



WAVE

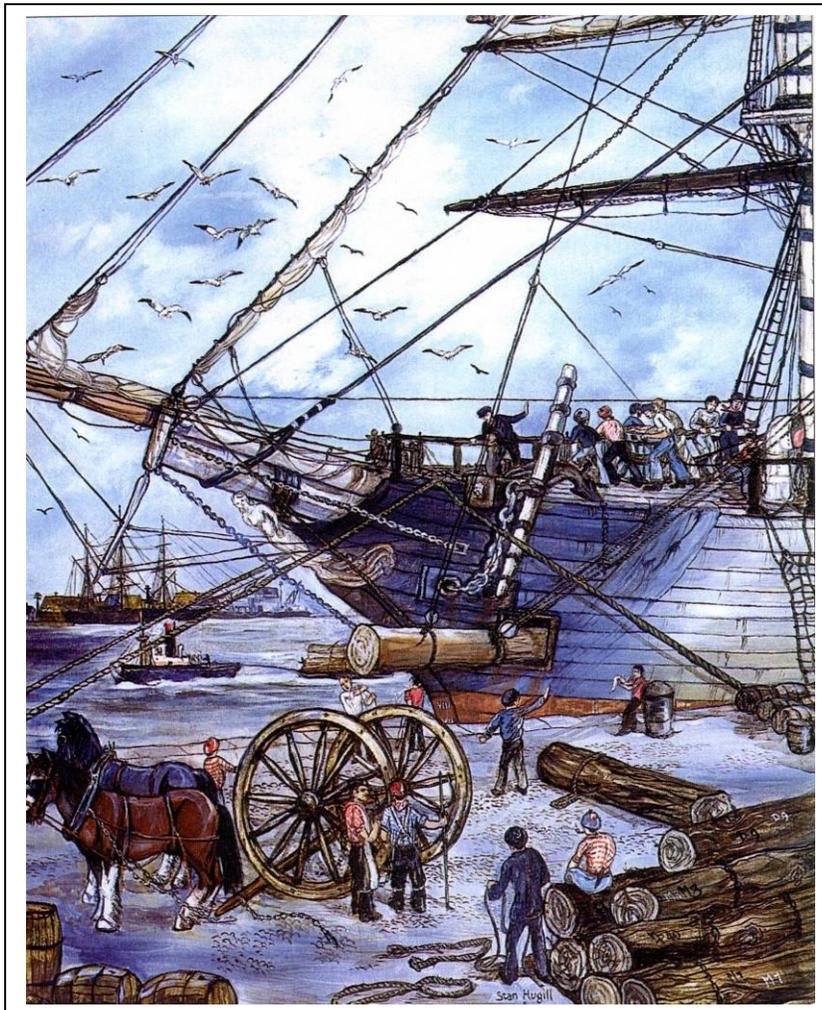


Number 133

“the ship comes first”

Mar 2011

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



And now for something completely different - in the 19th Century, the problem of loading long lengths of timber from ports in Borneo was solved by cutting bow ports (above the waterline) and winching the timber into the hold by capstan. Since much of Rona's working life was as a timber carrier between NZ & Australia, we wonder if such a method was ever considered.

Article & images provided by Ross Ibbotson

PWVA Committee:**Chairman:** Neil Thomas, thomclan@optusnet.com.au, 9802 4608**Vice-Chairman:** Capt. Ralph McDonell, ralphmcd@bigpond.com.au, 9807 5646**Hon. Secretary:** Jenny Hunter. 9690 3669**Hon Treasurer and Wave Editor:** John Wroe, jacwroe@bigpond.net.au, 9531 5626**Other Committee Members:** Don Knowles, 9877 1584; Neville Keown, 9877 9234; Roger Wilson**DISCLAIMER: Please be aware that statements, opinions & comments made by contributors to this journal are not**

Message from the PWVA Chairman

Chairman's Report for the 2010 Annual General Meeting

This year has been like the 'Rising of the Phoenix'. After over 4 years of being an industrial site, Polly emerged triumphant although still need of lots of tender loving care.

Early in 2010 saw Polly afloat in her new dry-dock, her hull cleaned, minor (?) leaks repaired (thanks to Graeme Cooper, Don Knowles, John Maxwell and Roger Wilson - apologies to anyone I've overlooked) and her lower hull painted.

The deck has been sanded, and re-caulked by Sarah and Shamus from 'Alma Doepel' who are also helping on rigging work, with Natalie Moore also helping whenever she can.

The deck-house roof has been declared leak-proof. This has been a major frustration over the years (since it was built), having been re-caulked 3 times and it still leaked. It has finally been defeated, thanks to the efforts of the Tuesday team, by stretching canvas over the roof and painting it.

Pin-rails are being scraped down and re-oiled by Peter Maxwell, and Don Knowles is overhauling blocks.

