



WAVE

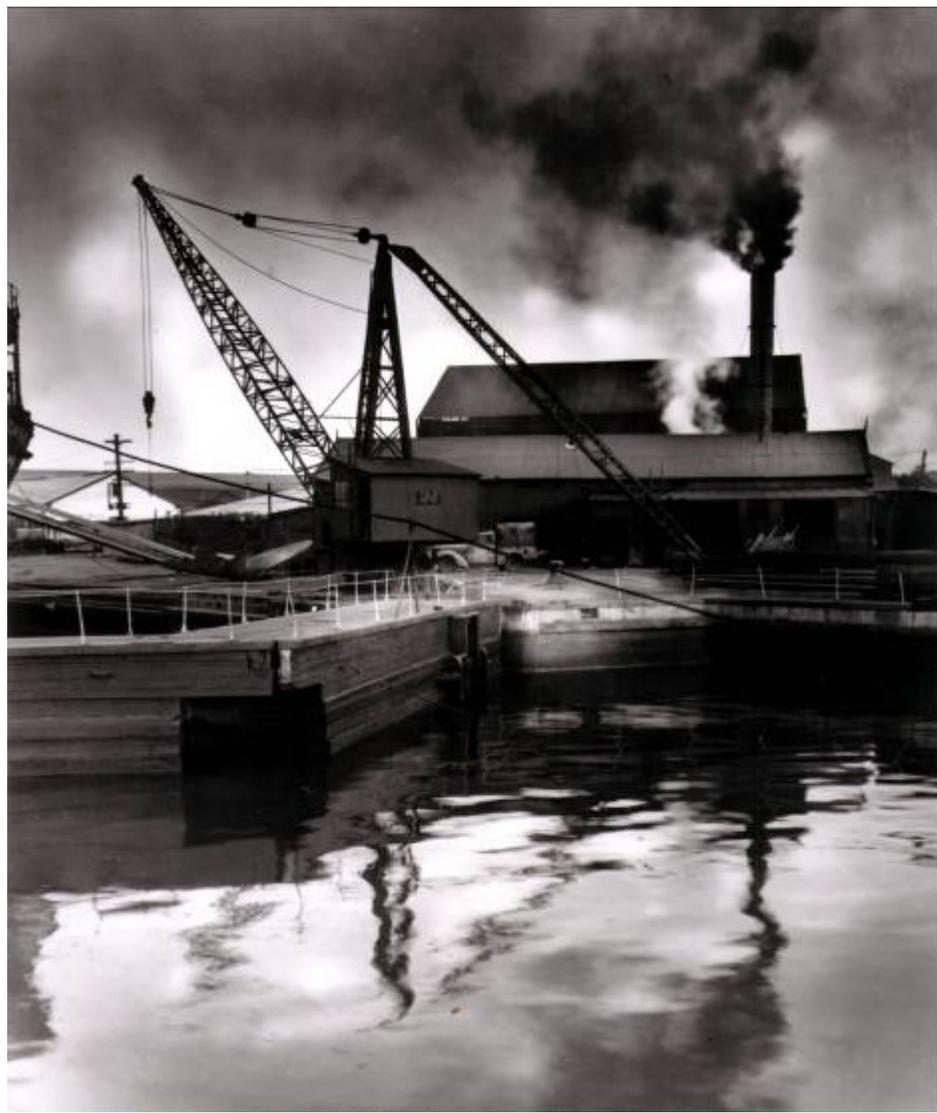


Number 128

“the ship comes first”

Dec 2009

The Newsletter of the Barque *Polly Woodside* Volunteers Association Inc.



It occurred to the editor that the front cover of Wave tends to feature pictures of the *Polly Woodside* and in recognition of members who have beavered away on the adjoining dry-dock pump-house it is about time that we showed a picture of the pump-house in action and here it is (circa 1947-9).

Picture courtesy of the State Library of Victoria

**PWVA Committee:**

Chairman: Capt. Ralph McDonell, ralphmcd@bigpond.com.au, 9807 5646

Vice Chairman: Neil Thomas, thomclan@optusnet.com.au, 9802 4608

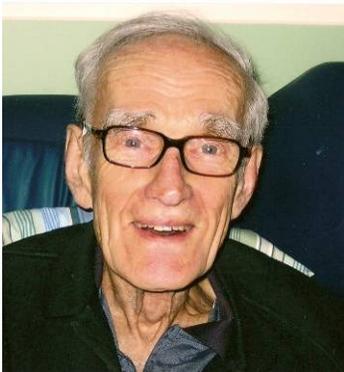
Hon. Secretary: Jenny Hunter. 9690 3669

Hon Treasurer and Wavelet Editor: John Wroe, jacwroe@bigpond.net.au, 9531 5626

Other Committee Members: Don Knowles, 9877 1584; Neville Keown, 9877 9234; Roger Wilson

DISCLAIMER: Please be aware that statements, opinions &

A Message from the Chairman of P.W.V.A.



