



VICTORIAN MARITIME CENTRE



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Governors: Ian Heraud (Chairman), Michael Kroger, Gladys Liu

Ambassadors: Dennis Gist

December 2018

Members & Friends

Once again welcome to all Life Members, Members and Supporters of the Victorian Maritime Centre project to the latest issue of Sub-Scriber. Rosey as editor of the newsletter is producing a quality informative newsletter. We are still having problems with frequency, the newsletter is only one of the many tasks Rosey performs which are too numerous to list here. She needs help, instead of waiting for your newsletter to arrive why not come and help Rosey produce the newsletter, the old adage **"many hands make light work"**..

From The President's Desk

I congratulate Rosey on the quality of the previous newsletter please help Rosey by contributing articles, story's, jokes, pictures.

Membership renewals are down this year for the first time. I implore you, don't lose heart, keep the faith, help us to keep fighting, your membership is vitally important to us. We need each and every financial member to go out and convince two other potential members to join up. Then membership numbers would be back where we would like it to be.

You may recall in the last edition I asked for more help in the museum (see below) well we got none, zip, nothing which was very disappointing, again **"many hands make light work"**

We are all volunteers and I know we are all busy in our private life but if you can spare some time we would welcome your help at the museum of a Saturday.

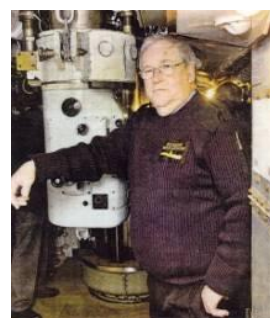
I could again mention the faceless dirt bag hero's making ill informed comments on face book but I won't.

Last issue I talked about the approach by a Chinese consortium who were interested in purchasing the business. They were after a 200 acre block with some water frontage to site an extensive tourism development. To find such an expanse of land on the Peninsula was an impossibility so they moved to Tasmania. Buying land at George Town they wanted us to move our project to Tassie which those that attended the meeting vetoed the idea. We have since had approaches from Mornington Yacht Club to join with them to develop a "Marine Precinct" in Mornington. On the day of the meeting in Mornington waves were crashing over the Mornington pier so the idea did not fill us full of enthusiasm. It is early days and discussions are still ongoing.

We were approached by management of the Wyndham Harbour Marina complex asking if they could attend one of our committee meetings to put a proposal before the committee. A director and CEO attended our meeting and asked if we would be interested in moving the project to their marina. It was agreed that members of the committee would journey to Wyndam to see what the location had to offer. They were extremely keen to have Wyuna in their Marina and with a search for a suitable berth still in progress seemed like the site could be beneficial to all. The Marina is a well laid out modern facility with a huge area available for expansion. Take the time to check it out <https://www.wyndhamharbour.com.au/marina/> discussions are still ongoing.

As reported last issue we wrote to the Chief of Navy, no response. Wrote to the Minister for Defence yes she will meet with us in the future. With the reshuffle new Minister for Defence so wrote to Christopher Pyne, no response. Wrote to the Prime Minister, so far no response. Chairman Ian Heraud has been trying to get a meeting with Greg Hunt. So as you can see we are leaving no stone unturned and we will continue to pursue all our options until we get a positive result. On a brighter note we have been working with Soldier On and are working toward hosting a major event in the near future, so stay tuned. To all members and friends, keep the faith and have a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Cheers Max



Reports

The Otama The annual hull and internal survey was completed with no changes to the boats condition. We have had to replace riding lights as they do not operate fully for the darkest hours during winter. The only thing we need to bring Otama ashore is funding, which we have had some positive signs lately.



