

Australian Maritime Museums Council Annual Conference 2011



"Building Support"

This year's Australian Maritime Museums Council (AMMC) conference was held at Mannum on the banks of the picturesque Murray River over two days on 24-25 March. 23 presenters covered a wide range of topics with many issues being discussed by the 40 delegates from every state. Tim Horton, Kate Lance and Peta Knott represented the MHAV. The AMMC is the peak body representing our country's maritime museums. The MHAV is a member of Museums Australia and the Maritime Museums Network.

Maritime museums face many challenges while they toil to preserve and present our maritime heritage. Maritime museums around the country are dependent on volunteers with only a select few having some paid staff.

The hospitality provided by the volunteers from the Mannum Dock Museum was outstanding. We were treated to trips on the local paddle steamer *PS Marion* and *PS Oscar W* from Goolwa. The river offers a unique world class attraction with 16 wood fired paddle steamers in operation.

Stationary steam engines were operating including a Keys Beam engine used to pump out the dry dock. Unfortunately the historic dry dock at Mannum is permanently flooded due to lack of funds for restoration.

Conference presentations provided an insight into the activities and experiences of maritime museums around the country, with most time spent on preservation and organisation issues.

On behalf of the MHAV, Tim presented a summary of maritime heritage activities around Victoria for the last twelve months.

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AROUND THE PORT

Peninsula Ship Society

Representing the MHAV, last month Tim delivered the same presentation given to the recent AMMC conference, to members of the Peninsula Ship Society. The society meets every month at the Hastings Yacht Club on Western Port Bay on the 4th Tuesday.

"All at Sea" exhibition

On the 4th of May at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Dr Henry Hudson, President of the Maritime Museum of Victoria (MMV), introduced Captain Peter McGovern who opened the exhibition. Sponsored by the MMV, 27 of Jack L. Koskie' superb paintings of many of the ships which traded to Melbourne, are on display.

The MMV represents 13 independent Melbourne and Victorian regional maritime museums.

The exhibition is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm at the RHSV - 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.

"Steam to Surf" Heritage Festival

The National Trust conducted this inaugural event around Victoria from 8th April to 8 May. More than 130 organisations participated with open days and special events including the *Enterprize*, *Alma Doepel*, *Polly Woodside* and MMV museums.

Seaworks Foundation

The Nelson room is now receiving a make-over. A permanent exhibition of the shipbuilders models is being prepared.

Seaworks is now participating in the new on line cataloguing system, Victorian Collections, set up by Museums Australia (Victoria) and Museum Victoria. Digital catalogues of many of Victoria's maritime museums will be going on-line in July.



AMMC Conference *continued*

Conferences of this kind provide a constructive forum for exchanging ideas & experiences, establishing new contacts and building valuable relationships and networks.

It was agreed that there is now a need for the AMMC to extend its role from facilitating this annual conference to developing activities & roles within the maritime heritage community.

AMMC web site: <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/site/page62.php>

Wooden Boat Association

The Wooden Boat Association was formed in 1989 for people who enjoy wooden boats and wooden 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 wooden boat is as individual as her owner.

The WBA is a member and active supporter of the MHAV. Andrew Cohen, the President of the WBA is the Vice President of the MHAV.

Coming events

Sailing Day - Albert Park Yacht Club

Sun May 22 - 10am to 5pm

Club Night—Albert Park Yacht Club

Wed June 22 7.30pm to 9.30pm

View further details at

<http://www.woodenboat.asn.au/index.php>

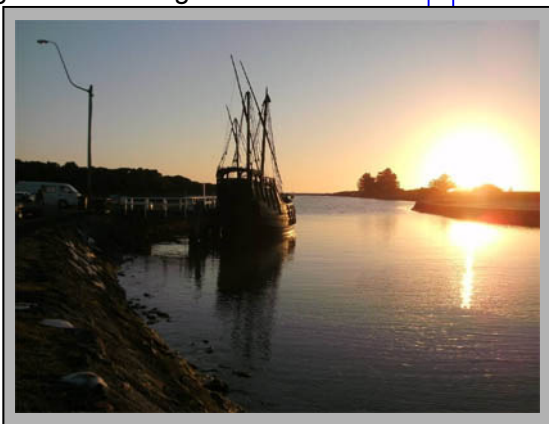
Launching "Notorious"

Our last newsletter reported the schedule for transporting and launching the *Notorious*

(aka *Raven*).

We recently stepped on board the caravel replica, now moored in river at Port Fairy. Graeme

and Felicity Wylie are now conducting regular tours over the ship for school groups.



Thankyou letter from Seaworks



Dear MHAV Members and Supporters,

On behalf of Seaworks Foundation and the maritime community of Victoria we thank you for contributing to the 'fund' that enabled the purchase of many significant and valuable items at the recent National Trust auction.

The purchased items will be stored and displayed at Seaworks and, along with other previously collected items, will form part of our maritime history education program.

Some work will be undertaken to the room and to some of the items over the next few months after which they will be put on display for the public to view.

We thank you again for your support and look forward to welcoming you to Seaworks to enjoy these and other features of the new Victorian maritime heritage site.

With Kind Regards
Trevor Huggard
Chair

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

MHAV annual subscriptions will fall due on 1st July. To assist in funding events and printing and mailing newsletters, the 2011-12, the subscription will be \$15.

***Your continued support of the
MHAV is greatly appreciated***