

Vision: To be an inspirational maritime museum for the people of Brisbane and Queensland.

Mission: The Queensland Maritime Museum will enrich and inspire our visitors with an outstanding experience of the maritime heritage of Queensland all achieved through dynamic displays, best-practice management of our collection and, the stories we share.

Welcome to the latest edition of news, rumours and scuttlebutt at the Maritime Museum. If you have anything you would like to say or talk about in Scuttlebutt please let me know. The main purpose of Scuttlebutt is to help keep everybody informed of our activities.

### Date Claimers - 2016

Brisbane's Living Heritage Network AGM – Wed 14 Sep

Sea Shepherd Fundraising Event – Sun 18 Sep

Talk Like a Pirate Event – Mon 19 Sep

Guest Speaker - Columbus Regatta 1992 – Esme Lucas-Havens 3pm Sat 24 Sep

Riverfire – 24 Sep

Brisbane Open House – Saturday 8 October

Guest Speaker – Life aboard *Diamantina* Surveying – Sat 19 November

AGM – Sat 10 December

### Board of Directors

David Thomas (Chairman), Hans Pommerel, Matthew Rowe, Chris Williams, Mike Sobyra, David Rollins, Brett Smith, Mark Fort and Angela Tillmanns.

Hello!



### Pirates Week

Pirates Week went extremely well which is a great credit to everybody involved. We especially thank Keith Boulton and Mike Sobyra who coordinated the event. Keith has decided to take a well-deserved break from that role next year.

We are participating in the Childhood Cancer 'Talk Like a Pirate Day' on Monday 19 September and our fabulous team of stars will perform two renditions of the pantomime.

### Exhibition.

The current temporary exhibition is a story of Evans Deakin titled; 'The Pin that Saved Brisbane'. Planning is underway on a special exhibition for 2017.

Two recent editions to our exhibits are the rigged sailing vessels Great Expectations (a Fireball) and Darlene (a 10 foot Darling Point Skiff). Jack Hamilton is currently making sails for Darlene and setting her rigging. Thank you and well done to Jack.

Thank you to the team that designed, fabricated and installed the supports for these boats and

then prepared the display. Don Braben has put together some interpretive panels to tell the stories of the two boats.

## Board

The Board's discussions at its recent meetings included; the safety action plan, the financial reports, site development planning, museum design brief and the exhibition brief.

## Website and Social Media.

QMM has a Facebook and Instagram presence on social media. As an organisation we have a Social Media Policy to guide its use. If you have some interesting images or stories please don't hesitate to join the discussion. Thank you to our volunteers who are looking after social media and the web-site.

## Function and Events

Please mark a couple special events and functions in your diary as per the Date Claimers. Esme Lucas-Havens has a very interesting talk on the Columbus Regatta 1992 (500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) on Saturday 24 September.

Brisbane Open House is on again this year and QMM will participate on Saturday 8 October. We request help with this day as we usually attract about 5-600 visitors and conduct a sausage sizzle.

## Departure



It is with sadness that I advise that one of our longest serving members is finishing up at QMM. George Gee (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) was one of the founding members of QMMA back in 1971 and has volunteered at the Museum for 45 years. A printer by trade, George developed a printing facility at QMM using equipment that he tracked down from as far away as Coffs Harbour. George and his team have worked tirelessly to print all sorts of material for the Museum throughout that time.

George has performed a wide range of other tasks during his service to QMMA.

The printers work as a team on different aspects of the tasks and as a result with George's departure we are also saying thank you to long serving volunteers Peter Brennan, Roger Winn, Graeme and Les.

On behalf of all members and volunteers I thank George, Peter, Roger, Graeme and Les for your outstanding contribution to QMM.