Wyuna Over the past 12 months we had four brokers working on insurance and they all came up empty. We were then advised and directed to a lady in Sydney who worked for an International Brokerage and she took it worldwide. She searched the world for quite some time and eventually located an insurer of all place next door in New Zealand. There were a number of backward and forward emails to establish the boundaries of a policy but we eventually came up with a workable package. The one item we are in the process of determining was the clarification of AMSA's position. As you are no doubt aware AMSA control all Australian shipping on the commercial register. They have the say if Wyuna is commercial or commercial domestic or purely heritage recreational this has a massive bearing on survey requirements. There has been a significant chatter between Tasmania and head office in Melbourne but I believe we will now get an AMSA exemption which the insurer requires. Once the insurance is finally approved we can then look to come alongside the wharf at Beauty Point to prepare her to sail to Melbourne. We anticipate being alongside for 6-8 weeks getting Wyuna shipshape again.



Library from Kaye

Jacki, Doug, Andy and myself have been working hard in the Library. We have had a donation of 17 books about the Antarctic, Shackleton and Mawson from Brenda Dickson. These books belonged to her husband and some are quite old, all are extremely interesting and informative. We thank her for her donation.

Nurses Project

This is coming along well; we have done the script, costume, and sourced the photos. So all we need to do now is the filming, but this will be on hold for another month as Pamela is going overseas to Holland. And we have been invited by the curator David West to the Army Museum in Bandiana to do research re our WW1 nurses, thank you to Monique for arranging this. It will be a future trip to Wodonga.



Museum Displays

Model Ships from Rosey

The model warships are all finished now and in their new cases, which are looking great. We have acquired some more model ships. I found a model of a hospital ship HMAHS Wanganella which is part of the nurses display. And we have been donated a model of the Paddle Steamer Weeroona, which I will have to repaint



Funding Dave and Doug nominated Max for the Alf Tallon Memorial Community Service Prize from the Bendigo Bank. Alf was a great friend of Max and one of the original members of WPOA, and a life member. Max was awarded this prize of \$1,000 for use in our museum. We have also received funding from Bendigo Bank, PAME Spoolbase workforce and the Hastings Gift; this money will be used to update some facilities and displays in the building.

Media



Hello everyone!

What are we working on at the moment!

Sadly I lost a lot of work on Doug's historic life story video, I made an error when I was moving files around,!! Never mind I am back to where I started again only better. I am making it in three pieces so we can play any one of the three minute pieces in the museum. In particular we can play a three minute piece on how Doug came about obtaining the Samurai sword.

The Nurses Story" is coming along fine! We have completed a test audio read with Dennis and Pam and that worked great. The script is now finished and we are up to doing a test shoot with Pam to determine the best option in regards to filming the piece.

I am working with Rosey, to film all the models so we can do a small piece on each ship! This will be useful when we have touch screens in the museum. We need to build a lazy Susan type thing for this, basically a motorised turntable.

I am also working on a six minute peace on AE1 and AE2. I have made contact to get original footage of the discoveries and found material on the A class in general, but I will wait to finish the "Nurses Story" before I go further on this one.

Over all I continue to keep collecting material and we are really building a substantial collection of media!
Cheers Wayne

Events

Neale Burgess Announcement



The shadow Minister for Tourism Heidi Victoria and local state member Neale Burgess visited the Centre with Heidi making the pledge if they are elected we will get the \$1 million dollars they have promised. And with the Mornington Peninsula Shire and the Western Port Chamber of Commerce. As this newsletter is being written the liberals have lost the election therefore the promise comes to nothing again.



Soldier On BBQ

The Soldier On organisation works side by side with those who have served in the forces and continue to serve our nation. They help them and their families to secure their futures. They would like to work with us at VMC, so they started by holding a BBQ at the VMC on Saturday 18th August. So their members could get to know our members. They brought the food and cooked it, and they also had a good look around the museum and a few people joined up. A very good time was had by all who attended. And we hope to have more functions in the future.





