



MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA Inc.

PO Box 408, Williamstown, Victoria 3016, Australia
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April 2007

NEWSLETTER No. 13

Report from the President

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2007!

I would like to begin my first report as President by paying tribute to the tireless effort that my predecessor Lindsay Rex devoted to the task in his two years in office. Not content with running the MHAV, he was working very hard towards the objectives of the MHAV for maritime heritage in this State, and more particularly towards our vision for the Williamstown Maritime Precinct, in his capacity as Secretary of the Williamstown Maritime Association. He is now taking a break from these activities much to Di's relief, having recently resigned from the WMA Committee (more details below), although we look forward to his continuing input to the MHAV and the benefit of his extensive maritime heritage experience through his ongoing position on the Committee.

The first committee meeting for the year was held in February, and a number of objectives were established for this year. These included:

- An approach to the board of the recently established Seaworks Foundation Ltd, in order to acquaint them of the MHAV's vision for the Williamstown Maritime Precinct, and to make them aware of interstate and international developments in the presentation of maritime heritage.
- Expanding our membership, by further developing links with Victorian maritime organisations which are not currently members of the MHAV, and encouraging the growth of our individual membership.
- Increasing the involvement of our membership, through organised activities throughout the year. The focus here will be on quality rather than quantity, as we know that members are busy with the activities of their own organisations. However a limited number of functions will promote cross fertilisation of ideas between our various member groups, and assist in building a larger body of support for the interests of maritime heritage in Victoria. Details of our first two functions are listed below, and I would encourage you all to participate to the maximum extent possible.

Recent developments regarding our involvement with the Williamstown Maritime Precinct have been frustrating, and are detailed in the following pages. The committee will be reviewing our strategy for promoting our vision to the Government and relevant agencies. This Williamstown site is a prime asset owned by the Victorian community, and it is vital that it be developed in recognition of the rich maritime heritage of the whole State.

Please continue to support the MHAV and its objectives by renewing your membership for 2006/07 if you have not already done so. See details below. I look forward to your participation in our activities during the remainder of the year.

John Milne

MHAV POLO SHIRTS - ORDER YOURS NOW!!!

Show your support for maritime heritage in Victoria! The MHAV has very smart polo shirts available in a grey colour, with the blue sailing ship emblem of the MHAV on the front and the words "Maritime Heritage Association of Victoria" in black lettering underneath.

Available in a range of sizes for only \$20.00 each!
Contact the Association on the numbers above to place your order.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE WILLIAMSTOWN SITE

After the annual meeting of the Williamstown Maritime Association, at which Brian Ashton (Director for steam tug *Wattle*), Chris Coghlan (*Alma Doepel* Supporters Club) and Ian Pullman (Director, Oceanic Research Foundation) were elected to the WMA committee, the ORF, one of our member organisations, submitted a comprehensive proposal for relocation of their activities to Williamstown, including their expedition ship *Dick Smith Explorer* and the establishment of a fully equipped volunteer workshop and a framework for the future management of volunteer labour on the site. This proposal would have brought significant benefits to the site including an established health and safety system. Unfortunately the proposal was rejected by Parks Victoria without explanation, noting prior consideration by the WMA (apparently after scant consideration), and no opportunity for discussion or negotiation. It is very disappointing that these organisations appear to have no desire to encourage the development of a permanent maritime activity centre, or to embrace other community based maritime interest groups which so desperately need a home and support for their activities. As a result of this rejection, the ORF has been forced to consider the disposal of its vessel, the *Dick Smith Explorer* and its associated equipment, and to consider its future role and capabilities. Ian Pullman has since resigned from the WMA committee to focus on these priorities for the ORF organisation.

OCEANIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION REPORT:

The *Dick Smith Explorer* (DSE) is still in the lock at Southbank awaiting guidance from Government with respect to suitable locations from which to operate. Despite many conversations it's apparent the powers that be are reluctant to assist ship operating maritime volunteer groups. Dialogue has been opened up with local parliamentary members and this is proving fruitful.

The ship team is working to prepare the ship for a safe exit from the lock should conditions improve. However the overall stalemate is causing much damage to the volunteer base.

The ORF believes the plight of the *DSE* is a litmus test on the relationship between the bureaucracies and the not for profit groups that operate vessels in the Port of Melbourne. The record to date is not good with all vessels struggling to get Government to understand their value within the volunteer sphere and the community generally.

Previous comments aimed at directing the ORF's attention to Williamstown are proving ineffectual for two reasons as seen by the MHAV committee. Firstly the local Williamstown group and now Parks Victoria do not indicate interest in accommodating locally based vessels with the result that joint ventures and real progress are being discouraged. Secondly the bureaucrats that oversee the associated policy areas whilst in some cases displaying considerable interest and sympathy, have not demonstrated influence where it counts. As a result the volunteer groups are constantly being pushed from pillar to post and directed to other departments who have little or no understanding of maritime not for profit activity.



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COMING ATTRACTIONS!!!!!!

Visit to Western Port Oberon Association Museum, Crib Point and HMAS Cerberus Museum - Saturday 28 April 2007.

