

The Traverse Board

Newsletter of the Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc

March 2014

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

News From The Friends

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2014

Greetings to you all, and herewith my summary of the Friends' activities for the past year, again an interesting variety of events covering many topics.

In March we gathered at the Railway Hotel, Port Adelaide, and after the usual lovely dinner we watched the documentary of the successful search for HMAS Sydney, off the West Australian coast; this was the culmination of much inspired effort by a dedicated team aided by sophisticated equipment, finally revealing the wreck at peace on the sea-bed.



Valmai Hankel was the star of our meeting in May, as she reminisced on the early days of the Friends, seen from the view-point of a founder member of our group. It is difficult for Valmai to get to our regular Monday meetings, so it was really good to hear her talk of how things started out, driven by Mrs. Frances McGuire. Thank you, Valmai.

Sadly, in June the former director of the State Library, Bronwyn Halliday, passed away, far too early in life. During her time at the Library she was a good friend to the Friends, offering support and advice, and attending our meetings and dinners when possible. We remember her fondly.

In July we welcomed Dr. James Hunter of Flinders University, who is in the process of documenting the remains of HMAS Protector using 3D laser technology. He gave us a very good explanation of the whole business, which will ensure a permanent record of this famous vessel even after the sea has finally claimed her. James was accompanied by his wife, Emily, who works at the Maritime Museum, quite a team!

For our September meeting, following lunch at the Railway Hotel, we trooped off to the Maritime Museum to see the display of equipment, photographs and film telling the story of life aboard the big windjammers that carried grain and other cargoes across the world's oceans. This was just another of the wonderful exhibitions put on by the Museum, we are fortunate to have this excellent facility here in Port Adelaide.

(continued page 2)

Next Meeting

The March Meeting will feature Ms Vivonne Twaites sharing her images of Åland and Mariehamn long associated with the sea and the grain trade to South Australia.

Date: Monday **March 24th 2014**
Time: **8:00 pm (Dinner at 7:00pm)**
Venue: **British Hotel, Port Adelaide.**
Cost: **Donation**

Thank You Fred and Sue.



Our genial hosts over the past six years, Fred Hiscock and Sue O'Reilly have decided to close the Railway Hotel and retire.

Fred and Sue have been hoteliers in Port Adelaide for over a quarter century, first at the Royal Arms, then at the Railway.

The changing port has not been kind to the old hotels in Port Adelaide with a huge reduction of ships coming into the inner harbour, and the closure of factories and the wool stores leading to a large reduction in patrons for the hotels.

The Railway has been a victim of that change and has been for sale for the past 4 years without a buyer. Its closure on 28th February 2014 leaves Port Adelaide without another old pub.

There was a very well attended wake at the hotel on Saturday 1st March.

This, of course, leaves us having to find another meeting venue and another Port Adelaide Hotel, The British next to the Birkenhead Bridge has offered its services.

We wish Fred and Sue the best in their retirement.



British

British Hotel Port Adelaide
13 North Parade Port Adelaide 5015
Phone + (08) 8240 2286
Fax + (08) 8240 2278
Email + admin@thebritishhotel.com.au
Web + www.thebritishhotel.com.au

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, SA 5159

Email: fpmml@internode.on.net

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

President's Report (Continued)

Once again the annual dinner was held at the R.S.A.Y.S., Outer Harbour, a very enjoyable evening attended by twenty four Friends and guests, including Commodore Peter Cooling and Noeleen Cooling. A highlight was the arrival of two Clipper 68 yachts, en route from Portsmouth to Sydney, which made for a lively session after dinner.

Christine Courtney entertained us in November, with the story of the influence of Art Nouveau on the interior design of the grand trans-Atlantic liners built during the twenties and thirties. Opulence was the word, and we saw many photographs to demonstrate this; these ships were floating palaces, quite amazing.

The Friends financed the purchase of a very special manuscript item, entitled *Under Square Sail*, by J.B.Town. It tells of voyages aboard two ships in 1913 and 1914, complete with photographs, a wonderful acquisition for the McGuire collection, which we will be able to view in due course.

December was a sad month, as founder-member and past treasurer Dick Cabban passed away, having spent his last years in a retirement home, hampered by blindness. Beth, Neil Cormack's wife, also died after a period of illness.

