



Cavalcade Wall Almost finished!

Special Interest Articles:

- ❖ INTERVIEW WITH A WHALER
- ❖ YOUNG ENDEAVOUR SAIL FOR VOLUNTEERS
- ❖ SEHGI AT COOLRINGDON

The Albert Terrace frontage is looking so much tidier and is just about completed. By the end of December 2011 the cement path was completed thanks to ESSCI. Some retaining blocks were laid to hold the garden in front of the title panel, and have also been put in front of each tile mural to trim those irregular spaces and give a neat border on the wall side of the pathway.

Electrical cabling has been run for concealed lighting behind the timber bollards which will be installed on the “points” of the wall between the panels. A water supply has also been laid to allow easy watering of the garden shown here and the landscaping yet to be complete on the nature strip between the path and the road. This huge project is now receiving plenty of

accolades from locals and visitors who are admiring the artistic work of the museum’s life member Alex McKenzie, in its prominent position on the frontage to this busy thoroughfare. I’m sure when we are able to turn on some subtle lighting at night time it will also attract lots more favourable comment. Many thanks to all who have helped with this project thus far!

Deaccessioning some larger items creates storage space

Jo and Peter Grant from Mallacoota and District Historical Society collected one of the two sea mines from the EKWM collection, which their society had accepted to add to their collection at the WW11 Bunker at Mallacoota. These mines came to EKWM in 1994 from the The Royal Victoria Regiment SUPPORT CO. 8/17TH BATTALION. It is planned to mount the other mine appropriately in the EKWM grounds inside the cavalcade wall.

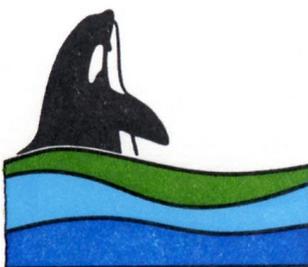
This re arranging assists in maximizing the storage possibilities within the archive/storage/galleries/library and grounds at the museum and allows as much of our collection as possible to be accessed easily. Further work “under the wharf” has sealed the area to help prevent termite invasion and will house more metal shelving to maximize storage in that area.



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Transcript of an interview with Charles Davidson

The adjacent article is an interview by Fabian Phillipps in July 1954 with Charles Davidson done for a journalist in Sydney it would seem.

This is part of a donation to our collection of photographs and papers from the Phillipps/Helmore family home "Dar el" in Eden. Within this donation there are very significant items relating to Eden's history. Together with his family, G.R. Phillipps had been editor, printer, publisher and owner of the Eden Magnet Newspaper between 1914 and 1946. After his death in 1939 his sons Fabian and Eustace and daughter Noela continued producing the paper, which had combined with the Pambula Voice to become the Magnet & Voice during WW2. G.R. Phillipps was one of the founding committee of the Eden Killer Whale Museum.

John Helmore had married Noela Phillipps and returned to Eden after WW2 and became manager of the Greenseas Cannery at Cattle Bay. He later formed Twofold Bay Marine Services with shipwright Charles Peel and boat owner Owen Allen; TBMS was a boat building and maintenance business with a slipway in Snug Cove.

29th July 1954

Mr Martin

Dear sir,

Following your request of Tuesday last for information re whales, I submit the following as a result of an interview with my good friend Charles Davidson. Charles is the youngest son of the late John Davidson, who in turn was the son of Alexander Davidson, who came to Eden with Ben Boyd in 1844. Davidsons were whaling in Twofold Bay for 73 years and 3 generations. Thus you are getting gen straight from the most authoritative source.

Question: When did the whaling season commence in Eden?

Answer: We always had boats ready for sea on 1st May, though it would be sometimes June before the first whale was taken.

Q: First whales were of course Northbound?

A: Yes.

Q: When would you say northbound whales passed, & southbound whales arrived, in the Eden area?

A: Depending on season, it would be early or late August, say, average, middle of August.

Q: What would you say controlled early or late season? And were early or late seasons best from the whalers point of view?

