

# THE SEVEN SEAS CLUB of AUSTRALIA

**"TO PROMOTE AND FOSTER THE COMRADESHIP OF THE SEA"**

**Founded 1968**

**Incorporated 1996**

**Patron**

**The Governor of South Australia**

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

## NEWSLETTER No. 90 Summer January 2022

### Greetings Members-

I hope this newsletter compensates somewhat for the cancellation of our regular January meeting, due once again to the pandemic.

Thank you to those who have sent in contributions for this edition of the Newsletter:

John Braendler, for the President's Report; Captain Peter Thomas for his monthly historical notes; Trevor Powell, who has sent in some of his wonderful random photos of ships taken at Port Adelaide as well as from the Ladies Night and Investiture at Government House; Peter Allen for his update on Baxter and Grimshaw and John Ford AOM, for sending me copies of his wonderful watercolour paintings for the newsletter.

At least we are still able to enjoy our time on our boats! Below is our boat, a Duncanson 29, on the way to KI last year.

Fair Winds,  
Terry Beaston



*"Freedom" leaving Rapid Bay for KI, March 2021*

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **January 2022 John Braendler**

Covid scotched our January meeting and we do thank member Terry Beaston for this newsletter to somewhat fill that gap.

We are all truly Covid outed, so a brief note only here. As with most places and organisations, we have been impacted either within with meetings, dinners and activities, or from without with venues, out and about movements and liaisons which keep our Seven Seas Club going. With great cooperation, some innovation and a lot of goodwill, we have been able to remain active, involved and with the Club well and truly alive. We have, however, had to cancel the January dinner meeting, but that is always one of lower numbers with members on annual leave etc.... and our base home venue is restricted, but we are confident that our February meeting will be OK. That is important to us as it is our AGM.

The success and enjoyment of our December meeting was a pleasure to behold and to receive acclaim for. The Club and its focus and traditions are on display, balanced with a conviviality and enjoyment engendered. It is one of a multiple of occasions where wives and partners are included and is when we hold our annual fundraising auction of nautical items to contribute to our donation to our sister organization the Baxter & Grimshaw Foundation. Members again this year donated some valuable, interesting and unique items which were auctioned by member Capt. R Smedley who had acquired these items in the lead up. The Club is very pleased to have been able to present a cheque for \$1,000 on the evening.

It is pleasing to report that the stability and comradeship of the Club has been able to be re-established, meeting attendances and the fine and most interesting and engaging guest speakers have upheld the Club ethos. Our Secretary Ian Small has been a lighthouse in this and along with a number of members have found us such high

caliber speakers. The Committee is always on the lookout for such speakers, so an in touch with any leads is appreciated.

Being a Club without our own real estate, remains something we monitor and work to have retain the Club "feel". The PSC is a place we have been with for quite a time, but there is pressure there and we are in further negotiations to remain and heighten our connections to mutual benefit, but always with an eye for alternatives should that become an issue. There are quite a lot of factors involved here – meeting room, catering, dinner venue, IT equipment for speaker presentations, a small storage area, a convivial pre dinner bar area, costs involved, and a central accessible location. Our Committee has this as an ongoing meeting agenda item.

Being one of only three Seven Seas chapters in the world, relationships between us remain significant, and our Sec. has recently circulated that the parent Club is finalizing the publication of a book on the foundation and evolution of Seven Seas. It is acknowledged that member Capt. R Smedley from our Club has made a significant and recognized contribution to this detailing the history of our Club.

Having stepped into a new year, we are looking forward positively, to maintaining our trail and to making moves to further The Club. The issue of the Club constitution and Rules, aligning them with required Govt templates is in train with a sub-set of the Committee working with that, including membership, aspects which we had Special General Meetings this year to consider and designate for ongoing consideration.

This is my final report before completion of my term as president and I have, as stated at my induction, endeavoured to maintain tradition and decorum, to engender calm, to take all members contributions on board with empathy and professionalism and to ensure a liveliness and spirit, enjoyment and conviviality at meetings and within the Club.

I do acknowledge the spirit and comradeship from professional to personal that has been the foundation of a privileged year for me. John Braendler.



