

From the Chairman.....

Dear friends and supporters

I appreciate that it is some time since our last newsletter, however I can report that the trustees of the Foundation have met regularly and we are in close touch with the Maritime Museum at all times.

We were fortunate to have the new Museum Director, Vincent Lipanovich attend a recent meeting which has helped to further consolidate the close relationship between the Foundation and the Museum.

As you will recall the Foundation was originally established to support the Bill Laxon Maritime Library at the Museum. You may also recall that in 2012 the Foundation changed its name to The Maritime Museum Foundation and expanded its range of objects to include wider support for the Museum and its collections.

At the time of the changes to the Foundation's objectives the trustees proposed that the funds then held by the Foundation should, in addition to meeting the general expenses of the Foundation be used for Library purposes as that was the basis on which they had so generously been given. I am pleased to say the Foundation expenses are not significant as all trustees give their time to the Foundation freely and the Museum itself supplies secretarial and other support.

As time has progressed the trustees have found that the call on the Foundation funds for library purposes has not been significant although the Foundation recently made a grant of \$6,000 to the Museum for the purchase of archive standard packing materials to assist the library with its storage and conservation needs.

The trustees would really like to see the Foundation funds being put to good use. For example we have recently received a request for funding from the Museum to assist with the restoration of the Logan classic yacht "Thelma". Some information is included later in this newsletter. The restoration work would be carried out by the Classic Yacht Trust under the supervision of John Street, a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Yachting. Many of you will know John is a long time supporter of classic yachting and the Museum and is also an advisory trustee and ambassador for the Foundation itself.

The Foundation trustees would like to support the restoration of this wonderful yacht which is such an important part of our yachting history and also to be able to support other Museum projects from time to time as the Foundation trustees think appropriate.

The trustees would be grateful if you could let us know if you have any objection to the Foundation funds being applied for non-library purposes. In particular, if you have made donations to the Foundation funds on the basis that they would **only** be used for library purposes and wish that to continue would you please let us know, contact details follow later in this newsletter. We will then ensure that those funds are set aside and used only for library purposes.

The Foundation trustees would genuinely welcome your input on this issue by **30 September 2015**. If we do not receive a direction from you by then to hold your donation only for library purposes we will proceed on the basis that funds held may be made available for other Museum purposes.

It is also an opportune time to publicly thank Bob Croker who has resigned as treasurer. Bob was responsible for the initial establishment of the Foundation and has served as a trustee and treasurer of the Foundation since its inception.

Once again I must point out that our work is only possible with your on-going financial support and included with this newsletter is a donor card for your use should you be able to make a donation. If you have received this newsletter by email and wish to make a donation please contact the Foundation secretary. In making a donation, if you wish your gift to be used for a specific purpose, e.g. library, museum collection, general museum purposes please let us know.

Kind regards
Ian McCombe

The Bill Laxon Maritime Library

The Bill Laxon Maritime Library has been the recipient of a grant of \$6,000 to assist with the purchase of 300 archival boxes.

On the 24th October 2013, the Library rescued Auckland Harbour Board records from Ports of Auckland offices just days before the offices were demolished. The storage of the records – some in computer printer boxes, some in larger cartons – was dismal as many boxes had been crushed or water damaged in the Ports of Auckland Building.

The Librarian, Marleene Boyd, and the Collections team are currently reorganising and rehousing the rescued records, and are grateful for the support of the Maritime Museum Foundation which has made the purchase of the archive boxes possible.

The photos below depict the condition of the boxes as they were found in the Ports of Auckland Building by the team. The Bill Laxon Maritime Library now proudly houses the Auckland Harbour Board Archives from 1871 – 1988.



“Storage” in Ports of Auckland Building – Oct 13



At the Museums offsite storage – Nov 13.

The Trustees.....

The Maritime Museum Foundation is indebted to its Trustees who, in spite of their busy professional and personal lives, make time to attend to the business of the Foundation with very little recognition for their work.

The Trustees have years worth of experience in education, finance, law, marketing, asset management, shipping and yachting.

Mention must also be made of our past trustees: - Larry Robbins and Bob Croker who had the vision to establish the Foundation.

Trustees (From left to right):

Ian McCombe (Chair), John Street, OBE, Eric Mahoney, Bob Hawkins (Deputy Chair), Alastair Aitken. Lorna Laxon was unfortunately not available for this photo.



Thelma.....



Thelma

The Classic Yacht Thelma was launched in 1897 and was regarded as one of the greatest creations by the legendary Logan Brothers. The yacht was originally built for marine merchants William and Alfred Jagger and was launched on 30 October 1897 from the Logan's yard.

Thelma sailing chronicles are full of interesting adventures – for instance she was sold to a confirmed pacifist R E Johnson, who left NZ in 1941 without permission only to be arrested in Tahiti. Thelma was impounded and finished up in the hands of the US Navy in Honolulu as a R&R vessel. In 1954, she was rescued from the navy scrapheap and sold to a sailor who sailed her for many years. She remained out of New Zealand until 2006, when the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust successfully negotiated her purchase and brought her home.

Finally restored to her original racing condition by Horizon Boats in Silverdale, the vessel is now a protected New Zealand antique under the protected objects act.

Skipped by Tony Blake, the vessel competes in various regattas and is on public display at the Heritage Landing Classic Yacht Marina. Unfortunately, in February 2015, she broke her top mast whilst competing, and until repairs are carried out, cannot sail. Further details of the vessel are available on the website: www.classicyachtcharitabletrust.org.nz.

The NZ Maritime Museum has submitted a funding application to the Foundation, requesting the Foundations financial support to assist with the repairs of this heritage vessel.

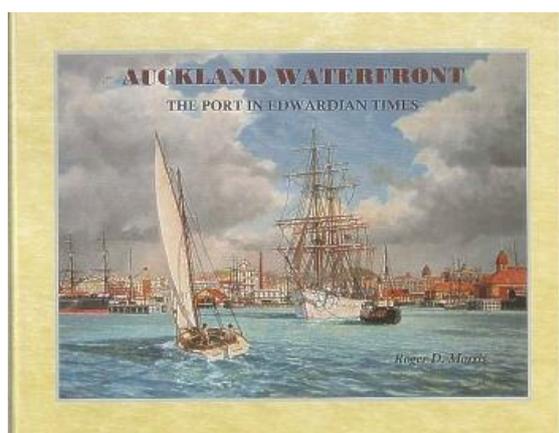
Our Previous Projects.....



The Foundation proudly supported the "The Drowning Country" written, directed and produced by Caroline Fitzgerald.



Provided funding for the production of the DVD "Guardians of the Light" in conjunction with the Chisholm Whitney Family Charitable Trust



Supported the launch of **AUCKLAND WATERFRONT, The Port in Edwardian Times**, written by Roger D Morris, in conjunction with Boat Books Limited.

With the support of the Chisholm Whitney Family Charitable Trust, provided funds for the purchase of a rare edition of Captain Cook's Voyages which is currently housed in the Bill Laxon Maritime Library at the Maritime Museum.

Funds to assist in the indexing, cataloguing and indexing of part of the Maritime Museum's extensive photographic collection.

Book Launches for Maritime history related topics.

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