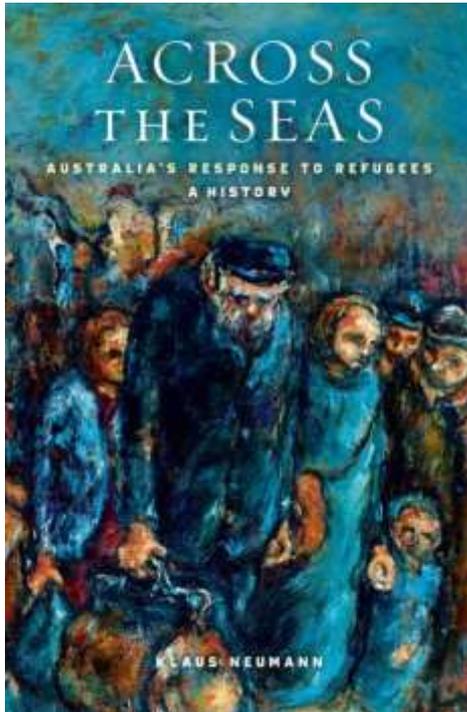




## National Maritime History Book Prize Winners



The winner of the 2017 Broeze national book prize for maritime history of \$4,000 is Klaus Neumann for *Across the Seas: Australia's response to refugees* (Black Inc, 2015).

*Across the Seas* provides a comprehensive analysis of both government policy and public attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers from Federation to the 1977 federal election campaign. Neumann places the Australian story in the context of global refugee movements, showing how many of the current responses to asylum-seeking 'boat people' have earlier parallels.

The Frank Broeze Memorial Maritime History Book Prize is awarded for a non-fiction book on any aspect of maritime history relating to or affecting Australia, published in 2015 or 2016 by an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

The winner of the Community Maritime History Prize (\$1,000) is the Western Australian Museum for *Yurlmun: Mokare Mia Boodja (Returning to Mokare's Home Country)*. The Australian Community Maritime History Prize of \$1,000 is awarded to a regional or local museum or historical society for a publication (book, booklet, educational resource kit, DVD, or other print or digital media) relating to an aspect of maritime history of that region or community.

The Australian National Maritime Museum and the Australian Association for Maritime History (AAMH) jointly sponsor the Frank Broeze Memorial Maritime History Book Prize and the Australian Community Maritime History Prize. Both prizes reflect the wish of the organisations to promote a broad view of maritime history that demonstrates how the sea and maritime influences have been central to shaping Australia, its people and its culture.

We thank our panel of judges – John Gascoigne (Emeritus Professor of History, University of New South Wales), John Jeremy (naval architect and Honorary Life Member of the museum) and Dr James Hunter (curator of RAN Maritime Archaeology at the museum) for the extensive amount of time and thought that they put into the judging process.

With 23 entries in the book prize, and eight in the community prize, the judges had their hands full compiling a shortlist and then choosing the top three in each category. The 2017 nominations covered a wide range of topics, including shipwrecks, submarines, explorers, boatbuilders and tales of convicts.

Sources: AAMH & Australian National Maritime Museum

# Launch of Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network

A special report by Dr Jackie Watts OAM, Chair, Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network

A memorable milestone indeed for the Maritime Sector for Melbourne, Victoria and Australia! It was both significant and heartening to note that all three levels of government (local, regional & national) participated in this event as well as industry, commercial operators, not-for-profit organisations (local, regional & national), academics, writers and artists. An extraordinarily wide spectrum of maritime stakeholders gathering together to effect change, recognising that major port cities elsewhere celebrate and capture the inherent cultural, social and economic value of their maritime heritage. And yet not Melbourne – but with the Launch of Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) clearly there with potential for change is clear.

Not only for the extraordinary level of enthusiasm amongst those intrepid, diverse stakeholders arriving at Town Hall but the level of tenacity they showed in threading their way through the police cordon around streets surrounding Town Hall due to a bomb-scare! We applaud those who managed to through the cordon to be part of the Launch (100+), and we commiserate with those who could not get through (a lot!). We also commiserate with those who were unable to attend the Launch for various reasons (45+). Not only because they could not share the infectious optimistic ‘buzz’ in the room, but because of the exceptional range and quality of the information shared at the Launch by our three guest speakers: City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney, Director of Heritage Victoria, Steven Avery and by the long-time maritime sector ‘champion’ in Melbourne, Trevor Huggard.

