

Facebook page set up to report Bicheno whale sightings

# The great southern love affair



HANNAH MARTIN

WHALE watching has captivated a community on the East Coast.

Bicheno residents want to set up a system to alert people when whales are spotted offshore.

In the past, enthusiasts have passed on the word through phone calls — but they are eager to establish a better system.

The residents have set up the Bicheno Whale Watch Facebook page to report whale sightings, and they are investigating the possibility of a siren system to alert the community when whales are nearby.

Photographer Tim Buckley said as many as 30 whales had been seen off Bicheno in a single day.

The whales could be viewed from the shore but did not stick around for long, he said.

“What we are trying to do is set up a thing where we ring the church bell or set up a siren on the roof of



**SPECTACULAR:** Up to 30 whales breached off Bicheno on the East Coast on a single day and locals want to set up a warning system. Pictures: TIM BUCKLEY

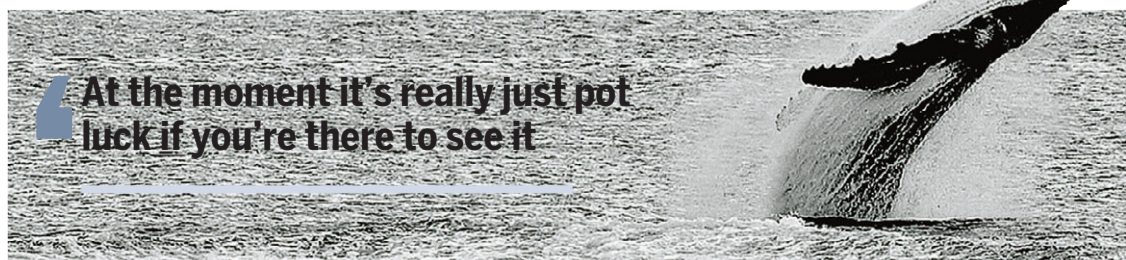
a building, so then more people get to see them,” Mr Buckley said.

“Sometimes they’re less than 40m from the rocks and they’ll swim within 10m of the point and rub their bellies on the rocks.

“Often they’ll breach out of the water from nowhere — the reaction from visitors who manage

to catch it is quite amazing. But at the moment it’s really just pot luck if you’re there to see it.”

Locals and fishermen say there has been a record number of whale sightings on the East Coast this year. State Government wildlife experts told the *Mercury* it has “been our best year”.



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## Mum stuck with chores

MOTHERS keep slaving after their adult children who are still living at home, with young men the worst culprits, research shows.

The University of NSW study shows young adults are riding the gravy train at their parents’ homes and relying on their mothers to do the housework.

The study used Australian Bureau of Statistics data to compare the domestic work done by 5512 people aged between 15 and 34 living at home, with that of their parents.

It found 97 per cent of mothers did daily housework, compared with 81 per cent of fathers.

Young women, at 74 per cent, did far more than young males, with only 54 per cent of them helping.

## Heart op for Bert Newton

BERT Newton will have a life-saving quadruple bypass heart operation lasting about 5½ hours today.

The 74-year-old television legend has been in the Epworth hospital in Melbourne’s Richmond since Wednesday after experiencing chest pains.

He was upbeat yesterday, saying from his hospital bed that he wanted the surgery to be a success so he could spend more time with grandchildren and family.

“As far as my life is concerned, they are the most important things in my life,” he said.

Newton said he understood the serious nature of the surgery, but had a positive attitude toward it.

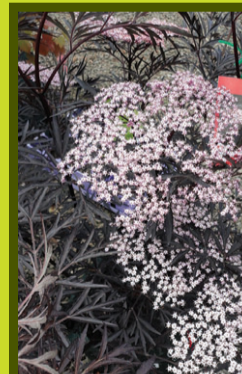


Summer is coming on fast, but there is still plenty of colour in the gardens, time to think of shade trees!

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