President John & wife Mrs Rudite Braendler in full flight enjoyment at Ladies Night - photo by I. Small

## Recent Seven Seas Club Meetings:



Photos of Ladies Night -thanks to Trevor Powell



Induction of new members at the October SSC 2021 meeting



# On this month

Compiled By Capt. Peter Thomas

## Historical notes for the month of December 2021

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1804

Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned Emperor of France by Pope Pius VII in Paris.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1942

The RAN auxiliary patrol boat **Kuru** was attacked 23 times by Japanese bombers in the Arafura Sea. The ship, a 23-metre wooden vessel had an estimated 200 bombs dropped in proximity but suffered only minor damage. That's one for you yachties to think about.

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1872

Discovery of the deserted brig **Marie Celeste** in the Atlantic between the Azores and Portugal. There has never been a believable explanation for this nautical mystery.

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1492

Haiti was discovered by Christopher Columbus.

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1917

Two ships collided at Halifax, Nova Scotia, resulting in an explosion that killed more than 1,500 persons and injured 8,000. The Norwegian ship **Imo** collided with the French munitions ship **Mont Blanc** which was loaded with supplies for the war in Europe, including 5,000 tons of TNT. A tidal wave caused by the explosion destroyed much of the city.

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941

Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and simultaneous assault on the Malay Peninsula and Hong Kong.

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1944

The German submarine U-862 attacked a Greek merchant ship **Illious** 130 miles SE of Adelaide (off the Coorong), but the Greek escaped.

December 12<sup>nd</sup> 1941

The submarine **HMS Perseus** was sunk by a mine off the coast of North Africa; her sole survivor L/Stoker Capes, escaped from the sunken vessel at 170 feet and then swam 10 miles to shore.

December 12<sup>nd</sup> 1941

Extract from the log of **HMAS Nestor** in the North Atlantic, "Ship opened fire on possible aircraft showing sidelight, after 10 seconds firing ceased. The planet Venus did not retaliate.

December 12<sup>nd</sup> 1955

Christopher Cockerill patented a new type of ship/aircraft called the hovercraft.

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1577

Francis Drake departed Plymouth, England, in the **Golden Hind** on his voyage around the world.

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1642

New Zealand was discovered by Dutch navigator Abel Tasman of the Dutch East India Company.

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1911

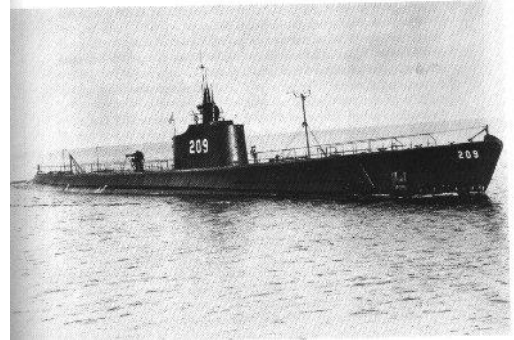
Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole.

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1800

The brig **Lady Nelson** arrived at Port Jackson. She was the first ship to pass from west to east through Bass Strait.

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1941

Admiral Chester Nimitz was sworn in as C in C of the US Pacific Fleet. It is an indication of the state of the allies' naval forces that his flagship was US submarine **Grayling**.



December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1939

Joseph Goebbels, German Propaganda Minister gave the name "**Scrap Iron Flotilla**" to the Australian Destroyer Flotilla when 5 Australian ships arrived in the Mediterranean. All were veterans of the First World War, but all of them served with distinction in the months to come.

December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1831

Charles Darwin set out from Plymouth, England, aboard the ship **HMS Beagle** on his five-year global scientific expedition.

## Seven Seas – Club Notation of Significance

Amidst all the wavering within the last year or so with Covid etc. the Club has still maintained its regular operations, with Committee meetings, administrative procedures and Planning continuing. Valuable new members with interesting nautical experiences have joined the Club, and we have announced and inducted a new DISTINGUISHED MEMBER.

DARYL MATTHEWS has been and remains a truly stalwart treasurer, always contributing committee member, liaison for us with our dinner venue for Club meetings and someone who we all look to in our decision making. His ever ready and always alert eye for our activities, procedures and events has warranted this accolade and recognition.

