



KANDOS – THE TOWN THAT MADE THE CEMENT THAT MADE SYDNEY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

# Refurbishment on Track

The Kamos Museum has been closed for some time now, and sorely missed.

Like any house renovation, discoveries are going to be made and ideas developed in response to the building as you go along. This will always look like a delay but it is an important part of any project's development.

One of the difficulties at the museum has been the floor with three separate levels and the nave (the main body of the church) having a tiered floor making it difficult to arrange and change displays and for visitors to negotiate steps and ramps.

The challenge was how to make a sympathetic adaptation of this wonderful near 100 year old church building, with additions, to a welcoming museum with relevance to locals and visitors alike.

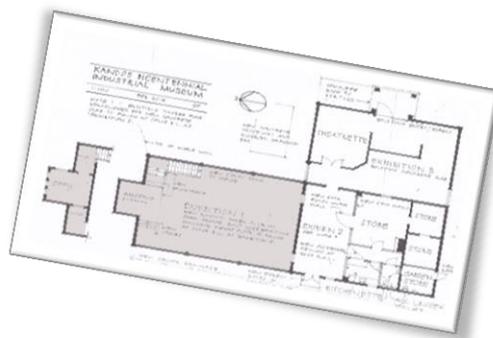
Combining the inputs of Council, museum professionals, heritage architects, museum designers and the Interim Committee's own architectural and engineering skills to meet the challenge within time

and funding limits needed fresh thinking.

All involved quickly realized that the key to success for the museum was to have a facility with a single floor level enabling easy access throughout and allowing for improved collection and exhibition management. Getting the foundations right at this stage is so important for the Museum's future.

This has made for some small delay but the great news is that the refurbishment works are now well underway with a clear vision of what needs to be done to bring Kamos Museum back to life.

Over the coming months there will be a number of Open House days to "show and tell" with the planned re-opening of the Museum in September in time for Kamos's Centenary Celebrations.



Museum Consultant Margot Jolly visits KBIM



The Missing Gate



Water Getting In



Open House & BBQ – 7<sup>th</sup> June

## Margot Jolly

Margot Jolly, museum consultant, recently spent two days visiting the Kandos Museum and advising the interim committee. "It was fantastic to see such great progress in such a short while." Ms Jolly said. "The really important thing is to get the foundations right."

Margot Jolly has previously visited the Kandos Museum to advise the Mid-Western Regional Council late last year leading to the development of the Significance Report and recommendations on how to manage the collection.

Based in Parkes, Margot is well known in museum circles widely consulting to regional museums on collection management, item significance and museum operations after having spent many years with the Historic Houses Trust curating the Justice and Police Museum in the city and Rouse Hill House in Western Sydney.



The Kandos Museum is one of very few in regional NSW that has such a strong industrial collection. "The museum has a central role to play in preserving the story of the importance industry has played in development at the regional, state and national level." Ms Jolly said. "Kandos

Museum is in a position to become one of the 'must visit' regional museums."

"It was a real pleasure to have Margot visit and share with us her professional insights, expertise and infectious enthusiasm" said Buzz Sanderson, Public Officer Kandos Museum.

## Water Getting In

Readying the Kandos Museum for re-opening is a bit like a house renovation - you discover things as you go along. One such discovery has been the leaking wall.

"Some weeks ago during the recent rain I visited the Museum to check for leaks and was greeted by water running down the carpet along the eastern wall." said Buzz Sanderson, Public Officer for the Museum. "I was checking to see if the roof leaked expecting a few drips not water running down the wall.

It was evident that it had been leaking badly for a long time causing deterioration of the concrete and mortar of the wall and clay heaving up from below had caused the floor to crack. As well there are signs of damage to the mural on the exterior with blistering of the concrete and mortar joints causing paint to flake and bubble.



The fixing of the wall will cost both time and money that were not in the original schedule. The building is precious so heritage assessments and reports have been commissioned and processes need to be gone through with budgets rearranged to accommodate new priorities.

"Fixing the water damaged wall, the broken floor and making good with proper drainage and waterproofing is now a priority for KBIM." said Buzz. "I don't know how this fundamental building issue was left unattended for so long but it is on the mend now and that is the important thing."

It's just like renovating an old house that has been let go a bit - you have to be flexible because there are sure to be unexpected things that crop up along the way.



## s.355

In talking about the about the Kandos Museum a frequently asked question has been: What's a 355 Committee?

355 Committees get their name from Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). They are a committee formed by Council that enjoys a specific delegated authority from Council. Generally these committees consist of one or two elected Councilors and some hand-picked citizens to help Council with all sorts of things, like advising Council on special issues, such as weed control, or helping to manage a Council owned facility such as a hall. They are part of Council and this is both a strength and a weakness.

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government, ACELG, recently released a report by Dr Annie Bolitho, *The Role and Future of Citizen Committees in Australian Local Government*, which highlighted the advantages, shortcomings of 355 committees and what can "go wrong" with them.

In July 2013 Council decide to disband the s.355 committee of the Kandos Bicentennial Industrial Museum and transition the museum to being operated by a community based incorporated association, Kandos Bicentennial Industrial Museum Incorporated. The two significant changes will be that you will be able to become a member of the museum and contribute to its running. The museum will also have to stand on its own two feet - it will need to fund raise, get visitor numbers up and earn its keep.

# The Missing Gate



Bernie George with "the gate" rescued from No. 1 Colliery in 1997, supported by Maceco's crane, Steve at the controls. Photo by Karon Grant.

It's an impressive gate ... but where is the other half?

Just after having retired as the Kandos Plant manager in 1997, Bernie George came back to Cement Australia to do some tidy up jobs. One of the jobs that Bernie took on was to seal up and rehabilitate the entrance to No. 1 Colliery.

