

Queenscliffe Maritime Museum Inc Committee of Management 2010/11

At the Annual General Meeting held on October 16, 2010, the following members were elected to the Committee of Management for 2010/11:

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

QMM 2010-11 memberships are now due!

Membership forms are included in this Newsletter

New Members most welcome – please encourage your friends to join

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QUEENSCLIFFE MARITIME MUSEUM

Newsletter No 25

SUMMER 2010

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 30th Annual General Meeting was held on the 16th October. I am very pleased to be returned as President, with John Barratt stepping up as Treasurer whilst Colin Cairns has taken the Assistant Treasurer role. The rest of the Committee is the same as last year.

The Museum in conjunction with the Borough of Queenscliff successfully applied for a Federal Government Grant to upgrade the Museum and the grounds. About 100 metres of new concrete paving has been constructed to improve our paths for disabled access to outside displays. The grant also enabled the Museum to install many new display cabinets and refurbish some of the old ones, and to install a wall panel illustrating the history of the Queenscliffe Lifeboat.

With the construction of the new paths we have re-organised the boatyard and grounds. The large wooden vessel, *Olympic Flame* for which various owners have rented space for some years has gone at last, having been sold again removed elsewhere for restoration.

The Swap Meet on the 5th December was a great success thanks to a warm inviting sunny day and hard work performed by museum volunteers. June Negri and Jennifer Gilbert did a great job advertising the Swap Meet and ensuring that the Museum looked its best. Many of the visitors were first time and said they would definitely be returning next year. Everyone noticed the improvements in the grounds following the recent upgrading of paths and lawn.

Round-Australia kayak adventurer Paul Caffyn visited the Museum in November, from New Zealand where he now lives. It was pleasing to show Paul the new kayak display and receive the 2nd edition of the book of his expedition. The donation by the Victorian Sea Kayak Club of funds for purpose-built units for the kayak display is gratefully received.

Also in November the local cub scouts camped overnight in the Museum grounds. Despite the soaking rain a great time was had by all.

Numbers for the Lighthouse Tours in Sunday mornings have increased, and the Museum tours for school and community groups continue to be well-subscribed.

Again I thank all our volunteers for their contribution throughout the year. We will all miss volunteer Frank Harvey who died on December 15 after a long illness

On behalf of the Committee of Management I send seasons greetings and best wishes for the new year to all.

Les Irving-Dusting
President



The full colour version of this Newsletter is available on the web at www.maritimequeenscliffe.org.au

SEA SCOUTS AT THE MUSEUM

The 1st Queenscliff Sea Scout Cub Pack recently held an overnight camp in the Museum grounds. On the Friday night tents were pitched and cooking facilities set up under the supervision of Akela Monica and Raksha Fiona, assisted by Scout Group Leader Ross.



1st Queenscliff Sea Scout Cubs at the Museum camp

After breakfast on Saturday a tour of the Museum was conducted by volunteer guide Mary Grundy. The encampment was then packed up leaving no trace of the visit.

The rain was extremely heavy overnight but by breakfast time stopped. The enthusiasm of the pack indicated that a good time was had by all. The visitors even managed to keep off the newly sown grass!

The Museum welcomes this involvement with the Scouts and looks forward to more activities in the future.

PV WYUNA MODEL

Malcolm Gibson has completed a 1:72 scale model of the pilot vessel *Wyuna* which served the Port Phillip Sea Pilot Service from 1953 to 1979. The model was placed at the Museum for sale, and has been sold to a Sorrento buyer.

The *Wyuna* stood off-shore either inside or just outside the Heads to await ships requiring pilotage through Port Phillip. Pilots on duty lived on board and were ferried to and from the *Wyuna* on the workboat which is displayed in the Museum.



PV Wyuna model 1:72 scale

The *Wyuna* features in the Pilot Service video showing in the Museum, and was replaced by the fast launches now in use. After her retirement she was sold to the Australian Maritime College and used for some years as a training vessel, stationed at Beauty Point Tasmania. She is now privately owned and sits at Launceston awaiting restoration.

SEA KAYAK DISPLAY



The re-organisation of the Museum has enabled the Sea Kayak display to be moved to a new area of the Museum where it has been expanded to accommodate more items.

The new Sea Kayak display is beside the North-East exit door

The Victorian Sea Kayak Club (VSKC) has facilitated several new items for the collection:

- The kayak used by VSKC founding President Earl de Blonville to circumnavigate Tasmania in 1979 has been placed on permanent loan and is mounted above the 2 round-Australia Kayaks; Earle has assembled a collection of images from the trip to accompany his kayak.
- A donation from the John Holland Group of 2 computers allows the continuous display of slides illustrating all 3 journeys.
- The Sea Kayak Forum at Anglesea on the weekend of November 12-13 generated funds which have been donated to Queenscliffe Maritime Museum for the development of display units for kayak artefacts.
- An updated edition of Paul Caffyn's book of his expedition around Australia, presented by Paul when he visited the Museum in November.

We were pleased to welcome visits from Paul Caffyn and several other Australian and international sea kayak enthusiasts who were attending the Sea Kayak Forum at Anglesea.