As I start to compile a Christmas/New Year greeting to you all, some forty of us have recently shared an occasion at the Mission to Seafarers, which was our Year's End "Christmas Break-up" party. We are indebted to Neil and Anne Thomas for the enjoyable gathering, which they organised. There was help afforded to them by several people, to all of whom our thanks. Also our thanks go to Martin Green for his informal talk and his showing of snippets to do with POLLY WOODSIDE and with ideas for the interpretation/reception area in the former Number 2 Shed.

Work on the re-erection of that building has not yet begun, and Martin has invited anyone who so wishes to submit ideas as to what, for instance, should be included in the rebuilt, somewhat altered, structure.

From Graeme Cooper we heard that the re-filling of the drydock has begun. By the time you read this, the levels in the dock and in the river may well be about equal, subject to any leaking that there may be around the new caisson.

I was delighted to hear, a few weeks ago, that the magnificent floor timbers of No. 4 Shed have - at least in part - been placed back where originally built. Huge baulks of timber like that are now almost certainly unobtainable. They have withstood the weight, the wear and the tear of generations of cargo handling, with wharfies' trolleys, horses and carts and motorised vehicles such as forklifts constantly running across and along them. General cargo of widely varying descriptions have been stowed on them, and I believe that none of them have rotted and been replaced. The "lantern" (or windows) along the ridge of the shed have, until the shed was dismantled last year, been darkened with black paint, and we believe that that goes back to World War 2, to comply with 'Blackout' regulations. When rebuilt, the interior should be much brighter than we have known it. To what purpose No.4 Shed will be put we don't yet know. We do not know whether the National Trust has received any offers of commercial interest.

We are fairly certain that the signal-mast, built in Arthur Woodley's backyard, will be re-erected inside the fence line, together with the Gellibrand Light.

Awaiting replacement is the timber mast of one of our two hand-operated dockside cranes. We expect to find a suitable length of Douglas fir among the 4 big logs stored at Gulf Station, from which to shape the new mast.

A rumour that reached me and made me laugh was that PWVA members are no longer welcome to use the toilet facilities in the Convention Centre. During the construction work in the dry-dock a diver was seen leaving wet and/or webbed foot prints across the shiny floor. The very sight of him in such palatial surroundings like a fish out of water -must have titillated whoever made the complaint. Since the alleged event I have twice made an unchallenged foray across the polished marble floor. (A small amount of disguise should prevent the banishment of PWVA members, I suggest.)

I wish to thank all members of the Ship Committee, of the PWVA Committee and especially our vice-Chairman Neil Thomas, the relevant Secretaries Roger Wilson and Jenny Hunter and our Hon. Editor John Wroe, who continues with commendable effort to keep us informed via the *WAVE*. And of recent days we have incurred a debt of thanks to the Thomas family, for the party

May you all enjoy a happy, safe Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Ralph McDonell,

Chairman, PWVA.

The Ship

We are still in the market for two four-foot diameter flywheels so that a hand-pump can be fabricated for the Polly. At our request, the "The Old Machinery Magazine" have kindly run a front page ad in their December edition in the hope that somewhere out there standing in the corner of a barn are the aforementioned items.

The Site

After hull repairs and repainting, the dry-dock is now in the process of being re-filled. At the time of writing there was about 8 feet of water in the dock and it is planned to have the Polly floating again soon. There have been some delays to re-filling due to the Yarra River wishing to relocate into the pump-house. This has now been rectified by sealing off the inlets in the pump-house with timber plugs and concrete.

No date had yet been set for the re-erection of Shed 2 which is to house the Polly Woodside display and related activities. Following is a comment by Martin Green from the National Trust:

“Although work on the construction of the Polly Woodside Visitor Centre has been delayed by months we are pleased to have concluded this year having made a great deal of progress in some areas. Planning for the centre is well underway. The Polly Woodside Visitor Centre will engage visitors with the story of the Polly Woodside and the give them a strong impression of the hardships and endurance of the men who sailed in her. The plan includes an immersive theatre experience, various installations illustrating crew roles, zones outlining destinations and various displays showing a wide range of the collection associated with the Polly Woodside and maritime culture.

The last few months saw the shooting and production of a film to be shown permanently at the visitor centre. With assistance from the National Trust, Andrew Ferguson of Ferguson Films shot the film aboard the Polly Woodside using original artefacts. The film was produced using the latest video “Red” camera to produce a wide screen and realistic portrayal of the voyage of George Andrews in 1914. Attached are some still images from the film shoot.

Martin Green

Learning & Interpretation Manager”

Seafarers Bridge



The new foot/cycle bridge across the Yarra between the new Convention Centre and the Mission to Seafarers is now the “Seafarers Bridge”. The PWVA had submitted a proposal to the Melbourne City Council that the bridge should be named in recognition of our master sail-maker and rigger Tor Lindqvist

The Library

Glen Stuart & John Wroe are still beavering away in the National Trust library answering ships research queries. We are still *sans* bookshelves and trying to find books amongst piles on the floor and on top of cabinets can be frustrating and we are about to add a further 100-odd maritime books being donated by a very generous benefactor.

Pump House Ponderings - Derek Moore

I once heard an historian say that developers, in concert with the government of the day, control most heritage sites in Melbourne. This has certainly been my experience at the Pump House, since April, 2006.

