

**ITEM 8.4                    CCL 27/02/24 - NEWCASTLE MARITIME MUSEUM SOCIETY  
COLLECTION STORAGE FACILITY LEASE**

**REPORT BY:                CREATIVE & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
**CONTACT:                 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CREATIVE & COMMUNITY  
SERVICES / DIRECTOR MUSEUM ARCHIVE LIBRARIES &  
LEARNING**

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**PURPOSE**

The Newcastle Maritime Museum Society's (NMMS) collection has been stored in various locations across the city since the closure of the Newcastle Maritime Centre in 2018. A significant proportion of this privately owned collection is being stored under a lease arrangement between City of Newcastle (CN) and the NSW Government (Venues NSW). This report seeks Council direction on whether CN should continue to fund the storage of the NMMS's collection with no clear timeline provided by the NMMS on when or if, the NMMS will become self funding.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1     Notes that the NMMS remains responsible for the storage, management, relocation and ongoing care of its collection.
- 2     Notes at the time of the closure of the Newcastle Maritime Centre on 23 May 2018, it was operating under a long term lease with Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation (then known as Hunter Development Corporation), which is an agency of the NSW Government, and that the NMMS's collection was stored in a facility owned by Property NSW, which is also an agency of the NSW Government.
- 3     Notes that CN has incurred costs to date of \$1,456,521 supporting the Newcastle Maritime Museum Society since at least 1998.
- 4     Notes that of this \$1,456,521, costs of at least \$136,521 (not including staff time) have been incurred storing the NMMS's collection since 2018.
- 5     Extends a lease with Venues NSW for the storage of the NMMS's collection for a maximum period of twelve months until 21 March 2025.
- 6     Extends a lease with a private rental facility for the storage of the NMMS's paper-based records and archives collection for a maximum period of twelve months until 21 March 2025.
- 7     Extends the current in-kind storage support at various CN sites for other NMMS owned items for a maximum period of two years.
- 8     Notes that extensions of both leases will bring the total storage cost associated with the NMMS's collection since 2018 to \$168,002.

- 9 Acknowledges the efforts of the Newcastle Museum to provide care for fourteen objects of national and local significance to Australia and Newcastle's maritime heritage which have been transferred from the NMMS to CN's Newcastle Museum collection to ensure their preservation.

## KEY ISSUES

### Future Direction

- 10 Over the last five years representatives from CN and Newcastle Museum have met with the NMMS leadership multiple times regarding ongoing support of their collection. Future direction is required from the NMMS to determine the certainty of their collection and alternate storage locations inclusive of the management, relocation and ongoing care of its collection.

### Heritage Collection

- 11 The NMMS collection is a diverse assemblage of over 8,500 objects, ranging from large boats and metal industrial objects to photographs and textiles. The collection was acquired by community donations and assembled by the NMMS over a period of approximately 50 years with the documentation, interpretation and collection care performed by volunteers.
- 12 In 2018, the Australian National Maritime Museum was consulted regarding potential support for the Newcastle Maritime Museum Society. As a result their Australian Register of Historic Vessels was utilised as a base for ascribing significance to the NMMS collection of vessels.
- 13 On 3 February 2022, Bob Cook on behalf of a newly created association Hunter Maritime Heritage Association (HMHA) (**Attachment A**) transferred fourteen significant objects to Newcastle Museum including the Victoria Lifeboat, the George Towns built motorboat, butcher boat, union membership books, a rudder from the ferry Bluebell and Newcastle Rocket Brigade Wagon. The signed gift acknowledgement form (**Attachment B**) contains a statement that HMHA was the sole beneficial owner of the Goods (collection).

### Care and Storage

- 14 Degradation of multiple items in the collection occurred in the period up to 2018 when stored at the NSW Government's Lab Building in Mayfield. In August 2015 Property NSW had terminated the NMMS license due to a lack of a Building Occupancy Certificate and a fully functioning fire system, as well as water ingress, and insufficient security to protect the collection. NMMS was instructed in writing to relocate the collection but did not comply.
- 15 In September 2018 the NMMS collection was moved to a private storage facility in Carrington following a decision of the NMMS financial members to voluntarily wind up. The transportation costs of this relocation (\$92,000) were funded by Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation on behalf of the NSW Government.