Hung in front of the service entrance to No. 1 was this impressive gate. It had been set on its side and with rollers attached worked just like a sliding door. Bernie rescued it and gave it to the museum where it has rested on the vacant block next to the museum until now.

Originally this gate was one of a pair but nothing is known of the missing half of the pair, and very little is known of the half that Bernie rescued. How did it get to be in front of No. 1? We are all pretty sure that Kandos Cement did not plan to have such an ornate entrance to No. 1. And the gate was not made locally – it's a kit. The parts are numbered and it is held together by screws

not rivets. The trades of iron gates in kit form continues today<sup>1</sup> but one suspects that the trade is much reduced due to today's easily accessed cut and weld fabrication techniques, improved transport and changed architectural tastes.

It's a wonderfully impressive gate that is bound to have a history. Perhaps an extraordinary story of its journey from adorning the entrance to some unknown, impressive real estate to being a grill in front of a coal mine and then its rescue 17 years ago.

So little is presently known of the gate, only of its rescue and where it has rested for the past 17 years. The earliest photo record of the gate so far comes from Bernie George in 1990 when he was snapped taking a picture of his father-in-law's "tag", *A R Collinson 1929* on the underside of the lintel to No. 1's opening.

The gate would make a great addition to the revamped landscaping of the museum or

possibly an entrance to the gardens. Even more impressive would be a pair of gates!

And now the search is on! Where's the other half? And the search is on for any information that might track it down, help fill out the story of the gate and its pair, where was it from originally, where were they installed, how did it end up in front of a coal mine.

If you can help fill in the story of the gates or possibly know where the gate's pair can be found make contact.

[info@kandosmuseum.org.au](mailto:info@kandosmuseum.org.au)



The Gate in 1990, when used as a grill at No. 1 Colliery with Bernie George taking a photo in the foreground.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ironfinials.co.uk/metal-gate-kits.html>

# Open House & BBQ

With the refurbishment now well underway it is time to have a look at what's been going on at the Kandos Museum. So we are having an Open House & BBQ and you are invited.

On Saturday of the June long weekend, from 12 until 2pm, there will be a sausage sizzle with tea, coffee and soft drinks available with the proceeds going to support the Museum.

**What: Open House & BBQ**

**When: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 12-2pm**

**Where: Kandos Museum, 22 Buchanan St**

This will be an ideal opportunity to see how the renovations are progressing and see how the unique building was put together, its innovative features and to see how the building will operate as a museum.

**Grillmeisters:**

**Rylstone-Kandos  
Rotary**



# Interim Committee

Mid-Western Regional Council called for expressions of interest for the appointment of the public officer of an Incorporated Association to be formed to take over the running of the Kandos Bicentennial Industrial Museum.

MWRC appointed Dr. Buzz Sanderson, Chartered Engineer, and an interim committee was formed to assist him in transitioning the Museum to being operated by a community based association.

The committee of seven has been based on both interest in the museum and the skills that they are able to bring to the task.

Buzz Sanderson – Chartered Engineer  
Chairperson  
Sue Honeysett – Business Operator, Vice Chair  
Margot Palk – Lawyer, Secretary  
Peter Monaghan – Structural Engineer (Ret), Treasurer  
Greg Sky – Architect  
Fiona MacDonald – Artist & Curator  
Daryl Clapham – Farmer & Community Organizations

# KAMU Kandos Bicentennial Industrial Museum News

22 Buchanan Street  
Kandos NSW 2848



## Coming Up

- 23<sup>rd</sup> May:: Working Bee – Hall Floor
- 7<sup>th</sup> June:: Open House & BBQ
- 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June:: Working Bee – Painting The Nave
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August:: Open House & BBQ
- September:: Re-opening of The Museum

[www.kandosmuseum.org.au](http://www.kandosmuseum.org.au)

[info@kandosmuseum.org.au](mailto:info@kandosmuseum.org.au)

## Additional Funding

Early in the refurbishments it became obvious that additional funding would be needed to ensure that the Museum would be suitable and ready for re-opening for the Kandos Centenary Year celebrations.

Working closely with Mid-Western Regional Council, the interim committee was able to identify the works that must be done and the works that would be nice to have done and a schedule of works has been developed.

Extra funding was required to achieve the goal of putting the Kandos Museum on a sound foundation and to have it open for the Kandos Centenary Celebrations.

At its May 7 meeting, Mid-Western Regional Council allocated an additional \$66,500 for building works and for \$15,000 operational assistance to the museum per year over the coming three years.

"All of Council, Councilors and staff, are to be applauded for their efforts and support of the Kandos Museum.", said Buzz Sanderson. "This funding will be of great assistance to the museum, it goes a long way towards providing the must haves and ensuring the museums future."

## Garden Working Bee

Whilst on Buchanan Street, with a commanding position at the head of Jaques Street the Kandos Museum has been a little hard to see.

The garden had become a "little over grown". With the help of Carmel Sparks, local native plant nursery owner, a plan to rejuvenate the garden has been developed.

The first step was to have a working bee on Wednesday May 14, to lop and prune and open up the site line along Jaques Street so that the museum can be seen.

With eleven pairs of hands at work, under the watchful eye of Peg Butler, a "mountain" of loppings and thinnings was

quickly made, destined to be shredded and returned to the garden as mulch.

James Dawson, surveyor of Kandos and a founder of the Methodist Church that is now the Museum, has several local plant species named after him the most widely known, the Slaty Gum, *Eucalyptus Dawsonii*. The garden plan is to feature plants that have a historic connection to Kandos and the district, not only natives like the *Dawsonii* but also plantings that would have been used 100 years ago.

Thanks to all those who volunteered to help. There is more to do in the gardens and more working bees to come.

