

The Traverse Board

Newsletter of the Friends Of The Paul McGuire Maritime Library Inc

Proudly Supporting the Paul McGuire Collection of The State Library of South Australia.

November 2024

News From The Friends

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 2024

Greetings to you all, and hope that Spring has not got you too confused, it's certainly trying to! Anyway, never mind the weather, we must press on regardless.

Prior to our last meeting, I received a call from the British Hotel to say they could not accommodate us on the Tuesday evening.



So after a bit chasing around, we managed to arrange a spot at the Exeter Hotel, Exeter, which was quite satisfactory, and we enjoyed a most interesting presentation by Anthea Taylor, of the Pioneers Association. She told us of the schooner *John Pirie*, sailing from England to South Australia, laden with livestock and equipment, passengers too, to the new colony. Can you imagine the voyage in a vessel of just sixty six feet, when the *One and All* measures ninety two feet on deck! Altogether it was an excellent evening.

Now it is nearly party time, with our pre-Christmas luncheon at the lovely Royal Oak Hotel, Clarendon, on Sunday, November 17th. I do hope you will manage to find your way there, it is always a pleasant time there, well catered for too.

I'll close this now, and wish you all the best for the festive season, and look forward to seeing you at the Royal Oak.

Regards, Julian.

November 2024 Meeting

Sunday 17th November

Royal Oak Hotel

Clarendon

From 12:00 noon

Our Annual Lunch

Please book with Neil (0418821331) or Julian (0414365294) by 10th November



HMNZS *Manawanui* was recently lost in Samoa. It is currently lying in 35 metres of water off Upolu. Photo: New Zealand Defence Force

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Library director closes the book on distinguished career

As he prepares for retirement this month, State Library of South Australia director Geoff Stempel outlines how he and his team have positioned the iconic North Terrace library for the 21st century and beyond.

Written by Genevieve Meegan



*Retiring State Library of South Australia director Geoff Stempel.
Photo: Sia Duff / supplied*

Transforming the State Library of South Australia into a digitised, diverse and accessible resource for all South Australians has been at the heart of Geoff Stempel's vision during his seven years as director of the North Terrace landmark.

What had been a “traditional state library over decades”, has now been positioned for the 21st century under Stempel's leadership, which has included upskilling staff, installing digital storage techniques, and implementing creative ways to engage the broader public – from children to retirees.

“We've just bought some digital systems, a digital preservation system, which we need,” he tells *InReview*. “Digital preservation ensures that you will always be able to read files that have been ingested in a known format.

“We have digitised two million pages of newspapers for South Australia and they're on Trove, which is run by the National Library. We deliberately put them there so people can find them. So this is about how do we put our content in places where people will find it.

“I think the State Library has the most remarkable collection of materials that isn't as well known as it perhaps could be, should be. So it's about giving greater exposure to the remarkable collection we have. We've got about 60 kilometres of shelving full of the history of South Australia.

“One of the things we're also doing is trying to improve the number of exhibitions, podcasts, talks online, and visits to the library to hear lectures. Information is held in books, but books are only one form of transmitting information, and we need to find ways to curate and tell South Australian stories.”

Next February, for example, the State Library, which welcomes more than 550,000 visitors a year, will hold an exhibition about General Motors Holden and its car manufacturing history in South Australia. The exhibition will coincide with the VALLO Adelaide 500 car race, capitalising on the car-loving crowds in town.

“That's because we know there'll be lots of visitors, many of whom are interested in not just Holden, but the whole history of manufacturing cars in Australia,” Stempel says.

“So, those people may be interested to spend an hour or two in an exhibition and find out things they never knew, because they've got a passion for cars. Exhibitions are a great way to share information with people who have an interest but are not necessarily keen to go further and read books or even write a book about it.”

During his time as director of the State Library, Stempel has been instrumental in several significant collection acquisitions, including more than 100,000 images from famed SA aerial photographer Douglas Darian Smith's career, and items from filmmaker Scott Hicks' personal archive of film memorabilia.

“Scott has donated his life's archive to the library, and we've been cataloguing and processing that, and we intend to turn that into a beautiful exhibition to showcase the whole of Scott's history since he was back in film school at Flinders University,” Stempel says.

“Scott was really concerned that he wanted his collection preserved and not at risk. Sometimes these collections can be at risk because of where they're stored or how they're stored.

“Secondly, Scott has got a real sense of history in South Australia, and while he's obviously just an incredibly talented person, he has also been part of a significant movement in the film industry, from the early days of film and even video right through to digital. He's also worked overseas. So, he is a very important piece of the South

Australian film history story, and I think Scott just wanted to make his collection accessible and available here at the library.”

The Hicks’ collection includes hand-drawn sketches of movie scenes, storyboards from completed movies that have been mapped out in logbooks and diaries, and memorabilia such as the glasses and costume worn by Geoffrey Rush in *Shine*. The exhibition is expected to take place in late 2025.

Before his appointment at the State Library, Stempel oversaw South Australia’s 140 public libraries in his role as associate director, Public Library Services. He was recently awarded the HCL Anderson Award, which is the Australian Library and Information Association’s highest honour, recognising outstanding services to the Australian library and information sector.

Stempel says one of the things he’s most proud of during his 40-year-career has been the establishment of the One Card Network for local libraries.

“That was a once-in-a-generation transformation for our public library network, which means people in Ceduna, for example, have access to three million items on the shelf of every public library,” he says.

“For me, that was transformative in the public library realm. I then moved into the State Library and had visions of doing something very similar. We’re actively looking right now at the possibility of the State Library joining in on the public libraries’ One Card Network.

“So, it’s about modernising the State Library to ensure that it has the facilities, the technology and the skills to ensure that it is turning its collections into digitally accessible and exhibition-ready material to raise the profile of what we should be proud of to be South Australians.”

Stempel also reveals that the State Library is partnering with the Words Grow Minds early-childhood literacy program run by Raising Literacy Australia, with an exciting new project soon to be announced which will encourage more young children into the library.

His last day in the job will be October 18 and he says he will miss the people he works with more than anything.

“Working in libraries is about a bit of a mission that you love. It’s not just books – books are just a vehicle for transmitting ideas. So, the people who work in libraries are passionate and really interesting. They are early adopters of changes in how we keep relevant to the community.”

The 67-year-old says he has a couple of retirement projects in mind, including spending more time with his 14-month-old grandson, Joey.

“He knows that books have pages, and you turn the pages and you say words. So he’s on the way, which is wonderful.”

If you’re at all curious about the world, a library will provide you with the answer

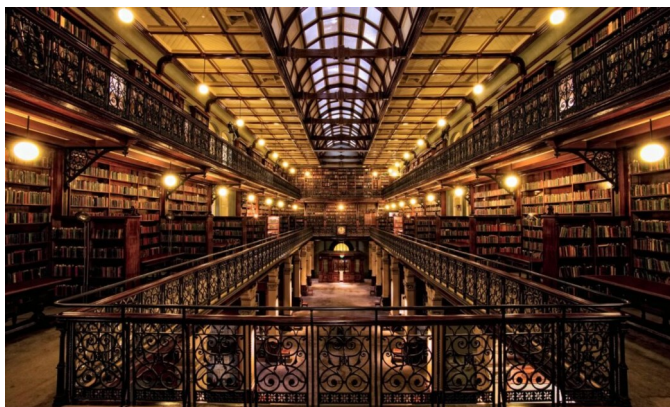
Local government and library services executive Megan Berghuis has been appointed to replace Stempel as the new director. Asked what advice he has for Berghuis, Stempel says he wouldn’t be so presumptuous.

“What I would say is, it’s a great job with great prospects and a great board,” he says.

“I’ve worked with boards for over 40 years and at the moment, the State Library’s board is the most innovative, supportive board I’ve worked with; highly professional and really strategic in their focus. And it is just a pleasure to work with them and some really great senior staff. It’s fantastic.

“We know that 78 per cent of people who go into libraries tell us the main reason for going is to borrow books. So, books are still at the heart of who we are, but that’s about information.

“But the other thing about libraries is that they’re always looking to talk to their customers, or prospective customers, about what they’re interested in, and that then spills into, ‘Are you interested in



The State Library’s Mortlock Wing often hosts events and exhibitions. Photo: Sia Duff

joining a book club, or are you wanting to participate in a range of community activities that the library is running?'. This is particularly the case for people who have a bit of extra spare time – libraries are a great place for lots of free engagement activities, library material, etc. But there's something for everybody who is curious.

