

THE SEVEN SEAS CLUB of AUSTRALIA

"TO PROMOTE AND FOSTER THE COMRADESHIP OF THE SEA"

Founded 1968

Incorporated 1996

An elected COM shall run the Club in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation & Standing Orders

NEWSLETTER No. 98 Autumn 2025

Greetings Members

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Newsletter, it's hard to believe that March is upon us already. We had a successful start to the year, with the "Banyan" meeting in January and the February meeting composing of the AGM and then our Guest Speaker presented a fascinating talk on the evolution of sharks. Both meetings were well attended, and the Robin Hood Hotel is proving to be a good venue, with both the food and atmosphere of the meeting room.

Thanks to Sallyann Geddes for providing the annual report of the Baxter and Grimshaw Foundation. As noted in her report, it has been a successful year for the Foundation in supporting the sponsorship of young participants on the "One and All" sailing expeditions in cooperation with Rotary and Lions Clubs in South Australia. This has proved to be a life-changing experience for the many young people who have had the opportunity to be involved.

Thank you also to those who have sent in contributions to this edition of the Newsletter; in particular:

Kel Watson, for the President's Report, Captain Peter Thomas for his monthly historical notes; Trevor Powell, who once again has shared his excellent photos of ships at Port Adelaide as well as those photos taken at recent meetings. Trevor has also included descriptions of the ships that he has researched. Ian Small for photos taken at meetings and Capt. Bob Smedley for forwarding the article on "Naming Islands" and providing the information regarding our new club apparel.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting in March.

Fair Winds,
Terry Beaston



Battle of Trafalgar Watercolour by John Ford OAM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Kel Watson – February 2025

Greetings Fellow Members.

Another busy and enjoyable year has passed, and we look forward to our future events and friendship.

We have had a series of interesting speakers such as Brett Yardley in March, Chris Hughes in full regalia at Flinders night in April, Capt. Bob on Human Torpedoes, in June Serge Riviere and Gillian Dooley spoke on Flinders' friendships made in Mauritius.

We also heard from member Jeanne Harrison as she entertained us with tales of sailing to isolated islands in the Pacific, Mark Sinclair with a 'Coconut' update, Cmdr. Tony Ryder RAN on the progress of developing Osborne shipyard, and Ken Messenger on his trip to Donington for the re-interment of Capt. Matthew Flinders.

The Committee is still active in formulating ways to increase our membership and make us better known in the community. An updated website is under construction.

In April we have a special guest and speaker, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia who will be accompanied by Mr Rod Bunten. Her Excellency has a strong focus on diversity in leadership roles, and recent changes that we have made within our Club might be considered quite timely.

We will inform every one of the normal protocols for hosting Her Excellency in due course. Ken Messenger and others met with Her Excellency in the UK during the reinterment of Matthew Flinders. At that time, he invited her to visit and speak at our Club, which of course she graciously accepted.

We are still trying to solve the age-old dilemma of finding a suitable place for our meetings. I think the biggest issue is combining a venue with suitable menu at a reasonable price. The Robin Hood Hotel has been a good alternative for the moment for many of our recent meetings. Even the London club seems to be in that position at this moment.

So that wraps it up for me looking forward to Wednesday

Fair Winds.
Kel Watson



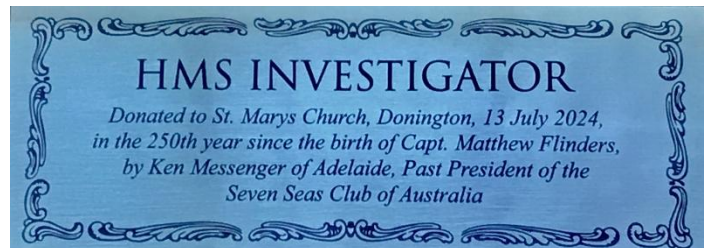
Recent Seven Seas Club Meetings:

October Meeting 2024 at the Robin Hood Hotel

The Seven Seas Club of Australia Inc celebrates The Battle of Trafalgar in October every year.

