



# The Australian Association for Maritime History Inc.

www.aamh.asn.au

Publisher of *The Great Circle*

## Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE 122

JUNE 2011

### Historic Clipper *City of Adelaide* One Step Closer to Returning to S.A.

The *City of Adelaide* organisation has announced that the project to return the world's oldest clipper ship to Port Adelaide took a major step forward in June as the first phase of preparations to have the ship moved from its current berth in Irvine, Scotland, were completed. At Gillman, near Port Adelaide, a ceremony also took place recently to mark the start of construction of a 100 tonne steel cradle that will support the clipper during its transport from Scotland to Australia. The event was attended by Pam Whittle, the great-granddaughter of the clipper's first captain, David Bruce, and Marion Wells, the great-granddaughter of Matilda Methuen who migrated on the maiden



*City of Adelaide*

Source: <http://cityofadelaide.org.au/>

voyage of the 'City of Adelaide' to marry Peter Waite - one of South Australia's most well known philanthropists. The *City of Adelaide* and the *Cutty Sark* are the world's last two surviving clipper ships. Built in 1864, the *City of Adelaide* is the elder of the two clippers. It made annual runs for 25 years from London to South Australia carrying thousands of UK and European migrants. Around in one in every six South Australians is believed

To be a descendant of one of the ship's passengers. The City of Adelaide Preservation Trust lodged a bid to 'demolish' the ship by taking it to Australia in one piece. Late last year the Scottish Government announced that the Australian solution was the preferred bidder. Investigations have led to a revised estimate of the ship's weight from 800 to 350 tonnes, which will reduce the cost of transporting the vessel by as much as \$1 million. The reduction resulted from the removal of concrete ballast. The ship can now be loaded aboard a regular freighter, instead of aboard a specialized dock ship. It is hoped the *City of Adelaide* will arrive in South Australia before the end of 2011.

### Australia Post Releases Antarctic Exploration Stamps

Australia Post has released the first of a four-year series of stamps commemorating the centenary of Australasian Antarctic Exploration (AAE). The series will be made up of 5 stamps each year using the themes of departure and journey, arrival and exploration, and science and triumphant return. The initial 5 stamp strip depicts key moments in the departure of

SS *Aurora* in 1911, and the journey to the Antarctic via Macquarie Island.



The first AAE stamp strip. Source: [www.ausgovinfo/](http://www.ausgovinfo/)

Led by Douglas Mawson, the AAE was the first Australian expedition to Antarctica, and helped to establish the nation's

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Freycinet Map Symposium
- Princes Pier Restoration
- Ly-ee-Moon* Anniversary
- HMB *Endeavour* Reaches Darwin
- Gippsland Lakes History
- Ken McPherson Lecture
- Seminar: Victoria's Maritime Heritage, Past, Present and Future
- Visit to Turku
- Piracy at Sea Conference
- Call for Papers: Exploring Australia's Indigenous Watercraft

## Australia on the Map Holds Freycinet Map Symposium

The Australia on the Map organisation celebrated the 200th anniversary of the publication of what is known as the Freycinet Map with a symposium in June. The Freycinet map, published in 1811, was the first map to be published which showed the full outline of Australia, preceding Matthew Flinders' map "Terra Australis or Australia" by three years. *Australia on the Map* is a division of the Australasian Hydrographic Society. It brings together members with an interest in history and generates and supports projects with a historical and history education focus.

## Princes Pier Restoration

The Victorian Government has committed \$34 million to the restoration of Princes Pier. Built over 90 years ago, the Pier is one of Melbourne's most important waterfront locations. It was the departure point for Australian troops during WW1 and WW2, the arrival point for American troops during WW2 and the first landing in Australia for thousands of post-war migrants. Works include replacing the first 196m of the pier deck, and restoring the gatehouse, with piles at the seaward end of the pier to be preserved as a heritage and sculptural centrepiece. Redeveloping the Pier is part of the broader plan to bring the foreshore precinct in Port Melbourne

