

Welcome to the first edition of the Melbourne Maritime Museum e-newsletter. Through the newsletter we aim to keep you up to date with all the happenings at the *Polly Woodside* as the site is transformed into a fitting home for one of the world's most important historic vessels. For more information please visit the museum website at www.melbournemaritimemuseum.com.au



Work started on survey of Polly Woodside

We have been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Victorian State Government to undertake a survey of the ship. After an open tender process this work was awarded to BMT Defence Services Australia www.bmtdsl.com.au. This valuable work will determine an accurate picture of the condition of the ship and make recommendations for her long term conservation needs. As part of this process, we were delighted to welcome Tim Beckett from internationally renowned marine consulting engineers Beckett Rankine www.beckettrankine.com

Tim has worked on some of the world's most famous historic vessels, including *Cutty Sark* and *Carrick* and was flown out from the UK to assist in assessing the ship's condition, planning her dry docking and developing the long term conservation strategy.

New site being designed by leading firms

A new purpose-built museum building is to be provided by the developers of the new Melbourne Convention Centre, with the eagerly anticipated design to be created by NH Architecture and Woods Bagot - both Melbourne-based international design firms. As soon as they are confirmed, the designs will be available in the museum website. The planning for the exhibition spaces is well underway. In addition to interactive displays, the site will also contain 'open storage' for the museum's extensive collection, archives and research space, workshops, staff and volunteer facilities and a café and shop.

First temporary exhibition booked in!

One of the most exciting aspects of the redevelopment of the site is the ability to have high quality temporary exhibitions. We are therefore delighted to be able to announce our first traveling exhibition has been booked in for March 2009. The exhibition, entitled 'Between the Flags: 100 Years of Surf Lifesaving' has been developed by the National Museum of Australia in Canberra and is supported by Vision Australia - an Australian Government Program supporting touring exhibitions across Australia. This fascinating exhibition gives us an insight into the dedicated community of brave men, women, boys and girls, who helped bathers deal with the perils of the ocean – bluebottles, rips and sharks – and saved over 500,000 lives in the past century.

New relationships to ensure the Polly is protected for the future

Both the ship and the pump house are benefiting from a new relationship with [AMAC Corrosion Protection](#) and [Australasian Corrosion Consultants](#). They are providing pro bono monitoring of the impressed current system that protects Polly's hull and also providing sacrificial anodes to reduce corrosion in the historic dock pumps. We are very grateful to them, particularly to AMAC's Brent Linde and Mark Rigg and ACC's Bill Gerritson for their valuable assistance. Without them and our other corporate supporters, including Kennards and Watty! Paints, our job in making sure that Polly and the docks are conserved to the highest standards would be so much more difficult.

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