

AIMA Newsletter

<https://www.aima-underwater.org.au>



Teachers, students and graduates of Flinders University's Maritime Archaeology Program gather to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the course. The event was part of the 2022 AIMA Conference held in Adelaide. See the full story on Page 3.

A Note from the President's Desk...

Hello members,

It was a quiet quarter to finish off the 2022 year. I think we all needed a breather after the fantastic AIMA Conference! Thanks again to everyone involved in pulling off a fantastic event celebrating 40 years of AIMA and 20 years of the Maritime Archaeology Program!

Rather than an update on AIMA activities, I thought to share some sections of Mark Staniforth's keynote speech given at the AIMA Conference 'On the Origins of AIMA and MAP' that I feel are worth reflecting on again.

"One important origin of AIMA was in the area of conferences ... this is something that AIMA has managed to keep going for 40 years. It has been one of AIMA's major long-term and most successful achievements. AIMA has had many successes over the

years including supporting research projects, the AIMA Newsletter, the AIMA Bulletin (now the Australasian Journal of Maritime Archaeology), annual scholarships, the AIMA/NAS Training program and the series of annual conferences that have regularly included overseas guest speakers. Many of these successes have evolved and developed over the years.

"The second origin of AIMA, and another of its major successes both then and now, was in the area of publications. Primarily based on the AIMA Bulletin (now AJMA), a series of special publications and the AIMA Newsletter. ...To a significant degree this was due to the sterling efforts of Jeremy Green and Myra Stanbury who were the editors for many years but also to the many, mainly AIMA members who contributed articles and content, served on the Editorial Board and as editors over the last forty years. While its origins might owe a fair bit to a small group of West Australians its

development and success over time is due to broad support. Thus AIMA is a collective, and increasingly distributed, organization that very largely relies on the goodwill and contributions of its membership. ...

“So what exactly are we celebrating here?”

“First is Survival. As American novelist Harry Crews once wrote: “Survival is triumph enough”. AIMA as an organization has survived and thrived for forty years. MAP has been around and growing for twenty years. Not every organization or teaching/research program does survive. ...

“Second is Longevity. Four decades, and even two decades, is a long time for any organization or program and it is worth celebrating.

“Third is, arguably, Success. Any organization or program that has survived for a lengthy period of time – twenty or forty years - has to be considered successful to some extent. Although as poet T.S Eliot once wrote: “Success is relative. It is what we can make of the mess we have made of things.” ...

“So celebrations like this are an opportunity to reflect on the successes and to consider how these might be improved upon in the future. So we leave it to the students and the younger generations of Australian maritime archaeologists to contemplate where AIMA and MAP might be in another twenty or forty years – first of all will they survive and second what new successes might be possible?”

I am constantly amazed and encouraged by the voluntary efforts of AIMA’s administrative position holders, Council, Executive Committee and membership. It’s only through that continuing dedication that AIMA can survive and thrive for decades more. If you would like to provide more support to AIMA you can do this by providing newsletter articles, Journal articles, social media content, attending our monthly AHOY meetings or nominating for a position at the next AGM! I’m honoured to be in the position of President and to contribute to the fantastic legacy of AIMA.

Kind regards,
Danielle Wilkinson – AIMA President

MARK THE CALENDAR! OUR MONTHLY AHOY MEETINGS ARE BACK!

AHOY meetings are open to all AIMA members and will be held on the second Wednesday of every month via Zoom. The meeting format will be:

- 6:30pm AEDT – social chat
- 7:00pm AEDT – discussion time
- 7:30pm AEDT– guest lecture for about half an hour

Members are invited to participate in whichever segments are of interest to them or to just listen in. **A Zoom link will be sent to members in the week before the meeting.**

MARCH SPEAKER:

PHILIPPE KERMEEN – Flinders University Master of Maritime Archaeology.

Phil will share about his research on the SS Admella and the challenges of studying historical ship structural competency in shallow dynamic environments.