We met at the Robin Hood Hotel, to not only celebrate Nelson's Victory at Trafalgar but also the re- interment of the remains of Matthew Flinders at St Mary's church at Donington, his birthplace, on 13th July 2024. We were represented by Past President Ken Messenger who also donated a beautiful scale model of HMS Investigator to St Mary's Church, where it will remain over Mathew Flinders' grave.

The second part of the meeting was an audio-visual presentation on the Battle of Trafalgar.



-Thanks to Trevor Powel for the text and photos

November Meeting 2024 at the Naval and Military Club

November Partner's Dinner Night - 20 November 2024.

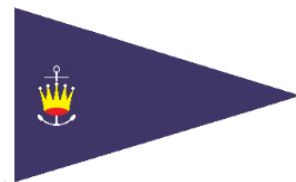
The November meeting was our annual end of year dinner and included the auction of donated items for the Baxter and Grimshaw Foundation.



Our Guest speaker Commander Tony Ryder, Head of Navy in SA, who spoke on the future of the Australian Navy at Osborne. -Photos by Ian Small.



A new member, Stuart Marshall, was inducted into the club on the night. The annual Baxter and Grimshaw auction took place with Captain Bob Smedley auctioning off several items of historic maritime significance. At the end of the evening, we gathered in the foyer of the Naval and Military Club for a special group photo.



January 2025 Meeting at the Robin Hood Hotel

'Banyan Luncheon' at the Robin Hood Hotel - 15 January 2025.

About 30 attended and enjoyed a convivial gathering. Our January meetings have become more casual affairs in the last few years as some of us recuperate from the excesses of the festive season, with a casual dress code, however our other, club protocols are observed. Partners can also attend and are encouraged to participate.
Photo by Ian Small.



Banyan Luncheon at the Robin Hood Hotel

February Meeting at the Robin Hood Hotel

Our February Dinner meeting was preceded as usual by a brief Annual General Meeting.

We were most fortunate to have a special guest speaker for our February dinner meeting. Professor John Long is Strategic Professor in Paleontology at Flinders University.



His talk was based on his book – 'The Secret History of Sharks'. Sharks have been fighting for their lives for 500 million years and today are under dire threat. They are the longest surviving vertebrate on Earth, outlasting multiple mass extinction events that decimated life on the planet.

But how did they thrive for so long? By developing superpower- like abilities that allowed them to ascend to the top of the oceanic food chain.



Mr. David Milsom provides interesting stories of historical shipwrecks at all our monthly meetings

In his book, John Long, who for decades has been on the cutting edge of shark research, weaves a thrilling story of sharks' unparalleled reign. The Secret History of Sharks showcases the global search to discover sharks' largely unknown evolution, led by Professor Long and dozens of other extraordinary scientists. They embark on digs to all seven continents, investigating layers of rock and using cutting-edge technology to reveal never-before-found fossils and the clues to sharks' singular story.

Many of us have seen sharks whilst out at sea and been fascinated by them and wondered about their evolution and where they came from.

This event was an exclusive opportunity to hear from a world leader on this subject; one who is at the forefront of their study. -Thanks to Capt. Bob Smedley



Please Note:

We have received notice that the Governor, Her Excellency Francis Adamson AC, has accepted our invitation to attend our 'Flinders Night' meeting on April 16th. 2025.

We are currently preparing the protocols and details for this special event, and we will inform all members when the final arrangements are in place. At this stage it is expected that the meeting will be held at the Naval and Military Club in Adelaide.

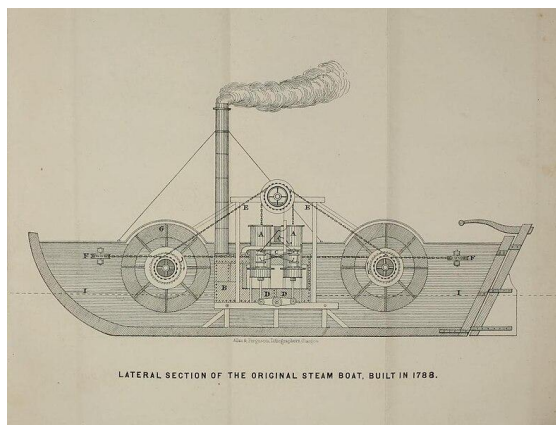


On this month

Compiled By Capt. Peter Thomas
Historical notes for the month of February 2025

February 1st, 1788

First Steamboat invented



February 1st, 2003

Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart in flight over West Texas, killing all seven crew members.