“If you're at all curious about the world, a library will provide you with the answer. Having said that, for the very busy people, we have the single largest digital borrowing collection in Australia, here in South Australia: over half a million items online to be able to borrow, everything from magazines through to audio books through to print books.

“So if you're at all interested in flicking through a magazine about your local passion, your personal passion, sailing, golfing, gardening, you'll find an online magazine that you can borrow without having to leave your lounge room.”

<https://inreview.com.au/inreview/books-and-poetry/2024/10/10/library-director-closes-the-book-on-distinguished-career/>

New Zealand navy ship runs aground and sinks off Samoa, all crew onboard rescued

Sunday 6 October

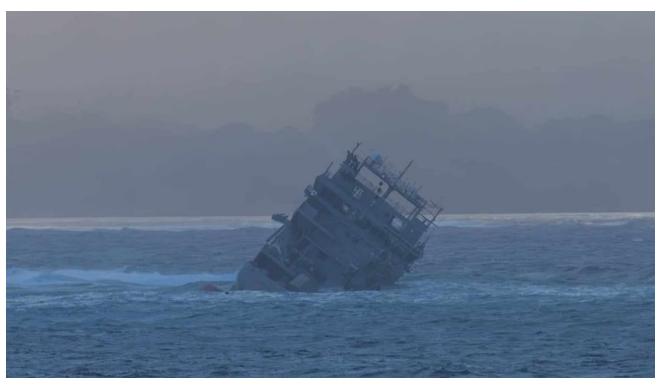
In short:

A Royal New Zealand Navy vessel ran aground and sank off Samoa but all 75 crew and passengers on board were safe, the New Zealand Defence Force said.

Several vessels responded and assisted in rescuing the crew and passengers who had left the ship in lifeboats.

What's next?

The New Zealand military said it was working with authorities to understand the implications and minimise the environmental impacts of the incident.



HMNZS Manawanui ran aground off the south coast of Upolu while conducting a reef survey. (RNZ: Profile Boats)

New Zealand says it has rescued all 75 crew and passengers from a wrecked navy vessel that ran aground and sank off Samoa while conducting a reef survey.

HMNZS Manawanui, the navy's specialist dive and hydrographic vessel, ran aground near the southern coast of Upolu on Saturday, Commodore Shane Arndell, the maritime component commander of the New Zealand Defence Force, said in a statement.

Several vessels responded and assisted in rescuing the crew and passengers who had left the ship in lifeboats, Mr Arndell said.

Video and photos published on local media showed the Manawanui, which cost the New Zealand government \$NZ103 million (\$93 million) in 2018, listing heavily and with plumes of thick grey smoke rising.



All 75 crew members of the ship were safely rescued, New Zealand officials said. (Facebook: Samoa Police, Prisons & Corrections Services)

The vessel later capsized and was below the surface by 9am local time on Sunday, New Zealand Defence Force said.

The New Zealand military said rescuers had battled currents and winds that pushed life rafts and boats toward the reefs and "swells made the rescue effort particularly challenging".

The military said it was "working with authorities to understand the implications and minimise the environmental impacts".

Samoaan emergency services said a fire rescue team worked "from last night until this morning" to collect and treat the 75 crew members.

"Fortunately, no-one was heavily injured and no lives were lost," Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority said.

Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Garin Golding said two people had been hospitalised, one with a dislocated shoulder, and another who had hurt their back.

A further 12-15 people had minor cuts and abrasions, and sore body parts.

The exact cause of the wreck is not yet known.

Defence Minister Judith Collins described the grounding as a "really challenging for everybody on board".

"I know that what has happened is going to take quite a bit of time to process," Ms Collins told the press conference.

"I look forward to pinpointing the cause so that we can learn from it and avoid a repeat," she said, adding that an immediate focus was to salvage "what is left" of the vessel.

Rescue operations are being coordinated by Samoan emergency services and Australian Defence personnel with the assistance of the New Zealand rescue centre, according to a statement from Samoa Police, Prison and Corrections Service posted on Facebook.

A Royal New Zealand Air Force P-8A Poseidon was also deployed to assist in the rescue.

Manawanui is used to conduct a range of specialist diving, salvage and survey tasks around New Zealand and across the South West Pacific.