AIMA News

Introducing the 2023 AIMA Position Holders

Executive Officers:

President	Danielle Wilkinson
Secretary	Gerard Coker
Treasurer	Michael O'Donnell
Senior Vice President	Maddy McAllister
Vice President (1)	Toni Massey
Vice President (2)	Katherine Woo

Councillors:

Ross Anderson	Wendy van Duivenvoorde
Vicki Richards	Peta Straiton
Deb Shefi	Peter Harvey
Jo Edney	Liam Phillips
Jane Mitchell	Omaima El Deeb
Andy Dodd	Mick de Ruyter
Kurt Bennett	Natali Pearson
Matt Carter	Chris Lewczak
Celeste Jordan	Cami Plum
Andy Viduka	Trevor Winton

Administrative Positions:

Journal Editor	Jeremy Green
Assistant Editor(s)	Mick de Ruyter, John McCarthy
Newsletter Editor(s)	Tara Chilcott, Arabella Mcleay,
Website Administrator(s)	Chris Lewczak, Liam Norris
Social Media	Katherine Woo, Aurora Philpin
Merchandise Officer	Liam Phillips
AIMA/NAS Senior Tutor	Mark Ryan
Scholarships Chair	Celeste Jordan
AIMA Dive Committee Chair	David Steinberg

2022 AIMA Conference Wrap-up

Researchers, scholars, students and working archaeologists descended on Adelaide in September for the annual AIMA conference. The jam-packed schedule focused on the theme of *"Decolonising Maritime Archaeology, Heritage and Museums in Australasia"*, with a particular focus on inclusiveness in the discipline. The highlight was undoubtedly the exceptional addresses from keynote speakers, Lynette Russell and Jay Haigler, the latter travelling to South Australia from the United States for the event.

The event was particularly memorable, as it also celebrated the 40th anniversary of AIMA, and the 20th anniversary of the Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Program. Some wonderful reflections were provided by Mark Staniforth during his keynote speech.

The conference theme panel focused on regulating and protecting sea country and included Danielle Wilkinson, Chris Wilson, Imelda Miller, David Steinberg and Emma Rae.

A huge thank you to Wendy van Duivenvoorde and the conference committee for organising such an outstanding event. Turn the page for more conference photos!



Flinders Maritime Archaeology Program 20th Anniversary Celebration

Current and past students converged on Sol Bar for a celebration to mark 20 years of the Flinders Maritime program. This was followed by the annual Pints and Professionals event, where students and early career professionals can mingle and network with the top academics, researchers and industry leaders in the Australasian maritime archaeology field.





The next edition of AJMA is nearly here! Please log in to our online AIMA membership portal and make sure your postal address is correct.

Call for submissions AJMA Vol 46 2023

The Editor is now accepting submissions for Volume 46 of the Australasian Journal of Maritime Archaeology (AJMA) 2023.

The Editor welcomes the submission of manuscripts on any subject within the broad scope of maritime archaeology, conservation and cultural heritage. Submissions that announce discoveries, present new information or use innovative theoretical or methodological approaches are especially welcome, as are articles that deal with fieldwork and field methodologies, preservation and management of underwater cultural heritage, conservation of archaeological material from submerged environments, analysis of material culture, interpretation of archaeological data and legal or legislative frameworks related to maritime cultural heritage.

Contributions accepted to the AJMA include original articles (up to 12,000 words) and shorter articles, reports, technical notes or comments on recently published material (up to 5,000 words).

You can find detailed author guidelines on the AIMA website.



Conferences

Final Call for Session Abstracts for the 2023 Joint AIMA-ICUCH Conference

We are pleased to announce the call for session abstracts for the 2023 Joint Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) and ICOMOS - International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH) Conference. The 2-day event is scheduled to take place on **14 and 15 September 2023 in Canberra**, with welcome registration function and a public lecture starting on Wednesday **13 September**.

The conference title is **“Connected by Water”** with themes on the ratification of the UNESCO 2001 *Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* and the archaeology and management of underwater cultural heritage. The 2023 AIMA-ICUCH conference is an opportunity to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Australian Underwater Cultural Heritage Program and reflect on the various outcomes achieved over this period. It is also an opportunity to promote and encourage broader regional uptake of the 2001 Convention in the Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Southeast Asian Regions.