This award is certainly something special, with there being only 5 such awards for elevation to DISTINGUISHED MEMBER within and over the life of our Club.

It is my pleasure to note this appointment as president on behalf of the Club and indeed personally for the caliber and frequency of his support.

John Braendler

**Thanks to Trevor Powell for these impressive photographs of ships at Port Adelaide recently:**



Product tanker MT Largo Desert alongside M Berth, Port Adelaide - 12/11/2021.



Chemical/product tanker MT Saracena arriving at the Outer Harbor, Port Adelaide, and later berthed at Osborne - 12/11/2021.



Huon class minehunter HMAS Gascoyne (M 85) arriving at the Outer Harbor, Port Adelaide - 19/11/2021.



Offshore support vessel MV Skandi Singapore photographed in several locations as she arrived at Port Adelaide - 22/11/2021.



Bulk carrier MV Livita arriving in Port Adelaide to load grain at 27 Berth - 24 November 2021. (above and below photos)



Thanks again Trevor for the quality photos taken at Port Adelaide



# Baxter & Grimshaw Foundation Inc.

Mr John Braendler, President, Seven Seas Club of Australia Inc.

Mr Daryl Matthews, Treasurer, Seven Seas Club of Australia Inc.

John and Daryl,

The Board of the Baxter & Grimshaw Foundation Inc. is most appreciative of the Seven Seas Club's generous donation (\$1,000) to the Foundation at the SSC's Ladies Night on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021.

The Foundation is now a fully established, not-for-profit, incorporated charity which is planning to build on the success of the former Baxter & Grimshaw Trust — donations such as those of the SSC certainly helps the Foundation further its purpose. Please find attached the Foundation's QR code to open the Foundation's "new" website and a copy of the leaflet promoting the Foundation's "Set Sail Scholarships" planned with the *One & All* and the Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy for July 2022.

The Board of the Foundation is committed to maintaining close ties with the SSC and is pleased to keep members of the SSC informed on the Foundation's activities.

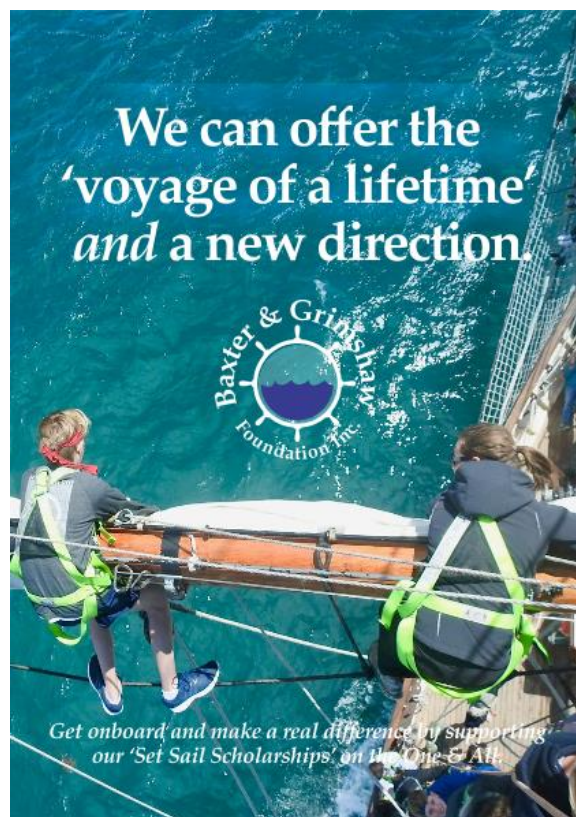
The SSC's generosity is reflected in the \$29,500 that the SSC has donated to the Trust/Foundation since 2003 — this sum includes a substantial donation that the SSC initially made for the financial establishment of the Trust. The Baxter & Grimshaw Trust, London, also financially contributed to the establishment of the Australian Trust.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to COM SSC for their financial support of the Foundation.

Regards Peter

Peter G Allen AM

Chair, Baxter & Grimshaw Foundation Inc.



