

**MISSIVE**  
**NEWS FROM THE PORT OF ADELAIDE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL TRUST**  
**December 2018**



Figure 1: Shed 26

**Current Committee Members**

Karen James	Co-chair/strategic advocacy
Phillip Winter	Co-chair/strategy/research
Pat Netschitowsky	Treasurer/Membership liaison
Michael Weir	Principal researcher
Andrew Winkler	Friends of Torrens Island/Quarantine Station contact/ Port Adelaide Wiki development
Michelle Hogan	Strategic planning
Clare Shuttleworth	Strategic planning

Our branch has a passionate and active Committee. If you have enthusiasm, energy and an interest in joining our Committee, please contact Pat at [pat@pnetschi.com](mailto:pat@pnetschi.com) or 0402 008 589 with an expression of interest for the Committee's consideration.

## MEMBERS EVENT

**Set aside this date!** You are invited to our next PoANT members' event on Friday February 22, 6 - 8pm at the British Hotel, Port Adelaide. More details will follow as we draw closer to the date.

## **SUMMARY OF BRANCH ACTIVITY AND EVENTS**

### SAVE OUR SHED 26 CAMPAIGN [www.shed26.org](http://www.shed26.org)

Located on the waterfront in the north-west corner of the Port River, Shed 26 the former Marine and Harbors facility, was erected in the 1950s and is a large, steel-framed 'sawtooth shed' that was used for maintenance and repair of a range of marine infrastructure and vessels.

Following years of community consultation through previous redevelopment attempts that date back to the early 2000s, Shed 26 was identified as having inherent value for re-use, and as one of the last physical remnants of its type of industrial activity in Port Adelaide and the State.

Over the past 3 years PoANT has been actively advocating for the retention of Shed 26 and Gallery Yampu (formerly Port Sailing Club) into the planned new residential development on the north-west precinct. We have been meeting with decision-makers in Government asking if protections could be put in place to save those buildings.

*In addition we have had meetings with award-winning heritage architect Robert Morris-Nunn and Mulloway Studios seeking their advice, inspiration and expertise about Shed 26 and Gallery Yampu.*

Shed 26 was noted in the Development Plan, and written into the developer's contract that re-use should be investigated. Until very recently, it appeared on all of the published development proposals.

A recent decision by the developer Cedar Woods to seek to demolish 'Shed 26' has dismayed and shocked many in our community and has triggered community activity to save and adapt the building. This community activity has been through social media platforms, a series of articles in the Messenger and Advertiser, interviews on ABC Radio, site-based protests, and the publishing of a web site ([www.shed26.org](http://www.shed26.org)).

As a response to the impending demolition, a nomination for inclusion on the Heritage register was prepared by PoANT and the South Australian Heritage Council provisionally entered Shed 26 on 6th December 2018 under s17(2)(b) of the Heritage Places Act 1993. The provisional listing provides for a period of 3 months heritage protection at which time the Heritage Council will reconvene to decide whether Shed 26 should be permanently listed or not.

Submissions regarding the heritage listing can be forwarded prior to the Heritage Council's next meeting up until 12 March 2019. *All members of the public have the right to send in a submission and we encourage anyone with an interest in saving the Shed 26 building to do just that.*

Go to <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/sa-heritage-register/entries-confirmations#nominations> to locate the nomination forms.

**We thank all members who have taken the time to write letters to Cedar Woods and Parliamentarians re Shed 26 .** Copies of these letters have been posted on the website at <http://www.Shed26.org>. Many people are supporting the Save our Shed campaign and these include members of PoANT and some of the wider membership of the National Trust of South Australia as well as members of the public.

If you would like to assist, please have a look at the website at <http://www.Shed26.org> for suggestions on what you can do to Save Our Shed.

Below is a brief outline of the history of Shed 26 and the site on which it was built.

### **Historical background to Shed 26.**

Shed 26 and other structures were erected by the Department of Marine and Harbors between 1956 and 1959. It was built on the land that formerly constituted the Government Dockyards and Glanville Dockyards that had existed on this part of the Port River embankment and extended from the causeway in the west to the Graving Dock to the east. Among other operations, repairs to the Port River's dredging fleet were conducted at the Government Dockyards employing

*"numerous mechanics and labourers ... and other works on hand. The plant ... comprises four powerful lathes, planning and shaping machines, three vertical drilling machines, a powerful screwing machine, a saw mill, a kill for steaming timber for bending purposes, a steamhammer, and a punching and shearing machine driven by a 16 h.p. engine"* (Register 20 May 1881: 7b).