Noting the significant threat posed by climate change on countries in the Indo-Pacific region and their underwater cultural heritage, the 2023 AIMA-ICUCH session topics are reflective of priorities put forward by Island States that echo in our own country. The following general themes are proposed:

- First Nations underwater cultural heritage.
- Climate change and underwater cultural heritage.
- Potentially polluting wrecks.
- Capacity building and training.
- Creating blue economy outcomes through protecting underwater cultural heritage.
- Creating and managing registers of underwater cultural heritage.
- Managing impacts from development Conservation of sites *in situ* and of recovered underwater cultural heritage artefacts.
- Ratification of the 2001 Convention and legislation to better protect underwater cultural heritage.
- UN Decade of Ocean Science and Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

As always, we would like to invite session proposals focusing on recent achievements in traditional maritime archaeological research such as First Nations and historical maritime archaeology, maritime cultural landscapes and the archaeology of shipbuilding and seafaring.

Session organisers should provide a proposal with a session title, an abstract (up to 300 words) within a nominated theme, and the names and affiliations of the session organisers. It is noted that individual papers are to be strictly 15 minutes in duration (with an additional 5 minutes Q&A). Proposals for other types of sessions such as panels or group discussions are welcomed.

Session abstracts are to be submitted

to conference@aima-underwater.org.au by **28**

February 2023.

Following assessment, the Conference Organising Committee will announce their decisions on proposed sessions to the session organisers by **31 March 2023**.



Conferences

ICOMOS General Assembly 2023

Australia ICOMOS warmly invites AIMA members to **Sydney** for the 21st Triennial General Assembly of ICOMOS from **31 August – 9 September 2023**. Join up to 1,500 cultural heritage professionals from across the globe representing diverse disciplines and backgrounds including Traditional Owners, archaeologists, historians, urban planners, architects, government officials and academics – just to name a few, providing unrivalled access to high-calibre specialist knowledge and delivering a boost to ‘grass roots’ interest in cultural heritage and conservation work throughout Australia and globally.

The ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium will provide an opportunity to learn from each other and to promote excellent cultural heritage practice.

The core General Assembly will occur between 4 and 8 September 2023 within an exciting ten-day program of site visits, workshops, lectures, expert meetings and social gatherings. Venues include the World Heritage listed Sydney Opera House, Cockatoo Island,

Hyde Park Barracks, the Australian Museum and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, amongst a wide variety of other Aboriginal and colonial cultural places. We will meet amidst Sydney’s vibrant Indigenous and multicultural communities.

The theme of the four-day Scientific Symposium: ‘Heritage Changes: Resilience – Responsibility – Rights – Relationships’, reflects the tumultuous changes taking place in the world, but also a positive message about the role of our heritage in supporting rapid recovery and inclusive approaches.

Early bird registrations are now open at icomosga2023.org/registration.



News from our Members:

Launch of Batavia e-book by WA Museum

BATAVIA 1629

National Heritage Listed Place Guide

WA Museum has launched an interactive e-book called *Batavia 1629: National Heritage Listed Place Guide*, which is a free guide to the fascinating history and archaeology of the Dutch East India Company ship, *Batavia*, which wrecked in the Houtman Abrolhos Islands in 1629.

The enhanced e-book uses photos, 3D models, animations, audiovisual content, and interactive timelines to tell the story of *Batavia*’s first and final voyage, and the aftermath of mutiny and massacre,

alongside a comprehensive behind-the-scenes look at the WA Museum’s fieldwork and research conducted over the last 50 years.

Key excavations, collections and research are highlighted throughout, bringing one of the world’s largest collections of VOC material out from the Museum’s galleries and back to their place of discovery.

This internationally significant and national heritage listed place is now part of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park.

To access the guide, visit <https://visit.museum.wa.gov.au/batavia-ebook>

Aerial photogrammetry survey of SS *Brisbane* (1874-1881), Fish Reef, Bynoe Harbour, NT.

Dr. Silvano Jung and Dr. David Steinberg

A king-low tide along Darwin's coastline afforded an opportunity to record the wreck of the SS *Brisbane*, a two-mast iron hull steamship, 85 metres in length and weighing 1,527 tons, using a drone.