February 5th, 1971

Apollo 14 landed on the moon.



February 10th, 1962

Collision between HMAS Voyager and HMAS Melbourne, 82 sailors died.

February 14th, 1788

Lt. Philip Gidley King sailed with a party of 23 including 15 convicts, in HMS Supply to found the settlement of Norfolk Island, where native flax was to be harvested.

February 15th, 1898

In Havana, the US Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and sank with 260 crew members lost.

The incident inflamed public opinion in the USA and resulted in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25th, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine"

February 17th, 1867

The first ship passed through the Suez Canal

February 21st, 1804

British engineer, Richard Trevithick demonstrated the first high pressure steam engine and the first working railway steam locomotive.

February 22nd, 1797

Over 1000 troops attempt to invade Britain, landing on the Welsh coast. The brave ladies of Fishguard saved the day.

February 23rd, 1904

US gains control of the Panama Canal Zone.

February 25th, 1933

The first US Navy Aircraft Carrier was launched, The USS Langley.



February 26th, 1606

The Dutch East India Company ship Duyfken, under Captain Willem Janszoon, explored the western coast of Cape York Peninsula, near what is now Weipa. This was the first recorded landfall by a European on Australian soil.

February 26th, 1815

Napoleon Bonaparte escapes from Elba.

February 28th, 1844

During a demonstration of naval fire power, one of the guns aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing several top US government officials on the Steam ship, and narrowly missed killing the then President, John Tyler.



Portfolio of Photographs of ships at Port Adelaide recently by SSC member Trevor Powell:



8th November 2024

A BINGLE between ship loading equipment and bulk carrier African Jay means vessels are not being loaded.

Details on the incident remain sketchy, but there were no injuries.

The incident took place on Saturday (2 November) at global agriculture network Viterra's South Australian, Ardrossan port terminal on the east coast of the Yorke Peninsula, about 150 kilometres from the Adelaide city centre.

A statement from Viterra said they were liaising with shipping clients to minimise the impact on their operations.

"There was an incident at our Ardrossan port terminal which has damaged the ship loading equipment," the statement said.

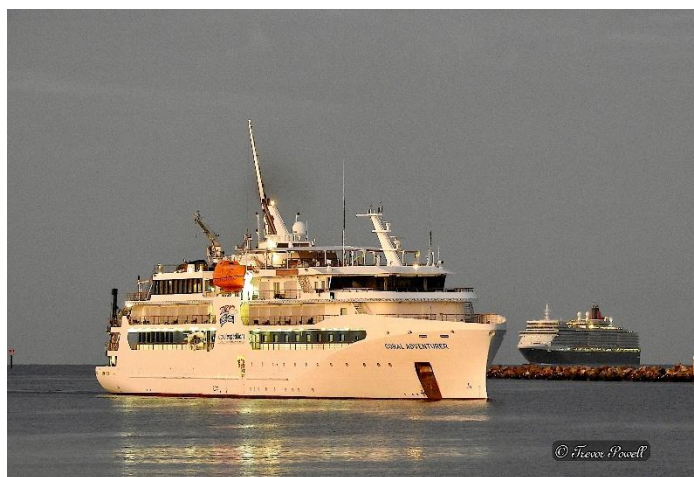
"We are currently investigating the cause of the incident and assessing the damage to determine the timeframe for when the port will be able to load vessels."

The Ardrossan port terminal loads non-grain commodities on behalf of clients and Viterra doesn't load grain through the port terminal.

Photographs of the damaged ship loading equipment were taken by a photographer who wishes to remain anonymous.



The African Jay was the ship involved in the incident at Ardrossan.



CORAL ADVENTURER and QUEEN ELIZABETH arriving at PORT ADELAIDE - 10 November 2024.

Cruise ships MV Coral Adventurer and MS Queen Elizabeth arriving at the Outer Harbor, Port Adelaide - 10/11/2024.

CORAL ADVENTURER

Home port :- CAIRNS

Description CORAL ADVENTURER is a Passenger vessel built in 2019. Currently sailing under the flag of Australia.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Year of build :- 2010

Builder FINCANTIERI MONFALCONE - MONFALCONE, ITALY Home port :- HAMILTON

Owner :- CUNARD LINE - LONDON, United Kingdom (UK)

Manager :- CARNIVAL UK - LONDON, U.K.

QUEEN ELIZABETH is a Passenger vessel built in 2010 by FINCANTIERI MONFALCONE - MONFALCONE, ITALY.

Currently sailing under the flag of Bermuda. It's gross tonnage is 90901 tons.





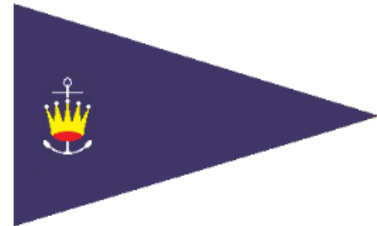
Queen Elizabeth arriving at Outer Harbor



SEASPAN BREEZE arrives at PORT ADELAIDE 7 November 2024. Container ship MV Seaspan Breeze arriving at the Outer Harbor, Port Adelaide - 7/11/2024. Tugs assisting were Heron, Barunga and Endeavour. Flag: - Hong Kong



DIAMOND PRINCESS arrives at PORT ADELAIDE - 12 November 2024. Cruise ship MS Diamond Princess arriving at the Outer Harbor, Port Adelaide - 12/11/2024. IMO number: - 9228198 Year of build :- 2004



RHEA LEADER arrives at PORT ADELAIDE - 12 November 2024. Vehicle Ro-Ro MV Rhea Leader arriving at the Outer Harbor, Port Adelaide - 12/11/2024. Tugs assisting were Heron and Barunga. IMO number :- 9355214 Home port:- TOKYO



Judy Frauenfelder, Ken's partner and Ken Messenger with Cynthia Robinson OBE FRIN and a member of Seven seas Club, London, along with Barry Johnston, her partner, enjoying a cup of coffee together during Cynthia's recent visit to Adelaide.



www.baxtergrimshaw.org.au

ANNUAL REPORT, December 2024

Our Vision Building self-confidence and empowering disadvantaged youth through maritime training and experience. Going to Sea can literally change a life.

The Baxter and Grimshaw Foundation (Foundation) provides funding for maritime training and experience scholarships to disadvantaged youth (16 to 25 years) to improve their self-confidence and self-reliance and opportunity to access a maritime career pathway.

The 2024 Directors were: Sallyann Geddes (Chair), Scott Rickards (Secretary), Lucas Cree (Treasurer), David Linder-Patton (Director), Ian Small (Director).

There remained an unfilled Director position throughout the year.

The 2024 Board Directors had a diversity of experience, to contribute to the 2024 operations and planning the future of the Foundation.

Business was conducted through board meetings and e-mails.

Governance

The board met on four occasions with a full quorum of Directors. Financial reports, business activities and scholarship recipient approvals have been the focus of the meetings.

The Directors reviewed the Foundation Investment Strategy to maximise returns with a conservative level of risk. The current investment plan will be maintained.

The Directors reviewed membership with Philanthropy Australia's "Better Giving Hub". Despite efforts to connect with donor charities and attendance at workshops there was no consequential benefit to B&G Foundation. The decision was made by the Board to cancel the membership.

The Foundation 2023 Report was submitted to the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission

The Chair made presentations to the Seven Seas Club about Foundation happenings at Club dinners.

Strategic Plan

In 2024 the Foundation Strategic Plan was completed with the board directors. This Plan communicates the Foundation purpose, aspirations and describes the opportunities for developing a long-lasting partnership with businesses and organisations.

The sharpening of focus to provide scholarships which extended beyond the *Youth Adventure Voyages* scholarships is a priority. The B&G funding in 2025, of a One & All Cadetship scholarship is the beginning of this focus. Upon completion of a coxswain qualification, the recipient will have entry level access to a maritime career pathway.

A full copy of the Strategic Plan is available upon request from the Chairperson.

