



The Australian Association for Maritime History Inc.

www.aamh.asn.au

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Finding the Future: Member Survey and Seminar

Are you getting what you need from your membership of the AAMH? Peter Ridgway, President of the AAMH, invites all members to have their say in a review of the future of the Association. A membership survey has been prepared and will be sent to all members in May. The results will be reviewed at a seminar workshop to be held on 27 July 2012 at Murdoch University, Western Australia. The seminar workshop will include a review of what is happening in maritime history in Australia and what role your Association can have. Founder member, the late Professor Frank Broeze defined maritime history as being the study of the relationship between man and the sea. A preliminary review shows that the prospective membership of the Association is much greater than our current membership base. With this in mind, the seminar workshop will seek to identify how the Association can attract new members as well as improve services to existing members. The seminar workshop will be held at Murdoch University beginning at 2:00pm. All members are invited to attend the seminar workshop by registering your interest with the President by email to eridgway@iinet.net.au or by letter to P.O.Box 1873, Fremantle 6959. The seminar will be followed later the same evening by the Kenneth McPherson Memorial Lecture at the Western Australian Maritime Museum, Fremantle.

New South Wales: Cockatoo Island to be redeveloped

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has called for Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified tenants for Cockatoo Island to lease and develop currently disused maritime facilities within the Docks Precinct. It is Sydney's largest island, extending to over 18 hectares of parkland, hardstand and water rights.

The island has had a long history as a maritime base with shipbuilding occurring alongside various prison regimes following the construction of the Fitzroy Dock in 1857. The larger Sutherland Dock was constructed in the 1880's and by World War I the island had become the naval dockyard of the Royal Australian Navy.

For the next 78 years, Cockatoo Island was Australia's most significant shipbuilding and marine repair facility with the HMAS Success, launched in 1984, being the last ship to be built on the island. The dockyard closed in 1992, lying dormant until control was vested in the Trust in 2001. The EOI closes on 11 May 2012.

Graeme Henderson awarded OAM

Congratulations to AAMH member Graeme Henderson AM who was awarded a member of the Order of Australia medal for service to maritime archaeology in Western Australia through the documentation and preservation of Australia's underwater cultural heritage, to international professional associations, and to the community.



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**Special Issue: News &
Events by State and
Territory**

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.

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All Contributions Welcome

What is Maritime History?

The late Professor Frank Broeze urged us to consider maritime history as all things pertaining to our interaction with the sea. In his 1998 book, Island Nation, Professor Broeze offered a history of Australian people and the sea. It remains the best of its kind. The history traces the pervasive but often overlooked connection we have with the sea. Through this study we can see that maritime history is about the things we might expect to be studied by maritime historians such as European settlement, naval history, ports and trade. A closer look finds some areas we might not immediately expect to be about maritime history such as marine management and conservation, and histories of unionism, culture and art. Maritime history is the ultimate bridge (sealane?) between disciplines. An example of the interdisciplinary nature of maritime history is the Oceans Past IV conference where marine science joins history to achieve breakthroughs in the study, use and safeguarding of our marine populations. And yet too few of the professionals and enthusiasts identified above identify with maritime history and even fewer members of the AAMH. Is your neighbour or colleague a maritime historian but doesn't know it? Slip this copy of the Newsletter to them (we will replace it free of charge). Win a prize if they join up.

AAMH Website Updates

<http://www.aamh.asn.au/>

Sydney Harbour: a History (UNSW Press) Applying the above definition of maritime history, is this the best maritime history of a harbour yet? Tell us whether you agree, or nominate other contenders and explain in 250 words or less. The best contributions will be published and be eligible for a prize.

Six degrees

Which Sydney merchant's ship sparked off an Opium war? The ship brings the founder of Australia's oldest brokering firm to our shores, who then becomes an agent for Robert Brookes of London. The history of Mr Brooks was written by an eminent maritime historian. What is the national book prize that carries his name? And what is the connection with you?

Kenneth McPherson Memorial Lecture 2012

Western Australian Maritime Museum, Victoria Quay

The Kenneth McPherson Memorial Lecture 2012 will be presented by Dr Jeremy Green, Head of the Department of Maritime Archaeology at the Western Australian Museum. The title of the lecture is 'Kenneth McPherson and his role in the development of maritime archaeology in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka in particular'. The lecture is provisionally scheduled for Friday 27 July at 6:00pm. These details can be confirmed closer to the date by contacting the WA Museum on 08 9431 8455 or by visiting: <http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/museums/maritime/#maritime/whats-on>

Oceans Past IV: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives on the History and Future of Marine Animal Populations

The University of Notre Dame, Fremantle, 7-9 November 2012.

Visit the website: <http://www.hmapcoml.org/oceanspast/>

This conference, the first in the Oceans Past series to be held in the Southern Hemisphere, will showcase the latest global research in marine environmental history and historical marine ecology in a location accessible to people from across the Indo-Pacific region.

Victoria

Clarence to be studied

The early Australian-built wooden coastal trader *Clarence*, wrecked near St Leonards in Port Phillip Bay in 1850 will be excavated in a major national maritime archaeology project commencing in May 2012. The *Clarence* is considered to be the oldest and best preserved wreck of an Australia built coastal trading vessel yet located in Victorian waters.

