

# The Traverse Board

Newsletter of the Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc

March 2013

Proudly Supporting the Paul McGuire Collection of The State Library of South Australia.

## News From The Friends



### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2013

Greetings to you all, as I put together my report on the activities of the Friends over the past year.

It was a good year, with a variety of interesting events along the way.

Our first meeting, in March, saw us at the Maritime Museum to view the exhibition "Titanic, the Voyage of the Century", which contained many interesting artefacts and photos, etc. concerning the loss of that great ship. This followed a delightful Sunday lunch at the Railway Hotel, altogether a very pleasant afternoon.

In May we had the opportunity to view some of the treasures of the State Library, including the McGuire collection. Our guide was Valerie Sitters, not long before her retirement, and she showed us many exquisite items not on general display, but held down in the lower part of the building, in a great complex of compact shelving. One special little book was one for which the Friends provided the purchase finance back in January, namely "Thulia: a tale of the Antarctic" by James Palmer, the story of the US navy's voyage of discovery around the world in the late 1830s, a nice example of how the Friends contribute to the Paul McGuire Library.

July is winter here, but we enjoyed the warmth of a visit from Mike and Gay Lewis, taking a spell from cruising the Pacific in their yacht, "Expeditus". A very happy evening at the Railway, which included some wonderful snaps of their travels on the big screen there just to make us all a little bit jealous; but they have worked very hard to achieve their cruising way of life, and therefore deserve it all!

By way of contrast, for our September gathering Neil showed a video of the wreck of the NZ ferry "Wahine", in April 1968.

THE RAILWAY HOTEL, PORT ADELAIDE  
ESTABLISHED 1856



247 ST VINCENT ST. PHONE: 8447 1527. FAX: 8341 2807. EMAIL: INFO@RAILWAYHOTELPORTADELAIDE.COM.AU

### Next Meeting

The March Meeting will feature the documentary *The Hunt for HMAS Sydney*.

Date: Monday **March 25th 2013**

Time: Dinner 7:00pm – meeting 8:00 pm

Venue: **Railway Hotel, Port Adelaide.**

Cost: **Donation**

**Please book for dinner on 8447 1527.**

### The Newport Ship

The remains of a substantial medieval sailing ship were discovered during the construction of the Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre, on the right bank of the River Usk in Newport, South Wales in late June 2002.



More inside!

It was a chilling account of the disaster, including interviews with some of the survivors and rescuers, and demonstrates just how easily things can go horribly wrong at sea when nature and fortune conspire to make it so.

November, Dinner time! And this year we returned to the Royal S.A. Yacht Squadron for our annual dinner, it was good to see Sir James among us again, on one of his visits to Adelaide. We were also joined by the Commodore, Paul Bogner and his wife, Sandee; altogether we had a pretty good time, as befits such an occasion.

And so to the AGM, held at the beginning of February, at the Railway Hotel. The office bearers remain unchanged, as does the committee. After the serious stuff was concluded we enjoyed the video about the Trading Ketches of South Australia, by Gary Kerr, a wonderful portrayal of the ketch trade that flourished in years gone by.

I want to thank you all for your commitment to the Friends, we are only a small group, so you are all needed And special thanks once again to Neil for his superb efforts as Treasurer, Secretary and Editor of the Traverse Board. This concludes my report.

Regards, Julian.

*The Traverse Board*

Published by:

The Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc

President: Julian Murray

Secretary/Treasurer Neil Waller

Postal Address: 2 Quigley Court  
ABERFOYLE PARK 5159

Email: [fpmml@internode.on.net](mailto:fpmml@internode.on.net)

Web: <http://www.fpmml.org.au>

Phone: 08 71274563

FAX: 08 8270 5089

## Maritime News

### Lifeboat to stay in Kingston SE

The lifeboat from MS *Oliva* will be permanently on display in Kingston S.E. in South Australia after the insurer reached an agreement with a local salvage company.

A Kingston company will remove the 20-person lifeboat from the beach near Salt Creek and place it in the town's National Trust maritime display near the Cape Jaffa lighthouse.

The lifeboat is from the MS *Oliva* which ran aground on March 16, 2011 on Nightingale Island in the South Atlantic Ocean.

