Fremantle Harbour Masters gather for 100th birthday

The four surviving Port of Fremantle Harbour Masters gathered in the Harbour Master’s office recently to celebrate Captain John (Jack) Adams’ 100th birthday on 15 March.

Captain Adams began working for the then Fremantle Harbour Trust in 1949 as a marine pilot. He served as Chief Pilot (1963-65), Deputy Harbour Master (1965-68), Harbour Master (1968-72) and Divisional Manager - Operations (from 1972 until retirement in 1976).

Accompanied by his wife Lorna, daughter Judy Boyne and son Ross Adams, Capt. Adams was pleased to see former Harbour Masters Capt. Michael Coleman and his wife Lyn, and Capt. Eric Atkinson. They also met current Harbour Master Capt. Allan Gray and Deputy Harbour Master Capt. Stuart Davey in Fremantle Ports’ Administration Building, on Victoria Quay.

After signing the roll call of Fremantle Harbour Masters that usually hangs in the Harbour Master restaurant at Rydges’ Esplanade Hotel, in Fremantle, Capt. Adams cut a chocolate birthday cake and enjoyed afternoon tea and the views of the harbour from his old office. Capt. Gray presented him with a copy of John Dowson’s book Fremantle Port.

The Fremantle Harbour Master is responsible for enforcing the regulations of the Port of Fremantle to ensure the safety, security and operation of the port and shipping.

The Port of Fremantle encompasses Fremantle Inner Harbour, and five bulk facilities in the Outer Harbour in Cockburn Sound: Kwinana Bulk Jetty and Kwinana Bulk Terminal (both owned by Fremantle Ports), Alcoa Alumina Jetty, BP Refinery Jetty and Co-operative Bulk Handling Grain Jetty, and 383 square kilometres of water.

Current Harbour Master Capt. Gray also holds the position of General Manager Port Operations. The first Port of Fremantle Harbour Master, Capt. Mark John Currie, was appointed in 1829.

Fairy tern numbers double in second breeding season

The Rous Head fairy tern breeding sanctuary established by Fremantle Ports attracted 220 adult pairs (440 adults) this summer, producing about 178 chicks.

Last summer’s count was about 90 pairs (180 adults).

Early in January this year, 162 chicks (estimated to be about 90 per cent of the progeny) were banded by experienced volunteers under the supervision of a terrestrial and marine ecologist with a special interest in seabird population dynamics.

Fremantle Ports volunteer Nikki Balfez is ready to spray your hair purple and collect donations for the Starlight Children’s Foundation.

Smashing the $1m mark for purple fundraising

Starlight Purple Haze Game fundraising could smash the $1 million mark this year.

Since its inception, the Fremantle Dockers Starlight Purple Haze Game has raised nearly $857,000 for the Starlight Children’s Foundation.

This year is the 11th year of Fremantle Ports’ partnership with the Fremantle Dockers and Starlight Children’s Foundation.

Last year’s tally of $157,000 provided hospital programs for 4000 seriously ill children.

What: Starlight Purple Haze Game, Fremantle Dockers vs Gold Coast Suns

When: 4.40pm Saturday 2 April

Where: Domain Stadium, Subiaco
Easter street arts at VQ

Fremantle Ports is again supporting the City of Fremantle’s annual Fremantle Street Arts Festival which will be held over Easter. The Victoria Quay pitch will have a varied program featuring:

**Saturday:**
The Saw Player Tree (noon)
Hanging by a Thread (1pm)

**Sunday:**
The Saw Player Tree (noon)
Human Body Parts (12.30pm)
Hanging by a Thread (1pm)

**Monday:**
The Saw Player Tree (11am)
Fairly Fresh Fish (3pm)

Be entertained as
E SHED MARKETS
come alive for the Fremantle Street Arts Festival

EASY PARKING  SPECIALTY SHOPS  FOOD COURT

E Shed Markets Easter Opening Times
Saturday 26th March / Sunday 27th March / Monday 28th March

Peter Hughes Drive, Victoria Quay, Fremantle

Mooring skills

This interesting photo by Inner Harbour Team Leader Terry Stainton demonstrates the precision with which vessels can be moored when space is at a premium. Just 20 metres separated the 267m Los Angeles Trader and the 260m Lahore Express when they were berthed close to each other on North Quay. “Mooring is a combined effort by the Fremantle Ports mooring crews, Fremantle Pilots, Svitzer tug crews and Harbour Services line boat crews,” Terry said. ‘They all work together to achieve the safe arrival of vessels into our port.’

