

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

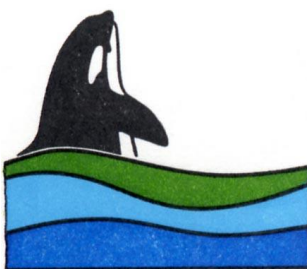
## Special Interest Articles:

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We get some wild storms on the far South East coast. An East coast low producing huge seas in early June this year, managed to coincide with massive king tides.

The weather system covering 1,500 kilometers created quite a lot of damage. The Eden weather buoy was ripped from its moorings at Two Fold Bay, and, still transmitting data, was tracked by satellite as it was pulled along by the East Australian Current in a huge ocean eddy that amazingly returned it back not far from where it was moored. A local vessel operator recovered it on June the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Staff at the Manly Hydraulics Laboratory reported that a 17.7 metre wave was recorded by the buoy just off the New South Wales Coast near Eden – the largest wave ever recorded in the area.

During the storm the wave intensity was so great that the wharf and conveyor belt at the



Waves destroy the chip mill wharf and conveyor

## Timber!

woodchip plant at Eden were damaged. The platform was also lifted off the pylons of the Tathra wharf, 50km north of Eden.

This was a severe blow to the Eden wood chip mill, doing it's best to restore the struggling local timber industry which had been in Japanese ownership for some time.

The storm damage put 600 local jobs at risk. ANWE's Eden operation is a major contributor to the region's economy, generating approximately \$1 million per week of economic activity.

By July they were again back in operation as the photo below illustrates, using convoys of tipper trucks to load ships from a make-shift conveyor.

ANWE reports that all pre-works have been completed for the jetty repairs and full



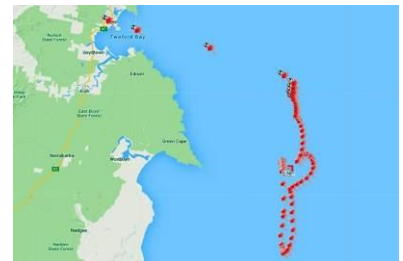
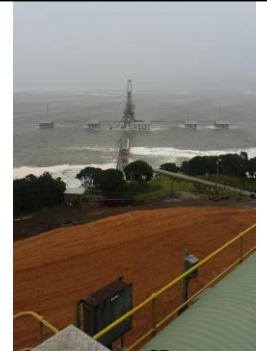
Trucks loading wood chips onto the conveyor – Rob Whiter

repairs are due to be completed by the end of this year and will generate close to \$4 million of economic activity for Eden. Visit our museum to learn about the rich history of forestry in Eden.

Many thanks to Rob Whiter for his comprehensive progress reports on the wood chip mill repairs.



20 meter long gas piping to be used to repair the chip mill jetty is unloaded at the breakwater wharf in Eden – Rob Whiter



The journey of the weather buoy.

## Spring Cleaning

David Chazan was very busy spring cleaning the concrete around the entrance to the museum with his pressure washer.

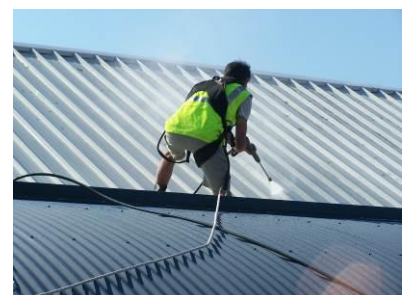
When next spotted he was up on the roof working away to remove lichen and winter grime.

You may next see him busily cleaning our windows and the shade sails.

EKWM is looking spick and span in readiness for the busy season ahead.

Read on to be amazed by the cruise ships due in from

November onwards.



## What a Wonderful World

This season promises to be a busy time as we prepare to welcome fourteen cruise ships to Eden and EKWM.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November the Maasdam will be the first arrival and on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April M/S Sirena the last.

A new visitor to our port, The World, with just 200 passengers, will interest many locals.

This luxury vessel has 165 apartments and sails around the world non-stop. Real estate on this floating sky scraper will set you back a little over one million dollars.

The ship's residences are privately owned by 130 families from around the world, and a small number are put up for resale every year.

There is such demand for each exclusive piece of real estate that there is a waiting list for certain room sizes, including three-bedroom flats and a six-bedroom penthouse suite that can accommodate up to 12 people. The annual ownership fees are based on square footage.

When residents of The World are at home on the high seas, they can enjoy the only full-size tennis court at sea, a 7,000-square foot spa and fitness centre, and swimming pools, and sample 12,000 bottles of wine with advice from an on board sommelier. The 12-deck ship, managed by Florida-based ROW Management Ltd, also boasts six restaurants, multiple bars, a tea room, golf simulator, library and cinema.

