



CASTLEMAINE CHRONICLE

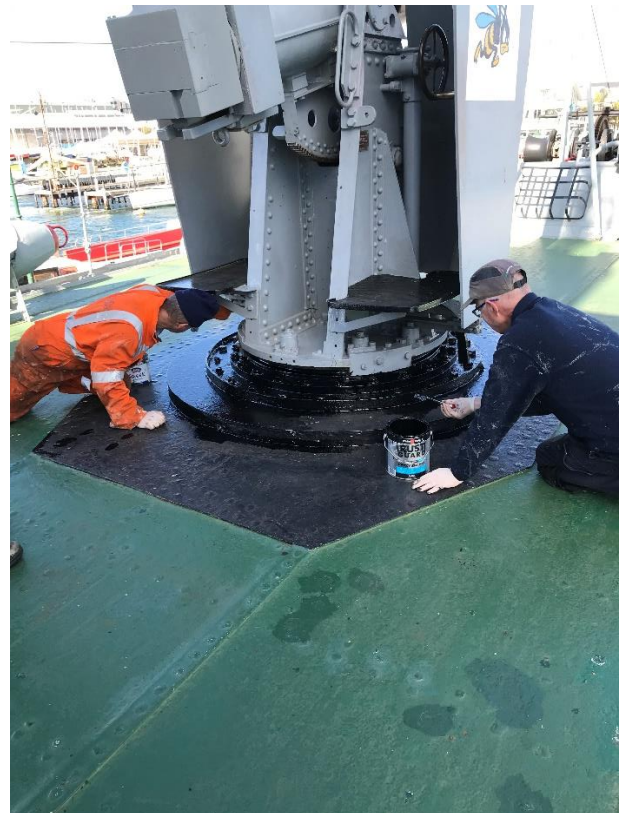
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An Occasional Newsletter

Issue #9 - Sep 2024

Welcome to Edition #9 of the *Castlemaine Chronicle*. The last few months since the last newsletter have been slow news months, mainly due to cold and wet weather curtailing outside activities. However work inside (where it's also cold) has moved along with cleaning and identification of rusty spots and the subsequent remediation and painting.

However, as previously mentioned, outside work is limited at this time of year but we did get a cold but fair Tuesday early in August. So, eager not to lose the moment Andy and Martin were out with their chipping hammers, rattle gun, vacuum cleaner and paint working on the base of the 4" gun on the foredeck.



We are still maintaining our public openings on weekends and public holidays with very pleasing visitor numbers considering the time of year. One of the downsides for the crew working on the open days is manning the quartermaster's desk in the cold. To combat this Dick organised an electric strip heater to be mounted on the bulkhead over the desk, he managed to find one in battleship grey so it blends in! Our electrical department fitted and tested the heater and it has been a great success.

At the beginning of July the ship was contacted by David McGarvey the son of Sub/Lt Trevor McGarvey who served on *Castlemaine* in 1945 until decommissioning. David explained that his father had written a memoir of his life and wished to donate the WW2 section to the ship along with some photos taken during his father's time in the navy. We gratefully accepted the digital version of the memoir and photos which are now posted on our website for all to read.



AB Trevor McGarvey at OTS Cerberus



Newly minted Sub/Lt T McGarvey

As well as being registered by the Heritage Council of Victoria we are now seeking inclusion on the National Heritage List. To this end Matt has put together an excellent submission. Apart from the recognition of our heritage value that these awards provide we are also hoping that they may help in sustaining the long term future of the *Castlemaine*.

During the cold days when outside work is not usually possible some of our more intrepid crew members have been venturing into some of the lower spaces of the ship, into the bowels as it were, searching for who knows what – the 'Golden Rivet' perhaps. What they have found is WW2 army treasure in the shape of gas masks in their bags, water bottles with cork and khaki cloth cover, spats.....

Thanks to our amazing head of souvenir sales Kathleen we have found that there is a market for this historical memorabilia and they are flying off the strategically placed souvenir table.

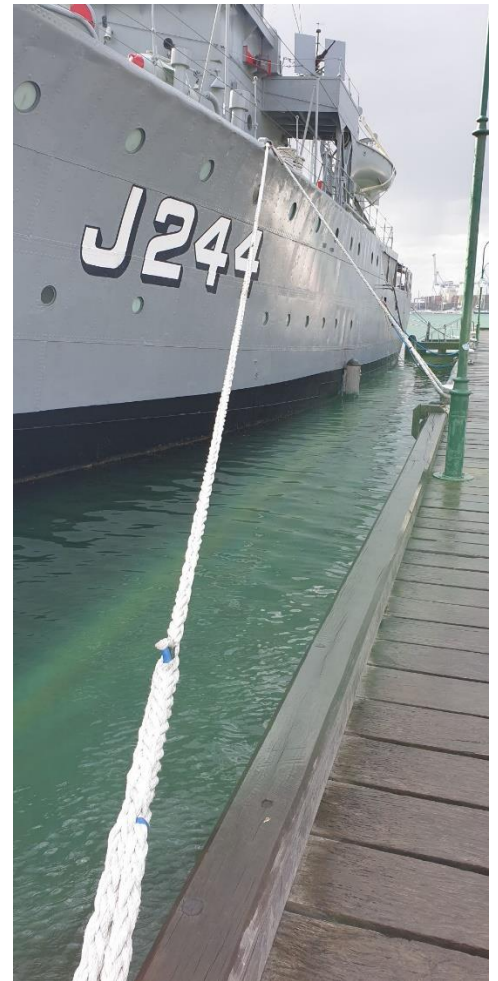
How did they get into the deepest holds I hear you ask, well we don't actually know except to say that probably they were acquired by Peter Williams, the driver of the restoration project from the beginning and currently one of our patrons. Why he

acquired them we don't know but maybe, just maybe, he knew that one day they would be saleable and raise money to help maintain the ship. Always a forward thinker is Peter.



