



10 July 2020

**PO Box 1007  
Carlton, Vic, 3053**

*Melbourne - A Great Maritime City*

**To: Participate Melbourne. City of Melbourne  
Re: Seafarers Rest Park**

Attention: Tim Lolicato,  
[Tim.Lolicato@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tim.Lolicato@melbourne.vic.gov.au)  
Capital Works, GPO Box 1603, Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Lolicato,

Please find attached a submission from the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network regarding the proposed design for the Seafarers Rest Park.

This submission is in response to the publication of plans for the proposed park and an invitation for public comment.

It is endorsed by the Board of MMHN and has been subject to consultations with a wide cross section of the seafaring and maritime communities.

We would be pleased to engage with you and your committee of management in order to further progress this proposal. Our nominated contact from our Board of Directors is Jeff Malley (mob 0438 772 654 or [jeffmalley@bigblue.net.au](mailto:jeffmalley@bigblue.net.au) ).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael O'Brien".

Michael O'Brien  
Secretary



MELBOURNE  
MARITIME  
HERITAGE  
NETWORK

**PO Box 1007**  
**Carlton, Vic, 3053**  
**[www.mmhn.org.au](http://www.mmhn.org.au)**  
**[info@mmhn.org.au](mailto:info@mmhn.org.au)**

## *Melbourne - A Great Maritime City*

### **Submission to: Participate Melbourne. City of Melbourne**

Attention: Tim Lolicato,

[Tim.Lolicato@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tim.Lolicato@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Capital Works, GPO Box 1603, Melbourne VIC 3001

### **Re: Seafarers Rest Park**

### **From: Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN)**

#### **MMHN Background**

The MMHN was formally established in October 2019 and is registered as a public company limited by guarantee under the name Melbourne Maritime Network Ltd., Australian Company Number 631 878 772 (25/2/2019) under the Corporations Act 2001. MMHN has been registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a recognised charity, listed on the Charity Register as from 23 October 2019, the date on which we held our first Annual General Meeting and had our Constitution confirmed by members.

It is a non-political, not-for-profit, member-based 'umbrella' organization bringing together stakeholder groups from marine, maritime heritage, tourism, corporate and community sectors, all of which share a commitment to fostering greater recognition of, and knowledge about, Melbourne's rich maritime heritage and maritime industry sector. MMHN has a Board and a series of Special Advisory Groups including but not limited to Skills, Education & Careers, Heritage & Museums, Waterways & Infrastructure, Tourism, and Commerce & Industry.

As a network organization, MMHN has 75 members representing over 52,000 people and organizations with maritime interests.

Melbourne is a great global port of city and the Port of Melbourne is Australia's largest port. Of particular concern to MMHN is the past neglect of Melbourne's maritime heritage by various authorities.

The development of Seafarers Rest Park provides an ideal opportunity to recognise the importance of seafarers in Melbourne's maritime heritage.

## **MMHN objective re the draft Seafarers Rest Park proposal**

In presenting this submission the MMHN seeks to:

1. Support the overall proposed park design.
2. Present the case for a memorial to seafarers to be located within the proposed park.
3. Obtain an 'in principle' agreement from the Park Committee of Management (COM) to locate a seafarer' memorial in the park and to initiate in collaboration with MMHN procedures to determine memorial design, placement and funding.

## **MMHN support for the Seafarers Park Rest proposal and design**

1. We welcome the development of this park to recognize the importance of seafarers in the maritime history of Melbourne, advancing the narrative of maritime heritage in Melbourne.
2. This park is ideally situated to compliment the maritime heritage on the south bank of the river: e.g. Polly Woodside, Duke & Orr's Dock, the monument to the Merchant Navy.
3. The park also provides a south bank to north bank connection to the Mission to Seafarers.
4. We support the overall park design, particularly the broad pathways following site lines to Seafarers Bridge and the Mission to Seafarers.
5. We also support the provision of quiet and shaded areas for reflection and contemplation.
6. The cultural heritage overview of the site by Biosis is a welcome record of usage from pre-colonial times to the near present in that it provides a sequential context for understanding the river site and how it changed from swamp to wharves to the present clear site.
7. The use of the 'seafarers' term is also welcome as are the references to the maritime heritage of the park through placement of artefacts within its boundaries. However, we are concerned that having extensively used the term 'seafarer' (the footbridge, the development and the park) there is no reference point to seafarers as people, the only representation being maritime artefacts. A focal point centred on seafarers that reminds park users of the significance of seafarers is required in the park to connect the maritime artefacts and other elements in the park to the overall park theme.