The information presented was inspirational. Even long-time maritime enthusiasts expressed surprise at the breadth of historical, economic, social and scientific information – much of which was new to many. Just imagine what the public, especially young people, might respond to such information - if made aware of it? Given that a key MMHN objective is to ‘*re-position*’ perceptions around maritime heritage in government and in the public realm, as well as promote a better understanding of the critical role of maritime skills, careers and commerce in sustaining our prosperity, then MMHN agenda thus far seems to be ‘*on course*’.

Questions from the floor were many and varied, referring to past funding difficulties, to government apathy, to ignorance of heritage values, about engaging the young, supporting dispersed maritime precincts, ensuring inclusion and viability of commercial operators, the social value of volunteer participation, the valiant efforts to support maritime heritage in the past etc. Pessimism surfaced briefly at failure to combat the persistent ‘*amnesia*’ around maritime heritage matters but this dissipated when the discussion turned to MMHN intention to function as a Network so as to counter the prevailing maritime sector fragmentation of in the past.

## **Framework**

The MMHN revealed its strategic organisational framework, designed to create a genuine NETWORK of maritime stakeholders operating in a collaborative, collegiate, and inclusive environment.

The Network will feature a series of MMHN Special Advisory Groups, convened by specific Board members to liaise with stakeholders, informing and guiding the MMHN Board towards achieving stated objectives:

- Single responsible authority for maritime matters
- Docklands Maritime Museum(s)
- Maritime Specialist Skills Institute
- Maritime Services Depot close to the CBD
- Maritime Trail from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge and beyond

At the conclusion of the Launch, participants were invited to join the MMHN and to register with one or more of the MMHN Special Advisory Groups:

Heritage & Research  
Waterways, Piers, Bridges & Infrastructure  
Maritime Industry & Commerce

Maritime Museums  
Maritime Skills & Careers  
Tourism & Events

Both of these important invitations, absolutely critical to the success of the MMHN are now extended to all stakeholders throughout the wider maritime sector. Join the MMHN now (Membership form is available on the MMHN website) and Register your interest now with one or more Advisory Group (email [info@mmhn.org.au](mailto:info@mmhn.org.au)). In due course, the Special Advisory Groups Board members will convene meetings for those registered.

To conclude the Launch, stakeholders were also invited to start to engage and make use of the MMHN. For example, list information on maritime events or maritime opportunities or advocacy action required in relation to their particular groups or organisations on the MMHN website. (Simply email [info@mmhn.org.au](mailto:info@mmhn.org.au))

And for those of you who were unable to attend the Launch or those were at the Launch but would like to enjoy once again, the wonderful chronological retrospective of Maritime Melbourne images produced by Board member Michael O'Brien, I encourage you to check the MMHN website. (See [www.mmhn.org.au](http://www.mmhn.org.au))

For Details: <https://www.mmhn.org.au/>



## **The Case for a Melbourne Maritime Trade Heritage Museum**

Melbourne is unique amongst the large cities of the nation and comparable cities in the developed world in NOT having a Maritime Heritage Museum. Quoting 'Polly Woodside' Volunteers Association noted in their newsletter, 21/8/2018 "*Melbourne is the only maritime city in the developed world without a maritime museum.*"

Significantly the City of Melbourne draft Annual Plan Initiative 2019-2020 includes "*Adopt a leadership and advocacy role with key stakeholders with the objective of securing collaborative co-funding partnership agreement to deliver maritime legacy outcomes in the municipality including interpretative heritage signage and a maritime museum.*"

<https://www.mmhn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/July13CaseMelbourneMaritimeTradeHeritage-Museum.pdf>

## My Cathedral in the Sea

**My Cathedral in the Sea – A History of the *Conway*** published in October 2019 by Forty South Publishing. My Cathedral in the Sea is a result of 20 years work, a labour of love, passionately excised from the plethora of documents and materials that I've researched from around the world with some 500 references and 80 illustrations. The book provides a social history that is a contribution to the understanding of the greatest period of 19<sup>th</sup> century immigration to Australia. The book focusses on the history of the clipper ship *Conway* that was built in Saint John, N.B., and sailed the seven seas for 24 years from 1851 through to 1875. The *Conway* logged some 350,000 nautical miles and transported 2000 immigrants on five voyages to Australia and over 400 to the U.S. Scattered among the records are stories of success and failure, joy and tragedy, waves of elation and doldrums of boredom and remorse.

