

Special Interest Articles:

- ❖ WE'RE FREE!
- ❖ STRONG VISITOR NUMBERS
- ❖ OUR COVID SAFE MUSEUM
- ❖ NUSHIP SUPPLY CALLS EDEN HOME
- ❖ THUNDERBOLTS AND LIGHTENING
- ❖ LOOKING UP AND AROUND WITH FIREFLIES
- ❖ FEATHERS FINS OR FUR
- ❖ A WHALE OF A TIME
- ❖ KILLER WHALE STORIES
- ❖ HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

WE'RE FREE! WE'RE FREE!



It was great news for all Victorians, and many NSW residents and business owners when the NSW/Victorian border finally opened on Monday the 23rd of November easing the Covid 19 restrictions on many Victorians, particularly those in Melbourne who had been in a state of lockdown for some time.

EKWM Curator Jody White is pictured here with our vigilant police officers who manned the border constantly for most of this long year and will be relieved to be back on normal

duties again.

It is a credit to them that we have managed to keep the virus in check.

Officers were from a range of places such as Sydney and Kangaroo Valley, and the female officer was from Bega. Bega had made all the checkpoint arrangements. The officers were pleased to be going back to their home locations but spoke highly of Eden.

Their own idea was to record a message thanking Eden for their support – you can see this on Jody's facebook page. It's only short but a nice message.

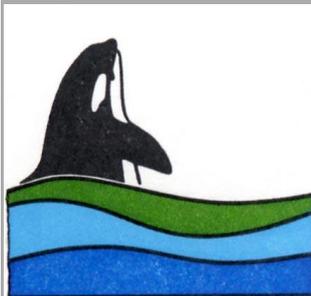
Jody went down to thank them for their service, given they were down there for 137 days, in all types of weather, 24 hours a day and left them a couple of soft toy killer whales as a memento of their stay in Eden. They spoke highly of the Museum.

It was noted that the flow of caravans and campers was like a deluge as traffic flowed in and out of our state along the highway and into Eden.

Local tourist operators will be greatly relieved and hoping for a busy and profitable Christmas period.

Strong Visitor Numbers at EKWM

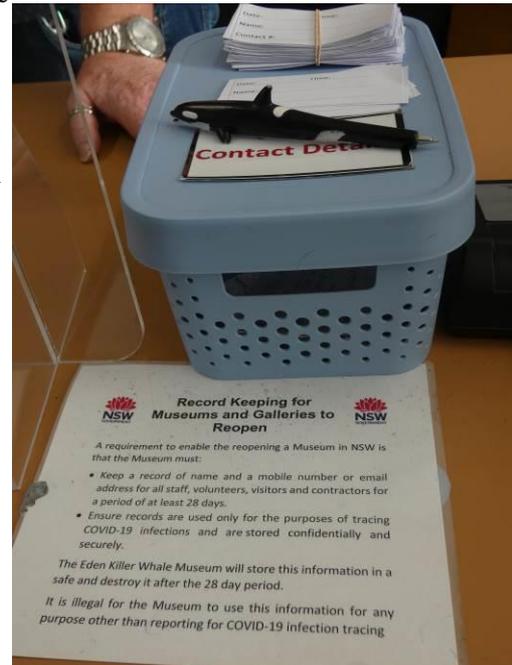
EKWM Business Manager Graham Stubbs has sent us the visitation numbers, bearing in mind this year there was no Whale Festival, which always attracts a lot of visitor to the museum, and Covid 19 prevented our Victorian visitors from coming our way too. Also the June figures were for just 26 days so our winter numbers were pretty impressive.



Month	2020 Visitors		2019 Visitors	
	Total	Per Day	Total	Per Day
June	2,071	80	1,526	51
July	3,107	100	2,631	85
August	664	21	1,666	54
September	1,985	66	4,040	135
October	4,837	156	5,172	167
TOTAL	12,664	85	15,035	98

OUR COVID SAFE MUSEUM

We have all become so accustomed to following all the Covid regulations it has become second nature and a big part of our lives. When out shopping we constantly use hand sanitizer and obey all the social distancing rules. EKWM has adjusted to all this with clear signage in all the galleries and at the shop entrance where people enter the museum. We are truly Covid safe and compliant. Even Old Tom is social distancing



NUSHIP Supply calls Eden her Ceremonial Home

The Royal Australian Navy has returned to Eden following assistance rendered during the 2019 bushfire crisis, to announce a ceremonial homeport relationship between NUSHIP Supply (II) and the Port of Eden. Supply is the lead ship of two Supply Class Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment ships and is due to be commissioned early next year.

