



The Traverse Board

Newsletter of the Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc

November 2013

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

News From The Friends

Under Square Sails

Friends Purchase for the Paul McGuire Maritime Library

The Friends recently funded the purchase of a unique manuscript item (in 4 volumes) entitled Under Square Sail by J. B. Town for the Paul McGuire Maritime Library.

In the introduction Alan Villiers recounts how he met Mr Town when he was a reporter for The Mercury in Hobart in the 1930s and found his stories about his experiences so interesting that he suggested to Mr Town that he write a book, which he did. The type-script is ready for publication with numerous accompanying photographs. Why it was not published and what became of Mr Town are mysteries.

The photographs show life on board the various full-rigged ships he travelled on in 1913 and 1914. These included particularly: The Castleton, built in 1903, of 1812 tons and the French ship Thiers, built in 1901 with a gross tonnage of 2613. Chapters include descriptions of the Roaring Forties and rounding the Horn.

A typical extract (from page 51):

When planning this voyage I had had certain definite ideals in my mind as to what I should like in the way of experience in a large deep water sailing ship. Sailing ships were rapidly disappearing and I wanted as far as possible to go back to the good old days before it was too late, I dreamt of a ship where hand labour and shanties were the order of the day, and where I should see old-time skilful sailors making wonderful knots and splices, or performing monkey-like feats up aloft, and so on. And to complete the picture I must have an old time sea-dog of a skipper.....what is known as a regular "hard-case"!

Thus all my dreams came true, for here I was at sea in a "wind-bag" (to use a nautical expression!) where we had no dry pulls.....a "dry" pull meaning a pull on the ropes unaccompanied by singingseveral old-time sailors, a first class craftsman in the sailmaker, a splendid set of apprentices, and last but not least, a real live, hard-case captain, absolutely true to type. Though in the days of which I write there was no rope's ending or stringing a man up by the thumbs, or hitting a man over the head with a belaying-pin or a marlinspike as in former days, when the sailors were liable to gentle treatment of this kind from hard-case captains and mates of windjammers.

Tony Leschen
Manager Collection Development
State Library of South Australia

Note: the Friends will visit the library to view this purchase in the new year, details to follow.

Next Meeting

The November Meeting will feature member Christine Courtney speaking on the interior design of trans Atlantic Steamers.

Date: Monday **November 25th 2013**

Time: **8:00 pm**

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

Cost: **Donation**

Join us for dinner from 7:00pm – book with the hotel on 8447 1527.



One of the life boats on the skids (on board the Castleton)



The hand log in action on the Langdale

The Traverse Board

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The International Fleet Review Sydney October 2013



Tall ship Soren Larsen sails under the Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of the Royal Australian Navy's International Fleet Review.
Copyright Commonwealth of Australia. RAN

From Mike and Gay Lewis 9th November 2013

Update to all: The typhoon Yolanda (local name) passed by quite a bit to the north of us, so basically no wind and no exceptional rainfall for us. Our Friday bbq was undaunted.

Gay is working on a scrapbook of our time in Saudi (1981 to 1984).

Incidentally I worked with a Korean contractor there, Mr. Lee, who got inspired by us, (we had sailed Aust to UK by that time), and built a 28 ft "Spray" design boat in Korea, and has been sailing around Japan, Philippines, Borneo, Indonesia Thailand for many years now. He is possibly the first Korean to go sailing offshore, and had immense difficulty building his boat because there was no yachting industry there at that time. We met up with him here after 31 years!!!!

One of the yachties here has put together a new website for the marina, www.holidayoceanviewmarina.com - the old website was "stolen" when the web guy didn't renew the hosting. There is a photo of a slightly overweight yours truly pushing a trolley at the marina and you see *Expeditus* in some of the shots.

Ingat (take care) everyone.

Cheers, Mike & Gay



The *Europa* in Sydney Harbour.
Copyright Commonwealth of Australia. RAN

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2013

Greetings once again, as we head into the summer months, warm but cooled by the sea breeze in the afternoon, I hope you all enjoy that prospect.

Late news, just today we heard via Facebook that Mike and Gay are safe and well aboard "*Expeditus*", still in the Philippines but well south of the terrible typhoon that has just devastated that country.

Our other voyager, Mark Sinclair in "*Starwave*", was frustrated in his bid to join the big Naval Review bash in Sydney, and was obliged to leave the yacht at Beauty Point on the Tamar River, in deference to the heavy weather prevailing at the time. The great plans, etc.....

We enjoyed a visit to the Maritime Museum in September, to view the display showing the last voyages of the windjammers, carrying grain from South Australian ports to Europe in the late forties. This was a wonderful exhibition of film, photos, recorded reminiscences and artefacts from the last great ships to ply that trade, so thanks to the Museum for the opportunity. This took place after a pleasant luncheon at the Railway Hotel, so conveniently located just a few steps along Lipson Street!

