

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM / 02 64962094 / EMAIL [promo@killerwhalemuseum.com.au](mailto:promo@killerwhalemuseum.com.au)

## Special Interest Articles:

- ❖ EKWM EDEN WHALE FESTIVAL LAUNCH
- ❖ MY 'MATE OLD TOM' BOOK LAUNCH
- ❖ A NEW TREASURE
- ❖ EKWM SURVEY'S RESPONSE TO BUILDING PROJECT
- ❖ LIFELINE TO A SAFE HARBOUR
- ❖ SHIPS AND BUSES
- ❖ ROB'S PORT EXTENSIONS REPORT
- ❖ NEW TO OUR SHOP
- ❖ SEGHI VISITS THE CEMETARY

## EKWM Launches Eden Whale Festival

2018's Eden Whale Festival was off to a great start with the official launch at the EKWM.

This year the festival opened with a 'call to order' from Town Crier Alan Moyle.

The Eden Public School Choir accompanied by students on guitars, performed three numbers including 'We are United,' followed by five students from the Eden Marine College Band, led by music teacher Sam Martin, provided the entertainment, to the delight of the audience. One of the students had only been playing the trombone for a matter of a few days.

The launch followed of author Susie Sarah's latest children's book *My Mate Old Tom*, featuring whaling in Twofold Bay and the story of the Killer Whales of Eden. It was read

out by Jenny Drenkhahn of EKWM Executive Panel, and Marine College student and junior EKWM guide Benjamin Neville.

Paul Webster of the Port of Eden Authority of NSW then opened the Whale Festival, giving all who attended a brief understanding of how work was progressing on the wharf extensions.

Afternoon tea was provided by EKWM Friends after the event. *From notes taken by Celia Hannan.*



Paul Webster at the Port – top - Eden Public School Choir, middle - Marine College Band, bottom – book reading by Susie Sarah, Jenny Drenkhahn and Ben Neville.

## Book Launch of My Mate Old Tom

For some time now we have had visitors asking for a children's book about Old Tom.

Local author Susie Sarah has now released "My Mate Old Tom" with a book signing following the opening ceremony of this year's Whale Festival at the museum.

Over the years many books have been written about the unique interaction of the

Pods of Orcas – or Killer Whales – in Twofold Bay during the 1800's with the Yuin people, and later the whalers.

To relate this story to children was quite a challenge. Susie has focused on reminiscences from all who knew and loved Old Tom to paint the picture of this amazing tale in a unique way.

"Thankfully with the help and support of EKWM curator Jody White, the local Yuin people and the Davidson family were

happy with the story so it didn't require many changes.

Illustrator Ingrid Rudolph has captured the feeling and drama of the times beautifully, so much so that the museum has purchased six of her illustrations. Three of them are hanging in the Davidson Gallery in front of Old Tom, who I believe enjoys looking at them as much as museum visitors."

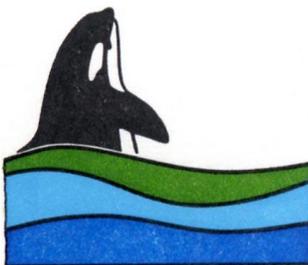
You can now purchase your author signed copy in our revitalized museum shop.



Find us on



facebook



Author Susie Sarah



Illustrator Ingrid Rudolph.

## A New Treasure

This lovely new acquisition was recently accepted by the Museum's Accession Committee. It is a fine example of Siebe Gorman & Co divers' telephone equipment (Model 133) dating to around the 1920s. This piece of equipment enabled communication between the surface and up to two hard

hat divers working below the sea surface. It was collected by Victorian antiques collector and dealer, Mr Donald Barnfather (1937-1993), who was also a keen recreational diver and spearfisherman. He often visited Eden during competition times - and is also remembered in Eden's cemetery. Mr Barnfather's

wife, Jenny, and daughter, Elise, hand delivered this fascinating piece to the museum during their visit to Eden's Whale Festival. Given the Port of Eden's history with divers undertaking wharf repairs and salvage work, it will be a wonderful addition to the collection.

*Jody White EKWM Curator*



## Survey for our new building project

Thank you to the amazing Friends who once again freely gave their time to help with the transport and set up of our marquee at the Whale Festival markets down at the sports oval on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> November. Participants in the community feedback survey regarding extensions and the direction of the museum were probably lower than hoped, but we received a number that will give us a start. It was a

valuable exercise in talking to people about their past visits of the museum and all had positive feedback. They were also pleased to learn about the plans of the lift. Out of town visitors at the festival also popped by to give their thoughts on their recent visit to the museum, while some stopped by to ask our opening hours to plan their visit in the days ahead. Feedback will be processed and passed on in the coming weeks to the Executive Panel for consideration.

