

# Soundings

EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Established 1931

Newsletter January, 2024

## And So to 2024

Welcome to 2024. Hope you had a happy holiday period with family and lots of kids to make it a complete time of enjoyment.

The weather has been indifferent, but really, this is not uncommon our area at this time of year. It certainly wasn't kind to beachgoers but luckily, not rough enough to bring discomfort to the campers.

To me, the parks looked to have returned to pre-covid demand and I trust they did.

It also appeared that the mass exodus took place a few days earlier and by that second weekend vacant spaces were obvious. Maybe a wrong take on my part, or maybe an attempt for the visitors to beat some of the traffic, which is horrendous to the north. There is still some unavoidable, main street, chokings. A southward journey has improved considerably more over the past decade than that of its opposite journey.

Where has it gone, you might ask. Here we are in '24, the final year of the first quarter of the "new" century. Time certainly does seem to gallop as the years gather in your own life.

And me? Well I'm still here white-knuckled, waiting for the millennium bug to arrive to wreak untold havoc on life and the world as we know it... What a con! I'm turning to the latest concern to what we must all share. Beingscared while waiting for its arrival, namely A.I. As I put the millennium-bug search to rest.



I put the bug to rest a search for AI. I finished up with, was a bloke equipped with a full arms-length rubber glove!

At EKWM we have witnessed the ebbs and flows of tourism changes and peoples' tastes over many decades. Undoubtedly, the underlying attractions are what nature has provided us. We need to guard them jealously so we and our visitors can continue to enjoy the bounty

EKWM is the prime made attraction in our area and beyond. While it has been attending to its raison detre of collecting, recording, conserving and displaying local history, it has succeeded to build the amenity to that of international standing

The Museum contributes both directly and indirectly, to the local economy. The team of loyal volunteers both old-hands and those who have come on board recently, do a sterling job to help maintain all that we stand for. Their key role is to ensure that our visitors leave with a favourable and enlightened opinion of EKWM. Ten out of ten

And the volunteers have been and continue to be "under the pump" as the peak lespasses. If you could give a little time, but maybe a little hesitant, don't hang back, the crew will welcome you and help you to settle in. Give the office a call. 6496 2094

This season, for much of the period, the weather worked in our favour, with attendance records being broken and broken again . For cruise passengers, the weather left a lot to be desired, but I'm sure all would have enjoyed their call at our little town.

### Australia Day

Another new year lament for me is that, as far as I know, no organisation in our town has taken up the challenge of a celebration for our national day,. I do know that it is our national day. If you hold ant doubts as to be why we should celebrate it, just turn on the T.V. for a few minutes and view the rest of the world. Where is a better places to live and bring up your kids?



I know the the date causes some heartache and I have my opinion about that. It is something on which agreement could and should be met.. But as it stands it is of our national day and I local acknowledgement is most desirable.

We at EKWM held the banner high for a couple of decades. On each year a programme was developed and several formats followed, from breakfasts, lunches, evening street carnivals, guest speakers, and acknowledgement of local citizens' contributions to the community. One remembered clearly, was an evening Imlay St event over which a short, violent storm broke. There was a lightning strike just a few metres from the crowd. It was all over in about 10 and the we continued on, undaunted!

Sadly covid and that old bloke who needs a haircut and carries a scythe ,conspired to put such events beyond the hard working stalwarts.

#### Aust Day 2003

<- John Crosby, Hotel Australasia, a Broken Hill boy, organised an appeal for drought affected farmers ,is with Rob Whiter.....



We even had green & gold cupcakes

Herman Boller -> An example to us all, is with Clr David Hede



Steve Mahony always generous with his music



## Getting Booked

So there I was. I woke up bright eyed and bushy tailed, resolving that I WOULD tidy up and sort my bookshelves. This had been regularly suggested by my nearest and dearest. Notwithstanding that, I was fully aware of how the pathway to hell is brought about.

I set a cracking pace: Australia at war, tick. Politics. Tick. Biographies, tick,. Aust poetry well on the way. Local history ....and... I picked up "Birth, Death& Marriage Notices from the Bombala Times 1912 – 1920". "Oh I forgot I had that. I'll just take a little squizzy". Bad move.

Time sped, other duties called and yet another resolution evaporated into the ether and another slab of pavement made.

Most who know me have been made aware (ad-nauseam?) of my lamentations of not only the loss of locally owned and edited newspapers, but more particularly, (with the odd exception), the treasure contained obituaries of local citizens.

None were more adept at obituaries than the Johnsons in their over half century of proprietorship of the Times. I learnt a lot of Monaro history from these writings. The last of the family, Gerry (apologies if spelling is incorrect) passed away in recent times, at Tathra, to where he had retired.

Gerry had made magnificent donations to Bombala & District Historical Society, over the years

This book of course was of pre Johnson years but it was of a great initiative B&DHS to put in the work in 1993, to bring this publication about. I knew many of the individuals who were still about in my time in the town and certainly acquainted with most of the families.

I bring it to this newsletter after being surprised at the number of connections with Eden. The way the narrative runs when compared to today's style.

The man was master. Quite often when lady was the deceased her Christian (as it was then) name was not mentioned. She was just Mrs Joe Blow.

It is a timeline on causes of death with diseases, seldom encountered today but still in adult conversation in my childhood like diphtheria and tetanus (lock jaw) and typhoid, horse accidents, gun discharges and

unthinkable suicides by strychnine poison, which was readily available as used on most farms, for pest eradication .

