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NAVAL GAZING – The International Fleet Review



Leading up till the 2013 International Fleet Review the Port of Eden has given us a rare opportunity to enjoy the sight of many of the Tall Ships on their way to the Melbourne and Hobart Tall Ship festivals in September.

Sails again appeared on our horizon when they called in briefly on their way to Sydney for International Fleet Review, celebrating 100 years of Australian Naval History.

Daily Telegraph October 6, 1913

“They came from due east. Silently they glided, rather than ploughed their way. The sight of the Fleet meant more to the Australian people than the visit of any foreign fleet. It was our expression of patriotism, ships of defence bought in love of country and empire.”

HMAS Australia with Rear Admiral George Paley knighted on her quarterdeck by King George V, sailed from England with the Light

Cruiser HMAS Sydney to Australia. In the sheltered anchorage of Jervis Bay they were joined by the cruisers Encounter and Melbourne and the destroyers Warrego, Parramatta and Yarra to prepare to sail into Sydney Harbour on the 4th of October 1913.

October 3rd 2013

The sixteen strong Tall Ship fleet’s entry into Sydney Harbour was marred by strong Southerly winds, preventing the square sails from being set, and thus removing the glamour of the occasion. Rain prevented any video coverage of the event.

Quentin Bryce the Governor General of Australia welcomed the Navy fleet from Bradley Head on October the 4th.

The Fleet comprised of seven RAN ships and another twelve Australian Navy vessels.

A further twenty ships represented seventeen nations worldwide who sent ships to participate.

Celebrations continued on Saturday the 5th with a breathtakingly beautiful spectacular, choreographed by Lieutenant Commander Paul Cottier, the RAN director of music.

Using the sails of the Sydney Opera House he projected images of each historic moment triggered by his musical score. A stunning display of fireworks, some firing from the decks of RAN warships and platforms on Cockatoo Island, Fort Dennison, and the Harbour Bridge, were also linked to the thirty minute display.

Prince Harry joined the celebrations, representing the Royal Family for the first time.



L – Crowds line Sydney Harbour to watch our fleet sail in on October 4th 1913.
R – The Lady Nelson tied up at the Snug Cove Jetty – one of the many Tall Ships calling in at Eden.



RAINY DAY TOUR



Jenny Drenkhahn is well known for her great tours of EKWM. She can only just be seen in this huge group of school children from Albert Park College, rained out of their school camp.

They instead opted for a museum tour and Jenny raced from the 104.7 SEA FM radio station, where she had been on air up the street to the Museum and without skipping a beat had the kids enthralled as she introduced them to Old Tom.



SALUTING THE NELSON

Many will recognise Australia's first warship – the former battleship Nelson. She was first delivered to the colony of Victoria on the 14th of February 1868 arriving at Hobsons Bay. Our navy then comprised of a force of 121 men.

The Nelson, designed by Robert Stepping was ordered from the builders on November 23rd 1805, just a month after the battle of Trafalgar. The building of this ship utilised a large amount of oak timbers. Parts of her hull were three feet thick to enable her to ram any opponents in battle.

During 1845 Nelson underwent a major re-fit. Classed as an *Advanced Ship* she was armed with 108 thirty-two pound guns and a dozen sixty-eight pounders.

In 1855 Nelson was classed as *First Rate* at Portsmouth with 970 men. Early in 1859 the ship was converted to screw propulsion, her top deck removed and she was refitted with a 500hp steam engine. The following year she was placed in *Steam Reserve* in Portsmouth to receive her boilers and condensers. During trials she was steaming at 10 ¼ knots with half boiler power and a maximum of 56 RPM.

On October 20th 1867 HMVS Nelson sailed from Portsmouth for Victoria with AB Arthur Parsons Whiter on board – he was just 18 years old on this - his first of 3 voyages to Australia spanning 63 years. *My thanks to Robert Whiter for this information.*

A NO1 HIT IN MONGOLIA

MP3's mobile phones, karaoke machines and C.D. players have sounded the death knell of traditional music and song in Mongolian households. Or so David O'Connor, guest speaker at our General Meeting found when revisiting the area after a long stint with Australian Volunteers Abroad at Ulaanbaatar.

As an actor, poet, teacher and songwriter he immersed himself in Mongolian music introducing it to locals on his radio program. He was stunned that the station, broadcasting in five languages – Chinese, Japanese, English, Italian and Mongolian – played no music, instead resorting to stock propaganda. His introduction of local news

and interviews proved very popular.

David was fascinated by the history of the area. When warlord Genghis (Chinggis Khaan) Khan ruled in the 12th century he set up the China to Europe pony express, the 1st National Park and young women could safely travel alone. He is now one of their most revered figures.

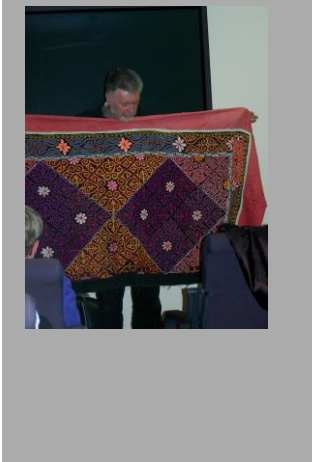
Traditionally the country was based on the men herding cows and yaks. Now with the advent of education women have fewer children and are working in the cities. This change has created resentment as men feel diminished.

Now with the mineral boom the country is again

changing.

David certainly enjoyed his time there though the minus Forty degree winters with seven months of freezing cold must have taken some getting used to!

He is credited with writing a No 1 hit song, which he sang happily to us – in Mongolian. That in itself is quite a claim to fame!



THE SOREN LARSEN - A TASTE OF THE ONEDIN LINE

Tuning into local radio again I caught an interview with the captain of the Soren Larsen and quickly raced down to the jetty to have a closer look.

