

**QUEENSCLIFFE MARITIME MUSEUM INC COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT 2009/10**

At the Annual General Meeting held on October 17, 2009, the following members were elected to the Committee of Management for 2009/10:

President	Les Irving-Dusting	Vice-President	Tony Cavanagh
Secretary	June Negri	Assistant Secretary	Joan Brennan
Treasurer	Colin Cairns	Assistant Treasurer	John Barratt
Ordinary Members	Alex Campbell, Jennifer Gilbert, Henry Hudson, Val Lawrence, John Morgan		

ARE YOU FINANCIAL? QMM 2009-10 memberships are now due!

Thank you to all who have updated their Memberships.

For those who have not yet done so, a Membership form is enclosed.

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Registered by Australia Post

Publication Number PP 342318/00006

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**QUEENSCLIFFE
MARITIME MUSEUM**

Newsletter No 22

AUTUMN 2010



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all of our members, volunteers, friends and supporters. The Museum has been busy with visitors over the summer months and the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse tours have been booked out on numerous occasions. Thank you to all the Museum and Lighthouse volunteers who worked so well over the holiday period.

You will notice throughout this newsletter that a lot has been happening at the Museum since the beginning of the year. Our outdoor volunteers came back refreshed from their Christmas break and have been working hard on a clean-up and repair program with valuable assistance from John Gleeson and his bobcat, tip truck and large skip, and Peter Negri with his Fergie tractor.

The Ports and Harbours wooden work boat has had a coat of paint. The displays in the boatshed have been tidied and dusted in preparation for Fishy Tales on March 19. Painting will soon commence on the Bathing Box and we are calling for donations of pre-World War II beach artefacts for display in the Box.

Visitors over the next few months will experience some disruption to the displays while our upgrade is taking place. This project is financed by a Commonwealth Grant received late in 2009, and we aim to have stage one of the upgrade completed by the end of June 2010. In advance of the upgrade the north facing windows in the Pilot display area and the north east entrance windows of the Museum have been treated with solar film to protect the displays. We hope you will all come for a visit in the second half of the year to see for yourselves the work that is being achieved with the displays.

Last newsletter we promised you a story about the scale model of the Pilot vessel *Alvina* donated by Shirleen Stafford, daughter of the late shipwright Arthur Woodley, a long time friend of the Museum. The Pilot Service has operated a series of vessels named *Alvina*. We propose to do a story on all the *Alvinas* over the years for the next Newsletter. Anyone with information, photographs and other Pilot or *Alvina* memorabilia is invited to bring it in to the Museum. As well as the *Alvina* model Shirleen and her family donated a wonderful model couta boat built from the plans of *Ariel*, owned by Garry Kerr of Portland. Both models were built by Arthur some years ago and are an excellent addition to the Museum Collection.

We have been contacted by the daughter of the late Dacre Smyth, a well regarded nautical artist who produced a large collection of emigrant ship paintings. Bambi Smyth and her family will donate this collection to the Museum. Once catalogued an exhibition of the paintings is planned for later in the year, after the upgrade of our other displays has been completed.

In February, June Negri attended the Australian National Maritime Museum annual conference in Warrnambool and came back with fresh ideas and many new contacts.

The Newsletter is now available on our website.

Please log on and see the full colour version at www.maritimequeenscliffe.org.au

Les Irving-Dusting
President

The Bathing Box
before restoration



RECENT ACQUISITION

Freya Hoffmeister Kayak

Last issue we encouraged readers to be on hand to welcome Freya back from her round Australia voyage. Just as the Newsletter was being posted Freya arrived back in Queenscliff, on December 15 2009, having departed on January 18, 2009.

The welcoming party included the Mayor, community members, Maritime Museum members, and of course the Victorian Sea Kayak Club which supported Freya throughout her voyage. Sea kayak enthusiasts met Freya off Barwon Heads and paddled with Freya as she rounded Shortlands Bluff and came in to shore.



Freya has donated her kayak and associated equipment to the Victorian Sea Kayak Club, in recognition of the role played by the Club in her journey. The Club has now placed the kayak with the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum in perpetuity.

Freya's kayak is now mounted in the Museum with the kayak used by Paul Caffyn in the first circumnavigation of Australia in 1981/82. Photographs and notes will be installed soon. When the other Museum displays are upgraded a new Kayak display will be installed with enhanced notes and illustrations related to both voyages.

