

THIS ISSUE

INTO THE HOME STRAIGHT

THE BAY PRECINCT

A NEW CHARTER BOAT BASE
FOR BLACKWATTLE BAY

NSW MARITIME

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

cvanews.

Commercial Vessel Association of NSW

SPRING 2009



**This little baby can
do 2km/hour with
600 tons on its back!**

[equivalent of a Ferrari doing 600km/h]

Into The Home Straight

Sydney City Marine is in the home straight for the completion of their ship lift platform which will cater for just about every docking of charter boats on the Harbour.

The process from here involves a final clear out of residual debris from the ship lift cavity to ensure adequate depth of water. This is followed by a delicate five day operation, moving the ship lift 100 plus meters out over the water, involving massive hydraulic crawlers, four 800 tonne jacks and a bunch of blokes with nerves of steel who do this sort of thing for fun.

Since the last report in the CVA newsletter, the Sydney City Marine 600 tonne vessel transporter has also arrived from its manufacturer in Europe, in fact near to Medina where Ferraris are built to be precise. This little baby can do 2km/hour with 600 tons on its back, although naught to sixty is nonexistent, it is the equivalent of a Ferrari doing 600km/h, so it is a testament to the extent of the engineering and this unit is the second largest in the world.

The Bay Precinct

The CVA has been invited to represent the commercial operators on a reference group that has been set up by the Minister of Planning to hopefully determine the potential uses for the 80 hectare site which also includes five kilometres of harbour foreshore.

The Bays Precinct is a diverse area, including maritime and working harbour uses in the Glebe Island and White Bay areas; commercial maritime uses in Rozelle Bay; a large amount of disused land in Rozelle Rail Yards and White Bay Power Station; and a mix of uses in Blackwattle Bay. Including Sydney Fish Markets

The NSW Government is establishing the Bays Precinct Community Reference Group to:

- Provide advice about community aspirations and needs in relation to the Bays Precinct that will inform future planning processes.
- Advise on current and emerging issues of interest and concern to the community and various stakeholders.
- Encourage and inform community discussion by conveying information on the Bays Precinct to community and stakeholder networks.
- Provide input to matters considered by the NSW Government's Bays Precinct Taskforce in preparing for the first phase strategic planning for the future of the Precinct.



This is one of last chances our sector will have to give input to a very important site still available with deep water access to the harbour.

It is the Government's intention to transform the Bays Precinct over the next five, ten and twenty years.

BAYS PRECINCT SYDNEY

PLEASE HAVE YOUR SAY, EITHER BY:

1. Participating in the Bays Precinct **Online Forum** at www.shapessydneyforeshore.com
2. Email your comments to baysprecinct@shfa.nsw.gov.au
3. Post you comments to:
Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority
PO Box N408
Grosvenor Place NSW 1220



A New Charter Boat Base For Blackwattle Bay

Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi has announced the go ahead for more than \$50 million in maritime developments at Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays.

All Occasion Cruises Pty Ltd has been selected to redevelop the southern side of Blackwattle Bay immediately west of the Sydney Fish Market.

Mr Tripodi said work was also set to begin on redeveloping the southern side of Blackwattle Bay into a major maritime precinct.

Features of the proposal include:

- reconstruction of the former coal bunker
- maritime-related office and retail space
- a permanent charter vessel facility, and
- 18-berths dedicated for Sydney's charter vessels

Subject to a full Development Assessment and public consultation, the charter fleet headquarters and working harbour development is targeted for completion in 2011.



Much of this wharf has been derelict for too long and now is the time to return it to maritime use in support of commercial activities and our working harbour.”



Website coming soon
 < sneak preview

NSW Maritime

NSW Maritime have announced they will be introducing an emergency drop off procedure for stopping at wharves that are not booked. Please see the table.



A reminder to all using Sydney Harbour that as from 17th August 2009 Blackwattle Bay and Rozelle Bay are now 4 knot zones, please advise all your relevant staff.

As most of you would be aware operating your vessel at night presents a whole new set of challenges for safe navigation. NSW Maritime has put out some very simple and useful guidelines, please read them and then pass on to your staff. It might just prevent another tragedy.

