

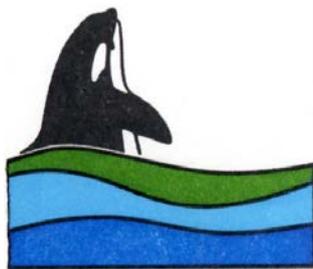
## Special Interest Articles:

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## Wonderful “Wild Catch”

Curator Jody White and her crew of researchers and display magicians have done it again – providing a new must see exhibition for holiday crowds loaded with WOW factor.

“Wild Catch” opened on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December to coincide with the visiting cruise ship Noordam. It features the history of NSW’s wild harvested abalone fishery in Eden and the ups and downs of the management of the species and an industry fraught with danger and drama.

This interactive display has appeal to all ages with 3 TV screens running – one features greenlip, blacklip and tiger abalone in action, the next “**A Day at the Office**” shows local divers and their crews at work, and the final screen invites you to select stories told by local divers **BJ Cruse** explaining the indigenous fishing rights and issues, **Matthew Proctor** of NSW Fisheries featuring management and poaching, **Dennis (Tas) Warn** who was here at the beginning of Eden’s ab diving history in 1964 sharing his experiences, **John Smythe**, a high placed representative in the industry both in NSW and throughout Australia in an on-going interview focusing on the changing boats used over the 43 years he has been diving. He is still commercially

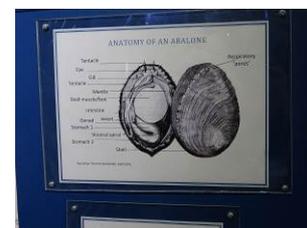
diving at 70 years of age, the **Lucas family**, who bought abalone off local divers loaning boats and diving gear to those wanting to get into the industry in return for a percentage of the catch and loan repayments.

Their interview, entitled ‘*shells and shotguns*’ is found on the link <https://youtu.be/LEhZmDB4dZc> A skete shotgun was used by one diver as collateral. And finally stories related by **Bev Illes & Kare Luobikis** entitled ‘*Above board: women on the water*’ regarding their experiences as deckhands.

If you’re wondering, like I was, about the display board with many finned legs attached... this represents the ‘free for all’ that occurred in the early days of the industry where for \$2 anyone could become an abalone diver. Not so now where commercial divers pay extremely high fees and costs.

**Abalone facts** – recreational bag limit is 10 – with 20 possession limit. Abalone can retail for \$100 per kg, with 16,000 recreational licenses issued per year – cost per boat \$50. 100 species of abalone are found world-wide.

Abalone steaks are sold to restaurants for \$125 per pound (2014 value). **A quote from EKWM Curator Jody White** ‘*We were fortunate to have John Smythe give us wonderful footage to work with. I edited the clips into this montage to replicate some of a day’s work of a commercial abalone diver. I wanted to highlight to visitors their unique*



*working environment, the types of water conditions they experience (from calm to surging and the physical strength it takes to work in them), how difficult it can be to find abalone amongst the surging weed, the prevalence of sea urchins (and the risk to divers that have to work around them - and the scourge they pose to the health of the sea floor), plus the different types of abalone gauges and equipment they work with. Then there’s the on board work of a deckhand as well. In around 90 seconds I think it packs a lot of interpretive weight.’*

## A bonus bycatch – Abalone pearls

Abalone pearls only occur in the wild and can be worth between \$200 and \$2,000 per carat.

Colour does matter with green, blue and pink the most sought after. If you are lucky enough to find one it must be cleaned before sending to a jeweler by

rolling it in your palm to remove built up salt or lightly buff it. Because they are large they harbor a lot of protein, the binding agent for the nacreous crystals. To ensure your pearl doesn’t disintegrate soak in salt water to rehydrate the protein.





John Smythe above launching Wild Catch, Jeff Swane our new life member pictured below with his wife Dianne.



Faye and Keith Turnball accept the Leviathan award.

### Behind the Scenes

Months before Christmas I wandered into the EKWM library and noted Robyn, one of our research team, hard at work leafing through stacks of fishing magazines.

She explained that she and Carol had been searching for articles on Abalone diving for six months trawling through endless copies of Magnets for mentions of local divers.

I had no idea that the exhibition "Wild Catch" was coming up in December. Jodie White our Curator had noted that we had 'a hole in our collection', with no items relating to the abalone

diving industry.

Jody explained that she would feature more of our extensive 'fishing collection' in storage below the museum when the new extension was completed.

They are always thinking ahead these hard working folk, and many steps ahead of my slow thinking brain.