The ceremonial port relationship will strengthen the bonds Navy and the Eden community have from a long shared history.

At a ceremony held at Cocora Beach, Eden on 28 November, Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick and Commanding Officer of Supply, Captain Ben Hissink, said the new relationship would cement Navy's presence in the

area and open up opportunities for Navy to be involved in the community.

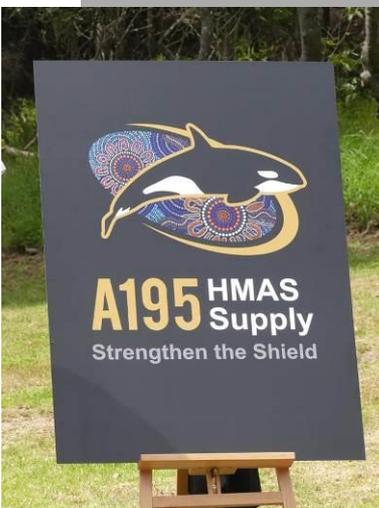
"The Eden community has already experienced the generosity of the Royal Australian Navy, especially when HMAS Adelaide provided support after the summer bushfires," Mayor Fitzpatrick said.

"More recently, Navy personnel from NUSHIP Supply donated memorabilia to the Eden Killer Whale Museum to complement the collection linked to the town's long naval association. EKWM Collections Manager Jody White attended the ceremony. "We look forward to a long, productive and prosperous relationship with the NUSHIP Supply Captain and crew and look forward to the ship's arrival in Eden early

next year."

During the announcement ceremony, Supply also unveiled their official mascot and branding, designed by local Indigenous artists Alison Simpson and Joe Stewart, and approved by the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council. "The branding is a pivotal step in a crew-wide endeavour to ensure we meet the needs of a culturally inclusive and diverse workforce," Captain Hissink said.

"We are excited to showcase our relationship with the wider Eden and local Indigenous communities through the whale mascot, representative of the animals closely connected to this area." *Information from the RAN media release*



Thunderbolts and Lightening

It seems to have been one of those years!

EKWM Collection Manager Jody White reported that the museum appears to have been hit by lightning when we had fierce storms on Thursday the 15th of October in Eden resulting in

significant electronic damage. The small side gate by the lighthouse was not functioning (large gate operational), the circuit of the lower automatic door onto the wharf was damaged but has been repaired, the security footage went down, and the server and internet. The

main building dehumidifier was also affected. Munters were due on site for a scheduled maintenance visit and were busy repairing the system. No access to emails and files meant that information on donations and other subjects was limited. We're wondering if a plague of locusts might be due next.



Looking up and Around with Fireflies

On the first anniversary of the Black Summers bush fires our EKWM curator Jody White has brought together an exhibition called **Looking Up and Around** opening on the 18th of December and on view throughout the holiday period.

Featuring the work of the **Towamba Fireflies** this is a must see for both locals and visitors who will enjoy the work of children from Towamba. The Fireflies paintings started as an informal opportunity for children to paint with Vicki McCredie, a local Towamba artist who opened up her home studio to the primary school aged kids of Towamba while the surrounding bushfires, and then ironically flooding, were affecting the local area. Towamba is on the NSW Far South Coast 30km inland from Eden. This area was heavily impacted by the

Border Fire on January 4th 2020, and continued to be under threat from this and various other fires until early February. Many homes and vast areas of bushland and forestry plantations were burnt in these fires.

Once school resumed in February more paintings were completed at the Towamba Public School, still under the primary guidance of Vicki, but also with parent and teacher support. 61 paintings were the result before COVID-19 lockdowns in March brought the project to a standstill. The paintings show the children's interpretation of the Black Summer fires, and their impact on the environment surrounding Towamba. Given a choice of activities the students chose to investigate the effects of the fires, taking photos of the area and collecting samples of bark and sticks. With guidance from Vicki, they

returned and jointly painted a canvas they called 'Joy in the Struggle'. The students discussed artistic problems and solved them together. All had to agree once the work was finished and each student exhibited their individual style that artwork requires its own resolution. Towamba teacher, Nicola Grant, was sent images of the students' work and discussed the option of developing a program for the whole school. The Fireflies art project was born.