Commercial Vessels – Night time operations



Many things change out on the water when night falls. **Navigating at night requires skill and concentration.** Even experienced mariners can quickly find themselves in trouble if they let their guard down at night.

The following guidelines on night time operations are aimed at helping you become aware of the associated hazards.

Be Seen

Switch on and test your navigation lights even before departure. Be seen and ensure you have the right lights working.

Keep a lookout

- Always maintain a proper lookout by sight and hearing.
- Use all available equipment and optimise the brilliancy of electronic displays, this will keep your night vision sharper.
- Maintain radio watch.
- Be aware that the use of any lights onboard may affect your night vision.
- Watch out for any hazards like unlit buoys, floating or partly submerged debris.
- Constantly monitor the movements of other boats in your vicinity, being especially careful to watch for vessels amongst background light scatter.
- Avoid using any lights that other vessel operators could confuse for navigation lights.

Be Alert

- Be aware that physical and mental fatigue accumulated during the day could reduce your level of alertness and vigilance.
- Remember alcohol and water do not mix – consumption of alcohol will also affect your judgement, reaction time,

as well as your overall level of alertness. Under the Marine Safety Act 1998, commercial vessel operators must remain under the 0.02 alcohol limit.

Go slow

- You must maintain a safe speed at all times, a speed at which you can safely stop your vessel or avoid any hazards under the prevailing circumstances and conditions.
- The faster you go, the faster you approach hazards and the less time you have to identify and react to them. A collision at higher speeds will increase the impact on you, your passengers and your vessel.

Take care

- Be professional. Your conduct on the water will set a good example for the numerous recreational boat operators sharing the water with you.

- Remember, you are almost entirely reliant on lit navigation markers and the lights of other vessels to get around safely at night – distances become much harder to judge, and clues such as the colour of the water and the shape and proximity of landforms are no longer available to help you know your position or avoid running aground.
- At all times avoid situations that could lead to a passenger or crew member falling overboard.
- Know and follow your water traffic rules (Collision regulations).
- Avoid using bright flashy lights or staring into them. They could ruin your night vision and that of others on the water.
- Using good night navigation techniques can add significantly to your safety and to those around you.

So the next time you are on the water at night remember to be seen, keep a sharp lookout, maintain a safe speed and observe all the water traffic rules.

President's Message

This winter has undoubtedly been one of the toughest for our Industry on record. The impacts of the world wide recession on tourism, and the flow on to our local markets has hit everyone hard. Despite a very few Charter operators reporting reasonably good business most are saying the last 6 months have been the worst they've seen. Corporates are not spending, social clubs are tightening their belts, tourist's are not coming.

But just as we always have a long winter in our Industry, no doubt the sun will shine again. Reports are that some of our key international tourism markets are starting to re-emerge and that consumer confidence is on the rise. Christmas will come – probably a little later for most of us - and I hope that it proves to be rewarding for you all.

Despite the very large shoes to fill, Warwick is proving a very able Executive Officer for the Association.

Over the last 3 months numerous issues have kept Warwick and the committee busy. A really significant issue is the ongoing development of the nationwide unification of Maritime law through the NMSC, which has the potential to seriously impact all of us from construction, manning, maintenance, operation through to survey of our vessels. We have a strong relationship with NSW Maritime and Warwick and the committee is working closely with Howard Glenn, General Manager Commercial Vessels, to protect the long term strength of our Industry through this process.

Howard continues to be a tremendous supporter of our Industry. His collaborative, consultative and process based approach has been enormously helpful in clearing some of the blockages and bottle-necks which even NSW Maritime have admitted have existed in our interface with them for some time. In particular the certification and survey processes have improved markedly. I hope you are starting to see the benefits of Howard's efforts.

Warwick has detailed the range of issues getting our attention in this newsletter but just one final issue of major note: We are developing a new web site which will give our members a far greater ability to profile their businesses as well as the opportunity to access all relevant regulatory and legislative detail and up to the minute information on the latest issues of concern. We hope to have this up and running before November.

Good luck in the lead up to Christmas.

Anthony Haworth / President