

BASS STRAIT MARITIME CENTRE

Quarterly
Newsletter No. 11
Winter 2016

Bass Strait Maritime Centre

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Opening hours:

7 days a week from 10am to
5pm (*Christmas Day and
Good Friday excluded*)

Entry:

Adult \$10.00

Child \$5.00

Student or

Concession \$8.00 and

Family (five) \$25.00

Simulator passes:

\$2.00 per 'Mission'
(three attempts).

*The Bass Strait Maritime Centre
is proudly owned and operated by
the Devonport City Council*

In the eye ...

We could almost add "of the storm" given weather events experienced since May. The weather has been the topic of many conversations. The ravages of the severe storm event of June 5/6 are still impacting and the losses will be felt for some time yet. As the community rallies and supports those affected by the flooding, others across the region are busy with the clean-up. Debris still litters the rivers and beaches along the coast. According to many of the local older salts, the closing of the port of Devonport for four days is unprecedented. No doubt the event and the work undertaken since and still occurring will be the catalyst for generating discussions, reports, reviews and identified improvements to procedures for future reference.

With so many vessels affected in the Mersey River, people volunteered to help where they could. The Tas Port vessel continues to rake the river bed to dislodge and move on the buildup of debris. One person gathered up the buoys from the beaches, cleaned them and brought them in to be passed back to the vessel owners. Just one of the examples of the kindness and thoughtfulness people extend to each other in times of adversity.

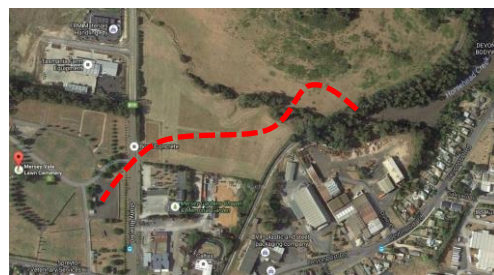
All those who attended the July Maritime and History Talk, "Salty Tales", certainly learned much about the Julie Burgess. Led by crew members it gave a valuable insight into her history, the restoration and the challenges of a commercial operation. Many of the images shown had not been seen before and following the session, people lingered to enjoy a cuppa and a "yarn" or two!



Sammy under the Spotlight

The recent occurrence of a 120kg Australian Fur Seal found sleeping in the ladies' toilet at the local cemetery caused a media frenzy, locally, nationally and internationally across all kinds of media.

For "Sammy" as he affectionately became known to have reached the toilet block, he would have had to travel from the Mersey River with the nearest exit point being Horsehead Creek – a minimum distance of some 600 metres.



A specialist recovery team was brought in to safely tranquilise Sammy and transport him to a nearby beach for release back into Bass Strait.

The Australian Fur Seal can be found mainly around the islands in Bass Strait and parts of Tasmania and southern Victoria. It is an agile swimmer, diving to depths of 200 metres to catch fish and according to a number of sources, despite its cumbersome appearance, the seal is quite mobile on land, even over rocky terrain. The Fur Seal also has the ability to use all four limbs to move across land.

So in reading up on Australian Fur Seals, it is not so surprising how far "Sammy" managed to get!





For your diary

Friday August 26 at 5.30pm

Old Sea Dogs of Tasmania Book 2

A Book Signing and Discussion with author Andrew Wilson

Come along and hear from the author about the researching and challenges of bringing together his latest publication and to ask the questions you have always wanted to ask. Also an opportunity to purchase a signed copy – a great gift idea for Father's Day!

Sunday August 28 at 4pm

Opening of the "Joshua Slocum" Exhibition

An exhibition featuring a series of paintings about the story of Joshua Slocum the first person to sail solo around the world. The paintings by artist Bill Flowers were done as part of the Creature Tales entertainment on board the "Spirit of Tasmania" during the summer day sailings. The exhibition will run through to early December.

Tuesday September 6 at 7.30pm

"A Look at Rooke in Pictures"

A presentation of images and information from yesteryear prepared for and derived from the conducted tours of the Rooke Street Mall held earlier in the year.

Tuesday October 25 at 7.30pm

"Jolly Jack Tar in Devonport"

An evening held in conjunction with Navy Week highlighting significant naval visits from 1898 to 1945.

Where is the *Julie Burgess*?

The Julie Burgess is now laid up until October. It was a sudden and disappointing end to the season due to the adverse weather conditions. During the lay-up crew will undertake a list of maintenance in preparation for the annual survey and slipping before the 2016/17 season gets underway. It is also an opportunity for crew to do external training as required or update qualifications such as First Aid.

The season ahead includes a trip to the Australian Wooden Boat Festival February 10-13 in Hobart. Berths to and from the Festival, participation in the Parade of Sail, the Ketch Race Review and the Sail Past and an evening on the Derwent for the Fireworks are just some of the sailings available. We encourage potential passengers to book early to avoid disappointment.

We are always looking for crew so if you know of any "old salts" or aspiring young sailors please pass the information on.

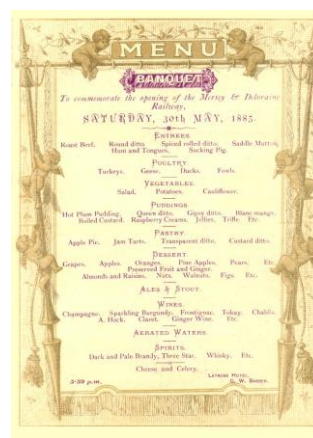
"Living lightly on our environment"

is a key goal for Devonport City Council and contributing to the goal was the installation of 115 solar panels on the roof of the Centre. Since the system was switched on we have had some adverse weather but the system had still produced just over 1.2 MWh (1,200, kWh) as at 6th July, the equivalent to 343,034 AA Batteries, Running a fridge for 8 months or running the Eiffel tower for 5 hours or charging your mobile phone for 32 years with a carbon offset of 18 trees. It is predicted that the system will produce over 46000 kWh over 12 months resulting in a cost saving of approximately \$10,000 from our utility charges.



From our collection

Volunteers busily scanning items in the collection came across this beautiful little gem - a menu from the dinner given by Ferguson & Blair in celebration of the opening of the Mersey and Deloraine Railway 30 May 1885. The banquet was held at Barber's Latrobe Hotel. Guests enjoyed everything from ham and tongues, sucking pigs, turkeys, geese, ducks and fowls, a range of hot sweet puddings and pastries accompanied with champagne, wines and spirits.



For more information

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