

# The Traverse Board

Newsletter of the Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc

November 2016

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

## News From The Friends

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT November 2016

Greetings to you all, at last the weather grows a little warmer, and that suits me! Just a reminder: if you have not yet visited the exquisite exhibition of the art resulting from Nicolas Baudin's voyages, be quick, it runs until 11th December, and on Fridays there will be a guided tour at 3.30pm, you will need to book.

In September we met once again at the British Hotel, and enjoyed the brilliant video on the history of shipbuilding around Goolwa.



These days it is hard to believe the amount of engineering work that took place there, building great steam engines from scratch, along with all the other components of these vessels. Needless to say, we also enjoyed a lovely meal beforehand.

For our annual dinner we took ourselves to the Watermark Hotel, Glenelg, an interesting contrast to some of the venues we have attended in the past; there was an amazing selection of food, something for everyone. I think we all had a pleasant evening, it is always good to catch up with those we don't see too often.

Captain David Kemp very kindly gave the Friends about a hundred maritime books now surplus to his requirements, and so to give you all an opportunity to purchase some of these wonderful books we will hold a BBQ at the R.S.A.Y.S, Outer Harbour, on Sunday, 27th November, around noon. The books will be on display in the dinghy shed, and we will be using the gazebo BBQ alongside the clubhouse. Because the club bar will be open, it will be BYO food, but drinks must be bought from the bar.

I look forward to seeing a good number of you then.

Time to close now, all the very best to you all.

Regards, Julian.



The Spirit of Tasmania II approaching its berth at Devonport, Tasmania, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2005

### Next Meeting

Saturday 26th November 2016

## Maritime Book Sale

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron  
from 12:00 noon.

The Friends are selling books from the collection of Captain David Kemp to assist the Paul McGuire Collection of the State Library.

Members and friends are invited to enjoy a BYO Barbeque at the R.S.A.Y.S. while inspecting the books.

The Squadron will require us to purchase alcohol from the Clubrooms rather than BYO due to their bar being open.

Welcome to the November *Traverse Board*.

In response to a number of requests I have included information about Traverse Boards which were used to plot the progress of a vessel at sea before GPS and Geographic Information Systems.

There is also an article about the lighting of Australia's only inland lighthouse, at Point Malcolm near Narrung.

It marks the entrance to the short channel leading from Lake Alexandrina to Lake Albert.

It was interesting to see the PS Cato ran around here on its way back to Lake Alexandrina from Lake Albert after celebrating the lighting of the light. Fortunately it has now been freed!

The lighthouse may well be the only inland lighthouse in the southern hemisphere.

### The Traverse Board

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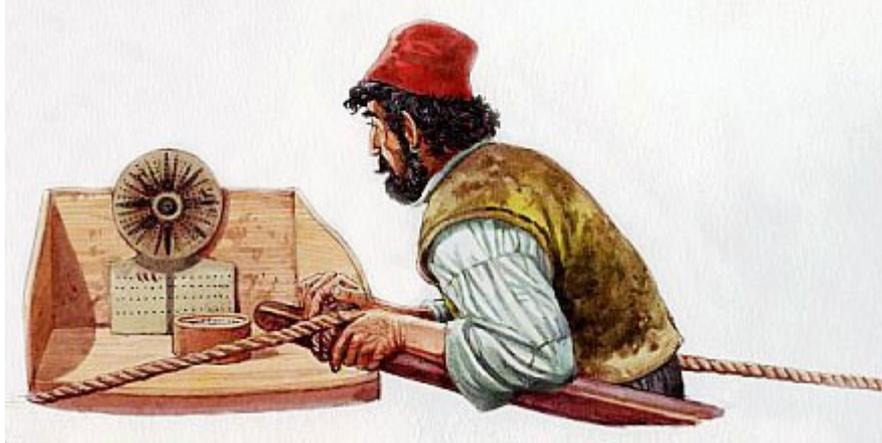
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## Traverse Board

The Age of Exploration was a time period concentrated on maritime travel. The traverse board assisted explorers by recording speed, direction, distance during a 4 hour watch.



### How was it constructed?

The traverse board was an ancient computer. It was made of a wooden board bearing a compass diagram, a table, and several strings with pegs. The compass diagram had 8 circles of holes. Each circle was used to mark the direction traveled during a half hour period. In the center of the compass sit eight string-attached pegs. Under the compass sits a table of 4 rows of squares. The rows represented half hours; the squares represented the ship's speed in nautical miles.