The museum counted over 50,000 visitors in the 2017 financial year, and with the rise in the local tourist industry numbers are expected to increase. The committee is planning to expand the exhibition space by 240 square metres which will allow for more "flow through" of traffic. "It's important to keep the space open so people will be able to move through the rooms freely, at the moment it can get pretty cramped, especially in peak season" said *Jody White EKWM Curator*



## Lifeline to a safe Harbour

This new exhibition featuring the Sydney to Hobart Yacht race follows its checkered history. The race covers 628 nautical miles (1,163 kms) and Eden is its last port of call before crossing the often treacherous waters of Bass Strait.

*yachts were in port at Eden than completed the race....This is of great comfort to the CYCA and the families and friends of the competitors, knowing that there is safe haven on the South Coast.'*

thanking all those involved and describing the hospitality they received as 'legendary'.

The display also includes Eden's only entrant in the Sydney-Hobart race, 'Thermopylae' and the service of local tugs as radio relay vessels charged with the role of shadowing the flotilla to maintain radio contact as they made their way down the east coast.

*'Lifeline' is on show at Eden Killer Whale Museum until 10 March 2019*

### PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

Representatives from all those associated with the Port of Eden met at the Fishermen's Club on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October to form a Port Welfare Committee. This meeting followed conversations between Capt. Paul Webster the Eden Harbour Master, and the Mission to Seafarers' Chaplain, Revd. Michael Palmer. They will provide a forum where all those involved with seafarers' welfare can meet regularly, share information and provide support for visiting sailors.

In 1984, in shocking conditions, 104 yachts from 150 starters retired.

Many may remember that in 1998, an extreme low pressure system created cyclonic weather conditions which resulted in six sailors losing their lives, with five yachts sinking and 66 out of 115 yachts retiring from the race. Emergency workers, local families, volunteers and service organisations again joined forces to bring sailors home to Eden.

Conditions were worse in 1993 when just 38 of the 110 yachts completed the race. There were four mayday calls and John Quinn survived five hours in a four meter swell when his harness broke and he was swept overboard. He truly deserved a ticket in tatts!

Locals supplied medical care, transport, food and clothes and a warm bed, opening up their homes to the stranded yachtsmen.

In a letter to Jenny Drenkhahn of Eden Marine Rescue race organisers – Cruising Yacht Club of Australia stated - *'In 1993, which was a particularly bad year weather side, more*

The CYCA hosted a cocktail party in 1999 personally



Blair and Courtney from Kyneton enjoyed the new exhibition.



## Caledonian Sky Cruises in

At daybreak the first cruise ship of the season CALEDONIAN SKY entered Twofold Bay and dropped anchor south of the mooring Dolphins. Of 4200 Gross tons she is 90 metres long.

Passengers were conveyed to Cocora Beach by inflatable tenders where they were welcomed by the Eden Visitors Centre at their marquee. Before coming to Eden she visited Bateman's Bay where she anchored outside the river and landed passengers in the same way.

We have 17 ships scheduled this sailing season. On the Saturday of the Whale Festival, a bus from Adelaide, the first of 12 buses booked for November, arrived to enjoy a guided tour of the museum. Trish Lamacraft pictured on the balcony of the lighthouse gave the entranced visitors a tour of our lighthouse equipment and provided a wealth of information on the history of lighthouse keeping in our area.



## Rob's Port Report

This detailed report is long overdue. Rob Whiter has been collating information for quite some time, photographing all the activity as the new cruise ship jetty develops from his eerie above Snug Cove.

The thumping of pile drivers heard around the shores of the bay comes to a halt when whales enter the bay. We wonder if they are attracted by the good vibrations.

**ROB'S REPORT** - *Work is progressing at the breakwater. the Bargwhan barge with her red crane has been doing final tapping on some piles prior to removing unwanted portions, leaving them cut to a level ready for Casilis with her Yellow crane to place the precast concrete headstocks which are then filled with concrete in readiness to receive the precast concrete planks. Yesterday during the northerly Gale about 3 PM a yacht drifted ashore and was pounding on the rocks at Cocora Point. Two outboard powered work punts with crews were quickly at the scene and with a man aboard the rollicking yacht they eventually got her clear with police launch Eden standing by. Luckily,*

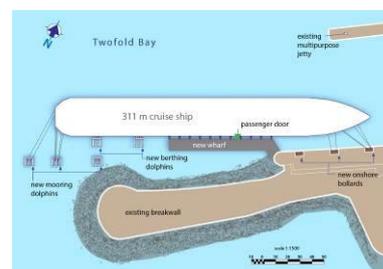
*despite an hour "on the bricks" she was not holed & was able to be towed to one of the new "visitor" moorings.*