The wreck site was previously surveyed using a triangulation method, incorporating an electronic distance meter (EDM) on sections and features of the wreck exposed at low tide. A drone survey would record the site in unprecedented detail and with high accuracy. I (Silvano) was excited to return to the wreck, which I had not seen for nearly two decades.

I joined expeditions through the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory with Paul Clark and David Steinberg and later for David's MA fieldwork in 2001. This time David and I travelled back to Fish Reef and deployed a drone to systematically survey those sections of the shipwreck exposed on the reef.

The tide state was 0.30m at 13.04hrs, which represented over a seven-metre variation between high and low tides. The Heritage Branch, Northern Territory Government, commissioned the aerial survey as an Historic Shipwrecks Program initiative with the support of the Department of Environment.

Clinton Brisk from Aerial Solutions was our pilot, who flew us out to the reef in a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter (VH-JZH). The king-low tide afforded a two-and-a-half-hour window before the wreck would be submerged again.

The drone was a DJI Phantom 4. DroneDepoly was used to fly transect lanes at a height of 20 metres and with front and side overlap of 80%, which resulted in 737 photographs. Agisoft PhotoScan was used to do the rendering. A 3D model was successfully created. It's a snapshot of the wreck's current condition, which can be used by heritage managers to also monitor the wreck over time.

This was the first photogrammetry survey of a shipwreck in the Northern Territory and the results are exciting. Other wrecks in Northern Territory waters are exposed on this special day too and will equally be suited to photogrammetry surveys, but there are only

a few days in each year to document them all. At the *Brisbane* wreck site the next challenging task is to photogrammetrically record what's left of the ship underwater and to monitor changes to the site for decades to come.