## NSW Government fails to mark *Ly-ee-Moon's* 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Unfortunately the NSW Government could not see its way clear to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wreck of the passenger steamer *Ly-ee-Moon* on 30 May 2011. The Canberra writer Graeme Barrow, who published an account of the wreck in 2010 and campaigned for the anniversary to be officially commemorated, said he was extremely disappointed at the Government's refusal although encouraged by news that improved signage is to be provided at the graveyard at Green Cape, south of Eden, where initially 24



victims were buried. Graeme has been critical of the state of the cemetery, which he called a disgrace in his book, *Who Lied? The Ly-ee-Moon Disaster and a Question of Truth*. The ship was wrecked at Green Cape and 71 passengers and crew died. Fifteen, all males, survived. On the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wreck, a member of the Bega Valley Genealogical Society, Pat Raymond, drove to the cape and placed a protea on each grave. None of the graves carries any identification, but Graeme said that his research revealed where nine of the victims were buried and he hoped the new signage would serve to identify

## HMB *Endeavour* Arrives in Darwin on Circumnavigation of Australia

The replica *Endeavour* has reached Darwin on its circumnavigation of Australia from Sydney, and will be open to the public between 3 and 14 August. The historic vessel's last stop was at Thursday Island in the Northern Territory. *Endeavour* was open to the public in Cairns between 24 June and 5 July. The next port to be visited is Geraldton, between 30 September and 4 October 2011, followed by Fremantle (14 Oct - 11 Nov and 27-30 Dec), Bunbury (9-13 Oct) and Albany (14-18 Jan 2012), before visiting South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania on the return voyage to NSW.

## Gippsland Lakes Maritime History

The Paynesville Maritime Museum has launched a program to record the maritime history of the Gippsland Lakes and establish a heritage trail from Eagle Point to Paynesville. The East Gippsland Shire has also allocated \$40,000 to the Museum for a feasibility study into creating a Maritime Industry Heritage Centre at Slip Road in Paynesville. The Paynesville Maritime Museum was founded in 2009 and is run entirely by volunteers, which currently number around 50. In 2010, the Museum opened the Paynesville Maritime Museum Office in the new Paynesville Community Centre. For more information, visit the Museum's website at

## Kenneth McPherson Lecture: 17 June 2011

The inaugural Kenneth McPherson memorial lecture was held at the Western Australian Maritime Museum, Victoria Quay, on Friday 17 June 2011. Around 75 people attended the lecture, which was presented by



Brian Stoddart presenting the lecture.  
Courtesy Western Australian Museum

Emeritus Professor Brian Stoddart on *Making a New*

*Culture on the Ocean Rim: the Peranakans in the Straits Settlements*. Immediate Past President of the AAMH, Ken McPherson was Director of the Indian Ocean Centre at Curtin University, Mercator Professor of History at the University of Heidelberg, and the author of *Indian Ocean: a History of People and the Sea*.

## Maritime Museum of Victoria: *Victoria's Maritime Heritage: Past, Present, Future*

Seminar 29 Oct 2011

The Maritime Museum of Victoria (MMV) is arranging a seminar '*Victoria's Maritime Heritage: Past, Present and Future*' - to take place at the quarters of Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239A Beckett St, Melbourne, on Saturday, 29 October, 2011. Seven speakers will present papers on subjects as varied as Victorian Naval Defences, Victorian Lifeboat Design (ca.1856), Gippsland Lakes, Wooden Boats (Current and Future) and Victorian Lighthouses. Questions and discussion will be encouraged. Proceedings will commence with Assembly and Tea at 09:30 for a 10:00 start and are scheduled to finish at 16:00 hrs. A sandwich lunch and afternoon tea is included in the attendance charge of \$25 payable on the day. Registration for entry to the event must be made on or before 22 October to Treasurer Peter Williams (03 9457 1559) or Secretary Mesh Thomson (03 5482 4248: Tues and Thurs only.)

## Report of a Visit to the Forum Marinum, Turku, Finland, 30 June 2011

On 30 June 2011 I took part in a guided tour of the Maritime Museum *Forum Marinum* in the Finnish port city of Turku as a delegate at the European Society for Environmental History's sixth conference *Encounters of Sea and Land*.

I was joined on the tour by Associate Professor Andrea Gaynor, University of Western Australia.