It brings the first world war back to the home front and the Spanish flu pandemic must have been horrendous. The remoteness of where these rugged individuals lived, added to a shortened life

One entry refers to, "one of our **oldest** residents, Mr Henry Garratty passed away on Monday, **aged 78** (my emphasis).

Some extracts;-

15/8/1913 . Mr George Dunbar Davidson passed away on Wednesday at Cooma, He was born in Sydney in 1842 and was approaching his 71st birthday, a member of the noted whaling Davidson family of Eden, in which he played an active part in his early life. Coming to Monaro 46 years ago, he lived at Jindabyne, Mittagong and Boloka, afterwards carrying on a livery stable for 26 years,

10/10/1913. Mr Robert Wiles and Mrs Whalen of Bombala were married at Christ Church Pambula on Sunday morning.28th September, by Rev. R. Upjohn

24/10/ 1913The death is announced of Rev Colin Roger Greig\*, one of the pioneer ministers of the Presbyterian Church. He arrived from Scotland in 1860 and was an able and eloquent preacher. For many years he laboured strenuously in the charges of Eden, Bombala, Dubbo, Hill End and Walcha

9/10/1914. Mr William Weatherhead passed away in Bega, aged 68.Born at Nangutta, a son of Alexander Weatherhead, and spent most of his life there, until about 15years ago he purchased "Naroon", the beautiful home on Newtown Road, Bega. All his family, with the exception of Mrs Everingham, were with him at the last.

25/11/1914 The news reached Eden on Tuesday of the death in Sydney of Mr. O.H. Piesley, son of Mr W. Piesley of Saltwater Creek. Cause of death-typhoid.....

I trust you will find some interest in these notes.

\* I don't know if Rev Greig was related to the residents of that name. but do know relation ship[is here with others..... I'll run some more next month.



## Obituary

Information over the holiday period that Long time fisherman and shore based industry person, Gordon Schafer, has passed away at the age of 101 years. Another of our town characters gone to his rest.

Gordon and late wife Lex, were constant but quiet supporters of EKWM. He donated the dinghy that is on show among the other craft we have. If I remember correctly he had purchased the boat from Nock and Kirby (George Street, Sydney, hardware merchants for what would be seen as petty cash, today. It arrived at EKWM in pristine condition and continues to entertain and educate the tens of thousands of visitors as each year passes.

Vale Gordon Schafer Thank You

Also remembering and respecting Lex at this time



### January

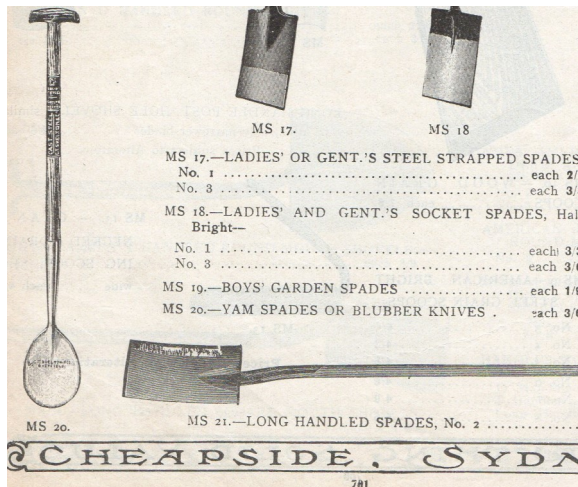
- 26th Australia Da
- 28th Coral Princess Arr.9AM
- 29th Vasco Da Gama Arr. 15.30
- 30th School returns

### February

- 3rd Disney Wonder Arr. 10 AM
- 5th Azamara Journey Arr. 7.30
- 8th Norwegian Spirit Arr. 11AM
- 10th Norwegian Spirit Arr. 11AM
- 13th Silver Whisper Arr. 07 AM
- 14th valentine's Day
- 14th Viking Sky Arr. 8AM
- 16th Viking Neptune Arr. 8AM
- 20th Seabourn Odyssey Arr.7.00 AM
- 28th Azamara Onward Arr. 7.30 AM
- 29th Majestic Princess Arr. 7.00 AM

If

If you are looking for something to do on the long weekend, here's a bargain for you... F. Lassetter & co, Cheapside Sydney has the deal for you. Why not yoan try your hand at blubber cutting? Or perhaps getting into a few yams. 3/6 (35c) will get you started



Sorry ,no steak knives with this offer.

### March

- 3rd Norwegian Spirit Arr. 11AM
- 5th Norwegian Spirit Arr. 7AM
- 8th Celebrity Edge Arr.9AM
- 11th Holiday ACT & Vic
- 12th Grand Princess Arr. 7AM
- 16th Matthew Flinders. 250y Anniversary
- 18th Crystal serenity Arr.8AM
- 20th Nautical Arr. 1PM
- 27th Norwegian Spirit Arr. 11AM
- 28th Vic School break up

Mother Earth, in coming seasons, shall fulfil her motherhood,  
 Then the children of her bosom never more shall want for food,  
 And oppression shall no longer grind the people iron shod  
 For the lifted hand of Labour is the upraised hand of God

Henry Lawson, 1891. A wish to many so deserving, in 2024

Wishing you all  
a happy and  
healthy 2024

*Jack*