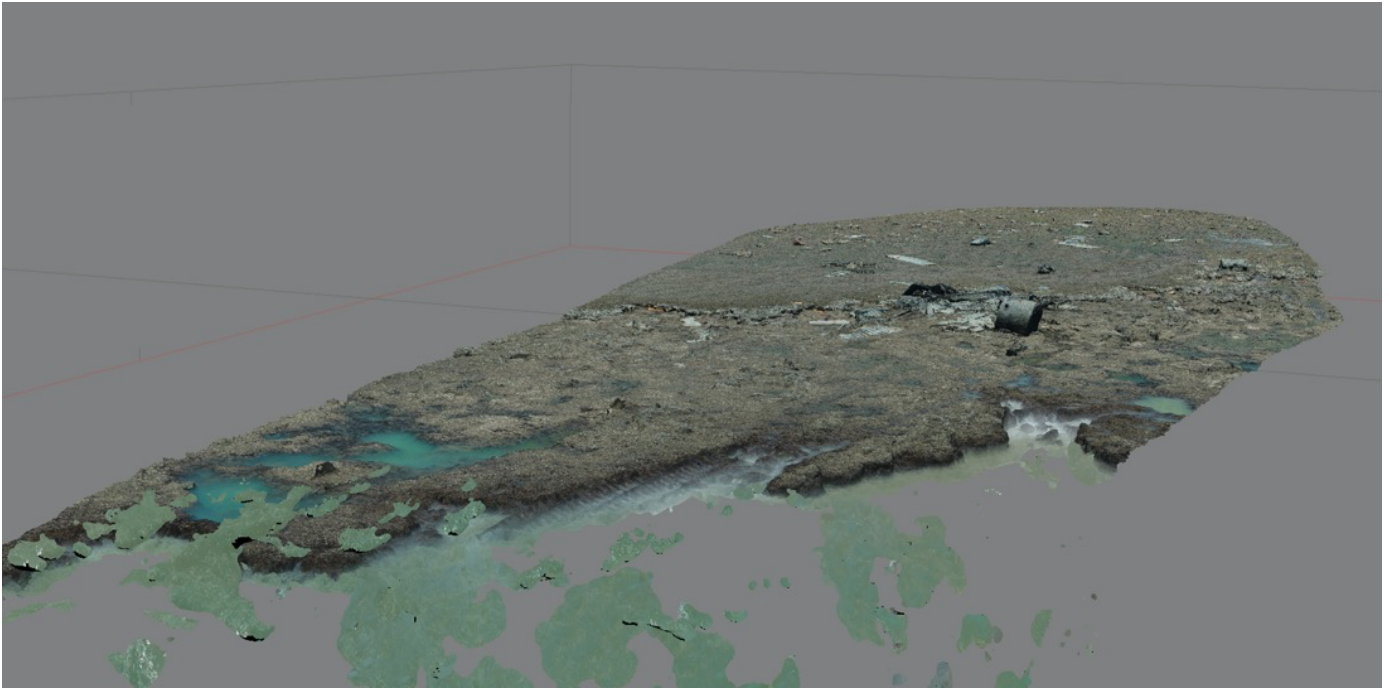


Silvano Jung and David Steinberg, SS *Brisbane* wreck site, main boiler, 2001

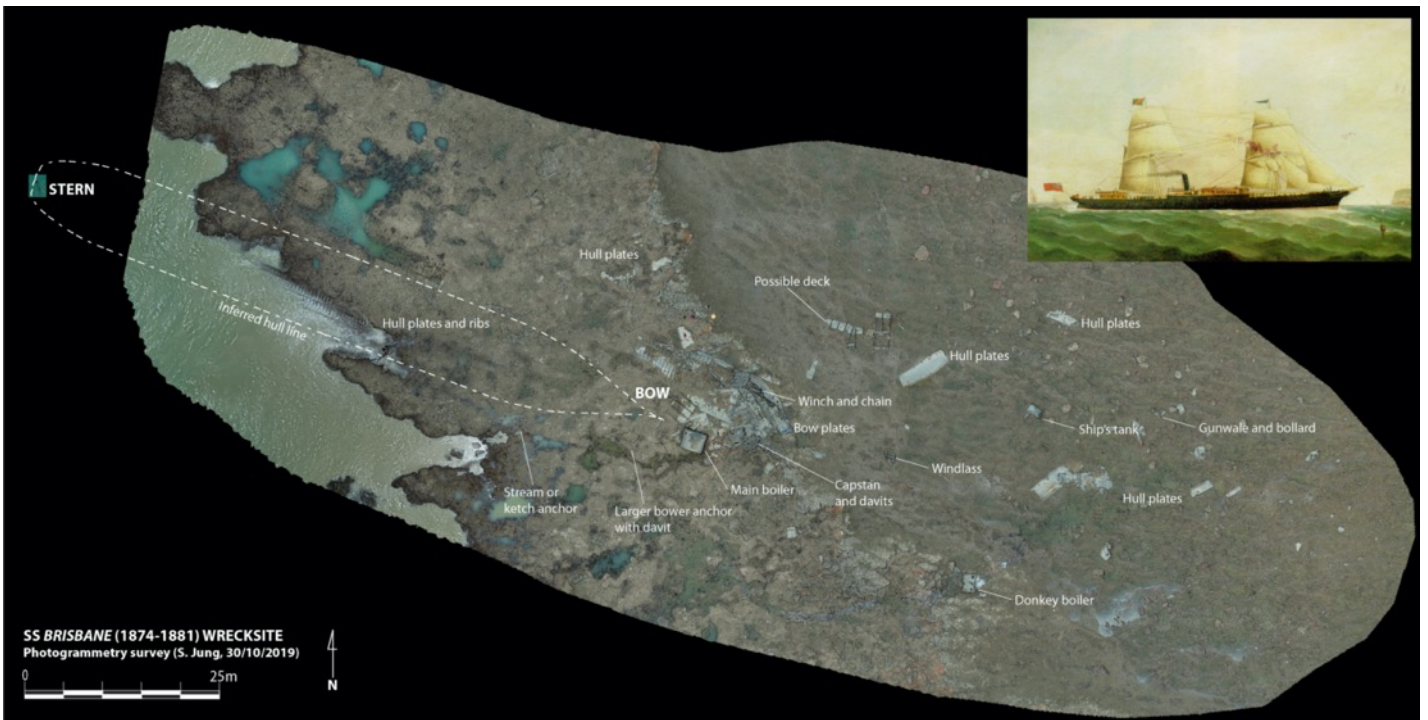


Silvano Jung and David Steinberg, SS *Brisbane* wreck site, main boiler, 2019

Photogrammetry survey results overpage.