My original interest, writes Harley, was to find a picture of the *Conway*, but despite all my work I've failed to find a picture of the ship from any of the museums, libraries or archives that I've contacted. In place of a picture I've a much more substantive book. In addition, I have transcribed the immigrant lists for six of the ship voyages, and these will be available shortly via a website, as they are too expansive to include in the book. Source: HarleyStanton7@gmail.com



### **Where Empires Collide: Dockyards and Naval Bases in and around the Indian Ocean**

This one-day conference on 4 April 2020 at the National Maritime Museum will examine the role of naval bases and naval support facilities of all nationalities in and around the Indian Ocean. It is organised by the Naval Dockyards Society.

Were bases built to defend colonies, control colonies, or to attack the enemy? Were they to suppress local forces, engage companies threatening the British East India Company or as adjuncts to European struggles? How useful were they to their founding countries in the 17th–20th centuries? How has their heritage developed?

Picture: Seamen of the early nineteenth century Omani navy seen during a visit to Portsmouth Dockyard. Source: <https://navaldockyards.org/conferences/>

# Indian Ocean Studies Conference

The AAMH sponsored Sheridan College Indian Ocean Studies conference was held on 22 and 23 November at their Perth campus. AAMH members Sally May, Emeritus Professor Malcolm Tull and Peter Ridgway worked with Dr Joshua Esler, Dr Jenny Skerritt and Dr Jonathon James of Sheridan College to deliver what is hoped to be the first of a series of conferences focusing on the trade in not only commodities but also ideas, religions, people and politics across the Indian Ocean. Keynote speakers Professor Pier Larson from John Hopkins University and Emeritus Professor Malcolm Tull from Murdoch University set the tone with their presentations on family and history in the Indian Ocean, and Seaports and Chinese soft power respectively. Other topics covered included the spread of disease, commercial trade, politics, slave trade, religion, environmental management and archaeology.



*Figure 1: Gary Wilson, Senior Master Coral Expeditions and Professor Malcolm Tull. Gary delivered a bright paper on cruising the small islands of the Indian Ocean. This paper tied in nicely with Professor Sathiendrakumar's paper on the role of international tourism in the Maldives.*

Sheridan College is a new tertiary institution offering a range of courses including history. Two of the College's students delivered papers at the conference. Jackson Black reviewed the reactions of the French colonial administrators, Japanese imperial forces, nationalist and communist Vietnamese to the Japanese occupation of French Indochina. Elliana Frame looked at the Dutch East India Company's intervention on the island of Lombok at the end of the 19th Century.

Planning is underway for the next conference to be held in late 2021.

AAMH Journal Editor, Professor Erika Techera hopes to publish a number of the papers in *The Great Circle*.

*Figure 2: Professors Erika Techera & Heather Goodall*



The papers delivered at the conference were recorded and are available on the Sheridan College website at <https://sheridan.edu.au/index.php/extensions/2019-indian-ocean-conference>.



Figure 3 Model Ship on display at Sheridan College

The conference also marked the launch of AAMH member Dr Howard Gray's book *Spice at Any Price: The Life and Times of Frederick de Houtman, 1571-1627*

Howard describes Frederick de Houtman as a spy, navigator, astronomer, ship's master, prisoner, linguist, VOC Governor and field commander. He was a key figure in the earliest days of the Dutch forays into the East Indies spice trade, surviving four journeys to today's Indonesia, the first two disastrous with enormous loss of life, then twice as VOC Governor, involved in the domination of the Portuguese, Spanish and English rivals and the local populations. He incidentally was the first European to encounter the south-west corner of Australia and the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, ending much speculation about Terra Incognita Australis.

