

Special Interest Articles:

- ❖ EKWM CURATOR'S REPORT
- ❖ 100 YEAR CYCLES
- ❖ OUR RETURNED SOLDIERS AS CARRIERS
- ❖ INOCULATIONS PROVE SUCCESSFUL
- ❖ PEOPLE REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS
- ❖ NAVIGATING THE WAY
- ❖ TRANSCRIBING THE MATERIAL
- ❖ NEW FLAGS AND BOLLARDS
- ❖ EKWM SHOP GOES ONLINE

EKWM Curator's Report & New Displays

'This year has certainly been a challenging year for Australia, an especially hard one for our community. Firstly with the Black Summer bushfires in January, followed by floodwaters, then COVID-19 pandemic closures. The latter resulted in numerous gallery changes to meet government health requirements and included removing some manually operated audiovisual units, touch objects, closure of the theatrette and creating some one-way pathways. Kiah and locales have experienced two more floods since, again creating more difficulties for them post bushfires. We really feel for everyone including local businesses and workers who have been hit hard economically throughout.'

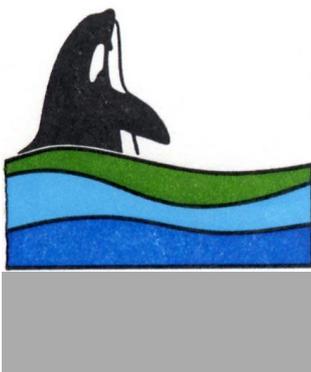
'Through both series of closures preventative conservation measures were implemented to reduce the risk of theft as well as general cultural material conservation safeguards.'

'On a lighter note, through our 11 week shut down period we implemented a daily social media 'looking back' through the news series which was well received. Despite some of our AV material not being available in the Museum, these have been migrated over to our website so visitors can now enjoy them from the comfort of their own home at any time. Language translations of the Old Tom Story are now available from our website also.'

East & West
29 July – 6 September 2020
a journey across Australia, Ireland, England and Asia within the comfort of one gallery.

Explore what captured the imagination of artists on their cultural sojourns locally and internationally. These works are by a range of artists including Australian award-winning artists John Downton OAM and Leonard Long OAM.

Impressions of Spring
9 September – 25 October
Spring has always been seen as the promise of new life and regeneration after the dormancy of Winter. This year it seems more timely than ever to celebrate the start of Spring because of the devastating Black Summer bushfires and the economic environment associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This selection of works by award-winning artists from the Downton Collection invites you to reflect on the change Spring brings, and the hope it offers, as 2020 draws to an end. **Jody White EKWM Collection Manager**



100 YEAR CYCLES – been there done that

Soundings went into hibernation when the Covid 19 virus shut businesses down, including our museum. Our Autumn issue was cancelled but now EKWM is open and operating, we are raising our heads cautiously.

For those who think these are unprecedented times this is not so. History tells us that we have seen it all before and the similarities of past events to present day are striking. Much as the bushfires at the start of the year mirrored previous bush fire events, this next disaster is giving us much pause for thought.

Research shows us how the Spanish Flu, which arrived on our shores 101 years ago, was similar to the covid 19 virus. The pneumonic influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 was considered the deadliest in history, with the worldwide death toll estimated at between 20 and 100 million people.

The Bega Valley was not immune, with media reports at the time recording infections and deaths, as well as the numerous community efforts to combat the

influenza spread. Excerpts from Bega District News and Eden Magnet precursors the Bega Budget, Twofold Bay Magnet and Southern Record and Advertiser of Candelo, make for fascinating reading. So now, flying the yellow quarantine flag, we will explore those times again.

My thanks to Bega Valley historian **Angela George** for sharing this information from clippings, which are available via the [National Library of Australia's digitised newspaper archive](#), [Trove](#)



National Parks in Darwin NT started a signage competition with their SA counterpart – their social distancing sign at the top asked park visitors to keep a small croc apart and then off they went – the ABC picked it up and it created interest world-wide!



