



# MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA Inc.

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## NEWSLETTER No. 16

### Report from the President

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2008. It is pleasing to be able to report on two positive initiatives that hopefully will lead to a resurgence in interest in our rich maritime heritage.

From the time of its formation some five years ago, the principal objective of the MHAV has been to promote the establishment of a major maritime heritage precinct in the Melbourne area, for the benefit of all Victorians and visitors to our state. We quickly identified the former Port of Melbourne workshops site at Williamstown as our preferred location for a development which we described as "a maritime Sovereign Hill", a place that would bring our rich maritime heritage to life for young and old alike, in a working heritage port environment. Our vision was to create a home base for our fleet of heritage vessels and visiting tall ships, with the necessary infrastructure to keep them operating on a sustainable basis, amid a vibrant mix of maritime related educational, recreational and commercial businesses and community activities.

**After five years of uncertainty surrounding the future of the site, we are pleased to report the first tentative step towards our vision, with the release of a Strategic Statement by Seaworks Foundation.**

We are fortunate to have arranged for Trevor Huggard, a director of Seaworks Foundation and former Lord Mayor of Melbourne, to present the Strategic Statement at a members night scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> April (Refer to separate invitation enclosed). This will be a great opportunity for members to learn more about the planning process for the site, and to ask questions of Trevor on the content of the Strategic Statement. Copies of the Strategic Statement document will also be made available for those who attend. Trevor will also be able to talk of his experience with the redevelopment of the Abbotsford Convent, which was successfully completed as a government / community partnership, along the lines proposed for the Williamstown maritime precinct.

We are hopeful that representatives from Victoria University TAFE College will also be present to provide information on their proposal for establishing their boat building school in the large shed.

While the Strategic Statement is a positive first step in the redevelopment process, it is only the beginning, and the Seaworks Foundation has committed to consulting widely with the community during the development of a detailed plan for the site. It is very important therefore that we send a very clear message about the aspects of the development that we consider to be important for the future preservation of our maritime heritage. **This is an opportunity not to be missed, and we look forward to a strong turnout at the members night to show that the people of this community care about our maritime heritage, and that the MHAV will be a key contributor to the consultation process.**

It is heartening to see the efforts of the *Alma Doepel* Supporters Cub as they raise funds for the return of this fine vessel to her previous home in Melbourne. It appears that the club and Sail and Adventure Limited, the owner of the vessel now have strong management teams in place to take on this challenge. The MHAV strongly supports their efforts and was pleased to recently make a donation of \$500 to the *Alma Doepel* Refit Fund, a major fund raising effort in aid of the return and refitting of the ship in Melbourne. I urge members to support this effort which we hope will see *Alma* once again gracing the waters of Port Phillip.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our future activities.

John Milne

**MHAV – KEEPING MARITIME HERITAGE AFLOAT**

## RECENT ACTIVITIES – *James Craig* CHARTERS

Many readers will be aware that the visit of the Sydney Heritage Fleet's 1874 built barque *James Craig* to Melbourne in January / February was marred by a major mechanical breakdown in one of the vessel's two gearboxes. Because the ship needs both engines operational for passenger services, all of the charters arranged prior to the visit were cancelled at relatively short notice. The MHAV was able to communicate with most of our (more than 200) ticket holders prior to our two scheduled dates, and all booking monies were subsequently refunded. Our thanks go to Miles Allen for bearing the brunt of this logistical challenge. A large number of visitors inspected the ship during her stay at Workshops Pier, Williamstown, again highlighting the value of this venue for visiting heritage vessels. We apologise to those who were disappointed in missing out on a wonderful experience – we will endeavour to participate in any future visits of the ship to Melbourne, and suggest that anyone interested in sailing aboard *James Craig* may obtain details of public sails from Sydney on the Sydney Heritage Fleet web site at [www.shf.org.au](http://www.shf.org.au)

## REPORTS ON HERITAGE VESSELS

**ALMA DOEPEL: TOPSAIL SCHOONER:** The *Alma Doepel* remains laid up in Port Macquarie while work has been continuing on plans for her relocation to Melbourne and refit. Sail & Adventure Limited, the owners and operators of the ship, intend to return Alma to survey and undertake Sail Training voyages in Port Phillip, including a focus on marine science, along with public day and weekend trips and charter work.

