

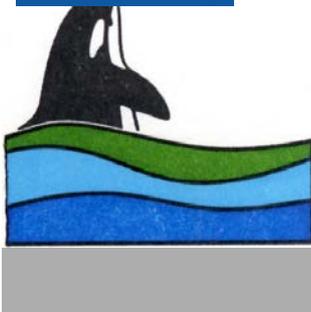
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The Wreck of the SS Cumberland

A feature of this year's whale festival will be our guest speakers at EKWM. On Saturday the 4th of November at 3pm George Main from the Australian National Museum will speak about the "Life in Australia" gallery which includes the story of the Killer Whales of Eden. Jennifer Milward from the Australian War Memorial will tell us about the wreck on *SS Cumberland* sunk off Disaster bay during World War 2.

The international freighter *Cumberland*, built in Glasgow in 1915, was one of the latest cargo carriers then steaming the world's oceans. In 1917, the vessel struck a minefield laid secretly by the German raider *SS Wolf*, off the NSW south coast. Fatally holed, *Cumberland* turned towards the nearest land, Gabo Island, and beached before it sank. After five weeks of strenuous repairs, *Cumberland* was being towed to the nearest port, Eden, for more complete works when it sank in mounting seas some four miles south of Green Cape, becoming a total wreck. A

huge explosion and geyser of water was the first indication that the *Cumberland* was in trouble. Today few realise that Captain Nerger and his vessel *Wolf* had brought the European war right to the doorstep of Sydney and southern ports. After some five weeks of strenuous repair work by divers and a dedicated salvage team, the tugs *James Patterson* and *Champion* were in attendance when the steamer was towed back to Eden for further repairs. A storm caused the temporary patches to break and the tugs had to run for safety. *Merimbula* and *Bermagui* stood by to offer help, the former urgently evacuating *Cumberland's* crew when the steamer began to sink bow first – "described by onlookers as an awe-inspiring sight". The *Cumberland* sank about four miles south-east of Green Cape, NSW, on Saturday 12 August 1917 in an estimated depth of 50-60 fathoms (~91-110 metres). At the end of September the Naval Board decided to sweep the area using crews from the mine sweeping section of the Royal Australian Naval Brigade. They discovered the first mine on the 8th of October. When the



Cumberland holed and limping to Gabo Island. Courtesy: *Melbourne Argus*.

second mine was found three days later the Minister for the Navy announced that there was a minefield near Gabo Island. Residents in Mallacoota could hear the explosions but it was not known how the mines had been placed there until 15 January 1918 when the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy's China Station in Singapore received a message that a bottle had been found in the sea off Toli Toli, Celebes, by natives. It contained a message from a captured prisoner on the German Raider *SMS Wolf* passing on information about its operations as the former *Wachtenfels*. It also contained a descriptive drawing of the vessel. During its fifteen month voyage, the crew of the *Wolf* captured or sunk fourteen vessels as well as laying a field of fifteen mines near Gabo Island and fifteen mines near Cape Everard.



from her prizes. The *Wolf*, without support of any kind, had made the longest voyage of a warship during World War I. Captain Nerger was awarded the highest German decoration, the Pour le Mérite for his efforts.

For the remainder of the war, the *Wolf* was employed in the Baltic Sea. After the war she was ceded to France and sold to Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes of Paris, refitted and renamed *Antinous*. She was scrapped in 1931 in Italy.

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

The *Wolf* travelling at just 11 knots (20 km/h), was not built for speed. Her advantages included deception (fake funnel and masts which could be erected or lowered to change her appearance), false sides which kept her weapons hidden until the last possible moment, and a range of over 32,000 nmi (59,000 km) thanks to a coal bunker capacity of 8,000 tons. *Wolf* left Germany on 30 November 1916 in atrocious weather conditions. Rough seas proved helpful when

breaking through the Royal Navy blockade. The ship reached open sea on December the 10th. *Wolf* laid its first minefield off Dassen Island, South Africa gradually making its way to our NSW coast.

