

# EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Home of Old Tom - Est. 1931

# SOUNDINGS

NEWSLETTER May, 2023

## The Eden Fishermen's Club Rises From the Ashes

Sadly this particular phoenix is only for a short while and only as an exhibition at EKWM

You would get little argument that the site of the former landmark and easily recognised, Eden Fishermen's recreation Club, is but a scar on the landscape of Eden.

It was one thing to lose what has been our social centre for seventy years, but to see the site as it is, is but a reminder of yesterday.

Registered clubs generally, are doing it tough. Charging community mores, particularly of that of the young, has seen the close of many such venues, not only in the bush but also in the cities and suburbs. With pressure on the pokies, perhaps long overdue, many more will be under the pump to survive.

Collections Manger, Angela George, came up with the concept for an exhibition and with Life Member, Stephanie Rawlings, drew it all together to provide a great concept. There is nostalgia, memory glad and sad, and perhaps a longing for days past with a youth that is no longer with the viewer.

With the founders of the humble origins now all gone to their rest, it adds a further touch of sadness to the Club's passing. Those commercial fishermen who got together, I believe wanted nought but to enjoy a drink that could be had at their hours. It was the time of the six



Stephanie puts finishing touches to the well known logo

o'clock swill at which time the pubs closed. The powers that be forgot to the fish and the tides to allow the fishermen to meet this deadline so with some colleagues, took matters into their own hands.

After all there was not much that happened at community level over the intervening years. A "dipping of

your lid" to those founding few and those who followed giving their time, as you leave the gallery, is quite in order.

The exhibition is a must see for Edenites to re-live the happy times with the huge collages of happy snaps as well as selected historical notes from the three quarters of its being.



The photos are wide ranging. Many localshave already taken the exhibition in an did the search for themselves at various functions. The beach parties held over a few years would seem to be creating the most interest. It was a surprise to many that it actually took place with tons of sand trucked in and the aftermath cleaning up must have been horrendous.

Particularly interesting is the collection of metal membership badges. These badges differed in form from year to year with a further difference for the ladies to the gents. Though certainly not a complete set, it is a great representation. We re still collecting, so it ant come your way, secure them for us. Of little monetary value we see them in the light of their historical place in the recent past.

Tell your friends to come and have a look to see if they can find themselves in the huge photo galley.

It is doubtful that such a exhibition will ever be mounted in the future, as living memory fades. Thanks to those who made it possible.

## Soundings May 2023

### WATER COMES TO EDEN

(With a little sail around first)

No, this is not a coal to Newcastle story. Nor is it a creation v evolution opinion, but an important little piece of the mosaic that is our town's comparatively recent history, though largely gone from living memory.

I have a great respect for the Councillors of old who brought it about.

Just a little ramble. Water. That magic fluid without which, living matter would not be. Climate change is the headline of the day but changeable climate was ever thus. Certainly in Australia, helping create the driest inhabited continent in the globe, only beaten for the overall gong, by Antarctica.

The weather vagaries were obvious even to a seemingly homesick young woman, from the eastern suburbs of Sydney, in London in 1908, Dorothea MacKellar. M/s MacKellar penned those now immortal words, describing her country as the land of "drought and flooding rains". In all probability, it wasn't until later years that her words were highlighted by the gathered statistics. have highlighted her words bringing the contrasts and contradictions of this great land into sharp relief. Big time. The devastating drought had no sooner broken over most of the continent when record rains took over, bringing, in many cases, historic recorded highs to many areas.

History seems to record the establishment of schemes, many of which were political lolly, seemed to get going ok but management left a lot to be desired.

The biggest horror was undoubtedly the waters of the Great Artesian Basin, at 1,750,000 square kilometers, one of the biggest in the world. The average depth is 500 meters. Notwithstanding the dry record of the continent and a daily free discharge through 18,000 boreholes was 1,300,000,000 litres. It until 1989 before capping, with the view to sustaining the aquifer. (Britannica)...The Murray-Darling has had a sad and somewhat disgraceful management outcome. Argument/discussion continues.