The pictures shown here of Freya's arrival into Queenscliff will form part of the new display

Kayak display Launch and Event

We plan to host a Kayak event later in the year to launch the new Kayak display and in recognition of the growing popularity of the sport in and outside Port Phillip. In cooperation with the Victorian Sea Kayak Club and local kayakers we propose that on-water activities will be included in the program.



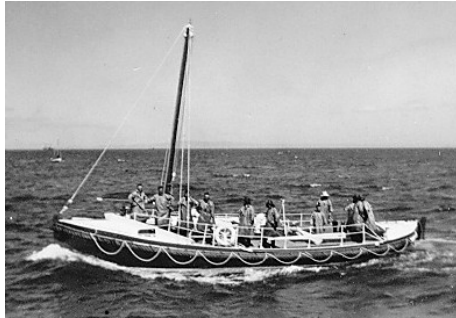
Freya's kayak mounted in temporary display

AN ANNIVERSARY and a NEW LOOK

Readers will have noticed that this issue has new front cover. The Committee of Management has decided that as this year is an important anniversary for the Museum, we will have a new look.

30 YEARS ON

The lifeboat *Queenscliffe* was taken out of service in 1976, and subsequently offered to the Borough of Queenscliffe. On March 13 1980 at a public meeting in Queenscliff Town Hall a committee was formed to examine how the lifeboat could be preserved. The members of the first committee were:



Queenscliffe at sea pre-1960s

Councillor Fred Mason
David Beavis
Geoff Beazley
Jack Beazley
Colin Cairns
Lewis Ferrier
Bill Fitzgerald
Wayne Pettigrove



The restored *Queenscliffe* at rest in the Museum

In 1984 Crown Land was gazetted for Museum use and planning for the construction of the Museum commenced. The Museum opened in 1986, with the restored *Queenscliffe* as the core of the display.

From this beginning we have continued to develop the collection, focusing on the maritime history of Port Phillip, the Bass Strait interface and the development of the town and Borough.



NEW LOGO

To mark the 30th anniversary of that historic public meeting we have adopted a new logo which will be officially launched at Fishy Tales on March 19.

The logo, designed by Andrew Watson, who also designs our Maritime Weekend posters, represents the *Queenscliffe*. The Museum will have new stationery and the website is to be updated.

We thank Andrew for his generous contribution in designing our new look.

NEW DISPLAY

Today we can see how the Museum has developed since the opening. With a continually growing collection the challenge to effectively house and display items is such that a re-design of internal display areas is required. As mentioned in previous Newsletters we have received a Commonwealth government grant to review the display.

From the review, conducted by Museum consultant Euan McGillvray, we have received recommendations about changing the display to better emphasise our primary aspects, which are the lifeboat, wrecks and rescues, safety and pilotage.

With the purchase of new showcases some exhibits will change location and some items which are currently in storage will go on display. For example, the section occupied by the *Queenscliffe* will be re-developed to feature only exhibits related to the lifeboat service. The Pilot Service section will also concentrate on exhibits related to that service.

The re-design will be coordinated with the colours of the new logo. The dark blue which is already used in some exhibits will be the main colour, used for display backdrops and in showcases. All signage will be re-designed to a new template, using the dark blue for lettering. The red of the lifeboat logo will be used for highlights.

The re-development project also includes funding to improve access around the Museum grounds. Pathways will be re-made to better lead visitors around the displays and to meet access standards for people with limited mobility or disability.

NEW EXHIBIT - HMVS *LONSDALE*

This display, formerly located in the Pilot Service section, is under re-development, with funding provided by Heritage Victoria.

Members will recall that during the construction of the new Queenscliff Harbour, the plan to form a new street behind the Museum was held up pending Heritage Victoria exploration of the site of the *Lonsdale* wreck, which is heritage listed. An excavation was undertaken to determine the location of the *Lonsdale* under the Museum grounds.

Subsequently the Museum obtained funding for a new display to tell the *Lonsdale* story. A covered display stand has been erected in the grounds over the location of the buried *Lonsdale* hulk. An interpretive panel has been designed, to be mounted on the stand. We expect that this exhibit will be installed in the next few weeks. You will then be able to examine the full story.



