



MAINSTAY

PO Box 3080, Syndal VIC 3149 Australia
 Email: secretary@mhav.net ~ Website: www.mhav.net
 Newsletter of the Maritime Heritage Association of Victoria, Inc.

MEMBERS' EVENT

6.30PM 23 AUGUST 2011

TSS Coramba Mystery Solved!

Missing for 76 years, the wreck of the 531-ton twin screw steamer has finally been found. MHAV presents a talk by Martin Tozer from Southern Ocean Exploration on the history, the search and the discovery of TSS *Coramba*.

Please display the enclosed flyer at your workplace, tell your friends, and come along to hear about one of the most intriguing findings in Victorian maritime history.

where government is obliged to respond to public opinion. Who is prepared to speak up by talking to local members of parliament and ministers, writing letters and working with the media?

In the meantime, the MHAV continues to work with the Victorian maritime heritage community. We recently met with Museum Victoria and have formalised a working relationship with Maritime Museum of Victoria, who represent four Melbourne and eight regional maritime museums.

We continue to assist Seaworks with the collection of ship models. We keep members informed of developments around the state and look for suitable homes for maritime artifacts.

The MHAV will again be sponsoring first prize for the "Best Representation of Victorian Maritime Heritage" at the October Maritime Art Exhibition at the Mission to Seafarers, their most important fund raising event of the year.

We look forward to seeing you at the August members' event, on the mystery of the TSS *Coramba*.

Enclosed is your membership renewal form. Our voice is only as strong as our members, so please send in your renewal now and lend your support to Victorian maritime heritage.

Tim Horton, President MHAV

EDITORIAL

What Has Happened to the Dream?

Nine years have passed since the MHAV was formed. Our hope has long been to see a State maritime heritage centre set up at the former PMA site at Williamstown. So what is happening there now?

Four of the buildings are heritage listed, tall ships continue to moor alongside Workshops Pier and intermittent events are held. The east wall and floor of the Nelson Room are being refurbished for a permanent exhibition of shipbuilders' models.

Parks Victoria granted Seaworks Foundation a two-year lease on 27 August 2010. With just over one year remaining, the prerequisites for renewal of the Seaworks lease are not fully understood. An operating plan has not been sighted.

How important is it to retain this unique site for its intended purpose? Being crown land, who is ultimately responsible? Steve Bracks, then Premier of Victoria and also the local Member, announced (twice) the intended purpose of the site as a maritime heritage precinct.

So when will our new government pick up where previous premiers left off? We live in a democracy

Have you thought about representing your own organisation within MHAV?

All Member Organisations are entitled to join the MHAV Committee. Come along and join the discussion, help drive MHAV's direction and contribute your own skills and enthusiasm.

Member Organisations get their logo on our website as well!

Please email Tim Horton, timhorton@aapt.net.au, or ring 0418 316 597 if you'd like to find out more.

VESSEL AND HERITAGE REPORTS

ALMA DOEPEL, TOPSAIL SCHOONER: At Shed 2 Docklands, six weeks of volunteer effort with sledgehammers, crowbars and a 10-tonne hydraulic jack have finally removed *Alma's* sponsons and all 38 chainplates (including 114 bolts). Volunteers and visitors are always welcome, 10am to 5pm, Thursdays to Saturdays, or by arrangement. A sausage sizzle is held on the *third Saturday* of every month, from 5-7pm, for friends and volunteers. See website for location and details.

Contact: Peter Harris. Mob: 0427 829 134

Email: sal@almadoepel.com.au

Web: almadoepel.com.au

CERBERUS, MONITOR AT BLACK ROCK: Design work for the bracing structures to prevent the heavy turrets collapsing through the deck of *Cerberus* will be done by Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering company BMT after a 3-dimensional scan of the *Cerberus* structure from a barge alongside, planned for 14 July. The \$500,000 Federal grant has been re-negotiated so that it can now be applied to this important work, which is being managed by Bayside City Council. The Victorian Navy display in the Geelong Maritime Museum continues to grow. The recent acquisition of a one inch Nordenfelt machine gun projectile, donated by the Apollo Bay Historical Society Museum, means that projectiles from all of the primary and secondary armaments used on *Cerberus* are now on display. Details on the Victorian Navy, the campaign to Save the *Cerberus* and ways to obtain a free or paid rank in the Victorian Navy can be found on the website.

Contact: John Rogers. Mob 0403 070 601

Email: john.rogers@cerberus.com.au

Web: cerberus.com.au

ENTERPRIZE, REPLICA OF MELBOURNE'S FOUNDING COLONIAL SCHOONER: She may be a replica, but *Enterprize* is the working vessel which provides us with a direct reminder of the founding of our city by the bay. Once again the ship is undergoing her winter refit in readiness for another busy sailing year. In addition to day sails from Williamstown, Geelong, Portarlington, Rye, and a busy schools program, voyages are scheduled for Port Welshpool and Western Victoria.

Contact: Bill Burrell. Ph: 9397 3477

Email: sailing@enterprize.org.au

Web: enterprize.org.au

POLLY WOODSIDE, MUSEUM SHIP AND DOCK: The National Trust is reducing the number of its staff by 11. To PWVA's great disappointment this includes Graeme Cooper, our Maintenance Coordinator, who will be greatly missed for his professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm. There was also a break-in at the ship last month with vandals climbing over the fence and walking up the gangway. They threw overboard the fire-buckets and one of the skylight grilles. Missing also are the ships' lifebuoys from the fo'c'sle. The Pump-house has flooded again, with Derek Moore having been

permitted only one inspection.

