



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## MMHN and AAMH

Members of the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand (MLAANZ) may find value in reviewing the activities of both the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network ([MMHN](#)) and the Australian Association for Maritime History ([AAMH](#)).

### **MMHN**

MLAANZ president David Goodwin, who is himself a director of the MMHN, notes that MLAANZ recently became a corporate member of the organisation.

“MMHN has been formed to ensure Melbourne’s maritime trade heritage is acknowledged, celebrated, preserved and sustained,” he says.

“It will also advocate for policy reforms and support the development of integrated maritime sector initiatives.”

According to the MMHN Website “home” page, it aims to facilitate co-operation, collaboration and co-ordination across stakeholder groups.

“Melbourne was, and is still, a great port city,” it states.

“Trade by sea was, and is still, crucial in underpinning Melbourne’s economic prosperity. Melbourne remains the nation’s 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 MMHN was formed to address these ‘deficits’.

“The MMHN membership is 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 in delivering social, cultural and economic benefits to Melbourne and regional Victoria.”

Key projects currently being pursued by the MMHN include:

- a Docklands Maritime Museum
- a Maritime Waterways Trail – along the North Bank of the Yarra from Birrarung Marr to Collins Wharf and Harbour Esplanade through to Ron Barassi Senior Park, with informational signage about existing structures and other installed maritime artefacts to appropriately reflect Melbourne’s maritime trade heritage
- a Marine Skills Specialist Centre and a Marine Operations Service Depot
- expansion and support for Melbourne’s Foundation Heritage Fleet at Victoria Harbour, Docklands

### **AAMH**

Another organisation likely to be of interest to many MLAANZ members is the Australian Association for Maritime History.

“The AAMH journal *Great Circle* is replete with many fascinating articles and book reviews,” continues Mr Goodwin.

According to the AAMH Website “home” and “about” pages, its work is focused on the study of people and their activities in, on, around and under the waters of the world – including oceans, estuaries, rivers and creeks.

Although having representation across all Australian States and Territories, its membership and field of interest extends beyond the country’s borders and is indeed international in scope.

“The late Professor Frank Broeze, a cofounder of AAMH, defined maritime history as being the study of the relationship between man and the sea,” it states.

“He believed that maritime history should be defined as widely as possible and identified six broad overlapping categories: using the resources of the sea and its subsoil, transportation, political power projection, scientific exploration, leisure and culture and ideology.

“Maritime history encompasses a wide range of subjects including exploration, trade and dominion, naval history, ships and shipwrecks, whaling and fishing, piracy, maritime law, ports, yachting and other leisure pursuits. The broad range of displays within Australian maritime museums is evidence of the scope of maritime history.”

In this vein, the organisation’s publications, public lectures and other activities regularly feature a broad range of maritime history topics.

“Maritime historians use global, national, regional and local approaches of study; and often cross boundaries incorporating other disciplines such as marine science, archaeology, climatology and cultural history.

“Maritime history is also a pathway to the study of world history. Historians such as Gelina Harlaftis and Felipe Fernandez-Armesto describe maritime history as being international and comparative in scope with a global perspective.”

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