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Barque "Polly Woodside"  
Volunteers' Association

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NEWSLETTER OF THE BARQUE "POLLY WOODSIDE" VOLUNTEERS'  
ASSOCIATION

OUR MOTTO: "THE SHIP COMES FIRST"

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This is the first edition of a newsletter produced by the volunteers; broadly, its purpose is to keep us and our supporters informed about the project by a summary of events and items of specific and general interest.

We have all recognised the need for a basic publication of this sort and this is an attempt to get it started. We hope to produce it every six weeks or so, but, frequency of issue will depend on the amount of interest and support in the form of news items, and articles submitted and of course the sharing of the work in compiling it.

If you like the newsletter, tell us; if you dislike the name, content or format of the publication please let us know - preferably verbally from inside the sand blasting helmet.



The last five months have been the busiest since physical work began on the ship and project in 1972; some recent examples:

- lower rigging nearing final stages, lower bowsprit (donated chain) shrouds and dolphin strikers set up, masts wedged and mast coats cut and fitted, upper rigging well advanced.

Splendid work by Thor (Lin) Lindquist, Heather Yarrton, Ruth Hebblethwaite and all the other dedicated members of the rigging team;

- lugs for bowsprit shrouds fitted and rebuilding of the prow virtually completed. A credit to Steve Gajdos and Vince Sirianni boilermakers of Fleet Forge.
- fore and main topmasts shaped by skilled shipwrights Alan Finch and Eddie Lister from Canadian Douglas Fir, (obtained at reasonable rates) the shipwrights work has revived a dying art.

The cost of the fore, main, mizzen topmasts has been donated by members of the Seamen's Union of Australia from ships all around Australia; their generosity and interest is greatly appreciated; fittings for the topmasts will be specially made from drawings by Captain G. Heyen, Master of the Restoration.

- Two huge baulks of rare Huon Pine were donated by Henry Jones I.X.L. for carving of the figure head by noted sculptor Mr. Hans Knörr, who has donated his services. A priceless photograph of Mrs. Marian "Polly" Woodside (after whom the ship was named in Northern Ireland) was found through our research unit and the brilliant work of Mr. James Salmon of Belfast, (off site volunteer). The faded photograph was restored and developed by Dr. Gyzicki, processed by Phil Hollis and will be used as a guide for the sculptor. Also through our research unit, and Belfast researchers, we have arranged for receipt of a donation from Miss Adeline Mc Master of Island Magee.

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The donation consists of;

(a) brass lamp on gimbals (pivoted rings for keeping things) said to be from the saloon of the 'Polly Woodside',

(b) brass loud hailer

(c) meerschaum pipe (white substance like clay; tobacco pipe bowl made of this)

(d) carved ashtray,

all used by Captain William Mc Master, Master of the 'Polly Woodside' Sept. 1871 to April 1893.

- Steel yards sandblasted and painted, and sand blasting and painting of the steel deck head and upper plating, well advanced in the ship.

- Highly successful three open days over Easter, when some 7,000 people visited the ship and project.

- 'Polly Woodside' display at 'Sailboat '77' Exhibition organised by Fenn Hall and manned by volunteers looked very professional and was extremely successful; the rigging samples by Thor Lindquist, 3D slides by Phil Hollis and Keith Hutchings, and the Knot board by Arthur Woodley were particularly admired by visitors.

- Full scale effort by museum committee chairman Phil Webster and voluntary teams has pushed ahead repair and conversion of Dry Dock buildings which will be used as a shore based museum and workshop.

- Dry dock gates repaired and closed for pumping out of the dock and boiler room began on Monday 23rd May, this is first stage of restoration; repair and conversion of dry dock and environs;



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the planting of six native trees was the first step in landscaping. On 26th May, South Melbourne Council Workers began a no charge clean up of car bodies and garbage in dry dock area. The results are a great improvement.

- 'Polly Woodside' model removed from City Square for repair.
- unique collection of ship's bells donated by various companies continues to increase.
- splendid brass letters for the ship's name were cut by Seamen's Union member volunteer Cliff Mc Quillan, from a pattern made from an outline of the original letters cut at the bows and discovered during sandblasting of the hull. The sun came out at the critical moment and revealed the outline of the letters. The brass letters will be fitted in their original position, first on the starboard bow.

#### PEOPLE.

#### COMINGS, GOINGS AND IN BETWEENS.

We welcome back:-

- (1) John and Biddy Steele from U.K. where they attended their son's wedding, visited various maritime projects and were royally treated by Captain Bruce of the 'Cutty Sark', Vice Admiral Sir Patrick Bayly, Maritime Trust London and Alan Villiers. John has some good ideas for shop sales.
- (2) The chairman of the 'Polly Woodside' Committee John Yuncken and his wife Audrey have returned from a gruelling but rewarding overseas trip. John managed to visit many maritime projects including those in San Francisco and London.

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(3) Bonnie Isobel Van Doornik (nee Smith) and her husband Anton from their honeymoon in India and Scotland, they recommend whisky and the Taj Mahal but advise against drinking Ganges waters or eating curried haggas.

