

# The Traverse Board

Newsletter of the Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc

March 2020

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

## News From The Friends

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Including Annual) March 2020

Greetings to you all, as we slide into Autumn, and I trust good health prevails among you.

The past year started on a sad note, with the passing of Dorothy Pyatt in April; yes, sad, but think what an amazing lady she was, with her various careers in the WRANS during the Second World War, and later with SA police, that divided by a five-year spell in the Royal Volunteer Women's Service, working in Germany.



In May, Peter Christopher brought us up-to-date with the process of preserving the clipper City of Adelaide, how visitor access has been improved and more items put on display, making it all the more interesting. By this time we had also been able to send local lad, Joseph Hardy, away for a five day voyage aboard the One and All, which I believe benefited him greatly.

The SA Maritime Museum hosted an exhibition titled "150 Years of Messing about in Boats", so the Friends, twelve in number, after lunch at the Railway Hotel, proceeded to the Museum to inspect; our guide was Lindl Lawton, a senior curator there, and this formed our July meeting.

As the planned speaker for our September gathering was unavailable, we enjoyed watching the video of the March of the Penguins, a wonderful film on the life of the emperor penguin, and how they mate, care for their young, and generally survive in the harsh Antarctic that is their home.

In November our meeting combined with the annual lunch of the Friends, held at the RSAYS, when we also offered more books for sale. It was a very pleasant event, pity there were only nine of us to enjoy it.

Come February this year we enjoyed a brilliant presentation at the Maritime Museum by Lindl Lawton and DEW Senior Maritime Heritage Officer and diver Rick Bullers, on the wreck of the *South Australian* at Encounter Bay (1837); the remnants have been mapped and photographed, and are now being covered over to preserve them.

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### Next Meeting

The March Meeting will feature a couple of shipwreck tales from across the Tasman .

**Date: Tuesday March 24th 2020**

**Time: Dinner 6:30pm – meeting 8:00 pm**

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

**Cost: Donation**

Please book dinner with Neil 0418 821 331 or Julian 0414 365 294.



The *One and All* at the Kingscote jetty June 2009

Over dinner at the Railway Hotel after, the business of the AGM was conducted. The office-bearers remain unchanged and the financial situation was accepted; it was decided that the Friends would finance a voyage aboard the *One and All* for a young person from one of the fire-grounds, but after some consideration this will now be a day trip for as many as the vessel can accommodate, so more will benefit.

She sails to Kangaroo Island on 17th March with the voyages from the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Time to close this marathon report now, thank you all for your ongoing support of the Friends.

Regards, Julian.

#### *The Traverse Board*

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## Navy doctor deploys to Kangaroo Island

By Lieutenant Commander Ben Robinson

21 January 2020

South Australian local, Navy Reserve Medical Officer Lieutenant Andrew Southcott, didn't hesitate to answer the call to provide medical support to the people of Kangaroo Island.

Lieutenant Southcott is currently one of only two Navy members posted to the Australian Army's 9th Combat Service Support Battalion, a reserve unit, based at Warradale in South Australia.

Lieutenant Southcott said he had been watching the bushfire crisis unfold across Australia and wanted to put his medical skills to good use in the affected communities.

"When the call to support the community of South Australia went out, I immediately put my hand up to be part of the Australian Defence Force's first Emergency Support Force contingent to be sent to Kangaroo Island.

"As Reserve members, we live and work in the local community, so I wanted to be able to provide immediate support to those affected in this tragic event."

"I have been training alongside my Army colleagues for a while now at 9th Combat Service Support Battalion, and when the unit called up members to support the bushfire affected communities, I didn't hesitate to put myself forward to assist.

"Our primary role is health support to the deployed military forces, emergency services and local wildlife, while assisting the local community with emergency health care where required on Kangaroo Island.



