

## 'B'TWEEN DECKS

The Newsletter Of  
The League of Ancient Mariners of New South Wales

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How the year has slipped away. I would like to thank those who have made comment on our first issue and your comments have been taken onboard. Your assistance in completing the records, will be welcome. Please note the request regarding your current telephone number. See your subscription/ ticket request 2002, enclosed.

The other day I had to ring the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) on a particular matter. Have you ever rung up and been given the run around by a computer voice program? The following scenario was on the internet the other day.

Did you know that a State Fire Brigade and a State Government, have been involved in a dispute for some time now. Could this end up being the result of that dispute?

Welcome to the NSW Fire Brigade.

If you wish to report a small fire, **press 1.**

If you wish to report a big fire, **press 2.**

If it is an electrical fire, **press 3.**

If it is an oil or petroleum fire, **press 4.**

If it is a single story building fire, **press 5.**

If the building is more than two storeys but less than five storeys, **press 6.**

If the building is between five and ten storeys, **press 7.**

If the building is more than ten storeys, **press 8.**

If the building is a factory, **press 9.**

If you wish to speak to our operator, **press 0.**

The operator's message then follows as, 'Your have rung the State Fire Brigade Central Control. All our operators are busy at present, but your call is important to us. Please do not hang up. When the first operator returns to the office, after the smoker break, your request will be attended to. Have a nice day'. This is followed by Roy Orbison singing '**Baby you light my fires**'.

### **Joke Department**

A history teacher was quizzing his student. When it came to the subject on Australia, he asked, ' Who discovered Australia; where did he land; and what was the year'. Stone silence came from the class. Eventually young Nishimura put his hand up. The teacher nodded to him for an answer. 'Captain Cook, Sir; at Botany Bay; 1770'. The teacher hoping to motivate the other students, said to Nishimura 'For answering the question correctly you may leave the class early', and turned his back on the class. A voice from the back said 'Bloody Japs'. The teacher spun around 'Who said that?', he asked. Young Billy Quickansmart shot his hand up and said, 'General Douglas Macarthur; the Philippines; 1942'

### **Annual Muster**

The Annual muster for 2001 was an outstanding success. We had in attendance two hundred and fifty-one, of which fifty-seven were Guests of Members. The venue was at the curtesy of HMAS Watson and the in-house civilian caterers prepared and served the fare. There was a small hic-cup with the serving to the centre tables, which should be overcome by either revising the layout or opening up the main tables, next year with service openings, allowing easier access.

Again the rain came. The Sydney skies opened up about 3 pm and continued well into the night. Several Members appeared to thoroughly soaked both inside and out by our return to No. 6 Jetty.

**The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Council.**

**Members**, some consideration please for our **Guest Speaker, MOC**, and others trying to address the crowd in the confines of the mess hall. It is requested that when a Member or Members becomes loud and raucous, the adjacent Members exert some decorum on those who may be at fault.

For those Members that often ask what they get for their Annual Subscription, it is to be noted that the cost per head this year was \$ 56.77. Not a bad day out for \$ 40.00!

#### **Lost & Found Annual Muster -2001**

**Found.** A cap & sunglasses. Would the owner please ring the Secretary who will arrange their return.

#### **2003 - One Hundred Years of The League of Ancient Mariners**

In two year times (2003) the League will officially arrive at **One Hundred Years** of continuous operation. If you have any thoughts on what should happen during the celebratory year, please pass it onto the Secretary in writing and have your ideas included in 'General Business' for the **AGM 2002**. Better still, if possible, attend the AGM and become involved, even scare yourself and volunteer to help.

#### **History of the League**

Our historian, Captain Ted Liley has almost completed the compiling of the 'History of the League'. If you wish to contribute information or photographs for inclusion, this is your last chance. Printing of this document will be included in the **AGM 2002**, for approval and action. Has anyone a good photograph or line drawing of a classic ship from the 'Rope & Rag' era, that could be suitable for the cover. Has anyone pictures or photographic plates showing Australian, English, New Zealand, Indian or other shipping company house flags. There must be something out there amongst our Members. Please contact Ted Liley on **(02) 9337 2319** so he can view your contribution.

#### **Milestones**

Mr. Claude Croft, Gold Badge Life Member and our previous Secretary of some **fifty years**, turned **90** on 3 November this year. **'HAPPY BIRTHDAY CLAUDE'**. The President Ken Ross and the Vice-President, Alan Tait called on Claude on behalf of the League and wished him the best from the League for his birthday. The President presented Claude with a bottle of his best wardroom whiskey.

