



WAVE



Number 170

"the ship comes first"

September 2020

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



The Barque 'Polly Woodside' ex 'Rona'.

PWVA Committee:

Chairman & Wave Editor: Neil Thomas, thomclan1@dodo.com.au , 9802 4608

Vice Chairman: Campbell McCullough,

Hon.Secretary: Michael Porter, 0409 596 342

Hon. Treasurer: Don Knowles, donkey@optusnet.com.au , 9877 1854

Committee Member: Roger Wilson, 9376 6429

Chairman's Chat:

With frustration building up everywhere, this is definitely a year we want to delete from memory. Tuesdays are a day of fond memories, but things are definitely happening.

Firstly we had the National Trust Director, Lachlan Molesworth declare the National Trust was in financial difficulties on an ABC interview, to be rapidly denied on the same day by the CEO Simon Ambrose, who sent out an email to the volunteers and staff. This spurred us to send a letter to Simon Ambrose asking for confirmation of his denial, which he did by phone, apologising for the delay in answering due to only receiving his post fortnightly, while working from home.

Mission to Seafarers – Redevelopment Proposal

The Melbourne City Council voted unanimously in favour of the Motion to undertake a feasibility study as the first 'formal' step towards the establishment of the Melbourne Maritime Centre to be co-funded by the City of Melbourne and the State Government.

The MCC will now initiate the development of a feasibility/business case for a Maritime Heritage Precinct with the current Mission to Seafarers premises as the base.

The Mission to Seafarers building would evolve into the Melbourne Maritime Centre, continuing its historic service to seafarers and, at the same time, showcase Melbourne and Victoria's rich maritime heritage in a museum/exhibition space located in this most remarkable building – the historic maritime 'heart' of Melbourne.

This is designed to secure the future of the iconic Mission to Seafarers premises and to become the Melbourne Maritime Centre. Further it will 'anchor' in Melbourne's Maritime Heritage Precinct, in the CBD, on North Wharf next to the new Seafarers Rest Park, surrounding the Mission to Seafarers.



Aerial view of the area.

No. 5 North Wharf Shed:

The redevelopment of the No.5 Goods Shed has commenced, after being derelict for many years, with the removal of the roof. The large roof trusses have been dismantled and taken off-site for repair and restoration.

The Goods Shed and the now restored Heritage-listed electric crane (1948) on the wharf on which it sits form the last intact example of an 'integrated wharf-shed-crane berth' in the Port of Melbourne. This makes it one of Melbourne's most significant heritage waterfronts.

The Yarra's North Bank Sheds are linked to Docklands precinct along Australian Wharf which dates from 1855. The wharf was an important loading facility, especially for the now demolished gasworks and although it remains along the waterfront, it is now very much altered. This North-bank area was a functioning wharves precinct up until the construction of the Charles Grimes Bridge in 1975.

It has countless links to Melbourne's maritime heritage, and other key events in Melbourne, including an enduring relationship with Australia's Antarctic "Dan" ships which embarked for the Southern Ocean from very near to this Goods Shed.

It is imperative that this heritage site be incorporated into the new development with the consideration and respect it deserves.

News from the National Trust:

Hello Polly Veggies and Staff!

My name is Kathleen, some of you may know me but I would imagine the majority of you don't, so let me take a moment to introduce myself!

I am the Operations Coordinator at the Old Melbourne Gaol and recently, upon Sheridan going on maternity leave, I have assumed higher duties to provide assistance to Alyce with the remaining properties.

Covid has certainly made the adjustment to this role very interesting, it's meant I have been unable to visit our regional properties and more importantly, it's meant that I have been unable to meet any of you wonderful people.

I do hope that everyone has been staying safe and well during lockdown 1 and 2, wearing masks, washing hands, staying home and keeping yourselves occupied during this time. It's difficult, no question, but we will get through it.

In the meantime, we thought it would be best to reach out and give you an update about what has been going on at the Polly Woodside as well as the rest of the National Trust. This will be a long email so get comfy!

Assets & Safety Update:

After the initial closure of all properties, only the OMG managed to reopen its doors in late June. Unfortunately Rippon Lea was due to open its Miss Fisher Exhibition the day after the second lockdown began! Talk about timing! To get these 2 sites ready, a lot of work went on in the lead up. There is a comprehensive COVID plan in place to ensure the sites were clean, PPE was provided, capacity restrictions were adhered to, operating procedures in place, the list goes on.

Not to mention the Gaol received an interpretation upgrade and a shop refit. It's looking pretty great! When we are able to again, the Gaol is ready, as is Rippon Lea as the exhibition is all set up and ready to go.