In September the Board and CEO will be presenting an update on the proposed museum upgrade project. At this stage the presentations are planned for:

Thursday 15 Sep 0900

Friday 16 Sep 1000

Monday 19 Sep 0900 (**note time change from that promulgated**)

Tuesday 20 Sep 1000

Wednesday 21 Sep 1000

Saturday 24 Sep 1630 (approx.) on completion of Esme's guest presentation

The QMM Social Club committee does a great job arranging a mix of events and presentations during the year and I encourage you to consider supporting these events when you can.

Thank you very much for your support of the Museum.

Regards  
Ian Jempson

### **Volunteers and Members**

Thank you to our long-serving volunteers and welcome aboard to our new volunteers and members. QMM continues to deliver a high quality visitor experience and that is a credit to everybody involved throughout the Museum, whether serving customers or working behind the scenes in the engineroom.

We occasionally are having difficulty with our weekend rosters and would appreciate any assistance with volunteers on these days. The weekends are our busiest days and are vital to our operation. Thank you to those who contribute their time on the weekends especially our Duty Managers. Thank you to all our members and volunteers for your support and excellent contribution to the Museum's operation.

The Titanic Show for which we fabricated a replica bow of the ship will be on again in a few weeks and the producer of the show would like to invite all Maritime Museum volunteers and staff to the dress rehearsal on Wednesday 28 September at the Powerhouse at about 7.30pm. We will advise details.



This week it was our pleasure to help celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Cathy Leahy who has been volunteering at QMM since before Expo-88. Cathy usually attends on Thursday and serves behind the counter in the shop. Happy Birthday Cathy!

Mike Sobyra is our hard-working Membership Secretary and we thank those members who have renewed membership in the past couple of weeks which Mike has been processing. He is taking an overseas vacation in October and is aiming to complete as much of the membership work as possible before he departs. Well done and best wishes to Mike and Pam for their travels.

### **Forceful**

The small team are beavering away at the enormous job of the Deck replacement, approx. 30% of the current deck has been removed and new steel framework is being fabricated and installed, they are about 5% into this big job and any volunteers wishing to assist can be "turned to" on any weekday. If you wish to assist please advise Alan or Hans.

### **Diamantina**

The ship's original Broadcast System has been reinstated by volunteer Murray Shepherd and can now be used to alert visitors in an emergency and also to announce closing of the vessel at 16:00. The amplifier and microphone are located in the Win Davenport building. We are working on reinstating the Audio that was for sometimes playing in the wheelhouse simulating Bridge and Wheelhouse commands at sea, when installed it will be easily MUTED when conducting guided tours.

Recent volunteer activity has seen the Forward and after 4 inch Guns receive some long awaited TLC with the final top coat to the after Gun in the next week. Work is now focusing on the Forward Gun Deck with approximately 50% completed so far.

Work is still in the planning stages of the installation of **emergency exit lighting** in the ship, complicated by the current system of powering the whole ship *off* at night which would then shorten the battery life considerably, our friendly electrical contractors are solving this issue as we go to print. We hope to reduce the financial impact of the whole project by installing the 47 new fittings with the help of volunteers so that the electrical Contractors (Protech) work load is reduced to running the cables, installing switchboards with test facilities. And finally connecting them up, which should save a large amount of the cost.

Fabrication of 4 ready-use ammunition lockers is underway by our Monday team.

For many years a serious corrosion problem has existed at the propeller shaft stern tube exit covers on the Starboard side. Over the past few months a small team has worked to remove the badly corroded covers, we will then repair where possible or fabricate replacement parts. This is of great importance as they were at risk of falling apart and posed a hazard to any one below. It also allows us to treat the corrosion on the shaft and hull that was previously enclosed by these covers.

### **Wooden boats**

The wood working craftsmen have been busy with a wide range of activities. Restoration of a small boat for the Manly Sea Scouts is continuing. The replica of the bow of the Titanic for use in a comedy performance at the Brisbane Comedy Festival has now been modified and installed near the entrance to the Museum, it is intended in October to send it off to the Powerhouse for another set of performances.