Today the only remnant structure of the former dockyards area is Shed 26. As such it forms a poignant reminder of the intense activity that occurred here from the earliest days of the colony of South Australia in the 1850s to the present day and echoes essential elements of the Port's maritime industrial history and the construction of the Port's wharves and essential infrastructure over the years.

It is also worthwhile revisiting the history of this area and the adjoining areas of the ship's Graving Dock (a.k.a. Fletcher's Dock), Dunnikier and Fletcher's Slip, as well as the shipbuilding yards along Jenkins Street, the Port Adelaide Sailing Club and the Ferry Crossing landing just to the east of Fletcher's yard. Together these ventures realise the extraordinary sense of place and connection this area of the river continues to evoke over historical European settlement in this state. We can only illustrate a mere fraction of that history here.

Jenkins Street is named after Samuel Jenkins, a shipwright, who arrived in Port Adelaide in 1865 and worked at Fletcher's Yard before starting his own shipbuilding business in 1870 in the now named, Jenkins Street. From there sprang up a number of other shipbuilding enterprises along this strip of land as well as the Port Adelaide Sailing Club built between 1915 and 1924, which is now the home of Gallery Yampu.

In 1884 Fletcher's yard had already existed for some thirty odd years and Fletcher was in the initial phase of building his own Graving Dock (which came to be known as Fletcher's Dock) that now sits adjacent to

Shed 26. Due to legal issues and other reasons and insufficient funds the Graving Dock was not completed by Fletcher.

In 1894 the Kingston Government approved construction of a foundry and pipe-making facility at the Glanville Way and Works Shops. These activities show the close connections that this area had with railway, engineering and marine functions carried out by the Government. Pipes were produced for both the Barossa and Bundaleer water schemes as well as in the opening of the Jervois Bridge (Couper-Smartt, p.165, note 25). By 1898, 300 men were employed at the dockyard with more expansion to follow in 1905. It is also worth noting that the roofing of all of the new sheds at the Adelaide Railway Station had been made here.

During the 1920s a number of swimming events took place at Fletcher's Dock attracting international competitors. The piers on the eastern side of Fletcher's dock appear to have been added for the purposes of the swimming events at the time. By the 1930s Fletcher's Dock was being used by the Harbor's Board as part of its dockyard for laid up dredges.

The pipe works at the Government Dockyards was still going strong at this stage until the Depression hit and forced many to be retrenched. However, the pipe factory continued operations through the 1940s, 50s and 60s until its final closure around 1967. In 1949 the Greater Port Adelaide Plan came to fruition. This heralded a complete revamping of the Glanville Dockyards. Work commenced in 1956 on workshops that were at the time rated highly by international standards. This period of modernization is a unique and valuable facet of Port Adelaide's architectural history that sits alongside one of the first and indisputably most prominent shipyard from the earliest days of European settlement.

The revamped Dockyard was involved in maintenance provisioning on an ever increasing scale. By 1986 with its best days behind it there were 236 employees at the Glanville Dockyards and it closed about 1988.

## PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD COUNCIL HERITAGE PLAQUE SCHEME

At the Council meeting on 11 Dec 18, Council approved the establishment of a heritage plaque Scheme for the City with funding for an initial roll out of approximately 30 plaques to be installed and launched during Heritage Month in May 2019. Up to this time, various ad hoc plaque schemes have been undertaken around the City, with no ongoing policy guidance or funding. The new scheme will be similar to the long running City of Adelaide 'blue plaque' program and will be open to owners of State Heritage buildings in the first round then State or Local Heritage buildings (as listed in the PAEC Development Plan) in subsequent rounds.

The plaques (including installation) will be free of charge and will be similar to the example below. There are approximately 100 State Heritage and 205 Local Heritage properties in the PAEC area, of which approx. 75% are in the Port Adelaide and Semaphore Wards. The intent is to also link the plaques to more in-depth heritage information (e.g. photos) accessible through the Council's web site.

More information is available from the Council website under Council/Council Meetings/Agendas and Minutes/11 Dec 2018 - Item 12.3.9 (pages CL-280 and CL-36 respectively). This initiative is the outcome of a combined PoANT/Port Adelaide Historical Society deputation made to Council at their December 2017 meeting.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS - SA MARITIME MUSEUM EXHIBITION

### *Lustre: Pearling & Australia*



From December until 28 April 2019 the museum is hosting *Lustre: Pearling & Australia*, a fascinating exhibition developed by the Western Australian Museum in partnership with Niemba Buru Yawuru, Broome.

From objects of ancient trade to exquisite pearl jewellery, *Lustre* traces the gritty story of pearling across Australia's north. This is the human story of pearling, weaving together strands of Aboriginal, Asian and European histories to unpack one of Australia's oldest and most unique industries.