A: Feed, whale feed (brit); currents. If currents swept brit close along shore, whales would travel close along shore feeding. If the current line and the brit was offshore, the whales passed to sea; and it would only be a sick whale or straggler that would fall to our harpoons. Early season, late season, good season, bad season, would be proportional to the vagaries of the current, which affected the whale feed. Plenty of whale feed along shore meant for us a good season.

Q: When would you catch most whales, north bound or south bound?

A: We would sight most whales when they were north bound, but with our methods they were not easy to take for they seemed to be in a hurry north. But when heading south, cows with calves, bulls with cows, there was time out for play, and it was then we got our chance to kill. Though, of course, many whales were taken when north bound.

Q: How many whales would you take in an average season?

A: Fifteen to twenty.

Q: What type of whales would you see from the observation post at South Head?

A: Three types mainly, humpback, sulphur-bottom (finback), & black finback.

Q: What species would form the bulk of your catch?

A: Humpback almost exclusively, as both other types were too fast for us in five-oared boats. Although odd whales of other species were taken at times. On one occasion a 70ft. black finback was taken but he was a very sick whale before we made fast to him.

Q: What range would your operations cover?

A: From Haycock south to Pambula Haycock north, & say five miles to sea. Of course, many times we were towed further afield, but that was the whales' idea not ours.

Q: Where would you say north bound whales made their landfall?

A: Gabo Island or south thereof. You could see them coming up from south just like a steamer from Melbourne, heading for the light. At times, if feed was plentiful, they would go close in shore round Tallaberger (Tullaberger), though mostly they would stand out, & round fairly close past the Howe.

Q: Would south bound whales

back track on a similar course?

A: Sometimes, but I believe the main body of south bound whales start working off the coast round Montague, & pass Eden, say, 20 miles off, & further off still by the time they get to Gabo.

Q: Was it shortage of whales that made it unprofitable to continue bay whaling out of Eden?

A: No. Many factors contributed to the closing down of the station, but not shortage of whales. The killer pack, which assisted considerably in the taking of whales, was gradually reduced in numbers by old age, & finally, a Jervis Bay based Norwegian expedition took its toll on the killers. Plant was obsolete; family interests were attracted to other fields, and those left in the game did not feel that the effort required to reorganise was warranted, as the price of oil on world markets was dropping annually.

Mr. Charles Davidson went from whaling to lighthouse keeping on Gabo Island, where he was able to study the passers by at close range, having little else to do while on watch. During three years of observation from this vantage point he was able to add to his already considerable knowledge of whales and their habits, and one has only to listen to his observations to be convinced that he knows his subject. In order to be sure of his facts, which, as he says, were on some points, a little rusty after 20 years, he spent the afternoon with brother Archer, who, at 78 is one of the oldest whalers still on deck. Archer can recall seven shore based crews working out of Eden, and was himself in the boat crew at the age of 12.

That's all this trip. Over and out.



Left: G.R Phillipps editor of the Magnet Newspaper.

Right: Fabian and Noela Phillipps who took over the editing of the paper after their father's death.

Can anyone tell us the make and model of the car?



A working bee was held in early February to free up the disused executive office and create a place for volunteers at the museum to use as a base. Left over and out dated equipment had gathered in the office for years and in a short while the room was looking much more like a welcoming and convenient space. Bob Sykes has revamped a computer for use in this room, that will be on the network and

able to be used for research and such work. Thanks to all for their willing work at this project and we look forward to volunteers using the space for their various tasks. One item "discovered" is an attractive lighthouse table lamp, a donation for use as a raffle prize! We just need a project to fund raise for?? All suggestions welcome!



Trish Lamacraft and Barry Smith at work!!

EKWM Volunteers invited to sail with Young Endeavour



Above (1 to r); Trish Lamacraft, Valma Barber, Celia Hannan, Marg Shevaes, Helen Webb, Ian Whiter, Rob Webb, Jeff Swane and Barry Smith before departure on Young Endeavour.

