



WAVE



Number 132

"the ship comes first"

Dec 2010

The Newsletter of the Barque *Polly Woodside* Volunteers Association Inc.



On the 4th December as part of a ceremony to mark Polly's 125th Anniversary, Vicky Linqvist unveiled a plaque on Polly's mainmast to celebrate Tor Lindqvist's huge contribution to the restoration programme. The plaque reads "TOR LINDQVIST OAM, AB & SAILMAKER, FOREMAN RIGGER, 1923-2008".

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Other Committee Members: Don Knowles, 9877 1584; Neville Keown, 9877 9234; Roger Wilson

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Message from the PWVA Chairman

Neil Thomas

Since the last edition of Wave, things have been changing very rapidly.

Ralph McDonell is in 'The Gables' Aged Care Home, 629 Riversdale Road, Camberwell, Vic. 3174. Telephone 9834 7004, and would be delighted to see all of us.

At the site – No. 2 Shed is no longer an industrial site and the fitting out has commenced on the Interpretive Centre, so we will be moving in ourselves very shortly to our workshop and mess-room.

No. 4 Shed is to remain unoccupied until the middle of next year apparently.

The Pump-house discussions between National Trust and Plenary are still ongoing. This has resulted in the Pump-house continuing to be out of bounds (no access over the last 3 to 6 months has been allowed) to PWVA members, including Derek Moore especially, until insurance and safety problems somehow are resolved. Could there be another flooding coming up? Our sympathies are with you Derek for your dedication and frustration.

Wait for it – the latest news is the official opening will be early next year, however the doors may be opened on Monday 20th December, but not officially. When we know, we'll let you know.

On Sunday 21st November, Leonard Joel's auctioned 'The National Trust (Victoria) Collection of Historical Maritime Objects' Lots #1 to 100, with 12 having to be withdrawn due to donor objection. There were approximately 50 bidders in the auction room, 2 telephone line bidders, an internet bidder and also pre-auction bids that were handled by the auctioneer. MHAV raised nearly \$10,000 in 4 days, which was paid into Seaworks Foundation Account to bid for objects. Seaworks bought 8 lots for \$11,970 + 20% commission, for a total of \$14,364. All other lots

went to private bidders mostly. To give examples of the bidding – the large models of (1) HMS Oberon went for \$7,800 including commission and (2) HMS Endeavour went for \$6600 including commission. At the end of the day, the National Trust collected \$77,230 for Maritime Objects – money apparently earmarked for ‘Polly Working Account’.

On Saturday 4th December our Christmas Party was a great success at the Mission to Seafarers, attended by 30-odd volunteers, and Marcia Ryan, our New Manager, who was made really welcome. Santa (many thanks Graeme Cooper) made his expected appearance, and distributed presents to all. The raffle also was a great success with 1st Prize being a sea-bag hand made by Roger Wilson. 2nd Prize, a pair of warm socks hand made by Paddy O’Day, then 3 prizes of bottles of wine.

At the end of the Christmas Party we all adjourned to Polly, for 2 ceremonies of special importance – the first was the unveiling of Tor Lindqvist’s plaque, by Vicki, which was a very moving moment. Tor’s plaque has been mounted on the mainmast and is the only one mounted on the ship. Then we celebrated Polly’s 125th birthday with a champagne toast, Birthday Cake, and noisy party poppers .

I am ending on a sad note as in the last 3 months we have lost 3 of our volunteers, who have given a total of 80 years of volunteering service on Polly.

They are: Alistair Reed - Honorary Life Member – 34 years

Ray Clarke - Honorary Life Member – 27 years

Ken Charleston - Member – 19 years

Our deepest sympathies go to family and friends.

Xmas Party

On Saturday 4th December the PWVA celebrated its Xmas Party at the Mission to Seafarers with around 35 members & friends attending. After lunch we all walked over the Seafarers Bridge to the Polly Woodside to attend the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to Tor Lindqvist (see front page) and to celebrate Polly’s 125th Anniversary.

News from the Ship

Work is continuing on the ship to prepare her for opening in December (date to be announced). Sanding and re-caulking of the decks is largely complete. The workshop is soon to be moved (from below decks) into Shed 2.

Dispersal & disposal of the ex-Melbourne Maritime Museum's Collection

The remaining items from the extensive Melbourne Maritime Museum's collection were auctioned on behalf of the National Trust (Victoria) at Joel's Auction House on the 21st November. MHAV/Seaworks put in a frantic effort to secure key items for the proposed Maritime Heritage Centre at Williamstown with some success. We understand that the proceeds from the sale are to be used exclusively for the upkeep of the Polly Woodside.

Volunteers' Bronze Plaques

We have liberated from their treated pine backing, polished & re-lacquered the 48 bronze plaques which honour the services of deceased PWVA Members who have served 10 or more years. Reading the names is a trip down memory lane & a roll call of members who have given such outstanding service to the Polly & the late lamented Maritime Museum. There is currently some debate on the most appropriate location for the plaques remembering that they were previously arranged on a timber plinth at the base of the Signal Mast. The two main criteria from the volunteers' point of view are that they should be in a prominent place and that they should be in a secure part of the site.