- 16 On 16 December 2021, CN was advised in writing that a special general meeting attended by 23 NMMS financial members had accepted a series of negotiated terms including the storage of its collection at a variety of sites.
- 17 The primary storage site was at the Newcastle Showground in Broadmeadow on a two year lease with Venues NSW, an agency of the NSW Government, commencing on 21 March 2022.
- 18 A clause within the lease allows the NMMS volunteer working party to access the site monthly, if accompanied by a representative from Newcastle Museum. This restriction was inserted into the lease by Venues NSW.
- 19 In February 2022, NMMS requested that Newcastle Libraries store the bulk of its paper-based records and archives. A private rental facility was then leased by CN to accommodate the paper-based collection. This collection has not been legally transferred to Newcastle Libraries and therefore remains part of the NMMS owned collection. The lease can be terminated without notice.
- 20 In May 2022 CN relocated the NMMS collection from the Carrington site with the assistance of the NMMS Committee and volunteers, to a variety of sites. This project was funded by CN and required a commitment of 944 CN resourcing hours.
- 21 On 2 November 2023, CN sought from the NMMS a plan or timeline for the future storage of the collection. On 7 November 2023 the NMMS responded to this request stating it would “advise you when the time is right”.

### **Private Collection**

- 22 The NMMS collection is privately owned. The NMMS is one of 43 volunteer-initiated museums in the Hunter.
- 23 A special general meeting of NMMS financial members on 21 May 2018 voted ten to nothing to “transfer all collection objects and other assets to Newcastle City Council, forthwith.” At the time of the meeting the NMMS had ten financial members (**Attachment C**).
- 24 Eight months later and with the NMMS Committee not wound up as had been resolved at the 21 May meeting, a new Committee was elected (21 January 2019). The notice for the Special AGM included:

“We have been advised that other members are willing to take over management of the society, to rebuild the museum and indemnify the current Committee/ Board against any future claim or action pertaining to the NMMS debt. The current Committee will not be standing for reelection.”
- 25 The (new) Committee wrote to CN on 25 June 2019 refuting the legitimacy of the 21 May 2018 meeting, and therefore all outcomes from the meeting (**Attachment D**). CN was a reluctant recipient of the collection and therefore has not opposed the desire of the (new) NMMS Committee to retain ownership of its collection. There is no dispute of the NMMS’s ownership of the residual collection despite

its storage being funded by CN since September 2018 and so it remains a private collection.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 26 From 1998 to 2016, CN provided \$1.3 million supporting the Newcastle Maritime Museum Society.
- 27 In August 2018, CN paid a \$20,000 bond to enable the NMMS collection to be stored at the Carrington facility. When the collection was relocated in 2022, the bond was refunded.
- 28 In March to May 2022 CN incurred transportation costs of \$72,613 associated with the relocation of the NMMS collection to a site leased to CN by Venues NSW. Boats belonging to the NMMS were relocated to CN's Waratah Depot where they remain in storage.
- 29 Since 2022 CN has paid \$63,908 to store the NMMS collection at two leased sites. This expense does not include staff time or any in-kind storage support provided at CN owned sites.
- 30 Should Council resolve to extend the two leases until 21 March 2025, CN will incur a further \$31,481. This will bring the total associated costs since 2018 to CN to \$168,002.

## **NEWCASTLE 2040 ALIGNMENT**

- 31 Support of a storage facility for the NMMS's collection is consistent with the strategic directions of the Newcastle 2040 Strategic Plan as follows:

### **Creative Newcastle**

#### 3.3 Celebrating culture

##### 3.3.3 Culture in everyday life (CN Delivers and Partners)

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 32 This report aligns to the following Newcastle Heritage Policy approaches:

### **4 Knowing our heritage**

- 4.1 h) Acknowledging the heritage value of objects in institutional collections such as libraries, galleries, and museums.

### **6 Supporting our heritage**

- 6.1 b) Providing technical expertise to assist with the conservation and longevity of heritage items and places.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

- 33 Risk to items of national significance to Australia's maritime history in the NMMS collection has been mitigated by CN and the NMMS reviewing the large collection and identifying key artefacts, and subsequently legally transferring these to Newcastle Museum on 3 February 2022. It is noted that the NMMS has

subsequently claimed in writing that the signed transfer is illegal and therefore the 14 items remain under their ownership. They have not directed CN to physically relocate the items likely due to the fact that the NMMS does not have a suitable site under its control and availability.