In addition to the Fireflies work the museum is also exhibiting a collection of burnt affected objects donated by locals, including a toaster (Wonboyn), melted aluminium (Snake Track) and Boyd Road sign (road to the Davidson Whaling Station, East Boyd). Paper identification bracelets issued to evacuees at Merimbula RSL will also be on display.



*Looking Up And Around acrylics on canvas
Ky Whelan, 8-years-old*



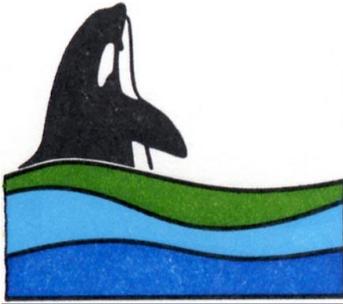
Feathers Fins or Fur and other exhibitions

A fun selection of paintings from the Downton collection featuring artists who have animals, bird and fish somewhere in the composition invites children to search for creatures that are a little unusual. An example is this work entitled **I only have eyes for You – a fishy story** by John Downton.OAM. **Wild Catch** will be replaced by this exhibition which goes on display on 24th of December – 28th of February.

Craft, nautical paintings again from the Downton collection continues till the 13th of December.

Navigating the Way will remain on show into January and will include **Greetings from Eden** featuring postcards and souvenirs from the Navy collection.





A Whale of a Time

We had record numbers of whales in our area heading back to Antarctica after a very successful calving time. Those who went out whale watching reported seeing *spouts as far as the eye could see*. This photo from Rob Whiter of around 80 whales might give you some idea of the fin to fluke gathering in our waters.

I'd seen the Utube footage of how a dead 14 m long sperm whale was exploded on a beach in Florence, Oregon in 1970. It seems beach goers were unhappy with the smell of the rotting carcass so George Thornton the local engineer thought half a ton of dynamite would do the job and the rest is history! An explosive experts new car purchased 'in a whale of a deal' was totaled.



COMING EVENTS:

ENDS 13TH DEC
CRAFT

DEC 18TH LOOKING
UP AND AROUND

DEC 24TH — FEB
28TH FEATHERS
FINS OR FUR

This year with many events cancelled there was no Whale Festival in Eden so this is our celebration of some of the *very fishy* sightings along our coast and strange whale strandings.

In Taiwan a sperm whale died after beaching on the southwestern coast of Taiwan, and it took three large cranes and 50 workers more than 13 hours to shift the whale onto the back of a truck. The carcass exploded near the center of Tainan, *en route* from the university laboratory to the preserve. The bursting whale splattered blood and entrails over surrounding shop fronts, bystanders, and cars.

At Greenglades beach near Wonboyn Lake a humpback carcass washed up and the skeleton was salvaged with some success by our Collections Manager, National Parks and the Marine Discovery Centre.

I'm pleased we left the whale at Greenglades to the sharks – a much cleaner end!



A local visitor asked me if

Killer Whale stories

A pod of Orcas off the coast of Portugal and Spain have been reported attacking vessels. Boats have been damaged and crews injured in the attacks which have perplexed scientists. A 36ft yacht the *Coruna* en route to the UK was rammed 15 times, lost its steering and had to be towed to port.



In late July a 46ft delivery boat was met by a pod of nine Orcas who left teeth marks on the hull and rammed it for more than an hour turning it 180 degrees and disabling the engine and rudder and leaving the four-person crew adrift in the Gibraltar Channel shipping lane. Gibraltar Orcas are endangered with only 50 left and they are finding it hard to find food. They have watched fishing boats haul in fish and researchers believe they link humans to the scarcity of food. A researcher with the whale watching and research foundation believes that after the quiet period during the Corona Virus that resumption of vessel traffic has angered them. It makes our Eden story amazing by comparison.



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

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EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

BUSINESS MEETING	3PM 2 ND WEDNESDAY	MUSEUM LIBRARY
CURATORIAL MEETING	2PM 3 RD MONDAY	MUSEUM LIBRARY
FRIENDS MEETING	9AM 3 RD WEDNESDAY	MUSEUM LIBRARY