## *The Baxter & Grimshaw Foundation helps young people gain confidence, develop self-reliance and learn important life skills through unique maritime experiences.*

We are now launching our most exciting adventure yet – a partnership with the *One & All* to support participation in tailored 10-day voyages aboard this iconic tall ship.

Each trip will bring together coxswain students seeking sea time to complete certificate training with the *Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy* (AMFA) and disadvantaged young South Australians for whom such an experience would otherwise be out of reach.

Coxswain training is a pathway to numerous maritime careers, and any time spent at sea will help people challenge themselves and see the world differently.

We are now seeking sponsors and donors to make this program a reality in 2022 – and expand it in the following years – by supporting our *Set Sail Scholarships*.

The Foundation has set a fundraising target of \$74,000 to fulfil this exciting initiative, and a range of sponsorship and donation options is available, along with marketing and branding opportunities for you and your organisation. Please get in touch to discuss how you can be a part of this important initiative, supported by *Philanthropy Australia*.

*The Foundation is also endorsed as a deductible gift recipient by the Australian Tax Office and is a proud member of Philanthropy Australia.*

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Visit our website at [baxtergrimshaw.org.au](http://baxtergrimshaw.org.au)



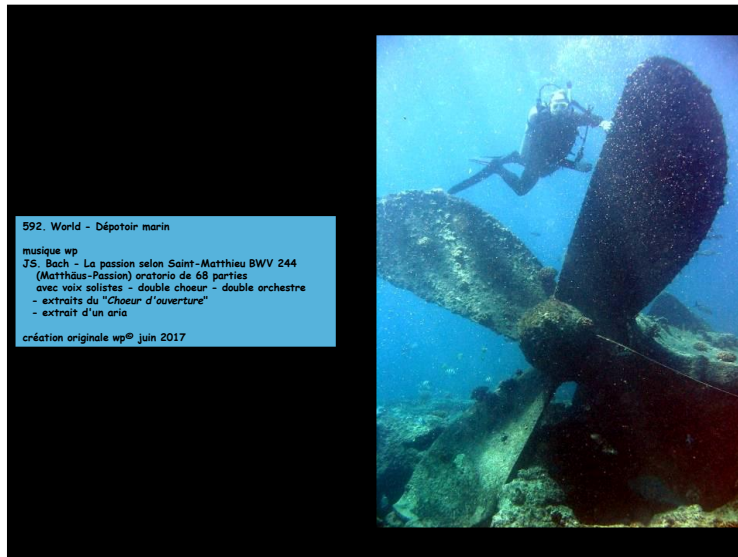
SCAN ME

*At sea, the sky's the limit.*



Seven Seas Club of Australia Inc.

"From the bottom of the English Channel" -Thanks to Ian Small who sent me this amazing link to a site showing the artifacts from WW2 that are found around France. Click the link below for a fascinating tour.



*Seven Seas Club member John Ford OAM  
FASMA at his Investiture Ceremony at  
Government House*



The Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency The Honourable Frances Adamson AC and John Ford OAM FASMA after this morning's investiture at Government House - 1/11/2021.



*Painting of HMAS Sydney by John Ford OAM FASMA*



Seven Seas Club of Australia members at Government House, Adelaide, 1/11/2021





# Coconut-2018 Golden Globe Race

Seven Seas Club of Australia member, Mark Sinclair, spoke at our November club meeting of his ongoing participation in the 2018 Golden Globe Race single handed around the world race.

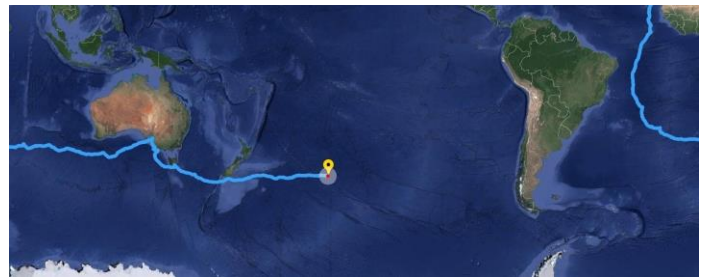


He made a stop at his home port of Adelaide due to a lack of potable water on board and due to heavy growth on the hull of Coconut, which was slowing his progress considerably. He is still able to finish if he completes his trip to France from here non-stop. He will be the only competitor in the "Chichester" Class in which one stop is allowed.