Program 1: Youth Adventure Voyage

The Foundation continued to support the Rotary District 9510 Youth Sailing Challenge with 50/50 sponsorship with Rotary Clubs across Australia. The four scholarship recipients, 3 female and 1 male came from Port Lincoln (SA), Walla Walla (NSW), Port Adelaide (SA) and Kangaroo Island (SA).

*It felt like a family on the ship
I felt proud and excited to overcome my fear
The idea of teamwork is instilled in me.
I was surprised how I came out of my shell and completed the challenges set for me*

Program 2: One and All Cadetships

The Foundation has expanded the partnership with One& All to introduce a fully funded Cadetship in 2025. The Department for Education STEM scholarship recipients will be invited to apply for the cadetship, thereby providing a post-school qualification in maritime.

Longitudinal study

The Directors have further developed a longitudinal study to evaluate the impact of a Foundation Scholarship. A set of questions is provided to each recipient to respond to. The board will analyse the responses to inform future activities of the Foundation.

2025 Activities

The Foundation aims to

1. Continue to subsidise (50%) of 4 Rotary District 9510 Youth Sailing Challenge scholarships in the Youth Adventure Program
2. Continue to build a relationship with the Glenside Lions Club to provide funds for scholarships
3. Introduce a fully funded Youth Adventure Voyage Scholarship in partnership with Department for Education STEM program
4. Introduce a fully funded One and All Cadetship scholarship
5. Explore the development of relationships with charities to increase funds available to further expand the number of scholarships
6. Update the Foundation's website with more "Success Stories"

2025 Board Directors

The Foundation's Rules stipulate that Directors shall retire at the end of each calendar year with the right for re-appointment for a total of five consecutive years in a given position. The Office-bearers must be members of the Seven Seas Club of Australia Inc.

The 2024 Board will elect the Directors for 2025 at the first meeting of 2025.

Finance

In 2024, the Foundation gratefully received sponsorship from the Seven Seas Club of Australia Inc. Glenside Lions Club and an anonymous donor. In addition, franking credits and dividends from the investment accounts has increased the Foundation funds.

Financial report 31st December 2024

Total income: \$21,686.92

Total expenditure: \$6,655.55

Total equity: \$96,595.45

A full disclosure of the accounts is available from the Treasurer, on request.

The Foundation looks forward to the continuing support of the Seven Seas Club of Australia Inc. in its endeavour to achieve results that fulfil its purpose, reflecting that the Seven Seas Club has a long-standing connection, initially, with the B&G Trust then the Foundation — the Foundation's Office-bearers are members of the Club.

Sallyann Geddes
Chair

Scott C Rickards
Secretary

Lucus Cree
Treasurer



Mr. David Binks addressing participants on the One and All voyage, October 2024

Naming islands

By Chris Esplin-Jones

In 1962 I was serving as an acting Sub-Lieutenant in “HMS Protector”, a net layer launched in 1936. She was modified after the war to become the Royal Navy Ice Patrol Ship. The net laying bow was removed and a bow suitable for the South Atlantic seas was fitted along with a hangar and flight deck suitable for two Whirlwind helicopters. The Ship retained its main four-inch gun armament.



Figure 1: “HMS Protector” at Portsmouth viewed from the Ryde-Portsmouth ferry on the 14th October, 1963, on her way to the South Atlantic

On the annual voyage South there was plenty of time to earn by Bridge Watchkeeping Ticket and create a number of “*ocean passage*” charts – recording depth under the ship’s track – which were submitted to the Hydrographer of the Navy for incorporation into existing charts. The Ship’s role in the South Atlantic was to carry out scientific data gathering, to maintain a UK presence in the disputed land borders in Graham Land and identify and survey potential anchorages. The Royal Survey Ship “**John Biscoe**” was also operating off Graham Land.

In December of that year, I volunteered to move with the Specialist Survey Team across decks to the “**John Biscoe**”. Over the next three months we were to carry out a survey and chart the Adelaide Anchorage at Lat. 67 degrees 46 minutes South and Long. 68 degrees 55 minutes West.

