The Australian Association for Maritime History Inc.

September ~ Winter 2014 *Issue 133*

HMAS Pioneer Discovered

The wreck of HMAS *Pioneer*, a Pelorus-class light cruiser, which served during WW1 was discovered by Scott Willan and a crew who completed the first dive with him including: Max Gleeson, Damien Siviero, Geoff Cook and Save wood .

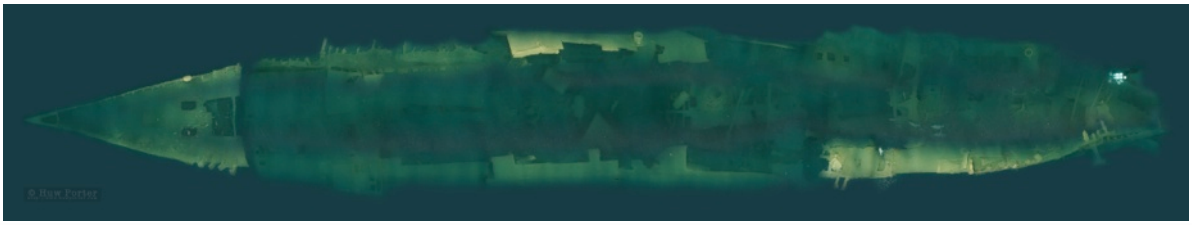
The wreck located four kilometers out from the Sydney coastline, is an impressive 93m long and is still relatively intact. However, some of the superstructure and upper decks were removed prior to the wreck being scuttled.

Scott and Steve came across the wreck after analysis of raw data provided by CSIRO, Marine National Facility. Together they have been searching for wrecks since the purchase of their Side Scan Sonar three years ago.

The pair, who both have backgrounds in engineering have been recreational divers for 30 years before they decided to purchase a Side Scanner to assist in the search for new wrecks to explore. The scanner was purchased on Ebay, and formerly belonged to Maritime Safety Queensland.

The unit was only partially operational when it was bought by Steve and Scott spent around eight months and more than $10,000 making it fit for use, to date spending more than $17,000. Another twelve months followed before the scanner was fine tuned and running reasonably well.

Continued page four.



HMAS Pioneer - Damien Siviero

VE Memorial Lecture

The 2014 Vaughan Evans Memorial Lecture was a huge success - page 6-7

Reviewers Needed

Howard Gray, Reviews Editor for Great Circle has Four more titles needing reviewers - page 5

Kenneth McPherson Memorial Lecture

Confirmed for 14 November. All upcoming events page 4.

From the President

Members following the Association's Facebook page will have read a little of my recent trip to Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo and Bergen. I took every opportunity I could to visit maritime museums and places of interest. I also met new member Associate Professor Rene Paulson in Copenhagen and Dr Atle Thowsen, Director Emeritus, and Associate Professor Per Sebak at the Bergen Maritime Museum.

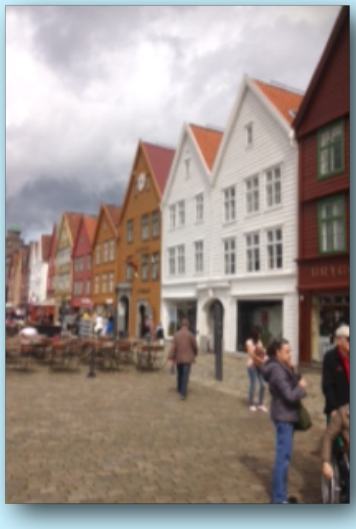
The Bergen Maritime Museum opened in 1921 and provides high quality presentations on Norwegian maritime history (not just Bergen) and has public and academic research programs. It is also responsible for the very rich maritime archaeology of the region.

Bergen is the ancient capital of Norway and is currently its leading port for shipping, servicing the North Sea Oil fields, the Royal Norwegian Navy and the fishing industry.

Both our organisations share goals to promote maritime history and research and I thank Atle and Per for taking time out to meet me to discuss maritime history matters and for a tour of the Museum.

By the time you receive this, the annual Vaughan Evans Memorial Lecture will have been held for the first time in Brisbane at the Queensland Maritime Museum. Saturday 30 August was the centenary of Australia's first 'combined' operation with New Zealand forces landing in German Samoa under the guns of the Australian, British and French Fleet and guest speaker, Captain Ian Pfennigwerth PhD RAN (Rtd) topic for the lecture was The Royal Australian Navy at war in 1914. Ian Pfennigwerth served in the RAN for 35 years and has authored eight published books on Australian naval history.

Peter



The historic wharf area of Bryggen in Bergen, Norway. These buildings were once the warehouses, offices and living quarters of the HanseaGc League which dominated trade into and out of many European ciGes for over 400 years. In more recent Gmes, Norway developed a formidable ship building and shipping industry. Norwegian crews and ships are very familiar with Australian ports. Even with compeGGon from Asia, Norwegian mariGme businesses are sGll prominent with companies such as the Wallenius Whilhelmson line vehicles carriers a familiar sight in Australian ports.

