

BASS STRAIT MARITIME CENTRE

Newsletter No. 14
Spring/Summer 2017

Bass Strait Maritime Centre

Address: 6 Gloucester Avenue, Devonport

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E: info@bassstraitmc.com.au

W: www.bassstraitmc.com.au

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).

In the eye ...

Our winter highlights were well attended - Jazz was a great success with the Philéas Fogg Trio playing to an audience of sixty plus enthusiasts, the electronic presentation "Second Glance" at Rooke Street was well received and the changing temporary exhibitions and displays are all contributing to a vibrant atmosphere at the Centre.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Slater

Of course, we look forward to the warmer days ahead as daylight lengthens but even during the quieter winter months those volunteers not opting for a break in the warmer northern areas, have been busy beaver away on projects and collection management tasks.

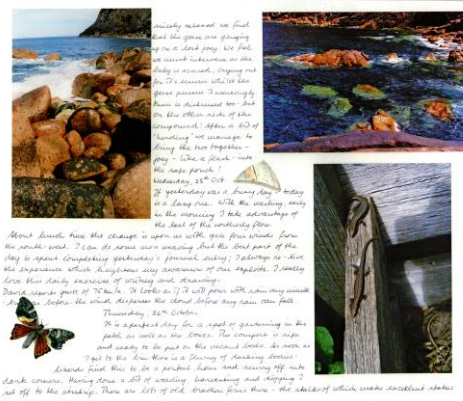
The knot board display is now in place and proving very popular with visitors. We are highlighting it with activities for the young and young at heart to learn about ropes, netting and knots. Check the calendar and book yourself in for the "Why Knot Join Us?" session for some interesting facts and hands on demonstrations.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Slater

Also keep an eye on Facebook and the website for demonstrations aimed at the younger children during the October school holidays.

The Centre shares a special relationship with the Friends of Deal Island and from September to November we are showcasing the journals of Trautie and David Reynolds who spent time as caretakers on the island. The display includes information about the island, its lighthouse and museum. Naturally being in the middle of Bass Strait, visiting the lighthouse and museum presents a challenge to the average citizen so come along and learn about the history of the highest lighthouse in Australia, the island caretaker programme and the work of the Friends of Deal Island.



Extract from Reflections: Deal Island Spring 2006 by Trauti & David Reynolds.

A "must see" on display from the collection is a beautifully handwritten letter from Michael Wood to his parents dated 1854. It documents his journey from England to Tasmania and his eventual arrival at the coal fields up the Mersey River. The letter is a lovely link between the Devonport history room which highlights coal as a catalyst to settlement in the area and the shipbuilders room which features the Woods Point Slipway established by Michael's son Harry.

February will see a new exhibition on the Natural History of Bass Strait incorporating activities for children in the lead up to a presentation at the Maritime and History Talk in March. Keep a watch on Facebook and the website for those activities.



Raising community awareness of our local history has been a priority for the collection management team with a number of presentations, conducted walks and outreach activities over the last twelve months. This is set to continue with an exhibition on the Finlayson Foundry scheduled for November. The Finlaysons were involved in all aspects of metal fabrication and were a major employer in Devonport for just over one hundred years. The exhibition will provide an opportunity for family members, former employees and older members of the local community to come together to share stories and celebrate the contribution of the Finlayson family.



Image c 1908 from Bass Strait Maritime Centre Collection

Check “For your Diary” for other events coming up.

A Story From The Collection

On the 3 August, 1854, the local newspaper recorded that three sailors from the barque “Elizabeth Radcliffe” which had been docked in George Town had refused to rejoin the ship for its voyage home. One of the three men was William Holyman. After being escorted back to the ship and then swimming ashore again, Holyman aligned a course that would create an Australian shipping dynasty.

He settled in Torquay, married and operated punts and barges in the Mersey with his father-in-law transporting produce to and from the vessels waiting outside the sandbar. In 1861 he became the master of “Cousins”, a ketch of 18 tons, starting what would become the Holyman Fleet. By the late 1870s the family owned four vessels, each commanded by a Holyman. The master-owners of small trading ketches also had to be good businessmen and few were more astute than the Holymans. Over the years the Holymans adapted to change moving to larger steam vessels and branching into many other commercial ventures - postal routes, motor vehicles, timber and what would become Australia’s largest privately-owned airline: Australia National Airways. There is more to the Holyman story told at the Centre.

Where is the *Julie Burgess*?

The *Julie Burgess* was laid up for the winter months with crew undertaking maintenance in preparation for the annual survey and also taking some well earned rest from the regular sailing calendar.

Extra work on the hull is now scheduled to replace some planks which are suspect due to some compromised timber. Council has made the decision to undertake the work this year to ensure that the ketch is in top condition to make a trip across the Strait in March 2018. The *Julie Burgess* has been invited to attend the Rhyll Wooden Boat Festival celebrating 150 years of island settlement and also the Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong.

The visit to Western Port Bay will be particularly nostalgic for the *Julie Burgess* as Stony Point was the jetty used during her heydays of fishing Bass Strait to offload the crayfish catch to go by rail to the Melbourne market.