The book is sold at the Geraldton Regional Library for \$40.00

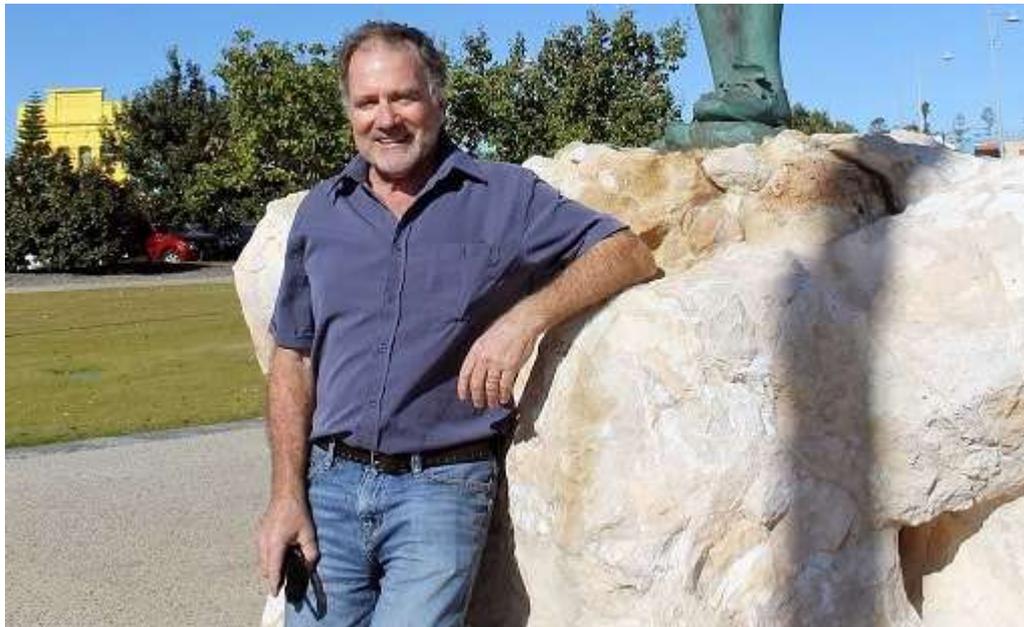


Figure 4 Dr Howard Gray

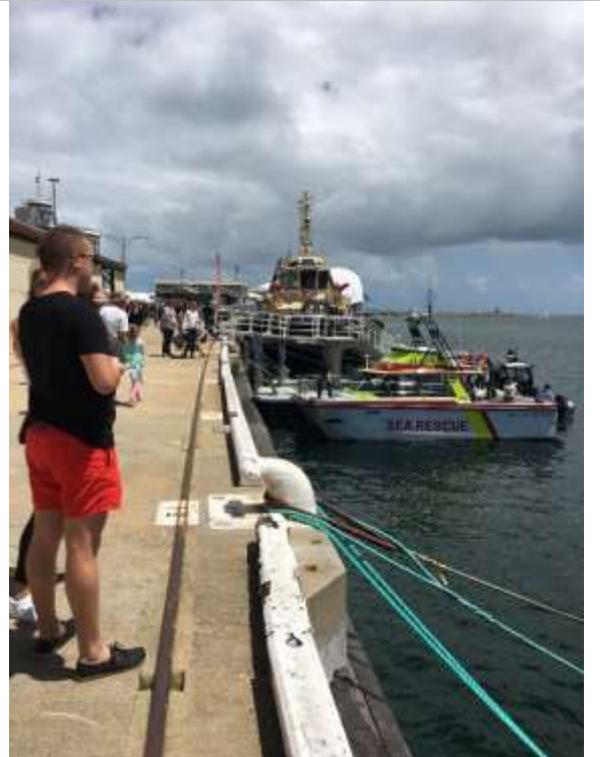
# Maritime Day

The AAMH was fortunate in once again been offered a stand at Maritime Day, Victoria Quay on 2 November. We thank Fremantle Ports and the Company of Master Mariners for the opportunity to present posters and offer copies of *The Great Circle* to the public. The event was heavily supported by the Royal Australian Navy with HMAS Sheean in port for inspection as well as other service units including naval police, ambulance, cadets and navy recruitment. A feature this year was a number of containers from the Australian National Maritime Museum telling the story of containerisation.



Dr Ross Anderson, president AAMH, assisting visitors to the AAMH stand at Maritime Day.

