

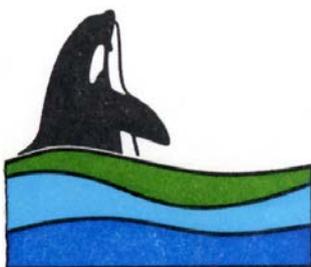
## Special Interest Articles:

- ❖ MARG HENRY OPENS SESQUI
- ❖ OUR FLAG POLE'S 25<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY
- ❖ ROS AND GORDON'S FINAL CRUISE
- ❖ KIM MORRIS ASSESSES EKWM
- ❖ TOMIVATION AND OUR NEW BUILDING PROJECT.
- ❖ JAMES KIRWAN AN EDEN CONVICT LANDOWNER
- ❖ HISTORIC SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
- ❖ DAVID O'CONNOR A SADLY MISSED FRIEND
- ❖ SEHGI MEETING

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## Marg Henry opens Sesqui

Marg Henry officially launched the *Sesqui an Event to Remember* exhibition on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April at an evening gathering at the museum.

Marg, shown here with the quilt she made to commemorate the event in 1993, enjoyed re-visiting the historic celebration with many locals who featured in the event.

Her beautifully sewn quilt features the Customs House which was demolished to make way for the Vacuum Oil Co depot and storage tanks, the Crown and Anchor Hotel, The Half House, the

Uniting Church, Boyd's tower and the Eden Killer Whale Museum in the centre.

EKWM President Jack Dickenson invited those attending to share their memories of this wonderful Eden event.

The exhibition will be on display through to March 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 so come along and enjoy this wonderful display. You might just find a photo of your family and friends to enjoy.

You are also invited to share your memories and photos on the museum's facebook page 'Eden Sesqui an event to remember'.



Marg pictured above launching Sesqui and below with husband John and grandson Charles holding her Sesqui quilt.



## Our Flag pole's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday

We often take our flag pole for granted, giving it a cursory glance as we drive into town. We don't realise that a dedicated crew of volunteer monitors maintain and change the flags when needed.

Jack Dickenson and Robert Whiter have performed this role faithfully for 25 years.

Many may have wondered about the decorative silver bow seen here at its base. It signified the important 25 year milestone celebrating the silver anniversary of the flag

pole in this position. On Tuesday March the 13<sup>th</sup> Sue Williamson, daughter of Eden's harbour master, and Eden resident Neil Rankin cut the birthday cake and joined those present in sharing stories of the 1993 community project which raised the funds for the flag pole and saw it installed.

The EKWM houses the extensive collection of flags in monthly boxes with a diary which details which flags are to be flown each day.

Many international flags are stored and flown and

when the cruise ships are in port you will notice their flags are flown as well.

Museum curator Jody White commented that *'the flag mast is a wonderful example of reusing the items of historical value for a new purpose. It continues its long tradition of signaling to locals and tourists alike.'*

EKWM is calling for flag monitors. If you would like to help out contact Jack Dickenson on 0407 963 036 – with 3 people helping only 4 -5 hours a month is required.





## Ros and Gordon's final cruise

So many of us have fond memories of enjoying a Cat Balou cruise during the whale watching season, with Ros calling the whales and Gordon carefully maintaining a respectful distance from the curious massive creatures.

At the end December, Ros and Gordon retired and sold Cat Balou to new operators Lana and Brad Wills who look forward to continuing to give Cat Balou passengers a memorable experience.

Eden Visitors Centre hosted a retirement event to

thank Ros and Gordon for their 30 year contribution to the local tourism industry. VIC chairman, Robert Sykes, thanked Ros and Gordon for their service and presented them with a card and piece of decorative scrimshaw featuring their boat. Local tourist operator and chair of Eden Chamber of Commerce, Jenny Robb, also gave her thanks for their untiring efforts not only to the Eden tourism industry but also for their support in local fundraising efforts.

A letter of thanks from David Donnelly, a marine researcher, detailed how Ros and Gordon

had greatly assisted the Pacific Whale Foundation and the broader scientific community in obtaining sightings and information to aid in the identification of whales in our area.

Brad passed on that Ros and Gordon will be still be providing their assistance during the upcoming whale watching season.

**Jody White – curator  
EKWM.**

Whales have now been sighted so Cat Balou is out and about after its dry dock overhaul.