Positive negotiations have been ongoing prior to the ship's arrival in Melbourne. Plans are being developed for two options for Alma's relocation, either via a tow or under her own power. It is intended that the ship be slipped in Port Macquarie in late April 2008 in preparation for the relocation to Port Phillip.

During January 2008 the Alma Doepel Supporters Club established the Alma Doepel Refit Fund to assist with fundraising for her relocation and refit. Donations to this fund would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers and donations in kind are also being sought to assist with the refit project once the ship is in Melbourne. For details see "Fundraising" on the website below.



The beautiful topsail schooner *Alma Doepel* as we hope to see her again on Port Phillip.

The Alma Doepel Supporters Club would like to acknowledge the support MHAV continues to provide for the Alma and thanks the Association for its generous donation to the Alma Doepel Refit Fund. A fundraising dinner, including a screening of the movie "*James Craig Sails Again, The Story of a Restoration*", will be held on 11 April 2008 to raise funds for the Fund. Anybody interested in supporting

the ship would be more than welcome. Details from website or Chris below.

**Contact: Chris Coghlan. Ph: 9372 7389, Mob: 0407 860 296. Email: [chriscoghlan@iprimus.com.au](mailto:chriscoghlan@iprimus.com.au). Web: [www.almadoepel.com.au](http://www.almadoepel.com.au).**

**CERBERUS: MONITOR:** Since the Federal election the Friends of Cerberus have been encouraging the new federal government, through Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts Peter Garrett, to join with the Victorian Minister for the Planning Justin Madden in arranging joint funding for the stabilisation of this historic ship in situ at Black Rock. This is a \$7million project and must proceed before further hull collapse, which may mean very limited time is available. Please consider writing or emailing Minister Garrett to encourage a favourable and quick decision. For details contact Peter Tully or an MHAV committee person. All correspondence received assists the cause. A copy of the excellent submission to the federal government setting out the case for *Cerberus*' stabilisation can also be made available.

**Contact: Peter Tully. Ph: 9298 4211. Email: [cerberus@cerberus.com.au](mailto:cerberus@cerberus.com.au). Web: [cerberus.com.au](http://cerberus.com.au)**

**CURLIP: REPLICA PADDLE STEAMER:** Under construction at Orbost. The boiler and engine are in the vessel with deck and superstructure work now progressing. It is planned to truck the vessel to Marlo for launching in October and to officially first steam her on 29 November 2008.

**Contact: Gil Richardson. Ph: 5154 1853. Email: [curlip@eftl.net.au](mailto:curlip@eftl.net.au). Web: [paddlesteamercurlip.com.au](http://paddlesteamercurlip.com.au)**

**LADY CHELMSFORD: EXCURSION VESSEL:** This ex Sydney 1910 built timber ex steam ferry which has been laid up pending possible return to commercial service, sank suddenly at the berth at 14 Victoria Harbour on 18 February 2008. At the time of writing plans for her raising are still being finalised and the vessel's future is uncertain. A major difficulty is the now critical shortage of suitable sites in Port Phillip Bay to slip and work on such vessels.



**ENTERPRIZE: REPLICA SCHOONER:**

Melbourne's tall ship, the schooner *Enterprize*, continues to serve the community in many different ways. Later in March she is returning from another successful visit to Port Fairy for the Music Festival and Portland. The westward bound voyage has become a regular event, being part of the state government's sponsored Regional Schools Program. Many country school students visit the ship to experience our maritime heritage. Ocean passages offer an opportunity for fare paying passengers to experience sailing "the good old way".