New Zealand's Navy is already working at reduced capacity with three of its nine ships idle due to personnel shortages.

Reuters

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-06/new-zealand-navy-ship-runs-aground-off-samoa-/104438052>

The Australian Oyster Reef Revival

A successful restoration project on the Adelaide coast is raising hopes for the future of a long-lost ecosystem.

by Gennaro Tomma
September 26, 2024

When European colonists arrived in southern Australia some 200 years ago, the coastlines were brimming with life. Expansive, kilometers-long reefs of angasi oysters—also known as Australian flat oysters—ringed the coast, teeming with fish of all forms and colors, bountiful crustaceans, and lush kelp forests. Yet, as they did on the east coast of North America,



The crew and passengers on the vessel left on lifeboats. (Facebook: Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority)



As a newly restored oyster reef grows in Adelaide, Australia, it's creating habitat for a bevy of species. Photo courtesy of Stefan Andrews

colonial fishers stripped the sea down to the studs. Today, except for one surviving Australian flat oyster reef in Tasmania, Australia, this once-abundant ecosystem has disappeared.

“It’s hard to imagine the scale of the reefs that were lost,” says Dominic McAfee, a marine ecologist at Australia’s University of Adelaide. Worse still, McAfee adds that “with the loss of those reefs, there was social amnesia that they ever existed. Very quickly, people forgot about them.”

Over the past decade, however, scientists have become reacquainted with the historical reach of Australian flat oyster reefs, which decorated about 7,000 kilometers of the country’s coastline from Perth to Sydney and down around Tasmania. Australian flat oysters—not to be confused with the far more common European flat oyster, commonly known as the native oyster—form gigantic reefs comprised of billions of individuals that can be found as deep as 40 meters. “They’re like the trees in a forest or the coral in a tropical sea,” McAfee says. Besides providing habitat and boosting biodiversity, oyster reefs are known to filter water and bolster fish production.

On the back of this learning, scientists have been working to restore these lost ecosystems—an endeavor that got a major boost in 2020 when the nonprofit the Nature Conservancy Australia teamed up with the government of South Australia on an ambitious project to bring flat oyster reefs back to the coastline near Adelaide, one of the country’s biggest cities. That project, as McAfee and his team show in a recent study, has been a resounding success so far, with the restored reef now hosting even more Australian flat oysters than the last remaining natural reef in Tasmania. “It’s quite astonishing,” says McAfee.

According to Michael Sievers, a marine ecologist from Griffith University in Australia who was not involved in the study, coastal restoration projects are generally “a little bit hit-and-miss.” Many coastal ecosystems have suffered—and continue to suffer—under strong human pressures and are severely degraded. Without a concerted focus “on alleviating the initial causes of environmental degradation and habitat decline,” says Sievers, restoring coastal ecosystems to their former glory is difficult.

Case in point: while there were some surviving Australian flat oysters scattered in the Adelaide area before the restoration project kicked off, the seafloor in the region was generally too degraded for juvenile flat oysters to settle down, take hold, grow into adults, and begin forming a new reef.

To solve this problem, the Nature Conservancy Australia and the South Australian government used cranes and boats to drop 14 limestone boulders in the water off Adelaide’s Glenelg beach to create the hard substrate the oysters need to thrive. To attract more juvenile Australian flat oysters to the boulders, the researchers played natural sea sounds, such as those of healthy reefs, through underwater speakers to lure the little oysters in. “That was a massive success,” says McAfee. “We put them in, they found [the reef], and they settled on it very quickly.” In just two and a half years, fish, crabs, squid, and algae have all taken up residence, as well.

According to McAfee’s analysis, the diversity of invertebrates, such as blue swimmer crabs and southern reef squid, on the restored reef is around 60 percent of that found on a thriving reef.

“The project and the outcomes so far look very promising,” says Sievers. “The reef is recovering,” he says, adding that he’s interested in seeing how the reef will develop in the long term.

As these Australian flat oysters continue to build out the restored reef, McAfee and the other researchers expect to see even more species flock in. The ability of the reef to increase the availability of species important to recreational fishers is a key feature, McAfee says, which he sees as a way to make the ecosystem restoration project meaningful to Australian coastal communities.