Coconut on the slip at the RSAYS undergoing an extensive refit

He re-commenced his journey on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December from Port Adelaide, accompanied by a large group of boats from the local fleet.



The rules of the Golden Globe Race require that competitors use traditional navigation charts and sextant and the only electronics that are allowed are those that were available in 1968. The boat must also comply with designs that would have been available at that time. He does have GPS and emergency equipment on board in case of an emergency.

You can follow Marks progress via his Facebook page, which gives updates from his log and gives his current location.

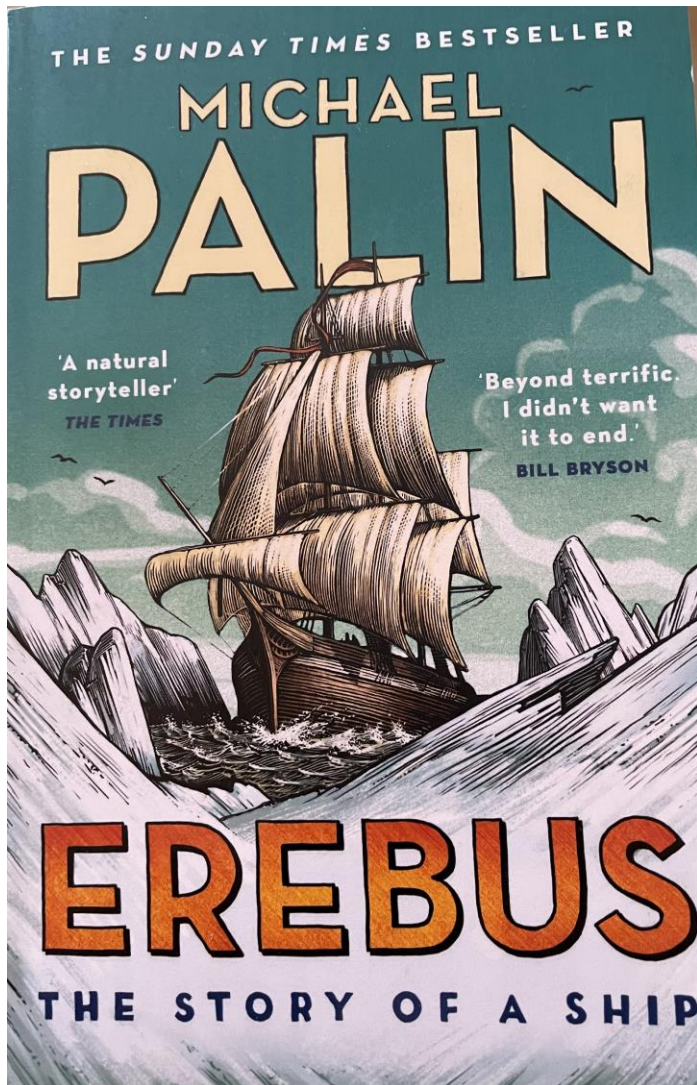
You can also follow him via the Golden Globe website tracker. He is currently mid-way between New Zealand and Cape Horn.

Once he arrives in France for the finish of the 2018 race, he plans to start all over again and compete in the 2022 Race this year!

Good luck and fair winds Mark, we look forward to having him back at the Seven Seas for a recount of the amazing experience on his return.



## Book of the month:



"In the early years of Queen Victoria's reign, HMS Erebus undertook two of the most ambitious naval expeditions of all time.

On the first, she ventured further south than any ship had ever been. On the second, she vanished with her 129 strong crew in the wastes of the Canadian Arctic.

Her fate remained a mystery for 160 years.

Then, in 2014, she was found.

This is her story."

*This is an absorbing book, well researched by Michael Palin, it brings the story of the ship vividly to life.  
Highly recommended -ed*



### From the Archives

Map of South Australia by Anthony Boudin 1802, how many of the names still appear on our current map?



Map of South Australia by Matthew Flinders 1802.



**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in advertisements and articles published in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the SEVEN SEAS CLUB of AUSTRALIA.

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