From the Editor

Dear all,

This issue has been another interesting journey, as I continue to learn about the interesting world of Maritime History. I am eagerly awaiting the next WA event, with the Kenneth McPherson Memorial Lecture taking place at the WA Maritime Museum on 14th November. I am also hoping to attend the special late October event in Albany marking the RAN's departure.

Also this issue I had the pleasure to talk to Scott Willan about his Side Scan Sonar, which he and Steve Lonegran are using to discover new wrecks of the New South Wales coast.

As we approach the end of the year, I hope you have been enjoying 2014's new look Quarterly Newsletter. As always feedback and contributions are welcome.

Safe travels.

Sarah-Jane

HMAS Pioneer

Side Scan Sonar works by emitting sounds across the sea bottom, in the same way light creates lumps and shadows the scanner can provide images of debris on the ocean floor.

One of the challenges in locating wrecks like HMAS *Pioneer* is sorting through vast volumes of data, which is generated additionally to their own data, which Scott and Steve often collect from government departments and reassess it for potential shipwreck targets.

Scott explained this reassessment of data in the search for wrecks was in part coming at it from a different perspective.

'They are trying to put together a "google map" and we're trying to find someone with a pool in the backyard,' Scott said.

Using this method of surveying since they bough the unit Steve and Scott have discovered 17 new wrecks in the last twelve months, of those about ten or twelve are classed as "historic" and more than 75-years-old. Among their other discoveries are the original quarantine station and mooring point off Sydney's coast. They have also found the legacy of Australia's WW2 defenses in various remnants discovered in the bottom of Sydney Harbour.

Scott explains that more than anything this kind of work takes time and persistence. They have recently begun developing a Newsletter to recognise the contributions of their data providers.

If you'd like to view the discovery of HMAS *Pioneer*, a video is available at vimeo.com/89867057

Anyone interested in learning more about their discoveries should contact Steve or Scott via www.nswwrecks.info

Brig Amity Research Continues

Since the last edition of the Quarterly Newsletter Danny Tangney has continued his efforts to create an exhibition remembering *Brig Amity* and verifying the accuracy of its replica.

He has continued his detective work, receiving about 100 pages of documents from the State Library of Tasmania containing records of the Brig Amity when she was owned by Captain James Kelly, of Hobart Town, and was used as a whaler. Danny has also been researching social and economic environment at the time Brig Amity was in service. He has also been lucky enough to gain access to the journal and records of the current replica builder. This imformation he is compiling alongside his other research with the aim of creating a book.

Danny is still working on exhibition themes, while The City of Albany is focused on organizing ANZAC centenary events.

Renovation planned

A 102-year-old Steamship from Tasmania, named *Cartela*, is likely to begin being restored.

Cartela was constructed in Hobart at Battery Point by Purdon and Featherstone. She was intended to operate as a cargo and passenger vessel. At the outbreak of WW1 she was requisitioned by the Royal Australian Navy to assist in protecting the Port of Hobart. Her rich history is detailed on the website of Steamshipcartela.com.au.

"SteamShip Cartela Limited" is the organisation which is undertaking the project to restore her. They are currently waiting on Federal Funding to go ahead with the project.

In All Respects Ready

David Stevens, one of Great Circle's book reviewers, is soon to release a book of his own.

In All Respects Ready: Australia's Navy in World War One, provides detailed and comprehsive accounts of the RAN's involvement in WW1. The book is described as more than just a chronological history but an engaging narrative of the war at sea.

Published by Oxford University Press, the book is set to become available in November, at a cost of $59.99. When ordering in advance from www.oup.com.au/stevens, enter the code STEV20 for a 20%discount.

Upcoming Events

- **17th-21st September 2014**
  10th Maritime Heritage Conference (USA) - www.seahistory.org/10th-maritime-heritage-conference-sept-17-21
- **2nd-3rd October 2014** Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeology Conference - www.aima-underwater.org.au/conference-2014/
- **31st October- 2nd November 2014** Albany Convoy Commemorative Event, see website for details - www.anzaccentenary.gov.au/program/acce.htm
- **2nd November 2014**
  Voyage to Gallipoli - Meet author Peter Plowman at the Australian National Maritime Museum - www.anmm.gov.au/whats-on/calendar/voyage-to-gallipoli
- **14th November 2014**
  Kenneth McPherson Memorial Lecture, WA Maritime Museum

The Lost Antares

In 1914 the windjammer Antares was lost on the shores of Victoria, near Nullawerre. Originally named SUTLEJ, she was built in Glasgow in 1888, but renamed in 1907.

Shipping records suggest she was a regular visitor to Australia, she would carry a general cargo that often included items such as roofing tiles and marble.

At the time of her disappearence she was long overdue, when the wreck of a ship was discovered by a local resident. Little is known of what caused the ship to be destroyed or the fate of her crew. One body and a plank bearing the name SUTLEJ was discovered, the man was buried in Warrnambool cemetery.