### How was it used?

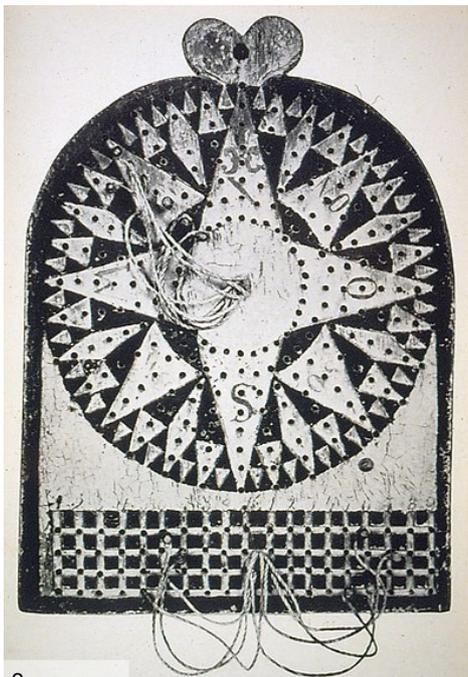
To record the direction, the sailor would use the compass sector of the board. The sailor would place a peg into the hole that equates the direction they were heading. If they were recording the direction of the voyage during the 1st half hour they'd use place it within the 1st circle. If they were recording the direction during the 2nd half hour they'd use the 2nd circle, during the 3rd half hour they'd use the 3rd circle and so on.

To record speed, the sailor would use the table. They would take a peg and place it in the row that represented what hour of the voyage they were currently traveling and move it to the right the number of knots the boat was traveling. If it was the 1st hour of the voyage and the boat had been traveling 4 knots per hour, a peg would be inserted into the 1st row in the 4th square. Then they'd calculate the distance by multiplying the number of knots by the hours traveled (speed x time = distance). 4 knots for 1 hour would equal 4 nautical miles.

### What was its significance?

Sailors used the traverse board to record the progress of a voyage along with data such as the speed, direction, and distance travelled. Sailors would then use this data to calculate new courses. This data gave them new courses and pathways to reach their desired destinations. The traverse board was significant because it aided European navigators during the Age of Exploration, an era exclusively focused on sea voyages.

<https://sites.google.com/a/brvgs.k12.va.us/wh-15-sem-1-age-of-exploration-gm/Inventions/traverse-board>



Traverse Board:

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## State Library workers ramp up industrial action

IN DAILY | Adelaide's independent news

The Public Service Association says it is ramping up industrial action in a bid to save 20 full-time jobs at the State Library.

PSA General Secretary Nev Kitchin said workers have adopted new work bans and were prepared to escalate industrial action in a bid to prevent the State Government cuts.

Kitchin said 20 full-time librarian, administrative, supervisor and management positions were under threat.

"These planned job cuts come on the back of 12 people losing their jobs in a State Library restructure last year, and any further cuts will leave the State Library greatly under-resourced," said Kitchin.

"At a time when the State's unemployment rate has risen to 6.8 per cent, now isn't the time to let more jobs go.

'Arts Minister Jack Snelling has failed to consult or reassure the community that the State Library has a sustainable future, and library workers' jobs are safe.

"If these job cuts go ahead, the South Australian community and future generations will be directly impacted, including lengthy delays in servicing and vital assistance in tracking down family history records:'

The State library currently employs 115 full-time staff.

South Australian MPs were given a tour of the institution this morning.

<http://indaily.com.au/arts-and-culture/2016/10/14/statelibrary-workers-ramp-up-industrial-action/>

15/10/2016



The State Library of South Australia.

## Why the State Library has to make changes

IN DAILY Adelaide's independent news

Alan Smith

The restructuring of the State Library of South Australia is a response to rapidly changing user expectations and needs, not just an attempt save money, writes library director Alan Smith.

Libraries around the world are grappling with the rapidly changing nature of information and, while the State Library of South Australia has been the subject of recent media coverage, some of it has been exaggerated.

The current restructure of the library is largely about realigning it to better meet the needs of our users.

Rapid technological advances and even more rapid and far-reaching changes in user expectations mean that research libraries like ours all around the world are in a state of transformation.

In 2015-2016, our visitation split was 25 per cent on-site and 75 per cent online. It has been approaching this for some time and is now accelerating.

Our exhibitions and community engagement programs also attracted more than 100,000 people for the first time.

This means that I need to put more resources into our three key areas of growth: digitisation, research and community engagement. I intend to create more staff positions in all three of these areas.

To do this, as well to meet the efficiencies required in the library's budget over the forward estimates, I need to reduce resources in those areas of operations that are no longer as essential as they once were.

The efficiencies are nowhere near the \$6 million that has been reported in sections of the media. We have efficiency requirements in the three-year forward estimates, which in three years' time is up to \$800,000 per annum arising from previous budget decisions.

The intention of the Library's Board is to minimise the impact on staff and the public by implementing the relevant organisational structure and service-delivery model changes now, rather than undertaking a series of organisational restructures over the next three years, perpetuating the state of change.

Media reports of large budget reduction figures relate to Libraries Board estimates of savings required over the last several years. These figures do not take into account extra funding provided during the same period.

Since 2012-13, the library, along with all South Australian Government-funded organisations, has been required to contribute to whole-of-government efficiency targets.

Over the period from 2012-13 to 2016-17, the library's budget has grown every year, increasing overall by about \$1.4 million, even after allowing for whole-of-government efficiencies of about \$900,000 contributed over the same period.

That is, in 2012-13, the State Budget allocated \$13.22 million, which has increased to \$14.67 for this financial year. This increase of \$1.4 million equates to an annual increase over the five years to 2016-17 of about 2.5 per cent — equivalent to the Government's annual indexation rate.

