

# EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Home of "OLD TOM"

Established 1931

Volume 2022/April

## SOUNDINGS

### Playing the Waiting Game

A lot may be said about us. Whatever that may be, no one can accuse of impatience.

The building work has moved along quite well, considering all the cards that were stacked against us, really, since the job began. We were to have the key in the third week in November. I am writing this in the third week of March and we are still waiting.

The builder started to move on to the site in the first week of May. This was about the time when the media was highlighting the scarcity of building materials and the shortage of "tradies" and building workers, generally.

There had been more than a gentle hint of what was to come. At one of the several meetings we had with the chosen contractor, the representative urged us to make an early decision, so he could lock in his tradies and start securing materials. I believe this ran quite smoothly throughout. Leserbuild can be congratulated on the planning and application, under these circumstances.

Looking at the state of play today, it is obvious that had we not commenced the job when we did in May 2021, the waits would be even greater. And the cost even more so.

Other intrusions forced themselves upon us with major upheavals in the staff, road works of considerable proportion on three sides and El Niño taking hold the weather, providing many wet days. Luckily, we did not have the fierce downpours that others suffered, rather, there were a lot of wet days but a relatively moderate rainfall. So we waited. Covid was coming to a head. So we waited.

Then there were staff problems. One in particular, was a classic case of an ego out of control combined with incompetence and application dishonesty, that came to the fore. And without income, the need to stand staff down was a tasteless task for the Board. It must be acknowledged, that the Job Keeper programme allowed for some small alleviation to the remaining staff and we made that spread as far as we could. So we waited for the time to pass in this situation to ease. It continued far longer than any of us had imagined.

Our longest wait was for the grant monies to be received. Through prudent management we were in a healthy financial position when we entered the construction programme. The lockdown period did not allow for any fund top up brought about by an extended period. While having paid out about \$1,000,000 to the builder and other costs by the end of '21, we had received only \$270,000 of the promised grant back in August. A much larger amount in March.

Last, but not least, the wait for the lift to be assembled was over in the first week in April. This gave us all a lift, knowing the waiting is all but over.

And, it will all be worth waiting for!

### The wait is all but over.

There is only some bits of tidying up to do. The lift is installed with the wait now is for the final sign off, by Otis.

Sun protective film has been applied to the windows in the Mezzanine Gallery. This will serve a dual purpose of cooling and anti-fact protection.

I ask that all be very cognisant and vigilant of others, if they should be cleaning these windows. Definitely, no chemicals,

whatsoever, are to be used on these windows

Enough carpet tiles are ordered to fit out the Davidson Mezzanine galleries. These three short weeks might affect their delivery.

The canopy at the sliding door leading to the lighthouse, has only the roofing material to be attached to be completed.

Discussions have been held with an Aircon company to address the shortfalls currently being experienced



## Old Tom and His Genomics

Nine decades after his death, Twofold Bay's Old Tom, particularly, continues to fascinate the world.

It is not only the entertaining story of Tom, his fellow pod dwellers, of which he was the last, and of the tough men who saught whales as well, but scientific curiosity enters the scene from time to time.

**Isabella Reeves** is one such scientist, with that interest. She is a PhD student with other qualifications including BSc Marine Biology (Hons), with additions Cetacean Ecology, Behaviour and Evolution Lab (CEBEL) Molecular Ecology.

M/s Reeves contacted C.M. Angela George early in 2022 to seek permission to extract a sample of Tom's DNA to offer it for sequencing. The aim I to where Tom stands in the evolutionary cycle and with that of his related species of the day. The size of the sample, which will be extracted from the two unseen areas, is 1 gram .

Angela has been liaising with the Board which agreed her recommendation that permission for proposition to go ahead. It unanimously agreed with Angela in that a minimum of interference with the skeleton, take precedence over all other considerations.

As mentioned in an earlier edition, those with long association, recall the trepidation with which we loaned a Tom tooth to a reputable Canadian institution. We continued to agonise and advocate, over a lengthy, period for its return .

At the time of M/s Reeves request, the matter rested on the success of a grant application. This has now come to pass and the scientist hopes to be here in June.

However, like true love, the course this action didn't run smoothly to its conclusion. The dreaded bureaucracy has reared its ugly head. Certain certificates as to Tom's ownership status viz a viz National Parks and similar organisations, has been demanded.

A problem indeed!

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Picture on left show the cone and ball after its removal for repairs . One of the heavy rust patches can be seen close to the sling on the bottom edge

The photo on the right shows the overhead cage from which the removal and replacement was made.... 19/6/2014

## Lighthouse much Lighter

Thanks to Jeff Swane and Harald Faranski, the Lighthouse is looking much brighter. After twenty-two years, the inner walls were long overdue for a thorough cleansing.

So it was with a little sugar soap and a lot of elbow grease, these two blokes brought out the best in the Bert Egan, memorial replica lighthouse.

Rob Whiter officially opened the structure @ 12.01 AM on 1st January, 2000. We reckoned we were the first to have an official opening, in Australia in the new millennium. The wonderful tile floor came a few years after the opening, laid by Allan Mallard.

With new curtains in the offing, the wall cleaning completed a make over.

Things started to go awry in 2014 when it was noticed that the cawling atop the structure was showing signs of failure. Its removal and subsequent replacement, was a no mean challenge. It was sent to the shipyard for a makeover.

Fast forward a couple of years and rainwater problems started to occur. Rust marks were appearing on the inside. For a while the source of this unwanted happening was hard to pin down, with several repair, renewal and alterations took place, before the culprit was found. The genesis of the trouble was but a small pop rivet hole.