The RAN band provided plenty of live entertainment. Displays by sea rescue and environmental spill management



**Vale Kevin Slade** Kevin Slade PSM worked in the Australian Hydrographic Office and contributed greatly to the Australian Historic Shipwreck Program. Kevin leaves a legacy of a better understanding of shipwreck locations in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

# 2019 Hobart Whaling Conference

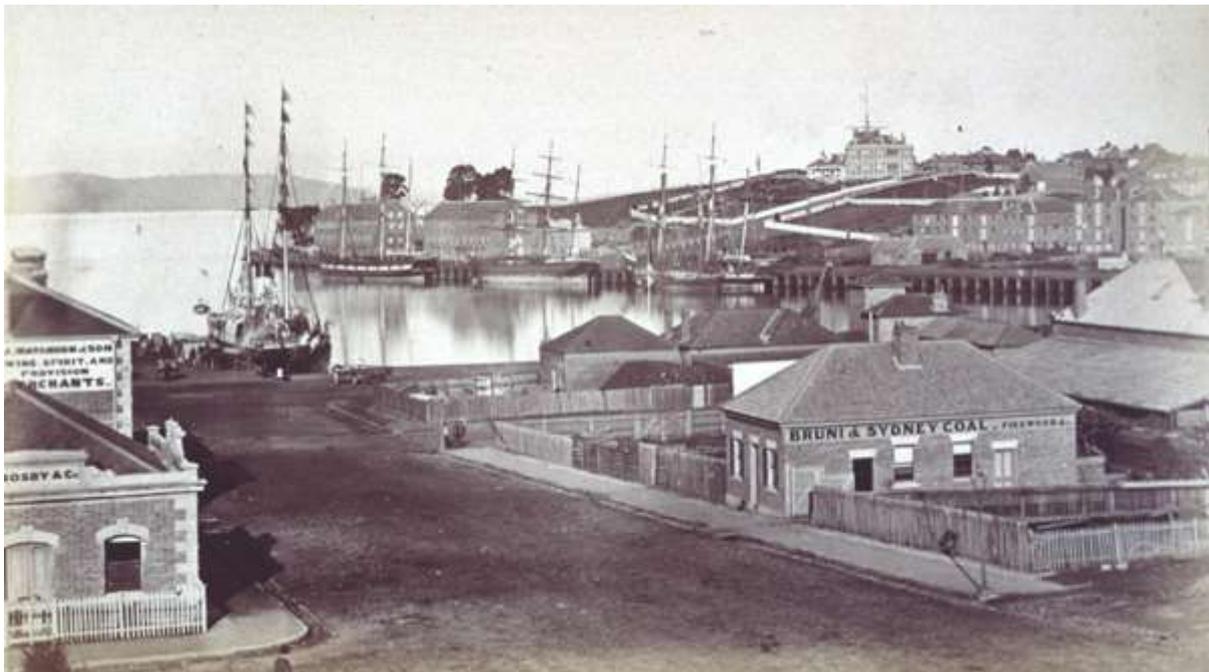
Dale Chatwin reports:

The Inaugural Hobart Whaling Conference held in Hobart in May 2019 and hosted by the Maritime Museum of Tasmania sought to harvest the enormous amount of personal research which occurs outside of the funded university research scholarship and academic system. In addition to contributions by Australian whaling and sealing researchers the conference attracted papers by three British researchers and three New Zealand researchers.

The range of topics explored whaling and sealing around Australasia and the Pacific by the British and Colonial Whale and Seal Fisheries. And though American contributions were not sought the Conference still managed to accommodate two papers related to American whaling – one on the American presence in Hobart in the 1840s and 1850s and the other on US bay whaling rock art left behind in north-western Australia in the 1840s.

In this volume you will find three papers on British Southern Whale Fishery. One on whaling to the north of Australia around Indonesia and New Guinea; the second, based on newly uncovered logs, on the remarkable whaling career of British whaling master, James Choyce; and the third on British south sea whaling surgeons who's importance as skilled observers and commentators is becoming ever more significant.

This is followed by three Colonial (Australian and New Zealand) papers including a project to create Track Charts for whaling voyages where no log exists; a paper on the Waiopuka Fishery based at Kaikoura in the 1840s; and a 'viewing' and discussion of the 'Whangamumu Whaling Film' made in the 1930s which sought to re-enact using original whalers the techniques of chasing and taking humpback whales from open boats.



