

29th October
2006
No: 8

George Town Tasmania “The Home of the Norfolk”



Bass & Flinders Centre “Communiqué”

Hi all - Good morning

First of all my apologies for being a little late with this issue. Things have been a little hectic at the Centre, but now we have had the “government” opening of the Centre and we move towards tomorrow, 30th Oct 2006 as our first day of operations.

At this stage I would (on behalf of the Directors) like to congratulate ALL of the volunteers who have over the last weeks worked tirelessly towards getting OUR Centre ready for opening.

The front of the building looks absolutely wonderful, to say the least. What an uplift for the bottom end of town. When you drive into Elizabeth St you now see the B&F Centre shining brightly with flags flying, the Pier Hotel in all its glory across the street and immediately across York Cove (Outer Cove) you can see the new Seaport being constructed. All in all, I consider that George Town has been somewhat blessed to have so many people committed to making the oldest town in Australia a place of “must see”.

There has also been a number of commercial entities (both large & small) within the Tamar Valley who have continued to assist us. For that, a large thank you, money is always tight so every penny we spend needs to be for a good reason.

Talking about pennies, some good news. Recently we were awarded a grant from the Australian Maritime Museums Assoc based in Sydney. The grant application was requested to assist us in the facilitation of interruptive signage. Hopefully this will occur (as soon as I get around to it) in the near future and will provide expectations of basically the lives of George Bass & Matthew Flinders. This signage will predominately be located on the “Bass & Flinders Walk” - the ramps to the wharf and mezzanine floor.

The opening on 27th October was attended by approx 40 people. All speakers certainly congratulated the Project Team and volunteers in achieving such a wonderful outcome. Do you realise that the opening occurred just 1 year and 1 week to the day from when we lifted the replica Norfolk into the building in Oct 2005. Not a bad effort.

Michael Ferguson MP (Member for Bass) opened the Centre on behalf of the Australian Government.

Don't forget the functions on 18th November - see below, when the crew will be in attendance. The word is this will be a good event with many a tale spun from crew members. The Centre is also putting a float in the Christmas Parade which starts at 12 midday on the 18th Nov.

So at last we have reached the 1st day of operations - well done all involved and let's all look forward to a great tourist season and many visitors.

Don Mackrill - Company Secretary - George Town Norfolk Pty Ltd

How could you not put this on the front page—what a transformation within 12 months.



Who would ever think it is the same building - other than the location!!

Dates to remember:

- 18th November 2006 - 1 pm to 2.30pm "Meet the Crew of the Norfolk" and speak to them about their re-enactment voyages in 1998 at the Centre-normal admission fee applies \$2.00 per head.- no invite list just come along and enjoy
- 18th November 2006 - 5pm to 7pm "Ceremonial handing over of Replica Norfolk to Norfolk Trust" - Wine and Cheese function. Admission \$5 per head - cheese will be available as part of admission costs - refreshments will be available "at a cost per glass" as per earlier session - no invite list just come along and enjoy.

Web page Bass & Flinders Centre

The web page is currently being developed by Brian Coward of George Town. Brian has volunteered his help in assisting us in this area. The actual area for the web page on the internet was donated by Intas Launceston (Mike Wilkinson). Brian is working hard at this project and we should have something to show you within the next few weeks. The web page address will be:

www.bassandflinders.org.au

In the future it is intended to simply have a "link" on the web-page that will take you to the latest Bass & Flinders Communiqué rather than send the actual newsletter out to you via email. We will advise when this will occur and for the first two issues will still advise you via a basic email message. If anyone has any ideas what we should/could have on the web page

Please contact the Secretary on 0418 362 232.

Function Centre

It was always the intend of the Directors of George Town Norfolk Pty Ltd to have the Centre available as a function centre with the income generated from this area assisting in the maintenance and running costs of the building.

We have had a number of interested parties contact us.

Should you be interested contact Don & speak about your requests. The facility can be used for meeting, small conferences, wedding photographs and yes weddings. What a beautiful place to be married on the front deck of the Norfolk and what a beautiful back drop she will make for photos.

Don't forget George Town on Show our local festival Nov 2006

The opening plaque, appropriately draped by the flag of Norfolk Island before the opening



No not escaped prisoners!!
Some of our volunteers in their new tops



Original wheel of the Rowitta,
located in front foyer
Donated by Bern & Jan Cuthbertson



As some used to say - "Just a boat in a shed" - our many thanks to Ray & Jenny Timmins for the storage area - nearly 3 yrs



Now a fine lady on display in a wonderful environment - fully rigged and a picture to see an exciting part of Tasmania



HELP ALWAYS WANTED:

We are still looking for committed persons willing to become volunteers at the B&F Centre.

Also if you consider you have "the gift of the gab" and would like to learn more about Bass & Flinders and participate as a tour guide contact either Tim or Don at the Centre, or speak with the volunteers on duty

Phone : 6382 3792 business hours

What are the two outside flags on top of the Centre ? Read about them next issue.

Norfolk Project Team 2005-2006

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