Reserve Medical Officer Lieutenant Andrew Southcott is a general practitioner from the 9th Combat Service Support Battalion and is deployed to Kangaroo Island. Photo: Corporal Tristan Kennedy

"As Reserve members, we live and work in the local community, so I wanted to be able to provide immediate support to those affected in this tragic event."

Lieutenant Southcott said that as a Navy Medical Officer, we train to practice high standards of medical care under adverse conditions with minimal support.

"Our primary training is to provide medical care to a sea-going community; however, we also train to work alongside our Army and Air Force colleagues under canvas both in Australia and overseas.

"As a General Practitioner, I work with the community daily, many of whom have family and friends directly affected by these fires.

"I wanted to be able to help the people of Kangaroo Island," Lieutenant Southcott said.

The medical team from the Australian Defence Force, including personnel from the 3rd Health Support Battalion and the 9th Combat Service Support Battalion, deployed to Kangaroo Island as part of Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19-20.

<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/navy-doctor-deploys-kangaroo-island>



## HMAS Canberra takes centre stage for celebrations

By Lieutenant Tanalee Smith

27 January 2020

HMAS Canberra played a starring role in Sydney's Australia Day celebrations as the centrepiece of the traditional Salute to Australia on Sydney Harbour.



HMAS Canberra provides a perfect platform for NSW Rural Fire Service personnel and other guests as F/A-18 Hornets from the Royal Australian Air Force fly over Sydney Harbour during Australia Day celebrations. Photo: Leading Seaman Christopher Szumlanski

Among the hundreds of guests on board were 50 Rural Fire Service volunteers and their families, as well as brand new Australian citizens and NSW Governor Margaret Beazley.

Captain Terry Morrison, Canberra's Commanding Officer, was pleased that his ship's company could be part of the Salute, which acknowledged contributions to Australian society, including by Defence personnel.

"As Defence members, we are proud Australians and proud to serve our country, as many of our fellow officers and sailors have been doing during Operation Bushfire Assist and as the Royal Australian Navy does all year round," Captain Morrison said.

"Commemorating Australia Day on board Canberra by welcoming new citizens and hosting the Governor and other guests is a unique honour."

While on board Canberra, Governor Beazley received a 21-gun salute, fired from Bradfield Park in North Sydney, before guests took advantage of the best seats in the Harbour for an F/A-18 flypast coordinated by the Royal Australian Air Force.

Guests were also treated to a lively performance by the Australian Army Band, rounding out the tri-service contributions, while elsewhere on Sydney Harbour the Royal Australian Navy Band played an afternoon concert.

Governor Beazley paid tribute to all Rural Fire Service volunteers who have been battling bushfires across NSW.

The Navy continues to support Operation Bushfire Assist, providing support to communities off the NSW, Victorian and South Australian coasts. HMAS Canberra returned to work early this year to be prepared to support ADF efforts.

"I commend the ship's company, Navy support organisations and Defence industry for their hard work in order to ensure Canberra was ready for sea," Captain Morrison said. "We are prepared to assist in whatever way required."

<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/hmas-canberra-takes-centre-stage-celebrations>



HMAS *Canberra (I)* which was sunk by a Japanese torpedo on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942. 70 men lost their life in the heavy fire that rained down on the ship. Many of its remaining crew joined the HMAS *Shropshire* and continued the fight against the Japanese.

Photo: <https://navalinstitute.com.au/hmas-canberra-and-hmas-shropshire-never-say-die-2/>

## Navy People Group joins Blaze Aid to help fire-affected communities

Published on 29 February 2020 LSIS James McDougall (author and photographer)

Location(s): Adelong, NSW

Some 200 kilometres from the nearest ocean, the New South Wales Riverina town of Adelong played host to a team of 16 Officers and Sailors from Navy People Group in Canberra, who wanted to help people in the fire-affected region.

These members of the Royal Australian Navy came to help the volunteer organisation BlazeAid.

The organisation is conducting work in the area to help farmers repair fencing and clean up their properties, following the Dunns Road fire which devastated the region in early January 2020.