Battery Point is the background for this 1878 photo of Hobart's docks: the 'new wharf', warehouses, signal station, and, top right, dwellings (W.L. Crowther library, SLT)

Five papers on Tasmanian and Hobart whaling include a paper seeking to establish the true scale of Tasmania whaling; an examination of the story of Tasmanian whaling presented in popular 'histories'; a look at the whaling and sealing interests of Tasmanian George Meredith; a paper on the activities of the American Consul in Hobart in the 1840s and 1850s; and a paper examining Norwegian interests in the 1920s and 30s when they found Hobart a useful base for Antarctic whaling.

Sealing papers include some preliminary thoughts on three Sydney based entrepreneurs from very early days in the Colony including John Grono and a paper on the involvement of the Australian sealer Richard Siddins on the South Shetland Islands.

Moving back to whaling the Proceedings final papers include an in-depth examination of whaling in Western Australia from drift to modern whaling and lastly a paper examining British whalers as collectors of cultural and natural history artefacts and specimens.

All in all a tremendously varied and unique set of papers on what was the first Colonial industry.

The papers from the 2019 Hobart Whaling Conference have been published and are available from the following:

In Hobart from the Maritime Museum of Tasmania bookshop - 16 argyle street, Hobart Tasmania - if you let the bookshop staff know that you attended the conference you are entitled to the special attendee price of \$20. Normally \$25.00. The MMT bookshop can mail out copies.

Copies are also available at the normal price plus postage from conference sponsor - Boglio Maritime Books. More details are on the conference website:

<https://www.whalingconference.org/publications.html>



Tasmanian Maritime Museum <http://www.maritimetas.org/>



## New Museum opens with Maritime History Exhibit

From early 2020, a number of ship figureheads including that from HMS *Calliope* will be on public display at The Box in Plymouth. The Box is the largest museum & art gallery space opening in the UK and will be the biggest arts & heritage centre in the South West of England when it opens.

A 6th rate, of 26 guns, HMS *Calliope* was built at Sheerness in 1837. She took an active role in the First China War, being involved in an attack on the approaches to Canton during January 1841. She was stationed in Australia during the early 1850s and was deployed to New Zealand in 1848 during wars with the Maori. The ship's Royal Marines saw action in the Flagstaff War in the north of New Zealand. A Royal Marine was killed at the siege of



Ruapekapeka Pā and two seamen were killed in the Hutt Valley Campaign. From late February 1846 until October 1847 *Calliope* operated mainly between Wellington, Whanganui and Nelson.

Sir James Everard Home was appointed captain of the *Calliope* 28 November 1850 and died in Sydney on 2 November 1853. A memorial to him was placed in St James' Church.

The ship was converted to a floating chapel in 1855 and was broken up at Devonport in 1883.

The figurehead is female, three-quarter-length wearing an eastern crown and a veil. There are three strands of pearls round her neck. She has a tight bodice with a gold zigzag patterned embroidery round the neck and down the front, with a white chemise underneath. The blue bodice comes to a point at the front lower edge partially covering a red skirt. It was made by J E Hellyer in 1837.

The City of Plymouth is investing £40million in the construction of The Box, a new museum complex that extends and combines the original City Museum and Library buildings and St. Luke's Church.

Sources: <https://plymhearts.org/thebox/>; <http://figureheads.ukmcs.org.uk/hms-calliope/>; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Calliope\\_\(1837\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Calliope_(1837))

## Need a Researcher in the UK?

Australian 19th century economic and maritime researcher, Dr Nick Guoth, has been in contact with the AAMH in relation to offering his services to perform research in the UK for Australian academics. Recently he was involved in a lengthy project relating to 18th and 19th century Asian lascars on British shipping in the Indian Ocean. Dr Guoth now lives in London and thus can provide research services at a minimal cost eliminating the requirement for a trip to the UK, accommodation and living expenses as well as time taken. He has explained that he has access to a variety of archives and library services throughout the UK.

If any member is interested in obtaining primary research material from the UK but is either hesitant in making the long journey or was not originally considering such a trip, then perhaps a conversation with Dr Guoth may be worthwhile. There are no limitations on the topic of research. Dr Guoth's email is: [nguoth@gmail.com](mailto:nguoth@gmail.com)

## **The AAMH Team**

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Great Circle Editor: Professor Erika Techera

Newsletter Editor: Mr Peter Ridgway

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Northern Territory: Paul Clark

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Next Newsletter: September

Send your local news story and short research items to the Newsletter Editor, Peter Ridgway by 1 September via email to: [info@aamh.asn.au](mailto:info@aamh.asn.au)