3D Model of SS Brisbane wreck site. S. Jung 2019.



Photogrammetry of SS Brisbane wreck site completed in 2019 by S. Jung.

Dr. Silvano Jung
 Archaeological Consultant
 Ellengowan Enterprises, Darwin, NT
 (<http://www.ellengowanenterprises.com>)

Dr. David Steinberg
 Senior Heritage Officer/Maritime Archaeologist
 Heritage Branch
 Parks, Wildlife and Heritage Division
 Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture
 Northern Territory Government

Cosmos Archaeology: A Look Back at 2022

Last year saw the Cosmos Archaeology (CA) team well and truly back in the field, after a long hiatus due to COVID restrictions. The CA crew were eager to pull out the dive gear for several jobs in diverse underwater locations, including Darwin and Sydney.

Darwin Ship Lift Project

CA was contracted by AECOM to collaborate with a commercial diving company for the Darwin Ship Lift (DSL) project. The work involved monitoring of pre-dredge intertidal and underwater unexploded ordnance (UXO) and dredge clearance surveys in East Arm, Darwin Harbour. The survey area was adjacent to the RAAF East Arm Flying Boat Base. The RAAF base was constructed in 1942 and operational by 1943, serving the Australian military up until 1947.

The monitoring survey progressed over five months and produced numerous finds from the WWII era, including aircraft parts, marine vessel parts, truck bottle-jacks, small copper tank fragments for water storage, cooking pots, dinner plates and sliprails. The most interesting find from the diving surveys was the port side aircraft wing of a 'Supermarine Spitfire', which had been discarded at the site. CA was tasked with creating a safe method for raising the wing from the seafloor and most importantly, keeping it intact to preserve its heritage value for further interpretation.

The Darwin Ship Lift project will continue with post-survey recording and reporting in 2023.

Barossa Natural Gas Pipeline Survey (NT)

In June 2022, Connor McBrian from Cosmos Archaeology travelled to the Northern Territory to supervise heritage inspections undertaken during an ROV survey, near the entrance to Darwin Harbour. The investigation was part of a maritime heritage assessment for a gas export pipeline (GEP) installation, proposed by Santos Pty Ltd. The proposed GEP, known as the Barossa Development, begins at the Barossa gas field, north of the Tiwi Islands, and extends south to feed the Darwin LNG plant, located in Middle Arm, Darwin Harbour.

As part of environmental and heritage impact assessments, a suite of geophysical surveys were conducted including multi-beam bathymetry (MBES), side scan sonar (SSS), and magnetometer surveys to identify locations of potential maritime heritage. Anomalies of possible cultural origin were identified. The anomalies were the focus of the visual surveys, which were carried out over 3 days, with ROV support provided by FUGRO. Transect surveys were also undertaken to investigate extant WWII anti-submarine netting, known to be in the area.

Remains of historic maritime infrastructure were identified during the ROV surveys. The remains of WWII anti-submarine boom net moorings were clearly identified near the entrance to Darwin Harbour. Interestingly, one of the trots surveyed was anchored by a potentially historical ship anchor, likely of cultural heritage significance.

CA will remain engaged with the project as on-call maritime archaeologists during the pipeline installation period.

Manly Sealife Building (NSW)

Senior Maritime Archaeologist Jane Mitchell conducted a dive survey early this year within the vicinity of the former Manly Sealife building at west Manly Cove, Sydney.

The well-known structure has been vacant for several years, is in very poor repair and has reached the end of



A beautiful day out on the water in Darwin Harbour.

its serviceable life. As such, Transport for New South Wales has proposed a revitalisation project for the precinct, including the demolition of the Sealife building.

