

MMF Newsletter



Summer 2013

Welcome to those readers who are new to us. Our current supporters will see from the logo on this newsletter that our Foundation has undergone some changes.

BACKGROUND

The Foundation was established to promote maritime research and to support the Bill Laxon Library at the Voyager New Zealand Maritime Museum.

As a small boy, Bill Laxon loved to go on board the coastal steamer where his grandfather worked as an engineer. It was the beginning of a lifetime love of ships. Bill was a commercial lawyer with a part-time writing career, acknowledged as one of the finest contributors of any New Zealand author to both national and international maritime history.

CHANGES

Following discussions with the Board of the Voyager New Zealand Maritime Museum, the Trustees of the Foundation unanimously decided to widen our objectives. These changes have been registered with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and the Charities Commission.

The Foundation objectives now include support of the present and future collection of the Museum, as well as the Library collection. The Trustees are empowered to accept donations for specific collection purposes or the general purposes of the Museum other than operating expenses.

To better reflect the change of focus of the Foundation, the Trustees also voted to change the name of the Foundation to the "Maritime Museum Foundation" and the rule change makes it clear that the Foundation "incorporates the Bill Laxon Maritime Library Foundation".

ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES

With the change of focus, the Foundation also welcomes two additional trustees, Alastair Aitken, chair of the Maritime Museum Board and Larry Robbins, formerly the secretary of the Foundation.

ADVISORY TRUSTEES & AMBASSADORS

In order to widen the range of skills and influence of the Foundation Board, we have appointed John Street, Bill Speedy and Eric Mahoney as Advisory Trustees. They also have the title of "Ambassador" for the Foundation. Our Ambassadors are well known for their expertise in business and maritime matters and also for their philanthropy and we look forward to working with them to achieve the Foundation's objectives. Biographies for John, Bill and Eric appear later in this newsletter.

EXISTING FUNDS

I wish to assure all our contributors

that the funds you have so generously given to the Foundation for the purpose of the Bill Laxon Maritime Library remain solely committed to that objective and will not be used for other Museum purposes.

To date the Foundation has assisted with:

- funding for the production of the DVD "Guarding the Light" in conjunction with the Chisholm Whitney Family Charitable Trust;
- funds to assist in the identification, cataloguing and indexing of part of the Museum's extensive photograph collection;
- funds for a rare edition of Captain Cook's Voyages for the Library with support of the Chisholm Whitney Family Charitable Trust;
- book launches for Maritime history related topics.



GOING FORWARD

The Foundation Trustees see the new, broader, objectives of the Foundation as providing the opportunity to widen our supporter base and we also look forward to your continuing support.

On the following page is some information concerning Museum achievements and proposals for the future. Your generosity in supporting the Foundation will enable it to assist the Museum in its endeavours.

At this point I wish to pay thanks to the unstinting generosity that Larry Robbins has shown to the Foundation. Since its inception Larry has been its Honorary Secretary and in addition to the functions of that office he has set up the Foundation website and produced newsletters. He has also written and produced a presentation on the Foundation which he has delivered to many community groups. Thank you Larry!

The Maritime Museum has generously provided the services of Samantha Alexander, its Administration Manager, to act as the Honorary Secretary of the Foundation.

JOHN STREET

Biography

John is a Member Of The New Zealand Order of Merit for services to yachting.

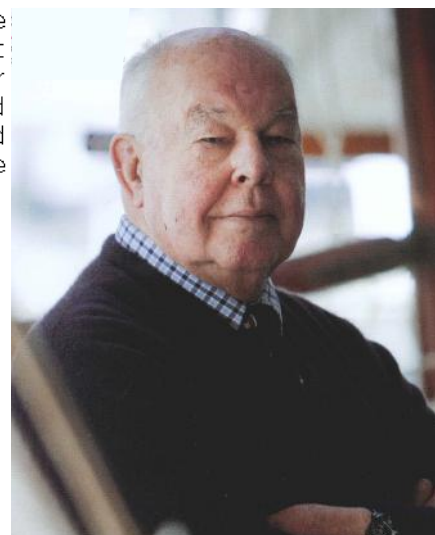
In 1952 John's father joined the Auckland chandlery A Foster and Co and later purchased it. John then joined in 1959, aged 23 and went on to run Foster's in later years.

John was a founding trustee of the Maritime Museum, a past Director of Whitehead Stop Over Limited, Chairman of NZ International Yachting Trust, Foundation Member of NZ Yachting Academy, Committee member NZ Yachting High Performance Committee, Committee Member and past Chairman of Boating Industry Association, Executive Member of the Maritime Export Group (MAREX), past Director of the 2000 Americas Cup Village development, Committee Member of Boating Industry Association, New Zealand Yachting Federation honour award

1994, Life member of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron 2001, Life member Yachting New Zealand and honoured with the Sir Bernard Ferguson Yachtsman of the year award in 2004.

John is currently an Ambassador/Advisory Trustee of Voyager NZ Maritime Museum, he is also the Chairman of The Gypsy Restoration Trust.

John has acted several times to save New Zealand classic yachts that are important to our maritime history. One he brought back from Australia, another from Europe.



BILL SPEEDY

Biography

Bill Speedy is Managing Director of Oceanbridge Shipping which he founded in 1981.

Based in Takapuna Oceanbridge employs over 100 people throughout New Zealand. A keen surfer and sailor, Bill and Oceanbridge, support a wide range of community based activities.

Most recently Oceanbridge have been the main sponsor of the Anniversary day Regatta and from 2013 will be the named sponsor for Sail Auckland in addition to giving a helping hand to Emirates Team New Zealand in their quest to regain the America's Cup.

Oceanbridge's primary focus for any community support is to help our youth get to the world stage and to this end have been the key sponsor for the Billabong Grom Series for the past 12 years and have been sponsoring the Yachting NZ Youth Trust for the past 5 years.

Bill and Oceanbridge are dedicated to helping our young sailors reach their full potential.



ERIC MAHONEY

Biography

Eric joined NZAM in 2007, and plays a senior role in the company operations and development. Eric is primarily responsible for institutional Relationships.

Prior to joining NZAM, Eric was formerly a Vice President of Citibank N.A. and held a number of senior management positions for over 18 years. His last position was Managing Director of Citibank Global Asset Management based in Auckland.

Eric is the past President and a current Director of The American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand.

Eric resides in Auckland with his wife Robyn (Barrister) and their two teenage children Rebecca and Nicholas. He is a keen yachtsman and is Chairman of the Auckland Anniversary Regatta committee and a member of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

FUTURE CONTACT

Please email Samantha at secretary@laxonfoundation.co.nz if you wish to receive newsletters electronically. While we hope you will stay or become a supporter, please advise if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

I am very happy to respond to any questions you may have concerning the changes that have been made to the foundation. You can contact me by phone on 09 979 2159 or by email to the secretary as above.

Finally on behalf of all Trustees and Ambassadors, I wish you all the best for 2013 and I ask you to consider a gift to the Foundation using the donor card **attached**.

Ian McCombe
Chair, Maritime Museum Foundation