Vision: To be a world class maritime museum for Queensland.

Welcome to the latest edition of news, rumours and scuttlebutt at the Maritime Museum. If you have anything you would like to say or talk about in Scuttlebutt please let me know. The main purpose of Scuttlebutt is to help keep everybody informed of our activities.

Date Claimers - 2015
Great Sea Mysteries – 20 June
Pirates Week 29 Jun – 3 July
Commonwealth Lighthouse Service Centenary – 4 July
Operation Rimau commemoration – 12 July
Information Meeting – Fri 17 July (10.30am to 12pm)
Brisbane Open House – 10 October

Board of Directors
David Thomas (Chairman), Peter Scannell, Hans Pommerel, Matthew Rowe, Chris Williams, Mike Sobyra, David Rollins, Brett Smith, and Mark Fort.

CEO
Hello! Thank you to all our members who supported the fundraising campaign for Forceful earlier this year. We exceeded our target and raised approximately $30k. The Board has approved the slipping of Forceful for repainting the hull and some minor repairs in August.

There is a major national reunion of ex-CLS staff at QMM on Saturday 4 July and we will be officially opening the related art exhibition. QMM members are most welcome to attend the opening of the exhibition commencing at 1130. Captain Kasper Kuiper, Branch Master Company of Master Mariners, will be our guest of honour. The luncheon that follows is a ticketed event for ex-CLS staff.

The Australian Maritime Museums conference was held in Goolwa this year and our hosts provided excellent hospitality and a very engaging conference. QMM was represented by 3 members and I presented a paper on future directions in volunteering.

Late last year we secured a grant from the National Library of Australia to undertake a significance assessment of the Museum’s collection. A Brisbane based museum consultant, Dr. Judith McKay, undertook the work for us and completed her report in February 2015. I have included a section of the report in the next edition of Maritime Manifest. We greatly appreciate Judith’s assistance with the project and her advice on a wide range of issues associated with the collection. Judith was also able to assist with some background information on some objects in the collection of which we had little knowledge, especially the model of the Pile Light. We have now submitted an application to NLA for a Preservation Needs Assessment grant.

Work upgrading the Maritime Museum ferry terminal is due to be completed this week.

Many people assist the Museum on a regular basis and we are very grateful for all assistance. The son of one of our volunteers works in the BCC visitor information centre and we thank Matt Winn for helping with distribution of promotional material.

Pirates Week
Our annual Pirates Week will be held in the school holidays from Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July. Thank you very much to the team who have been working hard behind the scenes with the organisation of the week’s activities, the pirate pantomime, handling bookings and promotion. Keith Boulton has again excelled with the organisation. There will be a new pantomime this year and we thank the cast, stage director, prop builders and musical director for bringing this together.
Bookings are coming in steadily and if you have friends or relatives with children aged 5-11 please pass the word.

We would welcome some additional volunteer assistance during the week.

**Exhibition.**
Our Anzac centenary display has closed. The next exhibition will feature artwork from the Australian Society of Marine Artists on the theme of the 100th anniversary of the Commonwealth Lighthouse Service (CLS) which has been organised by Don Braben and we thank Don and his fellow artists.

Later this year we are planning an exhibition linked to the 75th anniversary of the Story Bridge and Evans Deakin. Thank you to the Display Committee for your work on these projects.

**Operation Rimau Commemoration**
The Governor of Queensland will be the guest of honour at QMM on Sunday 12 July for a commemoration service for Operation Rimau. The service commences at 10am and will feature an Army guard, band and cenotaph party. During WW2 members of Z-Special Force conducted a second raid in Singapore and all were captured and executed. This service is being hosted by the Australian Commando Association. Members of QMM are welcome to attend.

**Displays**
During 2014 we secured grant funding from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to improve our interpretation of the dry dock. A consultant has been engaged to prepare the interpretation plan which will include using Forceful as part of the display. Installation of signage and interactive items will occur over the next couple of months.

With the support of Shipping Australia Limited and Brisbane City Council we have been working on a Brisbane Maritime Heritage Trail that will link significant maritime sites along the Brisbane River and point to more images and information to be hosted on our web-site. Thank you to the Display Committee and our Library team who have been working on this project.

Thank you to the team who helped with the building of the shelter over *Pink Lady*, the fabrication of the ramp and platforms, and the creation of the interpretative displays. It has been a work in progress for quite some time but is now looking very good.

**Board**
The Board’s discussions at its meeting in June included; the safety action plan, the financial reports, site development planning, a slipping of Forceful, and the Strategic Plan.

During the latter part of 2014 representatives of the Board had meetings with the State Government and BCC on an exciting proposal for a major development at QMM including a new maritime museum. The change of government following the election meant that the process had to be re-started. There have been a number of meetings with Ministers and government officers during 2015 and preliminary submissions have been made.

At this stage the Board is unable to provide any further details on the progress of the development proposal however I am currently working on the design brief for a new museum.

**Website and Social Media.**
A new website is operating. QMM has a Facebook presence, and we have recently started with Instagram. Thank you to our volunteers who are looking after social media and the web-site.

**Volunteer Coordinator**
Russell Adams is our Volunteer Coordinator and we thank Russell for his dedication to the task of interviewing and welcoming new volunteers to QMM.
Membership Secretary
Mike Sobyra is our membership secretary and puts in many hours of work each week with this task. Thank you Mike. Annual membership renewals will be falling due in a couple of months. We are aiming to have the new web-site membership application/renewal up and running within the next few weeks and it should be an improvement on the system on the old web-site.