HMVS *Lonsdale* c.1905



Euan McGillvray with Museum President Les Irving-Dusting



Lonsdale dig March 2006

CURRENT PROJECTS

Shandon Deckhouse

The *Shandon* was an iron sailing ship of 1397 tons, 245.9 feet in length, beam of 37.8 feet and draught of 21.3 feet. Built in 1883 at Port Glasgow she had a chequered career as a trader under the British flag for nearly 40 years, and arrived in Melbourne from Liverpool in 1902. She was converted and operated as a lighter until the end of WWI. Then re-rigged as a barque she spent the next four years trading across the Pacific carrying wheat to San Francisco. Use as a coal hulk followed, in Adelaide in 1922 and in Townsville during WWII. Reconditioned and re-rigged by the Shiplover's Society of Victoria for the 1934 Melbourne Centenary Marine Exhibition she later reverted to a coal hulk, and finally was sold for scrap in 1960. (ref: Peter Stone, *Encyclopedia of Australian Shipwrecks*, Oceans Enterprises, Yarram, 2006; held in QMM Library)



Shandon under full sail

The deckhouse contained crew accommodation of sleeping quarters and galley. It is located in the Museum grounds near the boat yard.

On arrival at the Museum the deckhouse was in a state of considerable disrepair, and has been re-roofed so that it can be used for storage and, in the future, for display.

Shandon (Irish: *An Seandún*) is a district in Cork city noted for *The Bells of Shandon*, a song celebrating the bells of the Church of St Anne written by Francis Sylvester Mahony under the pen name of 'Father Prout' (Wikipedia).

Two other vessels with the name Shandon are known to have plied Port Phillip waters including a paddle steamer and a conventional steamer.



Carpenters repairing *Shandon* roof, February 2010

Bathing Box – a call for hidden treasures

The restoration of the original Point Lonsdale Bathing Box donated to the Museum by a resident is nearing completion. Volunteer John Hannan is re-building the box, which had very fragile timbers. John has done a wonderful job of sourcing old timbers including the original style weatherboards. Steps have been found and paint obtained. Landscaping has commenced around the Bathing Box site. Our garden expert, Mary Gathercole will plant the area soon.

The Bathing Box will exhibit beach memorabilia, and we have commenced collection for this display. Items already donated include 2 old home-made wooden surf boards. Contributions of items from the period prior to World War II such as bathing costumes, caps, sandals, robes, swimming gear, deck chairs (some lovely stripy ones would be great) will be most welcome.

Please call the Museum if you have a treasure for this new display. We can collect from the Bellarine / Geelong region.

ANNUAL MARITIME WEEKEND MARCH 19-21, 2010

The annual maritime weekend with the Blessing of the Fleet, 'Fishy Tales' and regatta will be held following the formal opening of the Queenscliff Harbour.

In collaboration with Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club, the Harbour and other community organisations the event will be newer and bigger this year. Events include family fun on the beach, with Benito's Treasure Hunt and beach olympics on Saturday March 20. On Sunday March 21 the family fun moves to the Harbour for fishing and other activities.

An expanded yachting program is open to all classes of yacht. Invitations to enter the races have gone out to yacht clubs around Port Phillip. On Saturday the 1st race will be held in front of the main beach, followed by 'Race the Ferry' from Popes Eye to the Harbour. This exciting new race will provide a great spectacle from the shore and we hope it will become an annual attraction.

The Sunday yacht race is a Sternchaser from the Main Pier, around into Lonsdale Bight and back home again. Yachts will start in succession according to their handicap, so onlookers will see a continuous procession of boats during the afternoon.



Queenscliff Cousta Boat *Rosie* in 2009 Regatta



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Blessing of the Fleet at Queenscliff which will be conducted in the Harbour by representatives of Queenscliff churches.

The picture at left shows the first Blessing, given from the old Fishermen's Pier in 1935.



And the first event for the Maritime Weekend is Fishy Tales on Friday March 19 in the Museum Boatshed. Last year's 'Sirens of the Sea' – photo at left – was sold out early, with late comers in very squashed standing room only.

This year's theme is 'The Last of the Lifeboat Men', accompanied by Sea Shanties with Danny Spooner.

Sponsorship has again been provided by Borough of Queenscliffe and Parks Victoria. The Program for the Maritime Weekend is enclosed with this Newsletter, and updates will be posted on the Museum website.

FISHY TALES tickets are now on sale in the Museum and selling fast. Get in soon before all are sold!

NOTICE OF RACE for the yachting events is on the Museum website