- 34 The NMMS collection is at risk of further degradation, as it is not stored in museum-grade conditions.
- 35 Funding and providing ongoing storage facilities for the NMMS collection without a defined timeframe is an ongoing financial and resourcing risk to CN.
- 36 The NMMS has not insured its collection since at least 2018. CN is unable to insure the collection given it is not its legal owner but has valued and insured the 14 transferred objects.

### **RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 37 Nil.

### **CONSULTATION**

- 38 Consultation has occurred with some NMMS Committee members over the last five years regarding the ongoing support of the collection.
- 39 In August 2019 the NMMS informed CN that it had developed a long term concept plan to exhibit the collection at a five star hotel to be built at Queens Wharf.
- 40 In December 2019 the NMMS informed the Council at a Public Voice that it intended to participate in an Expression of Interest to return to its former location at A Shed Honeysuckle. Ultimately Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation awarded a 50 year lease to Hope Estate in July 2020. Currently the site remains unoccupied.
- 41 A draft version of this report was provided to the President of the NMMS Committee five days in advance of its finalisation. CN's request that all members of the NMMS Committee be copied to emails to confirm their visibility of the draft report, was rejected. Instead only the email addresses of NMMS President (Bob Cook) and Vice President (Frank Cordingley) were allowed to be communicated to.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 42 The Newcastle Maritime Centre, operated by the NMMS, voluntarily closed in May 2018 following admissions by its former Committee that it had been trading while insolvent for several years. At the time of closure, the NMMS retained an option to extend its lease at the A Shed Honeysuckle, a building owned by the NSW Government.
- 43 Prior to 2018, the collection of over 8,500 objects and archives displayed at the Newcastle Maritime Centre was predominately stored at an off-site storage facility owned by Property NSW on behalf of the NSW Government.

- 44 In January 2019 the NMMS elected a new Committee which wished to establish a new, independent, stand alone building to display the collection.
- 45 The long stated position of the NMMS Committee elected in 2019 is that the collection should be exhibited in a standalone museum. To date no funding has been secured by the NMMS for the development of a business case to support the operation of such a museum.
- 46 In November 2021, CN and NMMS commenced work on a series of non binding commitments that the NMMS referred to as the Letter of Agreement. However when the NMMS was unable to provide evidence of its ability to fund the relocation of the collection at the expiry of the Venues NSW lease (an agreed condition within the Letter of Agreement), CN refused to sign the Letter of Agreement. NMMS has taken a position that without this agreement, it is unable to move forward with the development of a plan for the collection's future or attend the leased storage facility to monitor their collection. It is unclear why the unsigned Letter of Agreement prevents the NMMS from collection maintenance and or developing a plan for the collection's future.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Option 1**

- 47 The recommendation as at Paragraph 1 - 9. This is the recommended option.

### **Option 2**

- 48 CN continues to provide storage leases and in-kind storage support to NMMS for an undefined period. This is not the recommended option.

## **REFERENCES**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A:** Gift Acknowledgement Form
- Attachment B:** Hunter Marine Heritage Association certificate of registration
- Attachment C:** Minutes of Maritime Special General Meeting - 21 May 2018
- Attachment D:** Correspondence from President of Newcastle Maritime Museum Society - 25 June 2019

## Gift Acknowledgement Form

### DONOR'S DETAILS

Name: **Hunter Maritime Heritage Association Inc. (HMHA) ABN 78874686306**

Address: C/- 136 Tyrrell St, Newcastle 2300

Telephone Number: 0419241731

Email: [huntermaritimeheritage@gmail.com](mailto:huntermaritimeheritage@gmail.com)

