

SOUNDINGS

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM / 02 64962094 / EMAIL promo@killerwhalemuseum.com.au

Special Interest Articles:

- ❖ WRECK OF THE LY-EE-MOON
- ❖ MARGARET SHEAVES 80TH BIRTHDAY
- ❖ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
- ❖ JUNIOR GUIDES
- ❖ MURDER IN THE MUSEUM
- ❖ INTERNATIONAL EDITORS VISIT
- ❖ IN DEMAND — A NEW EXHIBITION
- ❖ SEHGI VISITS OLD BEGA HOSPITAL
- ❖ SNUG COVE REPORT

On a wintery night in 1886 a passenger ship sailed onto the rocks directly below the Green Cape Lighthouse with the loss of seventy one men, women, and children, including the mother of Australia's first Saint, Mary MacKillop. Fifteen survived, all males. The remains of the dead were buried in a small clearing in a Melaleuca forest not far from the lighthouse. Twenty four of the drowned were buried in unidentified graves marked by white painted rocks. The rest were never recovered. Mrs Flora MacKillop's body was later transported to Sydney for burial. The cause of the shipwreck remains a mystery. Green Cape Lighthouse was just 3 years old and the second highest lighthouse along the coast. It would have been visible for up to 40 kms in

good weather. Third Officer James Fotheringham, on watch, was instructed by Captain Arthur Webber to call him when the ship was about to pass the lighthouse or no later than 9.45pm. Webber later claimed that he was called at 9.28 just two minutes before the ship was to sink. Fotheringham stated he called the captain at 9.10 – so who was lying?

Both appeared at the inquest charged with manslaughter but the Crown decided not to proceed further. During that night the lighthouse keeper and assistant heroically rescued 16 people and heard the cries of those who could not be saved.

The Ly-ee-Moon was built as a paddle steamer in 1859 by the Thames Shipbuilding Company of Blackall, London, England, designed for use in the opium trade. She had three masts and sails, and a coal powered steam engine capable of 17 knots and



Monument to lives lost on the Ly-ee-Moon at Green Cape.

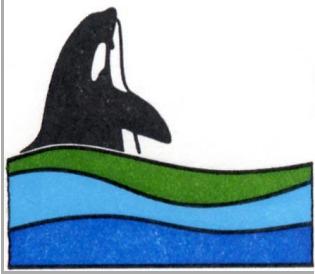
was regarded as the fastest ship built in Britain at that time.

It had been reported that she was a sister-ship to the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert. She was later used as a blockade runner during the American Civil War and sank when rammed at anchor in Hong Kong harbor.

Later refloated she sailed back to England where she was converted from a paddle steamer to a screw ship, then sent on to Australia in the late 1870's for service on the Pacific Island runs. During a refit she caught fire, was scuttled to put out the flames then refloated and re-fitted again.

Marg celebrates her Life Membership and 80th birthday!

Find us on



Jack Dickenson pins on Margaret's Life Membership badge – Jenny Drenkhahn presents her with a bouquet of flowers and Marg has two shots at blowing out her candles!

Over 40 friends and guests gathered at the Eden Killer Whale Museum on Saturday afternoon to celebrate Margaret Sheaves 80th birthday.

Friends of the museum catered for the party which was celebrated in the lower gallery of the museum.

Peter Skelton, Tracey Cobb and Marietta Wakenshaw of the Eden singers sang three celebratory songs for Margaret and she happily joined in to "Margareta tread the grapes with me".

Jack Dickenson spoke about Margaret's involvement in many

community organisations including 25 years with EKWM. She has been actively working for SEHGI – an organisation bringing all the district museums together, Meals on Wheels, View, the Eden Singers and the Australia Day Committee. In recognition of her service to the museum Jack presented Margaret with her life membership certificate and badge and Jenny Drenkhahn handed her a large bouquet of flowers. In her short speech of thanks

Margaret mentioned that she didn't want a party originally, as so many of her friends were no longer with her. She added that when she turned 70 she decided that she would then live on to see 100. A keen swimmer and bush walker, it is easy to see her achieving her wish. On her second go at blowing out the candles on her cake we hope her wish comes true and we all look forward to attending her 100th birthday party! Article from Jenny Drenkhahn.





Flora MacKillop

It was whilst on this route that the Ly-ee-Moon was dismasted in 1886. When it was washed up on rocks at Green Cape, Flora MacKillop's mother, Flora, was amazingly undamaged by the sea or its creatures. She was identified by her scapula. The people of Eden cared for her remains, renting the best room at the Pier Hotel, bringing flowers and



Trish Lamacraft passes on her guiding expertise to Eden Marine College students.