DPTI Press Release



## Maritime News – The Newport Ship

### Fears over future of Newport's historic ship

Adapted from the *South Wales Argus* 9:25am Thursday 14th February 2013

The extensive remains of a substantial medieval sailing ship were discovered during the construction of the Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre, on the right bank of the river Usk in Newport, South Wales in late June 2002.

Newport City Council and the Welsh Assembly Government recognised the significance of the vessel and identified funding to excavate and conserve the ship.

The vessel was dismantled and raised, piece by piece, over a period of twelve weeks between August and November 2002.

The Newport ship is the most complete example of a fifteenth century clinker-built merchant vessel ever found in the United Kingdom.

The ship appears to be constructed in the Northern European 'keel first' shell-based tradition, in contrast to the cog and hulk traditions.

The future of the ship is uncertain after a city council report suggested that it could be disposed of or handed to another organisation.

The proposals for the ship emerged in a report to the scrutiny committee for community, planning and development on possible future savings to be discussed at cabinet next Monday.

It outlines cuts in the budget of the ship of £290,000 between 2013/14 and 2015/16. It says conservation will be complete by October 2014, and in 2015/16 "the conserved timber will need to be disposed of or stored by another museum/ responsible body.

"There may be an opportunity for earlier savings if a lease arrangement can be arranged with a third-party organisation to take over and the project be relocated to a smaller space," the report says, adding there are discussions with the Welsh Government or national organisations about the project.

Ship enthusiasts yesterday called on the authority to clarify what its statement means.



Tory councillor Charles Ferris, who is a patron of the Friends of the Newport Ship, said: "Are they talking about disposal of the project or the entire disposal of it? That puts us back to the good old days when they wanted to concrete over it."

Cabinet member for leisure Debbie Wilcox told the *Argus* meetings are planned with national organisations to discuss the much-loved find.

She said one planned meeting had to be cancelled because of the snow.

"We haven't given that a lot of time and thought because we've got other pressing issues," she said.

"It's a national project with national significance. We will try to come out with the best possible outcome for this."

A Newport council spokeswoman said: "All options for the future storage and display of the Newport Ship are being considered."

Continued:

## Maritime News – The Newport Ship

NEWPORT'S beloved medieval ship has spent the past decade being painstakingly conserved by a team of dedicated workers. Now though it appears questions are being raised over what will happen to this fantastic archaeological find.

A city council report suggests the restored timbers could be "disposed of or handed to another museum or responsible body in 2015/16." Such a bald statement is bound to lead to many questions.

It may well be that it means there will be a Welsh Government-backed new home for the ship, or some national organisation or other taking over responsibility.

The result is real concern among the many supporters of the ship about its future.

The discovery of the ship in the banks of the River Usk created a huge buzz around Newport and attracted interest from across the world. It was right that it was saved.

Such opportunities for cities to boast something unique do not come along very often.

What is needed now is a clear plan for its future so we can all be assured that the ship will be on display for future generations and that this treasure will stay in Newport.

### Skeleton under ship is Iron age

The remains of a skeleton found underneath a medieval ship discovered buried in the banks of the River Usk in Newport are that of an Iron age man.

Tests carried out on the bones which were found in December 2002, have shown that they date back to 170BC.

It makes the skeleton about 1,500 years older than the 15th century ship.

The man is thought to have been about 5ft 9in tall and very muscular. He was probably in his late 20s or early 30s when he died.

Experts carried out radio carbon dating on the bones which were found underneath wooden struts supporting the ship as workers carried out an excavation of the orchestra pit of the city's Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre on 11 December 2002.

The bones were examined by Dr Ros Coard and Alison Bennett from the University of Lampeter.

At the time of the find, it was thought that the man may have died in an industrial accident as he was salvaging the boat.

Archaeologists have concluded that the man's body may have deliberately placed in the channel or he was a victim of drowning whose body was washed into the channel and buried under sediment.

Kate Hunter, the Newport Ship project leader for Newport Council, said: "I never expected him to be quite as old as this.

"It's very interesting because there are not a lot of prehistoric bones found from the Severn Estuary and it all adds to the knowledge."