### SCHEDULE

Quantity	Object	Description
1	Victoria II Lifeboat	Shore based lifeboat built in 1897 by Forrest & Sons in England. It was commissioned at Newcastle, NSW on 27 May, 1897. VICTORIA II provided a valuable service to the port of Newcastle for over 40 decades. The lifeboat was involved in major rescues that saved dozens of lives of crew or passengers from ships which had foundered on the treacherous Oyster Bank just offshore from the port. It was crewed by men from Newcastle and the Hunter Valley.
1	Rocket Cart	Horse draw vehicle used in the deployment of rocket brigade to assist in maritime rescues.
1	Model SS Iron Knight	Large scale model of BHP fleet ship.
1	Life Jacket	Over-the-head style, orange / red Sygna Bergen.
1	Rocket Cartridge	Schermuly parachute rocket in container.
1	Gold Fob	engraved 'Newcastle's Recognition for Bravery Displayed J. McG. Dolling', shield shape, engraving of Alpena rescue by PS Ajax & lifeboat Victoria 27 September 1909, & Wood presentation box.
1	Rudder	Ferry Bluebell, mounted on stand.
1	Bosun's Pipe	nickel plated, 150 mm long.
1	Union Membership Book	Seaman's Union of Australasia, 1916.
1	Diving Suit and Accessories	Mr Yamada Used in Sygna salvage attempt 1974
1	Telescope,	brass, body covered white painted canvas with coach whipping covered in masking tape at each end.
1	Telegraph key, Morse code	brass on black wood base.
1	Gong	local pattern, made from 12-pounder shell casing, eye bolt & ring attached through fuze hole. stamped on base "12 pr 12 cwt", batch & proof numbers

1	Union Membership Book	Federated Seamen's Union of Australasia, s/n C3300, D McAlister,
1	Quadrant	ebony v& ivory c. 1830
1	Sweetheart badge	HMS Warspite. circular with silver back & rim. mother of pearl inlay, brass bass relief of 2-mast double funnelled ship on water.
1	N&E Towns Motor Boat	Clinker motor launch was built by N & E Towns in Newcastle in 1920. It has the typical shape and proportions for an early motor launch, and the type was then relatively common in sheltered waters throughout Australia. Towns were one of a number of builders who specialised in small craft and once engines became reliable in the early 1900s they included motor launches in the range of vessels they built.
1	Butcher Boat	built by N & E Towns in Newcastle at an unknown date. It is understood to be the only surviving example of a butcher boat, a type used in Newcastle and Sydney for taking orders from arriving ships in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Documentation indicates it was probably used by the Bramble's family when they were butchers, and operated the craft on the Hunter River and port of Newcastle. There is confirmed documentation that its final working role in the late 1940s was as a flood boat in Maitland.
1	Boarding Boat No 3	ship-based pilot's tender used aboard the Pilot Steamer BIRUBI from the second quarter of the 20th century, servicing the port of Newcastle, NSW. Although its age and builder are unknown, the tender's hull structure features the original clinker construction and open layout used when it was a tender.





("the donor") for Hunter Maritime Heritage Association Inc. its executors, administrators and assigns ACKNOWLEDGE to Newcastle City Council (CN) as the body conducting the Newcastle Museum as follows:-

- A) Hunter Maritime Heritage Association, have given all its right title and interest absolutely and free from encumbrance in the goods described in the schedule hereto ("the Goods") to the Newcastle Museum; and
- B) At the time of making the said gift Hunter Maritime Heritage Association, was the sole beneficial owner of the Goods and they are free from encumbrance and I am unaware of any claim to title the Goods adverse to my title to them; and
- C) The Goods are now the sole and absolute property of the Newcastle Museum and Hunter Maritime Heritage Association, have no claim upon or interest in the Goods; and
- D) accept return of ownership and possession of the 19 items from the Collection listed at Annexure A by resolution of CN's elected Council at any future time, provided HMHA, at its request, can demonstrate its financial ability to appropriately maintain, store and exhibit the items for a reasonable period of time;
- E) Hunter Maritime Heritage Association have made the gift of the Goods to the Newcastle Museum voluntarily and by exercise of its own free will; and
- F) Hunter Maritime Heritage Association, hereby transfer and assign to the Newcastle Museum any copyright in the Goods. No other person or body has any copyright in the Goods.

Signed by the Donor in the presence of the undersigned witness who acknowledges that before the Donor signed this document he/she stated to the witness that he/she had read this document and understood it.

[Redacted signature area]

[Redacted signature area]

SIGNATURE OF DONOR

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

ROBERT J COOK

Name of witness... STEVEN HOUSTON

Date: 3.2.22

Address of witness. [Redacted]

[Redacted address line]

PO Box 489 Newcastle NSW 2300  
website: www.newcastlemuseum.com.au  
Phone: 02 4974 1400

\* This signature is conditional upon approval by NSW FAIR TRADING.