The Soren Larsen, a brigantine, was built in 1948-1949 in Denmark of oak inner and outer planking on a double oak frame. She then traded throughout Baltic, British and European ports carrying general cargo, timber and grain.

Saved from destruction in 1978 she was fully restored and re-rigged in England with new decks, masts, yards and spars, the work funded by her work in the BBC series "The Onedin Line". From 1978 – 82 she

was used in "The French Lieutenants Woman", "Count of Monte Christo" and "Shackleton", where she sailed to the Arctic Circle into the pack-ice of Greenland.

While still in the U.K. she pioneered sail training for the disabled through the Jubilee Sailing Trust. In 1991 she sailed around Cape Horn, the first British Tall Ship to do so since 1936.

While in New Zealand hands, her hull was re-sheathed in 1996 with native totara timber to help preserve the oak planking. She won several tourism awards there from 1996 onwards while

sailing in New Zealand waters.

To celebrate the Millennium she undertook a world voyage back to England via America and Europe returning in 2001.

In 2011 she was purchased by Sydney Harbour Tallships, who also own Southern Swan.

She was the flagship for Australia's Bicentennial First Fleet re-enactment and has been busy joining the fleet of Tall Ships participating in gatherings in Melbourne, Hobart and the International Fleet Review in Sydney.

She accommodates 22 paying, and 13 permanent crew, working as a training ship, providing a wonderful experience for people of all ages.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT THE MUSEUM

The school holiday program at EKWM was again a great success. Every child made and caught a fish attached by string to a drinking straw fishing rod.

Congratulations to Stephanie Rawlings and her crew of helpers who provided a great activity for

visiting families.

The dads were excited to see a fish landed as it was pretty quiet locally for anglers.

Volunteer Barbara Reed is seen here with a happy group of mums and little artists.



WHALE SOUP

He's not far wrong! Like many I boarded the whale watching craft Cat Balou to witness the spectacle of mums with calves cavorting about in our marine paradise up close and personal.

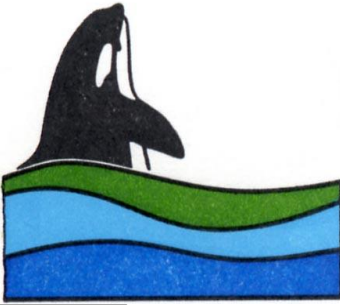
What we are witnessing is a recipe for success, proving that given a decent chance a species can come back

without interference.

Living close to the Humpback Highway really gladdens the heart.

Note that our siren has been getting quite a workout and the new binoculars have been well and truly earning their keep.

I had to chuckle when Rob contacted me and said "The weather's cutting up rough in Two Fold Bay and out there it's Whale Soup with Humpbacks almost fin to fluke."



COMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER
SEGHI MEETING
AT BEGA

EXTENDED OPEN
HOURS AT EKWM
FROM BOXING DAY
TO MID JANUARY
2014

NATIONAL TRUST
HERITAGE
FESTIVAL 12
APRIL – 26 MAY
2014

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MUSEUM

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au

SEGHI MEETING

The August SEGHI meeting was a busy one with new office bearers elected. We welcome Mary Dawson as President, Jack Dickenson as Vice President, Sandra Florence as 2nd Vice President and Margaret Sheaves as Treasurer.

An excursion around Eden with speakers providing an insight into the significance of various related sites to the local

timber industry was very informative.

The National Timber Workers Memorial in Wellings Park honours those timber men who gave their lives while building our region. The "Hand of Fate" sculpture by the late Rix Wright depicting an injured worker sums up the harshness of working in the bush.

The following poem by Val Kirley pays tribute to those who lost their lives.



A WHALE OF A FESTIVAL

EKWM was again a hive of activity during the whale festival with the opening ceremony on Friday November 1st filmed by the camera crew working on our in-house video. The event was well attended with the Eden Singers, Eden Public School Choir and Lochie Mason providing entertainment and Bruce Lever, the chairman of Sapphire Coast Tourism opening the Festival.

Our thanks to Friends of EKWM for again providing a taste tempting afternoon tea.

Our float decorated by

Stephanie Rawlings, Barbara Reed and their crew of helpers was a great hit, with Chris Bingham a natural pirate!

Our Appraisal day on the Sunday was again well attended with our team of experts turning up quite a few treasures.

This small collage of photos will give you a little look at the event.



VALE

A place of tranquil beauty,

Created by Mother Nature's hand,
Cool green clad fern gullies sleep
Where the mighty eucalyptus stand.

A haven of birds of all feathers,
Parrots, currawong, black and gang gang,
Swoop above the granite outcrop,

Where the dingoes night song sang.
Grey 'roos rest in the dapple shade,
Wombats burrow in the red loam,

Cattle graze sweet native grasses
of their mountain summer home.

The loggers work long hard hours,
they harvest the prime timber gums.
To fill the sawmiller's quotas

before the savage winter wind comes.
These men of stature, fine physiques,
toil with bulldozer and chain saw,

Replacing the bullock team and cross cut,
as their father's had done before.

But Mother Nature's not always loving,
her hand can often be cruel.

Her anger can lash through the forest,
to scoff Her would be a fool.

Like an evil minded spider
that weaves her deadly thread,

A "widowmaker" through the leaves crashing,
another young bushman lies dead.

Twilight descends on the hilltops
hushed evening breezes sigh,

Ashen faces look to his picture,
his widow and children, ask why?

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

EXECUTIVE PANEL MEETING 1 PM 2ND THURSDAY
CURATORIAL MEETING 1 PM 1ST MONDAY
FRIENDS MEETING 9.30AM 3RD WEDNESDAY

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