Pilot boat to the rescue as flares ignored

Crew on our pilot boat Berkeley recently rescued a recreational cray fisherman whose dinghy had broken down. Deputy Harbour Master Captain Stuart Davey says the rescue illustrates ‘a worrying trend’ of reluctance by boaters to respond to distress flares.

The Berkeley crew rescued the boater after sighting a handheld flare just off Rous Head early one morning.

The regular fisher, who was very relieved to be saved, told our crew he had let off three handheld flares but none of the boats near him had stopped to render assistance.

Captain Davey said some people were neglecting the ‘safety of life’ aspect to recreational boating: ‘They no longer seem to care about others and assume someone else will attend to those in distress.’

Buoy change

The navigation buoys used in our harbour don’t look all that big in the open sea but looks can be deceiving. The Small Craft team gave us the chance to find out just how big these navaids are during a recent buoy change. Operating the winch on FP Response is Team Leader Jamie Strickland.
Community briefs

Remembering HMAS Sydney II crew on the beach

Fremantle Ports sponsored an invitation belt and reel race at the Fremantle Surf Lifesaving Club’s HMAS Sydney II commemoration this summer.

Titled the Fremantle Ports Sydney Reel race, with prize money for winning male and female teams, entrants from Sorrento and City of Perth SLSCs competed in spectacular conditions against Fremantle teams.

The Fremantle SLSC holds an annual ceremony to remember the 645 crew members lost during a battle with German raider Kormoran off the WA coast in November 1941.

Many of the Sydney crew spent time at Leighton Beach and participated in surf club activities when the ship was not on active duty and was moored in the Port of Fremantle. In February 1941, the crew presented the surf club with a hand-made reel, an important piece of rescue equipment at the time. Each year, club members compete for the HMAS Sydney II Reel trophy, which began as a belt and reel race but is now held as a rescue tube race.

Generosity for fire victims

Fremantle Ports has sent $10,000 to help Yarloop fire victims.

Staff raised close to $5000 in January through payroll donations and work raffles.

Fremantle Ports matched the funds raised, bringing the total amount to $10,000.

CEO Chris Leatt-Hayter congratulated staff on their donations: ‘On your behalf, I will be very pleased to send a cheque for $10,000 to the Lord Mayor’s Distress Relief Fund to assist the victims of the bushfires in the south west. Your generosity is really appreciated.’

New D Berth fendering

A new fendering system is being installed at D Berth on Victoria Quay from January to June this year. This follows similar fendering works at E Berth in 2014.

D Berth is used to berth a range of vessels, including naval (Australian and foreign) ships, research vessels, tall ships and ships undertaking repair and maintenance work.

The six-month project, being undertaken by contractor Marine & Civil, involves installing 21 piles in two rows along the 60-metre berth.

Noise from concrete cutting and piling is intermittent and contained within the work hours of 7am-5pm Mondays to Saturdays.

Piles are being vibrated into place as far as possible to reduce the amount of hammering.

Barges are being used for the piling work because the close proximity of D Shed restricts access to the works from the wharf.

Fremantle Ports apologises for any inconvenience.

C/D Berth wharf reconstruction

An inspection last year revealed that over the years water had penetrated the construction joint between C and D sheds, causing wood rot to the bearers and half-cap timbers.

A reconstruction project includes concrete deck repair, replacing timber with steel beams, repairing two in-situ concrete piles and cutting off six concrete piles at water level and replacing them. The project began mid-January and will be substantially completed by mid-March. The contractor is WBHO Civil.

Employees Colette Maollan (left), Sara Moffat and Rob Pergoletti with one of the hampers raffled to raise funds

Manoeuvring a steel pile into place between two other piles. The piles are vibrated into place as far as possible to reduce the amount of hammering noise.

New steel beams in place with new concrete piles underneath before the concrete deck is poured
Japanese sister port visit

A delegation from the Port of Fremantle’s sister port, Port of Nagoya, visited the Fremantle Inner Harbour earlier this year as part of the ongoing 33-year relationship between the two ports. The delegation met with Harbour Master/General Manager Port Operations Captain Allan Gray and other staff. The two ports have been affiliated since 1983 to promote friendship and cultural understanding, and exchange economic and technical information.

Kazuhiro Noritake (left), Manager Canal and River Management, Nagoya Port Authority and Katsuhiko Fukaya, Vice-Chairman of the Nagoya Port Assembly

Spruce-up for lighthouses

Have you noticed that our mole lighthouses are now in slightly lighter colours? The North Mole and South Mole lighthouses have been repainted to the specific red and green colours required under International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) standards. To protect them against vandalism and break-ins, new palisade fencing has been installed around them.