After 451 days she returned to her home port of Kiel on 24 February 1918 with 467 prisoners of war aboard. In addition she carried substantial quantities of rubber, copper, zinc, brass, silk, copra, cocoa, and other essential materials taken



Historic Warrens Cottage

Another of our historic sites is Warrens Cottage sited at the top of Warrens walk. The cottage was owned by Bob Warren a local fisherman. The adjoining hut was sadly was destroyed by gale force winds on the 1st of August 2008. Bob Warren and wife Kate

bought the cottage from a local doctor who had used it as a residence and surgery and residence. Kate's brother Matt Howard used the annex as a shop before having the store opposite the Police Station in Imlay Street built. The Warren family moved to Eden from Wagga Wagga in the 1880's to take up fishing. A track down the hillside to Snug Cove was



used by the family for generations to access their fishing boats moored at the jetty below the house. This track later became Warrens walk.

Check out "Down to the Sea" in the EKWM and local libraries for more information on this fishing family.

In their Footsteps – Warrens Walk

The asphalt path leading from Imlay Street down to Snug Cove was in poor shape when a group of concerned residents met with the shire to discuss improving the safety of the walkway. In the following two years the council worked on installing a zigzagging concrete path, planting grasses and updating the services, installing underground wiring. Mark Canaider and Greg Madden representing the council agreed with the proposal put by Celia Hannan, Margaret Sheaves, Beryl Gamble, Jane Adams, John Aveyard, Alan Gibson, Elsie Marsden, Lorraine Crombie and Mavis Wasley to create a thriving native garden for visitors and locals to enjoy that would survive with natural rainfall and minimal attention. Focusing on local indigenous plants able to withstand hot, dry summers, cold winters and vigorous salt-laden winds it is a credit to these intrepid gardeners that Warrens walk has become

a beautiful asset to Eden.

The council supplied and installed seating at key areas to optimize the stunning views out to sea. Rob Whiter, a local builder and craftsman, installed a hand-crafted memorial seat donated from his family in remembrance of his mother Jean Whiter, locally known as 'Tug Boat Annie' who manned the radio for Marine Rescue in the cove.

With a small group of determined working gardeners including Celia Hannan, Margaret Sheaves, Marriane Kramp and Glenda Wood, the work progressed as they planted beds from the top, and from the bottom until finally they met in the middle of the walk. The shire continues to help out with slashing, mowing, mulching and rubbish removal.

The Warren family were approached and happily



agreed that their name could be used putting Warrens Walk on the map as a valued local attraction.

The garden has been awarded a Sustainable Garden Challenge Award and an Australia Day Community Project Award and has been used as a test case for local street plantings.

Both Celia and Margaret, pictured above, are also active in our EKWM gardens, designing the plantings and maintaining them.

With the cruise ship season on the horizon the Warrens Walk gardeners are doing some renovation work. ESSCI have kindly donated funds to the group to provide printed shirts which, I am sure, will be worn with pride when welcoming walkers from the ships as they follow in the steps of the Warren family.

Whale Festival Twilight Lantern Parade

On the 4th of November a twilight lantern parade will held at the top of Warrens Walk at 8pm to light up the Whale Festival.

Community groups and

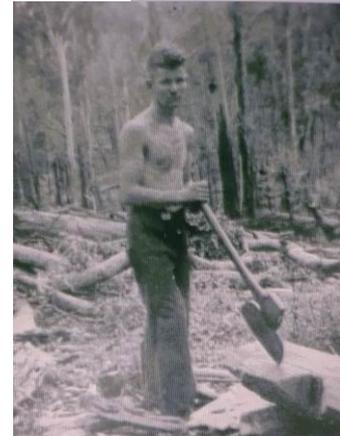
locals have been invited to participate in workshops to build a beautiful lantern. The theme is "By the Sea" which should get everyone's creative juices flowing.

If you are interested in making a special lantern and participating in this event contact the Sapphire Coast Discovery Centre for workshop details.