Our Lady Star of the Sea

Another historic building in our town walk still stands. Our Lady Star of the Sea old Catholic Church – was built in 1860 as a temporary church, damaged by strong winds in September and rebuilt in November. It was reported in the Freemasons Journal that land was granted on the 27th of July 1863 for a presbytery and school.

After the tragic drowning of Mary MacKillop's mother on the Ly-ee-Moon in 1886, she established a school in 1891 using the building until 1912.

Mary MacKillop visited the school on Sunday the 26th March 1899 to spend eight days

examining the school students and equipment and again in August 1901.

Mary's mother Flora was on her way to Sydney to help on the Caledonian Stall to raise funds for the destitute and infirm.

Two weeks after the sinking of the Ly-ee-Moon her body was found washed up on rocks at Green Cape amazingly undamaged by the sea or its creatures. She was identified by her scapula. The people of Eden cared for her remains, renting the best room at the Pier Hotel, bringing flowers and

providing respect and their prayers.

Mary MacKillop decided to set up a school here as a thank-you to the people of Eden.

The Mary MacKillop Hall is in Calle Calle street overlooking Aslings Beach and Two Fold Bay and is open from 9am to 4pm.



Junior Guides and big bus groups!

EKWM is embarking on a *Junior Guides Program*.

We first started meeting with Michelle Bond and Jane Horsnby at the Eden Marine College early in May to see if there was any interest with students to participate in our program.

To our delight a group of 12 students came along for an orientation program on Wednesday the 8th of June to see how our guides worked with a tour.

A group of 90 students from

Pambula Public School with three of their teachers arrived and Trish Lamacraft, Susie Sarah and Mary Mitchell (giving her first tour) split the group in three and moved the students from Old Tom to the floor below then on to the lighthouse.

The students hopped in, helping our guides and exhibiting all the signs of interest we had hoped for.

This was a baptism of fire for them but they handled it with poise and

professionalism delighting all of us – including the teachers present. Next term we will begin to train these students with the help of Bob Sykes, Rob van den Helm and our guides who have produced the documents required for training and are mentoring the students.

Our training will assist some of the Koori students to later go on to work with elders and deliver guided tours on the Bundian Way.

During the July school holidays Ben Neville and Angela Tonkins, year 7 students, will be guiding in our lighthouse.

parts with gusto and flair – including our “victim” pictured in his shroud. He happily died in great style, proceeding to haunt everyone throughout the night.

Our thanks to all in Eden who attended and to Jack for yet another memorable night! *Can you guess who-done-it?*



Murder in the Museum

Who doesn't enjoy a good murder mystery? So when Jack Dickenson, our ideas man, suggested we host a murder mystery in the museum he received plenty of support. The night proved to be a great fund raiser for

our latest project – the mural at the scout hall.

Spookier still it was set in winter on Friday the 13th – eerie!

All participants dressed in costume and acted out their



International Newspaper Editors Visit

An excited group of American visitors made EKWM a *must see* part of their visit to our area.

The International Society for Weekly Newspaper Editors held their conference in Melbourne this year – their first time in the Southern Hemisphere. The Society was founded by Houston Waring from Colorado and Curly Annabel from Bega who commenced the sister city exchange with Bega NSW and Littleton Colorado, USA, about 50 years ago; this group now includes members from many nations throughout the world. In 1951 "Small Town Editor" a film created in Littleton Colorado by the US Information Industry and US State Department, caught the eye of W.B. Curly Annabel who was a journalist with the *Bega District News*. This film, made to encourage a rural press to supplement government controlled newspapers featured Houston Earing, editor of the *Littleton Independent* who had been attracting notice internationally for his editorials on foreign affairs.

Curly was amazed at the similarities of the Bega newspaper and the *Littleton Independent*.

He started corresponding with Waring in 1954 and visited the Waring family the following summer.

President Eisenhower had suggested sister-city

relationships at that time, so Curly and Houston in 1960 instigated the bond between Bega and Littleton.

Curly invited Houston and his family to attend Bega Week in February 1961, consummating the association between the communities.

15,000 kilometers apart, they became the first Australian and U.S.A sister cities.

In August of that year Curly took four Bega high-school students to Littleton for Western Welcome Week.

A custom was then established to host a delegation from Littleton in Bega on the first and sixth years of the decade, then for Bega to visit Littleton on the third and eighth years.

In March 2001 the Littleton visit was the 9th official visit to Bega.

Delegates are hosted by member families thus getting a feeling of home life and community activities as they tour around local areas.

An International Civic Dinner is hosted and attended by government representatives of both countries, delegates, members of civic organisations and community members.

All this through the efforts of two great editors - Houston Waring 1901-1997 and Curly Annabel 1907 – 1999.