#### **Book Review**

Title: Custom of the Sea

Author: Neil Hanson

R.R.P. \$ 20.00

Rated: ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Here is a necessary read for mariners. The book is based on actual facts and happenings as well as the court case that followed the incident.

The book follows the disastrous voyage of the yacht 'Mignonette' from Southampton, England to Sydney, Australia. Alas it never arrived to its destination. The craft sunk and the author describes the hardships of the shipwrecked crew and their survival. After their rescue and return to England they were hounded by the local Falmouth Harbour Police representative, Sergeant James Laverty, until they were charged and faced court in England.

The reader follows the trial and is enlightened on the unscrupulous methods and actions used by shipowners and the criminal use of power and money at the expense of the ships' safety and crews.

The League has **one copy free of charge** to give away to a lucky Member. Just place your ledger number on the back of your envelope that you have enclosed your subscription to **reach the Secretary before the AGM 2002. Winner to be announced at the Annual General Meeting 2002.**

## *Welcome Aboard*

### *New Members 2002*

Capt Murray Patrick Doyle	Member
Mr Sean James Charter	Member
Cmdr Brian Donald Robertson	Member
Mr Derek Anthony Lewis	Member
Capt Alan Anthony Keane	Member
Capt Micheal William Traynor	Member
Mr Andrew Lachlan Campbell	Associate Member
Mr Harold Arthur Coghill	Associate Member
Mr Hugh George Laid	Associate Member
Mr Claude Gidley	Associate Member

#### Old Arab Proverb

He who knows and knows he knows  
 he is wise ---- follow him  
 He who knows and knows not, he knows  
 He is asleep ---- Wake him  
 He who knows not and knows not, he knows not  
 He is a fool ---- spurn him  
 He who knows not and knows, he knows not  
 He is a child ---- teach him

#### → Annual General Meeting (AGM) - 2002 ←

**Venue:** NSW Sports Club Hunter St., Sydney  
**Date:** 19 March 2002  
**Time:** 1200 hrs

If you are considering attending, please notify the Secretary no later than one week prior to the meeting.

#### **Annual Muster Saturday 4 May 2002**

The Annual Muster will again be conducted in 2002. Please remember:-

Timely warning that you and your guest will be attending.

Payment prior to the event, no later than **Friday 26 April 2002.**

Dress for Members and Guests; **Coat and Tie** (League Tie is preferred).

Cost will be \$ 50.00 for Members and \$ 75.00 for each of your guests.

Minor price increase to last year is due to the new award per hour for civilian catering staff at HMAS Watson. Your Council is trying to curb ever increasing costs by constant monitoring of this event.

### Shipping News

The *Titanic* weighed some **46,000 tonnes** and was deemed to be the best of its time. With the arrival of the *Aurora* some 76,000 tonnes in Sydney recently displayed how far we have come in shipping since the *Titanic* days. The *Arora* has three (3) swimming pools, one having a retractable dome. This dome allows it to become an indoor pool in the inclement weather. It has two-storey penthouse suites, connected by internal spiral stair-cases and each penthouse features a grand piano. It is fitted with a virtual reality centre for modern entertainment and golf simulator to improve the passengers' golf techniques. This innovation is an improvement, saving the loss of the golf balls off the aft-deck, as was the case in the old days of travelling by ship.

Although the *Arora* is the latest in big ships, the new P&O ships, the *Diamond* and *Sapphire* displaces some **113,000 tonnes** each, and they will come into service in 2003 and 2004 respectively. The *Golden Princess* when it comes into service will displace **109,000 tonnes** and will be taller than our Olympic stadium or to put that into perspective it will be higher than the road deck of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, It will be longer than four (4) jumbo jets and bigger than the largest aircraft carrier the *USS Nimitz*. The *Golden Princess* will carry 2600 passengers and have four (4) swimming pools. It will also have a glass-walled night club, art gallery, an ocean-view gymnasium. For those who may have a conscience, a wedding chapel.

*'Ah! the romance of the sea'.*

Anyone interested in the shipping plans for these ships of elegance may ring **P&O enquires on 13 2469**

### *CROSS the BAR*

The League is sadden to report the Crossing of the Bar of the below listed Members in 2001

Capt B.S.Johnson      Capt T. Minto      Mr L.A. Davis      Mr A.W. Rowe      Mr S.C. Snell

Oh sleep! it is a gentle thing  
Beloved from pole to pole  
To Mary Queen the praise be given!  
She sent the gentle sleep from heaven  
That slipped into my soul!

Rime of the Ancient Mariner - S.T. Colrige