September saw Polly's rig complete again - it has taken over 3 years - with the mizzen top-mast being sent up and re-rigged - not by crane, but in the traditional way, thanks to the Tuesday and Thursday gangs, Natalie with Sarah and Shamus working aloft while Graeme seemed to be everywhere.

September also saw us have a General Meeting - our first mid-year meeting held in 5 years, with 28 members attending and heard Martin Green, National Trust's Learning and Interpretation Manager, give an in-depth outline, with artists impressions, of how the 'Interpretive Centre' will be laid out with representations of how it will be presented on completion. These included cameos of Polly being

built, how the crew lived, cargoes she carried and her restoration from her days as a coal hulk to now, by the Polly Woodside Volunteers.

What happened on Sunday 21st November, must be one of the greatest disappointments I have experienced since becoming a member of the PWVA in 1977 when 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 claims. There were approx. 50 bidders in the auction room, as well as 2 telephone line bidders, an internet bidder and also pre-auction bids that were handled by the auctioneer. MHAV raised \$10,000 in 4 days, which was paid into the 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 mainly private bidders. To give examples of the bidding - the large models of HMS Oberon went for \$7800 incl. commission and HMS Endeavour went for \$6600 incl. commission. At the end of the day, the National Trust collected nearly \$100,000 for Maritime Objects - money promised for 'Polly's Working Account'.

However all is not lost as further to the \$100,000 the National Trust received a very generous bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Nicholas Garlick (according to Captain Ralph McDonnell, 'he was the best steward he ever had'). According to the terms of his will, this bequest is to be used towards 'the care and maintenance of *Polly Woodside*'. Thanks to these monies we are starting off on a very positive note.

The Pump-house ongoing issues between National Trust and Plenary are ongoing. This has resulted in the Pump-house continuing to be out of bounds (no access has been allowed for nearly 12 months) to PWVA members, including Derek Moore, until ownership, insurance and safety problems somehow are resolved. Will it take another flooding for a decision to emerge? We hope someone in authority will appreciate that this is a heritage site and requires action now. Our sympathies are with you Derek for your dedication and frustration.

After the planned launching for the re-opening of 'Polly' on her 125th birthday could not come to pass due to construction problems, the National Trust launched an 'unofficial' opening in late December attended by the press and dignitaries, but we were overlooked in the confusion. However an official launch is mooted for this month (which month?), which will, we are assured, include the volunteers and other interested maritime organisations.

For me, the highlight of the year was on Saturday 4th December 2010, when after our Christmas Party we all adjourned to Polly, for the unveiling of Tor Lindqvist's plaque, by Vicki Lindqvist, which I am sure I can say for all who were present this was a very moving moment. His plaque has been mounted on the mainmast - the only one mounted on the ship.

Finally, I would like to give special thanks to these dedicated people, without whom we couldn't have progressed as far as we have:-.

Captain Ralph McDonell - our past chairman, now Vice-Chairman, only because of ill health (maybe we should consign his electric bike to the dock?), a tower of strength still, and a wealth of experience we can utilise.

John Wroe - our Treasurer, who not only does treasuring, but has been actively supporting me, and now has taken on making a pattern for our flywheels to be cast as we haven't had any success in acquiring them.

Jenny Hunter - our Secretary, who definitely keeps us all in line, and I feel also keeps us motivated.

Neville Keown - without his experience brought to the meetings and his stories, help to keep us on the right track.

Don Knowles - whose expertise in woodworking and ability to organise jobs, is a great asset to the maintenance and restoration of the ship.

Roger Wilson - he was 'shanghaied' onto the committee, and this was the best asset we could have gained. His seaman's knowledge and expertise are invaluable, as well as the manufacturer of the first prize in our raffles, his sea-bags have many proud owners among the volunteers.

Our Tuesday and Thursday Gangs - that are the backbone of the project. Without them the ongoing maintenance and restoration couldn't have been done. This not only applies to the ship, but also to the clearing, setting up and fitting out of our new workshop.

Lastly Graeme Cooper - Our leader, organiser and slave-driver many thanks for a job well done.

I am ending on a sad note as in 2010 we 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 - 19 years.

Our deepest sympathies go to their families.

Thank you all.

Neil Thomas

News from the Ship & Site

The caulking & sanding of the deck timbers is complete.

The fit-out of Shed 4 is underway (not for us we hasten to add).

Lifebelts have been installed along the dock wall.

Rails on the gangway & quarterdeck have been painted.

Low voltage wiring in the ship has been concealed.

Alma timber has been removed from hold & the ballast has been covered with canvas.

The dust extraction system in the workshop does not function properly.

The workshop walls have been lined & painted.

The *compactus* has been installed for power tool storage with mixed results.

Arthur Woodley's tools have been put on display.

The 2 buoys from the Mission have been moved on to site.

A rubber surface has been put down in the playground & a clinker-built boat had been added.