It highlights the significance of *guwan* (pearl shell) to Aboriginal communities, the stories embedded in their *riji* (carved pearl shell) and the vast trade networks that crisscross the western half of the continent to South Australia. With colonisation, Aboriginal people were pivotal to the industry – valued for their vast knowledge of the pearl bed sites and talent as divers. These 'Saltwater Cowboys' were later joined by Malay and Japanese divers, who undertook the perilous work of hard hat diving from the luggers. *Lustre* explores the multicultural communities that carved out a life in the north west under the shadow of the Immigration Restriction Act, and the seasonal rhythms of life on a pearling lugger. More than pearls, this exhibition explores the beauty, significance and intrigue of pearls and pearl shell across time and cultures covering some 20,000 years. The museum will hold a series of talks and events linked to the exhibition over the next few months. Keep an eye on our website for details. Curator-led tours of the exhibition are available for groups of 10 or more at \$15 per person.

### Maritime Museum Membership

Did you know that Annual membership to the Museum offers superb value and a wonderful opportunity to contribute to an iconic South Australian museum?

Membership entitles you to free admission all year, member only exhibition previews, curator led tours and special events, advance notice of special vessel cruises, tours and programs, 10% discount in the museum shop and the latest news on exhibitions, announcements and behind the scenes stories through our regular e-newsletter. Price for a Single membership is \$30.00, Joint membership (two adults residing at the same address) is \$40.00 and Family membership (two parents and up to five children under 18 years of age) is \$55.00. Visit the website to purchase your membership online <https://maritime.history.sa.gov.au/tickets-membership/> or call on 82076255.



## PORT OF ADELAIDE NATIONAL TRUST AGM 2018

Our 12th AGM was held on 12th September at the SA Maritime Museum with 25 members in attendance. Pat Netschitowsky gave the Chairpersons report and provided a summary of the advocacy work of the branch for the past year with highlights including:

- Co-hosting with PAREPG a State election forum on 19th February for local candidates for the seat of Port Adelaide
- Successfully proposing to PAEC a plaques project to enable heritage listed properties in Port Adelaide to access a plaque which tells the historical significance of the building
- Co-hosting a workshop in May with PAEC to develop local actions to promote and celebrate the history of the Port Adelaide area, its maritime heritage and many heritage buildings within the broader Port Adelaide Tourism strategy. The workshop was facilitated by one of our Committee members Clare Shuttleworth.
- Writing to the new planning Minister Stephan Knoll advocating for the continued partnership approach to the activation of Port Adelaide in particular current empty and underutilized buildings including Shed 1, Shed 26 and the Customs House. We received a response confirming a government commitment to the partnership approach.
- Advocating and supporting restoration and maintenance of the Torrens Island Quarantine Station (TIQS).
- Presentation of the 2018 Rex Munn Award to Luke Heffernan. Luke was awarded the prize for his outstanding contribution to cultural heritage in the Port Adelaide region.
- Continued strong communication with our members through the Missive and email updates and with the wider public through Facebook, our Website and individual email responses.

**Guest speakers at the AGM** were Kevin Jones, Director and Lindl Lawton Senior Curator of the SA Maritime Museum. Kevin provided background information about the history and role of the museum and we learned that the South Australian Maritime Museum is a state government museum and part of the History Trust of South Australia. The Museum opened in 1986 in a collection of historic buildings in the heart of Port Adelaide, South Australia's first heritage precinct.

Exhibitions are presented in a pair of adjoining stone bond stores, built in the 1850s. It offers visitors the opportunity to climb the Port Adelaide lighthouse that was built in 1869 and originally stood at the entrance to the Port River. Cruises are provided for school groups in the police launch *Archie Badenoch* (built 1942) and periodically for the public in the steam tug *Yelta* (built 1949). The Museum presents an active program of changing exhibitions, tours of the museum and of the Torrens Island Quarantine Station, vacation performances, schools programs and events including historic dinners, music and theatre. It has a reputation as an interactive museum that delivers imaginative programming.

The Maritime Museum also preserves the Weman Sailmakers Loft (1864), and has its offices in the former Commercial Bank building (1888), both in Lipson Street, across from the Museum.

The Museum builds on the legacy of previous organisations including the Port Adelaide Institute. The Museum holds in trust, a collection that the Institute founded in 1872 and is now the oldest nautical collection in Australia.

