

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Home of Old Tom - Est. 1931

SOUNDINGS

NEWSLETTER July 2023

Tales of Whales and Orcas

They never cease to amaze

Whales, dolphins and orcas generally, have been quite an interesting group, it seems, over the immediate past. Many column inches (cm's?) being given over to stories around these magnificent creatures.

Off the **Scottish** coast a rellie of Tom's, rammed a yacht 2000 km from where vessels experienced similar attacks. It's been suggested that this behaviour could be in response to human activities such as fishing. This is the first time this "boat ramming" has been recorded in these waters and may have "leap frogged" to this different orca population.

The only person on board said 'the orca repeatedly rammed into the boat's stern' where he had attached a fishing line to catch mackerel.

Iberian. Orcas, a small and endangered population of about 39 animals have sunk three boats and damaged 100 more, by ramming boats and ripping off their rudders.

Off **Bondi** this week, kayaker was surprised to learn that a curious humpback was tracking him on his paddle. A drone pilot who was tracking them both, alerted the kayaker that the whale was about to go under him. To say that the kayaker was more than a little surprised would be quite an understatement.

The **NSW** annual whale migration census was carried out on the weekend of 25th June. Some 70 individuals took part from various vantage points along the state's coast.

Hosted by the Organisation for the Rescue and Research, the count was part of a citizen science activity which is conducted annually as the creatures pass on their way north,

President of the organisation, Ashley Ryan, said more 5,092 predominantly humpbacks were sighted, up by 1,0847, on last year's record.

M/s Ryan stated "It's such an amazing conservation story, we just need to see the numbers rise for the southern right whales as well

A few days ago, off the coast of **Hervey Bay**, a



humpback carcass drifted. Rangers captured a video of the dead animal with about 50 tiger sharks in the frenzy of devouring the flesh.

The whale is the fifth to die in Wide Bay waters this week. Hard to believe but an authority says it is happening though many more of the species being present, brought about by conservation success.

A lot of Water Has Run Under the Bridge

.....But...The Braidwood and District Advocate of 27th January,1953, reported Local Member Jack Sieffert stated at Eden, "Although slow moving, I am pleased under the circumstances, at the continued progress of the Tantawanglo Water Supply undertaking. We were able to give this work priority and not down like so many other Public Works—brought about by restricted credit and loan policy of the Menzies-Fadden Government. The completion of this water supply to Eden is a 'must' job and everything possible will be done to bring water to Eden with the utmost expedition".

Meanwhile at Boydtown, in timely serendipity Jen Drenkhahn spotted the sole rennt well, during a necessary entry through the kitchen area.. I am informed that there were five wells in the precinct, with the fourth disappearing during a major makeover, laving that pictured as the sole survivor.



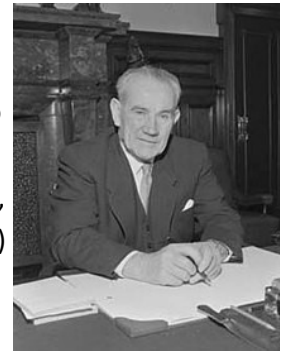
Forward to the memorable year of 1956. It was a happening year for Australia.. Excitement was building towards the Olympic Games, scheduled to be held in Melbourne venues. It was to be the first such event to be held in the Southern Hemisphere and the third since the end of WW2..

At that same time, people crowded around windows of those shops in Sydney and Melbourne which were selling the newly introduced television broadcast. I had reason to be walking, regularly, along King St Newtown and having to negotiate through several of these crowds along the way. Transmission was timed to commence and cover the

Olympics. AUSTRALIAN MADE Brands like Kriesler, AWA, Admiral and Astor were early starters. Should you be watching on a 21 inch job, you had hit the big time. The programmes were in black and white. Ch9 and the ABC vying to be first on air, with the stations closing their telecast at about 11PM,each evening.

But all this excitement and anticipation was small beer to this little town, near the Victorian border. A celebration the like of which hadn't been seen since that held for war's end a decade before. Was in the offing/ Piped water was coming.

After the nine long years since the stone was laid above the town of Candelo, the water was about to be turned on for all those within the scope of the reticulation. The person who was to undertake to turn the valve, was none other than Hon, NSW Premier, John Joseph (Joe) Cahill (1891-1959) who was Minister for Public Works, at the plaque unveiling.



The actual site. seems lost to time, though reading the newspaper article, places it at the hydrant that is on the "footpath", down a little from the RSL Hall. I had aimed to have an historic marker sited there but it didn't happen and is most unlikely to do so.

The Magnet & Voice of the day recorded the day's events over many column inches of copy, headlined:

Large Crowd View Official Turning-On Of Water, By Hon. J.J. Cahill.

To the accompaniment of cheers from the large crowd of adults and children, the Premier, (Hon J. J. Cahill), turned a valve in Imlay Park, Eden, on Friday last, to send water cascading into the sea, to officially open,the Tantawanglo Water Scheme.

Official Party Welcomed

The scheme which serves almost the whole of the Imlay Shire, was commenced in 1947 and was expected to be completed within three years Shortages of materials considerably held up the progress and th scheme was not

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completed until early this year.

