

## 2011 Ancient Mariners Cruise and Luncheon at HMAS Watson

This League of Ancient Mariners (LOAM) annual event was held this year on Saturday 7th May. Members and guests boarded the Captain Cook Cruise vessel at No 6 jetty Circular Quay just before midday and departed soon after for a cruise to Watsons Bay.

On arrival at the Watsons Bay Jetty, we all disembarked and either walked or went by car up the hill to the Junior Sailors Mess at HMAS Watson. Here we were met with smiling attendants who set about wining and dining us in great fashion.

The LOAM President Capt Bill Duthie welcomed members, wives and guests to the lunch. It should be noted that two wives/partners were present this year – a hundred percent increase on last year!

**The Guest Speaker was Capt. Murray Patrick Doyle**, who is currently the Master of the *RSV Aurora Australis*. Capt Doyle was appointed Master of this vessel in 2006. He gave a very interesting talk on his experiences.



Boarding at No 6 Jetty, Circular Quay



Passing Watsons Bay on way to lunch



Leading the Sea Shanties



Capt. Barry Keeble, nearing Circular Quay

This year the singing of the sea shanties was led by an attractive young woman from the naval staff, who did an excellent job. She was followed by our own stalwart, Capt. Mike Downes, whose deep powerful voice boomed out across the tables.

It was a very pleasant and successful day, and the organizing committee, especially Major Sid Cheeseman AM JP, are to be applauded for their efforts. We look forward to next year's event.

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