AAMH member Professor Mark Staniforth of Monash University is the joint chief investigator for the project. Monash University, the University of Western Australia, the Australian National University and the Western Australian Museum have joined forces on the project which is funded by the Australian Research Council. Researchers

will use X-ray imaging of artefacts retrieved from the wreck, as well as detailed spatial recording, photography and planning of the wreck's structure. www.ahspp.org.au

Western Australia

Public Lecture

Eminent maritime archaeologist and historian, Dr Jeremy Green will give the second Kenneth McPherson Memorial Lecture at the Maritime Museum on 22 June commencing 6pm. All members and friends invited. Contact the WA Museum to book.

Australia wide

A Place of Maritime Interest?

The Darwin Waterfront Corporation has built a network of walkways, promenades and decks lets visitors walk, jog or ride between the land and wa-

ter, spanning both new and historical landmarks of the Darwin Waterfront Precinct.

One of the developments includes a heritage and cultural trail that retraces the steps of early settlers. The trail provides an inspirational journey through Darwin's maritime history, Larrakia sacred sites, oil storage tunnels and the site where the first Japanese bomb fell in 1942.

Have you walked this trail? Is this a place of maritime history interest? If so, why not tell us about it. Visit our website and click to the Places of Maritime Interest page for details (and an example) <http://www.aamh.asn.au>.



AAMH Quarterly Newsletter: Position Vacant

Enquires to

Peter Ridgway at

eridgway@iinet.net.au

Mari Nawi: Aboriginal Odysseys

Pre-read before the Nawi Conference

Keith Smith's *Mari Nawi* (Rosenberg, NSW, 2010) is an engaging book that focuses on the role indigenous seafarers played in Sydney's colonial past. Well illustrated, well researched and easy to read.

More Conference News

Anyone interested in maritime history is spoilt for choice of conferences in 2012.

The AAMH is co-sponsoring **Oceans Past IV** to be held in Fremantle 7th to 9th November 2012. See hmapcoml.org/oceanspast for details.

Following that between 12th to 14th November, also in Fremantle is the ARC/MCRI Conference on "The Dimensions of the Indian Ocean World Past: Sources and Opportunities for interdisciplinary work in Indian Ocean World History, 9th -19th Centuries". For more information visit: http://www.arc.murdoch.edu.au/research/iow_conf.html.

From 1st to 4th October, also in Fremantle, is the Joint Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology/ Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Conference at the University of Notre Dame Australia, the Maritime Museum of Western Australia and on Rottnest Island, Western Australia

Don't forget the Nawi conference in Sydney mentioned elsewhere in this issue

New South Wales cont...

Watercraft Conference

Register for the Nawi Conference to be held on 30 May - 1 June 2012 at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney.

This is the first major conference on the watercraft of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The conference seeks to bring together practitioners and theorists from a range of institutions, groups, communities and individuals interested in the history, conservation, construction, interpretation and presentation of Australia's indigenous watercraft. Demonstrations and talks by traditional canoe builders and people engaged in reviving traditional canoe building practices and knowledge will be a highlight.

Nawi is an Aboriginal word recorded by early colonists to describe the bark canoes that plied Sydney Harbour.

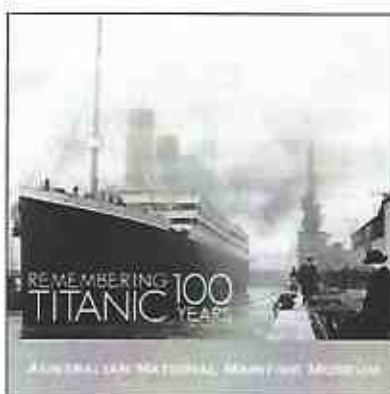
Fish Exhibition

Two new exhibitions have opened at the Australian National Maritime Museum. *Fish in Australian Art* (5 April-1 October 2012) is an unconventional look at Australian art exploring how fish have been a source of artistic inspiration from rock art to the contemporary.

Titanic exhibition

The *Remembering Titanic - 100 years* exhibition (29 March - 11 November 2012) presents the history of this epic tragedy drawing on rep-

lica objects, ship models, newspapers and graphics which concentrate on the human stories behind the disaster. On display will also be nine costumes and selected props from the Academy Award-winning film *Titanic* including outfits worn by Kate Winslet, Leonardo Di Caprio and Billy Zane.



Queensland

Gladstone Maritime Museum reopens

The Gladstone Maritime Museum re-opened in 2012 after re-furbishing by the members over the summer break. The Museum was formed after Australia's bicentennial celebrations in 1988 by the Gladstone Maritime History Society with the aim of preserving maritime and local history in the region. Have you recently visited the museum? Is it a 'place of maritime interest'? If so, please tell other members about it by submitting a short article for our website. Go to www.aamh.asn.au for details. You could be eligible to win a prize (AAMH biros, books, or whatever takes the editor's fancy!)

Tasmania

Julie Burgess restored

The restoration of the ketch *Julie Burgess* has reached the sea trial stage. The 64ft wooden ketch was built from blue gum in Launceston in 1936 by Ned Jack of Launceston and was engaged in the Bass Strait cray-fishing industry since her launch, except for war service when she was used as a cable ship in Bass Strait at the outbreak of World War 2. For more information, visit the Devonport Maritime Museum or go to www.julieburgess.com.au

South Australian News

Wyatt Earp

Emily Jateff from the South Australian Maritime Museum will give a lecture entitled Wyatt Earp rides again: a polar research vessel in tropical Queensland at Flinders University 3-5pm Thursday May 10 in the Social Sciences South Lecture Theatre.

Northern Territory

70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin Events

19 February 2012 was the first National Day of Observance and Territorians commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin paying tribute to those who were affected by the attacks on Darwin and other northern Australian towns during World War II.

