



MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA Inc.

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August 2007

NEWSLETTER No. 14

Report from the President

In our last newsletter I outlined three broad objectives for the year, and in this report I will address the current state of progress against each of those objectives.

The MHAV was initially formed to unite the various maritime interest groups around Victoria under a common banner, and to promote the establishment of a major maritime heritage attraction for the state. Victoria has unfortunately lagged behind the rest of Australia in the interpretation and presentation of its rich maritime history.

Members of the MHAV committee have visited and studied a wide range of maritime heritage attractions both locally and worldwide and, in consultation with all members, have developed our vision for Victoria of a working heritage seaport with museum, education and tourism benefits. A potential site was identified in the former PMA workshops site at Williamstown.

Since then the MHAV has worked hard to promote its vision, cooperating with the managers of the Williamstown site in previous years on infrastructure improvements and helping organise heritage boat shows. It would be fair to say however, that the MHAV has observed an apparent lack of progress towards a significant maritime heritage development at the site.

A new company, Seaworks Foundation Ltd, was recently formed to provide a management vehicle for the site. The MHAV has made a formal approach to the board of Seaworks requesting a meeting to exchange views on their plans, and to discuss our vision. We have also recently approached Parks Victoria, the current site managers, and Heritage Victoria to enquire about current progress and planned developments.

Surprisingly, these organisations have been extremely slow to respond to our requests for meetings or information. Given the public commitments made by the government regarding the future use of the site for maritime heritage purposes, it is difficult to understand this apparent disinterest in such a potentially beneficial engagement with the broader maritime community of Victoria. However, the MHAV will continue to promote a major maritime heritage attraction for Victoria, and hopefully we will be able to report some progress in the near future.

The MHAV continues to develop links with other maritime interest groups. An example of this was our recent support for action by the Friends of the *Cerberus* which saw the state minister Justin Madden approach the federal minister Malcolm Turnbull to work on a joint funding proposal for the *Cerberus*. We look forward to the Friends of the *Cerberus* becoming an organisational member of MHAV. We have also recently commenced discussions with Maritime Museums of Victoria with a view to working in close cooperation.

Finally, our second members' function for the year is coming up on 14 August (see enclosed flyer). We hope that as many members and supporters as possible will attend. It offers an opportunity for those interested in the future of maritime heritage to meet with others who share their interest. It is only through the presentation of a strong, united community force that we will be able to achieve the recognition and investment in our rich maritime heritage that this state deserves.

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 to place your order, or purchase at the upcoming Antarctic Night.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

JAMES CRAIG RETURNS TO PORT PHILLIP (?)

The MHAV has supported a proposal by Tall Ships Victoria to invite the *James Craig* to return to Port Phillip early in 2008. We understand that a final decision is close, and if the Sydney Heritage Fleet agrees to a return voyage, the MHAV has committed to a full day charter, with the option of a second charter subject to demand. Those who enjoyed sailing on this magnificent vessel in the ideal conditions of Port Phillip in 2006 will no doubt be delighted to have an opportunity to repeat the experience. For those who missed out in 2006, the opportunity to sail in a lovingly restored three masted barque dating from 1874, in our home waters is an opportunity too good to miss. Watch this space for further information, and details if and when they become available.



Steam Tug *Wattle* in happier times.

REPORTS ON HERITAGE VESSELS

Unfortunately we are unable to provide a full report on heritage vessels due to the temporary absence of some of our regular scribes. We expect to have a full report in the next newsletter, or you can share some scuttlebutt at the Antarctic Night on 14 August.

ALMA DOEPEL: TOPSAIL SCHOONER: Remains at Port Macquarie in NSW. Work is progressing towards a survey by NSW authorities. The shed space at Victoria Dock is being cleared for development work there, and we understand that negotiations are under way to share shed space at Williamstown.

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

CERBERUS: MONITOR: The Friends of Cerberus organisation is continuing discussions with both Commonwealth and State government personnel regarding vessel stabilisation plans. The State Minister for Planning Justin Madden has written to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull, requesting cooperation in a funding arrangement.
Contact: Peter Tully. Ph: 9298 4211. Email: cerberus@cerberus.com.au. Web: www.cerberus.com.au

ENTERPRIZE: REPLICIA SCHOONER: Melbourne's tall ship *Enterprize* has emerged from her winter refit looking resplendent due largely to the efforts of her crew and volunteers. She has a busy program of voyages planned, and details of overnight and day sails are available on the website.
Contact: Ph: 9397 3477. Email: sailing@enterprize.com.au. Web: www.enterprize.com.au

OTAMA: SUBMARINE: The new Hastings-Cerberus Maritime Memorial Centre at the Crib Point Terminal Building in Western Port 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: It is hoped that an announcement will soon be made regarding the proposed hull survey of *Polly Woodside* together with a plan for preservation of the ship. In the meantime the Plenary Hall development work is proceeding apace. The museum artefact collection has recently been moved into a suitable storage environment by the developers, until the new maritime museum buildings become available for occupancy.

Polly volunteers and library personnel are generally on site on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at some other times. Work is proceeding on essential maintenance of the ship, with activities planned or recently completed including deck plank replacement, painting of the hull interior and repairs to the mizzen top mast.

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

WATTLE: STEAM TUG: After several years of anticipating and dreading the approach of the developers, Bay Steamers Maritime Museum has finally received its marching orders from Shed 20 Victoria Dock (Harbour). The site is required for the next phase of development and demolition is imminent.

Their departure is to be effective from 24 September so they have about eight weeks to intensify the search for new workshop space of about 400 square metres. Any offers? Please contact Tony Lewis if you know of anyone who has that sort of space available close to the river, the Port or Docklands. Preferably free or very, very low rental. Because of the departure, members efforts of late have been centred on cleaning up the shed and loading into skips whatever they think is saleable as scrap metal. Some fond memories have been scrapped and some have been offered to other maritime organisations for use or display.

Fund raising efforts are continuing. Expectations of an association with Melbourne City Council were thwarted by recent financial problems within Council just when expectations were high. A charitable trust, while sympathetic, was unwilling to join without a show of support from another sponsor/donor. The fundraisers have now turned their attentions to the corporate sector. Meanwhile the Wattle sits at No. 2 Victoria Harbour, in need of hull repair. Once the shed is cleaned up, she will be given a lick of paint above the waterline to improve her appearance. It is to be hoped that funding can be forthcoming to restore this popular vessel to service.

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

WEBSITE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

This and earlier MHAV newsletters
Enterprize Port Phillip sails
Warwick Turner's address

<http://www.mhav.net/newsletters.html>
<http://www.enterprize.com.au/sailschd.htm>
<http://www.mhav.net/wturner.html>

MARITIME HERITAGE MUST BE PRESERVED!

YOU ARE INVITED

to join us for

ANTARCTIC NIGHT

14 August 2007, 7.30PM
at the Port Education Centre
Lorimer Street Fishermens Bend
(Next to the Harbour Control Tower)

(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 2007, leaving from Ushuaia in Argentina and travelling down the Beagle Channel past famous Cape Horn and across Drake's Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula.

We are delighted to have Ian to speak about his travels, the cold and the scenery. Come along for an evening of entertainment and shared experiences -

ALL WELCOME!
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED