

Sail training in Young Endeavour

Providing ocean-going sail training opportunities for young people has long been recognised in Australia and overseas as an effective avenue for enhancing personal development. Over the years, many vessels have been adapted to enable youth crews to experience an ocean-going voyage under sail while others have been purpose-built for this type of employment.

In the latter category, Australia has benefited over the last 25 years from the sail training ship *Young Endeavour* which was given to the people of Australia by the United Kingdom as a gift to mark the Australian Bicentennial in 1988.

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, a not-for-profit organisation supported by Commonwealth funding and



Ashlea Jensen

private donations, manages the vessel which is operated by the Royal Australian Navy with nine specially trained Naval crew. On each voyage, 24 young Australians – the youth crew – are embarked.

Since its commissioning, STS *Young Endeavour* has provided challenging deep sea training voyages for over 11,000 young

Australians. While most voyages have been on the Australian coast, a number of international trips have been undertaken. A round-world voyage is planned for 2015, a highlight of which will see the ship anchored off Gallipoli on Anzac Day.

Voyages in *Young Endeavour* provide young Australians with a unique, challenging and inspirational experience at sea, where they increase self-awareness, develop teamwork and leadership skills.

Ashlea Jensen of Pambula (NSW), who recently sailed on a voyage in North Queensland waters, summed up the benefits she derived from the experience:

It was everything I had hoped for and more than I expected. I made friends that I think will last me a lifetime, learned and experience things I would never have had the chance to, and most of all – I got to know myself better.

Through my time on the Young Endeavour I learned how to relate to people from all walks of life, how to work as part of a team and how to trust in leadership skills I didn't know I had. I have much more confidence in myself and my abilities and as well as a lot of memories I will treasure, have developed a thirst to know more, learn more and experience more.

The voyage challenged us all in many ways, and one of the things I was proud of was that I didn't get seasick! I loved the heady loftiness of the topgallant yards, the challenge of tying the gaskets in the wind and the bucking sea. I love the comfortable companionship that grew as strangers were thrown together in close quarters learning unfamiliar things. I loved the crew and their light-hearted, encouraging friendliness – and I developed a taste for sailing that I would love to

pursue in the future.

I have returned to life changed in some small ways and some great. Thank you so much for the opportunity given to me and for the okay experiences I will treasure for the rest of my life.

Congratulations to Sister Mary Leahy of Stella Maris

At the annual Lloyd's List Australia Shipping and Maritime Industry Awards ceremony held in Sydney on 19 November, Sister Mary Leahy OAM, Sydney Port Chaplain for the Apostleship of the Sea was named joint winner of the Seafarers Welfare award sponsored by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. She shared this recognition with the Port of Brisbane and we offer congratulations to both recipients.

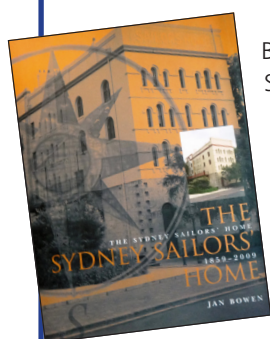
New members – welcome!

A warm welcome to Mr John Strang and Mr Karl Andersson who have recently joined the Society.



The Society recently financially assisted Stella Maris at Port Adelaide towards meeting the cost of a bus used to transfer visiting ships' crew members to and from the club. Similar grants to a number of Mission to Seafarers stations have also been made during the year.

Help us celebrate our 150th anniversary!

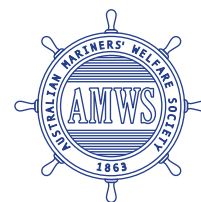


Why not donate a copy of Jan Bowen's entertaining history of the Sydney Sailors' Home to your local public library?

The book describes how the Home came to be built in the mid-19th century, the people who drove its formation, the many challenges it faced and how it successfully responded to generational change.

For a cost of \$30.00 per copy including GST, postage and handling, the Society will forward a copy of the history in your name to a public library you nominate or, if you prefer, it can be forwarded to the library simply with the compliments of the Society.

Those wishing to participate in this scheme are asked to contact Mr Stan Moriarty, our Company Secretary, by e-mail to secretary@marinerswelfare.com.au or by writing to him c/o Pringle, Moriarty & Co., PO Box 518, Ingleburn NSW 1890. Cheques should please be made payable to the Australian Mariners Welfare Society.



The Mariners' Lifeline

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Captain Alan Tait, OAM – Chairman, The Australian Mariners' Welfare Society

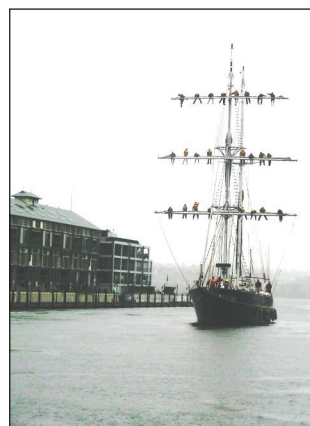
Chairman's report

For us, the year is concluding on a very busy note.

Sadly to report, one of our Horizon Towers residents, Joseph Dryburgh, passed away at Neringah Private Hospital, Wahroonga (NSW) on 20 July 2014 after a protracted period of failing health. We had become good friends and I will miss him. At a special ceremony arranged by the Maritime Union of Australia his ashes were scattered on Sydney Harbour and this gave me an opportunity to express my own feelings at his passing.

I can also report that we have found a new Horizon Towers resident in the person of Mr Karl Andersson, who was very pleased to receive our offer of accommodation. John Cleaver, our other resident in the complex, lives close by.

Our previous newsletter reported the sad death in March of Captain Trevor Haworth AM of Captain Cook Cruises,



With the ship's youth crew manning the yards, Young Endeavour approaches her Woolloomooloo berth in Sydney on completion of a recent ocean voyage. See story in this issue regarding the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme.

Sydney. He was a longstanding member and generous supporter of both the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove and of our Society. The two organisations have now jointly agreed to establish what will be known as The Captain Trevor Haworth Memorial Award whereby from 2016 onwards a young person of moderate or less than moderate means will be selected annually to undertake an 11-day voyage in the Australian Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour*. I am sure Captain Haworth would have been pleased that his memory is to be perpetuated in this way.

We were fortunate to be joined at our August Council meeting by the Rt Rev Chris Jones, Vicar-General of the Anglican

Diocese of Tasmania and Australian Chairman of the Mission to Seafarers. We benefited greatly from our discussions with him.

As advised in our last newsletter, financial assistance to seafarers' welfare organisations to meet costs of replacement or repairs to their vehicles used for transporting ships' crew members is receiving greater attention in our grants program. Upgrading of communication facilities for use at seafarers missions at ports also remains very important.

Unfortunately no applications for our scholarships were received in the second half of the year despite the recent expansion of our website to promote these opportunities more prominently.

Your Chairman represented the Society at a number of meetings and services over the last six months, the level of these invitations supporting our belief that maritime industry awareness of our Society and its work is increasing.

Planning has already commenced on a program to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Sailors' Home on 1 February 1865. Further details regarding these activities appear elsewhere in this edition.

May I once again thank our Deputy Chairman Graham Lightfoot for his untiring support and also all my fellow Councillors who provide absolute support! We go into 2015 with our new Treasurer, Rodney Birdsall, having his hands firmly on the financial levers.

May I also, on behalf of the Council, express appreciation to our Company Secretary Stan Moriarty who has remained our corporate anchor in a busy year.

Finally, may I wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a bright, prosperous and healthy 2015.

Alan Tait
Chairman.



Rt Rev Chris Jones

War at sea through the eyes of a young man

This was the title of an Address delivered by our Chairman, Captain Alan Tait OAM at the 50th annual commemoration held at the Merchant Navy Memorial at the Rookwood Necropolis in Sydney on 13 April, arranged by The Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund Ltd.

The following are extracts from his presentation which recounted the experiences of a mariner who, at the age of 14, went to sea as a deck boy in the Second World War:

I am humbled to have this opportunity to give the address today on the 50th Anniversary of the Merchant Navy Rookwood Commemoration Service. Yes, I am a Master Mariner and have experienced most that Nature has decided a seafarer must endure, but never what men did to each other on the oceans of the world during war.

So how can I tell you about being truly scared, but at the same time having a special courage that was demonstrated time and time again during those violent, terrible times of war? I can only do so through the eyes of a young man, Tony Carpenter, one among many that demonstrated bravery beyond their years, who later wrote:

I first went to sea in June 1941 when I was 14. I was at tech at the time and went on my bike to the shipping office. There was a big chap with a black beard who asked me what I wanted. I said I wanted to go to sea. "Ok", he said, "deck boy or cabin boy?". Deck boy it was!

The ship, Tordean, was to sail at 10 o'clock that night. When I went home I put my bike in the shed and told my mother I was going down the road to play but instead went to the ship. Nobody knew I was going! I met a Docker and told him I was only going down the coast. "She's bloody well not, she's going to Buenos Aires" he said.

Tordean was a typical tramp, did 6½ knots all the way in convoy. On the way over we saw two mines. Shot at them with rifles, one went off with a terrible bang. That was my first comprehension of how violent war was! My first voyage was about 5½ months.

After a few days off I joined the Empire Ridley and took off for the Middle East. We had a lot of trouble with her. She caught fire off Freetown and burnt all the way to Durban. She was carrying trucks and bales of cargo. We fought the fire all that time but it wouldn't stop burning. We then went to Suez and I caught black-water fever. Had time in an Army hospital in the desert before sailing back to Durban as a DBS (Distressed British Seaman). There I joined the 30 year old Kron Princessa Margaretha and she kept breaking down too. Only went as far as Mombasa where they took us off and returned us to Durban to join the Ocean Honour.

We were off Cape Guardafui at the Horn of Africa and I went to the bridge at 0600. Told the fellow I was relieving that I had made the coffee and it was on the mess room table. He got killed and I didn't. The torpedo blew the stern right off us and everyone there got killed. We were bound for the Middle-East full of ammunition and Army stores.

The skipper came to the bridge in his pyjamas, had a look outside and said "Abandon Ship." I left the bridge to get my lifejacket not knowing the stern had gone. I dashed down aft and got as far as the after mast-house just in time to see the last of the stern section disappearing. I remember seeing a Spitfire wrapped around the mast. It had been blasted out of its packing case. I dashed forward and then I heard a bang and saw a submarine on the surface. As I looked, she fired again.

We got one boat away with 16 of us in it. I was frightened to death but all I could think about was my white shirt I had bought in Durban. It was still in its wrappings and had gone down with the stern of the ship. It was like a knife turning in my guts. Another boat got away but we never saw them again.

We used to watch the sharks circling the boat. Being 14 I don't think I realised the danger. There was never any doubt in my mind that we would be saved. We had a transmitter in the lifeboat which sent an automatic SOS.

We were 17 days in the boat and landed in the desert about 800 miles east of Aden. I was the first to spot land. We were too weak to row but eventually made the shore. It was my job to jump ashore and run up the beach with the grapnel hook. Then I saw all these natives; they pointed old fashion guns at us. They were Bedouins. They shut us up in their skin tents. They didn't knock us about.

We were eventually picked up by a Royal Navy trawler. There was no fighting. The Bedouins were paid £100 ransom per man. The Navy people told us they had picked up our signal on the very first day but had only the one bearing and nothing to cross it with. They sent out a Catalina to search for us. We saw it nearly every

day but they failed to see us in spite of the flares we let off.

As we came up the gangway we were given a mugful of rum. I drank mine and went out like a light. I woke up in a hospital in Aden covered with sores and salt water boils. They put us on a ship called the Mendoza. We were 60 miles off Durban when she took two torpedoes. We had 2000 Italian prisoners of war on board and most were lost. I helped lower a lifeboat which pushed off without me and I had to jump. I came up covered in oil but they pulled me on board. It was very crowded and waterlogged.

There were 40 of us in the boat including some Italians. Nine boats got away. I don't know what happened to the others. A storm blew up. Four days later we reached Durban. As we were going in for the beach the cruiser Cumberland was coming out of the harbour. Her men lined the rails and cheered us.

After another stint in hospital I eventually got home to spend some time on a coaster. We got caught by an E-Boat but luckily escaped.

I must have been a Jonah during the war because in every ship I served, something happened. I rarely came home from a voyage on the same ship I had sailed out on. Once when I was in the Shipping Office in Newport, Dan Walters walked in and saw me. He said, "Carpenter – are you signing on board this vessel." When I said I was, he said he would not!

Tony had started the War as a Deck Boy and ended it as an AB at the young age of 18. To the many, many thousands of Tony Carpenters who gave their lives and to those who survived, showing courage when their countries needed them the most, we have reason to salute you, these men and women of the sea.



