

Melbourne Branch

The Log
The Monthly Newsletter of the Melbourne Branch of
The Company of Master Mariners of Australia Limited



NEXT MEETING
FEBRUARY 2024
DETAILS TO BE ADVISED

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Victorian Regional Channels
Authority

From the Branch Master

Welcome all

Hard to believe another year has almost finished. The Branch has had a good year with a wide range of guest speakers. Numbers for the dinner and talk have been pleasing. Given our guests go to considerable effort in preparing their presentation. Ongoing questions and discussion is also a positive indicator. The Christmas party was a great success with forty or so members and guests attending. Very much looking forward to 2024 with the branch.

Fair winds and following seas.

Graeme

We wish all our members
**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

Christmas Party

The Branch Christmas Party was held at the Mail Exchange Hotel on Wednesday 29th November. The Branch Master Commander Graeme Furlonger welcomed the 40 members, wives and guests who attended the event.

Graeme took the opportunity to thank the Branch Court members for their efforts during the year and made special mention of Branch Secretary Rudy Rietwyk and Treasurer Mario D'Souza. Graeme also mentioned that Francis Castellino had taken over the position of Federal Secretary and had put a lot of time into getting the Company's affairs back in order after a period when matters were not attended to as they should have been.

Graeme then presented Ian French with a plaque in recognition of his appointment as a Life Member of COMMA.



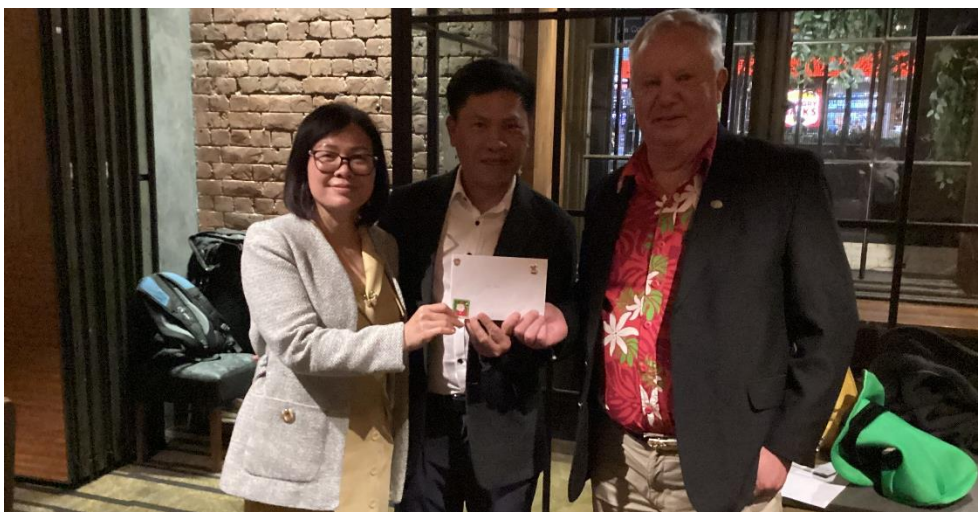
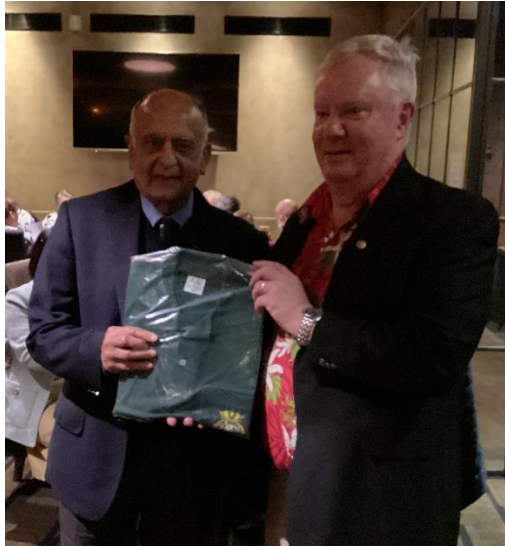
The night was a great success largely due to the efforts of Mario D'Souza who played a leading role in organising the function. On the night he got people involved in various quizzes, he sold raffle tickets, organised the drawing of the raffles and still managed to full-fill the role of photographer. A great job well done.

The Christmas Party was well attended





Prizes ranged from \$50 vouchers to COMMA T Shirts



Our Thanks to those who made it happen



Graeme Furlonger Rudy Rietwyk Mario D'Souza

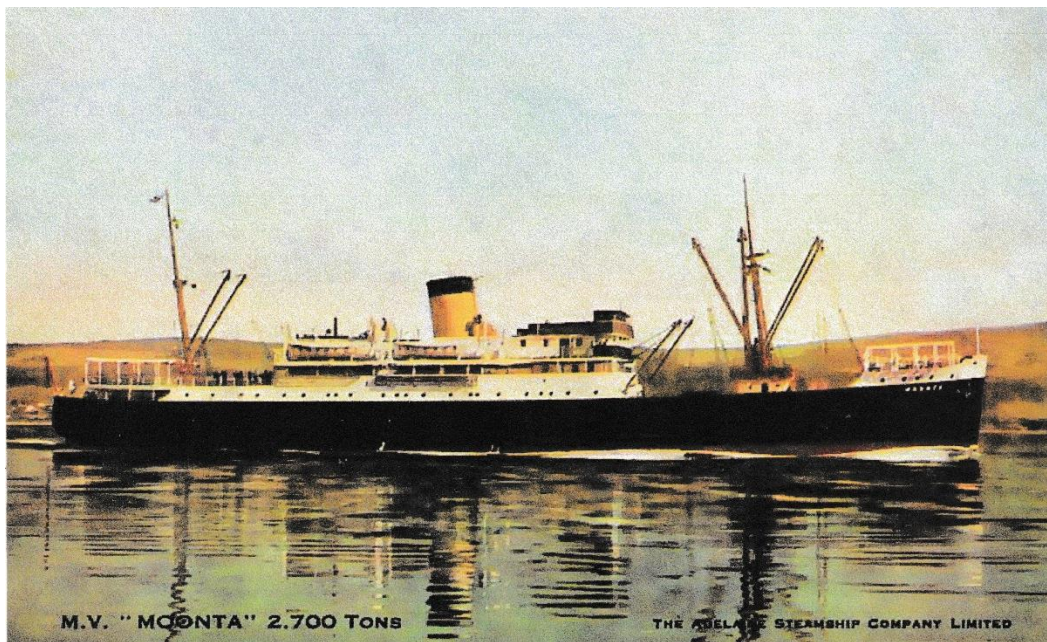
Guest Speaker



Speaker Tim Ryan

Speakers Summary

The after dinner speaker at the Christmas Party was Tim Ryan who spoke about two well-known coastal passenger ships "Moonta" and "Taroona". Both ships were built in the 1930's and had remained in the coastal trade well into the 1950's



The "Moonta" was built in 1931 for the Adelaide Steamship Company and operated a 6 day round voyage starting in Port Adelaide and calling at Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Port Augusta and either Port Hughes or Whyalla then back to Port Adelaide.

It only cost 6 Pounds to do the voyage so it was very popular with honeymooners and was advertised as a romantic holiday. The ship also carried cargo mainly wool, pig iron and groceries.

Every year the "Moonta" did a Melbourne Cup cruise. The passengers were put up in hotels and attended the Melbourne Cup while the ship was dry docked.

"Moonta" was withdrawn from the Adelaide service in 1955 but spent 6 months on the Bass Strait trade while "Taroona" underwent a refit.

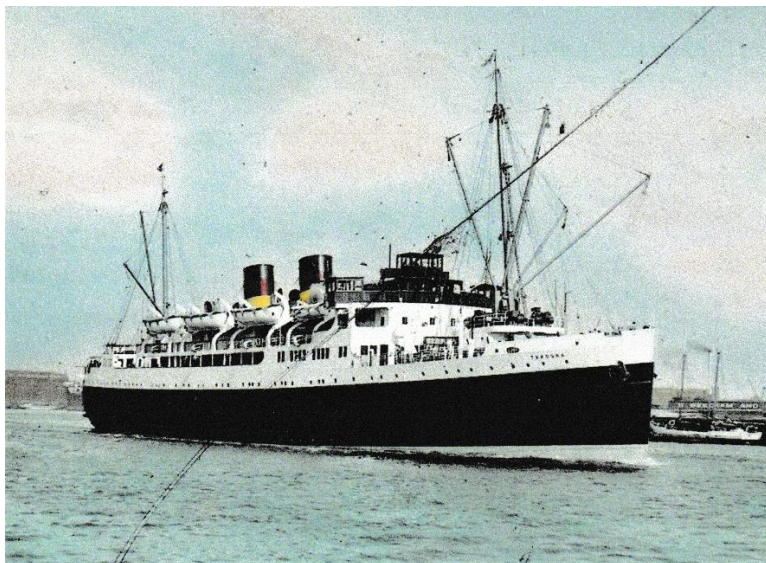
The ship was sold to Hellenic Maritime who renamed it "Lydia" and employed it on the Mediterranean trade until 1966.



Sold to a French Company it became a land locked tourist attraction at Le Barcares and was renamed “Casino Le Lydia”

There have been a few changes of ownership but the old ship still operates as a casino and entertainment complex.

“Taroona” was a passenger/cargo ship built in 1934 for Tasmanian Steamers a joint venture of Huddart Parker and Union Company. The ship was employed in the Bass Strait trade from Melbourne to northern Tasmanian ports such as Bell Bay, Devonport, Burnie and Launceston.



“Taroona” was requisitioned as a troop ship by the New Zealand Government in January 1942 to transport troops from Auckland to Fiji. She was then taken over by the Australian Government and as an Australian Troop ship steamed 204,535 n miles and carried 93,432 troops. Her first deployment as an Australian Troop Ship was to Port Moresby with troops and supplies. On leaving Port Moresby she ran aground on a reef at the entrance where she remained for 3 days. Japanese aircraft bombed Port Moresby during that time but for some reason did not attack the ship. After the war she was refitted for the Bass Strait Trade and during that refit one funnel was removed.

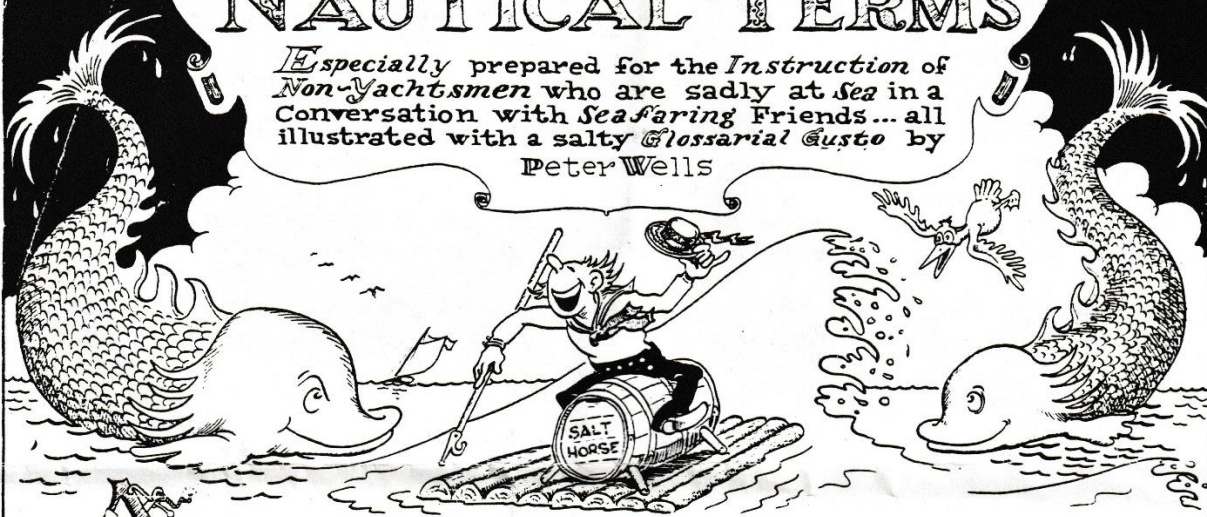
By 1959 the trade had changed. Passengers wanted to take their cars with them so “Taroona” was withdrawn and replaced by “Princess of Tasmania” and sold to the Greek Typaldos Lines who renamed her “Hellas” and converted her to a Mediterranean cruise ship.



In 1966 “Hellas” was laid up and in 1989 was towed to Turkey and scrapped.

A new Glossary of NAUTICAL TERMS

Especially prepared for the Instruction of Non-Yachtsmen who are sadly at sea in a Conversation with Seafaring Friends... all illustrated with a salty Glossarial Gusto by Peter Wells



Anchor's Aweigh!: The rope broke...

Bight: A light snack...



Charter Party: A ruinous orgy on a rented vessel.



Draft: Non-bottled beer...

Eye splice: The first drink on awakening.

Foul Hawse: The loser you picked in the fifth race.

Garboard strakes: Dire circumstances.

Guest: A slave in white pants...



Hard Alee: Things are tough all over...

Heave to: Be ill also...



Jury rig: A sea-lawyer's dream.

Log: A Book of adventure stories, mostly fictional.

Mizzen: Lost overboard...

Peak of the Gaff: Best story of the cruise...

Relieving tackle: Taking the wheel from tipsy guest.

Rocks: Objects taking up too much room in a liquid: *i.e.* "Scotch on the rocks."



Scuttle butt: Any lady in slacks...



Sick bay: The cry of a queasy guest...

Trick at the Wheel: High jinks while steering...

Variation: A discrepancy in stories. {*Non compass mentis*}

Wear Ship: Sail in too shallow waters.



Yawl: A southern pronoun...

Yachtsman: Salt of the Earth, or: {*wife's version*} A dirty old sailor...