For those who missed out on a sail on the *James Craig*, the *Enterprize* offers a range of sailing experiences over the next few months, keeping in mind that we are entering what is typically Melbourne's most settled weather during autumn. On the 29 March, *Enterprize* will be sailing to Geelong, returning on Sunday. The Overnight Adventure Sail departing from Williamstown on Friday 11 April is booked out, but there is another one on 16 May, so book early. On Sunday 20 April, the ship will be

sailing from Gem Pier. The mid-week schools program continues.

The ship will be entering her annual refit in June, so we suggest that all bookings be made at the earliest opportunity. Details of further sailing opportunities can be found on the web site

**Contact: Ph: 9397 3477. Email: [sailing@enterprize.com.au](mailto:sailing@enterprize.com.au). Web: [enterprize.com.au](http://enterprize.com.au)**

**LYTTELTON II: STEAM TUG:** The Melbourne Steam Traction Engine Club which acquired the complete engine room from *Lyttelton II* has received a \$5,000 grant from the Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme to assist with initial restoration and display of this machinery at their site in Ferntree Gully Rd, Scoresby. The site is open during weekends.

**Contact: MSTECC. Ph: 9763 1614. Web: [vicnet.net.au/~mstec](http://vicnet.net.au/~mstec)**

## 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 Members' Night.

**OTAMA: SUBMARINE:** The Association awaits Council resolution of its planning application to bring the *Oberon* class submarine *Otama* ashore at Crib Point in Western Port. This is dependent on a forthcoming VCAT or Ministerial decision on the proposal for a bitumen plant next door, which if successful would not allow the submarine project to proceed. Both the council and community oppose the bitumen plant proposal. The Maritime Centre at Crib Point is currently open in weekends 10.30 – 3.30, phone 5983 9102 direct, and *Otama* remains moored just offshore. The Association is involved with the Merchant Navy RSL in recording oral history related to WWII convoy experiences while people involved are still available.

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

**POLLY WOODSIDE: BARQUE AND MARITIME MUSEUM:** BMT Defence Contracting is about to present their report on the condition of Polly's hull and on conserving the ship to the Trust whilst the government Major Projects organisation is developing proposals for refurbishing the dry dock.

The National Trust is currently reviewing plans for the new Museum including sheds 2 and 4 and taking into account the priority to maintain and present *Polly Woodside*. Announcements are expected soon. Shed 2 is expected to be rebuilt on site in mid 2008 with the final site arrangement required to be ready for opening together with the new Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre in March 2009.

Tanya Williams was appointed in March to the position of Heritage Development Manager for the site, Steven Cooke having resigned early in 2008.

**Contact: Tanya Williams. Ph: 9656 9800 Mob 0416 157 551. Email: polly@natrtrust.com.au. Web: melbournemaritimemuseum.com.au**

**WATTLE: STEAM TUG:** At last some better news. Owners Bay Steamers Maritime Museum Ltd have negotiated a proposal with Sorrento Steam, whereby that organisation would fund necessary work to return the ship to commercial operation in 2008 and become the vessel owner. Bay Steamers would remain responsible for running the ship which would operate from Sorrento during summer periods and from Melbourne for the rest of the year. Sorrento Steam comprises a group of Peninsula enthusiasts with support from many local organisations who plan to reintroduce the steam tram at Sorrento and see steam tug *Wattle* as a logical extension of the land based operation. This proposal and in particular the sale of the vessel to another organisation has raised strongly held and diverse opinions amongst Bay Steamers members and as a result a concerned group of members have made an alternative proposal. These proposals will be discussed and it is expected will be voted on at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members on 31 March 2008.

Wattle remains berthed at No. 2 Victoria Harbour where there is public access and she was steamed by volunteers on Australia Day 2008 as part of the parade organised by Tall Ships Victoria on that day.

**Contact: Brian Ashton. Ph: 9467 1167. Email: brianashton@pacific.net.au**

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2007/08 ARE NOW OVERDUE!

If you have not received your blue membership card for 2007/08, you are currently unfinancial. Please renew your membership and support our efforts to have maritime heritage recognised in Victoria.

Membership remains at a low \$5.00 for the current year.

Renew at the Members Night if attending, or send your payment to our PO Box.

## 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!**