

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Home of Old Tom - Est. 1931

SOUNDINGS

NEWSLETTER April, 2023

I'm sorry about April, People, but my Ides came early, leaving Soundings to sound and settle for a time.

While the 2022/23 pressure season is largely behind us, February / March maintained the busy pace with not only the cruise influence, here was also the fishing competition and the "nomads" all contributing to the extraordinary continuance of visitors.

Thanks again to all who contributed.

This month sees Easter fall early in the month and Anzac on its usual 25th of the month which is a Tuesday which could, again create a long weekend for those who choose.

I'm being a bit indulgent this month, with a war-time story of a family member. I hope you don't mind, but it is a story worth telling.

It was great to see those who carry the upfront load at these busy times, getting together under the sails at February's end, for a tasty snack, a friendly chat and a cool drink. The Board had discussed the truly great job shop and the guides contribute to the ongoing success of the Museum

and wanted to show a token of its appreciation of a job well done.

Once again the ladies from Twofold Ladies Club, "did us proud", with their very tasty fare.

They presented a wide choice of "finger" food, combined with pleasant, a great venue under the sails and a drink of your choice occasion.

We should do it more often.

A cheer for the Twofold Ladies Club. which organisation's contribution to our town over the past 40 years



The show must go on! Leone, Tricia and Luke discuss upcoming events.



The job's not complete until the wash-up's done. Mary sees to it!



Time for a quiet chat..... Robert and Barrie.



David savours one of Sandra Symonds' scrumptious scones.

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One Mother to Another

A WW2 story abridged from my merchant seaman brother, Mervyn's "Maritime Memories". He was born on 21st November, 1926.

"We arrived in San Francisco on 15th March, 1943 and, of course, as soon as we were freed from our duties, my mate and I set off to tour the place.

Having very little money — our pay lasted all of two days in the US. We attempted to enter a couple of clubs for servicemen, but as we were in mufti, we were refused entry. Later we came to the Salvation Army USO club we said to each other, 'You can always rely on the Salvos!' So saying, we fronted up, We were not wrong.



The senior hostess, Mrs Annie Drury, took us to her heart and we couldn't go wrong thereafter.

A typical morning. .. Enter two young lads (I was 16 and my mate was about six months older). Mrs Drury, call me Annie, gave her usual greeting in a broad Yank accent :Hello boys. What are you planning to-day?" .. "Nothing Annie" came the stock reply. . "Broke, huh?" .. "Yes" .. "Then how about a movie?" came the suggestion with coffee and numerous donuts. "That would be nice Annie, thank you." .. "OK boys, pick one out of the newspaper. We did so and within two minutes Annie was arguing with the theatre management something like — "These are patriotic young boys from Australia . I'll guarantee their conduct . And after all our boys are over there in Australia were the people are looking after them. We got our tickets" ..

Mrs Drury took the time to pen the included letter to my mother. It is extant after eighty years. Becoming a little hard to read I have copied it here. I don't know my Mum's reaction to it, (I would have been 7) but with my room just off my parents', I still remember her nightly pining for her three boys and my Dad trying to pacify her, I can well imagine what it would be.

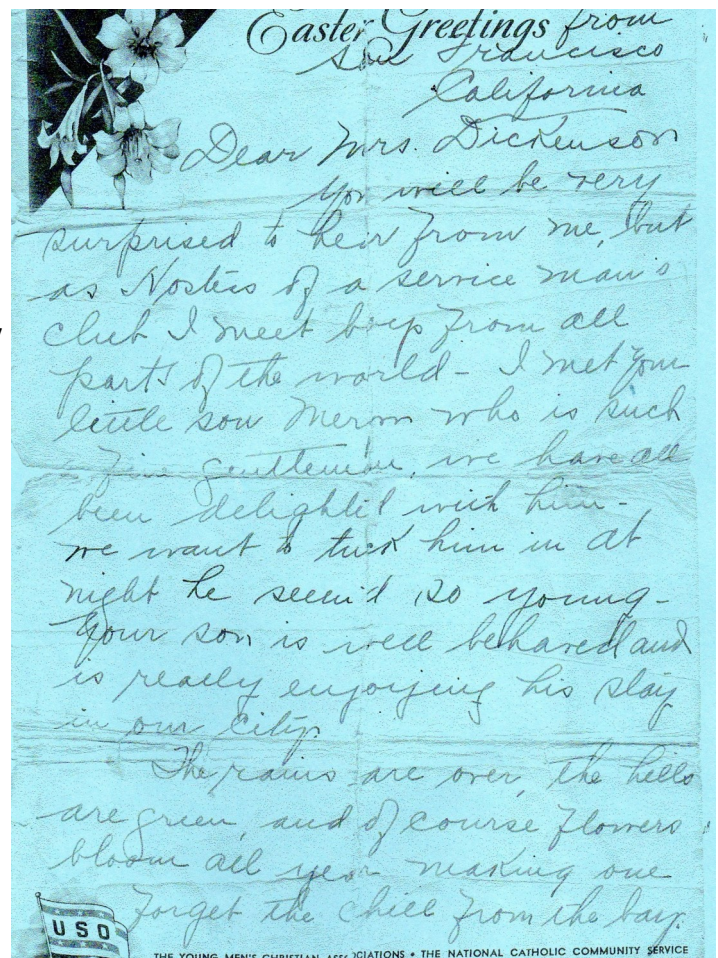
: "Easter Greetings from San Francisco California.

Dear Mrs Dickenson. You will be very surprised to hear from me but as hostess of a service man's club I meet boys from all over the world. I met your little son Mervyn who is such a fine gentleman we have all been delighted with him we want to tuck him in at night he seems so young.

Your son is well behaved and is really enjoying his stay in our city.

The rains are over the hills are green and of course the flowers bloom all year making one forget the chill from the bay".

Ed note: Mervyn passed away in January 2020 aged 93, never losing his love for the sea. He kept high regard for his circle of shipmates and outlived most, if not all. He was scathing at the little recognition the Merchant Navy received for the part it played in the war years. Even more scathing in the years they waited for any benefits being made available..... I think the loss of life was over 600.... I don't remember the name of the ship that took him to U.S. for re-purposing... He served on the Centaur before it was made over to a hospital ship which, fully lit at night showing all its legitimacy, off Brisbane, was torpedoed with huge loss of life and casualty



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Obituary

June Pauline Whalley

1942-2023

The news of sudden passing of another of our long time colleagues, June Whalley, was received with profound regret by her many friends and acquaintances. Her health had caused some concern to her close friends for a while, but none suspected the end was near.

The esteem in which she was held was very much evident by the large and representative number of mourners, gathered at the Wolumla crematorium, to pay their final respects.



I do not know much of her life before she and husband, Les, made the decision to move from their lower blue Mountains home of many years, to join us here in Eden. It may well have been that Eden was like Faulconbridge was, when they first settled there, it which having been a quiet area with plenty of bushland until the expressway moved ever westward and changed the area forever.

Citroen cars were the couple's passion, which interest they brought with them. I venture to say that the tyranny of distance, to continue that interest, caused them to move on. They soon gathered a circle of friends, joining organisations, and settled into a happy lifestyle.

I think they may have surprised themselves at the speed with which they made the change to the South Coast. This is how I remember it..... Les was a relative of Bob Sheaves'. The Whalley's came to visit. On Saturdays, the Walders', from Cathcart. long time close friends of the Sheaves', would visit. So as fate would have it, when the Saturday discussion came up on property and prices. Bob W took Les to show what was on the market. After gathering June for a look, the couple fell in love with the town and the house, then returned home with the task of all that goes with such a move ahead of them. They each, separately, told me it was the best decision they had ever made.