The Kalgoolie scheme is quite unbelievable in its scope and success, so too, the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The Snowy, in its range and surface structures would be hard pressed to come about today. Snowy 2 has caught the 21st century bug being years overdue and billions of dollars overspent for which no one is accountable.

Sydney water received a massive boost in the 1920's when three dams were built in the upper Nepean, The Cordeaux, the Nepean and the Avon, At the same time the Cataract i=on the upper Shoalhaven was opened to service Wollongong. The Warragamba built in the 1950's and subject now to much controversy in an era with a of a greater population to serve. As young teenage scouts a group of us set off to walk the four

Southern Highland dams in a weekend. It was bit too ambitious and had to drop the Cataract from the plan.

Though the post war shortages and black markets were in the early 50's, areas away from the city precincts started to stir, among the coastal towns south of Sydney. Commercial road transport was coming into its own with the help of ex-army vehicles, with petrol rationing now a thing of the past, while cars, reliable to handle Australian conditions, our like our own Holden, gave people greater confidence to venture further. So much so that the small Imlay Shire Council in '47 turned the first sod of the Tantawanglo Water Scheme. At this same time in history motels entered the scene and were springing up throughout the country. While road cartage and the accommodations were growing, along with other associated industries they were contributing to the demise of others. Certainly the coastal shipping was feeling the pinch as was the rail freight business. The latter brought on to the truckies the much reviled railway competition tax which though, was eventually struck down by the High Court.

So all these happenings, depended on reliable and convenient water (and waste disposal) services. This helped not only to grow our villages but certainly the tourist industry as we know it today.

Angela George has done some study on local water points and notes the town wells and other water captures in various towns and villages in our area.



THE COUNCIL of the SHIRE of IMLAY  
requests the pleasure of the company of  
  
MR. J. A. MARTIN  
  
of the  
LAYING of the FOUNDATION STONE  
of the  
TANTAWANGLO WATER SUPPLY WORKS  
on the site of the pipe-head dam, Tantawanglo  
River, near Candelo  
by the  
HON. J. J. CAHILL, M.L.A.  
Minister for Public Works and Local Government  
at 11 a.m.  
  
And afterwards at the Official Luncheon in the  
Town Hall, Candelo  
at 1 p.m. on  
FRIDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 1947  
  
W. E. COLLINS, President  
L. A. WILSON, Shire Clerk  
Eden  
Council Chambers  
R.S.V.P.

Courtesy, Angela George \* p4

For the positively important and life giving role they played in settlement of all areas they do not seem to rate highly in their position and remnants preservation and highlighting.

Continued in June

### Who Would Steal a Whale Jaw?

Disbelief was the first reaction from everybody as the news of the theft of our whale jaw was stolen from the old Mobil/Custom House site.

The item was of delicate condition and when the major building programme was to get underway and as the jaw was vulnerable to damage to risk leaving it nearby, we sought a safer venue.

Neil Rankin came to the rescue generously offering the the site mentioned. Sylvia and Michael Anderson did the removal and placement . They employed all their skill with respect to the piece, for which we remain grateful.

The theft was undoubtedly premeditated. To bring cutters to remove the padlock. To bring enough brawn to lift it onto a vehicle and to choose a time which proved to be adequately suitable, took quite an amount of intent. And to nobody having seen anything, is difficult to accept. I am sorry but that beggars belief. Someone locally would have to have been involved.

With that much awareness, I have no doubt those responsible and especially anyone from in the town, must feel very proud of themselves. Volunteers are a scarce resource and those all too few who were working with and around this specimen, the taste left is sure bitter.

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To describe the weather on Easter Sunday as just plain lousy, it would be a gross understatement. But after a season of broken records, another was achieved on that day.

Compared with any other non-ship day, takings on that day leave a tally that will be hard to beat.

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Just a reminder about the SEHGI quarterly meeting on 13th May. We are the hosts on this occasion, at our venue Tea on from about 9.30. Come along, meet colleagues with similar interests from around the area. John Blay. Author and key activist in the Bundian Way project, John will prove to be an interesting. An earlier help would be appreciated. About (? be

That the indigenous communities from the high country and Twofold Bay, commuted and traded between each other is quite remarkable when looked at from our time but they did it most successfully, from time immemorial!