Earlier this year, the Pump House enclosure was completed, but the roof leaks in a number of places - badly in at least two, when there is heavy rain.

The inevitable happened in mid-October, when the Dry Dock was being refilled - one of the auxiliary pump pipes fractured and began to spray water into the Pump Room, at the Dry Dock end. The refilling was halted and the Dry Dock emptied. Graeme Cooper and members of the "Polly" volunteer team were able to plug the particular pipe with two layers of concrete and epoxy resin sandwiched between the concrete.

Hopefully this repair will hold and there won't be other fractures before the ship is dry docked again.

The Convention Centre controls all access to the Pump House, but the National Trust have responsibility for all of the contents and their conservation. There appear to be few advocates for the Pump House. Major Projects seems to regard it as an object to be viewed from outside its enclosure. Heritage Victoria took a few photos during the construction phase, but did not perform an archeological survey at this rich industrial site.

I am uncertain of the level of National Trust senior management interest. My impression is that this interest does not match that of the W.A. National Trust who is proud of the Kalgoorlie Pipeline Pump House they care for and for which they have won a number of awards.

There are a number of outstanding needs. These include the repair of the enclosure and a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the Pump House contents. Such a plan would need to include a survey of the woodwork, which is now in a hothouse environment. An engineering assessment of the

corroded metalwork is also required, with follow-on remedial works, to hopefully prevent flooding of the interior.

Vision: When “Polly Woodside” reopens to the public, I envisage guided tours will enable visitors to walk into the upper level of the Pump House, at designated times. It is important that people can experience this facility, which is of international engineering and maritime significance.

Seasons greeting to all,

Derek Moore

Questionnaire

Plans for the site and the new display facility in Shed 2 have been drawn up and are to be implemented next year. This is a last opportunity for Members to have some input. The PWVA would like to canvass members’ opinions on the development of the Polly Woodside site and associated display area in Shed 2.

The layout for Shed 2 has been planned at least in outline and will include a walk-through display demonstrating life on board the Polly Woodside told largely through the eyes of carpenter George Andrews who sailed in the Polly in 1913. The display includes “hands-on” activities such as cargo lifting using ropes and blocks and knot tying. The workshop will also be in Shed 2 and will be open to although not accessible by the public.

We understand that the signal mast is to be re-erected on a secure part of the site and that the bronze plaques commemorating our long-serving volunteers will also be displayed on site.

There are no specific plans at this stage for the Little (Orr’s) Dock. You may have some ideas on how this body of water could be utilised. Model boat displays is a possibility that has been suggested.

Since the Polly is next door to the new Melbourne Conference Centre it may be anticipated that she will receive many visitors and perhaps functions from this source.

Linking the pump-house to the dry-dock is complicated by the fact that the pump-house comes under the jurisdiction of the Conference Centre.

In February this year, SHP circulated a questionnaire via the PWVA and we received 17 responses. This is probably the last opportunity we will have to have input into the redevelopment of the site and we urge members to have their say.

To the members who completed the SHP questionnaire - if you kept a copy of it could you please forward a copy to Neil Thomas to include in our submission (no names will be used, unless you give permission, and then only if to stress certain points).

We appreciate that without a copy of the currently proposed site plans it is difficult to be specific but any suggestions will be welcomed.

Please address your suggestions to Neil Thomas, 22 Delmore Crescent, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150; Email: thomclan@optusnet.com.au, to be received by early January next year, so it can be presented to Martin Green of the National Trust, in time for feedback at the AGM on February 6th 2010.

PWVA Committee

Xmas Party

The annual PWVA Xmas party was held on the 5th December at the Mission to Seafarers. It was attended by around 40 members and guests. Santa was able to find time in his busy schedule to attend. Martin Green, Learning and Interpretation Manager at the National Trust gave us a talk and video presentation on the ship, dry-dock and site. The PWVA would like to thank Martin for this most interesting presentation.

Australian Maritime Museum's Council Annual Conference

The conference is to be held at the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, Warrnambool from Sunday 21st to Tuesday 23rd February 2010. Interested parties can register online at www.visitwarrnambool.com.au or by fax on 03 5559 4613 or by mail to Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, Australian Maritime Museums Council Conference, PO Box 198, Warrnambool, Vic 3280.

The title of the conference is "**Responding to Change**" (*well we know all about that don't we!*) and papers will be presented by representatives from the South Australian, Tasmanian, NSW, Queensland and Western Australian Maritime Museums.

2010 PWVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2010 AGM is to be held at the Mission to Seafarers in Flinders Street on Saturday 6th February 2010 starting at 11am. All members are encouraged to attend and have their say. At is also an opportunity to pay your 2010 subscriptions. There will be a sausage sizzle and drinks after the meeting.

PWVA 2010 SUBS

The annual subscription of \$20 is due at the start of each calendar year. Please forward your subscription made payable to PWVA to John Wroe, 38 Addison Street, Elwood, Victoria 3184. Any queries contact me on 9531 5626 or at jacwroe@bigpond.net.au