15/10/2016

## Only inland lighthouse in Southern Hemisphere set to shine again after 85 years

By Andrew Spence / 6th of September, 2016



Picture: Debbie Dawes.

THE only inland freshwater lighthouse in the Southern Hemisphere will be lit for the first time in 85 years next month. The Point Malcolm Lighthouse in South Australia guided paddle steamers through the lower lakes of the River Murray from 1878 to 1931.

Situated at “The Narrows” – a channel linking Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert – the lighthouse was particularly important for boats travelling between the townships of Meningie and Milang.

Point Malcolm is on the opposite side of The Narrows from the small community of Narrung, which will hold an old fashioned dance in the town’s hall on the night to kick off a weekend of celebrations.



Picture: Emma Simmons

A lighthouse globe is being brought across from Sydney for the historic lighting on Friday, October 28, as part of Meningie’s 150th anniversary celebrations.

Meningie Progress Association member Andrew Dawes said the ports of Meningie and Milang played important roles in the movement of wool, livestock and dairy products.

“The lighthouse also would have guided paddle steamers down the Murray from Wellington and across from Point Sturt - people were coming at it from three ways so it was a handy thing to have,” he said.

“One of the most important roles the lighthouse played was to guide the Royal Mail from Milang to Meningie en route to Melbourne.

“Most of us have probably ignored the Point Malcolm lighthouse for long enough. We’ve now realised it’s a valuable asset and are starting to take care of it.”

The Royal Mail travelled by stage coach from Adelaide to Milang, by paddle steamer for the 53km (33 mile) voyage to Meningie before being returned to a stage coach for the long haul to Melbourne via Kingston, Naracoorte and Mount Gambier.

By the early twentieth century the paddle steamers Judith, Milang and Murray were carrying passengers, goods and mail up to three times a week between Milang, Narrung and Meningie.

The lighthouse sits on top of a steep bank 25 metres above the water level and has a range of 10km. It is under the care of the National Trust and is believed to be the only inland lighthouse in the Southern Hemisphere.

The white light atop the 7-metre high concrete building initially revolved with a flash every 10 seconds but was altered to a fixed white light in November 1887.

The lighthouse can be accessed from a road near the Narrung Ferry. The keepers' cottages are being restored for private use.



The opening of a bridge for trains and cars across the Murray River at Edward's Crossing – now Murray Bridge – in 1924 and the establishment of a Narrung Ferry service in 1928 led to a reduction in paddle steamer traffic. The Point Malcolm Lighthouse ceased operation in 1931.

An automatic light on a pole has been installed next to the lighthouse, to guide recreational and commercial traffic using the river and lake system.

Dawes said he expected there to be a fair bit of interest from lighthouse enthusiasts but wasn't sure if many would make the trip to Point Malcolm, which is about a two-hour drive from Adelaide, the capital of South Australia.

He said the Coorong District Council and a team of volunteers were playing a crucial role in cleaning up the lighthouse inside and out ahead of the event.

"The Oscar W (paddle steamer) is going to come over from Goolwa and that will be tied up to the Narrung jetty the night the lighthouse is lit and the dance is on so there'll be a fair bit happening," he said.

"But we haven't got a clue how many people are going to turn up."

Meningie's 150th anniversary celebrations will also include a sailing regatta, concert, fishing competition, vintage car display, kite festival and a mail re-enactment.

Although the original light was fuelled by kerosene, non-profit organisation Lighthouses of Australia has sourced a suitable battery-operated Pharos Marine FA-250 Marine Lantern for the occasion.

The lighthouse is expected to be lit from dusk till midnight on October 28.

The Lighthouse will be open to the public on the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning (October 29) and while the Oscar W and other boats in the Milang to Meningie Regatta travel through the Narrung Narrows toward Meningie.

It will be re-lit at dusk on Saturday for about two hours.

Lighthouses of Australia archives officer Graeme Davis said the globe would be powered by a car battery on the night because there is no electricity at Point Malcolm.

He said there were many inland lighthouses in the northern hemisphere, mainly around the Great Lakes in North America, but the Point Malcolm beacon was unique in the Southern Hemisphere.

"It's one of those things that will attract a lot of attention and bring up a lot of inquiries from right around the world," Davis said.

Key contacts: Andrew Dawes dawes@internode.on.net





Our annual dinner at the Watermark Glenelg: quite an ample feed indeed!

Left: Julian Murray, Mark Sinclair, Valmai Hankel and Neil Waller.

Right: Ken Holds, Eve Wallace-Carter, Bob Sexton and Marguerite Workman.

Photos Heidi Unferdorben



Fred Hiscock celebrating the lighting of the Point Malcolm Lighthouse – Photo Susanne O'Reilly

## Maritime Book Sale

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- This will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron from 12:00 noon.
- Members and friends are invited to enjoy a BYO Barbeque at the R.S.A.Y.S..
- The Squadron will require us to purchase alcohol from the Clubrooms rather than BYO.



Flour Cask Bay, Kangaroo Island