



WAVE



Number 168 “the ship comes first” March 2020
The Newsletter of the Barque *Polly Woodside* Volunteers Association Inc.

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Committee Member: Roger Wilson, 9376 6429

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Shara is our newest Honorary member.

Chairman's Annual Report for 2019

It is with sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Betty Cromb peacefully on the 7th August this year aged 97.

This year has been our biggest for quite a while so much has happened:-

The Fore and Main Topmasts have been manufactured with laminated timber and sent up.

The standing and running rigging has been overhauled and re-rigged.

The fore and Main t'gallant yards are renewed and stowed undercover.

Remainder of standing rigging is covered and protected from the weather.

The Mizzen and Fore Mast-coats are installed, and the Main mast is ready for its mast-coat.

Poop deck canvas cover has been renewed.

The pinrails and poop deck for'ard rails have been sanded and oiled.

Midship's and spare capstan have been sanded and painted.

The bequest we received for \$1000 from Betty Cromb's estate is to be used to purchase a roll of canvas for renewing the Deckhouse roof cover and two new boat covers

And Shara has informed us the volunteers have worked **2,300 hours** in 2019.

Volunteers:

Our volunteer numbers are fluctuating between four to about eight on a good day. The stalwarts being, Don Knowles, Roger Wilson, Richard Barber, John Slattery, Campbell McCullough coming down by train from Bendigo, when he isn't crewing on the 'STS Leeuwin', John Maxwell, Tod Gardiner, and D'Arcy Wells whenever they can. Also Simon with his carer, have done a great job overhauling and painting the capstans. Wayne and Damien Bette, come down whenever their sea time allows them to. We have lost Charlotte for a while. Don Knowles has been overhauling and renovating blocks, between other jobs which seem to pop up all the time,

This includes making the new side-rail for the gangway on/off landing stairs, but unfortunately the new timber replacement piece developed a twist. We appear to have fixed it by clamping it down on the workbench. Now all we have to do is reassemble it.

Richard Barber is continuing to show he can turn his hand to anything.

Roger Wilson has completed the Mizzen and Fore mast-coats, but feels that they are the easy ones, as things will get really cramped at the Main mast (ship's pumps and blocks etc.). Any volunteers to help set it up?

We have a new bosun, Jeff Melancon ex US Navy retired who acts as Bosun on the '*Tenacious*' each year, and has completed a specialist course while overseas. Thanks to him our workshop is getting a massive overhaul and spring clean.

The ship:

The Gaff is still out on the wharf and will stay there until the Mizzen topmast comes down to be overhauled, following a paint touch-up it will then be ready to be hauled aloft after the topmast has been re-stepped.

At last we have new sacrificial anodes on board which means we are restricting the corrosion at the air-water line. The thirteen anodes were purchased by the National Trust at a cost of \$130 each

Management Shara Canzano our Manager, has been the Site Supervisor at Polly since it reopened to the public in 2010. She knows the operation of the site very well and has sound knowledge of the ship (with the help of the Tuesday volunteers, over the last 8 years), is keen to be working with us. She comes down to Polly every Tuesday when we are on site. Shara is really enthusiastic about improving the site, making it ship-shape including its security.

The Wave celebrated its 40th year of publication, this year with many thanks to John Wroe, who was our 9th Editor from December 2003 to December 2017 (57 Waves) If it were not for John there would not have been a Wave.

‘The Volunteer Plaques Memorial Board’: New plaques are applied as our members continue to cross the bar.

There will be a ‘Rededication Ceremony’ on a special day.

The Pump House Ponderings by Derek Moore - 2019

The Pump House and its heritage steam engine, boilers and centrifugal pumps continue to be controlled by the State Government. With the able assistance of 2 members from Engineering Heritage Victoria we have continued to undertake cleaning and lubrication of the engines, pipework and associated fittings.

The builder’s plate has been reinstated on the HP engine cylinder on the Dry Dock side of the engine, thus complementing the plate on the HP cylinder on the boiler side.

Further painting has taken place on the engine bed, columns and the steam accumulators. The active interest and support of PWVA volunteers and associates is greatly appreciated, including that of Polly Woodside management.

Many thanks Derek – Without you the Pump-House would be a forgotten item by now. – Neil.

The National Trust in an attempt to raise more funds for Polly has decided to combine functions with the adjacent Boat Builder’s Yard Restaurant. The wall between the Theatrette and the Interpretive Centre has been removed to gain a larger area for their use. Maybe good for them, but it has spoilt the atmosphere of the Interpretive Centre.

The committee: As there are only five members of the committee – at least one new member would be warmly welcomed.

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

Vice Chairman, Campbell McCullough who visits us between ‘STS Leeuwin II’ sailings.

Treasurer, Don Knowles, when not collecting money, is using his expertise in woodworking, and is able to turn his hand to anything. With his ability to organise jobs, he is a great asset to the maintenance and restoration of the ship.

Secretary, Michael Porter, gets down to Melbourne when he can, and is always keen to help.

Roger Wilson, always there with his practical advice and proven negotiation skills. His seaman’s knowledge and expertise are invaluable, as he is also our sailmaker

Also, you the members of the PWVA for your continuing support.

Thank you.

The ship comes first.

Shara's Farewell.

Shara dropped a bombshell on us when she announced we were losing her. Her last day with us was Sunday 29th February (Pirate Day). Her new position is to be Volunteer Coordinator at the Melbourne Zoo. I would say her children are going to love that.

