

**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	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 23
WINTER 2010



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

With winter arriving and tourists not as plentiful, we are busy catching up on work around the Museum. Volunteers have been repainting boats and restoring motors and the restoration of the Bathing Box is moving toward the final stages. We have been promised 2 deck chairs for the bathing box display by an Elliminyt member.

I would like to welcome Beverley Russell who has joined our happy crew of Museum volunteers. Beverley was introduced to the Museum by two young grandsons who love to visit.

Best wishes to Sid Wright and Frank Harvey who are both having some health issues at the moment.

In late 2009 the Museum, in conjunction with the Borough of Queenscliffe, obtained a Commonwealth Government grant to upgrade parts of the display and the pathways in the Museum grounds. Volunteers are assisting with moving showcases and displays, and preparing walls ready for the upgrade which we hope will be completed in early July. The pathways work has commenced and should be finished by early July. Please come in to renew your Membership and have a look at what has been happening at the Museum.

Fishy Tales and the Maritime Weekend were a great success once again this year and plans are already underway for next year's event.

In April the Museum received a loan of the South Channel Pile Light Ferrier paintings from the National Trust of Victoria.

To expand the Minesweeper *Goorangai* shipwreck story a long term loan of a model of the MV *Duntroon* is being negotiated with Museum Victoria. November 20 this year marks the 60th Anniversary of the disaster. Information about *Goorangai* Day Commemorations can be found on the QMM website Events page.

A double seat from the Paddle Steamer *Hygeia* has been donated to the Museum by a kind donor from Beaumaris. A Leopold resident has donated a deck seat from the SS *Edina*. The seats will be installed shortly to join the Bay Steamers display.

The beginning of June saw the finish of the Heritagecare Program which introduced four new volunteers to work on archiving and cataloguing. Funding for this program will not continue so we say a reluctant goodbye to the Heritagecare facilitator Roger Southern and thank him for supporting the volunteers. Although the program has finished all five volunteers are staying on to continue their valuable work cataloguing artefacts and preparing them for safe storage.

The Museum successfully applied for a Public Records Office Grant to produce a Fisherman's Flat heritage walk including student worksheets. Information for this project will be gathered from local residents with long family histories in the precinct.

Our corporate members, members, volunteers and friends are the lifeblood of the Museum and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported the Museum over the past 12 months.

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

VOLUNTEERS AFTERNOON TEA

Our volunteers keep the Museum functioning from day to day, week to week, and we could not do without you all.

To celebrate the contribution of volunteers the annual afternoon tea was held on April 16th at Hobsons Garden Cafe Queenscliff. Forty five members gathered in the courtyard for a lovely repast and were thanked for their dedication to the Museum by Vice President and Librarian Tony Cavanagh (President Les Irving-Dusting was called to Borrough business).



Volunteers wanted

More volunteers are desperately needed. One day a month would help greatly.

Volunteers support a wide range of Museum functions, from front of house, cataloguing, office administration, outdoor and indoor maintenance, display preparation, gardening and of course tour guiding at the Museum and Point Lonsdale lighthouse.

WE NEED YOUR SKILLS & TALENTS NOW!

We know that volunteers gain much enjoyment and satisfaction from their tasks. Many members have special skills and talents – so please think about helping to keep the Museum a lively and vibrant place.

WILLIAM FERRIER WALL PAINTINGS

You may have seen the item in local papers about the paintings on loan from National Trust Victoria. They are charming and look wonderful on display in the Museum.

We hope you will all come into see them. See the story on the QMM website.



MARITIME WEEKEND MARCH 19-21 2010

The maritime weekend this year continued the traditional format starting with Fishy Tales in the Boatshed on Friday night. This year the stories were about 'The Last of the Lifeboat Men' with presenters Gus Rogers and Jack Beazley who told tall and improbable tales of their time with the lifeboat service. Thank you to Andrew Scorgie for again organising the theme, the speakers and chairing the session. Attendance this year was over 160, a capacity crowd.

This year the Blessing of the Fleet marked the 75th anniversary of the first Blessing. Clergy from the 3 Queenscliff churches conducted the ceremony which concluded with the casting of the cross into the waters. Eric Christie piped the procession of clergy, Sea Scouts, Fort and community members into the centre of the harbour and at the conclusion of the service. At the start of the service Lewis Ferrier welcomed the huge crowd to the first Blessing to be conducted in the new Harbour.



Piping in the Blessing



Yacht races organised by Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club followed the Blessing. Invitations to compete were issued to clubs around Port Phillip and competitors this year included maxi yachts from Royal Geelong, Royal Victorian, Royal Brighton, Sandringham, and Queenscliff Cruising yacht clubs as well as local Couta boats and trailable yachts. After a race starting off the main pier boats gathered off Popes Eye for the start of the new event 'Race the Ferry'. On a signal from the skipper of the 3pm ferry from Sorrento competitors started according to their handicap to race the ferry home. Spectators viewed this event from on shore and on the water as the first boat reached the finish line off Queenscliff Harbour. It was a great sight with Couta boat sails billowing and other yachts flying their colourful spinnakers. The winner was local Couta boat C106 *Christabelle* showing that local knowledge and tradition can overcome the perceived advantage of sleek keelboats equipped with spinnakers.



Couta boats
C106 *Christabelle* &
C144 *Fancy* race
the ferry



Sm2000 *Lionheart*,
C3227 *Drizabone* &
G5789 *Samiano* in
the ferry race

Presentations took place in the Boatshed on Saturday evening with the traditional white jumper for the winning Couta boat presented by the Mayor, Bob Merriman. The Peninsula Searoad trophy for 'Race the Ferry' was presented by Kevin Thompson and we are delighted that this perpetual trophy will be mounted in the saloon of the ferry *Sorrento*. A leisurely Sunday race saw yachts sailing around into Lonsdale Bight.