The Forum Marinum is the largest maritime museum in Finland, and the home of the Finnish Navy Museum. Located at Turku's port near the mouth of the Aura River, the Museum has a collection of historic



Naval Training Ship *Suomen Joutsen*,  
Outside the Forum Marinum, Turku.

naval vessels and several smaller vessels as static displays. The museum also hosts several temporary exhibitions each year. According to our guide, one of the museum's latest initiatives is to take on incarcerated criminals as volunteer workers, who take part in restoration and other work as a form of rehabilita-

are also similarly recruited as museum volunteers, and the scheme is generally considered to be a great success. At the completion of our tour, conference delegates were taken aboard the Naval Training Ship *Suomen Joutsen* for a reception. Built in Saint-Nazaire, France, in 1902, the *Suomen Joutsen* (originally named *Laënnic*) worked as a cargo vessel mainly in the Atlantic before being sold to Germany in the 1920s, and then purchased by Finland as a naval training vessel in the 1930s. After serving as a depot ship during WW2, she continued to serve as a training ship until being donated to the

## AAMH Executive

The AAMH is run by an Executive Council that has representatives from the states and territories. It is currently based in Western Australia.

### President

Mr Peter Ridgway  
eridgway@iinet.net.au

### Vice-President

Ms Sally May  
sally.may@mmuseum.wa.gov.au

### Secretary

Dr Joseph Christensen  
J.Christensen@murdoch.edu.au

### Treasurer

Dr Malcolm Tull  
M.Tull@murdoch.edu.au

### The Great Circle Editor

Dr Michael Sturma  
History Program  
Murdoch University  
90 South Street  
MURDOCH W.A. 6150  
M.Sturma@murdoch.edu.au



## State Representatives

—NSW:

To be advised

—Tas:

Peta Knott

—Qld:

Jackie Elston

—SA:

Kevin Jones

—NT:

Paul Clark

—WA:

Joseph Christensen

—Vic:

Mark Howard

### Newsletter Editor

Dr Joseph Christensen  
GPO Box 1873  
Fremantle W.A. 6959  
j.christensen@murdoch.edu.au  
Ph. (08) 9360 7833

## World Maritime University Hosts Piracy at Sea Conference

The WMU is hosting an international conference in Malmo, Sweden on piracy from 17-19 Oct 2011. With piracy in the Indian Ocean region at records levels—perhaps greater than that experienced in worst days of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, a conference to examine the humanitarian, legal, economic and commercial impacts of piracy is very timely. In February 2011, the IMO reported 685 seafarers of various nationalities were being held for ransom on board 30 ships off the Somali coastline. The IMO report the total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization (March 2011) as being 5,884, an increase of 68 since 28 February 2011. Most acts occur in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. Established in Sweden in 1983 by the International Maritime Organization, the University aims to increase the number of highly qualified specialist maritime personnel in countries across the world. In Malmö, the University offers a taught postgraduate programme in Maritime Affairs, leading to the award of the degree of Master of Science or a Postgraduate Diploma. In addition, two other Master of Science programmes are taught in China: one in International Transport and Logistics, delivered in Shanghai, and the other in Maritime Safety & Environmental Management, taught in Dalian, China. For more details visit: [www.wmu.se](http://www.wmu.se)

## Call for Papers: NAWI Exploring Australia's Indigenous Watercraft

Australian National Maritime Museum, 30 May to 2 June 2012

The steering committee is calling for papers, presentations, displays, demonstrations and performances that explore the history, diversity, significance and interpretation of indigenous watercraft. Sessions will be held on stories and traditions, diversity and design, imagery, trade and navigation, materials and techniques, interpretation, collaboration and outreach. The aim is to get practitioners, theorists and collection managers from the community, museum and university sectors together to share information, reveal the diversity of craft across Australia and explore past and continuing practices, to extend scholarship and inform the sustainability of rebuilding projects. Papers might address the role of watercraft and waterways in trade routes, the revival and continuity of traditional canoe-making, European and Indigenous views of watercraft, and histories of rivers and oceans as nodes of cultural exchange. From the bound bark and reed canoes of Tasmania, the flat bark canoes of the Murray-Darling, to the fan-shaped Bardi rafts of north-western Australia and the double outriggers of Torres Strait, the conference will be an important and vibrant exploration of the wonderful array of traditional craft, their continuity and revival. Proposals should be submitted as written abstract (300 words), images or a description of the activity to be presented to [nawi@anmm.gov.au](mailto:nawi@anmm.gov.au) by 31 October 2011.

### Free Magazine Offer

The Queensland Maritime Museum has surplus bound magazines. Rather than dump them, the Museum is happy to give them free to any organization or person willing to pay shipping costs. Titles and volumes are: Marine News (7 bound volumes) 1957-77; Sea