The Man from Twofold Bay – by Kevin Warren

An old fisherman is lying, with his kinsfolk around him trying
to be cheerful and to hide away their tears
But the tide of life is ebbing, and his thoughts are slowly spreading
and take him back across the bygone years.
And the gentle breeze is bringing now the sound of axes ringing
In the forests where the big chips fairly fly
And at times he hears the cheerful, though the language something fearful
As the bullock teams in clouds of dust go by.
He can hear those stock whips cracking and he sees the big beast battle
On the rugged tracks that lead to Twofold Bay
And he dreams the cheerful greeting at the timber cutters meeting
round the camp fires where the piles of sleepers lay
And across the bay at Edrom where the Kiah River flows
And meets the blue Pacific on its bay



The smoke drifts up unheeded where the melting pots are needed
For the whaling season now is underway
He can hear those big sweeps swinging and the long boat crews are singing
with the harpooner in the bows as plain as day
And the wily killers playing near the long boats, sometimes straying
As they lead them to the whales in Twofold Bay.
And now the water's flying and the mighty whale is dying
for the old hand harpoon has met its mark with skill
And the long boats lie abreast while the crews stand off and rest
And the hungry killers move in for the kill.
He hears the howling as they battle with those wild Monaro cattle
When they swim them from the beaches to the schooner in the Bay
And the gentle sea breeze willing, her sails are slowly filling
As her bow comes round to windward and she slowly makes away.
But now he knows his life is ended as he sees these visions splendid
and majestically she anchors in her lee.
And he can see her canvas falling, and hear his Master calling
And then he's sailing home forever, on a vast and endless sea.

It is fitting that we publish this wonderful poem written by the late Kevvy Warren on behalf of the Warren family – my thanks to Cheryl Cohen his eldest daughter

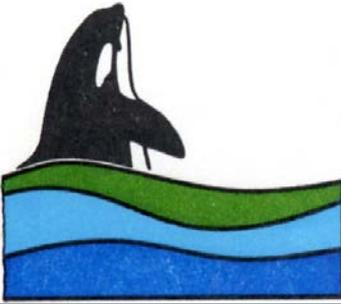


AHOY PACIFIC EDEN

How quickly time passes and before we know it the Cruise Ship season is again drawing near. It seems fitting that the first ship to visit our shores is the Pacific Eden, due in on Wednesday the 15th of November. We are preparing ourselves for a busy time ahead with fifteen ships on our list this cruising season. Here is our list of ships with the passenger numbers highlighted. It's "all hands on deck" - if you can help out at the port or in the museum contact Bob on 64962094. Meeting these happy holiday makers is a truly rewarding experience!

15/11/2017 Wednesday **Pacific Eden** 8:00 AM 5:00 PM **1,500** P&O Cruises Australia
20/11/2017 Monday **Noordam** 8:00 AM 4:00 PM **1,920** Holland America Line
14/12/2017 Thursday **Pacific Jewel** 8:00 AM 5:00 PM **2,050** P&O Cruises Australia
15/12/2017 Friday **Norwegian Jewel** 6:00 PM **2,375** Norwegian Cruise Lines
18/12/2017 Monday **Pacific Jewel** 8:00 AM 5:00 PM **2,050** P&O Cruises Australia
19/12/2017 Tuesday **M/S Regatta** 7:00 AM 4:00 PM **610** Norwegian Cruise Lines
20/12/2017 Wednesday **Noordam** 8:00 AM 4:00 PM **1,900** Holland America Line
2/01/2018 Tuesday **Silver Shadow** 9:00 AM 5:00 PM **400** Silver Seas
22/01/2018 Monday **M/S Regatta** 7:00 AM 4:00 PM **610** Oceania 60
2,000 925 P&O Cruises Australia
18/02/2018 Sunday **Pacific Jewel** 8:00 AM 6:00 PM **2,050** P&O Cruises Australia
19/02/2018 Monday **Norwegian Jewel** 6:00 PM **2,375** Norwegian Cruise Lines
24/02/2018 Saturday **Seven Seas Voyager** 8:00 PM **700** Norwegian Cruise Lines
3/03/2018 Saturday **Pacific Jewel** 8:00 AM 6:00 PM **2,050** P&O Cruises Australia