Its magic how suddenly new exhibits appear – almost over- night - often without warning it seems. I must take more notice of those emails!

But who does all this work and are they in need of a

little help?

I think yes is the simple answer. The hard slog of wading through data, searching and collating information, always requires a dedicated team who are attentive to detail.

The construction and design of the exhibitions is pretty well in expert hands with Jody and her right-hand helper Stephanie Rawlings, seen here setting up a Wild Catch display.

Think of this team with much admiration as they plan the next exhibit which will be set up in the Typee gallery in March to replace the Sesqui and Morse Code exhibitions.

### Coming Events

A new exhibition *Peaks, Plains and Pastures* opening on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March and running through to the 11<sup>th</sup> of August this year will showcase the work of multi award winning artist John Downton. He is an accepted member of the Australian Society of Marine Artists, was the Navy Artist East Timor 2000, an Honorary Member of the

Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia 2000, was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Art Society 2000, Awarded the Australian Society of Marine Artist's President's Medal - 2004 and Fellowship of the A.S.M.A. – 2004.

*Canned 2.0* will also be set up to replace the popular *Lifeline to a Safe Harbour* exhibition.



### EKWM Christmas Party

The 2018 Christmas Party was quite a celebration on many levels.

It also launched the *Wild Catch* exhibition with local commercial diver John Smythe doing the honours. John played an important role in the development of the exhibition helping curator, Jody White, with the technical and historical aspects of the commercial abalone diving industry. He is well placed to do so being

Secretary of the Abalone Association of NSW and is a director of the Abalone Council of Australia and the Fishing Industry Training Council.

Jeff Swane joined our happy group of life members as he was recognized for all the work he has done for the museum as Promotions Manager, as an EKWM Committee Member and at

numerous working bees and on the Friends Committee.

The third Leviathan award was presented to Fay and Kevin Turnball. Keith has donated his valuable sign writing time and expertise both on signage outside and inside the museum. He has also been a flag monitor and is updating the historical markers around the town. Faye is involved with Nullica Lodge and they are both active in community groups.

Life Members – L – R – Jeff Swane, Rob Whiter, Jack Dickenson, Stephanie Rawlings, Jenny Drenkhahn, Margaret Shreaves.



## Bring your hat on Australia Day

EKWM is pulling out all the stops to make this coming Australia Day a ripper of a celebration mate!

I'm sure all of you can come up with a decorated Australia Day themed hat to better this bloke pictured here.

Come along on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January to the

museum at 11am for the flag raising ceremony where ESSCI will be manning the barbie for a sausage sizzle.

Friends of EKWM will provide coffee, tea, juice and yummy lamingtons. Flags with Australian poems printed on the back will be handed out to be read out.

Young guest speakers Olivia Bland and Shaun Christianson will provide an insight into how their generation views Australia Day.

Bring your own chair, your hat and Aussie themed gear and join locals and visitors for a fun filled event. Let's make this a day to remember.



## Busy, Busy, Busy!

The Christmas holiday period has been extra busy this year with numbers up in the museum due to cruise ship visits and our popular school holiday children's activities.

For the volunteering Friends who manned the activities table during the week we entertained children and their families – a big thank you.

We had 164 children colouring in whale and diver book marks – our busiest day was on the Friday with 48 children. Many thanks again to Jody White our curator for providing the book mark images. Conversations were instructive as the kids shared their marine knowledge. I was amazed as they discussed genetics when it was mentioned that *Migaloo* the white whale had a baby. For those kids here are some interesting *Migaloo facts* – ★He is currently known as a hypo-pigmented male, not an albino. ★Testing of skin samples collected from the water after he breached prove he is a male – as does his singing. ★ He is a dad – his offspring

*Migaloo Junior* was spotted in 2011. ★ His name means 'White Fella' in aboriginal dialect. ★He was struck by a trimaran in 2003 and has scarring on his back.

★Including his son there are only 4 of his kind. ★He was first observed in 1991 and is thought to be 28-30 years old. ★He has been given special protection in NSW and QLD with hefty fines if you get too close.

### Cruise Ship report –

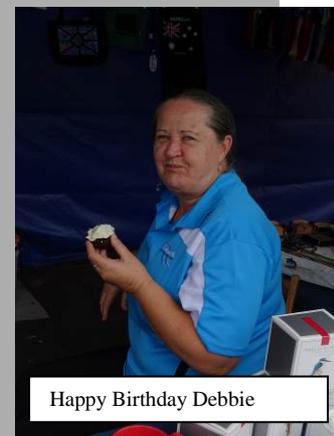
Big swells turned a couple of ships around so the new wharf extension is eagerly awaited by Cruise Eden, cruise ships and all in the town and surrounding area that enjoy visits from scores of happy passengers. *Oceanic Regatta* – a small cruise ship with mostly American passengers gave us some great visitor numbers when visiting on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of January. The first day saw over 700 and the second over 500 passengers and local tourists pour into the museum.