Our AGM took place on February at the Railway Hotel, the last time we will meet there as Fred and Sue are closing the doors, having been unable to sell, and keen to retire after twenty five years there. Official business was concluded with only one change to the structure of the committee, the appointment of Arthur Vandenbroek as Vice-President.

Thank you all for your continued support, and especially to Neil for his great efforts as Treasurer, Secretary and Editor.

Regards, Julian.

Greek yacht tax delayed, but yachting already hurting

The Greek Government has delayed the implementation of the new vicious tax on visiting yachts. However, some of the damage may have already been done.

The Greek Marinas Association (GMA) has reported a number of departures of foreign-owned yachts due to the new charges imposed since the start of the year on recreational vessels.

The increased taxes, a grab for the government's share of the income generated by foreign yachts cruising Greece, threatened to make visiting Greece an expensive affair.

The new regulations received much attention from cruising sailors and international organizations, associations and unions active in the maritime tourism domain informed their members about the new increased taxation Greece has imposed on yachts.

The GMA has also been informed about certain strong foreign associations, which have many members on their registers, that may resort to the competent authorities of the European Union to protest the tax hike.

International reports also cite the possibility that Greek tax and customs authorities could bar yachts from leaving local marinas if their owners are unable to pay the additional charges. In that context they note that unless the charges are paid this year, the obligation for their payment will be carried over to next year.

According to GMA data, yacht owners mostly from the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany and Austria have taken their boats from Greece to marinas at rival maritime tourism destinations such as Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey.

In comments about the new taxation, owners say that it constitutes a counterincentive for sailing into Greek waters, that Turkey will benefit and that there will be some revenue loss for local economies and marinas as well as for the country in general.

The association further noted that when Italy applied a similar tax policy of high charges in 2012, it witnessed the departure of some 30,000 yachts. That development, it added, led the Italian government to exempt foreign owners of private boats from the payment of the additional charges.

Earlier the local authorities in Sardinia had also applied high charges on boats, but that decision was withdrawn when owners resorted to the European authorities asking for compensation, GMA reminded.

However, amid all this conjecture, complaint and the fleeing of some boats, there is no clear picture of when, if ever, the new taxes will be implemented.

'The tax on yachts was a much-debated subject prior to being sent to parliament for approval,' explains Mike Brewer, agency manager at A1 Yachting in Greece. 'The Ministry of Economy, ignoring all speculation, decided to go ahead as it was deemed a necessary source of income. They were warned of the possible illegality of the law and Italy and Sardinia were mentioned. The law was passed and printed in the Government Gazette but until now has not been implemented.'

While it is evident that tax and fees for yachts in Greece might be increasing in the near future, the notion that this will dramatically effect yacht activity is still a matter of some conjecture as Greek waters still remain substantially cheaper to cruise in than at least some of its European neighbours.

by Des Ryan *sail-world.com*



Cruising boats flee Thailand after rules change

Governments of the world beware. Countries popular with cruising sailors reap good economic benefits, but cruising yachts are designed to move, and cruising sailors will vote with their lifted anchors when authorities, by design or accident, make it difficult or more expensive for visiting yachts. Many countries have experienced this, and Thailand is only the latest.

By a bureaucratic mistake which included boats in a new law actually meant for motor vehicles, 20% of the visiting yachts to Phuket left in the first two months after the law was passed on December 26. According to Nunthita Wirikup, Director of the Phuket Customs Department, 'This 20 per cent (of the foreign-registered boats) left in the eight weeks it took us to get the two-month rule rescinded on February 19.'



'Chalong Bay - 20% of foreign-flagged boats left in the two months it took to get the law rescinded'

Before December 26 last year, foreign-registered yachts could be kept in Phuket for up to six months but on that date, according to the Phuket News, the Customs Department brought in a new rule that owners or skippers must 're-register' their boats every two months during the six months.

Now, that rule has been dropped. In fact, the regulations have been relaxed and more is to come, said Ms Sirikup in an interview with Phuket News, after she has consulted with other relevant government departments.