Thank you to all who attended our annual dinner in October, and made it such a joyous evening at the R.S.A.Y.S. We numbered twenty three, better than recent years, those present included our patron, Sir James Hardy, and Squadron Commodore Peter Cooling and Noeleen Cooling. The food, wine and conversation were all tops, and a highlight later in the evening was the arrival of two Clipper 68 yachts, en route from Portsmouth to Sydney, where they will be based for training potential crew for up-coming Clipper round-the-world races. The thirsty crew-members joined us in the dining room for some interesting chat about the voyage.

Not long until our next meeting, November 25th, when local stalwart Christine Courtney will entertain us with talk and pictures about Art Deco influences on the interiors of the great ocean liners of the twenties and thirties. This should be fascinating stuff, so please come along to the Railway Hotel for another thoroughly enjoyable evening — don't forget to book your spot for dinner!

So for now, that's it, see you on the 25th, all the best in the meantime.

Regards, Julian.

The International Fleet Review, Sydney, 5th October 2013



HRH Prince Henry of Wales and Governor General Her Excellency the Hon. Quentin Bryce, AC, CVO with the Commanding Officer HMAS Leeuwin, Lieutenant Commander Wendy Stewart and Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Stuart Price on the bridge wing of HMAS Leeuwin during Ceremonial Fleet Review in Sydney Harbour, New South Wales.



Her Excellency inspecting the guard prior to boarding HMAS Leeuwin to review the fleet.

Her Excellency, the Honourable Quentin Bryce, AC, CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia received a Royal Salute from the 37 warships berthed around Sydney Harbour during the Royal Australian Navy's Ceremonial Fleet Review.

His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales joined the Governor-General onboard reviewing ship HMAS *Leeuwin* for the official inspection of the ships. Also embarked on *Leeuwin* was Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon. Tony Abbott MP and Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC, RAN.

In her role of Reviewing Officer, the Governor General received a Royal Salute from each warship, which "manned and cheered ship" to show respect.

The International Fleet Review (IFR) commemorated the centenary of the first entry of the Royal Australian Navy's fleet into Sydney Harbour on 4 October 1913. It was the nation's most significant commemorative naval event in the past 100 years.



Royal Australian Navy Ceremonial Fleet recreating the entry from 1913 with (L-R) HMA Ships Sydney, Darwin, Perth, Parramatta, Bundaberg, Diamantina and Huon participating as they prepare to sail through the Heads into Sydney Harbour. Copyright Commonwealth of Australia, RAN



Royal Australian Navy guard salute as Her Excellency, the Hon. Quentin Bryce, AC, CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and HRH Prince Henry of Wales embarked in HMAS Leeuwin, sail from Fleet Base East to commence the International Fleet Review inspection in Sydney Harbour.



Photos and text: Royal Australian Navy, Copyright Commonwealth of Australia

Fight to save endangered sea turtles turns high-tech

State-of-the-art mapping technology is delivering a compelling insight into threats facing sea turtle rookeries and a clearer understanding of the action required to prevent decline.



Green Turtle,
Dept. of Environment and Conservation,
Western Australia

A dedicated group of Australian-based scientific researchers and volunteers have turned to sophisticated mapping technology in their fight to save three of the world's endangered sea turtle species: Loggerhead, Green and Hawksbill turtles.

With sea turtle populations in drastic decline globally, the Gnaraloo Turtle Conservation Program (GTCP) is part of a worldwide effort to better understand and manage the dangers these animals face from predators and encroaching human activity.

Among the threats to the turtles at Gnaraloo on the Ningaloo coast, Western Australia, are foxes and native crabs which disturb and prey on turtle eggs and hatchlings, coastal tourism developments and overenthusiastic visitors.

Gnaraloo's Environmental Advisor Karen Hattingh said the turtles' plight warranted action and innovative resource investment.

"Studies have revealed that, due to predation and other threats, only about one out of 10,000 sea turtle hatchlings survive to sexual maturity, making the survival of every hatchling critical to the future of the species globally," she said.

"As turtle populations have been on the decline worldwide, studying, understanding and protecting the location of their primary nesting sites is of utmost importance."

To facilitate a better understanding of such habitat at Gnaraloo, the GTCP partnered with data mapping and location intelligence specialists Esri Australia.

Esri Australia's location intelligence solution, underpinned by world-leading Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, equipped the GTCP with the ability to map, analyse and interpret crucial data and its implications.

"Location intelligence is an essential capability for our data analysis and decision-making, and has enabled us to better understand the sea turtle rookeries on Gnaraloo's coastline," said Ms Hattingh.

During the annual turtle nesting season at Gnaraloo (November to April), a team of scientific researchers patrol beaches along Gnaraloo, recording turtle nesting activities based on track monitoring and nest identification. This information is then entered into sophisticated GIS software for mapping and analysis, so the GTCP can determine their course of action for future protection.



Loggerhead Turtle
Dept. Environment and Conservation,
Western Australia

Location intelligence is an essential capability for our data analysis and decision-making, and has enabled us to better understand the sea turtle rookeries on Gnaraloo's coastline.

Karen Hattingh, Gnaraloo
Environmental Advisor

At the end of each nesting season, the GTCP widely release their findings to government, environmental agencies and other researchers, for consideration in planning and management decisions of visitation or land-use activities which may have significant impacts on the coastal nesting habitat of the turtles.

