/in-progress-maritime-history-library-donated-books-for-the-rig-library>

9. See updates in the online RIG Collection

In the event of a fire the online collection will survive, to educate 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 correct it and to suggest additions to it. You don't need to log in. You can see it at this link: <https://ehive.com/collections/200519/the-rebuild-independence-group-rig-collection>

Instructions on how to use/search the Collection are in the Curator's report for August 2021.

Thanks, Anne A'Herran Curator, RIG collection, Rubbish Bin Monitor