The idea to help BlazeAid came from a casual conversation between Lieutenant Commander Dale Young and his colleagues Captain Letitia Van Stralen and Commander Lucinda Casey.

“As word travelled throughout the office, people were coming to us wanting volunteer, and before long, we had about 16 of us at Navy People Group keen to help,” Lieutenant Commander Young said.

“We have come to Adelong as volunteers to help out the landowners.

“We haven’t had the opportunity to deploy with Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST, so it’s great to get out of the office and be involved.

“Hopefully this won’t be the last time we volunteer for BlazeAid,” Lieutenant Commander Young said.

The team that Lieutenant Commander Young is part of was rebuilding fences on a property named Claremont, approximately 15 kilometres west of Adelong.

Claremont’s owner, farmer Chris Bright, said that it was a pleasant surprise to see the Navy uniforms turn up with the BlazeAid volunteers.

“As soon as I saw the uniform, I knew they were Navy, as my son (Leading Seaman Boatswains Mate Aaron Bright) is in the Navy, he’s an instructor at HMAS Cerberus,” he said.

“It’s great to have help with the fences.

“Claremont is about 1400 acres and even though I hardly lost any animals, I lost about 18 kilometres of fence line,” Mr Bright said.

The BlazeAid Team Leader for Claremont is retired train driver Lindsay ‘Cos’ Cosgrove, who has been volunteering since 2012. He said it was very rewarding work.

“After these communities have lost so much, it’s very satisfying helping after this type of disaster,” he said.

“We always have many different types of people volunteering.

“The Navy members are very eager and enthusiastic.

“I’ve forged some good friendships and stay in contact with a lot of the farmers and many of the volunteers,” Mr Cosgrove said.

BlazeAid was formed after the devastating 2009 Black Saturday fires and often assists with fires, floods, droughts and cyclones.

There are currently more than 30 BlazeAid camps operating in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

BlazeAid volunteers often lift the spirits local communities and are always looking for volunteers. To help or donate, visit their website at: <https://blazeaid.com.au/>



L-R: BlazeAid team leader, Lindsay ‘Co’ Cosgrove; Chief Petty Officer Amy Gale; Petty Officer Chris Leibick; Claremont property owner Chris Bright; and Lieutenant Commander Dale Young take a break from repairing fences on Claremont, a property affected by the 2019/2020 bushfires close to Adelong, NSW. (photo: LSIS James McDougall)

# An abandoned 'ghost ship' washes up onshore after more than a year at sea

By Teo Armus

Feb. 18, 2020 at 10:43 p.m. GMT+10:30

The mysterious vessel landed ashore amid a burst of violent, stormy weather, wedging itself onto a rocky outcropping and perplexing locals and authorities. How could such a large ship have been marooned? Was anyone inside?

A jogger first noticed the 2,400-ton vessel on Sunday, sitting below a seaside cliff on Ireland's southern coast. Later that day, the Irish Coast Guard sent a rescue helicopter to the scene, hoping to make contact with any crew members who may have been aboard the ship.

As it turns out, the boat that had washed ashore near the city of Cork was known as a "ghost ship," long floating around the Atlantic without anyone aboard. Since being abandoned by its crew nearly 17 months ago, the MV Alta had drifted alone across the ocean, rusting and breaking down as it skirted near Africa, Europe and the Americas.

"This is one in a million," John Tattan, an official with the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a nonprofit that rescues people stranded at sea off the British and Irish coasts, told the Irish Examiner. "I have never, ever seen anything abandoned like that before."

Tattan added that it was particularly bewildering that the Alta managed to make it past the many fishing boats off Ireland's southern coast without being detected.

The government of County Cork has warned the public to stay away from the location of the wreck, noting in a statement Monday that "it is located on a dangerous and inaccessible stretch of coastline and is in an unstable condition."

