



MV CAPE DON SOCIETY

COMMONWEALTH LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE MUSEUM *NEWSLETTER*

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From the Curator

New Newsletter

This is the first newsletter to keep members of the society informed on the latest acquisitions, donations and the development of the CLS museum on board the Don which will be one of a number of unique living museums around the world. The museum is the MV Cape Don, its fittings and artefacts telling the story of Australian Shipbuilding in the 60's and the work of the Commonwealth Lighthouse Service.

Our museum will be developed over the next 18 months overcoming the many difficulties in establishing a display of artefacts on board the ship. We need to have a suitable storage area on board and ways of securing the items on display as the vessel is not a stable platform. There is also conservation problems facing the storage and display of the artefacts, they are Temperature, Relative humidity, Light levels (UV radiation), Air pollution, Insects and other pests. All artefacts are being stored off the ship until we have the proper storage and safe guards in place to protect them. The main priority now is to store the artefacts in special archival boxes.

Over the Xmas New Year break I have been entering all the artefacts into a data base and photographing each one. The total number put on record so far comes to 62 items from Cape Don pewter mugs to Officers Uniforms.

We also have original survey books from MV Cape Pillar and several large collections of ship photos and models.

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Latest Acquisitions

Thanks to Brain Hart's kick start late last year, I negotiated with the Tweed River Regional Museum and AMSA to have the 3 spare prop blades at the Tweed River Regional Museum transferred to our collection on a long term loan. However AMSA has very kindly donated the blades. Thank you AMSA, Tweed River Regional Museum and Brian.



2009

In January I received original linen cloth drawings of "OIL FUEL SYSTEM" "HYDRAULIC DECK MACHINERY" & "FIRE MAIN & SALT WATER SERVICES" for the Cape ships along with a large black and white photo of SS CAPE YORK. Another addition to the collection,



In March AMSA also donated copies of several films, one made in 1959 called ' THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS'

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and another called 'ISLAND LIGHTS' 1987. Also included and unedited film of Cape Sorell, MV Cape Moreton, Pillar & Don plus filming of buoy maintenance.



THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEREPS

On the 21st March the museum was presented with photos showing life on board SS Cape York and a very new MV Cape Pillar. Thanks go to Jim Pryce for his donation to our collection. We also received from Geoff Eastwood drawings of the SS Cape York, one lines and one General Arrangements, a good start to a model.



SS Cape York 1964

In April we received a copy of an original Ships Radar Manual from the MV Cape Don found in a box of books. All 243 pages of the manual were digital scanned onto a CD. Many thanks go to Lucy Paynter for her kind donation to the ship and museum.

In May AMSA donated an old AGA acetylene flasher and copies of files regarding crew clothing dating back to 1929, another great addition to the museum. Thanks to Lyndon O'Grady from AMSA Restoration of the flasher in the next newsletter



STOP PRESS

Peter King and Warwick Whalley travelled to Tweed Heads to pick up the spare props. Thanks to Peter & Warwick

Presentation

On the 4th March a MV Cape Don plaque was presented to AMSA in appreciation for their donation of three spare propeller blades and other items over the year. I also presented AMSA museum curator spare CLS buttons and badges to foster good will between our originations.

What is it?

In a recent cleanup in the fo'c'sal we came across a sign hidden in a cupboard. We would like to identify the sign and where it was mounted on the ship, See photo



Send your answer to [wridle@bigpond.net .au](mailto:wridle@bigpond.net.au)

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