Meanwhile the restoration team of the Newport Ship - expected to one eventually be displayed in the new arts centre - could be more significant than the discovery of the Tudor ship, the Mary Rose.

The team of experts working on the project have been using state-of-the-art digital technology to record the 1,700 timbers which make up the vessel.

Ms Hunter expects the conservation programme of recording the timbers and restoring the ship to take between 10 and 15 years.

When the ship was first found, thousands of people flocked to Newport to see it as it lay in the banks of the River Usk.

There were fears that the ship would be broken up and not preserved but a £3.5m grant was given by the Welsh Assembly Government to fund the restoration.

The city council is continuing to seek funding from other bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund to continue the preservation of the ship.

No other sea going vessel of this size and date survives as completely as the Newport Ship.



Story from BBC NEWS:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk\\_news/wales/south\\_east/4500354.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/wales/south_east/4500354.stm)

Published: 2005/12/05 16:26:04 GMT

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### The Newport Ship: QUICK FACTS

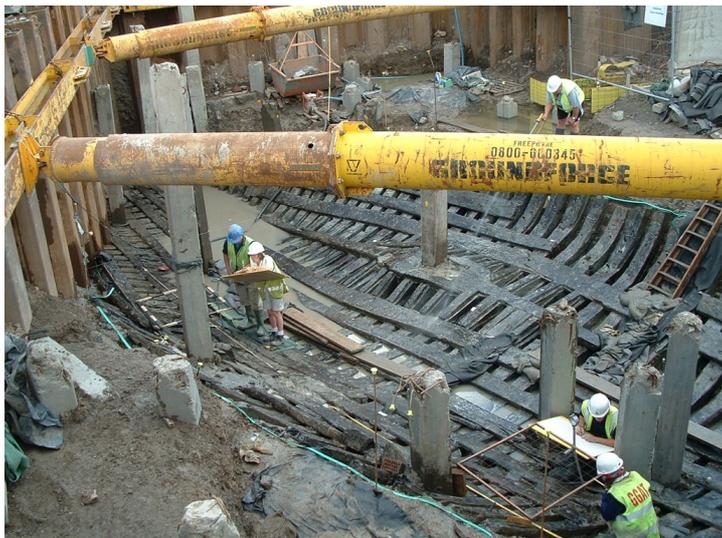
The timbers of the Newport Ship had to be removed from the ground one by one. There were 1700 in total and some of the larger timbers weighed up to one tonne, which is as heavy as an adult elephant.

One of the objects found was a leather shoe. The shoe had a long pointed toe which was stuffed with moss so that it kept its shape. This style of shoe was very fashionable during the 14th and 15th century.

The crew would have eaten salted fish and meat during their long journey.

The Newport Ship was a trading ship. It would have carried wool, wine, timber and other goods.

Cleaning the timbers was a very messy job. It needed to be done carefully so as not to damage the wood. The team used brushes, water and even toothbrushes to remove all of the mud and tar.