The Forceful wheelhouse repairs are slowly underway. The last dinghy built by Barney Meyer (1899 – 1990) has been donated to QMM and is being prepared for display. Minor repairs to Penguin's hull have commenced with replacing some rotten hull planks on her portside.

A 14ft Bond-wood runabout which had been a personal project of Tony Woodcock (a volunteer for some time at QMM) has been donated to QMM to complete and offer for sale to any interested party, The incomplete boat does not have a motor or trailer, but would be a very nice boat for anyone interested in taking it on, offers of interest should be directed to our CEO.

### **Grounds**

The grounds are in excellent shape ready for the summer growth. New volunteer Stewart Boyd has taken over the role from Greg Hunt who managed the grounds for a long time and has left to pursue full time employment. Our special thanks to Greg and good wishes in the employment.

### **Library and Archive**

Well done to everybody in the library and archive for many hours of hard work progressing the cataloguing and documenting of the archive collection as well as handling research requests and the steady influx of donated material.

### **Lighthouse**

The team in the lighthouse workshop have been busy disassembling some electronic radio and radar equipment, this equipment contained some valuable **Scrap**, some Asbestos and a lot of PCB's. The commercial production of PCBs started in 1929 but their use has been banned or severely restricted since the 1970s and 80s because of the possible risks to human health and the environment. They have been used as an insulating material in electric equipment, such as transformers and capacitors, and also Since 1929 around 2 million tonnes of PCBs have been produced, about 10% of which still remain in the environment today. Ours are now boxed up and ready for transport to a Hazardous ware facility.

### **Safety**

We undertook a third party Safety Audit recently. This Audit was conducted by **Ian Primrose** Dip WH&S, Ian is a member of the **Wooden Boat Association** and offered his valuable services free of Charge. Ian Identified **42 separate instances** where we could improve our safety *system* or practices.

Extreme Risk= 2

High Risk = 9

Medium Risk + 22

Low risk = 7

There were a further 10 general items that require further scrutiny. The low cost easy to fix items (60%) have been addressed immediately, and the remaining will be reviewed at the next Safety Review Meeting and the actions then included in our Safety Plan.

Prensa and GBAR Australia will be onsite in the next few weeks to undertake some more work to Diamantina's Asbestos, the main focus is to **remediate and seal pipework lagging** in the main passage way from the CPO's Mess forward, NO removal will be undertaken at this time. This work is scheduled to complete in one day only and will mean that part of the ship will be closed off to volunteers and the public for the duration of that day.

## **May we extend a warm Welcome to all our new Volunteers:**

**Front Desk:** Patrick Parsons, Anastasia Dillon, Helen Lai, Jason Collophen, Frank Alcantara, Wendy Holding, Graeme Tito, Ajay Gopinath, Bernice Soisang, Shereena Li, Stephen Tillack,

**Grounds:** Stewart Boyd

**Maintenance:** Brian Orr, Maxim Michalsky, Liam Hinves, Graham Kitson,

**Guides:** Doug Marsh, Richard Ward, Sam Harvey, Joshua Mc Doanald, John Watkinson.

**Library/research:** Craig Hoehne, Cathy Beadley.

### **Riverfire**

As always Riverfire is a popular event in the calendar. We have two corporate bookings this year as well as the space beneath the Goodwill Bridge that we preserve for members.

The QMM Social Club is organising a sausage sizzle plus a selection of beverages. In order to assist with planning we request that members and volunteers book tickets. We need to limit group sizes to a maximum of ten persons (members) and four persons (volunteers) if you are bringing family and/or friends.

The costs are as follows:

Member + Spouse/Partner – Free

Volunteer - \$10

Adult guest - \$10

Child guest (6-15 years) - \$5

Given the number of people expected to be at QMM, the road closures by 3pm and, the people moving around QMM after the fireworks blocking exits, we strongly recommend that you use public transport and do not plan to park at QMM.

Regards

Alan Bibby

Operations Supervisor

*Happy Volunteering till the next edition of Scuttlebutt*