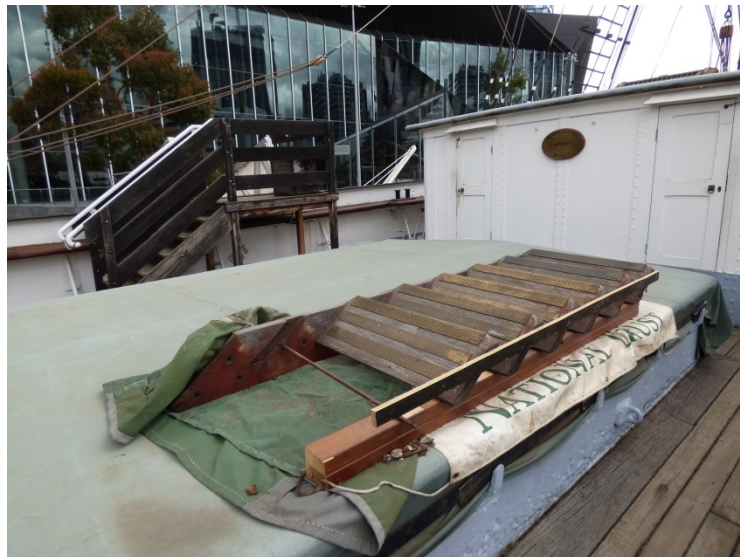
As Shara has been our manager for 10 years (a record I think), we decided any excuse is a good reason for a farewell lunch celebration (with work to finish at 12 noon), so it was organised for Tuesday 25th February. The committee decided that as a gesture of appreciation, we would make her an honorary member of the PWVA. The day arrived with John Maxwell bringing in plates of food arranged by his daughter Linda (Yum), Don Knowles brought in a sour cherry cake (also yum), and I brought the wine. We presented Shara with an honorary member certificate, which she really appreciated. Then Roger presented her with one of his handmade sailor shoulder bags, naming the different knots and explained their origins. The one disappointment of the day was that Michael Porter came down from Echuca to attend, but we failed to hear him trying to attract our attention. Sorry Michael, we realise it was a bitter disappointment for you, and us.



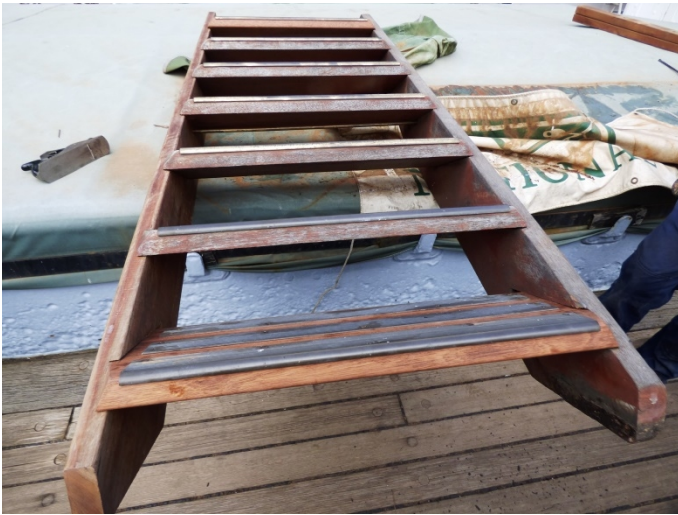
The Saga of the Gangway On/Off Landing Stairs.



One side of the stair removed for replacement from the landing.



Section of the stair to be replaced is the closest side.



The repaired stair reassembled and ready for installation.

The Final Page.

FORGOT MY GLASSES

Yesterday my daughter again asked why I didn't do something useful with my time.

Talking about my "doing something useful" seemed to be her favourite topic of conversation.

She was "only thinking of me" and suggested I go down to the senior centre and hang out with the guys.

I did this and when I got home last night I decided to teach her a lesson about staying out of my business.

I told her that I had joined a parachute club.

She said, "Are you nuts? You 're almost 79 years old and you're going to start jumping out of aeroplanes?"

I proudly showed her that I even got a membership card.

She said to me, "Good grief, where are your glasses! This is a membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club."

"I'm in trouble again, and I don't know what to do... I signed up for five jumps a week," I told her.

She fainted.

Life as a senior citizen is not getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun

PADDY AND MURPHY
ARE WORKING ON A
BUILDING SITE.

WHEN A SLATE FALLS
OFF THE ROOF SLICING
PADDY'S EAR OFF.

MURPHY FINDS IT AND
SAYS,
"IS THIS YOURS
PADDY?"

"NO" SAYS PADDY,
"MINE HAD A PENCIL
BEHIND IT!"

PADDY IS DRIVING HOME FROM THE
PUB AND GETS PULLED OVER BY A
POLICE OFFICER.

THE OFFICER SAYS,
"GOOD EVENING SIR, DO YOU KNOW
WHY I PULLED YOU OVER?"

PADDY REPLIES,
"I'M GUESSING YOU THINK I WAS
DRUNK DRIVING."

THE OFFICER INFORMS PADDY THAT HE
IS CORRECT AND TELLS HIM, "TELL YOU
WHAT, MY SHIFT IS ENDING SOON SO
IF YOU CAN SPELL THE ALPHABET
BACKWARDS, I'LL LET YOU GO
WITHOUT ANY FUSS."

IN A CLEAR AND CALM VOICE PADDY
QUICKLY SAYS,
"ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA."

THE OFFICER, WHO IS IMPRESSED BY
THE ORATION, NOW BELIEVES THAT
PADDY IS CLEAN AND STATES, "WOW, I
COULDN'T DO THAT SOBER."

PADDY REPLIES,
"ME NEITHER."

Paddy is doing some
roofing for murphy.

He nears the top of the
ladder and starts shaking
and going dizzy.

He calls down to murphy
and says, "I tink I will ave
to go home, I've gone all
giddy and I feel sick."

murphy asks, "Ave yer
got vertigo, paddy?"

paddy replies, "No, I only
live around the corner."