Please refer to Page 6 for full details.

Antarctic Night - 14 August 2007, 7.30PM at the Port Education Centre

You are invited to an Antarctic Night (Just the thing for the middle of winter, but it will be warm inside!)

MHAV committee member and Oceanic Research Foundation Director Ian Pullman, travelled to the Antarctic on a 60 ft Schooner in January of 2007. Leaving from Ushuaia in Argentina and travelling down the Beagle Channel past the famous Cape Horn and across Drake's Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula.



We are pleased to have Ian speak about his travels, the cold and the scenery on August 14th 2007.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006/2007 ARE NOW OVERDUE

We hope that all Members, Newsletter recipients, and their friends will support us. A "Membership Renewal" and "Application for Membership" form is enclosed.

A Red Dot on your address label indicates your renewal is overdue.

Otherwise please consider passing the form to a prospective new member.

Membership remains at a low \$5.00.

REPORTS ON HERITAGE VESSELS

ALMA DOEPEL: TOPSAIL SCHOONER: Remains at Port Macquarie in NSW. Work is progressing towards a survey by NSW authorities. John Carroll has rejoined the board of owners Sail & Adventure Ltd.

Contact: Smiley Edmunds Ph: 5786 1164. Email: smileymarie@ozemail.com.au. Web: www.almadoepel.com.au

CERBERUS: MONITOR: The Friends of Cerberus organization arranged the majority of the colonial navy display, featuring *Cerberus*, at the Colonial Navy Boat Show at Williamstown over the weekend

24/25 March 2007. Ongoing discussions are being held with both Commonwealth and State government personnel regarding vessel jack up and stabilisation plans, costed at \$6.5million.
Contact: Peter Tully. Ph: 9298 4211. Email: cerberus@cerberus.com.au. Web: www.cerberus.com.au

CURLIP: REPLICA PADDLE STEAMER: A community group the PS Curlip Inc. of Orbost is building a 60ft replica of the 1890 built 40ft wooden paddle steamer *Curlip* which traded on the Snowy River between Orbost and the mouth at Marlo until lost there in 1919. Commonwealth, state and local funding of around \$1.3million enabled construction to begin in earnest in August 2006 in the old Orbost butter factory after the keel was laid in 2004. Used engine and boiler have been obtained from the UK and the boiler will be wood fired. Completion is planned late in 2008. The new *Curlip* will be surveyed for 55 passengers and crew.
Contact: Gil Richardson. Ph: 5154 1853. Email: curlip@eftl.net.au. Web: www.paddlesteamercurlip.com.au

ENTERPRIZE: REPLICA SCHOONER: Melbourne's tall ship *Enterprize* made her third voyage to Hobart in February, and participated in the Australian Wooden Boat Festival as well as making a return voyage to Port Davey. All voyages were fully booked. On return *Enterprize* resumed the busy schools program and Bay sails. When not sailing offshore the ship visits Geelong on the first Sunday each month with overnight sails from Williamstown, returning Sunday evening. These are ideal opportunities for part or all weekend sailing including overnight. On 17 April *Enterprize* will sail for western Victoria again, arriving at Port Fairy on 19th, Portland on 22nd, with return to Williamstown on 2nd May as part of the Regional Schools Program. Berths are still available during this normally settled time to cruise in Bass Strait. Full details of overnight and day sails are on the website.
Contact: Ph: 9397 3477. Email: sailing@enterprize.com.au. Web: www.enterprize.com.au

LADY CHELMSFORD: EXCURSION VESSEL: This ex Sydney 1910 built timber ferry remains berthed in Victoria Harbour and has recently been sold to a Melbourne buyer who is yet to decide on her future. We await developments and hope she will again operate commercially in Melbourne.

LYTTELTON II: STEAM TUG: Unfortunately this classic 1939 built twin triple expansion engine coal-fired vessel was scrapped on the Rippleside slipway in Geelong over period early December to early February. After being towed to Geelong by Adsteam's *Edina* on 4 December and being slipped two days later, the final decision to scrap was reluctantly made by Leigh Doeg as the ship's bottom hull plating was found to be in very poor condition after 21 years laid up in Port Phillip.

The engines, engine room auxiliaries, skylights and associated ship sides and bulkheads down to engine bed level were all sold to the Melbourne Steam Traction Engine Club. Club members removed these items during the demolition and transported them to their facility at Scoresby for reassembly and exhibition. The two Scotch boilers have been retained by Leigh Doeg and also stored at Scoresby, hopefully for eventual use in a steamship restoration somewhere, possibly overseas.

Proposals to reassemble the ships magnificent and previously dismantled wheelhouse and master's cabin and possibly the complete boat deck including funnel, lifeboats, vents etc at the ex PMA site at Williamstown did not eventuate. As a result the funnel was scrapped, the boats will go to the steamer *John Oxley* restoration project in Sydney and the wheelhouse and associated brasswork together with other items like anchors and spare propellers will be retained in storage pending future reassembly and display options, preferably as one lot together. All this work was recorded photographically in great detail as it is unlikely Melbournians will ever have the opportunity to see such a classic steamship here again.