Contact: Neil Thomas. Ph: 9802 4608

Email: thomclan1@bigpond.com

Web: pwva.org.au, pollywoodside.com.au

LADY CHELMSFORD, EX SYDNEY STEAM FERRY: The vessel which sank in February 2008 at Central Pier, Docklands, was finally broken up underwater, raised in bits and scrapped by the Insurers over the period 1 to 17 June 2011. Owner Keith Rankin had planned to restore *Lady Chelmsford* but delays in arranging a quick raising of the vessel made such plans impossible. *Lady Chelmsford*, built in 1910 was the last wood "Lady" class ferry afloat and her loss under these circumstances is much regretted.

SEAWORKS, SITE AT WILLIAMSTOWN: Continues to receive further ship models and other maritime artefacts. A permanent display in the Nelson Room of the ship builders' models is well advanced. A model of the *Thermopylae*, built by his father, was recently donated by Max Moate of Bright. Max tells us, "The *Thermopylae* made her maiden voyage to Melbourne in 1868 setting a speed record of 60 days, a record unbroken to this day. From 1882 she is recorded having visited Williamstown many times in her long and distinguished career as a wool clipper, sharing the route from London to Australia and the Far East with many famous clippers including *Cutty Sark*."

Contact: Geoff Dougall. Mob: 0416 235 366

Email: gndoug@bigpond.net.au

Web: seaworks.com.au

WATTLE, STEAM TUG: *ST Wattle* has entered a fresh phase in her restoration with a clean-up of the site and a reorganisation of the management structure, with the appointment of a new safety officer, Jeff Malley, and project manager Anthony Mansfield, a marine engineer. And according to Navy records, a propeller was fitted in January 1953 while *Wattle* was in dock at Garden Island, Sydney. Rob Newland scrubbed away at the propeller and discovered the maker's mark which clearly stated that it had been manufactured on 2.2.53. How could a propeller made in February 1953 have been installed in January 1953? An archival conundrum!

Contact: Peta Knott. Ph: 0407 232 987

Email: petaknott@archaeologist.com

WOODEN BOAT ASSOCIATION: The Wooden Boat Association was formed in 1989 for people who enjoy wooden boats and boat building. Members appreciate wooden boats for their aesthetic qualities, the beauty of the boats and the materials from which they are constructed, and the pure romance of wooden boats. In this age of mass production, each boat is as individual as her owner. The WBA is a member and active supporter of the MHAV.

Contact: Andrew Cohen. Ph: 0408 033 573

Email: andrew.cohen123@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.woodenboat.asn.au



The end of Lady Chelmsford: The jackup barge with grab and crane together with the transport barge, bins and workboats at Central Pier berth 14. A full bin is being moved from jackup barge to transport barge. Materials were transported to North Wharf for loading on to trucks. (Image L. Rex).

Appreciation - Lindsay Rex

Lindsay Rex, a committee member since the founding of MHAV in 2002, and at various times Vice-President, President, Secretary, Newsletter editor, Vessel Reports editor, photographer and contributor, has left the Committee to concentrate on some of his own projects. We will miss his enormous enthusiasm and hard work on behalf of MHAV. Thank you, Lindsay.

MELBOURNE FOUNDATION DAY

On 30 August 2011 we are due to celebrate 176 years since John Pascoe Fawkner's ship the *Enterprize* first moored on the banks of the Yarra River at what is now Enterprize Wharf at the bottom of Market Street, adjacent to Queens Bridge. www.melbourneday.com.au has now been updated with details of the 2011 celebrations. The fascinating story of the founding of Melbourne is an integral part of our maritime heritage.

MHAV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next newsletter will announce the date for our AGM, which is normally held in October.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS ART PRIZE

The MHAV is again sponsoring the Mission to Seafarers ANL Maritime Art Prize with a \$500 award for "Best Representation of Victorian Maritime Heritage". The exhibition will be 6-23 October, at 717 Flinders Street, Docklands: see www.missiontoseafarers.com.au

What Should we do with Maritime Books?

MHAV is occasionally offered donations of maritime books. The site at Seaworks is not set up to look after them, and none of the committee have space for an MHAV Collection. So we are asking you, our members - what should we do? Ideas so far suggested are to have a members' auction or to set up a library (somewhere). Please send your ideas to committee@mhav.net.

BELL COLLECTION FINDS NEW HOME

The Polly Woodside Volunteers' **Jack Davey Bell Collection**, consisting of some 30 ships bells, has been offered to Seaworks, on the understanding it will be returned to the PWVA on request. It is great that the Bell Collection is to remain complete after the enormous effort that Jack Davey made to collect them over many years.



Archibald Russell, the giant steel 4-masted barque that traded to Melbourne in the 1920s. MHAV members funded the acquisition of a model of Archibald Russell, now on display at Seaworks.

Welcome to our new MHAV members

Nigel Allom, Graeme Cameron, Alan Chinn, Kellie Clayton, Mac Craig, John Dunstan, Neil MacLean, Karen McMillan, Phyl McMillan, George Marney, Francis Noonan, Derek Smith, William Villet, Howard Mumford, The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (Victorian Division).



Alma Doepel in the late 1980s. Image from the Alma Doepel archives.



Enterprize in The Battle of the Bay, 26 January 2011. Image K. Lance.



Young Endeavour in The Battle of the Bay, 26 January 2011. Image K. Lance.



Rob Newland discovers February 1953 manufacturer's mark on *ST Wattle's* propellor.
Image: Ros Osborne, Eastern Suburbs Photographic Society.

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