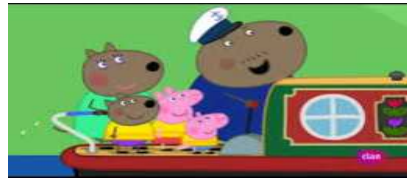




e-Newsletter - June 2020 Winter edition



**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 21st October 2020
Drummoynes Sailing Club**

**Theme : "Canal Encounters" and
"Enjoying Canals From Your Armchair"**

COVID 19 CHANGES TO ACS PROGRAM

Unfortunately the March Meeting, the Mid Year Luncheon in June and the Spring Day Out to Cockatoo Island had to be cancelled or postponed.

It is hoped that this October Meeting at the DSC will be possible. Be optimistic, brush off the cobwebs and write the date in your diaries now.

ZOOM ZOOM!

Thanks to the skills of John, Peter and Christopher we held a ZOOM Executive Meeting a few weeks ago.

This was very successful and productive, and became a possibility for holding a general ACS meeting, if necessary.

Helen Storey is offering to help anyone who would like to start ZOOMING, but doesn't know how.

Visit an inland waterway in your area

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

It's raining! There's a miniscule stream running beside our house, the surrounding trees don't know whether it is Spring or Autumn, and our garden is receiving some unusual attention.

As we know after the years of drought, unprecedented bushfires ravaged huge areas of country regions, leaving a legacy of grief and economic hardship. Weather patterns were unpredictable, and many regions were excited to receive restorative rain. Somehow, this seems to have been a long time ago. Suddenly 'coronavirus' became the media's favourite word, and the reality of an enormous upheaval to our lives began to sink in.

From lock down we watched as covid -19 infections spread across the world and we were appalled by the loss of life in many countries. We have always known we live in a wonderful country, and during these days we have become even more grateful for all that it offers.

Most surprisingly there was a sudden outburst of unity amongst our Aussie politicians who were taking advice from knowledgeable medicos and scientists. I'm trying to be optimistic that this will continue.

Of course it is disappointing that so many of the activities that are important in our societies and enrich our lives, have been cancelled or put on hold, and we grieve for loss of life and employment.

My diary has empty pages, yet its owner has crowded her days with a variety of activities. Time passes so quickly in self isolation! Some of us are having more leisurely, but surprisingly busy lives. With careful management we have already seen lower infection rates in our country, and are encouraged that many restrictions are now being lifted. Every week brings good news of reopening of businesses and facilities. Hurrah! However, we need to remain vigilant.

Carry on Canalling..... in various ways!

Best wishes,



LAUNCH OF MV CREST AT JERVIS BAY

The 10th March was a long-awaited day for member Stan Brown at Jervis Bay Maritime Museum. It was launch day for the 110 year old *Crest*, a beautiful 26ft fishing boat, given a new lease of life by Stan and a dedicated team of boat



Stan Brown and Crest

restorers at the museum.

ACS members, Peter and Elaine Lucas, with Steve and Lynne Brompton, attended the event to celebrate with Stan. The *Crest* is a locally built boat, and her restoration was a labour of love for Stan's team. It is a triumph of workmanship. *Crest* pattered around the 'pond' at the museum to the delight of the spectators. An attractive and working addition to the museum's exhibits. *Visit the museum at Huskisson. Open daily 10.00am - 4.00pm.*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Many thanks to local and overseas members for payment of their 2020 subscriptions. \$30 (\$20 outside the Sydney basin). These will carry through 2021. Any further payments in 2020 will also be for 2021. When we can recommence outings and meetings, subscriptions will be called for then.

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OVERSEAS REPORTS

UK: Britain's canals have been suffering from severe coronavirus restrictions for several months. There have been catastrophic challenges to canal businesses, and support packages for them are being called for from the Government.

The Inland Waterways leisure industry is worth approx £1.5 billion a year to the UK economy, but almost 90% of these businesses rely heavily on the summer months (approx April - Sept), for most or all of their income. Towpaths have remained open with social distancing. I understand that in mid May there was to be a reopening for private boats, avoiding the use of locks. Naturally our overseas members who have boats, are very keen to get on to the cut now the warmer weather is here.

News: Cotswold Canals Trust's new trip boat will run on the Glos & Sharpness Canal soon. Canal & River Trust drained Lune Aqueduct for maintenance during Winter. (fish moved!)

VENICE: Have you seen photos of the Piazza San Marco in a strangely desolate and silent Venice? Long polluted Venetian canals have become cleaner since the coronavirus lock down. Now delighted local residents are considering a new tourism model in the light of unacceptably overvisited summer seasons, when it feels that the whole beautiful city is being drowned by visitors.

They know that there needs to be physical limitation on numbers and that large cruise ships should be banned from the lagoon. However, these have been unresolved issues for a long while and the tourism dollar has over ruled the sociological and ecological welfare of this unique and wonderful city.