Lindl Lawton, Senior Curator provided an overview of current projects and partnerships and planning underway for 2019 and 2020. Of note:

- Dr Adam Paterson who curated *Leviathan*, has been working closely with the Ngarrindjeri community, in particular archaeologist Chris Wilson, to investigate their early involvement in European whaling at Encounter Bay. In June he delivered their collaborative paper at the New Histories of Pacific Whaling, an International Symposium at the University of Hawai'i – Mānoa.
- A handwoven whale Kondoli made by Aunty Ellen Trevorrow and Ngarrindjeri weavers and their families was installed in the museum on Thursday 24 May as part of the *Leviathan* exhibition. The artwork was commissioned by the Museum of Natural History in Le Havre, and will travel to France to be displayed as part of their 2021 *Pacificique* festival

### **2019 Anniversary of Sail – May 2019**

The next few years herald significant anniversaries for businesses and community organisations.

- In 2019 it will be ten years since the last boat building yards were demolished on Cruikshank's corner. The year also marks 150 years since the McFarlane family established its boat building business on the banks of the Port River. This exhibition will mark an anniversary of sail in many ways – with several of McFarlane's finely crafted wooden vessels, photographic portraits documenting some of the Port's boat builders and mariners posing with maritime objects from their personal collections that are meaningful to them. It will also touch on the resistance to the demolition of the boat yards and ways in which future redevelopments might embrace and reflect these stories.

### **2020 - Again – a year of anniversaries**

- In 2010 it is 250 years since James Cook charted the east coast of the continent. There will be a plethora of exhibitions in Australia commemorating this anniversary – hopefully in nuanced and provocative ways that emphasise that New Holland was no Terra Nullius, and that Cook's charting marked the beginning of an invasion that would irrevocably change the lives of First Nation people.
- **Game Day – Port Adelaide Football Club**  
May 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Port Adelaide Football Club's first game held at Buck's Flat, next to Captain Hart's Glanville Hall. The museum is working with Port Power to explore this story and make this football history, which has such a powerful resonance locally, accessible to other audiences.
- **Port Adelaide Rowing Club**  
2020 also marks 150 years since establishment of the Port Adelaide Rowing Club (we briefly entertained the thought of a combined sporting exhibition titled *Oars and Balls?*).

### **Long term projects**

- Redevelopment of the top floor gallery with a highly interactive, STEM focused gallery that highlights South Australia's history of Sail and Steam – the stories of the Great Grain Races, the windjammers, the Adelaide Steamship Company, and river trade.



- Solidifying relationships with Ngarrindjeri and other groups in South Australia to explore and document stories throughout all the exhibitions. The museum is currently working with Uncle Moogy (Major Sumner) to commission a bark canoe for the *First Voyages* gallery.
- The preservation of the 1882 iron ketch *Nelcebee* is a major long term project and the hull and deck have been blasted, hull ballast cleaned out, the rotting mast removed, and the deck painted.
- The long term plan is to have *Nellie* displayed as a key and potentially highly interactive object in a maritime heritage precinct that showcases big, kinetic objects – boats, wheelhouses, cranes and engines.
- With the national submarine contract with France there is an opportunity to forge cultural partnerships between the museum and cultural institutions in France. These may include:
  - Port to Port – condensed version of the *Living in Port* exhibition introducing our Port to Cherbourg. Cherbourg has fantastic botanic gardens which include Australian arboretum. Botanical drawings and collections from French voyages of exploration – Cherbourg, South Australia. Story we didn't really unpack in *The Art of Science*
  - Zephyr Quartet - under our guidance, string quartet Zephyr is developing new music based on the notations made by Baudin's voyagers . They will perform at Museum of Natural History in Le Havre and could also perform in Emmanuelle Parc Botanic Gardens at Cherbourg
  - Brittany – Lorient – Baudin's ships returned listing with the weight of thousands of specimens. There are maritime museums in Lorient and Brest and the story of Baudin's floating menagerie is one that has not been explored in Brittany. Those collections are still held by the National Museum of Natural History in France and there is the possibility of developing an exhibition that tours from Brittany to Australia
  - SAILS – South Australian Immigrant and Labour ships
  - Major long term archaeological survey of significant shipwrecks that has just been launched in partnership with Silent World Foundation, Australian National Maritime Museum, Flinders University, and the Department of Environment and Water.
  - The project brief is to locate and survey the first ten ships carrying migrants to new colony of South Australia in 1836 and 1837 and to investigate shipwrecks carrying Chinese migrants to the Victorian goldfields via Robe to avoid the poll tax. Wonderful potential as we don't tell this story in the Museum and it is an important one.

The evening concluded with a light supper and a tour of the *Living in Port* exhibition in the basement of the Maritime Museum with Lindl Lawton, Senior Curator.

**Don't forget - members event on Friday February 22 at the British Hotel - 6 - 8 pm.**

The Committee thanks all PoANT members for their support and encouragement during the past 12 months and we wish you all a safe and happy Christmas/New Year season.