The regular agenda B&DHS feature an historical outing for each of the spring and autumn seasons, For this autumn Eden was chosen to centre their tour.

President Stuart Hood and his brother John came a couple of weeks before the scheduled date of April 1st, to visit sites and prepare the agenda. Unfortunately as the day approached, John needed to attend to family matters in the city and was not able to come. However, 22 people did journey down the mountain to undertake what was a packed day of visitations. Among them were stalwarts of SEGHI meetings and many other regulars of their home front.

We had the kettle boiling for when they arrived. Rob Whiter and myself welcomed them on board and while they enjoyed their cuppa, Rob gave a history of Boyd and Boydtown and the Whiter association with that property. I told of EKWM and its history. It was to be "90 years in 9 minutes". I cheated a bit on the nine!

Following smoko, our visitors had free time to inspect our latest extensions. This took them up to lunch, after which they headed off to Boydtown and East Boyd ith the naval wharf and the great work the Parks have done with Boyds light and its surrounds'. That Edrom was unavailable to them was a disappointment, with the connection of J.R. Logan with Bombala.

Word back from the mountain is that the travellers had enjoyed their Twofold Bay outing.



Though the breeze was light, Bombala President, Stuart Hood,, needed to give gives Rob a hand with paper work.

## About People

Jennie Burdett, a lifelong Edenite has joined our crew. Jen would be no stranger to those who shop at Coles, where she is in her twentieth year of service. Despite the fact that thousands have checked out by her, she still has a smile ready for the next one.

Jennie and Troy have two adult children. She had had a trial shift or two, ready to "fly solo", just as the lockdowns exploded the natural order of things. This put paid to her being with us earlier. However, we hope she finds the position interesting and rewarding. Welcome, Jen.

### Obituary

I regret to report the passing of Dell Wolter. Del worked with us in the shop for a number of years. She retired to enjoy grandchildren and her home in Rose Court, with husband Bob. Bob was to pre-decease his wife by several years. Del lived on in Rose Court until her health deteriorated to a point where she moved to reside in the then BUPA. As a resident of that establishment, Dell was able to access the care needed to monitor her health and maximise her comfort and safety.

R.I.P. Del. Thank you for your efforts on EKWM's behalf.

Our thoughts are with the family at this time.

Our good wishes go out to Yvonne Smith whose health isn't the best at this time. Yvonne worked for us, for some years, following retirement from her Imlay St., retail footwear business. Get well soon, Yvonne.

Full marks to Heather Love on her fund raiser garden party. The ladies of the village responded to the idea and turned up in considerable numbers.

It was a full afternoon fashion expo, with styles of yesteryear to the fore. This very much so in the millinery department. When the day's Income was tallied, Heather had raised a tidy sum. This will further her aim to provide bicycles to underprivileged kids of the town, so they might meet the challenge of the new tracks.

Cheers for your effort, Heather!

## The Calendar

### May

11th Regular monthly Board meeting  
13th SEHGI meeting our venue  
14th Mothers' Day  
15th Curatorial meeting 2PM Library  
17th Friends meeting Theatrette 9AM

### June

8th Regular monthly Board meeting  
12th Kings Birthday  
17th Curatorial meeting 2PM Library  
19th Friends meeting 9AM Theatrette  
30th End Museum fiscal year

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\* from page 2

You may be aware of the name Jack Martin. Jack was very active in and around Pambula and your name recognition may come from that of the park in the centre of town so named after him. During his lifetime, there was little that was for the betterment of Pambula that didn't receive his active support.

Justice of the Peace, Magistrate, Local Coroner were but a few offices the Jack filled when called upon.

I met Jack in his role as Secretary of Lodge Baddeley, an honorary post that he held for 45 years. I have been around many voluntary committees for a long time. I stood in for one of Jack's successors during his illness. Believe me, Secretary of a Masonic lodge would have been the most onerous I encountered. A couple of months? O.k. But 45 years? To me it sums up the measure of the man.

Jack was Angela George's Great-grand father.

'How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world'.....Anne Frank

Cheers for now ..... *Jack*

