



Eden Killer Whale Museum

Newsletter February 2022

The calendar summer is passing, with January already faded to grey. To “grey”, is quite apt, as there has been few sunny days from the start, with cloud in the ascendency, throughout. As it turned out, the inclemency worked in our favour, with takings for the month. being quite acceptable, in the current trading climate.

I looked back with a sigh of relief and a sense of awe in the achievements by which the small gang had won. The second half of ‘21 and the busy weeks of the summer season, the frontline troops, i.e. those people behind the counter who welcome our visitors and attend to their purchases, played a big part. A couple of the newer staff were in the very deep end at this time and may have wondered what they had got themselves into.

They are of enormous worth to the organisation.

The engine room people kept the boilers stoked. Our thanks to all.

To the small band of volunteers who stayed and fought the good fight against the proverbial “Murphy”, who was there in full assault, waiting for anything that could go wrong. And Murph wasn’t left without, for long. It seemed to do just that, if it could go wrong; it did. It may have been somewhat trying, but Tom’s crew stayed with the fight and prevailed. It was a marvellous effort.

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Our spending on the building works has now

absorbed a figure north of seven digits. While we had been granted support from a Federal Government, the receipt of which has been less than readily forthcoming. So the executive members, meeting fortnightly, have been sitting on the edge of their respective chairs watched our reserves dwindle to a figure less than we prefer.

We were always confident that we would have the resources to finish the job. The account will be in credit at the finish. The flow of the funds were the nail biting items in the equation.

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A roundup of recent time would not be complete without a heads up for our visitors. By and large, they were gracious in proffering their Covid credentials and an understanding of the difficulties with which we were coping, due to the building programme.

Sadly, there is a downside. Pilfering occurred. One instance was blatant. With only one staffer on duty at the time, any action was impossible.

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If you a wondering why you have not received a renewal notice for your membership.

It is with good reason. Since the beginning of this fiscal year, particularly, it has been a challenging for all, including the Board and the Office Staff. With that in mind, the Board resolved that we would not send renewals for 21/22.. All who were financial at 30/6/21 will be considered so, until 30/6/22.

Visit by Local Member

On 20th January, we received a visit from local Member Kristy McBain. She inspected that of the building works to which we had access and was impressed with what she had seen. Commenting on the major step we have taken, Kristy was particularly impressed with the incorporation the passenger lift in the programme.

The local member met all staff and volunteers who were in the building at the time. In chatting to her and her schedule. It reinforced to me, how difficult this electorate is to service by the local member, whoever that may be.

Kristy was accompanied by Melanie Leach Electorate officer and Euan Osten, an EMHS alumni of Kristy's, on work experience.

I spoke with Euan seeking what he might aim for post HSC. In answer to my question. Euan says he has no political aspirations at this time!

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Tom in Demand

Old Tom continues to spark interest around the world.

In the eighties we were contacted by a Canadian institution, having heard of the longevity accorded to Tom, wanted to scientifically age the old fellow.

We were asked for a tooth that they might extract a section, to carry out their science. They told of the fact that within a killer whale's tooth, growth rings appear, similar to a tree, which indicates time.

The committee was torn between our own need to know and letting any part of Tom from our grasp.

We were given firm assurances as to its return.

Fresh in our minds was an experience that Bert Egan underwent, not long before I came on the scene.

Bert was old school. Despite the horrors that he had encountered in his young life and by then he was in his eighties, Bert retained a trust in people.

Bert had been co-erced into lending a lance to Bill Peach's support crew with firm assurance it would be



Kristy re-aquainted herself with the "star" of our show, during her visit..

Angela George photo

Asked for a tooth that they might saw a section to carry out their science, we received the request with little enthusiasm. The antennae of our collective minds tuned to the knowledge of Bert Egan's experience, which had occurred in the recent past.

Reluctant, we most certainly were.

We were torn between our own need to know and letting any part of the skeleton out of our grasp. Firm assurances were given as to its return. .

With forebodings we acquiesced . After all it was a reputable organisation which had made the request.

Once again we were let down.

Sure, we got the tooth back but not before about two years had passed with much frustration, a ship load of correspondence and some poorly connected phone conversations.

And the verbal result was not quite the same as the written.

For those of us who walk past Tom, regularly, it's not hard to become item blind. There is a small frame on the first corner of his case. This gives a summary of the Canadian findings.

The new request is of twenty first century scientific intent . It will be of interest to us all and will require but a small intrusion to the skeleton.

I am running out of space in this column so will cobble a piece together for inclusion next time.