The couple was introduced to the Museum by Margaret Sheaves. June involved in all areas of collection recording and a keen interest the evolving library, such that she contributed to the progress of those areas of collection management for the rest of her life. Les regularly helped in the blokes' work but sadly did not live for many years to further enjoy their new surroundings.

Both June and Les where into the fun/crew building shenanigans into which we threw ourselves with gusto, for several years. It became with our annual theatre nightclub at Edrom. A sumptuous dinner was prepared, b6y the girls and partaken, before all repaired to the stage area for the presentation.

On one occasion, the girls were to show Shirley Bassey how big spender was done to perfection, (see photo elsewhere) . The Boys? Well the ghost of Tchaikovsky would have reached for the vodka bottle were he so see the Nutcracker, cracked by Museum nuts, replete in tu-tus and including Les Whalley, doing their version of Sugar Plum Fairy. Like everyone, the Whalleys enjoyed these times.

June lived on in their home until a couple of years ago when she downsized to ease her workload, and bought small unit.. Her interests widened over the years when she joined craft and exercise groups and despite her light build was keenly interested and valued member of the State emergency Service. A keen reader the town library was like a second home to her. At the time of her passing, the librarians, with whom she shared happy friendships, had several books that June had ordered, waiting for collection.

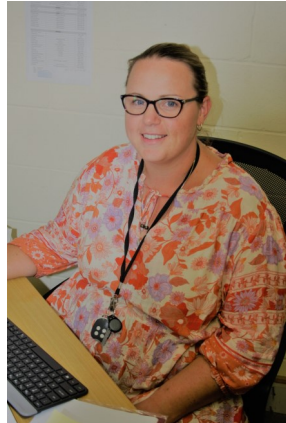
Rest in peace June Whalley. A life well lived. Thank you for your contribution to the success of Eden Killer Whale Museum. We will miss you from our gatherings.

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About People

Meet Siobhan Russell Siobhan has taken up the position of Office Manager on 6th March and is settling into the position, already feeling comfortable about.

Siobhan’s start was of the deep end variety as Ben was to take due scheduled leave tat same week. However, she has had considerable experience in a number of fields including that , of course, of office, procedures She soon found her way around.



Like so many young mothers of today, Siobhan is one busy lady, successfully juggling the demands of modern life. She and Blake have three youngsters , Hugo 10, and Levi 2.

The Calendar

April

- 2nd Daylight Saving ends
- 2nd Visit from Bombala Historical Society
- 3rd Majestic Princess 3560 / 1346
- 6th NSW, Vic, A.C.T., School Holidays begin
- 7th Good Friday
- 10th Easter Monday
- 13th SEHGI Our turn to host
- 14th Mothers’ day
- 15th Curatorial meeting,,, Library 2PM
- 17th Friends meeting 9 AM, theatrette

Annette had one very pleased customer recently. Having re-read Tom Mead’s “Killers of Eden”, he made a nostalgic trip to Eden and the Museum. He was highly delighted that Annette was able to direct him to Bert Egan’s grave.

He took the trouble to forward his appreciation. ..

Well done Annette!... Ed note...

Bert chose his own plot. He “wanted a sea view” and is in the front row, near the road!

Happy Birthday to

Rob Whiter 18th

Heather Love 27th

Wishing for many happy days to come to you both.



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Margaret Sheaves, June Whalley, Valma Barber, Stephanie Rawlings, Judy Day, Celia Hannan

Gallipoli 19th December, 1915

General Birdwood... “I was sad, but I had the knowledge of the fine deeds my men had done”....As he passes a cemetery an Australian soldier salutes him and says “I hope they won’t hear us going down to the beaches” ...The 8 months’ casualties toll? Aust 8,709d 19.441w, NZ 2,721d 4,732w, Britain 21,255d 52.230w, France while the Turks

Have a
Happy and
Safe Easter

Jack