In the pre-GPS days chart work was done by sextant, depth sounders lead line, using triangulation points, aerial photography and, in shallow water close to land, corrected for tide. The party operated a 32ft cutter with kitchen rudder steering gear. All measurements were made simultaneously when the leader called “*mark*”. Data was then recorded and, at the end of the working day, taken to the chart room in the “**John Biscoe**”, where it was incorporated into the master chart. Recording each mark required a deal of concentration.

As the chart neared completion prominent features of the anchorage were given names based on members of the survey party. “*Esplin Islands*” came up because, together with an armed Royal Marine, I spent two days on the island operating a distance

measuring device. We were working with a second remote party, out of contact with the main team and dependent on a helicopter to return to the ship. I also carried out the bottom sounding for the entire anchorage. The name was approved by the Antarctic Place-Names Committee.

It was all a long time ago and I look back on the absolute lack of fear shown by the wildlife sharing the islands (particularly the aggressive skuas) and the cleanliness of the sea.

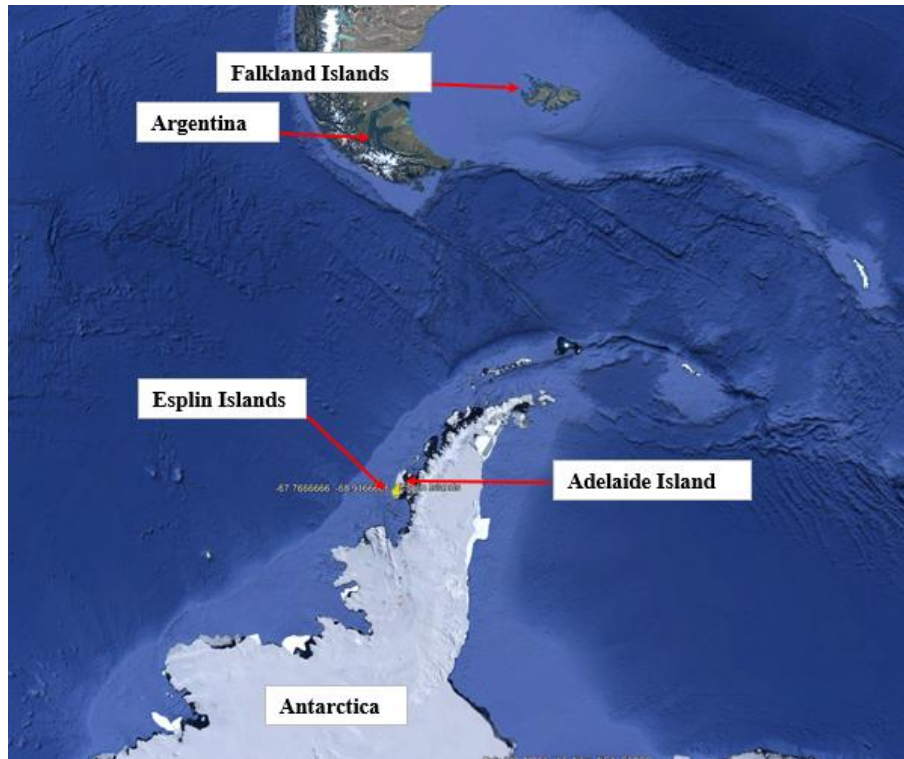


Figure 2: The Esplin Islands in relation to Argentina and the Falkland Islands at the southern tip of Adelaide Island.



Figure 3: Chart of the Esplin Islands



Figure 4: The Esplin Islands. The distant shapes are icebergs and bergy bits.

HMS Protector A146

HMS Protector was an Antarctic patrol vessel of the Royal Navy between 1955 and 1968. She was built in 1935 as a net laying ship.

She was laid down as a fast net layer by Yarrow Shipbuilders at their Scotstoun, Glasgow shipyard on 15th August, 1935, launched on 20th August, 1936 and was completed in December, 1936 commissioning on 30th December, 1936. Her design was based on that of “**HMS Guardian**”, built in 1932 but with more powerful machinery and improved equipment for handling nets.

