

Attn Sue Williams

Traveller

By Kyle Davi

803 Words

w/ Pics + Breakout

A rustic sailboat creaks on its mooring as gentle waves greet the molding sides, attempting to wash away years of adventures with salty water. A silhouette appears in the morning sun, tossing a large bucket over the boat's rotting railing before hopping aboard.

Beyond this one sailboat, more ships sit rocking along the two parallel docks, all in the same state of rusty disrepair. Even though they vary in size, shape, and use, every ship is in desperate need for a restoration.

History is embraced within the tarnish of the Eden Wharf, located along the southern coast of New South Wales. But this harbour scene is about to be dramatically altered, changing the small town of Eden forever.

"People are excited," said Jenny Robb, President of the Community Liaison Committee, "This is the first time since the downturn of the fishing industry we're feeling positive vibes in town."

This enthusiastic atmosphere is caused by the Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension Project. This \$25 million project will soon allow cruise ships to dock directly onto a newly refurbished wharf to unload visitors into the small town.

The traditional, small, coastal town is thriving even before the renovation of its wharf, making this the perfect time to explore everything Eden has to offer. As 4-month resident, Ann Thomas says, “We’re here in this absolute paradise.”

With mountains on one side and an ocean on the other, Eden is a perfect destination for visitors to enjoy. Everywhere you turn, there are stunning vistas to be admired, with ample places to soak in the view while resting on a wooden bench or grassy field.

A multitude of beaches are sprinkled amongst the coastline, providing warm and smooth white blankets that accompany those who visit their shore. Some small stretches of sand remain hidden by the tall coastal forest of gum trees, only accessible by a trek through the woods.

The hike along the southern coast of Eden to find these secluded beaches yields plenty of vistas to view the bay’s waves. The walk encompasses the surrounding sea cliffs, providing many stairs and steep paths to traverse but also producing excellent lookouts.

This trail is part of the Bundian Way, a newly renovated Aboriginal walk from the inland mountains to the coast. Its clearly defined path leads the mild adventurer between beaches before turning towards the distant peaks, all while keeping the bay in sight.

The water of Twofold Bay sparkles from the sun’s rays, blinding those who try to spot passing whales and dolphins. Marine life is not afraid of human intervention, even coming directly amongst the ships of Eden’s Wharf to grab a bite to eat along their migration journeys.

That connection with ocean life has been a prominent feature throughout Eden's history. Most residents know the story of Old Tom the killer whale, and the connection he had with the town around a century ago.

Old Tom was so important to the small whaling community, his remains can be found front and center at the Eden Killer Whale Museum. The myth of Tom's assistance in humpback whale hunting with the Davidson family in the 19th Century is laid out for visitors to explore in one of the most unique museums in the world.

However, the museum is not the only way to discover Eden. A stroll along the wharf supplies a multitude of friendly fishermen and residents ready to bestow their knowledge of the town.

People like the Thomases are more than eager to discuss Eden's past over a cup of coffee at one of the wharf's many cafés or restaurants. And being directly on the wharf, the seafood directly from the boat, like Eden's famous oysters, is beyond compare.

Now is the time to visit Eden and maybe see the rusting boats before they are replaced by shining white cruise liners.

Ends/BK follows

BREAKOUT ONE: PLACES TO STAY

Take your breath away with views of Twofold Bay while staying at Eagle Heights of Eden during your trip. Multiple clifftop apartments provide sweeping panoramas of the bay's water

from both the gazebo and pool. Rooms with balconies have the better views, so booking one of those is recommended. www.eagleheightsofeden.com.au/

Live in the luxury of a 4-star hotel during your stay in Eden at the Seahorse Inn. With balconies facing the waters of Twofold Bay and Eden's wharf, this resort provides an excellent vista of the small town. Book your stay in this 12 bedroom hotel at www.seahorseinnhotel.com.au/

Snuggle up in a cozy rental apartment directly in the heart of Eden's Wharf at Snug Cove Villas. Perfectly positioned between the wharf and downtown, there are plenty of activities within a short walking distance. Find out more about Snug Cove Villas, along with other rentals in the Eden area, at www.edenholidayrentals.com.au/

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