For safe navigation, ships enter the port via marked channels like airport runways. Fremantle Ports has 110 advanced navigational aids (navaids) that guide ships in and out of the Inner Harbour and the five bulk facilities in Cockburn Sound via marked channels. Three of those navaids are the 114-year-old lighthouses at North and South moles and at Woodman Point that are still working through the use of the latest technology.

The heritage-listed, cast-iron mole lighthouses were designed by CY O’Connor, built in England, transported to Fremantle in 1902 and first lit in 1903 (south) and 1906 (north).

Red indicates port (left) and green indicates starboard (right), so the red lighthouse is on the left of a ship as it enters the harbour. They use the lighting flash sequence GVQ (green very quick), which indicates port entry to mariners.

They have LED (light emitting diode) lights and a 12V battery system charged by solar energy, capable of 100,000 hours of life. They also have a sophisticated Automatic Identification System (AIS) which relays conditions to Fremantle Ports personnel and important navigational information to mariners.

Trucks moving containers more efficiently

Annual surveying of truck productivity has shown trucks are moving containers more efficiently, reducing the number of truck trips required.

The percentage of trucks travelling to or from the port empty has decreased; ‘empty running’ is down from 30 per cent in 2014 to 26 per cent last year.

While container trade between August and October 2015 fell by six per cent compared to the same period in the previous year, observed truck numbers were 11 per cent below the same period in 2014.

Since the first survey in 2002, container trade through the port has grown at an average of about five per cent annually, while truck numbers have grown by four per cent.

The annual truck productivity surveys are carried out by Fremantle Ports in association with the WA Port Operations Task Force.
Search and research ships

**CSIRO research ship**

RV Investigator visited before leaving for the Southern Ocean to research the link between active volcanoes on the seafloor and iron-enriched waters that support ocean life.

As well as supporting ocean life and supplying our atmosphere with oxygen, phytoplankton blooms impact carbon, nitrogen, silicon and sulphur, which influence the Earth’s entire climate system.

**Chinese MH 370 search vessel**

Chinese search vessel Dong Hai Jiu 101 arrived in the Fremantle Inner Harbour on 18 February in preparation for embarking on search operations for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH 370 in the southern Indian Ocean. The ship was refitted and equipped with a 6,000 metre depth-rated synthetic aperture sonar (SAS) towed system. Dong Hai Jiu 101 was scheduled to start operations in the search area towards the end of February. Its presence will supplement the work of Fugro Discovery, Fugro Equator and Havila Harmony in the 120,000 square kilometre search zone.

**Biggest cruise ship ever to visit in December**

Ovation of the Seas will be the biggest cruise ship ever to visit Fremantle when it berths on 6 December this year on its maiden visit to Australia.

Launching in April, the ship will be 168,666 gross tons and 348 metres in length, making it bigger than Queen Mary 2 at 151,400 gross tons and 345 metres. The Fremantle Inner Harbour is 420 metres wide.

With 56 ship calls scheduled so far, 2016-17 is shaping up to be a bumper cruise season like 2015-16 with 58 ship calls (49 with a complete passenger transfer at Fremantle).
Education report

Great work experience for Todd

Rockingham Senior High School student Todd Campbell’s dream is to be a professional diver.

Fremantle Ports has helped him to move towards achieving that dream through our maritime scholarship program and a great work experience day with Operations and Services Employee Jim Coubrough.

After attending Fremantle Ports’ Maritime Careers Day, Todd applied for a scholarship with the port and jumped at the chance to spend a day with Jim, who has had extensive experience as a Navy clearance diver.

Jim introduced Todd to some divers working for the port, arranged for him to go on a pilot boat and gave him broad exposure to our work here.

‘I talked to him about what he’d need to do to get his diving tickets, and advised him to broaden his experience with skills like rigging, dogging and fork-lift driving to make him more attractive to employers, and where to go for these courses.’

Great work experience for Todd

Jim Coubrough presents Todd Campbell with a diver model as a memento of his work experience at Fremantle Ports.

Maritime scholarships at Rockingham SHS

Fremantle Ports Maritime Scholarships for 2016 were awarded to (front from left) Casey Pell (Year 9), Shannon Maye (Year 8) and Selena Mikulanra (Year 7) and (back from left), Melissa Devon (senior school) and Joshua Gray (Year 10), who are pictured with Principal Stan Koios.