Protector was 338 feet (103 m) long overall and 310 feet (94 m) between perpendiculars, with a beam of 53 feet (16 m) and a draught of 13 feet 9 inches (4.19 m) at deep load. Displacement was 2,820 long tons (2,870 t) standard and 3,610 long tons (3,670 t) deep load. Two Admiralty three-drum boilers fed steam to Parsons geared steam turbines, which drove two propeller shafts. The ship's machinery was rated at 9,000 shaft horsepower (6,700 kW), giving a speed of 20 knots (23 mph; 37 km/h). The turbines were replaced in 1945 by British Thompson-Houston geared turbines.

-The article above came in from David Watson to our Club Secretary recently:

Dear Bob,

One of our Members, Chris Esplin-Jones, has some islands in Antarctica named after him being, as per the custom, the senior officer of a naval party that first surveyed them in 1962. The larger project was to survey the Adelaide anchorage in which the islands are located. Modestly, Chris did not tell anyone, we discovered this connection accidentally. A few years ago, I was idly looking at Google Earth around the Falklands and wandering south I came across Esplin Islands. Being an unusual name, I e-mailed Chris (who is also our Chairman of the Baxter and Grimshaw Trust) and said, “*Is this anything to do with you?*”. “Yes”, came the answer and he briefly explained. Due to Chris’s modesty, it is only now that he has agreed to write a short article, at our prompting, for our magazine.

Chris was in the Fleet Air Arm and his commanding officer was the test pilot, at one point, Eric Winkle Brown, at Lossiemouth. He then went on to command “**HMS Daedalus**” the air station in Gosport.

As this is down your way and the name of Adelaide was the subject of the survey, I thought you may like a copy of the article he wrote either for your newsletter or to send to members as you wish.

Happy New Year and I hope all is well down there.

Best regards, David

David Watson

Director and Hon. Secretary

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL

Riverport of Goolwa 26–27 April 2025



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
WOODEN
BOAT
FESTIVAL



sawoodenboatfestival.com.au

New Club Apparel

As part of our Strategic Marketing Plan, your COM has arranged for a trial supply of caps, polo shirts and sun hats featuring the Club crest, to promote the Club's image.

All items, as shown in the photographs below are available in various sizes, but supply is limited.

These will be available for sale at the next monthly meeting in February and until present stocks last.



Caps - one size fits all, Polo shirt sizes vary from L, XL to 2XL,
Slouch Hats vary from Small, Medium, to Large.

The cost of each Item is only \$25 – which is Great value!

Matthew Flinders

Exhibition

Fearless in life, love and tragedy

13 January - 14 February 2025

SSC members Mr. Ian Small and Mr. Ken Messenger were invited to attend the opening of this exhibition recently and Ian kindly provided photos for inclusion in this newsletter.

The following information was from the University website:

Presented by Flinders University in partnership with the History Trust of South Australia

Curated by FUMA Director Fiona Salmon and History Trust of South Australia Senior Curator Tony Kanellos with research undertaken by Flinders University Honorary Associate Professor Gillian Dooley.



The opening ceremony for the exhibition at Flinders

Explore the remarkable life and legacy of renowned explorer Matthew Flinders in this captivating exhibition at Flinders University City Campus. At its heart is Flinders' original coffin plate, shown in Australia for the first time.