Just some of the items that are now for sale.

Remember the other week when we had those cyclonic winds and tide surges in Port Phillip? Well, I'm happy to report that the *Castlemaine* survived with no broken lines and her dignity intact. Martin went down to check on her and took some snaps.



Note the slight list to port.....and taut lines.



Just as there has been a changing of the guard over in the UK, specifically in Buckingham Palace, with Queen Elizabeth II sadly passing and being replaced by her son King Charles III. The *Castlemaine* has also had a change, in keeping with naval tradition King Charles' official photo now hangs in the wardroom. The photo was provided by the federal government through the office of Tim Watts MHR our local member in Williamstown. Also provided was an Australian flag to fly on the Jack Staff when our current flag gets too tatty. Your committee would like to thank Tim and his staffers who facilitated the gifts. Although it was planned that Tim would visit the ship to present the photo and flag he was unfortunately unable to do so due to ministerial commitments.



As mentioned in previous editions we are always on the lookout for photos of *Castlemaine* crew members. Well a couple of photos fell into our lap a few weeks back when Rick Mousley emailed the ship. Rick had come across our website and thought photos of his father should be on there as well. Ricks father was AB Leslie William Mousley and here he is below.



I came across this interesting bit of trivia. *Castlemaine* was the last ship to be docked in the *A J Waggen* floating dock in 1993 and in 2015 the last ship to be docked in the Alfred Graving Dock.

Photo: Allan Marshall 1993

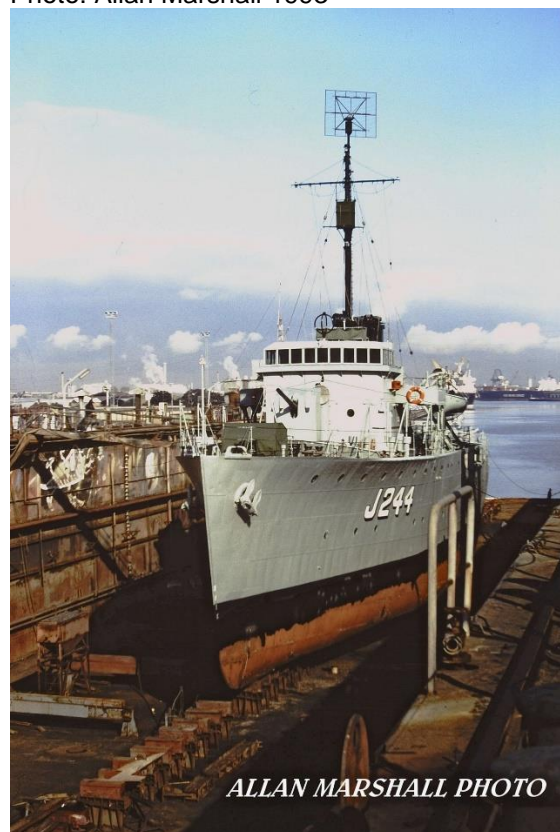
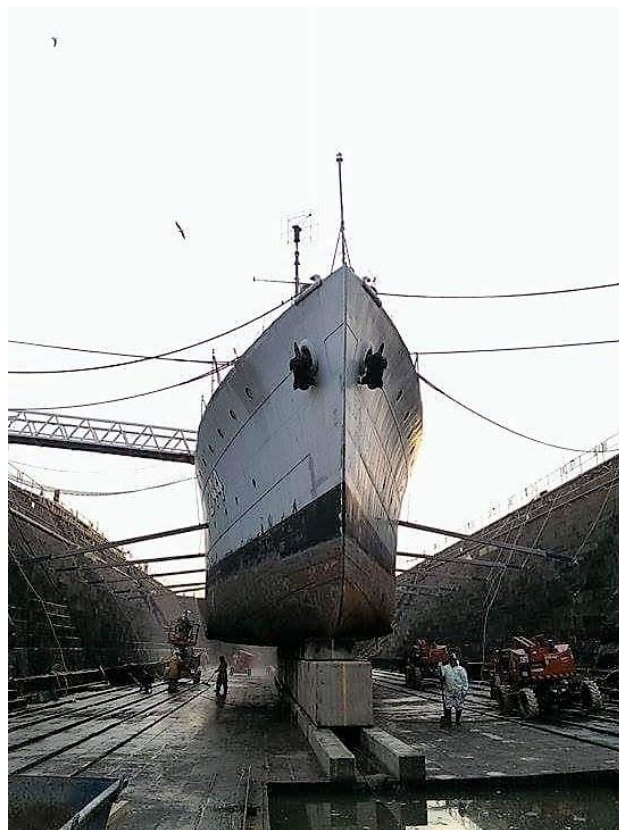


Photo: Dave Stevenson 2015



It seems to me that I'm always mentioning the volunteers that do maintenance work around the ship and not the volunteers who are equally as important - the weekend volunteers. So to you people who are regulars on Saturdays and Sundays, who turn up wind rain or shine, a special thank you. You know who you are - Kath, Steve, Dick, Rob, Chris and Alex.

Don't forget to check out Trevor McGarvey's memoirs on the website at www.hmascastlemaine.org.au

If anybody reading this newsletter would care to contribute an article it would be terrific. The scope is quite broad in that it would need to have some connection to the *Castlemaine* or *Bathurst* class corvettes or the RAN, RN, MN in general. It doesn't matter how short or how long it is and there will be no judgements made as to spelling or grammar!

Please send your articles or any comments about the newsletter to me Bob Pearson at newsletter@hmascastlemaine.org.au

All the 'Castlemaine Capers/Chronicle' newsletters are now available on our website.

TTFN
Bob