

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network

July 2019

Synopsis

Melbourne has in effect turned its back on its rich maritime heritage. Melbourne was, and is still, a great port city. Trade by sea was, and is still, crucial in underpinning Melbourne's economic prosperity. Melbourne remains the nations largest port. This cultural and economic strength in Melbourne has not been adequately acknowledged in the public realm and thus far remains undervalued and inadequately exploited by government. The **Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN)** was formed to address these 'deficits'.

The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network Ltd (MMHN) was formed to facilitate cooperation, collaboration and coordination across stakeholder groups.

The MMHN membership not constrained by single-interest groups or confined to specific locations. It seeks to sharpen the focus upon the richness of Melbourne's maritime heritage and upon the crucial role of its port facilities to ultimately deliver the social, cultural and economic benefit to Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Vision

- Foster greater recognition that Melbourne was, and is still, a great port city.
- Ensure that Melbourne's maritime trade heritage is acknowledged, celebrated, preserved and sustained.
- Facilitate cooperation and collaborations amongst stakeholders, advocating for policy reform, and developing integrated maritime sector initiatives.
- Develop Melbourne's global reputation as a city with a Maritime Skills and Education Centre of the highest standard.
- Optimize Return-on-Investment (cultural and financial) made by multiple maritime stakeholders e.g. cultural tourism, education, heritage preservation, ports.

Actions

1. Advocacy

- Advocating to State Government for the adoption of a Maritime Network Approach throughout Greater Melbourne to develop collaboration around dispersed assets. e.g. consistent informational signage (conventional and digital) shared ticketing and cross promotion.
- Advocating to the State Government the establishment of a single Maritime Authority with responsibility for coordinating and sustaining all aspects Melbourne's maritime management.
- Advocating for greater collaboration and connectivity amongst existing Maritime organisations

2. Projects

- Maritime Trade Museum at Docklands
- Marine Skills Specialist Centre at Kangan TAFE, Docklands
- Marine Operations Service Depot at Bolte West Precinct, Fishermen's Bend
- Expansion and support for Melbourne's Foundation Heritage Fleet at Victoria Harbour, Docklands
- Maritime Waterways Trail along the North Bank of the Yarra from Birrarung Marr, to the along Collins Wharf and Harbour Esplanade, on through to Ron Barassi Senior Park with informational signage about existing structures and installed maritime artifacts to appropriately reflecting Melbourne's maritime trade heritage

MMHN Status and Structure

The MMHN is a registered as public company limited by guarantee under the name Melbourne Maritime Network Ltd. Australian Company No. 631 878 772 (25/2/2019) under the Corporations Act 2001. It is non-political, non-profit, member-based 'umbrella' organization bringing together over 100 groups from marine, maritime heritage, tourism, corporate and community sectors. All of which share a commitment to fostering greater recognition of, and knowledge about, Melbourne's rich maritime heritage and maritime industry sector. It has a Board and a series of Special Interest Group including but not limited to Skills/Education/Career, Heritage, Museum, and Industry.

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