[Redacted signature area]

# Certificate of Incorporation as an Association

This is to certify

## HUNTER MARINE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC

is registered as an incorporated association in New South Wales  
under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*

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Registration Number **INC2101368**

Date of Incorporation **7 December 2021**

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Issued by NSW Fair Trading on 7 December 2021.

Natasha Mann  
Fair Trading Commissioner  
NSW Fair Trading

**Bill Quirk**

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**From:** Ian Jones <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 10:21 AM  
**To:** Bill Storer; Bill Quirk; Graham Clark; Frank Elgar  
**Cc:** Geoff Hindmarsh; Michael Rapa; David Meir; John Sheppard  
**Subject:** RE: MARITIME MUSEUM SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Thanks for the written notice Bill

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Best regards,  
Ian Jones | Executive Director |  
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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Bill Storer [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 May 2018 5:03 PM  
**To:** Ian Jones; Bill Quirk; Graham Clark; Frank Elgar  
**Cc:** Geoff Hindmarsh; Michael Rapa; David Meir; John Sheppard; Bill Storer  
**Subject:** MARITIME MUSEUM SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Member,

This is to confirm, as previously advised, that a Special General Meeting is to be held at 10.00 am Monday 21 May to consider the following special resolutions proposed by Ian Jones and seconded by Bill Quirk:

1. That this Special General Meeting instructs the Committee to voluntary wind up the Newcastle Maritime Museum Society Incorporated when all outstanding financial matters are resolved.
2. That this Special General Meeting instructs the Committee to transfer all collection objects and other assets to Newcastle City Council , forthwith.

The meeting will hear a report of outstanding financial matters, before the resolutions are put.

yours sincerely

Bill Storer AM  
Returning Officer  
8 May 2018

After research, it is my opinion is that this notice is delivered to all current financial members of the Society, as addressed.

Newcastle Maritime Museum Society Incorporated

Minutes of a Special General Meeting of the Society held 21 May 2018  
at 3 Honeysuckle Way, Newcastle at 10.00 am

Financial Members

Graham Clark

Frank Elgar →

Geoff Hindmarsh

Ian Jones

David Meir

Bill Quirk

Michael Rapa

John Sheppard

Bill Storer

Chris Jamison

The Returning Officer, Bill Storer, opened the meeting at 10.00 am

Special Resolutions: There having been proper notice given to the membership in accordance with the Constitution the following special resolutions were put:

Moved Ian Jones                      Seconded Bill Quirk

1. That this Special General Meeting instructs the Committee to voluntary wind up the Newcastle Maritime Museum Society Incorporated when all outstanding financial matters are resolved.

In favour 8/9/10                      Against 0

Moved Ian Jones                      Seconded Bill Quirk

2. That this Special General Meeting instructs the Committee to transfer all collection objects and other assets to Newcastle City Council, forthwith.

In favour 8/9/10                      Against 0

Signed by Ian Jones

Witnessed by Bill Storer AM

Date: 21 May 2018



**ABN 44561895246**

25 June 2019

Jeremy Bath  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 City of Newcastle  
 PO Box 489  
 Newcastle NSW 2300

By email.

Dear Jeremy,

In response to your email of 20 June, the committee has discussed its position and long-term objectives. You refer to decisions made by previous members on 21 May 2018. We would like to address this matter first.

The current membership has distanced itself from the actions of 'members' that took unlawful control of the Society on 1 January 2017. The current committee has advised those five persons acting on behalf of the Society during 2017 and 2018 that their actions were not in accordance with the Society's constitution, we consider them invalid and this committee hold them responsible for their actions and debts incurred. We have taken independent senior legal advice on a long list of actions that did not comply with the constitution. The advice is that offences were committed under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The committee has not decided to take action at this time.

With regards to the 21 May 2018 meeting, the actions of five persons (Storer, Elgar, Jones, Quirk, Clarke) are invalid for the following reasons:

- 1 The 'committee' of three persons was not elected by the members of the Society, at a duly called AGM (Cl.5).
- 2 The management of the Society was required to be made up of seven members, elected at an AGM (Cl.4).
- 3 The finances were required to be managed by an elected Treasurer (Cl.6).
- 4 The Society was insolvent and should not have been trading.
- 5 A list of Financial members was not maintained (but has now been compiled) (Cl.23).
- 6 The calling of a Special General Meeting was required to be done by the Secretary, not Bill Storer (Cl.16). SEE ATTACHED MINUTES OF MEETING.
- 7 All members (whether financial or not) were required to be advised of the proposed meeting (Cl.16). Names of 30 financial members from last AGM were available, but were not notified.
- 8 Due notice (14 days) of the meeting was required to be provided to all members (Cl.16).
- 9 Proposed motions were required to be notified to all members prior to the meeting (Cl.15).