Built in 1976, the MV Alta was sailing under the Tanzanian flag and had most recently changed ownership in 2017 — although it was not clear to whom. The cargo vessel was sailing from Greece to Haiti in September 2018 when it was disabled in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, leaving 10 crew members stranded about 1,380 miles southeast of Bermuda. Unable to make repairs, they had to be airdropped a week's supply of food as they waited for help.

Nearly 20 days later, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter arrived to rescue the crew and take them to Puerto Rico, according to gCaptain, a maritime industry news site. Coast Guard officials also reached out to the ship's owner, hoping it might hire a commercial tugboat to tow the vessel to shore.

Whether that happened is unclear. Some say the Alta was hijacked while being towed to Guyana, perhaps even twice.

It was not officially spotted until almost a year later. In August 2019, an ice patrol ship manned by Britain's Royal Navy came across the Alta in the middle of the ocean, making contact to offer help but receiving no response.

HMS Protector

@hmsprotector

Two days ago @hmsprotector discovered this apparently abandoned Merchant Vessel whilst mid-Atlantic. We closed the vessel to make contact and offer our assistance, but no one replied! Whilst investigations continue we're unable to give you more detail on this strange event.

An apparently abandoned Merchant Vessel lies deserted in the Atlantic. We've deliberately obscured the details whilst investigations continue.



What happened after that encounter is equally mysterious. Tattan told the Examiner newspaper that he believes the Alta had crossed the ocean toward Africa, where it drifted north past the Iberian Peninsula and into the Celtic Sea, just south of the British Isles.

Then, over the weekend, Storm Dennis caused widespread flooding and prompted evacuations across the British Isles. Dubbed a violent "bomb cyclone," Dennis brought nearly a month's normal rainfall in just 48 hours, gusts up to 70 mph and waves up to 80 feet tall.

And it seems to have brought the MV Alta, too.

The discovery of the marooned ghost ship initially sparked County Cork's contingency plan for potential oil spills, as officials monitored how fuel or any cargo aboard might affect the coast, known for its green hills, sandy coves and nearby conservation areas.

Officials determined Monday there was no sign of pollution. On Tuesday, they added, a contractor will inspect the wreck at low tide to determine what to do with the ship.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/02/18/ghost-ship-ireland/>



## CHEYNES II IN THE ALBANY REGION

The 440 ton steam whale chaser Cheynes II was built by Smiths Dock and Engine Company in, Middlesbrough.

It was originally named Thorbryn and operated by a Norwegian based whaling company.

Between 1962-63 it was owned by Whale Products Co. of Queensland and named Looma II.

In 1963 it was bought by the Cheynes Beach Whaling Co, renamed Cheynes II and was engaged in whaling operations in Albany until the company ceased operations.

In 1992 after having been stripped of fittings and lying derelict at the Albany Town Jetty, the Cheynes II broke loose from its moorings in a gale, and grounded on a sandbank in Princess Royal Harbour in 3-4 metres depth.

The wreck is clearly visible from Albany.

I took this photo in September 2008 on a visit to Western Australia.

Cheyne II was one of four employed by the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company; Cheynes IV is on display at Whaleworld, Cheynes I was sunk near Michaelmas Island and the north shore of King George Sound, and Cheynes III is an artificial reef and dive site on the western side of Michaelmas Island.

A female sperm whale caught near the edge of the continental shelf in the Southern Ocean off Albany, Western Australia, by the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company was the last whale caught. The last whaling station closed the next day: 21<sup>st</sup> November 1978.

Information from <http://albanyregion.com.au/whalinghistory>



Albany tugs *Elkin*, left, and *Walan* await their next turn of duty 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Albany is a wood chip export port, the chips having been brought to the port from the nearby mill by train.



After more than a 6 week arduous journey from Sydney, battling through heavy weather and then enduring the summer heat, the brig *Amity* anchored not far from the place where the replica above now stands on Christmas Day in 1826.

