



MARITIME HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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NEWSLETTER 18

NOVEMBER 2008

It's that time of year again!
The President and Committee of the MHAV
cordially invite you and your partner to meet them at
Melbourne's best waterfront location for the
MHAV Christmas Party

Please join us for a casual buffet dinner with celebratory drink as the sun sets over the Yarra and the Port of Melbourne, and catch up with old friends, the latest in maritime events, and a presentation by Chris Coghlan and Tim Horton on the *Leeuwin II*, WA's 3-masted 55-metre barquentine.

- When:** From 6.00 pm, Wednesday 26 November 2008
- Where:** Port Education Centre, Lorimer St, Fishermens Bend, beside the Harbour Control Tower, Melways 42 E10
- Cost:** \$25.00 per person – includes buffet dinner, desserts, soft drinks, tea and coffee. BYO alcohol.
- RSVP:** Please send a cheque, made out to Maritime Heritage Association of Victoria, to the PO Box above by 21 November 2008.

Please ring Events Manager Josie Moyse-Middleton for any enquiries, and to confirm attendance numbers: 9397 1772.

Membership Renewals

Are there mysterious **RED DOTS** on your address label and to the right? That means you have forgotten to renew your \$10 membership for 2008/2009! You can print out a form from our website, www.mhav.net, or check your last newsletter for the renewal notice, or contact the MHAV Secretary as above. **If you or your organisation currently receive a complimentary copy of this Newsletter, please consider joining the MHAV – everyone's support for Victoria's maritime heritage is essential and greatly appreciated.**

Newsletters by Email

Would you like to receive your Newsletter by email? If so, please email Neil Thomas, thomclan@optusnet.com.au, with your address. If you have previously requested it by email but it hasn't arrived, please also email Neil to confirm your address, as we have had some mail that has bounced.

President's Report

The period since our last newsletter has been a busy one, particularly regarding our primary objective of the establishment of a maritime heritage precinct at Williamstown.

In July, Parks Victoria and Seaworks Foundation called tenders for the preparation of a strategic development plan for the site in Nelson Place, formerly operated as the Port of Melbourne Authority workshops. The contract was awarded to Connell Wagner, with very tight deadlines for completion of the planning study by November, to fit into the State budget development process.

The purpose of the study was to develop a long term strategy for the future use and development of the site, identify a mix of land uses, assess the financial and commercial viability of the agreed mix, and determine any short term capital projects which could kick-start the development process.

The first stage of the study was a brief period of consultation with stakeholder groups associated with the site. Members will be aware that the MHAV has advocated the development of this site as a major maritime heritage attraction since 2002. Much work has been done in previous years to formulate a development concept that would include elements of conservation, public entertainment and education into an active working heritage port environment.

As a registered stakeholder group representing the broader Victorian maritime community, the MHAV was invited to meet with the consultants to state our objectives for the site. At short notice, members of your committee prepared a detailed written submission for the planning consultants, and presented this at a meeting on 31 July 2008.

A copy of this submission was subsequently forwarded to the Minister for Tourism in support of our appeal for strong Government action to implement the development plan, particularly in view of the demise of the Maritime Museum at Southbank, and the uncertainty surrounding the future of the valuable museum collection.

I would like to thank all the committee members who contributed to the preparation of the submission. We are awaiting with great interest, the release of the strategic plan in November, and will continue to work towards a plan that is worthy of the site, and Victoria's rich maritime history. We need the support of our members more than ever to ensure that the views of our community are heard and acted upon.

Our Annual General Meeting on 15 October was well attended, and in addition to the formalities, Miles Allen and I gave presentations on recent tall ships events and maritime heritage features seen during our recent visits to Europe and the Middle East.

The makeup of the committee remains unchanged, with the existing four member representatives (Jose Moyse-Middleton, Kate Lance, Miles Allen and John Milne) returned for the year ahead. My thanks go to all committee members who have supported the objectives of the Association through their personal effort during the past year.

Our next function is the Christmas dinner at the Port Education Centre on 26 November, and I strongly encourage all to attend. The backdrop of twilight and activity on the river provides a great setting for an evening of food and entertainment with new and old friends. We also expect to be able to provide an update on the Seaworks strategic planning study during the evening.

Finally I would like to wish all of our members and supporters a happy Christmas and New Year – we look forward to your ongoing support in 2009.

John Milne

Committee News

At the last committee meeting we discussed the pressures of MHAV work on some of the members, and how to spread the load more equally. The President John Milne and Vice-President Miles Allen both kindly agreed to continue in their demanding roles, and for 2008/2009 we have a new Secretary and Treasurer: Secretary is Chris Coghlan, and Treasurer and Public Officer is Neil Thomas.