For now, she said, the rules state that a foreign-flagged yacht may be kept in Phuket waters for up to six months. A relaxation of the rules means this period may be extended by four months by applying to the Phuket Customs Office and a further two months by application to the Southern Region Customs Director, Prayuk Maneechot, who is based in Songkhla, overseeing all 17 custom offices in the South.

These extensions, she stressed, will be given only in cases of special need. She added, 'The total maximum duration is not more than one year, though we might be able to allow an extension beyond one year in cases of dire necessity.'

Mrs Nunthita told The Phuket News, 'The reason we changed to two months previously, was that the Customs Department [in Bangkok] made the mistake of issuing the new rules based on the need to curb smuggling of cars.

'When the two-month rule was issued, I did not know they were going to do this. I had to chase the problem all the way up to Rakop Srisuppaaod, the Director-General in Bangkok, to approve reverting to the old six-month yacht stay rules.

'Now we are using the same law but adjusting some of the basic rules to suit the needs of boat owners or captains, but we need time to correct some of the other rules so that they are the same countrywide.

'I would like to see the Phuket Customs Department become the centre for administration of the customs regulations applying to boats. This is under consideration [in Bangkok].'

Apart from the ability to get extensions of stay for a boat, Mrs Nunthita explained other changes that have now been brought in that should gladden the hearts of yachties.

'The old rule linking the length of stay for a boat with the owner or captain's personal permit to stay in Thailand has been cancelled.' Previously a boat was not allowed to be kept in Thai waters after the owner or captain's permit to stay expired. Both boat and owner had to leave together.

But, Mrs Nunthita stressed, 'The boat stay is temporary only. It is not permanent. If you want the boat to stay here permanently without any problem, you should register your boat under the Thai flag.'

Asked about the fees, she told The Phuket News, 'There is no charge to extend the stay of a boat. However, if the boat 'overstays', people should understand that the old fine of B500 (\$15) a day has been increased to B1,000(\$30) per day, up to a maximum of B10,000 (\$300).

by Sail-World Cruising/Phuket News

Sailor Rescued from HMAS Armidale

MarineLink.com Monday, March 03, 2014, 5:44 PM

Following a combined operation yesterday involving a range of government and private agencies, a Royal Australian Navy sailor is now resting in hospital in Broome, Western Australia, following a casualty evacuation operation in Australia's far North West Shelf region.

The rescue occurred after the sailor, from the Royal Australian Navy's patrol boat HMAS Armidale, fell ill, requiring emergency medical assistance.

After a high-speed transit, the sailor was transferred from HMAS Armidale to the offshore drilling platform ENSCO 109 where he was flown by civilian helicopter to Truscott Air Base in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service met the sailor at Truscott and flew him on to Broome for treatment. The sailor is now recovering.

The Royal Australian Navy regularly patrols in the North West Shelf region. The combined response to this situation is a reflection of the close working relationship the Royal Australian Navy maintains with regional industries and government agencies.

The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, said the Navy was very appreciative of the efforts that others went to so the sailor could be quickly transferred to receive the care he needed.

MARCH MEETING

Monday 24th March 2014 8:00pm (Dinner from 7:00pm)

BRITISH HOTEL, PORT ADELAIDE

Adelaide art curator Vivonne Twaites will reflect on her experiences in Åland, an autonomous region of Finland.

Åland and its capital Mariehamn are connected to Australia through the grain trade in the early part of last century.

Vivonne travelled to Åland in 2013 and took up a residency at the Eckerö Post and Customs House which is Eckerö's (on the west side of Åland Islands) most famous building. It is the largest and most impressive building that has been erected to aid the postal services between Stockholm and St. Petersburg. Built during the Russian times in 1828, architect C.L Engel made the construction plans.

Vivonne's Grandfather was Frederick Grönlund who sailed from Åland as a young man on the *Grace Hawar* and settled in Victoria.

Frederick's extended family still live in Åland.

For details on Vivonne's work see: www.artroom5.com.au



The Hotel Queen Mary, Long Beach, California



Navy Pier Chicago

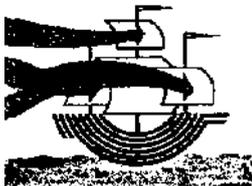


Tour boat on the Chicago River



South Street Maritime Museum, New York City

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 25th 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.