CA was commissioned to assess the project's impact on potential maritime archaeology, including the preparation of a Statement of Heritage Impact and a maritime survey. The site was home to Manly's first ladies' baths, constructed in the 1850s by local visionary Henry Gilbert Smith. Over the following decades, the western corner of the cove continued to be a hub for recreation and tourism, largely driven by the Port Jackson Steamship Company, which operated ferries between Manly and Sydney. The company constructed the well-loved Manly Harbour Pool in 1931, to ensure continued patronage of their ferry service. CA's Statement of Heritage Impact will be handed up this month.

Stockton Beach Sand Nourishment Program (NSW)

The City of Newcastle is proposing a mass sand nourishment program at Stockton Beach to counteract erosion issues. CA completed a maritime archaeology assessment as part of the environmental review for the project. The Port of Newcastle's significant maritime history was evident during the desktop assessment, with 18 vessels listed as wrecked within the vicinity of Stockton Beach alone. In particular, the study area includes the wreck sites of *Berbice*, *SV Durisdeer*, *SS Davenport* and *PS Yarra Yarra* and the area in general is popular with recreational divers.

Darling Harbour Shopping Centre Redevelopment (NSW)

An iconic shopping centre in Darling Harbour is set for redevelopment, and CA has been commissioned to provide technical advice during the demolition and construction phasing of the project.

Harbourside Shopping Centre was officially opened in 1988 as part of Australia's bi-centennial celebrations and since then has been a landmark structure on Darling Harbour's waterfront. Last year the NSW Government entered into an agreement with Mirvac to modernise and transform the area into a world-class retail, residential and entertainment precinct.

CA undertook an initial maritime archaeology assessment for the project, which produced an interesting history of the site. The shopping centre stands on what was once the waterfront property of George Bunn, a master mariner and successful Sydney merchant in the 1830s. Bunn's home, known as Newstead House, would later (ca. 1878) be purchased by Atlas Engineering Works, with the waterfront site being used to construct two iron torpedo boats for the NSW Colonial Navy. Not long after, the site was resumed to make way for the Darling Harbour Railway Works.

As you can see, there are a number of interesting jobs on the horizon for the CA team this year. Together, we are looking forward to a challenging and productive 2023.



Darling Harbour panorama depicting the relatively undeveloped western shoreline, featuring Newstead House and associated waterfront infrastructure, ca. 1865.

Update on the Admella Wreck Project

Philippe Kermeen

The Admella Wreck Project that was sponsored by AIMA in 2021–2022 has been renewed with *History Trust of South Australia* adding funding and support. The project, lead by Philippe Kermeen and assisted by AIMA members Justine Buchler, Chelsea Wiseman, and Simon Bobeldyk, had been conducting remote sensing work in Cape Banks to locate shipwreck material associated with SS *Admella*, which wrecked in Cape Banks with 113 passengers and crew, with only 24 surviving. The survivors of *Admella* had to endure two weeks of blistering winds, heavy storm swell, and nightmarish fog while clinging to the remains of the midship section, before being rescued by the crew from SS *Lady Bird* and SS *Corio*.

The project's findings at the site of ADM1 had discovered various disarticulated shipwreck material from a potentially small iron vessel with no current affiliation to state or country (fig. 1). The investigation into the unknown vessel will continue throughout 2023 by historic desktop research and may yield more information about the eighth ship to be wrecked on Cape Banks' Carpenters Reef. More can be read about the Admella Wreck Project in AJMA's next issue.

The second site of ADM2, further north of ADM1, will begin to be investigated by RPAS and ROV this year, again looking for the remains of *Admella*. ADM2 site is found 3 km northwest of Cape Banks Lighthouse and 1.5 km north-northwest of ADM1. The objective of remote sensing the second site is to again develop a high resolution orthomosaic to clearly identify

shipwreck material and structure, with ROV support to identify anomalies highlighted from the RPAS data (fig. 2 & 3).



Figure 1: Rudder trunk support frame from unknown vessel at ADM1 site (2022).



Figure 2: RPAS station (Cape Banks 2022).



Figure 3: ROV Chasing M2.

Heritage Victoria's Maritime Heritage at Risk Program 2021/22 Annual Report

Dario De Bortoli, Heritage Victoria

There are about 324 shipwrecks which have been found in Victoria, with many threatened by environmental and human interference. The Maritime Heritage at Risk Program aims to identify and protect the most important Victorian shipwrecks at the highest risk.