Many of the group that visited EKWM have decided to come back and spend more time exploring our museum and Eden.

<http://www.begalittleton.org/id11.html>

Check out the quiz on the above web site!



Mr Brian Warby (left) teaches Houston Waring how to hold a cricket bat - Bega 1976



Mr Curly Annabel (centre) seated in back during a Cavalcade of Welcome - Littleton 1961



In Demand – wartime advertising

Near the entrance to the Cooper Gallery a new exhibition focusing on advertising influenced by WW2 is generating a lot of interest and comment by visitors.

In 1939 the National Securities Act was created to focus on areas outside its jurisdiction under the constitution.

This display shows how advertising in women's magazines was used to promote the war effort.

With a reduction of manpower, droughts, food

shortages and eventually rationing times were tough. In 1942 identity cards and ration books for food and clothing were introduced as Australia battled to feed her troops and civilians.

We were asked to do our bit, donate to the war loan fund, and participate in all forms of work.

An emotive advert by Kraft foods in the Women's Weekly in 1943 talks about a soldier dad fighting the Germans for freedom and how Kraft cheese employees have produced 100% more than the previous year for "our fighters and

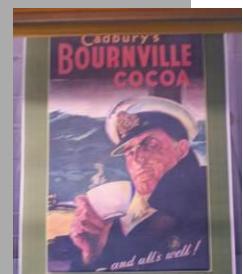
Australia's fighting citizens."

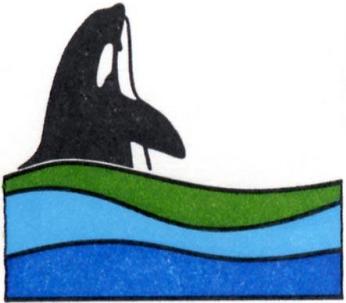
I can remember my Mum talking about rationing and how they pooled their coupons to buy material for a wedding dress which was shared by all the girls.

How fortunate were our families to have vegetable gardens, chooks and often a house cow!

Our thanks to curator Jodie White for taking us on a journey back to those challenging times.

Note - museum visitors have had great conversations with our guides about this interesting display – another winner!





SEHGI VISITS THE OLD BEGA HOSPITAL

The May meeting of SEHGI was held at the Pioneers Museum in Bega. After lunch they visited the old Bega Hospital with a guided tour of the ruined section of the hospital while some preferred to explore the site alone.

A collection of photographs was screened in the undamaged section which was the former nurse's quarters. The photographs showed the earliest days of the hospital through to the takeover by the Department of Agriculture, its restoration and when it was set up as an art and community centre.

The first hospital buildings were constructed on the site, which was formerly part of the town Common, in 1888 – 1899 using a mix of government and community funds.

The gardens were later established and the hospital extended and renovated. In the mid 1940's the government and community

decided to build a new hospital closer to the centre of Bega.

In 1957 the new hospital was opened. The old hospital then became an Agricultural College and experimental farm administered by the NSW Department of Agriculture and Education. The College ceased to exist in the 1980s as the hospital was becoming dilapidated.

In March 1985 the Community Contact and Resource Group put forward a proposal to renovate the hospital for cultural, craft and educational groups and as a produce market.

The local Bega community put in a great effort, supported by Australian Bicentenary funding to

repair the hospital for its centenary in 1988. The main building was badly damaged by fire on the 2nd of May 2004, thought to be caused by an electrical fault, and lost most of its roof. Up to 30 groups were using the hospital and grounds at that time. Unfortunately the building was not insured. The hospital has been cleaned up and made secure but the roof is still missing and the interior open to weather. A new roof would cost approximately \$400,000. The outbuildings were undamaged and are still in use and available for hire. The Old Bega Hospital is owned by the State Government of NSW and managed by a Reserve Trust since 1990 under the Crown Lands Act.

Friends of the Old Bega Hospital was incorporated in 2013 to assist the Trust – membership is open to all.

COMING EVENTS:

Wed. August 3rd
Leather conservation
Workshop

August 13th SEHGI
meeting Tathra Wharf
Museum – at Uniting
Church 9.30am

November
Whale Festival



Snug Cove Report

Our Roving Reporter, Rob Whiter is missing in action, and at last report was attending a wedding in the USA doing his best to learn how to speak with a Yankee accent.

He always supplies me with interesting photos to share – this one features one of our Navy ships loading near the Navy Wharf.

We hope he and Emma return to us safe and sassy as usual!



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT:

www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

EXEC PANEL MEETING
CURATORIAL MEETING
FRIENDS MEETING

1PM 2ND WEDNESDAY
1PM 3RD MONDAY
9.30AM 3RD WEDNESDAY

MUSEUM LIBRARY
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