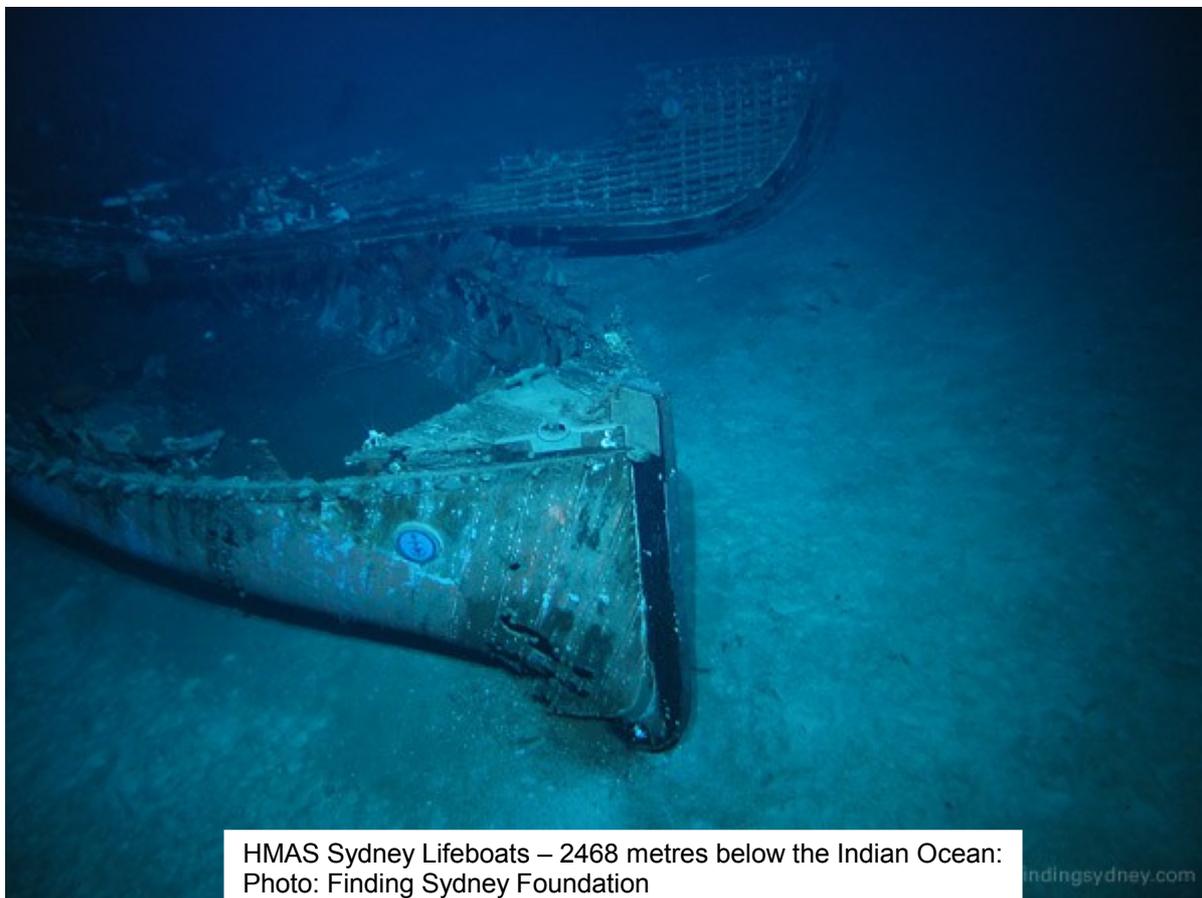
The ship would have been 35metres at its longest point. That is as long as three double decker buses.

A small silver coin was found in the keel. Coins were placed within the timbers of a new ship for good luck. The coin helps us to date the ship. We know that she was built in 1447 and we think that she was abandoned in Newport around 1468.

There is quite a bit of information about this ship available online.

A few sites are:

- <http://www.trinitysaintdavid.ac.uk/en/newportship> (University Of Wales)
- [http://www.newport.gov.uk/\\_dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=mediaevalship.homepage](http://www.newport.gov.uk/_dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=mediaevalship.homepage) (Newport Council)
- <http://www.thenewportship.com/> (The Friends Of The Newport Ship)



HMAS Sydney Lifeboats – 2468 metres below the Indian Ocean:  
Photo: Finding Sydney Foundation

findingsydney.com

## Carnival cancels cruises on troubled ship

Ramit Plushnick-Masti AAP  
February 14, 2013 4:27PM

**Carnival Cruise Lines has cancelled a dozen more planned voyages aboard the troubled Triumph. Source: AAP**

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines has cancelled a dozen more planned voyages aboard the Triumph and acknowledged that the crippled ship had been plagued by other mechanical problems in the weeks before an engine-room fire left it powerless in the Gulf of Mexico.

The company's announcement on Wednesday came as the Triumph was being towed to a port in Mobile, Alabama, with more than 4000 people on board, some of whom have complained to relatives that conditions on the ship are dismal and that they have limited access to food and bathrooms.



Crippled cruise ship Carnival Triumph

The ship will be idle through April. Two other cruises were called off shortly after Sunday's fire.

Debbi Smedley, a passenger on a recent Triumph cruise, said the ship had trouble on January 28 as it was preparing to leave Galveston. Hours before the scheduled departure time, she received an email from Carnival stating the vessel would leave late because of a propulsion problem. Passengers were asked to arrive at the port at 2pm, two hours later than originally scheduled.