For your diary

Wednesday September 27 at 7.30pm

“Why Knot Join Us?”

Come along and learn about the importance of rope work in the maritime sector with a 'hands on' demonstration of netting and knot tying.

RSVP essential. Gold coin donation.

Tuesday November 28 at 7.30pm

“Finlayson’s Foundry”

A nostalgic presentation and conversation to provoke memories and celebrate the contribution of the Finlayson family to the history of Devonport.

RSVP essential. Gold coin donation.

Tuesday February 6 at 6.30pm

Thursday February 15 at 6.30pm (Encore)

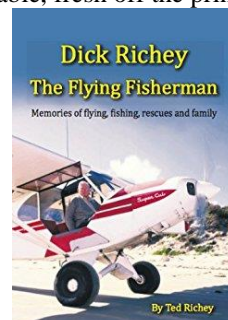
Riverside Walks

Change is afoot in the CBD and along the foreshore so join our volunteer Stephen Hiller for an evening stroll Merseyside while learning about how the river and its surrounds have changed over the years. Limited spaces available.

RSVP essential. Gold coin donation.

JUST ARRIVED!

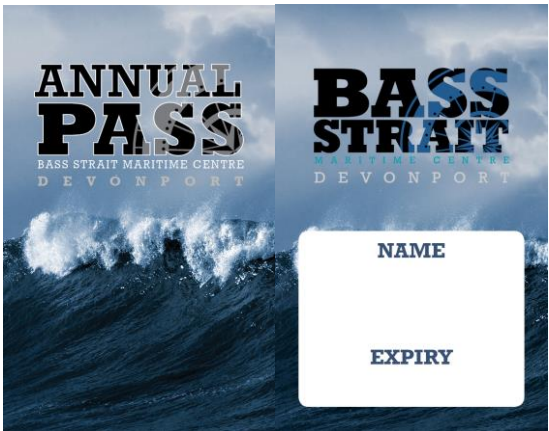
For those who have been looking for a copy of Ted Richey’s book *Dick Richey the Flying Fisherman* we now have copies available, fresh off the print run. Price: \$35.00



And we can arrange for a signed copy if you wish.



Exciting New Initiatives and Membership Changes....



Introducing the new Bass Strait Maritime Centre Annual Pass which is available for purchase NOW!! Ideal for regular visitors to the Centre and a great gift idea for family and friends.

Includes:

- **Unlimited entry** to the Centre (does not apply to special events)
- 10% discount on any standard non specialty 2 hour **Julie Burgess Sailings**
- **Electronic communication** only – invites, newsletter (hard copy newsletter available at the Centre)
- Bass Strait Maritime Centre **lanyard with card**

Category	Fee
Adults	\$25.00
Student/ Concession	\$20.00
Children	\$12.50



Also for those sailing regularly on the Julie Burgess, there is an Annual Sail Pass for **\$75** entitling the recipient to **unlimited 2-hour sailings**.

(Applies to the **public 2-hour sailing only** – no special events or sailings).

Bass Strait Maritime Centre Membership (Changes highlighted)

Membership benefits include:

- **Unlimited admissions** to the Centre for the membership year
- Four (4) FREE passes to *Take the Helm on the SS Woniora*
- 10% discount on all merchandise at the Bass Strait Maritime Centre gift shop (sale items excluded)
- 10% discount on **any Julie Burgess** sailing
- 10% discounted entry to special events, talks and functions at the Centre
- Invitations to previews and openings
- Copy of the Bass Strait Maritime Centre Newsletter
- Annual renewal notice

And all of these come in a special Bass Strait Maritime Centre daypack.



The following membership categories and fees apply.

Category	Membership Fee
Individual	\$50.00
Student/ Concession	\$30.00
Family	\$120.00

Become a member today by filling in the membership form online at: www.bassstraitmc.com.au or at the Centre or by phoning (03) 6424 7100.

Save the Date!

Home Hill Garden Fete – Sunday November 19 10am-3pm





New in the Gift Shop....



Australian Sealife Erasers
\$3.00



Mermaid Lipgloss
\$7.00



Mermaid Compact Hairbrush/
Mirror
\$7.50



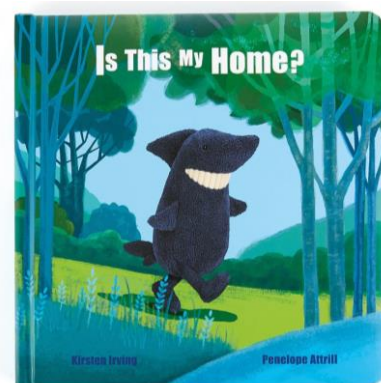
Bucket (& Spade) List
Scratchable Poster
\$20.00



Wind up Aussie Sharks
\$4.00



Klutz Book of Knots
\$16.95



Is This My Home? - Toothy
Shark Book
\$19.50



Bracelet Cone Shell Silver
\$20.00



Necklace Starfish Rose Gold
\$45.00



Bracelet Starfish Turquoise
\$20.00

For more information

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