Today, there are roughly 60 restoration projects aimed at rebuilding Australia’s lost shellfish reefs. Despite that, says McAfee, “we are just sort of scraping at the surface in terms of what was lost.”

Edited by Colin Schultz

<https://hakaimagazine.com/news/the-australian-oyster-reef-revival/>

Italian navy ship Amerigo Vespucci docks in Darwin, as Rome flags interest increasing interest in Indo-Pacific

By Lillian Rangiah Monday 7 October



The Amerigo Vespucci is named after an Italian explorer. (ABC News: Hamish Harty)

Just 2 metres shorter than the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Amerigo Vespucci stands tall above the wharf at Darwin's Harbour.

Onboard, children on school holidays squint skywards at the intricate ropes of its medieval-looking sails, and gasp at the polished wood of the original, 93-year-old wheel, which needs eight sailors to turn.

Modelled off an 18th century sailing ship and first launched nearly a century ago, the crown jewel and "floating embassy" of Italy's naval fleet is a far cry from the cruise liners and modern naval ships usually docked at the harbour.

For Italy's ambassador to Australia, Paolo Crudele, it's a symbol of his country's trademark flair.

"It's a beauty, just like Italians are able to create beauty," he says.

But Mr Crudele says the Vespucci's visit also signals Italy's growing interest in the Indo-Pacific, as it looks to strengthen its friendship with Australia.

Italy signals interest in Indo-Pacific

The Amerigo Vespucci, named after the Florentine explorer who also lent his name to "the Americas", has been used to train Italian naval cadets since 1931.

A military band, opera singer, fireworks display and three skydiving sailors marked the ship's arrival this weekend for its only Australian stop on a three-year world tour.

This month, Italy handed command to Australia for an international naval operation protecting crucial shipping lanes through the Red Sea, following Houthi rebel attacks that have caused shipping delays between Asia and Europe.

Following Italy's debut at Darwin's international biennial airforce wargames, Exercise Pitch Black, the Vespucci stop is the country's second significant visit to the Northern Territory in three months.

"Italy is ready to play a role in the Indo-Pacific, it's ready to cooperate with other like-minded countries and friends like Australia," Mr Crudele said.

In short:

Italy's oldest naval vessel, the Amerigo Vespucci, has spent the weekend in Darwin for its only Australian stop on a worldwide tour.

Italy's ambassador to Australia says the country is looking to take on a greater role in maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

What's next?

The training ship will next dock in Singapore.



Children marvel at the ship's old-fashioned steering wheel. (ABC News: Lillian Rangiah)



Tourists step on board the ship at Darwin Harbour. (ABC News: Lillian Rangiah)

"We take a commitment to work together for peace, security and protect freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific. "[Australia is] a big player in the Indo-Pacific and it's a friend country.



The Vespucci's military band performed for onlookers in Darwin. (ABC News: Lillian Rangiah)

The Vespucci's journey aims to strengthen diplomatic ties. (ABC News: Lillian Rangiah)

"Australian-Italian community celebrates Vespucci arrival

The Vespucci has greeted thousands of curious locals and tourists over three-days of sold-out public tours in an explicit act of naval diplomacy.

"It is not only Vespucci that is moving around the world - it's a piece of Italy that's moving around the world," said the ship's commander, Captain Guiseppe Lai.



Since migrating to Australia from Italy about 50 years ago, Francesco DeAngelis said he'd been aboard the Vespucci's deck twice — first when it docked in Melbourne in 2002, then in New Zealand during the 2002 America's Cup.

"I came from Melbourne especially to get onto this ship because it will be my third visit to the ship," he said.

"It's very touching."

The Vespucci will remain docked at Darwin on Monday before voyaging onwards towards Singapore in the evening.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-07/italian-ship-amerigo-vespucci-visits-darwin/104438764>

The Vespucci will head to Singapore on Monday night. (ABC News: Hamish Harty)

ANNUAL LUNCH

Our annual lunch is at Clarendon's Royal Oak Hotel from 12:00 noon Sunday 17th November.

Bookings are essential and responses to Neil (0418821331) or Julian (0414365294) by 10th November would be appreciated.

The Royal Oak is on Grants Gully Road, the main road with plenty of parking in the car park opposite. Grants Gully Road meets Chandlers Hill Road at the top of Chandlers Hill and is well marked.