A huge thankyou to Bob and his staff, Jody our curator, all the guides who had huge tour groups to contend with, and Susie and Brian on the wharf who encouraged passengers to hop off the town bus and walk back to the museum.

Happy birthday Debbie from the Eden Visitors Centre who enjoyed a cupcake and a Harley Ride plus a special birthday call from Alan our town crier.

We still have 10 ships to come this season.

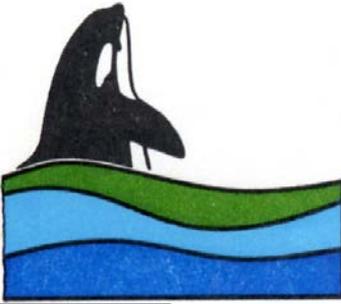
On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March *P&O Explorer* will be touch parking at the new wharf – with big celebrations planned for the first ship to do so. Our tugs will become fountains as they set off their fire-fighting sprays. A long line of dignitaries will welcome our first cruise ship to tie up in Snug Cove.



Happy Birthday Debbie



Oceanic Regatta leaves Sydney bound for Eden.



**COMING EVENTS:**

SAT. 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – AUSTRALIA DAY AT EKWM

9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – SEHGI MEETING MERIMBULA

TUES. 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – SENIORS FESTIVAL FILM AFTERNOON EKWM

FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY EKWM SPEAKER ZOE JOSEPH

SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – OPENING OF THE WHARF EXTENSION – SNUG CO VE

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**Grand Endeavour**

It's just been announced that the replica of HMS Endeavour, a ship well known in our area, will circumnavigate the country to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Captain James Cook's first voyage to Australia.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has allocated \$6.7 million to send the ship to 39 ports around the country as shown on this map (Herald-Sun Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>).

Leaving in March this will be the biggest voyage the Endeavour has undertaken since it first set sail in the 1990's.

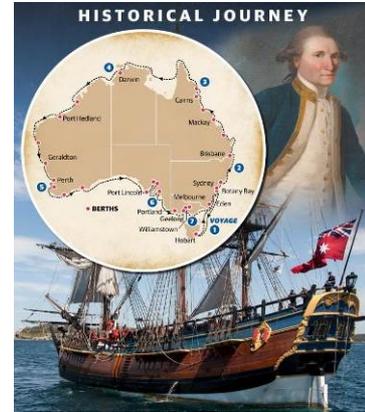
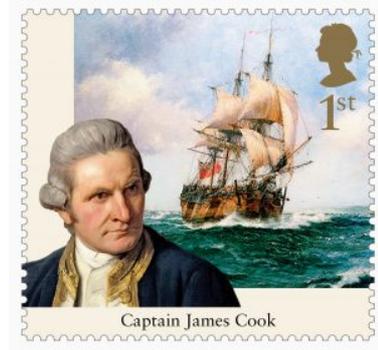
Activities and events have been planned at each port to show what it was like to sail on the original Endeavour's voyage. People will be able to join the crew on board to understand what sailors faced and what their

lifestyle was like in the 1700's.

The Maritime Museum is mounting a travelling exhibition to compliment the journey.

The Endeavour will pass Eden three times as it heads from Sydney to Hobart where it starts the voyage. They then sail up the east coast as they work their way around Australia with their last stop at a Victorian port in May next year to mark the first European voyage to reach the east coast of Australia in 1770.

*"As the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary nears we want to help Australians better understand Captain Cook's historic voyage and its legacy for exploration science and reconciliation," Mr Morrison said.*



**EKWM hosts SEHGI**

The November SEHGI meeting was held at the Edén Killer Whale Museum with guest speaker Coral Reynolds, the Community Liason Officer for the wharf project providing an update on the wharf extension.

Rob Whiter who continues to

monitor the project and supply photos from his home base above Snug Cove, walked all attending down to the observation platforms to show how the extension is progressing.

The book launch for *'Lillian's Eden'* by author

Cheryl Adam was also held at the well-attended meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Merimbula on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February with a display, talk and tour of Bimbimbie Retirement Village by Brigitte Kestermann.



**EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM**

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:**

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