Above Rt; Ian Whiter and Jeff Swane on board
Below Rt; Val Barber, Marg Sheaves and Celia Hannan being shown the ropes!

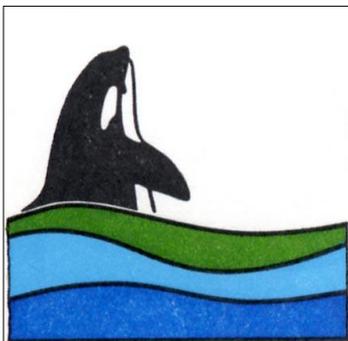
During Sail Training Vessel Young Endeavour's changeover in Eden in January, 9 of the museum's volunteers enjoyed a few hours on Twofold Bay sailing with the cadets who were about to leave the ship after their 11 day voyage.

This was a welcome event to continue the relationship the ship has with the museum. It was extra good to be able to include Rob and Helen Webb who have supported the museum for many years.

Other guests on board included members of the Workability Group from Bega.

May our good friendship with the ship continue.





COMING EVENTS

Wrecks Reefs and The Mermaid

18 February - 20 May 2012

Seniors Week

Tuesday 20th March
Morning Tea 10am
followed by a Bus Tour

National Trust Heritage Festival

14th to 29th April 2012

HMB Bark Endeavour In Port of Eden

9th to 13th May 2012

Transit of Venus

6th June 2012

International Lighthouse Weekend

18th/19th August 2012

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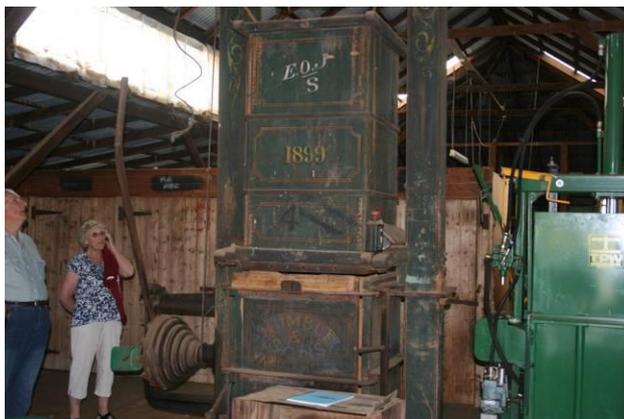
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au

SEHGI at "Coolringdon" in November 2011



From Top:
Rob Whiter and Rose Dickenson inspect the old wool press in the shearing shed.
Coolringdon Homestead
Pat Raymond and Ursula Hunt from the Bega Valley Genealogy Soc. at the homestead at Coolringdon.

A very enjoyable SHGI meeting for the last of 2011 was held at Coolringdon Station west of Cooma in November. Our meeting was held in the shearing shed and an excursion to the historic homestead revealed the original building nestled behind the more recent dwelling and maintained in original state with school room bedrooms kitchen and laundry, all equipped with period furniture and fittings!

James Litchfield was our host and he has kindly sent some notes and info on "Coolringdon" for our library. I quote

"...the property is in trust for the John & Betty Casey Research Trust at the University of Sydney. Management of their assets is the responsibility of three trustees who are required to manage them as a pastoral enterprise in perpetuity, to preserve the homestead, garden and other buildings nearby as a heritage precinct and ensure that all profits are used by the University to further research and education of relevance to the agricultural industries of the Monaro..... The pastoral assets include 3,400 hectares at Coolringdon and 470 hectares at Snowy Plain a semi alpine region of freehold land encompassing most of the catchment of the Gungahlin River and jutting into the Kosciusko National Park south of the Eucumbene dam wall"

Thanks to Cooma for hosting this enjoyable and informative meeting!

Next Meeting in Genoa hosted by Mallacoota. 11/2/2012

Eden Killer Whale Museum Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Business Meeting	7pm second Wednesday
Curatorial Meeting	1pm first Monday
Friends Meeting	9:30am third Wednesday

Museum Theatre
Museum Library
Museum Library