Social Committee
Our social committee put together a program of events throughout the year that may be of interest to members. At present the activity mostly revolves around guest speakers and I thank those members who have put together talks on topics of interest and I thank our members who have come along in support.

Collection
QMM has a large collection and approximately 10 volunteers are engaged in various roles with the management of the collection. Over the last 8 years we have been conducting an audit of the collection which is now well advanced.

Thank you to all our members and volunteers for your support and contribution to the Museum’s operation.

Regards
Ian Jempson

Operations Supervisor

Hello all……

Forceful
The Board established a committee (Forceful Executive Committee) to plan the conservation management of Forceful. A new Conservation Management Plan has been prepared to guide this work. The planning is currently focused on repairing the timber deck above the saloon to stop water ingress into the saloon. The wheelhouse is also in need of conservation and that work is being planned.

A good deal of work was required to make Forceful safer for Visitors to be Open for Public Viewing, Thanks to a number of the wooden boat team, Ray Rowe, Jean Claude Eono, Warren Edwards, Esme Lucas-Havens, Hans Pommerel, Alex Low and Andy Anderson. Since opening daily for one hour 762 visitors have been on board to enjoy her. Many thanks to the dedicated guiding volunteers that ensure she is open each day. For the time being we open for an hour 1-2pm with a set safety procedure to be followed and a guide on duty as we are limited to no more than 60 people aboard at any one time.

Diamantina
On Tuesday 23 June a group of USN sailors will be assisting with some projects aboard Diamantina to be followed by a BBQ. Can you help with the food preparation please?
Slow work progresses on the Engine Turning project with some major obstacles yet to overcome and more offers of assistance are welcome with this tricky project.
The Bridge and Compass platform has seen a lot of difficult work restoring the space to its Wartime configuration, an awesome effort from Col Campbell, Andrew Massey, John Tebbit, Ray Willis, Warren Edwards, Graham Tappenden and Foo Seng Wee.
Hull repainting is continuing on the Aft Starboard Hull by Bill Cresswell and Trevor Richardson who have finished the Port side with great effect.
Very slow progress on the Keel block replacement program thus far, Lindsay Brown, Greg Hunt and Peter Sykes have been slogging away for a long time and have completed about 30 % of the task, any offer of assistance would be most welcomed, how about a change in your regular activity here and lets see if we can get some more volunteers to help?
Hail damaged awnings were repaired by Jim Smith once more for free and Jim also replaced the Boat cover with funds provided by the Naval Association for the Whaler in the grounds.
The funnel cover was also damaged in a hail storm earlier this year. We are grateful to Jim Smith who has repaired the cover and to Brad and Rick from Vertical Services (the Bridge Painters) who provided the Work at Heights access to remove the cover for repair, and thanks go to QFRS for confined space entry to replace the repaired cover from the inside, through the Boiler Room uptakes. Weather prevented the final tidy up and securing, which will be completed on a sunny day soon.

**Wooden boats**

Our volunteers are building replica bow of Gallipoli landing boat for 9th Battalion display which opens in August.

Peter Hall has completed a restoration of a large dock yard Barrow (now on Display) and is currently restoring a Luggage slide and is also documenting and restoring a Dockyard Trolley for display Pirates Week. Thank you to the team who have been fabricating model pirate ships for the children to assemble during their day of activities.

Penguin. The lugger is permanently exposed to the elements and in need of regular maintenance. Our team has recently completed a detailed survey of the vessel which will inform the ongoing conservation management.

Our thanks to Riviera boat builders for the donation of off-cut timbers that have been most useful for our cabinet making tasks. Thank you to the Labrador Men’s Shed who assisted with the construction of the replica cabin of **Pink Lady**.

**Grounds**

Earlier this year BCC appointed a consultant to conduct a building and site audit. Many defects beyond the scope of QMM’s responsibility as tenant were identified and a 5-year maintenance plan has been put to BCC to complete repairs.

BCC have engaged a contractor to repair stormwater downpipes on the Main Building which are causing issues in the Sail Loft and the Library and this should be occurring before the EOF.

The Port of Brisbane has generously provided funding to assist with the refurbishment of the Bulwer Lighthouse Tower. A contractor will commence that work in the next couple of weeks.

**Safety**

Nil injuries to report at this time, GREAT RESULT!! I sincerely thank all of our volunteers for the general attention to those “dreaded work health and safety rules” and for looking after each other.

WH&S Refreshers were conducted earlier this year with a generally good attendance, we still have a few important Key holders and weekend Volunteers to catch up with in the coming months. If you haven’t undertaken an annual safety refresher please plan to attend one of the monthly safety inductions on the third Thursday of the month starting at 10am.

We conducted a meeting with our existing “key Holders” which are now referred to as “DUTY MANAGERS” This title more appropriately addresses their role on weekends at QMM.

The roles have been expanded somewhat to cover more of their legal responsibility for Volunteer staffing, Safety, Point of Sale, Emergency drills and a host of other important functions as part of this critical responsibility. A few were unable to attend and we will be catching up with those that missed out soon.

**First Aid**

Any volunteer now prepared to train in First Aid please let me know as we have a large gap in our obligations in this area.

Thank you

*Alan Bibby*

**Happy Volunteering till the next edition of Scuttlebutt**