The ship did not sail until after 8pm, she said.

"My mother is a cruise travel agent so this is not my first rodeo. I have sailed many, many cruises, many, many cruise lines. This was, by far, I have to say, the worst," said Smedley, of Plano, Texas.

Robert Giordano, of the Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond, said he last spoke to his wife, Shannon, on Monday. She told him she waited in line for three hours to get a hot dog, and that conditions on the ship were terrible.

"They're having to urinate in the shower. They've been passed out plastic bags to go to the bathroom," Giordano said. "There was fecal matter all over the floor."

Even more distressing, Giordano said, has been the lack of information he has been able to get from Carnival, a complaint shared by Vivian Tilley, of San Diego, whose sister is also on the vessel.

Carnival, she said, has not told families what hotel passengers will be put in or provided precise information about when they will arrive in Mobile, Alabama. And that came after the cruise line switched the ship's towing destination from Progreso, Mexico, to Mobile.

Tilley said her sister, Renee Shanar, of Houston, told her the cabins were hot and smelled like smoke from the engine fire, forcing passengers to stay on the deck. She also said people were getting sick.

"It's a nightmare," Tilley said, noting Shanar and her husband chose a four-day cruise so they wouldn't be away from their two daughters for too long.

After losing power on its most recent journey, the ship drifted until Tuesday, when two tugboats began moving it towards shore.

Tilley said late on Wednesday that she had received an update from Carnival saying the Triumph had again rendezvoused with another cruise line, taking on more supplies and food, and that a third tugboat had also arrived to bring the ship to port.

Passengers have had limited mobile phone service because of the power failure, but many were able to make calls to friends and family when the Triumph rendezvoused with another Carnival ship that dropped off food and supplies. The other ship had a working cellular antenna.

Meanwhile, officials in Mobile are preparing a cruise terminal that has not been used for a year to help passengers go through customs after their ordeal.

The Triumph is expected to arrive on Thursday afternoon.

The cruise ship company has chartered 15 buses to haul passengers to hotels in New Orleans and downtown Mobile, said Barbara Drummond, a spokeswoman for the city of Mobile.

Carnival said passengers would also be able to fly home on chartered flights.

The company has disputed the accounts of passengers who describe the ship as filthy, saying employees are doing everything to ensure people are comfortable.

Passengers are supposed to receive a full refund and discounts on future cruises, and Carnival announced on Wednesday they would each get an additional \$US500 (\$A485) in compensation.

March Meeting  
Monday 25th March 2013

Join us at the Railway Hotel, Port Adelaide  
from 7:00pm for dinner followed by

*The Hunt For HMAS Sydney*

The story of the finding of the wrecks of the  
*Sydney* and its nemesis the *Kormoran*.



Please book with the hotel for dinner on 8447 1527

**Advance Notice**  
May Meeting

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
Railway Hotel, Port Adelaide

Long time member Valmai Hankel will join us to tell of  
her adventures since retirement.

# What's On at the library?

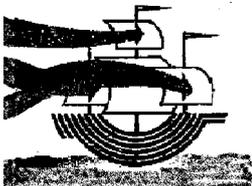
## Current Treasures Wall exhibition

Until April  
Level 1, Spence Wing

Our Gems of the collections exhibition provides a glimpse of materials that are priceless, ancient, irreplaceably unique, and even up-to-date and state-of-the-art. Items donated, purchased and gifted to the Library all reflect the breadth of 150 years of collecting, and includes a number of recent acquisitions.



Membership subs are now due. Please return the form below to the treasurer at the address shown. Alternately he will be only too glad to receive your subs on 25<sup>th</sup> March. You can renew online: <http://www.fpmml.org.au/membership.shtml>.



## The Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc.

### Membership Renewal

Ordinary Memberships are all due for renewal in January each year. Please send your \$20 to

The Treasurer,  
The Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc.  
2 Quigley Court  
ABERFOYLE PARK 5159

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternative Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

We can send *Traverse Board* via email. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Every member: if your contact details have changed please fill in the new details above and send the form to the Treasurer.