The Australian Mariners' Welfare Society

ABN 86 000 008 122

Founded as The Sydney Sailors' Home

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Deputy Chairman:

Mr L G Lightfoot AM

Councillors:

Mr H R Clark OAM, Captain C Green, Mr L C Russell AM,
Mr D Parmeter, Mr M B Longstaff OAM, Mr R A Birdsall,
Mr P A Jones, Mr S Liddy and Captain C Saldanha

Secretary:

Mr S Moriarty

Celebrations planned for SSH 150th anniversary

On 1 February 1865, the following advertisement appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald:

THE SYDNEY SAILORS' HOME, Circular Quay, being now ready for occupants, and the comfort of the sailor having been studiously cared for, the directors especially invite the sailors to the home provided for them. Captains of vessels are earnestly urged to use their influence in aiding and promoting the institution. Full particulars can be obtained from Captain ROBINSON, the superintendent, at the Home. FRANCIS HIXSON, hon. sec.

As we approach the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Sailors' Home, the Council is undertaking a number of activities to mark this important milestone:



Earlier this year, Council approved a minor redesign of the Society's logo to reflect the adoption of our current name which followed closure of the Home after the building's compulsory resumption by the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority in 1979.

The steering wheel motif is unchanged and reflects the symbol which still features prominently on the George Street North facade of the building; also, the letters SSH have been replaced by AMWS. The date 1863 records the date the Sydney Sailors' Home was registered as a corporate entity, its object being to build the Home, construction of which took two years leading to its eventual opening in February 1865.

PowerPoint presentation

The Chairman and Councillors are often given the opportunity to address seafarers' welfare and other groups about the Society, its history and current activities. To assist this, a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation has been developed to support these presentations. A separate Internet version has also been produced and is expected to be accessible on our website shortly.

Royal Australian Navy

With the assistance of Rear-Admiral S C Mayer CSC and Bar RAN, Commander Australian Fleet, copies of the history of the Sydney Sailors' Home will be donated to the Navy for placing in the libraries of every RAN ship and shore establishment.

From its opening in 1865 up until 1890, when the 300-bed Royal Naval House accommodation facility was opened in what is now Grosvenor Street Sydney, many British and Australian personnel serving in the Royal Navy's Australian Squadron then based in Sydney regularly lodged at the Sydney Sailors' Home.

Celebratory reception

By courtesy of Mr Charles Billich of the Billich Gallery, a current tenant in the Sydney Sailors' Home building at 106 George Street North, The Rocks, an informal midday reception to mark the anniversary will be held in the second floor lounge above the Gallery on Monday 2 February 2015 at 12 noon. A light buffet luncheon will be served.

Because of space limitations, numbers will necessarily be limited but some complimentary places will be reserved for members of the Society. Any member wishing to receive an invitation is asked please to register their interest by e-mail to mblongstaff@ozemail.com.au or by post addressed to AMWS Reception, PO Box 518, Turrumurra NSW 2074. Closing date for registrations is Friday 16 January 2015 and applications will be treated on a 'first-come, first-served basis'. Please note on this occasion that only members should apply to attend and be unaccompanied. The second floor venue is served by a lift.

Prior to the function, Councillors will be gathering at the Home for their regular quarterly meeting.

There would possibly be few corporate institutions in Sydney able to hold a Board meeting in a 150-year old building that the company was originally formed for the purpose of establishing.

NSW Secondary School libraries

With the assistance of the NSW Department of Education and Communities, arrangements have been made for copies of the Sydney Sailors' Home history to be placed in the libraries of 200 selected secondary schools in NSW metropolitan and regional centres. This gesture it is hoped may arouse interest in young students in maritime affairs and broaden their knowledge of the continuing importance of shipping to an island nation.

Media campaign

A program to stimulate print and electronic media editorial coverage is being developed to publicise the anniversary and the current work being undertaken by the Society in support of seafarers.

Since it was established in 2002 the Society has made grants totalling over \$1 million to support welfare organisations caring for the needs of

mariners visiting ports around the Australian coast.

Available funds for these purposes are maximised by the fact that the Society is managed entirely by volunteers and operates without need to occupy rental premises, thus reducing overhead expenses.

Sailors Thai Restaurant

The interest in our 150th anniversary shown by Sailors Thai Restaurant, the other tenant of the Sydney Sailors' Home building, is also acknowledged with appreciation. Copies of our history are now displayed in the restaurant and many patrons have purchased the book when dining there.