## Kim Morris assesses EKWM

Kim Morris, materials conservator, undertook a site assessment between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March as part of a Preservation Needs Assessment. EKWM received a grant for this through the National Library of Australia's 'Community Heritage' grant program. During the visit, he inspected the building as a whole, how the collection is stored and handled, digital preservation works, as well as

lighting and light levels. Kim is seen here giving our main attraction *Old Tom* a closer inspection. We look forward to his feedback on how we can improve the care of our collection and the final report will no doubt be able to help us with future grant applications for building or conservation projects.

**Jody White – curator  
EKWM**

## Tomivation and our new building project



EKWM President Jack Dickenson has appealed to the membership to contact him with any ideas they may have for the future of the museum.

This project entitled 'Tomivation' is open to ideas about the proposed new extensions, focusing on the layout, traffic flow, promotion and suggested exhibitions.

All ideas are welcome and can be sent to the EKWM office, so check out this

site and if you would like to contribute hop to it. The site will be there for a few months.

<http://datracker.begavalley.nsw.gov.au>

How long is it since you've cruised into the EKWM shop? It's looking pretty spiffy after some new updated renovations and is stocking a great range of new items to tempt the most discerning of shoppers.

Wander in and find that perfect gift for any occasion!



## James Kirwan – an Eden convict landowner

At February's curatorial meeting this new document relating to the purchase of Lot 3, Section 1 on Imlay Street by James Kirwan, issued on 31 July 1843, was donated. The purchase document is signed bottom right by the NSW Governor, George Gipps.

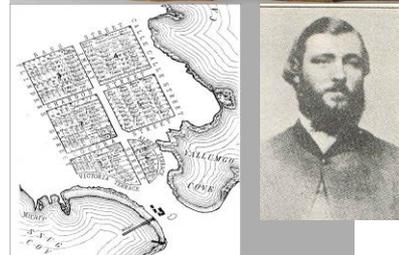
The land is now owned by EKWM volunteers Tricia and Richard Lamacraft, picture near the displayed document.

James Kirwan, from County Mayo Ireland, sentenced to seven years for stealing money, was transported in 1826 to New South Wales sailing with 200 other convicts on the 'Boyne'. His occupation at the time of his conviction was that of a gentleman's servant. On his arrival at Port Jackson he was assigned to Jno. Seary stationed at the Military Garden. James Kirwan is a name indelibly associated with the early history of Monaro. He was married to Elizabeth, a

sister of Joseph Ward, who in 1836 had sent William Glanville to Sydney with a consignment of cattle.

Kirwan, having thus heard of Monaro, was determined to start a business there, and arranged for his supplies to be taken back by Glanville. Kirwan, in partnership with Ward, wanted his wife to accompany him. The Ward family objected to Mrs. Kirwan going where there were no white women had been. Kirwan was insistent, and Ward, a passionate man, brought his axe down on the wheel of the dray containing the partnership goods, and cutting three spokes out said, "I'll have my half." The wheel was bound up with clothes-line, and Glanville brought the dray along with a composite team of a mare in the shafts, a bull by the name of "Spot," and a bullock called "Tinker" leading. Kirwan, coming to Monaro, became a hawker, making a considerable amount of

money. At the junction of the Cooma and Cooma Back Creeks he opened the first place of accommodation in the district, known far and wide as Kirwan's Inn. By special permission he purchased an area of 160 acres adjoining the boundaries of the village of Cooma. In October, 1852 he was shot by his groom - a man named McSpladden - whilst inquiring into the cause of a quarrel between the latter and a doctor, a guest at the inn. His wife, a capable and educated woman, looked after his books. She predeceased him, dying in October, 1850, at the age of 36. James Kirwan was the lessee of the Cooma Run, of 30,000 acres, the Countegany Run, of 20,000 acres, and acquired from Jeremiah Flinn the Numeralla Run, of 2,140 acres. **Transcribed by Patrick Mould in 2003, from the book "Back to Cooma" Celebrations"**



James Kirwan above and the documents relating to the land purchase.