We wish a safe journey to :-

- (1) Thor (Lin) Lindquist the foreman rigger and his wife Vicky who fly off to the U.S.A. early in July for a holiday to visit old friends and revisit ship restoration projects and compare notes.
  - (2) Highland Alastair (Captain) Reed and his wife Beverley who left recently for a sojourn in England and Scotland. Alastair will be paying his and our respects to dear old 'Glescatoon', it was there that the Strathclyde Regional Council restored and donated two cast iron Glasgow street lamps and pillars to the project. Alastair has been studying Scots Gaelic for 3 years to enable him to ask where the Pub is when he visits Stornoway.
  - (3) 'Staysailbill' (Dr.) Thomas flies off (by plane this time) to join the sailing vessel 'Golden Plover' in Greece for a trip to the U.K. He will also visit his home town, Glasgow and do some special research; 'Polly Woodside' visited Glasgow in 1904 under Captain Thorkilsen - her last trip for her Irish owners before being sold and renamed 'Rona'.
- Bon voyage to you all and 'Haste ye back' we'll miss you. A few weeks ago we sent some recent photographs of the ship to Spike Milligan, who visited us in March 1976, and supports our efforts; he replied by telegram offering congratulations to the dedicated workers who have achieved the unbelievable



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transformation in such a short time.

We would like to offer a special welcome to the men and women who have joined us as volunteers over the last six months. With their permission their names will be published in the next issue.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS.

(1) The association has purchased a 27ft clinker built whaler ex R.A.N. with a diesel engine, all in excellent condition. It will be used for:-

(a) volunteer training in boat handling, sailing and the dreaded rowing (especially when the chairman wants to go water ski-ing).

(b) work - boat,

(c) relaxation and pleasure.

(2) VOLUNTEERS' PARTY : DAY SATURDAY  
DATE 25th JUNE

PLACE THE HOUSE OF JONES (HAROLD AND BERNICE)  
26 KAY STREET, MOUNT WAVERLEY

Tele. 288.9391. TIME 7.30 onwards  
DRESS INFORMAL.

B.Y.O. grog, glass and plate, preferably with something on it. There will be a levy of \$1.00 per skull to defray costs of some of the hot food; any monies over will go to the fund. We will have a short film show, songs and music provided by 'The GRONG', Folk/Ballard/Requiem Group. We hope that others will also sing, dance, yodel or give impersonations or whatever. At the party we will be welcoming back John Yuncken and his wife Audrey and also welcoming the new dynamic manager Hayward Lloyd and his wife Val to the project.

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Hayward succeeded Peter Davey who left us in February after four years of hard slog.

Our oldest volunteer Mr Charles Rouse, who was born in England in 1885 ( the year that the ' Polly Woodside' was launched was a former A.B. in the 'Rona', will also be at the party. Charlie will tell us a bit about life on board her and sing us a sea shanty or two.

On the question of shantys many people have asked for the words of the chorus of the 1870's halyard shanty, 'The Leavin' of Liverpool' sung by The Grong.

#### THE LEAVIN' OF LIVERPOOL.

SO FARE THEE WELL, MY OWN TRUE LOVE.

WHEN I RETURN, UNITED WE WILL BE...

IT'S NOT THE LEAVIN' OF LIVERPOOL

THAT GRIEVES ME,

BUT ME DARLIN' , WHEN I THINK, OF THEE.

#### TRAINING COURSE.

It is proposed to hold a basic training course for volunteers starting in July and extending over a period of six Saturday and Sundays as they can be arranged, the course will cover:-

- (1) Brief history of the ship and project,
- (2) Safety, security and fire drill procedures,
- (3) Basic seamanship,
- (4) Nautical terms - especially of sailing,
- (5) Painting techniques,
- (6) The committee, who they are and what they do,
- (7) The role of the volunteer.

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VOLUNTEERS' MEETING.

A General meeting of the volunteers will be held late July or early August. Among other items of business we will be welcoming volunteers who have recently joined us. It is a forum for expressing ideas, asking questions, and, making and implementing suggestions.... SO , BE IN IT!

IDENTIFICATION.

The question of a suitable tunic or jacket for volunteers incorporating an insignia of the ship and project would help to identify workers in the project, particularly when there are large numbers of visitors. ANY IDEAS?

RAFFLE.

Don't forget there are still plenty more tickets to be sold for the oil painting of 'Polly Woodside' by Captain Peter Kusters, many thanks to him for donating the painting; the funds raised from this will be most welcome for the ship and project.

We were prevailed upon to include a joke:-

JOKE.

Did you hear about the karate expert who joined the Army, saluted and killed himself ? Neither did we!  
In revenge we offer a few nautical ' ding-bat' definitions.

KNIGHT HEADS	= High class toilet
CATBLOCK	= Large dog
BATTEN	= German cricket equipment
STUNS'L	= A sail that knocks you out
BULLWANGER	= Seacow's delight
BAGGY RINKLE	= Vin Darroch in a suit
DEADEYES	= Volunteer with a hang over

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SHROUD	= Outfit for deadeyes
CLIP	= See 'under the ear'
FOREBITTERS	= 2 Quarts of Melbourne beer
FOREIGN AGREEMENT	= Playing up overseas
FRIGATCOON	= What English Edward 1st tried to do to Edinburgh
GIN BLOCK	= Amnesia caused by grog
GIRTH BAND	= Weight watchers' musical group
JURY KNOT	= What Ned Kelly died of
MAIMATOCURULUS	= Your mother-in-law is coming for the weekend
THROAT SEIZING	= Domestic dispute arising from the above
TOTAL ECLIPSE	= Drunk under the moon
YAWS	= Scandinavian giant shark.

SEE YOU AT THE PARTY.....