Through their partnership with Esri Australia, the GTCP have significantly improved the quality of their reports, which has provided their research with greater credibility and scope. This will continue to highlight the need for protection of the Ningaloo sea turtles and critical coastal nesting habitat.

With Esri Australia's location intelligence solution, the GTCP have a more compelling insight into threats facing sea turtle rookeries and a clearer understanding of the action required to prevent decline.

ESRI Australia

Our September speaker, James Hunter, seems to be causing a stir in the coal port city of Gladstone in central Queensland in his quest to document the HMCS Protector. Here are a couple of articles from the Gladstone Observer, the local paper.

Wreck's high-tech 'rescue' to be first in central Queensland

Ebony Battersby 17th Sep 2013 5:00 AM



SAVING HISTORY: Dr James Hunter with the wreck of HMCS Protector.

THE HMCS Protector, lying in a shallow grave off Heron Island, will be the first wreck in central Queensland to be scanned by laser, in a bid to recreate the structure of the vessel in the virtual realm.

In the waters off Gladstone, the ocean floor is speckled with as many as 30 shipwrecks.

James Hunter, project archaeologist and research fellow with the SA Maritime Museum, said the Protector was an important part of Australian naval history.

"It was South Australia's first warships, one of Australia's original naval fleet, and it participated in the First World War," he said.

The ship also saw action with the US Army during the Second World War and was damaged in a collision with a tug in Gladstone Harbour in 1943.

Despite its heritage, the wreck has not been the site of archaeological investigation, nor is it a protected site.

Using 3D technology to recreate the vessel's structure will preserve the wreck for generations to come.

"The data we collect can be used as a 'baseline' to assess Protector's condition in coming years," Dr Hunter said.

He said it would provide a permanent, third-dimensional record of the ship.

The Observer, Gladstone, Queensland

Marine archaeologists visit Gladstone to help protect wreck

Ebony Battersby 26th Sep 2013 6:56 AM

A TEAM of Australia's most prominent maritime archaeologists are in Gladstone this week, embarking on a research project of the HMCS Protector.



HMCS Protector in its current condition. South Australian Maritime Museum

Permanent virtual preservation is the aim, combating rapid deterioration of the wreck with the use of technological surveying and traditional methods.

Dr James Hunter III, maritime archaeologist and research fellow for the South Australian Maritime Museum, is leading the project and said the purpose of the expedition was to provide comprehensive records.

"The useful career of the Protector has never ended," he said.

"It is a living shipwreck, it still has a life as a functioning breakwater. We aim to supply a predictive model to indicate the time until complete deterioration."

Team member Emily Jateff, curator at the South Australian Maritime Museum, says the Protector is an important part of Australian naval history.

"The database at the museum has extensive records of the ship, and even the descendants of those who worked on one of South Australia's colonial fleet."

The Protector served for many years and purposes, including as a cargo vessel, a whaling ship, a warship in both world wars and finally as a breakwater near Heron Island.

Lindsay Wassell, president of the Gladstone Maritime History Society, said the local shipwreck collection was extensive.

"We have a brilliant collection," he said. "In fact, we have an entire room dedicated to shipwrecks from Seventeen Seventy to Yeppoon."

Artefacts from the Protector can be located at the Gladstone Maritime Museum, including a restored saloon chair, planking decks and an anchor.

Former president Cedric Jansen said the outlying waters of the region could potentially host up to 100 shipwrecks.

Further scientific research may affirm the Gladstone region as home to Australia's oldest shipwreck, he said.

"Aquaris can be dated back to 1606," he said. "It is a grand Spanish galleon. We aren't sure of where it was going or why."

The Observer, Gladstone, Queensland

Pictures from our Annual Dinner, RSAYS, 25th October 2013



Clipper 68 Round the World Yachts

During the evening two Clipper 68 Round the World Yachts arrived from Albany Western Australia en route to Sydney for crew training and to take part in the 2013 Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

Skipped by Jan Ridd and Piers Dudin these yachts had originally sailed from Portsmouth with a paying crew from far and wide.

The captains intended to spend a couple of nights in the RSAYS marina before continuing to Sydney.

There is a Clipper 70 Round The World race currently in progress with contestants in Albany, Western Australia before heading to Sydney via Hobart.

Designed by renowned naval architect, Tony Castro, the Clipper 70 is the third generation of Clipper racing yachts.



Jan Ridd, Sir James Hardy, Piers Dudin.

Jan Ridd, Alf Jervis, Julian Murray, Sir James Hardy, Piers Dudin.

Josh Jones, a RTW crew member, Jan Ridd, and RSAYS Commodore Peter Cooling.



November Meeting

Our November meeting will feature an illustrated talk by member Christine Courtney: "Art Deco's Influence on the Interior Design of Trans-Atlantic Liners".

The venue is, as usual, the Railway Hotel at Port Adelaide, and dinner will be served from 7:00pm, with the talk afterwards.

Please let Fred or Sue know on 8447 1527 if you are coming for dinner.