With questions and mystery still overhanging events and her crew, descendants of those who first reported the siting of the wreckage are seeking to find possible relatives of the lost crew, somewhat of a challenge given there is no available manifesto to reference.

A headstone at the single burial site is already in existence to commemorate the event. Later this year an additional small plaque will be installed at the time of a dedication ceremony.

If there are individuals who have any clues or information regarding the Antares please contact the editor (details back-page) or John Mathieson at jmath5@bigpond.com.

Great Circle Reviews

Thank you for the response to the request for a wider circle of reviewers for the popular Book Reviews segment of The Great Circle. This has enhanced our ability to match the subject of a book with an appropriate reviewer.

The following diverse titles have recently arrived for review: Encountering The Pacific, Koombana Days, Salt Story and Commerce Raiding, The Pearl King and Watersiders.

If these are in your field of expertise let me know – they may be still available. As many of you have your own works published, don't forget The Great Circle is a great place to have them reviewed and brought to the attention of your intended audience.

If you are interested please contact Howard Gray, Great Circle Reviews editor (details back-page).

Vaughan Evans Memorial Lecture

This years Vaughan Evans Memorial Lecture was a great success, coinciding with the opening of Queensland Maritime Museum's new WW1 exhibition, "They went by ship to foreign shores". 35 people attended the event including special guest Captain Patrick Quirk, General Manager of Maritime Safety Queensland.

Ian Jempson gave a short opening speech welcoming the guests and commemorating the great contribution of Vaughan Evans to the AAMH.

This year Captain Ian Pfennigwerth PhD RAN (rtd) was the speaker. His service in the RAN included appointments as the Director of Naval Intelligence and, a two year posting as Defence Attache in Beijing.

The lecture outlined the story of what was essentially a naval campaign to engage and defeat the German naval forces in the Pacific and supplant the German colonial government from its Pacific possessions. It highlighted the efforts its architect, Rear Admiral and later Vice Admiral Sir George Patey KCVO.

Commentators frequently claim that Australia 'came of age' as an outcome of the doomed landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula in April 1915. Ian Pfennigwerth suggests that this happened well before that, and in Australia's back yard, largely thanks to the men of the Royal Australian Navy.
At the time of the outbreak of WW1 The Australian Fleet, was the most modern and powerful force in the Western Pacific. Prior to its arrival in October 1913 the strategic situation in the region had been tense with the Royal Navy's older China fleet, unable to cope with the more advanced German East Asiatic Cruiser Squadron.

One of the most contentious issues at this time was the way in which officials at Whitehall tried to conduct a war 12,000 miles away, without the luxury of instant communications and reliable intelligence abilities we enjoy today. Vice Admiral George Patey was constantly receiving conflicting commands and was often sent to locations where his powerful force was ineffective.

During his talk Captain Pfennigwerth discussed the role of Patey in developing a strategy which would help negate the threat of the German fleet on shipping lanes and coastal settlements in the South Pacific.

Patey went on to direct a number of missions against the German fleet and colonies, many of which were successful.

Photos: Far Left: *Rosie Field*
Far Right: *Don Braben and Rosie Field*

On this day...

The VEML for 2014 was held on the centenary date of the first combined operation including Australia. Under the protection of Australian, French and British warships, New Zealand troops captured German Samoa.

Less than two weeks later Australian naval personnel died in combat fighting under the Australian flag on a foreign shore capturing New Britain and the Australian submarine AE1 was lost with all hands near Rabaul on 14 September 1914.

About Ian

Ian Jempson and Captain Ian Pfennigwerth

After 35 years in the Royal Australian Navy, reaching the rank of Captain; during that time he commanded guided missile destroyer HMAS Perth. Ian Pfennigwerth worked in international business development until retiring in 2000. In 2005 he was awarded his PhD by the University of Newcastle and has since turned his attention to Australia's naval history and related subjects.

In his eight published books, Ian's research has covered subjects from code breaking to the application of intelligence to naval operations, the RAN's role in the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation, the RAN in the Pacific War 1941-45, and two books on the cruiser HMAS Perth, one the story the ship and the second a biography of her medical officer taken POW in 1942. Ian also provided the narrative for the history of the first 25 years of the Australian Defence Force Academy, released in 2013.

A new book on the Pacific campaign fought against the Germans by the RAN in 1914-15 will be released in September 2014, and a short guide to Australia's naval history is being readied for Web publication. Ian's current research embraces the story of honours and awards made to RAN personnel since 1900. He contributed the naval chapter to the book Australia in the Shadow of War, 1942, and its sequel, The Liberation of New Guinea 1943, published by Cambridge University Press, and is working on a similar chapter for the third book in the series.

Ian is a regular contributor of articles and reviews to a number of journals, is a member of the editorial committee for the RUSI NSW quarterly United Service and is frequently invoted to address community groups on naval history topics.

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Thank You!

Next Issue of AAMH Quarterly Newsletter will be available in December.
Contributions and feedback are always welcome!

Safe travels!
Don't forget to like our Facebook page.

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