The committee would like to thank outgoing Treasurer Charles Treleaven for his efforts over the preceding years, Neil Thomas for his work as Membership Secretary and Tim Horton for continuing as Minutes Secretary. Also assisting the committee are the new Events Manager - Josie Moyse-Middleton, continuing Website and new Newsletter Editor - Kate Lance, and continuing Vessel Reports Editor - Lindsay Rex.

Updated MHAV Website

We have produced a new version of the website, with a strong statement of our maritime heritage aims. We also now list the maritime heritage organisations that are members of MHAV on the front page. If your organisation is a member and is not listed, please contact Kate Lance, kate@ipv6now.com.au, with the details.

Any member organisation of MHAV may also provide a representative to work on the committee. **If you would like to volunteer to become a working committee member, your organisation will get its logo and link on our front page!** This will take people to your site, supporting your heritage vessel or maritime activity, and help support MHAV too, so it's well worth the effort.

Also remember, the previous Newsletters are available on the website, and if you've forgotten to renew your membership the renewal form is there too. If you have any suggestions for future items on the website or in the Newsletter, please feel free to contact kate@ipv6now.com.au or the MHAV Secretary, Chris Coghlan.

Heritage Vessel Reports

ALMA DOEPEL— TOPSAIL SCHOONER: Sail & Adventure Ltd, owners of the *Alma Doepel*, and the Alma Doepel Supporters Club continue to work hard towards their target to welcome Alma back to Melbourne in 2008. With the ship recently reaching her 105th birthday, a celebratory dinner was held at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria on 17 October 2008. The generous support of those attending assisted with the fundraising required to relocate the ship from Port Macquarie to Melbourne.

At the dinner the very generous support of the City of Melbourne and VicUrban who have recently agreed to provide berthing and shed facilities respectively at Docklands was acknowledged. This will go a long way to assisting to kick start the Alma's planned refit in Melbourne prior to her return to again sail the waters of Port Phillip.

Efforts continue to raise the required funds for a necessary second slipping of the ship in Port Macquarie this year which must take place prior to the relocation voyage. Support is also being sought for the funds required for the relocation voyage itself. If you can assist with the relocation of the ship or would like further information, please make contact.

Contacts: Chris Coghlan, Ph: 9372 7389, Mob: 0407 860 296, Email: adsc@almadoepel.com.au, Web: almadoepel.com.au

CERBERUS: MONITOR: A start at last! Public support for *Cerberus* has paid off in the form of a grant of \$500,000, announced on 25 July at Black Rock by Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett. This is to assist stabilisation of *Cerberus* and is the first federal financial contribution to the project. It is now hoped this grant will be matched by the state through Minister for Planning Justin Madden. Whilst these sums will not enable the ship to be raised and supported on a platform long term (that requires \$7million), a matching state contribution would fund work to stabilise the ship in the interim.

In September the National Trust included *Cerberus* on their "National Top Ten Heritage at Risk List for 2008" list, thus endorsing all attempts and support for saving the ship. Please consider how you can assist by expressing concern and support to Minister Madden and encouraging the state to at least match the federal grant. Information is available from contacts below.

Contacts: Peter Tully, Ph: 9298 4211, Email: cerberus@cerberus.com.au, Web: cerberus.com.au

CURLIP – REPLICA PADDLE STEAMER: This enlarged replica of the original *Curlip*, built as a community project at Orbost was launched on schedule on 23 October and the first official sailing on the Snowy River is planned for 30 November. *Curlip II* was built in the ex Orbost butter factory with the assistance \$1.2 million of state and federal funding.

Contacts: Gil Richardson. Ph: 5154 1853. Email: curlip@eftl.net.au. Web: paddlesteamercurlip.com.au

ENTERPRIZE – REPLICA SCHOONER: Melbourne's founding ship, the schooner *Enterprise* was again the centre of interest at the Foundation Day celebrations on 30 August. School children and adults visited the ship at Docklands and more recently, 550 senior citizens enjoyed sailing from Gem Pier at Williamstown over the four days of Seniors' Week.

Only two berths remain for the voyage from Williamstown to Port Welshpool, departing on 24 November. Sailing from Port Phillip Heads, the ship passes Western Port and the surf beaches of Phillip Island. After passing Waratah Bay, the many islands and rocky outcrops are sighted on the approach to Wilson's Promontory. Spectacular views are experienced as the ship navigates around the Promontory with the lighthouse towering overhead. If time permits, the ship will anchor inside Refuge Cove with an opportunity to walk along the sheltered beach before sailing on to Port Welshpool.

