



MV CAPE DON
SOCIETY



NEWS FROM
THE
WEEKEND
WARRIORS

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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND**



**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO
ALL OUR MEMBERS**

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT.

Dear fellow members,

This year has been very quiet onboard the MV Cape Don and the hurdles have been numerous and significant. As you will read in a separate piece by Paul Pokorny, Roads and Maritime NSW are bending over backwards to assist and promote our cause. Make no mistake - This is breakthrough news ! It will facilitate the revival of a proper functioning board of the Sea Heritage Foundation and allow us to deal with such pressing issues as the asbestos management program (particularly in the engine room), safe access to and from the vessel, re-establish regular income from previous customers such as the Navy, Customs etc. and allow us to get on with the more fruitful restoration work which we very much enjoy doing.

To everyone out there, a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for a prosperous 2015.

Peter King
President

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Hello everyone,

Compliments of the season!

First of all on behalf of the MVCDS I must apologise for the lack of communication over the last few months. As you are aware there have been some issues with the 2014 committee structure; to use a maritime analogy the Society was like a ship without a rudder going in no particular direction.

Some of the 'old hands' took over and are currently sorting through what needs to be done to rescue the Society. Below is a report from Paul Pokorny which you will find very encouraging indeed.

An organisation lives or dies by its membership so I encourage everyone to renew their membership in January the cost is only \$30.00 and it will allow the MV Cape Don Society to continue restoring the last vessel of its type.

Regards to you all and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

John Stokes
Membership Secretary.

Shipmates

Derek Emerson-Elliot, Ray Harrison, Brian Hart and I met with Roads and Maritime Services NSW today and had a very positive meeting. It now appears likely that the P&I impasse may be broken and that as a result, we anticipate that a SHF P/L board can be formed very soon. As a result, things may soon start to happen again in earnest early in the New Year. Assuming that our hopes are realised, there are still many details to sort out such as the engineering certification for the catwalk repair, approvals from RMS and North Sydney Council, the Berthing Agreement with RMS, gangway repairs, etc. - lots of work for the whole family....

It is hoped that volunteers might be able to access the ship by next February. Watch this space.

Dear Society Members: Now is a great time to renew your membership, and be part of this great and worthy project!

Sea Heritage Foundation also advises that if there are Society members who wish to become members of SHF P/L, it is hoped that soon everything will be in place to make this attractive again.

Regards

Paul Pokorny.

VALE

We received a letter from Mrs Carpenter informing us of the passing of her husband Eric on the 26th May 2014.

Sad to report that Colin Squires passed away early Saturday morning the 8th November. He had been 4th Engineer for many years on the Cape Don and I believe a Society Member, he always attended reunions in his wheel chair. He had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Our condolences to the families.

Calm Seas & Safe Harbour.

From the Museum

Several months ago AMSA borrowed one of our cap badges to have replicas made. The cap badge was returned along with one of the replica ones, also a new 'Australian Lighthouse Service' 'Cape Ships' patch and a signed copy of the book 'First Order' Australian Highway of Lighthouses by Garry Searle for the museum's library. Thanks to Lyndon and AMSA.

Last week I received an email from an ex-crew member of the Cape Pillar offering his diaries, photos and slides from his time on the Pillar. All have been digitized and the originals sent back to him. A great addition to our written collection. Also in the box were two caps and a child's T shirt with MV Cape Pillar drawing inside a life belt and written on the life belt is 'MV Cape Pillar Supercrew' on the back 'THE FLAG SHIP.' Thanks to Ross Martin.

Natasha Wyatt sent us a couple of photo albums which were scanned and returned to Natasha. Her father Jim was a lighthouse mechanic and regularly sailed on the Cape Don. Thanks Natasha.

We also received an email from the Costume Supervisor from Dream Works Studio for assistance regarding the world of a lighthouse keeper during the early years of the CLS for an upcoming movie. Several contacts were provided to him.

Restoration on the Binnacle is making progress.
That's about it from the museum.
Warwick



Names on lockers in tween decks. Small print locker 4 is Jeff Felstead

MV Cape Don moored in Sydney Harbour January 1988 as part of the bi-centennial celebrations. In the background is the old quarantine station of North Head. On the extreme left is Manly Hospital.

Note that the yachts moored beyond have all been removed to assist in the regeneration of seagrasses.

Our thanks to Fred Chambers of Noraville, NSW for the photo.

<http://www.quarantinestation.com.au/>

<http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/visit/north-head-sanctuary-manly>

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/environment/seagrasses.html>



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