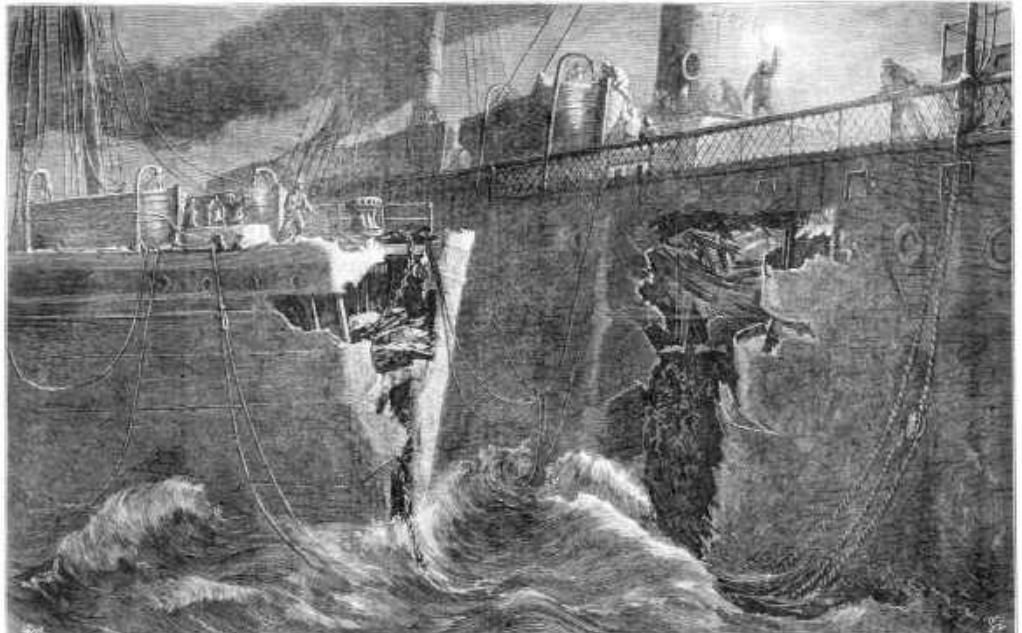
The program which commenced in 2016 has identified and prioritised the State's most significant shipwrecks and provided an assessment of their current and future risk. These wrecks are included in a Shipwreck Risk Register through which site management activities are conducted to better safeguard them from human and environmental interference. In 2021/22 there were 25 shipwrecks on the Register.

The 2021/22 Annual Report includes information on site management activities including conservation, monitoring, inspections and compliance activities conducted at high-risk wreck sites. On-site data is also collected on the condition of the wreck to facilitate risk management initiatives.

Like the 2020/21 report, COVID-19 restrictions have once again severely impacted several activities including Heritage Victoria and Community Shipwreck Monitoring Program site visits.

The report can be found on: https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0028/607168/Maritime-Heritage-at-Risk-Program-Annual-Report-2021-22.pdf

Further information can be found on Heritage Victoria's Maritime Heritage at Risk Program web page.



Collision between the steamships Barrabool and Queensland, off Wilsons Promontory. Source: State Library of Victoria.

A Note from the Editor:

Last year was certainly a memorable one for maritime archaeology in Australasia, featuring several special milestones, including the 40th anniversary of AIMA. Events such as the AIMA Conference in Adelaide provided an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of past decades. It also highlighted the challenges our industry faces, including the important work of decolonisation. I hope this newsletter can play some small role in highlighting the wonderful work currently underway within the maritime archaeology sphere, by celebrating achievements as well as inspiring the next generation of practitioners.

Now that international travel and fieldwork is back in full swing, we are receiving fabulous submissions covering a wide range of work. I would encourage you to submit any news, photos or updates relating to maritime archaeology that you wish to communicate to fellow members. **The next newsletter deadline is March 31st, 2023.** Please email any content and/or captioned photos to newsletter.editor@aima-underwater.org.au

Until the next edition,
Tara Chilcott