Here's the old fellow helping to raise funds for the Bega Hospital wig library

People

Bon Voyage Ben

Just as the last lockdown was about to happen, **Ben Neville** was to join us as one of the troops in the front of house. Ben had just finished his HSC and saw being on our crew as a way of making “a few bob” (do youngn’s use that expression today?), before heading off to university.



Joining us would also be another addition to his already extensive C.V.

Ben was not a stranger to EKWM, he having completed an internal tourism familiarisation course, here at EKWM, back in about 2016. As he was dedicated to that exercise, so he proved to be a competent, reliable and punctual staff member.

Before leaving for Sydney on his life’s next journey to Macquarie, Ben and his family had a week or so on the gold coast.

At Western Sydney, he will further his aim to secondary teaching. His study will in the history and geography fields.



Ben goes with every good wish from EKWM.

Secretary, **Jenny Drenkhahn**, has been having a few week’s break with daughter, **Heidi**, at Broken Hill. Heidi was hose moving in the time, so I dare say both girls were kept busy.

The T V news tells us there were some heavy rainstorms out that way, during the period. Hope timing was favourable for the actual moving day.

Heidi studies her Australia Day award certificate, 2003.



Sisters and members of the Friends **Norma McGregor** and **Margaret Sheaves** have been having an experience with Skype recently. Norma is a resident at United Care, here in Eden. Because of positive tests for Covid, U.C. has been in and out of lockdown over recent weeks. Only coming out of one session last week, another case reared it’s ugly head as I write, and another lockup is occurring.

Margaret was quite blown away with experience of speaking and seeing Norma and other family

Norma & Margaret startled by the flash in the main cave at Yarrangobilly 2007



communication network.

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We are pleased to welcome **Emily Anderson** into our crew.

While Emily has very firm family roots in Eden, she has worked extensively, in other parts of the country, much of it in retail positions. This, no doubt, will serve her well, as she commences her time with us. We trust it will be a long and happy association.

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Barry Hughes celebrated a birthday recently. A small function was held in the engine room to mark the occasion. We join that celebration and wish Barry health and happiness into the future.

Barry has ensured that **Jessica** became familiar with the routine and comfortable in the operation, below decks.

NEWS

Sign maker, Brian Hart is back at work. Between home building and Covid, he hasn't been in the shop on a regular basis.

We need to replace the information boards in the sign frame at the main steps off Imlay Street. They are in woeful condition.

Driving north into Eden the roadside sign at Nar-rababa, Rob reports that it will hold a little longer. It has done well, being totally exposed and surviving the the recent major bushfires.

Another unfinished project is the sign at the Scout Hall. It was always intended that we would put above it Welcome top Twofold Bay in Local language and English. We will endeavour to have this completed also.

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The Board has had to grapple with many issues that wouldn't surface in the normal course of events. The latest of which is that of the air conditioning plant which is attached to the climate control machinery.

It appears that this was out of order for an extensive period. Checking with the firm which serviced it last, the period may well have been quite some months. They allege that they had a discussion with a unnamed person here. Nothing of this nature was ever passed on to the Board. Meanwhile, we are receiving power bills of huge magnitude much of which would have been accumulated by this machine, still grinding away, with no benefit as a result.

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Thanks once again to the ESSCI CLUB who provided a show of force in carrying the floor tiles downstairs and the laying of same.

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Mark 23rd February into your diaries. That is the date that we expect some representatives of the Otis Elevator Company to come to inspect the lift well to ensure it is ready to receive the hardware a furniture that make up a working lift. I recently looked at the timeline for the installation. I seem to remember four weeks from go to whoa.

February

- 12th SEHGI at Bermagui.. Postponed
- 13th EKWM 91st Anniversary
- 16th Friends meeting*
- 21st Curatorial meeting EKWM Library*

March

- Local residents' visits*
- 10th Board meeting 2pm EKWM Library
- 14th Monday Canberra Day
- 16th Friends meeting EKWM Library*
- 21st Curatorial meeting EKWM Library*

April

- Official gallery opening*
- 8th Friday End term 1. NSW
- 8th End Term 1. A.C.T.
- 8th End Term 1. Vic
- 14th Board meeting
- 18th Curatorial meeting
- 20th Friends meeting
- 15th Good Friday
- 18th Easter Monday
- 25th Monday. Anzac day
- 26th ACT & Victoria term 2 commences
- 27th NSW Term 2 commences

*to be confirmed

May

- 12 th Board meeting
- 6th Curatorial meeting
- 18th Friends meeting

N.B.

We are unable, still, to provide a date when the construction site situation will be completed. Until then cannot have the use of the whole facility. We will inform you of any changes

Cheers
Jack