Knut Kloster who had a family history in the marine industry came up with the concept.

The World's hull was built in Landskrona, Sweden and later towed to Norway where it was completed and launched in 2002. At 43,524 gross tons it is the first ship of its size to burn marine diesel oil rather than heavy bunker fuel.

During one impressive stop over, guests played golf in Antarctic snow after retracing Sir Ernest Shackleton's historic steps.



## Bus Tours a Bonus

Throughout winter the steady stream of bus tours has been a great bonus to the museum. EKWM guides have now formed a small group of energetic and informed volunteers who are offering the opportunity of gaining an in-house qualification.

Trish Lamacraft (pictured above with a group of special needs students from Bega) has been busy finalizing all the notes the guides will use, as well as guiding.

Rob van den Helm, will help us advertise for new guides in various local publications.

Junior guides Eliza Odell, Isaac Gaudie and Benjamin Neville from Eden Marine High School have now been assessed and were

presented with their Certificate in Guiding on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. Their very proud teacher Nicole Challman said there is one more year 7 student and two year 11 girls keen to be assessed after they finish their exams. Mary Mitchell and Susie Sarah are both qualified to provide this training at EKWM.

They will later add the light house training to their repertoire which will be of great help during school holidays and when the cruise ships are in port.

If you would like to gain an EKWM certificate of guiding and join our happy crew, contact Bob Sykes at the museum to register.

NOTE – this is not a recognized national training program.



L to R – Eliza, Ben and Isaac our newly qualified guides.

## Visitor Numbers Increase

How exciting to hear that we hosted 48,892 visitors this year – these numbers were up by 4,177 on last year's figures.

Retail sales were also up creating a record in terms of admissions and sales. Many thanks to all concerned – our shop staff who do a mighty job.

Thanks also to Jody White, our curator, who continues to add to our collection and brings our history to life with stunning exhibitions.

The "behind the scenes crew" are often not recognized – Bob Sykes our business manager and man

of many talents, and all those on our management committee, and the Friends of EKWM who work consistently to make our museum great.

Through all of their efforts we continue to win tourism awards, gather international press coverage and television footage.





## OLD TOM'S 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September we celebrated the 86<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of Old Tom's body in Two Fold Bay in 1930 and the proud display of his much admired skeleton, which forms the pivotal point of our Museum collection.

Jody White our museum curator recently sent me a file on killer whale types and ours are "Type A" Antarctic Largest, reaching up to 9.5 m. Eye patch is medium in size and extends horizontally to the body axis. Saddle patch can be closed or slightly open. Lacks prominent dorsal cape. Most orca closely match the A type morphology, Inhabits ice free circumpolar waters.

Killer whales are identified by their dorsal fin and all the orcas in our Two Fold Bay pods were named by the whalers, some after deceased whalers.

To provide an example of the respect the town of Eden had for its pod of killer whales in 1901 "Typee," a member of the Eden pod was stranded on

Aslings beach while chasing a small whale into the shallows and was killed by a visitor. The town was in an uproar and the visitor was advised to "leave town as fast as you can."

The following excerpt from Scott of the Antarctic's diary gives us an insight into his observance of orcas - *Of course we have known well that killer whales continually skirt the edge of the floes and that they would undoubtedly snap up anyone who was unfortunate enough to fall into the water, but the facts that they could display such deliberate cunning, that they were able to break ice of such thickness (at least 21 feet) and that they could act in unison, were a revelation to us. It is clear that they are endowed with singular intelligence, and in future we shall treat that intelligence with every respect.*

William John Dakin in 1934 writes - *Apparently, Tom, whilst a good worker, was the naughty boy of the family. He had discovered a bit of play*

*which annoyed the whalemens extremely. It pleased him to grab the harpoon line between his teeth and hang on to it, apparently for the excitement of being dragged forcibly through the water. It is said that he has hung on for twenty to thirty minutes at a time.*

We now believe that Tom's love of this game may have contributed to his death.

Old Tom's obituary is as follows - ***The Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday 26 November 1930, page 16***

**EDEN**

***Mr J R Logan president of the Twofold Bay Development League, is having carefully prepared for preservation the skeleton of 'Old Tom', the last of the Twofold Bay killer whales.***

***With the co-operation of the public, he proposes to erect and enclose it in a mausoleum to be built on an elevated position in Eden overlooking Twofold Bay.***

As we stand in the museum looking at Old Tom we are very fortunate to have had so much documented data on Tom, this remarkable group of animals and their behaviour.

EKWM curator Jodie White and her collections crew continue to provide a wealth of information on the killers of Two Fold Bay for visitors and locals.



### Whale Spotting EKWM style

While whale spotting is in full swing with Cat Balou Cruises enjoying some great sightings, our coin operated binoculars have been put to great use as museum visitors enjoy some close ups of all types of marine activity.