COMING EVENTS:

28TH AND 29TH OCT EDEN OPEN GARDENS

WHALE FESTIVAL EVENTS – NOV 3RD LIGHTING UP WARRENS WALK

NOV 4TH 3PM GUEST SPEAKERS AT EKWM

NOV 4TH AND 5TH EDEN MARINE RESCUE STATION OPEN DAYS 10AM – 3PM

NOV 4TH AND 5TH TWOFOLD BAY YACHT CLUB MODEL EXHIBITON

NOV 11TH SEHGI MEETING MALLACOOTA

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au

We'll miss you Kathleen

Staff and friends of EKWM farewelled Kath Strickland recently on her last day of work. Kath has worked in the Museum shop for 17 years, mostly on weekends, but also relieving other staff on holiday leave. Always with a friendly smile she has greeted visitors and imparted loads of local knowledge to enhance their holiday experience. Kath has a keen interest in local history and has read many of the books available in the

museum shop, enabling her to give an informed review of books to customers seeking a "good read". We thank Kath for her dedication and professional manner in "handling" the front of house over the last 17 years, and look forward to her company at museum friends activities in the future.

Note that our shop is also undergoing renovations. **Jody White EKWM Curator.**



Jack Dickenson presents a farewell gift to Kath.

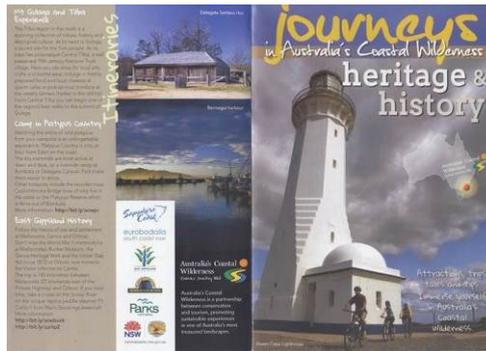
Rob's Port Report



Rob Whiter, our roving reporter is keeping a weather eye on the progress of the dredging work in Snug Cove - Until very recently we have NOT heard the Machiovelli digging from here inside the house...THAT has changed now that she is dealing with ROCK in the excavation to provide sufficient depth at the breakwater wharf for cruise ships. Inside our house the grating noise created by her excavator sounds just like distant thunder. In order to deal with Rock the 5 prong bucket is

changed to a smaller unit with only 3 teeth. Yesterday a low loader arrived in town carrying a much heavier Jib for the excavator together with a larger 3rd bucket. Yesterday and today digging has been concentrated closer to us and on a line between the main wharf and the skinny wharf, perhaps about 80 metres from the end of the wharves. However a week ago the digging was happening right under the bow of the police launch!

SEGHI meeting at Mallacoota



The previous SEGHI meeting was held during the Family History Expo at the Sapphire Club, Merimbula. Members discussed the need for a brochure showcasing all the local museums only to find that the one pictured already covers this nicely.

The next meeting will be on November 11th will be held at the Mudbricks Pavilion at Mallacoota behind Foodworks. It is suggested that those who attend may like to participate in the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cenotaph. The Art Space, Bastion Point and the Bunker Museum are suggested places of interest to visit after the meeting.

The museum is located 3 km out of town in a large concrete bunker. Anti-submarine operations were conducted throughout WW1 from this site. During the conflict the bunker was an important part of a chain of defence installations located along the southern and eastern coastline.



EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| EXEC PANEL MEETING | 1 PM 2 ND WEDNESDAY | MUSEUM LIBRARY |
| CURATORIAL MEETING | 1 PM 1 ST MONDAY | MUSEUM LIBRARY |
| FRIENDS MEETING | 9.30AM 3 RD WEDNESDAY | MUSEUM LIBRARY |