



Number 141

“the ship comes first”

Mar 2013

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

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CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

Chairman’s Annual Report for 2012

2012 has been an extraordinary year for transitions, and 2013 promises to consist of positive steps to a new future approach for Polly Woodside.

Management : 3 Managers in one year – that has to be a record, even for the National Trust.

Marcia went (on Maternity Leave). Melissa was just getting into the swing of things, but left (did she jump or was she pushed?). Sean De Coury (Manager of ‘The Old Melbourne Gaol’) was then appointed Temporary Manager and came only on Tuesdays initially. Full of drive, and started to really get things going, so the National Trust made him the Melbourne Property Manager for Polly Woodside, Old Melbourne Gaol and Latrobe Cottages.

Workshop: As you can see we have a completely new workshop. This was mainly due to the efforts of Sarah and Seumas, our Bosun/Riggers, and nearly completed, prior to the National Trust not renewing their contracts.

Many thanks Sarah and Seumas – you have left your testimonial with us at Polly.

Site: Polly Woodside was dry-docked while Bridge and Marine had several attempts to seal the water inlets – the large ones on the steam pumps, and the smaller ones on the auxiliary pumps. We are waiting to see if this work has been successful or not.

Stop Press – *Didn't work! Afraid it has flooded again. Back to the drawing board.*

The dry-docking period was extended from two and a half weeks to twelve weeks, with the ship being closed to the public, hence no income coming in. At least we were able to take advantage of this situation, and got a number of jobs done on and around Polly.

The Ship: While Polly was dry-docked, the hull was professionally pressure cleaned, and then the surface was prepared and the 'Plastic Steel Putty' was applied to the deteriorated areas of the plating, by volunteers and some of the staff members. It worked! After refloating the first time, being the first time in the new dock, she had leaks galore, whereas this time we only had three very small leaks, and they have dried up on their own accord. Bottom paint was applied, and the rest of the hull will be painted this year, i.e. priority job.

Research has commenced re 'Ship's Pumps' and 'Pump Action Windlass'.

The Spar Ceiling – 'removable strips of timbers or battens fixed to the frames in the cargo hold to keep cargo away from the ship's sides, this promotes ventilation and prevents cargo damage by condensation and chafing' – has been installed by the volunteers on the upper section of the hold. This completes the small areas that had been done at each end of the 'tween' deck. This has been the first restoration work done on the Polly since the installation of the for'rd heads under the foc's'l.

Many thanks to Don, Barrie, Heinze, John, Peter, and Richard.

Pump House: Now under the auspices of Major Projects, who are considering its refurbishment to an acceptable level (?). Thanks again to Derek Moore for his tireless efforts in the Pump House, he was especially recognised by Bridge and Marine, who used him as an expert consultant in their work in there. Let us hope we can be involved, so it will not be entirely left to Derek.

The Future: As you will recall in December Wave, the article written by Sam Tait, Chair of the Ship Committee, of the proposed changes of 'Asset Management' and an 'On Site Technical Manager' being appointed – this will give the site a professional lead into 2013 and on into the future. With an 'Asset Management Plan' in place, it means businesses can be approached to give a recognised fixed donation for specific work on the ship, be it restoration or renewal of specific items. This has already been demonstrated by the approach of Sam Tait and Sean Johnson to businesses to successfully acquire the bottom paint for the hull, - not just ordinary paint, but the best bottom paint available. With Sean Johnston now our 'On-Site technical Manager', it means all work comes through him, and the Ship Committee.

Sean has completed a work plan for us for 2013, which hopefully will be presented to, and discussed with the volunteers at today's AGM.

There is now a possibility that we may see the return of some of us that were lured to the 'Alma Doepel', due to circumstances previously arisen at Polly. A whole new future is now upon us – one that will see Polly given a new lease of life (she is starting to look a little tired and shabby). One that will also see the PWVA getting behind these positive steps, really proving that 'The Ship Comes First'.

The committee: Finally I wish to express my personal thanks to the members of the PWVA Committee for their support to me, Polly, and to all of our members;

Ralph McDonell, Vice Chairman, couldn't be with us in body, but certainly in spirit and emails.

John Wroe, Treasurer, I fell back on him more and more, and he never hesitated to give his support.

Jenny Hunter, Secretary, Quiet (?), efficient, and didn't hesitate to pull us back in line when we meandered off course.

Roger Wilson, always there with practical advice and negotiation skills. Also his support on the Ship Committee.

Don Knowles, always ready to give support, a craftsman, and also now a support on the Ship Committee.

Neville Keown, Always willing to help, but a little hampered at the moment.

Also, you the members of the PWVA for being there, supporting us, but now unable to participate as in the past.

This could change.

Thank you.

Barrie Wood

Unfortunately Barrie has serious health issues and we wish him the very best for the future.

Ship's Piano

Those who may remember the 1900 era ship's piano which graced the old maritime museum and has been gathering dust in a distressed condition in storage ever since has been donated to a local piano restorer who plans to restore it to its former glory. John (the piano restorer) is seeking information on the piano's history. Anyone who can help with the piano's history please contact me (John Wroe). We hope that the old piano will eventually find a good home.

Maritime Library & ships photo collection

After a tortuous journey through various committees, sub committees and the NT Board it seems that the maritime library and ship's photo collection is to be relocated at Seaworks in Williamstown presumably under extended loan conditions. This will probably happen in June.

Volunteers' Plaques

It seems that agreement with the National Trust is inching ever nearer to an agreement to display the plaques in a volunteers section of the "Interpretation Centre". Watch this space, one day it might happen.



Rene Wilson and her grand daughter Kate selling Rene's peg dolls, and Stephan's pencil holders which were made from the wooden bases of Polly's model at one of our Market Days outside our old messroom.

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