Our Returned Soldiers As Carriers

Australia's strict quarantine regulations kept the country free from the pandemic until it was reportedly brought on shore by medical staff who had been treating returned soldiers confined to a troop ship. Consequently, around 12,500 Australians died as a result of the infection. The hardest hit were young, healthy adults and state borders were closed in an

effort to control the spread, as seen in photos below taken at Delegate in 1919 and then 2020. By the time returned servicemen had begun arriving back to the Bega Valley area, the epidemic was making itself felt with growing death rates in Sydney and Melbourne. Although Red Cross suspended welcome home functions, many held for

local servicemen still took place. Travelling salesmen and professionals such as optometrists and dentists also continued to visit. In early 1919, the Bermagui community decided to hire a nurse and use the School of Arts as a hospital if necessary and Cobargo's Dr Lister was appointed as a public medical officer. Agricultural shows and horse racing were banned with £20 fines for breaches.



Inoculations prove successful

The New South Wales Government claimed that it was thanks in part to the precautionary measures and planning it had developed (including state-wide free

inoculation), that the State remained free of pneumonic influenza cases up to the end of 1918. By late January 1919, however, at least 326 cases and 49 deaths,

had been reported at the quarantine station. A returned soldier and a civilian with flu travelling by ship from Melbourne arrived and infected nurses at the hospital in Randwick. The flu then spread throughout the general population in NSW.

People required to wear masks

This was followed on 30 January by a trifecta of proclamations: people were required to wear masks covering the mouth and nose; the congregation of people in public spaces was disallowed; and restrictions were placed on crossing from Victoria into NSW. People infected displayed an SOS flag on their homes and caring volunteers arrived to help them, often removing children from crowded homes for their safety.

The requirements applied firstly to metropolitan Sydney, but soon spread to cover the entire State. The Consultative Medical Council also made a general recommendation that the best “natural resistance” to the disease was fresh air, and

therefore encouraged outdoor activity - provided it was conducted away from crowds. The government offered compensation to businesses closed by the epidemic which fell short of the claims made.



Navigating the Way

Researching history is much like a jigsaw puzzle. The more time you spend looking at it, the more the pieces come together. Eden Killer Whale Museum's new display about Eden's Pilot Station helps complete that puzzle.

Established in 1860, the pilot station precinct slowly eroded over time as technologies became outdated. Today Eden's harbour master lives on the same headland on the Lookout close to the original site of the station with his office now more efficiently located at Snug Cove Wharf.

There are only four harbour masters in the State, with Eden's post combining with the role of marine pilot. The position is filled by a master mariner charged with controlling shipping, enforcing State regulations and overseeing the maintenance and repairs of the port's infrastructure, as well as ensuring our waterways are managed against the effects of pollution. For vessels over 30 metres, pilotage into Eden's

Transcribing the material

This new display, *Navigating the way*, in part is the result of a digitization and transcription project the Museum's volunteers have been undertaking over the past seven years. The log book associated with the first dozen years of the pilot station was discovered to be held at the State Records office in Sydney and Phillip Helmore kindly agreed to photograph the nearly 700 page ledger. Written over his 33 years of service, Captain Russell's entries provide a great snapshot into the local practices, events and shipping history of Eden. For Barb Reed, Chris Bingham and I,

facilities are mandatory. This sees a pilot board the vessel four miles out from the port via a rope ladder (in all types of weather) requiring skill, much practice and a great sense of timing the rhythm of the swell. Once onboard, they safely navigate and berth the vessel before the reverse is done again for the return journey.

Eden's first harbour master, Bourn Russell Junior (1819-1900) arrived in Eden aboard the steamer, *Wonga Wonga*, on 19 August 1860. Also on board were his boatmen, Robert Collins, Martin Hanson, Henry Scott and John Andrews and their supplies. Despite Captain Russell's complaints, their temporary tent accommodation on the exposed headland would endure at least nine months of rain and wind until the cottages and essential infrastructure such as the flagmast and

his spelling and handwriting has proven to be a challenge during the transcribing process! His personality however has definitely shone through in his daily entries and correspondence.

Disgruntled captains were not his only source of personal conflict, boatmen also proved difficult. The wreck of the *City of Sydney* in 1862 at Green Cape was one instance that the boatmen tried his patience. Though after many hours of rowing in their pilot whaleboats to reach the Cape (and faced with another long row

lighthouse were built.

Captain's Russell journey wasn't an easy one in the beginning. As vessels had entered Twofold Bay at their own risk for several decades before his arrival, the sudden change in regulations and expense of engaging his pilot service were often met with varying degrees of wrath from the captains. Exemptions from needing a pilot were available but it took some time before a new routine was eventually established.