The next crew training day will be conducted on Saturday 22 November. These programs include instruction on a range of skills including seamanship, sail handling, navigation and emergency management. Classroom instruction and "hands on" supervision by qualified staff are included. For some volunteers, this program has been the first step towards developing a career in the maritime industry.

Sunset Sails are again proving to be very popular. With the longer warmer days, with a hamper and bubbly, now is the time to enjoy a pleasant evening with family and friends on Hobson's Bay. Dates include 12/11, 19/11, 10/12, 17/1/09 & 21/1/09. Call the office or visit the new website for details.

Summer holidays include sailing days from Rye and Geelong. A special New Years Eve event will be conducted from Geelong and the ship will again be featured at

the Skandia Australia Day celebrations. *Enterprize* will again be sailing to Hobart in February for the Wooden Boat Festival.

The *Enterprize* website address has changed, "org" replaces "com". See new address below where details of all activities will be found. Take a look and see when the ship will be sailing from a port near you.

Contacts: Ph: 9397 3477. Email: sailing@enterprize.com.au

Web: enterprize.org.au

LADY CHELMSFORD – EXCURSION VESSEL: After *Lady Chelmsford* sank at her Victoria Harbour berth on 18 February 2008 it was planned to raise her as quickly as possible with the hopeful intention of restoration. This has not eventuated and our understanding is that she will now be broken up in situ. A sad end for the last of the Sydney Harbour wood "Lady" class ferries to remain afloat in the original configuration.



Alma Doepel welcoming the Chilean Navy training ship Esmeralda (4-masted barquentine) to Melbourne, 22 July 1991 in Port Phillip. (Lindsay Rex)

POLLY WOODSIDE – BARQUE AND MARITIME MUSEUM: On 26 August Polly Woodside was moved by workboats out of the dock beside the new Plenary building and complex to the nearby South Wharf No 4 berth. She will remain there for perhaps 12 months. During that time, work on setting the dock up to enable *Polly Woodside* to be periodically docked and repaired in the dock (her future home again), is being arranged. This is being funded by the state through Major Projects Victoria at an expected cost "in excess of \$8 million". Work has begun. The ship is a much more attractive sight at the present location than will be the case later in the dock.

These developments, followed the April 2008 announcements by the National Trust that the new Maritime Museum building previously planned as part of the whole site buildings would be limited to the re-erected Shed 2 (the building on the site until the Plenary project began, the one with the "round" roof), Shed 4 beside the river (to be leased for income) and the enclosed dock pump house, on the Plenary side of the dock. The proposed interpretive gallery in Shed 2 will be centred on *Polly Woodside* and the dock and does not provide anything like the scale or the scope of the previous Melbourne Maritime Museum – a very disappointing result. Further details are in the July 2008 MHAV Newsletter No.17, see MHAV website and on the new *Polly Woodside*

Volunteers website, see below.

The collection from the Melbourne Maritime Museum is currently in storage, and little of this will now be required at the South Bank site. The National Trust has said that this collection could be made available to the Williamstown site.

Contact: Neil Thomas. Ph: 9802 4608, Mob 0402 037 800. Email: thomclan@optusnet.com.au. Web: pwva.org.au and pollywoodside.com.au



Wattle, 12 June 2008, on Crib Point Engineering slip at Hastings, Western Port. (Lindsay Rex)

WATTLE – STEAM TUG: The Extraordinary Meeting of members of Bay Steamers Maritime Museum held in March voted to proceed with the sale of the ship to Sorrento Steam, leaving Bay Steamers to operate the ship. The plan provided for Sorrento Steam to fund the necessary repairs to enable the *Wattle* to regain a survey certificate for the coming summer.

Subsequently *Wattle* was steamed to Western Port where she was slipped at Crib Point Engineering at Hastings in June. The intention was that after thorough hull inspection on the slip, the necessary work would be confirmed and then done. Unfortunately the price then quoted was well beyond expectations and Sorrento Steam decided to seek alternatives. The hull was then painted (it had been sand blasted), and *Wattle* was put back in the water and berthed at Stoney Point. At the time of writing it was planned to steam *Wattle* back to her Docklands berth, leaving on 29 October. Alternative options to have the necessary work done are being investigated.

Contacts: Dick Francis. Ph: 9873 2009. Email: dick_wend@bigpond.com

Nothing says 'Season's Greetings' like the MHAV POLO SHIRT!
We have smart polo shirts in grey, with the blue sailing ship logo on the front.
Available in a range of sizes for only \$20 each.
Contact the Association to order, or get one at the upcoming Christmas Party.