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Further, after the demolition of *Lyttelton II*, the Rippleside slipway itself was due to be demolished, as part of the plan to redevelop the area. These two events represent the end of significant maritime tradition in Port Phillip.

Contact: Leigh Doeg. Ph: 9699 6763 Mob 0419 883 334. Email: info@victoriastar.com.au

OTAMA: SUBMARINE: The new Hastings-Cerberus Maritime Memorial Centre at the Crib Point Terminal Building in Western Port was officially opened by Bruce Billson, Minister for Veteran Affairs on 24 January. The MHAV was represented and we now plan a members visit, see separate announcement. The Centre is open Fri – Mon 10.00 – 3.00. *Otama* remains moored offshore at Crib Point and negotiations continue with council and state government bodies re preparation of a planning permit to bring *Otama* ashore.

Contact: Max Bryant. Ph: 5979 2467. Email: maxbry@alphalink.com.au. Web: www.otama.com.au

POLLY WOODSIDE: SHIP AND MARITIME MUSEUM: Following the availability of \$100,000 from the state government, the National Trust together with the Ship Committee is now calling for tenders to conduct a full hull survey of *Polly Woodside* together with a plan for preservation of the ship. This is extremely welcome and important news.

Last month it was announced that “Melbourne’s grand dame of the sea” *Polly Woodside*, has gained the state’s highest level of heritage protection by being added to the Victorian heritage register. This will assist in obtaining funds and other assistance to maintain the ship in future.

A report from Root Projects detailing proposals for the new Melbourne Maritime Museum has just been received by the Trust and details of this will now be presented to Polly volunteers and other groups when further input on the Museum’s development will be sought.

Polly volunteers and library personnel are generally on site on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at some other times.

Contacts: Ongoing site activities: Graeme Cooper, Ph: 9656 9821 Mob 0407 009 128. Development: Steven Cooke, Ph: 9656 9802 Email: polly@natrust.com.au. Web: www.natrust.com.au/trust_properties

THALA DAN: ANTARCTIC SUPPLY VESSEL: Some Melbourne ex Antarctic Division personnel are seeking to acquire the ex *Thala Dan* of 1957 which is laid up in Rio de Janeiro after many years service with the Brazilian government as the research vessel *Barao de Teffe*. Recent inspection by an ex chief engineer indicates this last surviving Danish Lauritzen “Dan” ship is in good condition. Substantial costs are involved in acquiring the ship and sailing her to Australia for preservation. Support for the venture is very welcome.

Contact: David Dodd, Ph: 9592 2014. Email: kelpie101@optusnet.com.au

WATTLE: STEAM TUG: *Wattle* was towed by the ex Ports and Harbours classic timber vessel *Victory* from No 10 North Wharf to No 2 Victoria Harbour on 11 November following a berthing arrangement with Vic Urban. Bay Steamers still seeks premises with an area of 400sqm near the river where equipment for operating *Wattle* can be permanently housed as a move from the present No 20 Victoria Harbour shed is imminent.

Bay Steamers has made representations to a local government organization for funding towards necessary hull work to regain survey and the results of this and of a recent meeting regarding a partnering agreement are awaited. A submission has also been made to a community trust which meets to consider the case late in March. Success with one of these endeavours would enable a quotation for hull repairs to be accepted and work to be planned.

Contact: Tony Lewis. Ph: 9846 1819. Email: lewist@conwag.com.

WYUNA: Ex PORT PHILLIP PILOT CUTTER. *Wyuna*, owned by Queensland based mining company

Mineralogy Pty Ltd remains laid up in Launceston. Plans for work on the ship on the nearby Synchronlift in October did not materialise. Proposals for rebuilding into a luxury yacht have not resulted in a contract.

WEBSITE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

This and earlier MHAV newsletters

Enterprize Port Phillip sails

Williamstown site Vision Statement & Plan

Warwick Turner's address

<http://www.mhav.net/newsletters.html>

<http://www.enterprize.com.au/sailschd.htm>

<http://www.seaworks.org/35.html>

<http://www.mhav.net/wturner.html>

MEMBER'S VISIT TO WESTERN PORT MARITIME MUSEUMS

SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2007

Program

- 10.00am: Meet at Western Port Oberon Association Museum, Crib Point for morning tea
- 10.30am: Museum Inspection followed by lunch at Hastings
- 2.00pm: HMAS Cerberus Museum and surrounds, Stony Point.

Members and friends are invited to visit to the new submarine museum, to hear of the organization's plans and to view the association's submarine *Otama* moored offshore. After lunch at Hastings marina, visit the HMAS Cerberus Museum. End with a short visit and snacks at the Stony Point wharf.

Entry at Crib Point is a gold coin and is \$3 at Cerberus.
Morning tea will be offered at the submarine museum.
Bring own lunch or purchase at Hastings.



Please advise John Milne on 9846 7110 if planning to attend.
Car pooling is suggested and transport can be arranged for anyone seeking this.

ALL WELCOME!