



Volume 6, Issue 5



April 2016

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Extra Working Weekend 1 & 2 April

This was a working weekend 'in between'; our normal weekends and Warwick Whalley, Daniel, Axel and muggings put in a few hard hours on the Friday & Saturday. Again the catwalk access was front and centre ... we are almost there, see picture opposite.

There is still much 'fiddly' stuff to do however, will require all hands on deck!

Working Weekend 8 to 10 April

The working weekend kicked off on the Thursday afternoon (7th April) when I dropped off various supplies to the council park required for the ongoing access job including timber, decking, steel channel and a very heavy pipe bender that was used for shaping the hand rails. Young

Daniel Callender and I, then cut and oiled the timber for the deck.



Almost there



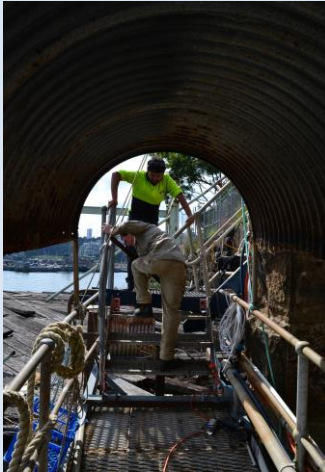
Peter welding the post

Friday morning was dark and cloudy with occasional rain, so most of the work was confined to more timber work, drilling, countersinking and further oiling of the deck material under the cover of the catwalk canopy. For the remainder of the day, metal work took precedence. Hand rails and attaching pieces were knocked up, the recess for the lock latch was worked into the post. Warwick Riddle appeared around midday having left Canberra on the bus at 6am and immediately started organising the cabling for the swipe card lock.

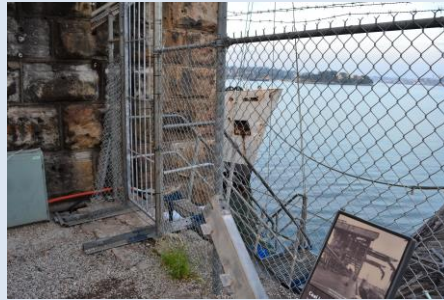
Saturday morning kicked off at about 8 with Daniel and Axel lending a hand, Warwick Whalley and Jimmy arrived mid-morning. The hand rails were bent into shape and attaching pieces welded to the gate post. The gate post had the lock latching mechanism fitted and the post was placed back on its perch in the correct position and welded up. The welding proved a little tricky on the galvanised pieces but at the end of the day, the whole structure was very steady and secure, allowing us to cut the original fence mesh and re-join on the new posts. The last job of the day required all hands to relocate and secure the sleeper sized timbers that sit between our structure and the heritage listed stone wall of the coal loader. By this time, it was after 1800, quite dark and with many a thirsty trooper on hand, we called it a day.

Sunday morning proved a little more relaxing and by 10.00 and ably assisted by our dear cook, Mr John M Stokes, the timber deck that leads onto the staircase was in place. A lick of Feast Watson outdoor furniture oil finished the job and so we departed just after midday, concluding what seemed like a very long weekend. I am very much looking forward to getting back on the ship and once again undertaking our 'core business', i.e.: preserving and restoring our ship. Hope this script finds everyone in good health, until next time, cheerio.

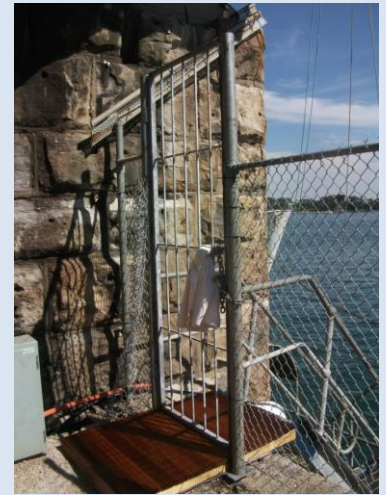
Peter



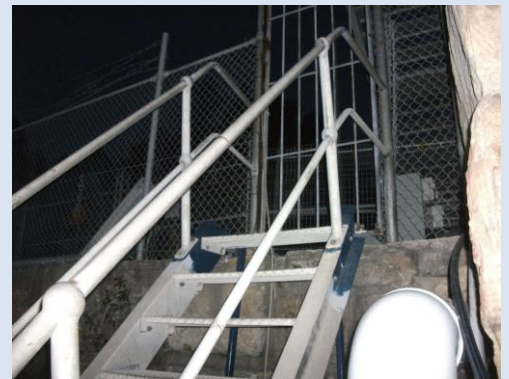
Daniel and Axel working on lower stairs



Entrance before the deck installed



Decking entrance



Stairs by night

Ship Capers

After a hard mornings work on the access it is always a welcome site to the luncheon our chef, the well known John Stokes has out for the volunteers. From the photo opposite, you can see the wonderful spread John had prepared. Thanks

STEAM BOAT TRIP

On Saturday a gentleman who I formerly volunteered with on another vessel brought his steamboat over to the Don for a visit. Axel and I went out for a lap of Gore Cove and Balls Head Bay, I even got to take the helm for a while and travelled back to the age of steam and imagined what it would have been like on the harbour in those times.



Witch of Endor



The owner designed and built the vessel and named it Witch of Endor, he also built the water tube boiler and triple expansion steam engine. He sailed the boat from the Hawkesbury River to Sydney Harbour for the wooden boat show. From the harbour you can see how well the Don complements the Coal Loader and the local area.

Daniel & Axel.

Electrical Report

As Peter has reported I arrived about midday and started the insulation of the power to the security lights and card reader. First all old cables were removed where necessary, some used to pull through the new cables. There are several pipes running along the cat walk that are not used so the power was fed through them. By Friday afternoon the cable was fed to the position of the security lights control unit with a dusk till dawn control switch to power the 12 volt lighting along the cat walk.

On Saturday Paul and I completed the installation of the power cable to the end of the catwalk and the conduit for both the power and network was secured up to the lower part of the stairs under the gate.

Next working week end we will hopefully have the power and network cable up to the card reader and the video cable to the end of the catwalk.



Paul working on the power feed

Warwick

Photo Album



MV Cape Don at Tapley Shoal Bouy 1966



Lowering the work boat MV Cape Pillar



Lowering MV Cape Moreton's LARC off Cape Capricorn

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