Sad News

In the past couple of months three long-standing members of the PWVA have passed away – Captain Alastair Reed, Ray Clarke and Ken Charleston. Each gave invaluable service to the Polly Woodside and the Melbourne Maritime Museum and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families and friends.

Alastair George Reed

6th May 1923 ~ 1st November 2010



A volunteer with *Polly Woodside* since 1977, Captain Alastair Reed 'Crossed the Bar' on 1st November 2010.

After a life at sea from the age of 16, Alastair joined the volunteers at Polly Woodside in 1977. Here he turned his hand to almost anything from conducting classes aboard on safety and seamanship to becoming the "Master Scrounger" when he would disappear for a few hours and return with something useful that could range from a gatehouse to a set of code flags.

The highlight of his volunteering came on November 7th 1985. Alastair was in command when *Polly Woodside* took her Centennial 'voyage' from Duke's & Orr's Dock, across the Yarra to the World Trade Centre.



Ken Charleston

When Ken arrived to volunteer at Polly Woodside he had no idea that his first task would be to build a model of the Gellibrand Light!

A meticulous worker in everything that he did, Ken was presented with the original model of the Gellibrand's support piers & drawings of the light structure itself. Several months later the model was finished and complete in every detail from the brass railing supports to the 'Kermode's Cow'. The model has always been an object of interest for the public and will continue to be so in the new Polly Woodside Interpretative Gallery.

Ken went from models to the real thing when he became a valued member of the Tuesday/Thursday 'gang' working aboard ship on many woodworking and painting tasks.



Ray Clarke

A quiet man Ray arrived at the ship each week and steadily went about his task of painting the fitting and sanding & polishing the woodwork. He was among those who had the ship in first class condition for the presentation of the World Ship Trust Medal in 1988.

Ray was a keen bushwalker and his general fitness was a tribute to this lifelong passion which enabled him to continue volunteering for some ten or more years.

Baden Herbert

Baden's interest in the Devonport Maritime Museum transferred itself to Polly when he moved to Melbourne in the early 1990's. For several years, Baden assisted with research and administration before returning to live in Tasmania. There he became a stalwart of the Devonport Maritime Museum from which he retired as a volunteer early last year.

Nicholas Garlick Bequest

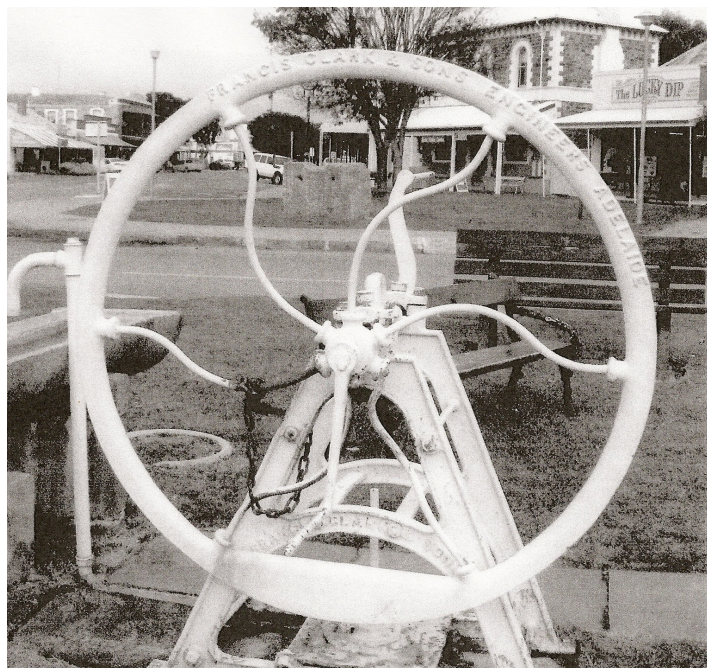
In September, the National Trust of Australia (Vic) received a very generous bequest from the estate of the late Nicholas Garlick. According to the terms of his will, this bequest of \$10,000 is to be used towards 'the care and maintenance of *Polly Woodside*.'

Nick Garlic was at sea for most of his life and was described by Captain Ralph McDonnell as the best steward he ever had. After 'swallowing the anchor' Nick would often come down to the ship for a chat with past shipmates and to bring a piece of his nautical memorabilia for the museum collection. One of the highlights of Nick's life in retirement was sailing around Cape Horn on a yacht. Although the actual rounding day was almost dead calm, a storm blew up that night and Nick felt he had seen both faces of the infamous Cape.

Still desperately seeking a couple of flywheels

The relentless quest continues for a couple of 4 foot diameter iron flywheels for hand-pumps to be built on and around the fife rails abaft of the main-mast. There are many belt-driven fly-wheels around but these are too heavy for the purpose. Anyone who has any ideas for a possible source for the above please contact John Wroe on 9531 5626 or jacwroe@bigpond.net.au.

We are currently re-advertising each month in The Old Machinery Magazine which may turn something up. We are also in touch with Northern Amalgamated Foundries in Campbellfield who have been very helpful if we decide to make our own.



This is more or less what we want - if anyone knows of such a flywheel in a local park etc let us know so that we may borrow it to cast two new ones

***HAPPY XMAS & NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS ***