



The Log

Newsletter of the Melbourne Branch of the Company of Master Mariners of Australia

August 2013

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An army cadet is swamped in the flags of the nations and shipping lines represented in the Convoy of Santa Maria

Master

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce,
Governor General of the
Commonwealth of Australia



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From the Branch Master

Hello again everyone,
It's getting harder and harder to come up with something new to say every month... my photo seems to be getting bigger and bigger to compensate!

Nothing much has happened on the Federal front lately, with no meeting held in the last quarter due to the Federal Master being away in Europe. The next Federal meeting is planned for September, so hopefully I will have more to report in the next Log.

The CMMA book project has slowed down a little due to rising ghostwriting costs and an issue with affordability, so we are not sure exactly when this will be completed now. I am sure you agree it is worth taking our time and making sure the product is of the highest quality, rather than having a mindset that we must get it done this year to mark CMMA's 75th anniversary.

Joanna and I are sorry we have not been able to attend the last few meetings, but we will be there this month and are very much looking forward to hearing from Bob Iversen, who is passionate about the very essential work he does in the area of seafarers' mental wellbeing. We look forward to seeing you there.



I am still somewhat disappointed in the turnout for the Operation Pedestal commemoration at the Maltese Shelter of Peace, which was held last Sunday on a lovely spring day. At this event the Maltese community is offering its thanks to master mariners for saving their nation from starvation and surrender, and I find it a little

sad that we could only scrape up half a dozen mariners to attend. The Maltese community puts a great deal of time, effort and money into this event, which is always a pleasure to be part of – and quite emotional as well. This year an ornate plaque had been funded and lovingly made by the Maltese for each merchant vessel which formed part of the convoy, and this put the merchant navy even more front-and-centre of the days' events. So thanks to the few who

did attend, and joined us for a convivial CMMA lunch afterwards at the Botanic Gardens. For those who didn't make the time, you are really doing yourself out of a lovely day out and one which will truly remind you of why you can be proud to be a master mariner.

Next month we will start advertising the Christmas Party, which will again be at the Mission to Seafarers and promises to be as much fun as last year - we will have a date for you very soon. See you next week, *David*.



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News

Maltese increase emphasis on Merchant Navy contribution

It was another sparkling spring day at the Shrine of Remembrance when a healthy turnout of Army and Navy cadets and regular forces, the Navy band, a healthy number of Maltese and a handful of Australian, British, American and Maltese diplomats gathered to celebrate the brave exploits of the navy and merchant seamen in Operation Pedestal. A very select few master mariners were also present to mark their respect for their forebears. This year the highlight of the ceremony was the procession of ships, which

used to comprise the shipping line flags, but for the first time included a plaque created by the Maltese community for each vessel. The plaques are the culmination of three years of fundraising by the Maltese community, and much thought has gone into the wording and decorative elements on each plaque. This event grows in attendance each year. Sadly the only declining numbers are from the ranks of those who are being celebrated – the master mariners. We hope this trend can be reversed in years to come.

Clockwise from left: Capt Shennan lays the CMMA wreath; Master Mariners, Captains Martin Spencer-Hogbin & Peter Verani (CMMA), Jonathan Pearce (UK, IFSMA) and Detlef Koepke (CMMA); A Maltese Committee member stands guard over the new merchant vessel plaques.



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State Govt invests in Portland cruise ship infrastructure

Victorian premier Denis Naphthine visited Portland last week to announce a grant of \$243,000 towards improving the SL Patterson berth, to make it suitable for cruise vessels. Portland has never hosted a cruise ship, but plans to welcome its first next year when the *Europa* visits in March. A rise in niche cruise tourism has seen a number of regional ports around the country gear up for visits of smaller 'boutique' cruise vessels. The *Europa's* passengers will be on a golfing-focussed holiday. Harbour Master David Shennan said the port would primarily spend the money on suitable fendering, although there was also a need for some sort of passenger reception facility. In all, \$486,000 will be spent on the project.

Port of Portland Harbour Master, Capt David Shennan with Premier Denis Naphthine. Photo Andrea Thomas



Noticeboard

Speaker Summary
missing but not
forgotten...

We haven't done away with our speaker summary - we just couldn't get in touch with last month's speaker in time. A summary of Mike Lean's talk on the new Port of Hastings will be in the next Log, along with a précis of Bob Iversen's presentation.

What do you think of our meetings?

We think it's important every now and then to make sure our members are enjoying our gatherings.

At present we are holding monthly lunch (in winter) or dinner meetings at a central CBD location. Members can come a little early to mingle at the bar, and then are served a sit-down dinner followed by a guest speaker. The event finishes around 9pm, although members are able to stay at the bar longer if they wish.

We'd love to know if this is working for you or if you have any ideas as to how we can improve your CMMA experience. Please let a court member know either the next time you see us, or by emailing Alex at alex@baysideshipping.com



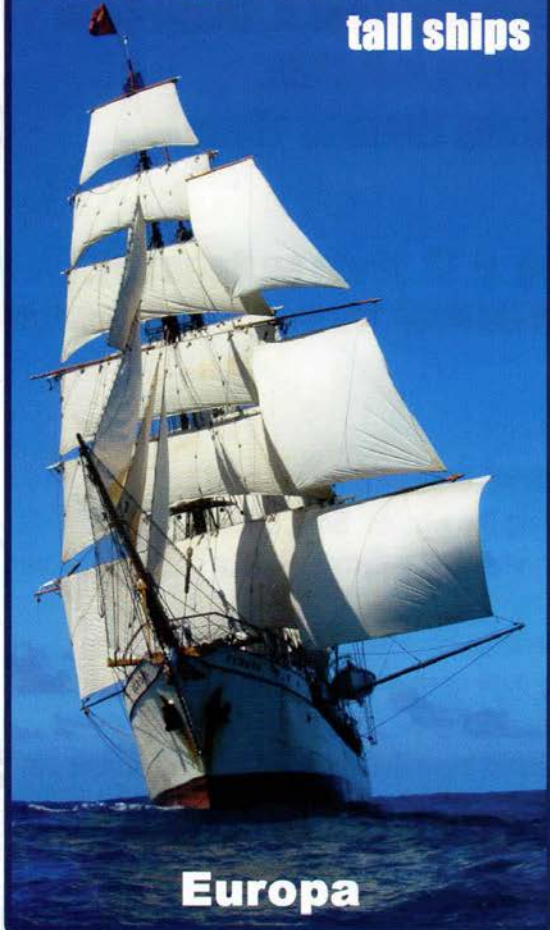
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Come see...

the biggest fleet of TALL SHIPS in Williamstown in 100 years!

Including 5 international
tall ships



Europa



SEAWORKS
WILLIAMSTOWN

Sept 6-14

Includes the

SEAWORKS MARITIME FESTIVAL

Sept 7 & 8

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BOARD A TALL SHIP

Music, stalls, wooden boats.

Fun for all!

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www.seaworks.com.au

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Part of the Melbourne International Tall Ships Festival



Hobsons Bay
CITY COUNCIL



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Merchant Navy Day Memorial Service

Tuesday 3rd September 2013



*Merchant Navy Memorial Sculpture:
Australian War Memorial, Canberra.*

Time: 11.00AM

Place: Mosman War Memorial, Myahgah Road, Mosman adjacent to the Allan Border Oval behind the Council Chambers at Spit Junction.

Guest Speaker: Sr Mary Leahy, Chaplain to the Seamen's Mission

This **Remembrance Service** is to honour those men and women who sacrificed their lives in the service of their country. During World War II it is estimated that approximately 11,700 merchant ships were lost worldwide. The Australian DVA Nominal Rolls record at least 3500 Australian Merchant Seamen in World War II and 270 during the Vietnam War lost their lives.

All are welcome to lay a wreath/tribute following the official wreath laying. Please notify Eileen Henderson, so the name can be added to the list, **no later than 29 August**.

RSVP Address: Mosman sub-Branch, PO Box 17, Mosman, NSW 2088. Or **Email:** Eileen Henderson at eileeneh@tpg.com.au or **Telephone:** 9969 2815. Honorary Secretary /Treasurer Mosman RSL sub-Branch.

For further information about the Merchant Navy

Visit the Australian Merchant Navy website Memorial Service Announcement on the home page at www.merchant-navy-ships.com



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Events



CMMA monthly luncheon

Place: CQ, 113 Queen St, Melbourne

Time: 12:00 hrs for 12:30 hrs

Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members. RSVP to Alex Evered before meeting day.

Comments: This month's speaker is Bob Iversen, from the Rotary Club Melbourne South, on the essential work he carries out in the field of seafarers' welfare. This meeting will also involve an important presentation on this topic.



Merchant Navy Day

Place: Shrine of Remembrance

Time: 14:00 hrs

Cost: Free

Comments: A wreath-laying ceremony will be held in the sanctuary. Representatives will be Shrine Governor Major Maggie Moore RFD and Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM.



Joint CMMA/MLAANZ monthly meeting

Place: CQ, 113 Queen St, Melbourne

Time: 17:30 for 18:00 hrs

Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members

Comments: The speaker is Tim King, AMSA ISM auditor, on the topic of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, which is due to come into force, replacing 40 different conventions and 29 regulations! Please pay in the usual way, but note that this event is not the usual CMMA dinner format. The reduced price will include nibbles and some drinks – and a chance to see some new faces.



NOTE!! Change to usual calendar

As you know, we normally have our monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of the month. Due to speaker availability and date conflicts, the September meeting will now be held on the 10th. There will be no CMMA meeting on the last Wednesday of September. October's meeting will mark a return to our regular evening format.



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Member's Lounge



This is the place to escape to for a laugh, to share a memory or a good yarn, or perhaps an idea, opinion or even a gripe with your fellow members.

Not all members can attend meetings, so consider this your 'monthly catch-up on a page'.

Contributions are welcome... email joanna@northandtrew.com or phone me on **03 5250 6323**

The importance of keeping in touch...