Volunteers' lockers have been put in the workshop/mess area.

2011 PWVA Membership Fees are due - only about one third of Members have paid for 2011. Please send your \$20 subscription made payable to PWVA to the Treasurer John Wroe at 38 Addison Street, Elwood, Vic 3184.

Vale Harold Canning

For almost 30 years Harold Canning was a quiet presence as a vital part of the maintenance crew at Polly. Where a job needed to be done Harold could be found on his weekly commitment to the ship and site. He was the steady worker who persisted with jobs until they were completed. One such was during one of the whaler's many refurbishments when long after everyone else had found the job too hard and gone on to something else, Harold could be found sanding, painting & repairing. Harold enjoyed volunteer social gatherings and was a loyal supporter of the PWVA until ill health prevented his attendance at meetings

[Ann Gibson](#)



Harold (on right) meeting the State Governor in 1991 during the Enterprize keel - laying ceremony.

With the death of Harold Canning on March 1st 2011 we lost one of our most experienced and respected volunteers. Harold became a member of the Polly Woodside Volunteers Association in 1983, and quickly established himself as a valuable volunteer, with the ability to turn his hand to any job needed. If he couldn't find a traditional way of doing a job, he would create one. He joined us on the Sunday Gang, whose job it was to clean up and finish any work done by the Saturday gang, the previous day, and then usually with grumbles about their ancestry. After he retired he would come in on a Wednesday and painting became his forte. He made a frame to create perfectly straight lines painted on the inside of the bulwarks, which unfortunately has disappeared, so no more straight lines. We will always remember Harold at the POLLY WOODSIDE as an inventive, experienced, well organised volunteer with a great sense of fun and a good friend who was generous in sharing his knowledge, skills and companionship.

Neil Thomas

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE POLLY WOODSIDE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION - HELD AT THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS, DOCKLANDS, AT 1100hrs on SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2010.

For technical reasons the 2010 AGM minutes were unavailable at the 2011 AGM - here they are:

Meeting opened at 1115hrs, with 27 members present, chairman presiding: Ralph McDonell.

Apologies: Graeme Cooper, Martin Green, Samantha Tait.

Treasurer's Report: Moved for acceptance: John Wroe, seconded Frank Jupp.

Election of Chairman: Ralph McDonell stood down at his request.. Neil Thomas was nominated by Rob Thorpe, seconded by John Wroe.

Election of vice-chairman: Ralph McDonell was nominated by Don Knowles, seconded by Anne Thomas.

Election of Treasurer: John Wroe nominated by Neil Thomas, seconded by Roger Wilson.

Election of Committee Members: Neville Keown and Roger Wilson nominated by Jean Hansen, seconded by Ralph McDonell.

The Chairman's Report was read by Neil Thomas at the request of Ralph.

Ship Report: Don Knowles: The ship is floating, with a concrete patch aft over a major hole; minor leaks are sealed. The ship is dry inside again. The deckhouse roof still leaks; a canvas cover has been made and attached.

- . The hull is to be re-painted in the present colours.
- . The mizzen topmast is still to be re-stepped, with the Contexx crane.
- . The decks need attention.
- . Shed 4 to be taken over by Contexx, completed and leased.
- . Shed 2 will require six weeks work by Contexx.
- . It is hoped that the ship will be open by August. 15 volunteers are present each week.

Ship Committee Report: Neil Thomas: The committee wishes to keep the ship floating. The hull plates are de-laminating: the plan is to weld plates underwater, and rivet plates above water.

- . Information on other iron-hulled ships world wide is being sought.
- . A final report will be presented to the Trust when all information is obtained.

Comments from the members:

- . Precious items, including the Medal are safely locked away at Tasma Terrace (Ann Gibson)
- . Keeping Polly in the water is the best option, but expensive.
- . Check with Sydney re *James Craig* for options, costs.
- . Steam Preservation Society has riveters among members.
- . *Star of India* has expensive ceramic coating.
- . Derek Moore suggested that industry be involved, as in the past.

Pumphouse Report: Derek Moore:

- . The roof leaks. Graeme to check next time it rains.
- . The inlet pipe is leaking.
- . The filter box has a fractured pipe.
- . Derek would like a conservation plan established, especially with a strategy to deal with corrosion.
- . When the site is opened, we would like guides to be able to show visitors around.
- . The Convention Centre controls the key, leading to misunderstandings, difficulties and delays.

WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL 19 - 21 February, at Docklands.

. Roger Wilson will attend and show rope-work, wire-splicing etc. He spoke of the need to recruit younger people. Graeme and Neil are to arrange a roster for the *Polly* booth.

- . Shane Nunn asked what was being done about the whaler. Not yet known.

General Business:

- . Fred Penny has recently passed away.

Meeting Ended at 1215hrs and a barbecue meal was eaten in the courtyard. A donation was made to the Mission.