With this problem dealt with and ancillary work undertaken the problem was overcome.





# Memory Lane

This month's visit down the Lane is to remember Aileen and John Bowles. The couple came to Eden about thirty years ago. Settled into Twofold Beach Caravan Park and proceeded to involve themselves in the community and all its doings. Though small in stature, John was a roof tiler and no doubt, in his early pursuits in the trade, it was still hard yakka, lugging tiles up ramps and scaffolds on to roofs. In later years John and Aileen managed. caravan

Among their many interests, the Bowles' were great supporters of the Eden Amateur Fishing Club, Aileen held office for a number of years. At the time of her unexpected passing, she was Chair of the Eden View Club. John also worked tirelessly for the Fishing Club, regularly a working bees and with Aileen giving their all, particularly at Competition time. John was an early and valued member of Essci. In later times Eden Men's Shed garnered his attention. Having said that, when one was involved in an organisation, that group invariably got two, freely giving their support.

I had the pleasure of working with them over those three decades. It was always a pleasure to be in their company.

Their contribution to EKWM was most generous. It is very respectfully remembered and greatly appreciated. Aileen was at the forefront of many tasks. She held positions of Friends leader, while also working in the library and wherever else needed downstairs. John was always 'on call'.

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1995, in the old kitchen. So small it required alternate breathing. None the less, it was remarkable just what food emerged from that small space. Don't what the joke was, but Bowlesy would have been behind it. Rosalie Dickenson and Margaret Sheaves joined in the fun. John has his arm around Aileen, while she prepped the lettuce.

This is a pic of the day (14-3-1993), the official opening of the last major extension was opened. The governor of NSW, His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AC., performed the duty. Photo, L to R; Dianne Swane, Jeff Swane, Herman Boller. Nolene Trevanion, (hidden) Alex McKenzie, Governor Sinclair Jack Dickenson, Rosalie Dickenson. Leonard (Mick) Allen Mayor BVSC., Alma Allen, Rob Whiter behind the Mayor, Alma Allen, At rear (I think, the Governor's Aide de Compe),(behind) Edith Whiter, Mrs Sinclair, Local Member Peter Cochrane, Mrs Cochrane, behind Kevin Holman, Kevin's partner



The evening saw an enjoyable Ball was held in the galleries. The Governor and Mrs Sinclair were in attendance.

Dancing continued to the wee small hours.

A cleaning up, working bee started, (slowly), almost as the last note faded from the musicians while Old Sol dawned on another day of celebration Old Tom in a





Adrenalin is sure in the air at the Mitchell home at the moment. Up coming soccer player, **Charli**, has been selected to represent the South Coast side, in a state wide contest to be held in Bathurst, during May. Seventy young women were selected to trial at Wollongong. Of that group Charli was one of the fifteen chosen.

So its all go, leading up to the match with Mum, **Kirrily** ,and Dad, **Simon**, just as excited as Charli.

Charli had displayed her ability in earlier times, but secondary studies and covid, conspired to put her soccer on the back burner somewhat. Now, well and truly into year twelve, Charli, is giving some time over to first love. At this time she is intends to spend her forthcoming gap year in Eden, before taking her next step in life.

So it's a busy round of training at Wollongong, a making the most of the opportunity, of a slight detour, to see the Matildas play the Kiwis in Canberra. The Matildas won.

The family will be "waltzing their matildas" to Bathurst next month. Our hearty best wishes go with them.

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**Kerrie** Wilson has taken over the job of Retail Buyer. She comes in at a time when there has been some disruption in the shop.

The computer programme which covers the sales area, has been acting up. The ownership of the programme has been take over by another company. Added to this ,the Board had put the brakes on purchasing, due to the fact that our liquidity was quite onerous, owing to the slow supply of grant monies due.

With the cash problem now overcome, Kerie is replenishing the stock. We wish her well in her new role

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Great to welcome **Tracey Grealy** joining the Friends group.

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I must ask you all to make your visits to **Jessica's** office, as speedy as you might. No doubt, she likes to see you, but she has quite a big work load with limited hours to complete it.

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**Ben** Neville was back on deck over Easter. ...And there was plenty for Ben and our regulars to with few parking slots vacant for long during the weekend.

Ben has also pitched in to cover the post-Easter week in the office with Jess needing to be away for some of the period. It will give Ben an early understanding of key Aspects of the office routine.



## Our Calendar

### April

- 8th Friday End term 1. NSW
- 8th End Term 1. A.C.T.
- 8th End Term 1. Vic
- 14th Board meeting
- 18th Curatorial meeting
- 20th Friends meeting
- 15th Good Friday
- 18th Easter Monday
- 25th Monday. Anzac day
- 26th ACT & Victoria term 2 commences
- 27th NSW Term 2 commences

### May

- Local residents' inspection\*\*
- 1st Entry charges alter
- 12 th Board meeting
- 14th SEHGI meeting\*
- 16th Curatorial meeting
- 18th Friends meeting
- \*\* To be determined
- \*At the time of writing the SEHGI May 14th, SEHGI meeting will go ahead. 10Am at the Bega Museum.

Like most organisations, SEHGI was affected by the pandemic. Meeting schedules went the way of most happens in the country and the world. We had a get together at Candelo early in 2022 with an actual meeting at the same town soon after. As fate would have, what was planned as an interesting day was cast asunder by the weather. Let's make this one a beauty.

### June.

- 9th Regular monthly Board meeting
- 15th Friends meeting
- 19th Curatorial meeting

*That's  
Ali*

*Folks*