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**Hastings Gift by Pamela** The VMC as one of the main supporters was involved in the inaugural Hastings Gift held at the Thomas Barclay Oval Hastings; a Peninsula Athletics Association event. VMC member Terry Kelly was the President, and Max Bryant VMC President was the Chairman of the organizing Committee, and Maryanne Vurlow was the treasurer. The VMC volunteers had the job of manning the gate and collecting the car parking fees. Dave monitored the cars coming at a steady stream for most of the day collecting entry fees with Bernie. Jackie, Ian, Pamela and Kaye had many checklists to mark off over 400 Athletes, competing for substantial prizes, Trainers, Sponsors and VIP's. Rosey and Brian were general helpers. There were many family supporters and spectators. Max had 'meet and greet' duties, Terry had to be everywhere and Mary Anne had counting house responsibilities all day. The refreshments were generous and Terry and Wendy checked the Gate crew were OK. The feedback for the event was very good, and we made \$1,000 from it.



### **Queenscliff Maritime Museum**

In September Rosey and Brian went to the Queenscliff Maritime Museum to be part of the display for their model boat show, where there were all sorts of different kinds of model ships and boats on display. The model of the Wyuna is always a hit and we get a lot of feedback from the locals as the Pilot ship Wyuna is a big part of Queenscliff history. The Model groups represented were Illawong, Geelong, and Task Force 72 and a couple of solo guys. And the model sailing pool which VMC own was used most of the weekend.





## **PAME Spoolbase Workforce**

For the last 9 months the PAME Spoolbase workforce, which is made up of several companies, Petroleum & Mining Engineering, Sub Sea 7 Shipping and Cooper energy have been working on fabricating a pipeline in the land behind our Museum. They made 67 kilometers of gas pipeline, then the pipe laying ship 7 Oceans came in to the Crib Point jetty and they loaded the pipeline, then the ship went out off the coastal township of Orbest and laid the pipeline. During the 9 months the workers held raffles and raised money which they donated to four local charities, Crib Point Fire Brigade, Crib Point Community House, Crib Point Junior Football/Netball Club, and us the Victorian Maritime Centre. Each one received \$4,500. We will use this to pay for the new model cases. As a bonus we also gained 30 new members.



**Above**, we were all invited to the presentation and BBQ lunch.



**Above**, the donation certificate that was presented to Max.

**Left**, the pipeline moving slowly past our museum

**Right**, the pipe laying ship Seven Oceans from the SubSea Company.



**Below**, the pipeline going out to the Seven Oceans ship at Crib Point Jetty.



**Below**, representatives from PAME Spoolbase workforce, Sub Sea 7 and Cooper energy came to our museum and presented us with this beautiful picture of the Seven Oceans pipe laying ship.



### Group Tours

The Wheelers Hill Probus group with about 20 people came to visit for a group tour of our Museum, they paid a bit extra and we gave them morning tea. Max gave the introduction, and then they had a cuppa and a good look around. So if you are a member of a group or club you could get them to book a tour with us. It can be any group; schools, scouts, guides, Probus, retirement village, but we need a minimum of 12 people. We can take tours on any day of the week as well as weekends from times 10 am to 4 pm. Just give us a call on 0476 109223.



**Right:**  
Ralph  
Blair, ex  
crew  
member  
with the  
model  
of the  
Vendetta



### Joke

A magician worked on a cruise ship. Since the audience was different each week, he did the same tricks over and over again. One problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick. Once the parrot understood, she started shouting in the middle of the show: "Look, it's not the same hat! Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table. Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything. It was, after all, the captain's parrot. Then the ship sank. After swimming for a few hours, the magician found himself on a piece of wood floating in the middle of the sea with, as fate would have it, the parrot. They stared malevolently at each other but did not utter a word. This went on for a day and then another, and then another. Finally on the fourth day, the parrot could restrain itself no longer: "OK," she said, "I give up. What'd you do with the ship?"

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Well that is it at this time; I hope that you have all enjoyed this newsletter. We still need more items for the next newsletter, articles, photos and jokes so please write up your memories, it could be your experiences working in the Navy or the Merchant Navy, or a fishing story, or a cruise that you have been on, or a funny story but remember to keep them Maritime related. So please get writing and send in your stories and Maritime related info. And don't forget to "like" us on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/victorianmaritimecentre/> We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Cheers Rosey