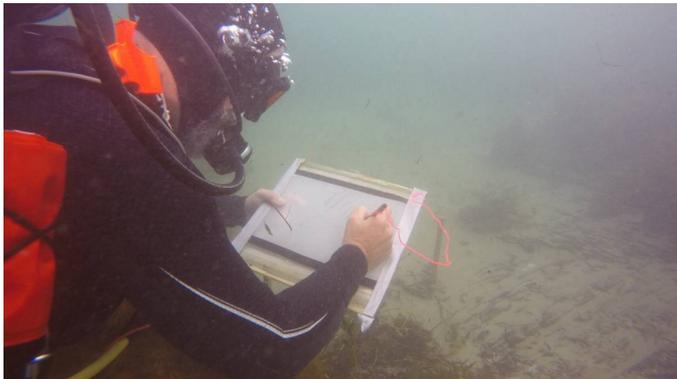
On board were Major Edmund Lockyer, 19 soldiers, 23 convicts (mostly tradesmen) together with a small staff and the ship's crew. They also had stores for six months including sheep and pigs.

## South Australia's oldest shipwreck found off Encounter Bay

Emmalie Balnaves-Gale JULY 5 2018

Encounter Bay is now home to the state's oldest shipwreck after maritime heritage experts made the discovery in Rosetta Harbor this month.

Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs said experts had been looking for the wreck of the barque South Australian for many years.



"The ship was driven ashore in a storm on 8 December 1837 while anchored in Rosetta Harbor at Encounter Bay, but its exact location remained a mystery until this year," he said.

"It was one of the early vessels acquired by the South Australian Company to bring free settlers to found the province of South Australia in 1836-37, making this a tremendously important part of our history."

In a move to protect the historic wreck, the state government has enforced a 30-metre radius protected zone while archaeological work is done.

Department for Environment and Water's senior maritime heritage officer Rick Bullers said historical records had indicated the wreck lay somewhere at the northern end of Rosetta Harbor.

"Previous searches, including magnetometer searches in the 1990s, failed to locate it," he said.

"An archaeological team spent five days at the site searching with a magnetometer and metal detectors carried by SCUBA divers, snorkelers and walkers."

Member for Finnis David Basham said the discovery was exciting news for Victor Harbor and the South Coast community.

"This discovery underlines the close links between Encounter Bay's rich maritime history and the origins of the colony of South Australia," he said.

"It's wonderful to know we have this great example of our unique heritage just a couple of hundred metres off the coast in Encounter Bay."

Curator of the Royal Australian Navy Maritime Archaeology at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Dr James Hunter, said the South Australian was an important part of the state's maritime heritage.

"This is the first shipwreck recorded after South Australia was established as a colony," he said.

"It is also believed to be one of the earliest recorded wrecks of a free-settlement immigration ship in Australia. All earlier immigration-related shipwrecks were of convict transports."

<https://www.victorharbortimes.com.au/story/5509462/sas-oldest-shipwreck-found-off-encounter-bay/#slide=1>



Schouten Passage II,  
Coles Bay, Tasmania

Membership subs are now due. Your \$30 pa membership of the Friends supports the Paul Mcguire Maritime Library Collection in the State Library of South Australia.

Included are 6 issues of the newsletter, *The Traverse Board*, and other notices concerning the Friends.

There are three ways to join or to pay your membership:

In person to the Treasurer at one of our meetings

By post to

The Treasurer  
The Friends of the Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc  
2 Quigley Court  
Aberfoyle Park 5159

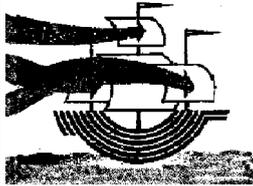
By bank transfer:

Peoples Choice Credit Union  
Account 805-050 61338546  
Friends McGuire

Please include your name as a reference and send us an email with your details.



The One and All at Kingscote June 2009



## 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 \$30 to

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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.