

MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 17

Report from the President

Since our last newsletter, it has become clear that the National Trust will not proceed with the previously promised new maritime museum at the Southbank site adjacent to the *Polly Woodside*. This development gives great cause for concern for several reasons.

Firstly, although it has been stated that funds to be made available from the Plenary development group will be allocated to the maintenance of the ship and refurbishment of the dock, experience around the world indicates that static museum vessels without an ongoing source of revenue struggle to survive. As an example, the *Falls of Clyde* in Hawaii, a large 1878 built four masted full rigged ship which was restored in 1968, has been steadily deteriorating as a static exhibit and was recently closed to the public due to safety concerns arising from the condition of the vessel. We are fortunate to have had a dedicated band of volunteers who have restored and maintained the *Polly* in great condition for over 30 years, but they cannot go on forever and major work will soon be needed below the waterline. It is essential that a sustainable long term funding arrangement be put in place if *Polly* is to continue to be the source of pride that she has become for the people of Melbourne.

Secondly, the National Trust has made it clear that it does not see maritime heritage as being part of its core business. So, who's business is it? The Trust's decision leaves Melbourne, home of the largest commercial port in the nation, and historically a port of international significance, without a maritime museum. This is a sad reflection on our community, which has allowed the maritime museum at Southbank to be progressively downgraded and squeezed out by commercial interests over many years. By comparison, over the same period, other states in Australia have invested heavily in facilities to honour and display their maritime heritage. Twenty years ago, this site was an active place, with indoor and outdoor activities and exhibits which entertained and educated thousands of school children and tourists each year. All of this has now disappeared and will not be replaced at Southbank. What will now happen to the valuable collection of maritime artefacts, artworks and books which have until now been housed at the site and been accessible to the public?

Coincidentally, as one door closes, another opportunity opens up. At our meeting in April, our guest speaker Trevor Huggard, a member of the board of Seaworks Foundation introduced us to the 2008 Strategic Statement for the Seaworks site at Nelson Place, Williamstown, formerly the home of the Port of Melbourne Authority workshops and slipways. For six years the MHAV has advocated the development of this site as a working heritage port, interactive museum and maritime precinct, and we strongly support the principles of the Seaworks Strategic Statement.

The opportunity exists at Williamstown to create a maritime heritage attraction that is unique, and of a standard that will attract both local and international tourism in addition to providing education and entertainment for the Victorian community. We see the site as a permanent home for a fleet of heritage vessels and visiting tall ships, operating on a sustainable basis and supported by traditional trades and maritime businesses, with a year round program of activities to attract both educational visits and the general public.

The MHAV is making representations to Government in support of this proposal, and will be an active contributor to the planning process commenced by Seaworks. The greatest challenge however, is to convince our political leaders that the community supports and demands this development, so that it can gain the benefit of multi agency support and funding (Tourism, Heritage, Arts, Education, Planning etc). If the opportunity is lost now, it will be lost forever. We need your voice to convince the politicians that this last opportunity must not be lost! Please consider making your views known to your local members of parliament, and supporting the MHAV in alerting them to the urgency of the situation.

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

John Milne

MHAV – KEEPING MARITIME HERITAGE AFLOAT

RECENT ACTIVITIES

APRIL MEMBER'S NIGHT AND SEAWORKS

On 16 April, our members night at the Port Ed Centre was addressed by Trevor Huggard, board member of Seaworks Foundation. Trevor is a former Lord Mayor of Melbourne and has been very active in community efforts to save the architectural and cultural heritage of Melbourne. He was recently prominent in the community campaign to save the Abbotsford Convent from commercial redevelopment, and this site is now a successful community arts precinct which has preserved the wonderful heritage buildings and environment of the historic site.

Trevor spoke on the 2008 Strategic Statement for the Williamstown Seaworks site, and copies of this



document were made available to those present. He also outlined a more detailed planning process for the site, which will involve extensive consultation with stakeholder groups. Subsequently, a tender was advertised by Parks Victoria, on behalf of both PV and Seaworks, for consultants to undertake the detailed strategic plan, and the appointment of these consultants is expected as we go to press. The MHAV will be involved in the consultation process as a stakeholder organisation, and will make a submission to the consultants.

Barque *James Craig* at Workshops Pier, Williamstown in January 2008.

Additional copies of the 2008 Strategic Statement are available for those interested, by contacting the MHAV.

CROWD THEORY PORT OF MELBOURNE

The Footscray Community Arts Centre, in conjunction with the Port of Melbourne Corporation is organising an artistic event in the Port of Melbourne on Saturday 2 August. Anyone who lives or works near the port or who has an interest or connection with the port is invited to participate. A secret location within the port will be transformed into a giant film set with lights and music ready for large format photographs which will capture the connection between the community and the port. The event will take place between 3pm and 7pm, with food and entertainment provided. Those interested in participating are invited to contact Fiona Pride, email fiona@footscrayarts.com, tel 03 9362 8808, or register to participate on line at www.crowdtheory.com. Registration is essential for port security.

REPORTS ON HERITAGE VESSELS

This report is not as comprehensive as usual, due to the absence of our regular scribe, Lindsay Rex who has recently undergone surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery on behalf of all MHAV members.

