



MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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SEVEN DAYS

and a report on Sunday's auction

Your support has been overwhelming. The maritime heritage community across Victoria and New South Wales has risen to the challenge. We thank everyone who has responded including the many people who provided the vital financial support.

The positive outcomes from the week include:

- Ten models being withdrawn from the auction following the original donors being found
- Seven of those models being offered to Seaworks for public display
- \$23,000 raised for bidding at yesterday's auction
- Eight quality artifacts successfully acquired at the auction
- A public demonstration of the commitment by the MHAV and Seaworks Foundation to develop the Maritime Heritage Centre & Working Seaport at Williamstown
- A growing awareness of the enormous challenge still ahead of us to preserve Melbourne's maritime heritage

The following items were acquired for \$14,000: (Further details below)

- Model of 19th century steam ship "*Iberia*"
- Model of the 4 masted barque "*Archibald Russell*"
- Large brass inclinometer
- German brass octagon sextant in original box
- Large brass ship's compass and binnacle
- Howard Smith framed certificate
- Edina painted wooden sign with finely painted versions of the ship on reverse
- Two brass ship plaques

The auction demonstrated that many of the auctioned items are significant to Melbourne's maritime history and in many cases, very highly valued. Our team reported "Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, we were comprehensively out-bid on most items. With standing room only, bids were taken by phone and internet. Many people with deep pockets were bidding against us. Many items sold up to 4 or 5 times the catalogue suggested price. We lost the bidding for the two large models of HMS Oberon and Endeavour. They were sold for \$6500 and \$5500." It was decided to preserve our funds for more reasonably priced opportunities.

With many of the items being lost to private collections, where some may even leave the state, ***we appeal to the successful bidders to contact us with a view to Seaworks being able to display these items in the future.***

WHAT NEXT?

Gellibrand Lighthouse light.

The Gellibrand Lighthouse stood at the head of Melbourne Channel, lying off Williamstown's Point Gellibrand. On the foggy morning of 21 June 1976, the pile light was hit by the *Melbourne Trader*. The force of the collision snapped the ageing piles at the waterline.



The Gellibrand Light as it would appear at Seaworks in Williamstown.

Just before the fire was lit to destroy the precariously leaning structure, the lantern and dome were salvaged by the Harbour Trust. They were later displayed alongside the maritime museum complex next to the barque *Polly Woodside*. The Hobsons Bay City Council had endeavored to keep the light at Williamstown.

We again need your support to demonstrate that this maritime “jewel” belongs to Williamstown, to become an icon at Seaworks.

7 Ship Models

Seaworks is finalising arrangements to be able to permanently display seven of the model ships which were withdrawn from the auction. More details when they come to hand.

More good news is expected shortly - stay tuned.

It is not too late to send your donation

Funds are still urgently required to acquire further artefacts and build display facilities.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Sunday's acquisitions

SS Iberia - a good quality model of an immigrant ship in the era of transition from sail to steam.

A detailed static model of the mid-19th century steam ship with a body of carved and moulded wood, painted in black and white, the planked deck with detailed fittings and rigging, raised on a wooden base with simulated waves, the base 149 cm long, the vessel 139 cm long.

Archibald Russell - one of the famous 4-masted barques prominent in the Australian grain trade.

A detailed static model with carved and laminated hull painted in white and maroon, the varnished deck with detailed fittings and rigging, raised on wooden base with simulated waves, the vessel 117 cm long.

This ship has significant links with Australian and Victorian commerce. She was launched at Greenock in 1905 for John Hardie & Sons, and until 1922 completed numerous cargo voyages to Sydney, Newcastle, Fremantle, Geelong, and especially Melbourne. In 1923 she was bought by Gustaf Erikson, the famous Finnish ship-owner, and carried timber to Melbourne in 1926, 1927 and 1928, and carried grain from Geelong in 1927 and Williamstown in 1929 - and that was the year she won the Grain Race (93 days)!

She then carried grain from South Australia until the war and was then taken over by the British and used as a food storehouse through the war. She was broken up in 1949 on Tyneside.

So as an example of end-era sailing ship trade with Australia, there could hardly be a better representative than the Archibald Russell. For more details on AR's history –

http://www.bruzelius.info/Nautica/Ships/Fourmast_ships/Archibald_Russell%281905%29.html

From the research notes of Kate Lance

Brass inclinometer - A period brass inclinometer From the M. V. Sydney Trader, 82 cm high

German octant - A German brass octant Reading from 0 to 130 on the engraved brass scale, fitted with mirrors and a sight, together with a fitted wooden box, 25 cm long.

Departure sign - An attractive sign advertising the Edina's departure from Geelong for Melbourne

Three brass builder's plates – Details to come

Framed presentation certificate - from Howard Smith to a retiring employee.