These 2 sites will be able to provide some much needed income to the Trust straight away. It was clear to us in the 1.5 weeks that we were open, that people are keen to get out and about (who can blame them!).

Como and Tasma are both the recipients of Living Heritage Grants from Heritage Victoria (DELWP) and are receiving some much needed love.

At Como, exterior conservation works are under way that will help fix deterioration issues within the roofs of the mansion, kitchen/servant's wing and laundry/coach house.

Tasma is getting damaged sections of the roof replaced and repaired, chimney stabilisation, interior plaster pinned where unstable, exterior render repairs and flooring in the upper bathrooms.

Currently, with Stage 4 restrictions in place, all properties are in caretaker mode. Which means that properties are receiving weekly or fortnightly site checks, with Pest Control and Essential Fire Safety checks continuing. Myron and Amir (Repairs & Maintenance team) also continue their work on upkeep maintenance. No new projects are being started during this time, as per the Governments rules for construction. I am now the person the checks in on the Polly each fortnight, prior to me, Alyce was going onsite. So rest assured she is being looked after!

What's happening around the Trust:

For staff, the EBA negotiations have started, you will have received communications from Simon and Emily, you can also find this on the Intranet. Along with all other NT updates as usual. Check out this link for the WWII 75th anniversary website put together by the Advocacy Team to commemorate the end of the War. <https://wwiathome.com.au/>

What's new at Polly:

There is a new digital interactive resource soon to be available online. It will include a historical timeline of Polly Woodside. As well as a look at ship crew and their duties. This includes a hierarchy challenge activity where students need to order the crew by their level of importance. Additional student activities have been designed to make the learning more purposeful in the classroom. The resource is suitable for upper Primary and Secondary students to year 10. – Great exposure for the Polly!

There is also a new secondary education program in development which includes:

- Importance of sailing to Australia's maritime history and Polly Woodside's part in this
- Conditions for sailors and daily life aboard a ship
- 12 min video of George Andrews depicting the reality of life aboard
- Learning sailor talk and ship terms - (the PC version 😊)
- Identifying parts of the ship
- Ship time system and different watches
- Ship hierarchy system
- Captain's tools and their role in navigation

A small grant has also been received for interpretation and the team are looking at a number of things including a volunteers journey.

Of course we will reach out and get your opinions on these as they progress, as we know that it is you guys who know the ship and its history the most.

Until that time, if anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me (details below), or Alyce, whoever you would like and we can answer questions as best we can.

Stay safe and well and we will be in touch again soon!

Kathleen Toohey | Operations Coordinator - Old Melbourne Gaol

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

377 Russell Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

03 9656 9811 kathleen.toohey@nattrust.com.au

This is the part I do not like – members who have crossed the Bar!

George Frew OAM – 29 December 2019



George Frew with one of the Polly Woodside models that helped to restore the sailing ship to its former glory.
169456 Picture: VICTORIA STONE-MEADOWS

George believed in resurrecting beautiful old buildings, saving them from demolition. He also financially supported and helped bring Polly Woodside to life in its early days of rescue.

George Frew, an 'Honorary Life Member' of the Polly Woodside Volunteers Association, joined the Polly Woodside Committee as a Foundation Member in charge of Finance in 1974 to 1975. He created the '71 Seaman', getting 1170 members who paid \$100 cash or \$20 a year for five years, and they received a small model of the Polly Woodside mounted on a stained wooden mounting block with a tiny brass plaque to identify each donor stating – "Presented to – Name – a member of 'the 71 Seamen. Who gave "Polly Woodside" to Melbourne". It raised over the \$100,000 required to receive the \$2 for \$1 Grant promised by the Victorian Government to Dry-dock, inspect and repair the hull, for the commencement of Polly Woodside's restoration.

He wrote his own personal story titled 'Someday I'll have Money', of which with his permission, I placed Chapter 4 'The halcyon Years' in Wave No. 145.

George is one of our original pioneers, and if not for him Polly Woodside would probably be decaying at the bottom of Bass Strait.

Vale George

Derek Rumbold – 23 January 2020



Derek receiving his Honorary Life Membership Certificate

Having joined the PWVA in 1988. Derek was always working quietly behind the scenes.

His claim to fame (?) was 'Belaying pin and Block Refurbisher King'.

Derek we could have done with you at Polly over the last two years!

Vale Derek.

Also George Duke - Last owner of the Dry-Dock Passed away on 12 April 2018

And Dulcie Herd – Widow of Bob Herd passed away on 16 June 2020

Can anyone please tell me if they know the whereabouts of:-

Eve Park

Captain John Hunter

Jean Hansen

George Vodden

I assure you, losing volunteers is not a habit!