10 Only five of the members in attendance met eligibility criteria and were entitled to vote at the meeting (Cl.3.1).

11 The meeting was required to be chaired by the President (not Bill Storer) (Cl.18).

12 The meeting did not have a required quorum of nine eligible financial members (Cl.17).

13 Frank Elgar claims to have paid fees to be a member allowing him to vote, but Cl.4 of the constitution forbids employees from being members, or voting.

13 Negotiations to not renew the A shed lease and close the museum were invalid.

14 Requirements under the negotiated Memorandum of Understanding to advise and seek agreement of all members was not carried out.

For any number of the above reasons the meeting held at 10am on 21 May 2018 was invalid and is not accepted by our current membership (nor NSW Fair Trading).

The current committee recognises that City of Newcastle during 2018 acted in the best interests of protecting the 47 years of efforts by our members to gather a valuable maritime heritage collection, by agreeing, as Trustee to consolidate all items in a safe place. We thank you for that.

### **NMMS position on the future of its collection – based on 47 years of volunteer commitment.**

#### **Summary**

1. It is the desire of NMMS to transfer ownership of the collection to City of Newcastle.
2. NMMS is committed to retaining ownership of the collection only until such time as a mutually agreed outcome for every item is confirmed.
3. The Society accepts that it does not have the resources to exhibit the collection, but its members wish to contribute as volunteers in preserving and showcasing the collection.
4. A contract transferring ownership and defining the ongoing relationship, should be agreed.

#### **Proposal**

It is the desire of the NMMS management committee that NMMS and CN prepare a formal document that sets out the terms, pathway and timing (transfer process) of care and control of all items in the collection.

The contract should include the conditional agreement by NMMS to hand ownership of the collection to CN. Transfer of ownership should take place subject to the following conditions.

Conditions are negotiable but should include:

1. Support by CN for limited funding to resolve any legally remaining debts of NMMS (eg. superannuation and tax).
2. Commitment by CN to provide storage and curatorial facilities for the collection during the transfer period.
3. That NMMS has control over the curation of the collection during the transition.
4. That the process be considered to have three time periods.  
Short term – now till September 2020.  
Medium term – approx. 5-10 years.  
Long term – beyond ten years.
5. A major waterfront maritime exhibition of a world-class standard will be created, developed and implemented in due course. The NMMS committee submitted a concept of Queens Wharf Maritime Centre on 20 May 2019.

6. That small scale exhibitions will be presented at various locations in the short and medium terms.
7. That the Society is recognised and consulted as a stakeholder in the retention of the collection and development of the next generation of the Queens Wharf Maritime Centre.

Newcastle Maritime Museum Society has at its core the dedication of committed citizens who donated time and built the collection over 47 years in the belief that this region's Maritime Heritage is such an important part of our culture, that it deserves a prominent waterfront exhibition for future generations.

Our Society is excited about the opportunity to partner in a supporting role with Council to promote Newcastle's Maritime Heritage. The Society brings value-adding to the process of implementing a large new exhibition venue, by creating champions, capacity-builders and vocal advocates for a bold design at Queens Wharf, promoted by City of Newcastle. Our collection, used in an ultra-modern design using the latest heritage exhibition techniques, has the capability of creating a nationally significant focal point for the city. NMMS has the capacity to bring all stakeholders together to make this project very successful. An iconic tourist attraction.

With diverse membership experience and a vision to share the collection sourced from our community, we are keen to be of assistance and to co-operate. We ask for the opportunity to develop a partnership to create something uniquely special.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Cook  
President  
Newcastle Maritime Museum Society Inc.  
136 Tyrrell St,  
NEWCASTLE  
2300  
Ph: 0419241731  
Email: [newcastlemaritimesociety@gmail.com](mailto:newcastlemaritimesociety@gmail.com)

Attachment: Minutes of 21 May 2018 meeting