The traditional Benito's Treasure Hunt on the front beach, organised by Queenscliff Sea Scouts attracted a record crowd. The community event program this year was expanded with beach athletics, face painting and childrens art activities.

We thank Parks Victoria and the Borough of Queenscliff for again supporting the Maritime Weekend, and of course the Sea Scouts and QLYC for their role in organisation of a most successful series of events.

QMM UPGRADE

We previously announced the receipt of a grant, in association with the Borough of Queenscliffe, to upgrade the Museum displays and improve external pathways.

This work is now nearing completion. New showcases have been delivered and existing cases refurbished to match, using the new Museum blue colour as in the Lifeboat logo. Substandard cases have been removed, and the exhibit areas consolidated to better focus on the key categories of the collection.

To introduce the core of the collection, the Lifeboat *Queenscliffe* a new wall panel has been designed. This panel, 7.2 x 1.5 metres features images depicting the history of the lifeboat. The Lifeboat display area will be enhanced by the model of the Duntroon which will arrive in the next few weeks on loan from Museum Victoria. The wrecks and rescue displays are being relocated to the new showcases around the walls.

The diving, bay steamers, sea pilots and Queenscliff fishermen displays will also be consolidated and re-designed. The Rip model has been moved to the Museum entrance and is being refurbished to show current information about navigation at the entrance to Port Phillip.

Some other measures to improve Museum appearance are screening below the central walkway and stairs, in a nautical style, and removal of the entrance turnstiles which were unattractive and unnecessary.

The pathways in the Museum grounds have been re-designed to give better access to the outside exhibits and to accommodate people with limited mobility or in wheelchairs. The new paths are concrete with an exposed aggregate finish.



Pathways under construction



Showcases being installed

MARCONI RADIO HUT

The Geelong Amateur Radio Club (GARC) established radio contact with other Museums and amateur radio operators in the local area and around the world during *International Museums on the Air* weekend on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th June.

As part of the international linkup members of GARC broadcast overnight from the Marconi Hut in the Museum grounds. GARC started broadcasting at 12 noon on Saturday and continuously kept contact with other radio and museum sites until 4.30pm on Sunday.

The Marconi Hut, a replica of the one used by Guglielmo Marconi in July 1906 to send the first wireless message from mainland Australia to Devonport Tasmania was donated to the Museum by GARC following the 100 year Celebrations in July 2006. The equipment in the hut comprises some original items plus lovingly created replicas.

Although the weather did not encourage visitors GARC members were pleased to make many more contacts this year.

The number of Museums from around the world with an interest in historic broadcasting continues to grow. GARC will return for a special *Museums on the Air* broadcast event at a later date. Information will be published on QMM website.



The original Marconi broadcast

COMING EVENT

International Lighthouse Weekend August 14 & 15 2010



Pt Lonsdale Lightstation 1920

QMM will celebrate this weekend at Point Lonsdale lightstation:

- Lighthouse tours both days (bookings required)
- Fog Horn shed open to the public (a rare occurrence)
- Children's art competition – illustrating Pt Lonsdale Light and precinct – 3 age groups

Point Lonsdale lightstation access is by agreement with the Port of Melbourne Corporation.

Watch the local press and QMM website for more information.

HERITAGECARE COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Over the past two years the Museum has participated the Heritagecare program conducted by Conservation Volunteers Australia in collaboration with Heritage Victoria. Initially, archival training was provided and the volunteers embarked on their new tasks.

The five Heritagecare volunteers settled well into the Museum environment and have completed a huge amount of work. Bob has sorted through the catalogue database, John has joined the committee of management and does archival work. Aileen has joined the Lighthouse tour guides, works on the museum catalogue and takes on customer service when required. Martin's work on the Museum plan will show the result of current refurbishment works. Jennifer is continuing her conservation and archival work and assisting with the Museum upgrade.

A visit to the Heritage Victoria laboratory in Abbotsford was organised for Heritagecare volunteers in May this year. John, Aileen, Tony (QMM Librarian) and June Negri came back with ideas galore and the answer to many of our questions on the conservation of paper items, with particular emphasis on charts and maps.

Even though the program has finished all the Heritagecare volunteers plan to continue their involvement. There is still a huge amount of work ahead and the enthusiasm for the tasks ahead is very heartening.



Aileen, John & Bob in the Archive

MARITIME MUSEUMS OF AUSTRALIA PROJECT SUPPORT SCHEME (MMAPSS)

QMM has been fortunate in receiving support from this scheme in two ways. An archival grant will enable the packaging of objects for storage in the Archival Repository in a safe and accessible manner. Archival quality materials have been purchased to hold our huge collection of paper-based objects.

MMAPSS also offers Internships to support the work of maritime museums around Australia. This year QMM volunteer Jennifer Gilbert was successful in gaining one of the two Internships on offer. Jennifer spent 2 weeks at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney to study museum practice. Commencing in the conservation workshops Jennifer observed and assisted with the mounting and packaging of objects for display, storage and for travelling exhibitions. Curatorial tasks studied included the assessment of recent arrivals which requires detailed measurement and description of an object and its condition, for catalogue entry. Jennifer spent considerable time with the design and display production section and gained much information about current display techniques including lighting. The final segment was to observe the installation of a large special exhibition prepared by an external exhibition design and production company.

Jennifer has already applied her Internship experience in several areas at QMM, especially on the Museum upgrade project.