

Port Welshpool & District Maritime Museum

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W: ptwelshpoolmuseum.wix.com/pwmuseum

Here's wishing one and all a happy and healthy 2025

Port Welshpool has been abuzz over the last few weeks with the perfect fishing weather; the boat ramp has been queue after queue and the car park full to overflowing as the summer holidays are soaked up.

Visitors have travelled from near and far to enjoy the great outdoors this part of South Gippsland has to offer, and I must add some battling the sand flies. And now with the "*Rusty Gurnard*" up and running all the support is wonderful to see, and how it has given the port a positive vibe. "Every town needs a pub."

With more families visiting the port, the Museum has been steady also, with interested visitors. Many interested to learn the then and now of history of a fishing port, others searching for information on families that once called the area home - many just love history. SUTHERLAND is one of the well-known names of our area. Owners of many fine race horses, [*Epicmark* and *Paxarena* to name two] an abattoir, and also the butchers shop.

A recent member of the Sutherland family brought us back in time with memories of a fun-filled childhood riding bikes and horses and the innocents of youth.

Jim Roberts also has a great memory of Mr Arthur Sutherland. Even though Jim was scared of horses, he remembers swimming race horses for Mr Sutherland Snr. With Jim in the security of the dinghy he rowed while Arthur held the horse on a rope, towing it along behind the dinghy until the horse swam faster than Jim could row, but with a gentle tap on the head from Arthur the horse would drop back. Many young local lads filled their love of horses helping out at the stables and swimming the horses at the port.

A Sutherland landmark still stands proudly on the corner opposite the Welshpool pub where many a fine cut of meat was brought and enjoyed.

Rob with his well-trained, experienced workers in their navy and white striped aprons with blood smears to show their handy work: sawdust shavings on the floor: and an ever sharp knife, as the cut of meat was chosen.

The Museum proudly has on display the wheel that was used to sharpen these knives. Home meat deliveries were for Port Welshpool on a Friday. As butcher shops are few and far between these days, we live with the memories of what once was and the Museum holds on proudly to these exhibits so in the future, generations can learn what once was and others can bask in the childhood memories.