Imlay Shire President, Clr. V.J. Collins and Deputy President, Clr. R.M.Hart met the Premier Hon J.J.Cahill and the Minister of Public Works and Local Government, the Hon, J.B.Renshaw at the Fred piper Lookout on the Brown Mountain and escorted them and their official party to Eden.

Official Party Welcomed.

At twelve noon the official party took their place on the dais in Imlay Park and the Shire President opened proceedings by extending a welcome to the Premier and Minister for Local Government and their accompanying party.

“We appreciate the fact that you saw fit to place Eden on your itinerary. With the State election campaign opening in the near future, we realise you could have quite easily cancelled this visit but instead you chose to fulfil your promise and we appreciate it,” said Clr. Collins.

The Shire President then gave some facts about the Tantawanglo Water Scheme and the difficulties experienced. ‘The first estimate of costs was 215,000 pounds,(\$430,000)but by the time the job was completed, the cost had risen to 415,000 pounds (\$830,000).

Remarkable Growth in Population

The first estimate was for 107 in Merimbula in 1947 but this figure has now risen to 270 services have been connected.

“These figures show the remarkable growth in these two towns” said Clr. Collins.

Clr. Collins concluded by thanking all past and present Councillors, Mr Renshaw and Mr J. Seiffert for the part they had played, in bringing the Tantawanglo Water Scheme to a successful conclusion.

In opening his remarks the Premier Kon. J.J.Cahill said he was delighted to come again to the garden heart of New South Wales, to perform the open-

ing ceremony.

As a former Minister for :Local Government, he was glad to be associated with the Tantawanglo Water Scheme

It had been his pleasure to turn the first sod for the construction of the scheme in 1947.

“It is strange that when an amenity such as this is supplied, one wonders how we got along without it before”, said the Premier



The probable hydrant from which the Premier released water that heralded the piped system for the town, in 1956.

SEHGI.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Bermagui on 12th August. I am not sure of the details yet but August is normally the AGM meeting.

Thanks to Peter, Jenny and Margaret who have held the executive positions and those who, despite the tyranny of the distances, attended the meetings over the year.



At Eden May 2023



Hon. J.B. Renshaw

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About People

Birthdays

3rd Margaret Sheaves

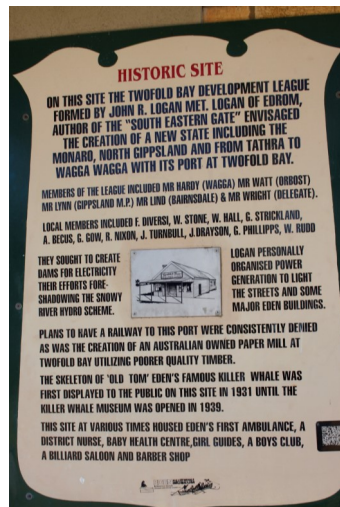
Congratulations to Marg, having passed her driving test, mandatory to drivers of a certain mature age.

12th Jenny Drenkhahn. Best wishes, Jen!

It is in sadness that I note the passing of Stan West. The Wests were very affable people and great members of our community and supporters of EKWM, before moving on to Bega. Stan worked for the local electricity provider while here and after his move north.



A remembered connection with EKWM; A few years after the family's move, Stan came into the shop brandishing a document that he had treasured for a number of years. The doc was to be a donation to the Museum. And a treasure it was too, being a hand drawn plan for the electricity reticulation, Eden supplied from the plan set in motion by our founding President, John Logan. The plan remains in the collection.



It was gift about 30 years ago and as I remember it, it had been an honest drawing, maybe created on a kitchen table, making it even a more a treasured item for EKWM. Again my memory of it was that it showed detail of the handful of street lights and expected connections. The plant was to generate until late in the evening, at which time it would close down until the next morning.

In 1910, Henry Lawson wrote; "Did You See us Sailing By"

We'd raced the glass from Gabo
To save an autumn day
We dared not run for Disaster Bay

The Calendar

JULY

10th NSW Schools resume

17th Vic schools resume

August

12th SEHGI Bermagui (more information to come)

My interest was further sharpened as the generating plant had been situated behind the Twofold Bay Development Rooms, which property my family owned at the time of the gift. The shed still remains and remnants of the engine block, still quite visible.

Like another project, the providing of a stand alone Museum building, John Logan didn't survive to see power for Eden township in operation.

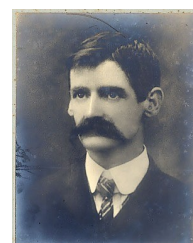
Vale Stan West.

Thank you for your contribution



A document such as the foregoing could easily be identified at a glance as being non-descript and discarded. Value to the town's history, its keeping is of enormous consequence.

I have asked a number of friends, when I was aware they were cleaning up an estate, to, before they burn, donate the sorted items to the Museum. There was, of the past, so much story in written copy. Even the old, humble, grocery docket has much to tell. There isn't much to show for these requests, but I remain an optimist



Keep

Warm.....

Jack