the hall and direct access created from the hall to the refreshment and library rooms. A new building was proposed at a meeting in May 1902 but it is unclear about any further action on this motion. The hall was a town meeting place, used as a venue to hear state election candidates, for balls, and all types of recreational activities, including table tennis and later, roller skating. An 1910 advert in The Magnet newspaper announced that the 'latest and most up-to-date films procurable...refined, instructive, educating and amusing with incidental music' would be shown on 21 December with prices at 1/6 and 1/-, children at half price. From the late 1940s picture shows run by Viv Cocks and Rod Bourke were popular, and a kiosk for sweet treats was operated by the RSL. By this time the hall was starting to fall into disrepair and in 1976 councillors

## Eden's Historic school of the Arts

A recent donation to the Museum has provided more information about the establishment of the School of Arts Hall in Eden. The Indenture document, reveals the two trustees of the Eden School of Arts to be Alexander Walker Davidson and Charles Tarlinton Stiles. Alexander, of course, being the patriarch of the Davidson family associated with our well documented whaling history. The Indenture shows Messrs Willis and Eden storekeeper/entrepreneur, Solomon Solomon selling the land for £100. No records have yet been found as yet to confirm when the School of Arts committee was established but the building contract was awarded to Mr

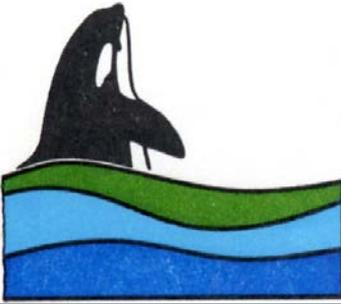
C Jess of Wyndham. The official opening took place on 24 May 1894 with St Joseph's convent school students holding a concert in November. In 1899, the committee's annual report noted the building had been painted and a water supply provided at a cost of £30. The outgoing committee recommended that the interior of the hall be at least partly lined to increase the comfort of users, and provide more room for the library. The reading room had closed due to poor patronage. The library was popular with users, with 1191 books issued throughout the year.

Alterations, completed in 1901, included partly lining



Jody White – EKWM curator

resolved to have the School of Arts building demolished.



COMING EVENTS:

APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> 2018 – MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> 2019 SEQUI AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

1 1<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST SEHGI AGM MEETING BEGA

25– 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LT COOK'S DEPARTURE FROM PLYMOUTH AT MALLACOOTA

10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER SEHGI MEETING EDEN

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David O'Connor – a sadly missed friend

It was with much sadness that I recently learned that our talented EKWM friend David O'Connor had passed away after a short illness.

Many will remember him as an enthralling guest speaker who gave us an insight into his five years in Mongolia (see Soundings 6.4).

David an actor, poet, singer, songwriter, radio and TV newsreader and presenter was born in England.

Australia became David's home base though he had lived in Laos and travelled to over 45 countries. Leaving England in 1967 he intended to hitchhike around the world, but with just \$2 in his pocket stopped in Australia.

In 1976 he joined a theatre company in Tasmania and then, with the actors who were also musicians, formed a band called Auntie's Gift.

David released 11 CD's and his songs have been recorded by Fay White, Bernard Carney and Jackie Luke. He travelled Australia in his little campervan performing his bush poetry and music at many festivals.

He also entertained children with magic tricks performing in schools in each state.

In 2014 "This other Eden", a collection of poems compiled and produced by David, featured his poems and those of selected local poets. It quickly sold out.

Most of us were unaware of his philanthropic side and just how much he contributed to fostering youngsters and causes throughout the world. He

counted his work on behalf of Australian Volunteers International as being the most worthwhile and rewarding experiences of his life.

While in Mongolia David met a lady trying to find a piano for a kindergarten, he decided to donate an electric keyboard then started fund raising in Tasmania until the school was completely re-built. Up until his death he continued to provide funds for children to finish their schooling and acted as a translator for Mongolian journalists. We will all miss this wonderful multi-talented man. He was a very special bloke who quietly made a huge difference to the lives of many people, giving pleasure through both his music and his writing.



SEHGI meeting views the Bridges Project

Collette Moorhead presented the Bridges Project at the SEHGI meeting at the Old Pambula Court House. The program contained photographs of bridges from Narooma to the Victorian border and west

to Towamba, Wyndham and Bemboka. This great resource will be available through our library. SEHGI also wrote to the Bega Valley Shire in response to rent rises on shire premises used by museums and community groups.



EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE PANEL MEETING 3PM 2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY  
CURATORIAL MEETING 2PM 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY  
FRIENDS MEETING 9AM 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY

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