



STEAMLINES
Newsletter
January 2011

Editorial

2010 has gone and the Wattle restoration progresses. As we emerge into 2011 five major areas of activity have now been established. Working in parallel with each other during 2010 these major activities now are: the establishment and development of a ship yard operation to support the restoration of the Wattle; the hull and forward compartment restoration; painting and carpentry including the wheelhouse; engine room and associated equipment; and administration and logistics. With the bulk of work being performed on a one day a week basis there has been some concern about progress. This issue was addressed at our first Saturday meeting on January 8. To speed up progress the possibility of task specific contractors to assist in the forward section will be examined and the development of a flexible whole of ship works program working backwards from a tentative launch day target of the ships 80th birthday (27 June 2013) will be implemented.

I took heart from recent comments made by Andy Munns who has been involved with the John Oxley restoration in Sydney. The John Oxley is a bigger ship than the Wattle, with the restoration commencing in 2002. So far to end of 2010 the hull has been replated up to the sheer strake, and most of the structures in the holds, boiler spaces and spaces under the engine have been replaced. After looking at our photographic record of restoration Andy believes we have progressed significantly. A report on the John Oxley restoration can be found at <http://www.shf.org.au/JO-restoration/JO-latest-news.html>

Other changes leading into 2011 will be a renewed emphasis on OHS, project planning, volunteer recruitment and sponsorships/supporters. Another change will be a rostered Saturday lunch. So any budding chefs who wish to try their hand should see Ron Stannus.

At our AGM on November 30 the following were elected as Directors of Bay Steamers Maritime Museum Ltd. Chairman, Dick Francis; Secretary, Jeff Malley; Neil Fraser, Peta Knott and John Kovac.

So, welcome back to 2011 and the camaraderie and succulent lunches of 19 Victoria Dock.

'Volunteers Urgently Needed'

Bay Steamers MM is mounting a Wattle Restoration Stand at the forthcoming Seaworks site launch and we need volunteers to "man" the stand. Seaworks has now been established at Williamstown after much negotiation over the years. It will provide a focus point for maritime heritage in the Melbourne region. The Maritime Heritage Association of Victoria is promoting the event which runs from Sunday 23 Jan to Sunday 30 Jan at 82 Nelson Place Williamstown. A number of maritime associations will be exhibiting. On Australia day the tall ships Enterprize and Young Endeavour will be alongside. This is a great opportunity to show off the Wattle, promote its restoration and to recruit new members and benefactors. If you are available and wish to volunteer during the week that it is open could you please contact Peta Knott (mob 0407232987 email petaknott@archaeologist.com).

If any of our members has AV equipment – a DVD player and screen to show a DVD of the restoration and earlier history then please contact Tony Lewis.

*Information on Seaworks can be obtained from Maritime Heritage Association of Victoria
www.mhav.net*

Knott just a shipyard



L to R Peta, Tony and cup cakes, Anthony

19 South Wharf is not just a shipyard. Tony Adams, the foreman of our forward works who is in love with his plasma cutter, seems to be establishing an exchange co-operative for anything green. Late last year he brought in a dozen home grown organic eggs for Peta Knott. At our first meeting in January Peta returned the favour by bringing a dozen cup cakes that she had made. In the past Tony has also brought in various vegetables and plants that he has grown. However, all this does go to Tony's head a little bit. If you get a scratch on site you will see him running around with a leaf of Aloe vera offering to cover the wound with it. Austin can verify that the plant wound dressing does work.

In the meantime Peta's real love is not Anthony or cooking but archaeology. When not restoring the ships' boat and investigating its history she is somewhere in Australia or overseas working on a dig or a dive site. She will be at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart, 11-14 February 2011 curating a special display of highly prized and historic wooden dinghies. Reg Fazackerley was an iconic Tasmanian shipbuilder that built dozens of clinker dinghies throughout the 20th century. His excellent design was copied by many, but fortunately for historians, he signed and dated many of his works of superior craftsmanship. Entry to the Fazackerley Dinghy Display is free. There will also be six tall ships, a maritime marketplace, an Indonesian and Japanese village, scrimshay display, model boat racing, quick n' dirty boat building and much more! The wooden boat festival website is www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au .

Whirlygig in place

This is a special item for John Kovac to show that the whirligig is in place and that he did not have to attempt to fly in order to install it. We hope he is on his feet soon.



The Alwyn Vintcent



I came across the Alwyn Vintcent in late 2007 when I was in Capetown. I had wandered down to the docks in search of the fledgling maritime museum and came across a beautiful steam tug moored alongside an old steam driven boom defence vessel later identified as the Somerset. The Alwyn was launched in Italy in 1958, is 83 ft LOA at 111 tons gross and powered by a 300 HP single triple expansion engine. She is probably one of the last steam powered tugs built and at one stage in her life ferried anti apartheid activists, including Nelson Mandela, to Roben Island prison. Various attempts to preserve her in an operational state have not been successful and make an

interesting story. However, the latest word is that she will be preserved as an out of water static display somewhere in South Africa. This is a better fate than the alternative – which was scrapping. Pictures and a discussion forum on the Alwyn Vintcent can be found on the Ships Nostalgia website (www.shipsnostalgia.com) .