During the month Alex received a letter from long-serving member Capt Hugh Fisher of Yarrawonga, which serves to remind us all how easy it is to lose touch. We're so pleased that Hugh took the time to write and we encourage those of you who may not attend meetings to let us know how you're doing, because you do cross other member's minds from time to time. Capt Fisher certainly highlights the value of alerting us all to any change of address! Personally, I would also love to know more about these dog sheep!!!

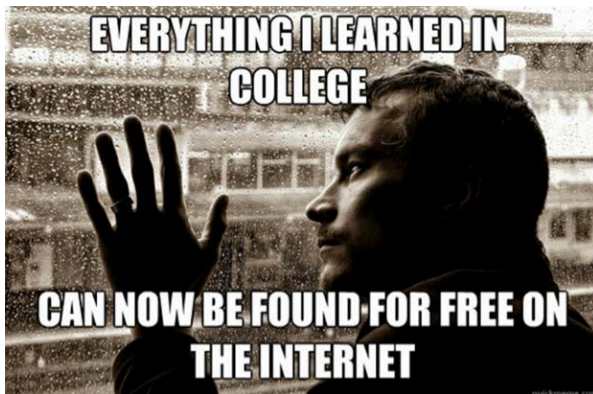
Dear Alex,

In the May Log I was surprised to hear about Capt George Smith, whom I knew well from my days with Vic. Stevedores. Capt Peter Goodson I also knew about and I visited him once with members of my Probus club where he had been in the news concerning a breed of Dog which looked like a sheep, lived in the fields and dealt with any fox which happened along.

I have now lived in Yarrawonga for 34 years and when I heard about George being in Yarrawonga hospital I was amazed that in all that time I never ran into him or even knew that he was living in the vicinity.

Yours sincerely, Capt Hugh Fisher

Funnies from Facebook Land...



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I wish I'd thought of that!

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbour and his wife were told there would be a 45 minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes."
They were seated immediately.

All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting groom. The bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand. The guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter. Even the priest smiled broadly. As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.

I was in the six item express lane at the store quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the checkout line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward looked into the cart and asked sweetly,
"So which six items would you like to buy?"

John was on his deathbed and gasped pitifully, "Give me one last request, dear," he said. "Of course, John," his wife said softly. "Six months after I die," John said, "I want you to marry Bob." "But I thought you hated Bob," she said.. With his last breath John said, "I do!"

A man goes to see the Rabbi. "Rabbi, something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it." The Rabbi asked, "What's wrong?" The man replied, "My wife is going to poison me." The Rabbi, very surprised by this, asks, "How can that be?" The man then pleads, "I'm telling you, I'm certain she's going to poison me. What should I do?" The Rabbi then offers, "Tell me what. Let me talk to her, I'll see what I can find out and I'll let you know." A week later the Rabbi calls the man and says, "I spoke to your wife on the phone for three hours. You want my advice?" The man said, "Yes" and the Rabbi replied, "Take the poison."

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?" Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man." Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives.." Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"



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Industry Issues

AMSA'S RESPONSE TO WA CORONER'S REPORT ON KANIVA SINKING

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has carefully considered the WA Coroner's findings and recommendations following the inquest into the Kaniva sinking in June 2012.

The Coroner found the Kaniva was "unseaworthy, grossly overloaded, with no EPIRB, inadequate personal safety devices and with a crew which had very limited sea experience."

In assessing the search and rescue response, the Coroner found:

- there was little any rescue coordination centre could have done before the Kaniva experienced serious difficulties;
- that shortly before it capsized the Kaniva was progressing with engines going and was not in immediate danger of sinking; until the distress phase was reached it was not appropriate for there to be a mayday relay to shipping, or to expect that naval vessels be dispatched.

With regards to the recommendations relating to communication with Indonesian search and rescue agency BASARNAS, AMSA has already initiated the following measures:

- AMSA and BASARNAS have undertaken a search and rescue officer capability development program involving six BASARNAS officers over two years. AMSA currently has two officers in Jakarta working closely with BASARNAS while a BASARNAS officer is located with the Rescue Coordination Centre. The officers liaise with their respective agencies in the

relevant languages during incidents, and can provide greater depth of information about the resources and procedures of search and rescue activities.

- AMSA assists BASARNAS during incidents to issue broadcasts to shipping and communicating with merchant vessels in the area. BASARNAS officers are currently undergoing training in this system with AMSA staff.
- There has been improved communications between the agencies following this incident with increased understanding of each agency's capacity and operational procedures.

In regards to the Coroner's recommendation to involve relatively senior management in decisions affecting incident coordination, AMSA senior managers are empowered to intervene in operational decisions throughout the course of an incident. AMSA has already enhanced its incident notification procedures to senior management since the incident, particularly regarding asylum seeker vessels.

AMSA's Rescue Coordination Centre is staffed by highly skilled professional search and rescue officers whose priority is to save lives. They operate effectively in often difficult circumstances and AMSA is proud of their efforts in providing search and rescue services to the Australian community.

AMSA provided its full assistance to the inquest, made all of its relevant documents available and presented an expert witness.



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