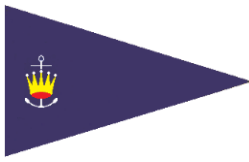


Flinders' lead coffin plate on display

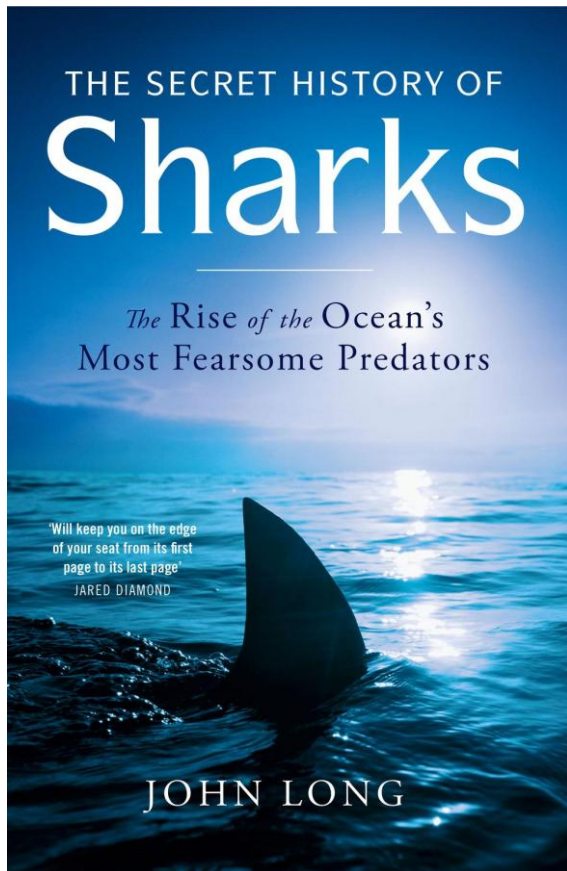
Unearthed during a 2019 archaeological dig at London's Euston Station, the lead coffin plate—remarkably preserved—helped identify Flinders' long-lost grave among 40,000 burials.

Reburied in Donington, Lincolnshire, in 2024 with a replica plate, it was gifted to the History Trust of South Australia and accepted on our behalf by the Governor of South Australia, Frances Adamson AC, by Flinders' descendants, in recognition of his significant contribution to the state's colonial history. The plate now resides in South Australia's State History Collection.

Alongside the coffin plate are rare artefacts from the Flinders University Special Collections including Flinders' ebony pocket compass, brass buttons from his naval jacket, and a first edition of *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, his monumental final publication featuring maps and illustrations. Other treasures included a letter to his wife, a coral necklace gifted to his sister and a needlework sampler crafted by his great-niece Susanna Pilgrim aboard the *Bolivar* whilst *en-route* to Adelaide 175 years ago.



Book of the Month

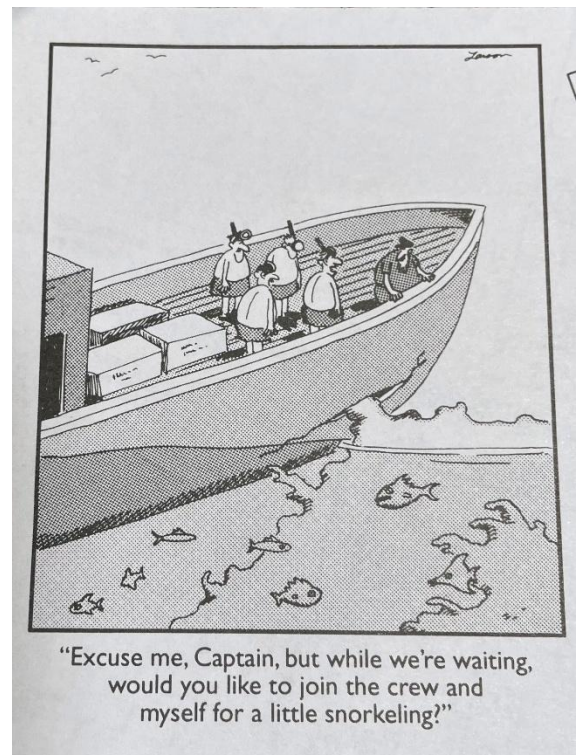


John Long, our guest speaker for the February meeting has just published this amazing book. The Secret History of Sharks showcases the global search to discover sharks' largely unknown evolution, led by Long and dozens of other extraordinary scientists.

As the tale unfolds, Long introduces an enormous range of astonishing organisms: a thirty-foot-long shark with a deadly saw blade of jagged teeth protruding from its lower jaws and bizarre sharks fossilized while in their mating ritual. With insights into the threats to sharks today, how they contribute to medical advances, and the lessons they can teach us about our own survival, The Secret History of Sharks is a riveting look at scientific discovery with ramifications far beyond the ocean.

From the Archives:

Aerial View of the Port Adelaide Sailing Club from the 1930's



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Contributions to the SSC Newsletter can be sent to:
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Or to the SSC Hon. Secretary: Captain Bob Smedley,
Email: rsmedley56@gmail.com