Over the more than one-and-a-half centuries they have been here, Eden's harbour master's have been a part of, or witnessed, historical events with local, national and international associations. These include bushfires, comets, eclipses and other astronomical events, visits by dignitaries and naval vessels from around the world. Physical changes to the port and technologies are another obvious chapter of the local history.

EKWM Collection Manager Jody White is the author of the articles on this page.

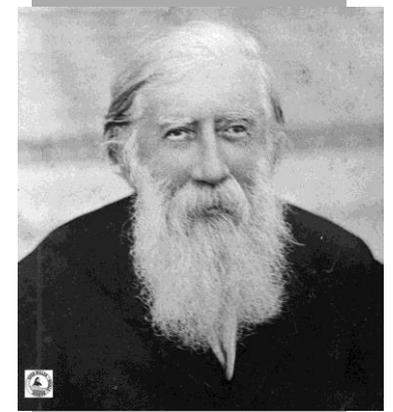
back) it is no wonder conflict between boatmen arose.

Navigating the way highlights the value of the harbour master logs for researchers and some of the interesting events that unfolded between 1860 and 1873. The Museum also holds another ledger dating 1912-1918 and we are working towards securing another digitization project on later ledgers and records which will ensure the local history remains available to the community before they too are archived at the State Records.

Navigating the way is on display from 19 August until at least the end of 2020.



Eden Pilot Station. Photo by C E Wellings.



Bourn Russell Junior (1819-1900). Source unknown

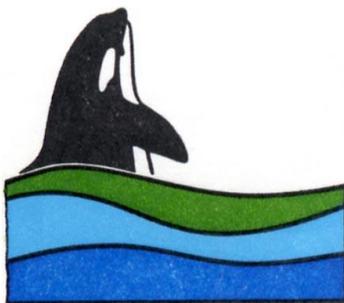


Brian and Sue Williamson with Steve Hughes and furry friend, Peter. Captain David Williamson was Eden's harbour master 1954-1962. Courtesy of S Williamson



Chris Bingham digitizing records

New flags made and printed and Bollards repaired



COMING EVENTS:
NAVIGATING THE WAY 19TH AUGUST
 — END OF 2020

EAST AND WEST 29TH JULY- 6TH SEPT

IMPRESSIONS OF SPRING 9TH SEPT — 25TH OCTOBER



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au

Friends Trish Lamacraft, Jenny Drenkhahn Jan Allen and Marg Sheaves have been busily sewing flags featuring the killer whale the logo, building up a new stock for the flag mast. They were down to their last remaining flag which are belted constantly by weather on the flag mast. Robert Whiter, Jack Dickenson, Jeff Swain, Chris Bingham and Barry Hughes screen printed the flags in empty shop in Imlay Street – a space big enough to lay the flags out so they could dry. The men then turned their

attention to the bollards at the front of the museum. Made of wood turned by Ross Dobbins, over time they had deteriorated and rotted away. A suggestion that these could be replaced with fiberglass tops was taken up. Charles Helmore has done a fine job of them and they are now looking spic and span as you can see from our before and after shots.



Photos Rob Whiter



EKWM shop goes Online

For all who love shopping at the EKWM our talented shop manager Julie Williams has done what many retailers have had to with the virus closing businesses – she has set up our shop online and thus kept the doors open. We all know how valuable the shop income is to the museum so this is a wonderful initiative.

So when looking for gifts

just click away and order from our EKWM shop and admire the wonderful range of quality gifts.

NEW DONATION

Wendy Davidson from Toronto (NSW) stopped in to make a generous donation of an original edition of an 1886 *Sydney Mail* newspaper which includes articles and illustrations of the *Ly-ee-*

moon shipwreck at Green Cape. At the time, the shipwreck was the State's second worst maritime disaster with the loss of 71 lives. Wendy and her family participated in the centenary commemorations at Green Cape in 1986, unveiling the survivor's plaque. Her ancestor, Dugald Robinson, was the ship's carpenter – one of the lucky ones to make it to shore. **Wendy is pictured below with EKWM Curator Jody White.**



EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

BUSINESS MEETING
 CURATORIAL MEETING
 FRIENDS MEETING

3PM 2ND THURSDAY
 2PM 3RD MONDAY
 9AM 3RD WEDNESDAY

MUSEUM LIBRARY
 MUSEUM LIBRARY
 MUSEUM LIBRARY