8. The park presents an ideal opportunity for Melbourne to pay tribute to all those seafarers who have contributed to the development of Melbourne through the placement of a memorial to seafarers within the proposed Seafarers Rest Park.
9. Other issues of concern in the proposed park design are:
  - 9.1 Bicycle/pedestrian separation on the main diagonal paths through the park. We welcome the provision for safe pedestrian and bike paths in the vicinity, but recommend that bike traffic is allocated to the perimeter of the park, and that bikes are not encouraged to ride directly through the park. The natural bike through-ways are to Jim Stynes Bridge and Siddeley Street.
  - 9.2 Car entrance to the convention/hotel development at the rear of the Mission to Seafarers will create traffic and noise. We are concerned about the proximity of car traffic entering the new hotel forecourt to the park and also to the south side of the Mission to Seafarers (MTS). What provision will there be for the safety of people moving between the park and the MTS?
  - 9.3 Is wheelchair and disabled access to Seafarers Rest Park optimized?
  - 9.4 The boundaries of the proposed park do not seem to align with the current situation: the south-east corner seems to impinge on, and overlap, the Flinders Wharf Apartments; the north boundary should go to the current unnamed street, which is one-way; there seems to be a hotel turning circle on the north-west corner, which again has encroached to a large extent onto the park; and along the western boundary, this shared access road has been excised from the park.
  - 9.5 Absence of any information about park management once the park is established. With an adjacent hotel/convention centre and an events space within the park what administrative structures will be in place to ensure that the original objectives of the park are maintained in balance with each other?

### **MMHN proposal for a seafarers' memorial to be located within the Seafarers Rest Park**

The contribution of seafarers to Melbourne is significant and should be recognized as part of our ongoing maritime history. In some ways MCC gives an implicit tribute to seafarers through its inclusion of a sailing ship on its coat of arms.

The significance of seafarers to the development of Melbourne is evident in the Biosis cultural heritage report to MCC which shows that from the time of Batman and Fawkner (1835) the presence of seafarers and seafaring has been integral to the development of Melbourne.

The cumulative contribution of seafarers is that today (2019) Melbourne is the largest container port in Australia handling:

- Over 8200 containers and 856 new motor vehicles per day on average
- Over 3.02 million TEU annually
- Over 30 commercial berths

- Around 3000 ship visits annually
- A variety of non-containerised cargoes including equipment and machinery, breakbulk commodities, dry cargoes such as cement, sugar and grains, and bulk liquids including petrochemicals.

Passing through the Port of Melbourne is an annual trade value of cargoes of around \$114 billion.

In the Port of Melbourne precinct there is no inclusive memorial to seafarers of all ethnicities and origins who have over time contributed to the development of Melbourne as a great port city.

MMHN therefore proposes that a seafarers' memorial be incorporated into the proposed Seafarers Rest Park and that this should begin with an 'in principle' approval for inclusion of a memorial, later moving to design and implementation stages.

**By seafarers we mean** all those past and present who worked on the sea or ships to carry, load and discharge cargoes and people at the Port of Melbourne. Seafarers also refers to people working in various maritime and protective services necessary for safe shipping. Seafarers would include those who served in:

- The merchant marine
- Commonwealth and State navies
- Marine services such as pilots, tug boats, lighters, dredges, harbour services
- The stevedoring industry

**By memorial we mean** a two or three-dimensional object or feature designed to recognise the collective of seafarers. It is a memorial of service, not just for those who died in the provision of that service. It could be a sculptural or artistic work, or landscape element. We do not seek to pre-empt a design as we believe that this should be done through public competition or invitation.

**By 'in principle' approval** we mean that the Committee of Management for the development of Seafarers Rest Park agree to the inclusion of a memorial to seafarers within the boundaries of the park, as yet not specified in terms of design and placement. Such an agreement should then lead to the formation of a seafarers memorial committee drawn from the MCC, developer, MMHN and community to examine likely design, placement and funding issues. Alternatively, the CoM's in principle agreement for a memorial might be used by MMHN to make a formal application to the MCC Plaques and Memorial committee where MMHN become responsible for organizing design and funding issues.

**We should emphasize that in supporting the overall design of the proposed park we do not envisage that the inclusion of a seafarers' memorial would significantly change any of the existing design elements.**

#### **Memorial history for this site**

The MMHN proposal for a seafarers' memorial at this site is not new. Ten years ago, Captain Euan Crawford, with assistance from the Bay Steamers Maritime Museum Ltd and support from the Company of Master Mariners, developed a

memorial to seafarers for this site. Drawings and site lines are attached. Note that we are not suggesting that Crawford's memorial design be accepted but we present it as an example of the ongoing interest in the site as an appropriate place for a memorial.

It should also be remembered that in the 1990s Shed 5 and the adjacent crane 5 were to become a museum for waterside workers.

The Mission to Seafarers building is pivotal to the siting of the proposed park and the provision of an inclusive memorial to seafarers.

### **Seafarer community engagement**

As a network of maritime interests, the MMHN has consulted widely with maritime and seafarer organizations regarding the placement of a memorial to seafarers at the proposed Seafarers Rest Park. Organizations that have indicated support for this include:

- Offshore Specialist Ships Australia
- Company of Master Mariners (Vic)
- Bay Steamers Maritime Museum
- Maritime Union of Australia
- Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers
- The Institute of Marine Engineers, Science and Technology
- Australian Maritime Officers Union
- Victorian Naval Association
- Switzer
- Australian National Line
- Port of Melbourne

MMHN welcomes the opportunity to discuss this submission with the Seafarers Rest Park Committee of Management as we believe it has the support of the maritime community, provides recognition to a vital part of Melbourne history and enhances the proposed design of the park.

### **Contact:**

Jeff Malley

Director, MMHN

Email: [jeffmalley@bigblue.net.au](mailto:jeffmalley@bigblue.net.au)

**Attachment - Example only**

**Captain Euan Crawford's design from 2010 for a seafarers' memorial in the park behind the Mission to Seafarers**