On Saturday December 18 VSKC members formally presented the donation of \$2000, received by Museum President Les Irving-Dusting. Councillors Butler, Davies and Merriman were in attendance together with Museum personnel and Committee of Management representatives. Mayor Bob Merriman spoke to the significance to Queenscliff of the round-Australia kayak events, both of which started and finished at the cove below Shortlands Bluff.



VSKC President Terry Barry, Les Irving-dusting and Mayor Bob Merriman at the cheque presentation

The new Kayak display units will be prepared early in the New Year.

For more information about VSKC visit the website at <http://www.vskc.org.au>

2010 MARITIME SWAP MEET

The Swap Meet was again a great success, with the customary array of weird and wonderful goods as well as numerous useful boat bits and other equipment. Twenty stallholders set up in the Museum grounds including the Queenscliffe Historical Museum refreshment tent which did a brisk trade throughout the morning.



The newly cleared boatyard enabled us to accommodate some large items including the boats and parts donated from various sources, and almost all items were sold. On the Museum stall the charts, maps and posters were very much in demand as well as the books and magazines.



The fundraiser generated approximately \$5500 for the Museum, a welcome contribution to our annual operating costs.

We acknowledge the support of stallholders, many of whom return each year. We also thank the numerous volunteers who helped with the organisation of the event, from promotion and coordination, setting up for the day, ticket sales, Museum stall sales and clearing up afterwards.

2011 Swap Meet

Next year the Swap Meet will be held on Sunday December 4. Donations for the Museum stall can be received throughout the year. We can collect items within reasonable distance of Queenscliff.

NEW EXHIBITS

The update of displays continues – and is almost complete.

MV DUNTROON

The scale model of the *Dunroon*, on loan from Museum Victoria has been installed with our *Goorangai* artefacts. This magnificent model was made in 1934/5 by the builder of the *Dunroon*, Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson Ltd, Newcastle UK.



MV Dunroon model arriving at the Museum

The 1:48 scale *Dunroon* sits alongside our 1:52 scale *Goorangai* model. The scale of the 2 models is close enough to illustrate the magnitude of the disaster - that the *Goorangai* crew had little chance of survival. It is interesting to note that the history of the *Dunroon* includes several other collisions or near incidents!

The Museum hopes that in the future we may be able to commission a new *Goorangai* model at the same scale as the *Dunroon*.

PORT PHILLIP STEAMERS

When the *Dunroon* model arrived the opportunity was taken to check the PS *Hygeia* and PS *Weeroona* models which have been on loan from Museum Victoria for some time. This entailed opening up the huge showcase to closely inspect the models and make some minor repairs.



Section of new Steamer display showing china used on board Huddart Parker Line vessels

Knowing this would be a rare occurrence, given the size and weight of the cabinet, we took the opportunity to enhance the Steamer display in 2 ways. The models were placed on raised glass shelves supported by stainless steel tubes, to better display the models. Beneath the models we have installed a display to illustrate the steamer services and the shipping companies which operated them. The ships' china relics which the Museum has acquired over the years have been cleaned, identified and documented. Most of the china was made in the UK, and we were able to use the comprehensive Staffordshire potteries website for this research. The china display is interspersed with illustrations of steamer activity reproduced from our photograph, postcard and map archive.

The display of other steamer relics will be re-designed in the new year.

MORE DISPLAY NEWS

Members will have observed some changes to outdoor displays, starting with the construction of new pathways. Volunteers have worked very hard to clean up the boatyard, shift items to new homes and to groom and grass the open areas.

HMVS *Lonsdale* interpretive display

The final item to be installed is a concrete marker to indicate the location of the conning tower underneath the lawn, alongside the display.

Channel Marker

A port-side channel marker from the West Channel has been moved into place near the Harbour Street fence. Volunteers have re-clad the marker with corrugated iron ready for repainting.

Bathing Box – ITEMS WANTED!

The restoration of the Point Lonsdale beach bathing box is at last finished, thanks to the work of volunteer John. We now wish to install some artefacts to illustrate beach life pre-World War II.

So far, members have donated some early wooden surfboards and two deck chairs. We would like costumes, shoes, beach toys etc – so please contact us if you have any such items, or illustrations, from which we can make replicas, or reproduce for the display.

Landscaping

In addition to the grass grooming, volunteer Mary has commenced planting shrubs and trees. With the welcome rain these are growing well and will greatly enhance the grounds.

VALE

Sadly we must this month farewell 2 friends of the Museum, and our condolences go to their families and friends.

Ron Scotland

Ron was an enthusiastic sailor and long-standing member of the Museum, who passed away in November.

It was Ron's wish that his 5 metre yacht *Thistle of Leopold* be donated to the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, to be sold as a fundraiser. His family kindly carried out his wish and the boat sold at the Swap Meet to a buyer from Portland.

Frank Harvey

After a career in the army including time at Fort Queenscliff Frank retired to the area and became involved in the Maritime Museum. Frank died on December 15 after battling illness for some time.

Frank was a willing and cheerful volunteer at the Museum and will be greatly missed. He helped with many special events, conducted Museum and Lighthouse tours and helped with general shop and customer service.