



# WAVE



**Number 130**

**“the ship comes first”**

**Jun 2010**

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



**Shed 2 rebuilt - the exterior of the new visitor centre is nearly complete with the interior fit-out to start shortly.**

*Picture from Graeme Cooper - July 2010*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PWVA CHAIRMAN

### *Neil Thomas*

It could be that there is light at the end of the tunnel, as the reopening of 'Polly Woodside' is anticipated to be by her 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday - 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

The rebuilding of No.2 Shed will be at the 'lock up' stage on completion of replacing the roof, with an anticipated finishing date of Thursday 19th August. The shed will be longer than it was previously, having two extra sections included in its length. Having a suspended ceiling fitted, we are also hoping to have a mezzanine floor installed as well.

No.4 shed has been completed to the 'lock up' stage and will possibly be leased out to be a 'family friendly restaurant'.

Dates to keep in mind - the weekend of August 30 & 31 - is planned to be open days for the public, so please come down and get a preview of what the site is going to look like. As nothing is finalised as yet, we don't know whether we will need help on that weekend or not. Can you guess who will be the first to know if we do!

At present it appears there will be a media launch mid to late October.

We have our fingers crossed, as we should be getting the mizzen top-mast replaced soon - so Polly will be complete again after over 2 years of that unfinished look.

## REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST

[Polly Woodside Visitor Centre – Progress for May/June](#)

The last two months have been enormously busy with a great deal of physical work been done now that we are out of the planning phase. The shell of Shed 2 is complete with all walls, windows, doors and roofing iron now installed. The original subtle curve of the Shed's alignment to the river is still there despite the difficulties it has added to the project. The internal partitions and frameworks for the entrance gallery, workshop and toilets are being installed. The next job is to commission work on all the external decking which will also be covered with shade sails. Our aim is to have the exterior of the Gallery and Quayside completed before the fitout of the Gallery.

Different contractors have been commissioned for specific areas of the construction work and these include the exhibition joinery, graphic designers, audio/visual consultant and interactive builder. Inside the Gallery we have commissioned one of Melbourne's best museum installation makers to convert an original 19<sup>th</sup> C blacksmith forge into a special interactive display showing how rivets were made at a Belfast shipyard. He will also be making a special interactive model that lets visitors, particularly younger ones, practise loading a ship just like a real one.

Four education programs for kindergarten to upper primary student excursions are being written. We are at this stage looking forward to opening in late October and are planning a huge public launch on 7 November to mark the Polly's anniversary.

**Martin Green**

Learning & Interpretation Manager

## **NEWS FROM THE SHIP**

It is planned to re-install the mizzen topmast on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The pin rails are currently being scraped for re-oiling. The skylights and deck house have been refinished.

The pontoon has been re-decked and will be lifted back into the dock so that external hull inspection and re-plating can be carried out.

Deck re-caulking will start in a couple of weeks using at least in part paid labour.

## **PUMP HOUSE PONDERINGS**

Periodic checking of the operations of the electric sump pumps continues, including cleaning of the sump pump housings. Removal of silt from the concrete floor of the sumps surrounding the steam pump inlets is also a necessary maintenance task.

The metalwork of the auxiliary pumping system, in particular, continues to deteriorate. There is a pressing need for a plan and timetable to deal with the corrosion in the Pump House, as part of an overall Conservation Management Plan, which currently does not exist, despite many requests.

The “greenhouse” effect of the Pump House “enclosure” is noticeable, even in Winter. It is demoralizing that the remaining timberwork, such as the frame, is likely to be deteriorating due to the microclimate and the amount of direct sunlight it now experiences.

I have had no advice regarding the role of the Pump House in the “new” Polly Woodside environment. Will visitors to the ship be able to visit the Pump House, with a “Polly” guide, at designated times, to enter the upper floor area and view the interior, including the heritage machinery, to learn of its significance in the maritime history of the Port of Melbourne?

Derek Moore

## **MARY MEADLEY**

We are sad to advise that Mary Meadley and long-time member of the PWVA and shop volunteer passed away in early July. Our thoughts are with Mary’s family & friends.

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Apologies from the editor for the lateness of the June Wave but we have been sunning ourselves in Europe until a week or so ago.

The maritime library at the National Trust HQ now has bookshelves and we are currently sorting out and shelving the maritime book collection and wondering where the 3,000 books still in storage are going to fit in. The answer to that is that most of them will not & we will have to find suitable homes for those books which are either duplicates or judged to be non-essential.

On the subject of storage, those maritime objects deemed to be surplus to requirements (i.e. not fitting into the Shed 2 display) are being offered to their original donors.. I understand that any remaining items, plus the books that don’t fit into the library are eventually to be stored in containers.