The Australian Association for Maritime History

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 88 September 2002

www.aamh.asn.au

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X-Men – Australians in the underwater attacks of WWII.
South Australia's Boxer Connection – the *Protector* and the Boxer Rebellion.
[Editor's Note: let me know if you'd like a copy of any of the *Wartime* articles.]

The **National Archives of Australia** in Canberra opens *Beacons by the Sea – Stories of Australian Lighthouses* on 18 October. It runs until 27 January 2003 and then embarks on a national tour.

The **State Library of Victoria** offers free introduction training in the use of its catalogues; getting started on researching family histories; and internet training. Bookings essential. Ring (03) 8664 7016

FEATURE MUSEUM

The South Australian Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide will be showing *Vasa 1628: Strange Tale of a King's Warship* from 26 September to 27 January. The exhibition hails from the National Maritime Museum in Sydney and VasaMuseet in Stockholm. The Museum has a number of permanent galleries including *Life's a Beach, Action Stations: The Navy and South Australia, Catch of the Day* and *Rock Around the Pot*. Situated at 126 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide, the Museum covers quite an area of the Port with three distinct sites. Director Kevin Jones invites you to discover the Bond Stores – the Museum's main gallery – where you can climb aboard the full size replica ketch, experience life on an immigrant ship, or enjoy the seaside activities of Glenelg and Semaphore. From the Bond Store take a short walk to the 1869 lighthouse and climb the spiral stairs if you dare. Spectacular views of Port Adelaide, the Adelaide Plains and Mounty Lofty Ranges make it worth the climb! SAMM has three working floating exhibits – *Yelta*, the last fully operational steam tug in South Australia, the coastal trader *Nelcebee* and the former police launch *Archie Badenoch*. They go out regularly and you might even spot a dolphin or two in the River.

The Museum is open 10-5 every day. Admission charges are $8.50 adults, $6.50 concession, $3.50 children or $22.00 for a family ticket. Ring before you go to find out what's on (08) 8207 6255.

The Museum is also seeking qualified **volunteers** to take out cruises on their two working vessels – the *Archie Badnoch* and the *Yelta*. The police launch requires people with Department of Transport approved Coxswain's Ticket. Several positions are required on *Yelta* – Deckhand with Elements of Shipboard Safety (now known as Occupational Health and Safety at Sea), Senior Deckhand – Coxswain, Mate – Master 5, and Skipper – Master 4. The police launch generally runs during the week with volunteers working one day or less per week. *Yelta* is generally operated only during school holidays. If you have the appropriate qualifications please contact the Museum on (08) 8207 6255.

The **State Library of Tasmania** in Murray Street, Hobart is showing *Sea Creatures – life below the surface* until October 2002. Featuring material from the Library's collection, the exhibition looks at marine life from Dumont D'Urville's voyages of 1827-1832 and 1838-1840.

The **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery** in Hobart is progressing well with its ship model project. Funds from the Commonwealth Government and the Australian National Maritime Museum have enabled the Museum to have the ship model collection photographed and measured, update the records, build conservation-quality storage boxes and put the information on the web. The Museum also has a small number of sailing-related images from its large collection on the web. See www.tmag.tas.gov.au.

The **State Library of Queensland** in Brisbane offers a number of events including free films in the Theatrette in the South Bank Building on Sundays; free tours of the Library on Tuesdays and free Internet and Library Skills courses. It also offers an online catalogue of its exhibition *Across the Sea: Australian South Sea Islanders in Queensland*. Looking for maps of Australasia 16th to early 20th centuries? Then check with the Library's Historical Map Collection. See www.slq.qld.gov.au.

The **Library and Information Service of Western Australia** has an online exhibition *Western Perspectives on a Nation – images from Australia's west 1901-2001*. Topics include the sea, the land, architecture, transport and settlement. See www.liswa.wa.gov.au.

The Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle is getting closer to completion and exciting times are to be had! *Australia II* has gone in safely and is being joined by other icons of the Western Australian maritime scene. The galleries – Fishing, Indian Ocean, Leisure, Swan River, Trade, Defence – are taking shape. Full details in the next Newsletter.

ANSWERS PLEASE!!

Please send your answers to the following questions to AAMH Newsletter Editor, Lindsey Shaw GPO Box 5131 Sydney 2001

3 When and where did **Jack's Day** originate? And when did it stop being celebrated?

4 Hugh Anderson is annotating and editing the memoirs of a Victorian magistrate, **Joseph Anderson Panton**, who was also a partner with **William Osmand** in a cattle station in the Kimberley on the Upper Ord River. The two men sailed up the coast from Cambridge Gulf to visit their station and to fill in 'a blank space on the chart in the coastline of Northwest Australia'. Their vessel was the ***Cushiedoo*** (wood pigeon), 'a very fine English-built steam yacht' over 300 tons. Does anyone know of the vessel and what happened to it?

5 Lawrence T Rady is trying to locate an image and/or plans of the **immigrant sailing ship *Lightning*** (built by Martin Samuelson in 1863) which grounded on Troubridge Shoals on 6 July 1876. The South Australian Advertiser of 8 July 1876 makes reference to Mr E L Sands taking photographs but it doesn't seem that they were published anywhere. It was a calm day and broad daylight when the ship struck. The SA Advertiser on 11 July reported that the Captain was 'in a state of imbecility from excessive drinking'.

And thanks to Bob Sexton with his answer to the Dalton Hall question from Newsletter 87.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Asia – Pacific

Voyagers: discovering the Pacific is on at **Te Papa, New Zealand**'s National Museum until 19 January 2003. The exhibition spans 40,000 years of discovery in the Pacific Ocean from the Polynesian seafarers to late twentieth-century voyagers such as the late Peter Blake.

The Americas

The **USS *Monitor***'s 200-tonne revolving gun turret with its two large cannon inside has been successfully raised and is now undergoing assessment and treatment at The Mariners' Museum. The *Monitor* went down with all hands 140 years ago after battle at Hampton Roads, Virginia in the American Civil War. Human remains have also been located within the turret and DNA testing will be undertaken in an effort to identify the crew members.

The engine was raised in 2001 and is sitting in a 93,000 gallon treatment tank.

See www.monitor.noaa.gov for details.

The **National Museum of American History** in Washington has a new exhibit called Fast *Attacks & Boomers – Submarines in the Cold War*. It reviews the early history of submarines and their radical transformation after World War II. Other stories within the exhibition include how they are built, how they work, what they do and who are the submariners and their families. On show until 12 April 2003.

Europe

Newport, Wales

The remarkably well-preserved hull of a 15th-century merchantman was been uncovered during building works below the proposed orchestra pit for Newport's Theatre & Arts Centre.

One of the structural timbers from the ship has already been dated by dendro-chronological analysis to c1466, ie during the unsettled period of the Wars of the Roses. Although there is therefore a construction date for the ship, it is not known how long it was in operation or when (or why) it was finally abandoned.

The impressive remains survive for a length of some 21m, (although both the bow and the stern unfortunately lie beyond the area under excavation within the cofferdam) and a width of about 8m. A vessel of such a size is not much smaller than the famous *Mary Rose* (built in 1509: now on display in Portsmouth, England), and a similar size to the *Bremer Cog* (built in c 1380, now on display in the Ship Museum in Bremerhaven, Germany).

In terms of local maritime history, Wales now boasts a remarkable fragment of a Bronze Age boat, a Roman ship (Barland's Farm), the 13th-century Magor Pill barge, and now this stupendous late medieval merchantman.

The team from the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust have been given the impossible task of recording the remains of this once-in-a-lifetime discovery in just two weeks. Many people are clamouring for the ship 'to be saved'. The surviving remains are severed at both bow and stern, and thus do not form a structurally coherent vessel.

Gustav Milne
Lecturer in Maritime Archaeology
University College London
33 Gordon Square
LONDON WC1 H OPY

The Russian government Commission investigating the causes of the sinking of the nuclear-powered submarine ***Kursk*** has finally conceded that the cause of the tragedy was the explosion on board of one of the submarine's own torpedoes. Western analysts had put forward this theory soon after the horrific event. The Commission also formally dismissed the theories that *Kursk* had hit a submerged mine or had been in a collision with an American submarine. *Kursk* sank in the Barents Sea in August 2000. Twenty-three survived the initial explosion but died within days if not hours.

The **Imperial War Museum North** opened in July in Manchester, UK. Designed by Daniel Libeskind it features an aluminium-clad sweeping roof and curved tower – representing the sherds of a war-shattered globe. The new Museum stands on the edge of the Manchester Ship Canal and is part of the city's architectural rebirth in light of the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

The **Imperial War Museum** in London has extended its exhibition *Submarines* until 23 February 2003. The exhibition marks the centenary of the British submarine service from *Holland I* built in 1901 to the present-day nuclear-powered Vanguard class.

HMS *Belfast* on the Thames in London will be launching its new exhibition *Life at Sea* on 31 October. It will concentrate on the lives and experiences of the ship's companies during her various commissions. You can also take a virtual tour of the cruiser at www.iwm.org.uk/belfast. During October half-term (21-27 October) actors will be bringing the ship alive with *A Life on the Ocean Waves* program.

The **National Maritime Museum** at Greenwich is showing *Skin Deep: a history of tattooing* until 30 September. The Queen's House is showing the history of the Royal Hospital School at Greenwich – Britain's largest school of navigation and seamanship from 1821-1933. It moved to Holbrook near Ipswich in 1933; historic Greenwich; and *Sea of Faces* – 150 portraits of men who ruled the waves. In the main building is Oceans of Discovery until April 2003 – illustrating the story of human endeavour to explore and understand the world and its oceans through navigation, mapping, science, exploring on the surface and under the seas. Coming in May 2003 will be a major exhibition titled *Elizabeth* – the life of Elizabeth I. A key theme will be the Queen's role in maritime enterprise.

The Queen and Her Navy is a photographic exhibition to celebrate Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee. On at:
Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport 5 October to 2 January 2003;
Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton 5 February to 2 June 2003

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Lighthouses of Australia – to promote and coordinate the presentation of Australian lighthouses on the internet.
www.lighthouse.net.au

The **Royal Australian Navy** has launched a new element to its website – Virtual Fleet. Featuring current serving ships as well as museum ships the website offers a tour of RAN ships from the comfort of your home. Try it out at www.navy.gov.au

The **State Library of Tasmania** has online exhibitions of Launceston's Cataract Gorge; and old Launceston in Pictures. See www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au.

Looking for photographs and information on merchant shipping? Try Mike Macdonald's website at home.planetinternet.be

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & EVENTS

Balmain Regatta
27 October 2002
Balmain, Sydney

Oceans of Change international conference
30 October to 1 November 2002
National Maritime Museum
Greenwich, England
Future of ocean environments, methods to improve sustainability, best practice in areas from fisheries to off-shore oil and gas to ocean cruising and containerisation.
See
www.nmm.ac.uk/cmr/conferences.html for booking form details.

Making the Means Transparent: Exploring Research Methodologies in Heritage Studies
16 November 2002
University of Cambridge, UK
Details available from the seminar convenor
Yumiko Nakanishi
Department of Archaeology
University of Cambridge
Cambridge CB2 3DZ England
Email: yn218@cam.ac.uk

Joint Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology, Australian Archaeological Association and Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Annual Conference
18 – 22 November 2002
South Bank Convention Centre
Townsville Queensland, Australia

11th Annual Sydney International Regatta
14 – 17 December 2002
Woollahra Sailing Club

Australian Wooden Boat Festival
7 – 10 February 2003
Hobart, Tasmania

BOOKS ,JOURNALS & ARTICLES

Spice Adventurers has been published to support the Duyfken 1606 Replica Foundation. Adriaan de Jong has translated the original logs of the Gelderland 1601-1603. The original *Duyfken* was part of the Dutch fleet led by the *Gelderland* in search of spices in the East. The log was one of the primary sources used to design and understand the *Duyfken Replica*. Limited edition. Contact:
Duyfken 1606 Replica Foundation
PO Box 1085
Fremantle WA 6959
Pre-release prices were $49.95 for the soft-cover and $69.95 for the hard.

Mutiny on the Globe: the fatal voyage of Samuel Comstock by Thomas Farel Heffernan. Published by Bloomsbury. pp280. rrp $29.95. Based on a true account of psychotic murder and mayhem of a Nantucket whaleman.

The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 1945-2001 by Michael Ludeke.

Nautical Knots Illustrated by Paul and Arthur Snyder. pp96. rrp $24.95

Greenwich to the Dateline by Rory and Sandra Burke. rrp $37.95. A travelogue of a bluewater cruising adventure from the Greenwich Meridian to the International dateline.

A Time to Die: The Kursk Disaster by Robert Moore. Published by Doubleday. pp271. rrp $28.

Articles in the Institute of Nautical Archaeology Vol 29 No 1 include:
Management, Archaeology, and Engineering: Preserving the USS *Monitor* by John Broadwater;
Preserving the *Monitor*'s Most Significant Components by Jeff Johnston;
Technical Diving on the *Monitor* by Tane Casserley;
H L Hunley: The World's First Successful Submarine Warship by Christine Poewll;
The *Denbigh* Project 2001: Excavation of a Civil War Blockade-Runner by Barto Arnold, Tom Oertling and Andy Hall.

Articles in *Mariner's Mirror* Vol 88 Nos 1 and 2 include:
Nelson's Uncle: Captain Maurice Suckling RN by David Syrett;
Nelson and the Nile: the Creation of Admiral Nelson's Public Image by Marianne Czisnick;
Appointment, Promotion and 'Interest' in the British South America Squadron, 1821-3 by Brian Vale;
The Health of Seamen in Anti-Slavery Squadrons by Sir James Watt;
A Type of Ship on the Indian Ocean in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries by Norbert Weismann;
Dikes, Dockheads and Gates: English Docks and Sea Power in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries by Brian Dietz;
The Post Office Packet Service, 1821-37: Development of a Steam-Powered Fleet by J R Owen;
Lost Leader: Admiral of the Fleet Sir Charles Forbes and the Second World War by James Levy

[**Editor's Note**: let me know if you'd like a copy of any of the articles.]

GRANTS & FUNDING

George Alexander Foundation & Ian Potter Foundation: Value up to $100,000. Awarded to Australian organisations for projects in areas including arts, fellowships travel grants and research. Closing dates mid April; mid July. Contact Executive Secretary George Alexander Foundation and Ian Potter Foundation
Level 5, 1 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Ph (03) 9650 3188

Fellowships: Sackler Research Fellowship in the History of Astronomy and Navigational Sciences; Caird Senior Fellowship - 17th century Dutch maritime paintings - medals - 18th century prints; Caird Junior Research Fellowship in (British) Naval and Maritime History and Associated Studies.
Details from:
National Maritime Museum
Head of Research
Greenwich SE10 9NF England

Deadline for contributions for the next edition – AAMH 89 – is 2 December 2002

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