ALMA DOEPEL: TOPSAIL SCHOONER: After much planning and preparation, the ship recently spent a week on the slipway at Port Macquarie, where detailed inspections of the hull and temporary repairs were carried out, in preparation for a relocation voyage to Melbourne. Fund raising efforts will continue, to obtain the money necessary to undertake the refurbishment works needed to return the vessel to survey for public sailing from Melbourne. Members are encouraged to support the return to service of this historic vessel which was such a feature of our waters in the past.

Contact: Chris Coghlan. Ph: 9372 7389, Mob: 0407 860 296. Email: chriscoghlan@iprimus.com.au. Web: www.almadoepel.com.au.

ENTERPRIZE: REPLICAS SCHOONER: The winter refit is now underway. The ship will be slipped for a hull inspection, anti-fouling and replacement of the stern gland. She will be returning to sail in August.

She will be on display at Docklands for Melbourne's Foundation Day celebrations on 30th August, remembering that the Enterprize is the replica of the ship which brought the first European settlers to Melbourne in 1835.

As part of the ongoing volunteer crew development, training programs are conducted throughout the year.

From August, when not away on a voyage, the ship will continue with her regular sailing program around Port Phillip Bay including:

- Geelong – Saturday & Sunday – 1st weekend each month. Also a Sunset Sail.
- Williamstown's Gem Pier – 3rd Sunday each month (market day)
- Overnight adventure – 2nd & 4th weekend each month
- Portarlington – 27 to 29th September, 10 to 12 January
- Rye – 27 to 29 December
- Sunset sails

In October the Enterprize will be sailing to Port Welshpool where Firbank Girls Grammar will board to sail to Melbourne via Bass Strait. As a regular visitor to the Wooden Boat Festival, the ship will be sailing to Hobart in February. Bookings are now available for the voyage to Hobart or return, or sectors between Hobart and Port Davey, commencing on 24 November and arriving back on 1 March.

Further details of sailing opportunities can be found on the web site

Contact: Ph: 9397 3477. Email: sailing@enterprize.com.au. Web: enterprize.com.au

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.

POLLY WOODSIDE: BARQUE AND MARITIME MUSEUM: With the opening of the new Convention Centre scheduled for March 2009, plans are in progress to move Polly Woodside from the Duke & Orr Drydock and moor her at No. 4 Wharf while the work on the drydock proceeds. During this time, the ship will remain closed to the public as it will be designated as a 'building site', completely fenced off, with security to be provided by the contractors.

In the meantime the overhauled Mizzen Topmast is to be sent aloft in the near future, and work is progressing on replacement of some of the deck planks. No.2 Shed is to be reconstructed with an extension added to it, on the land between the two drydocks (all that remains of the original site), with the Signal Yard and other artefacts to be restored on the site.

Once the Convention Centre is opened, it is envisaged that the ship will be drydocked for restoration work to commence on the hull. The PWVA continues to appreciate the support of the MHAV.

Contact: Neil Thomas. Ph: 9802 4608 Mob 0402 037 800. Email: thomclan@optusnet.com.au. Web: pwva.org.au (under construction)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2008/09 ARE NOW DUE!

Please renew your membership and support our efforts to have maritime heritage recognised in Victoria.

Membership is a low \$10.00 per annum.

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

(Refer to the attached renewal form)

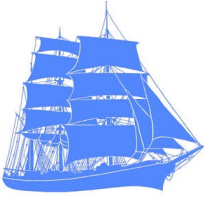
WEBSITE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

This and earlier MHAV newsletters
Warwick Turner's address

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

NOTE: This newsletter is distributed by e-mail to those who provide an e-mail address. If you would like your distribution method changed, please let us know.

MARITIME HERITAGE MUST BE PRESERVED!



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PROMOTING THE RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATION OF THE MARITIME HERITAGE OF VICTORIA

The association is a coalition of the following Maritime Organisations:

- Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions Club Inc.
- Bay Steamers Maritime Museum Ltd
- Durham Association
- Enterprize Ship Trust
- Friends of Cerberus
- Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria Inc. Vic. Chapter
- Naval Historical Society of Australia Inc.
- Oceanic Research Foundation Ltd
- Polly Woodside Volunteers Association Inc.
- Sail and Adventure Ltd
- The Navy League of Australia, Vic. Division
- World Ship Society Victoria Inc.

The primary aim of the Association is the establishment and continuing development of a major maritime heritage precinct in Williamstown at the ex Port of Melbourne Authority workshops and slipways site in Nelson Place. This site presents an opportunity of international significance, and the development should be achieved through careful planning and staging to provide for many different maritime interests, education, leisure and entertainment.

Please join the hundreds of existing members and support the Association's objectives.

TICK ONE: [] NEW Membership [] RENEW Membership 2008/2009

Full Name (Please print).....

Street.....Town.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....Mobile.....Fax.....

I/we wish to receive future Newsletters & notices by email: TICK ONE: YES [] NO []

E-mail.....(only used for MHAV purposes)

I am a member of the following maritime interest groups: eg World Ship Society, Yacht Club etc

Skills that I would be pleased to contribute are: e.g. publicity, fund raising, organizing events etc

Full year Membership/Renewal* is \$10-00, with no joining fee. Attached please find:

Cheque/cash* for \$10.00....New Membership/Renewal* 2008/09

Cheque/cash* for \$..... Optional Donation

Total \$.....

Cheques payable to MHAV

* Cross as applicable

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