*In the meantime a cargo ship ERIK has berthed overnight in Brisbane on her way to Twofold Bay from China with some of the "Modules" which will complete the mooring Dolphins. These will, I imagine, be simply lifted off the ship and slid down onto the six waiting piles.*

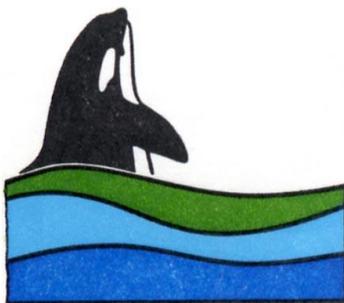
*At 7-30 in the morning 3 semi-trailer loads of steel piles arrived after some confusion as to the method of unloading, the first truck left his load at the breakwater and the rest I presume were taken to a nearby depot. Since that day more pile driving equipment has been delivered in preparation for the start of the next phase of construction. The ship Heemskerckgracht entered yesterday early, going straight to the Navy wharf where her unloading seems to be going well, I am told that there will be upwards of 100 of these piles required before pile driving is completed in about 8 month's time. These long units are being stored at the*

*hard standing depot, uphill from the pine log dump at East Boyd to be later conveyed across the bay as they are needed on barges yet to arrive. The driving of these will be undertaken by the crane mounted on the Barge MORETON.*

This collection of photos supplied by Rob will give you an idea of how much work has been achieved.



## Amy joins our shop staff



### COMING EVENTS:

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

10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER CORAL  
REYNOLDS BOOK  
LAUNCH

7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS PARTY

7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER ABALONE  
EXHIBITION OPENING

29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER NEXT  
CRUISE SHIP PACIFIC  
JEWEL

Visitors are now enjoying the changes to our museum shop which is ready and raring to go for the up and coming cruise season.

Also new to the shop is the fresh young face of Amy Cooper. Amy has moved to Eden from Culcairn with her family of four girls aged from 1 to 14.

Her husband Jamie is a Senior Constable stationed at the Eden Police Station.

The family enjoys exploring our rugged coastline, bush walking and learning about the history of Eden. They particularly enjoy picnics at Cocora beach. The girls are also keen netballers.

Check out our well-stocked shop for a special gift or perhaps some early Christmas shopping.

We also welcome Grant Chenhall from the museum crew. Grant is joining the flag monitors to share in the



task of attending the historic flag mast and displaying the appropriate national flags on their national days; he is pictured here raising Austria's national flag on their special day.



L to R - Julie with our local book stand built by her father John, visitors enjoy our well stocked shop, Amy behind the counter.

## SEHGI visits the Cemetery

The Bega Pioneers Museum hosted the August SEHGI meeting.

The same executive committee was re-elected at the AGM. Those attending enjoyed viewing the large Kevin Tetley photographic collection. Some photographs were donated to EKWM from the Bega Museum; these will be presented at the Curatorial meeting Monday 20th August. There will likely be more to come as they work their way through this large bequest.

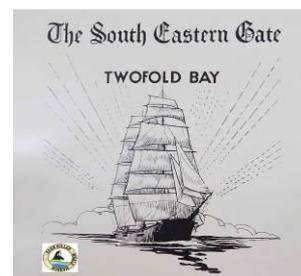
Jen Hunt from ABC Southeast Radio attended the meeting. She proposed a weekly radio spot probably on Wednesdays at 9:15am for SEHGI member museums to highlight an item from their collection. *The Object Lesson*, will reveal the story behind a treasured item from local museums.

EKWM's Jenny Drenkhahn started this program off by swinging open the South Eastern Gate, a visionary book from 1926 featuring the Twofold Bay Development League and their vision of Eden as 'The South-Eastern Gate'. It is a timely interview given the potential of the current Port of Eden breakwater extension works, and the inquiry into a railway connection between Canberra and Twofold Bay.

Reprints of this visionary publication are available from our gift shop

A photo of each item is sent to ABC before the segment so that it can be publicised before the broadcast. Jenny prepared a roster and distributed it to

SEHGI members. Following the meeting an interesting excursion to the Tarraganda and Corridgerec cemeteries guided by Peter Ubrihien was well attended.



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[www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au](http://www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au)

## EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

EXEC PANEL MEETING	1 PM 2 <sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY	MUSEUM LIBRARY
CURATORIAL MEETING	1 PM 1 <sup>ST</sup> MONDAY	MUSEUM LIBRARY
FRIENDS MEETING	9.30AM 3 <sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY	MUSEUM LIBRARY