They have now well and truly paid for themselves. So far we have collected \$11,000 after the installation cost of \$7,860 – money well spent!

While whales are plentiful orcas have also been spotted around our area by groups of

fishermen.

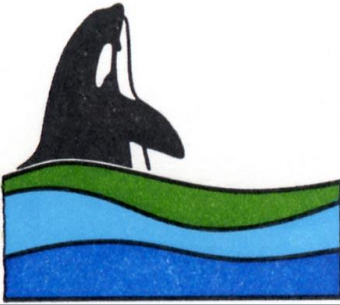
Anglers on the Merimbula fishing platform watched a pair of killer whales swim past the platform and frolic in Merimbula Bay early in September.

Wonboyn fisherman Bucky Rowlands enjoyed watching an orca not far from Leonard Island.

It seems that fishermen have the time and opportunity to see killer whales in our area.



Our binoculars at the time of their installation – the late Phil McGrath enjoying "the first look" with Jack Dickenson assisting.



COMING EVENTS:

WHALE FESTIVAL  
OPENING – FRIDAY  
OCT 28TH 1.30PM

FASHIONS DOWN  
MEMORY LANE –  
OCT 22<sup>ND</sup>

SEHGI MEETING –  
COOMA NOV 12<sup>TH</sup>

WALKATHON FOR  
SCOUT HALL – NOV  
13<sup>TH</sup>

EKWM CHRISTMAS  
PARTY DEC 2<sup>ND</sup>

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

www.killerwhalemuseum.com.au

## Historic Stores and Markets

Two historic sites next to the Eden Fisherman's Club show how vibrant the town was in the 1800's.

Ramsay's Store which in 1860 was owned by George Shultz was in its hey-day during the Kiandra gold rush selling picks, shovels and the very useful lavatory cans. T J Ramsay later went on to revolutionize retailing by

adding a newsagency, ironmonger and general store on the same site he also sold millinery, fancy goods, boots and his own blend of special tea.

Next door an outdoor market of 6x9metre stalls sold meat, vegetables and locally made items.

In 1874 this was also used by a group of Sydney scientists to record the transit of Venus.



## SEHGI VISITS STAFFORD'S BRICKWORKS



On Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August the SEHGI AGM was hosted by The Pig and Whistle – Tathra Wharf Museum. New structure was agreed that EKWM would provide the executive for SEHGI and an interesting DVD was shown of the East Coast Low damage to Tathra Wharf and beaches.

After the meeting we visited the Staffords Brickworks at Kalaru where Ron's sons showed us through an interesting family collection of memorabilia and the old brickworks site.

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1883, at the age of 24 years, William Stafford arrived in Sydney, Australia, from Gloucester, England. He wasn't a convict, nor did he have assisted passage, he paid his own fare. His records show that he nominated his calling as 'Bricklayer'. Fortunately

there was an abundance of work for bricklayers in early Sydney, and William had no trouble obtaining work along Sydney's southern beaches. Being a bit of a wanderer William headed off to Carcoar where he worked building culverts for the railway line between Blayney and Cowra.

Here is an extract from Ron Stafford's book 'Foundations of the Past'.

The years 1897 to 1914 were busy years for the Stafford and McGovern brickmakers. They supplied bricks for the construction of Churches, Hotels, Cheese Factories, and commercial buildings and, of course, millions of bricks went to the construction of housing. With primitive transport and dreadful roads it was common practice for

the brickmaker to make bricks on site. The green bricks had to be covered against rain during the drying period and in winter against frost because the water content in the green brick could freeze causing the brick to shatter.

Strong winds could also cause the bricks to dry too quickly causing cracks to develop. To counter the wind, long blankets were made by sewing together potato or maize sacks with packing needles and twine and placing the bag blankets over the bricks. William also manufactured bricks for the gold mining area around Yowaka at the cost £1-2-6 per 1,000 (\$2.25).

William used clay from Pambula and Palestine. His stepsons and sons helped out. His headquarters were at Eden and he ventured as far south as Orbost and Cann River.

Ron's father made bricks at Kisses Lagoon before moving to Tathra Road in 1928. The brickworks single biggest order was 1,200,000 bricks for the Bega Hospital. Brickmaking ended in the 1980's when the clay petered out and wood was hard to find for the kilns –they now operate as a hardware store.

### EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

#### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

EXEC PANEL MEETING	1 PM 2 <sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY	MUSEUM LIBRARY
CURATORIAL MEETING	1 PM 3 <sup>RD</sup> MONDAY	MUSEUM LIBRARY
FRIENDS MEETING	9.00AM 3 <sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY	THEATRETTE