

'The Sydney Heritage Fleet'

A presentation by Alan Edenborough, 25 May 2022

Report by Rowan Mitchell



Richard Lawson, David Henry and Alan Edenborough

Before an audience of 45 guests, Alan Edenborough, from the Sydney Heritage Fleet, presented a fascinating history of how the fleet was established 50 years ago and its long and intriguing search for a permanent home.

The fleet includes the *Lady Hopetoun* (1966), the tug *Waratah* (1968), *John Oxley* (1970) and the tall ship the *James Craig* which arrived as a hull in 1981 and took years to recommission. The fleet relies on a dedicated team of volunteers, donations and fees from paying guests.

The story of the search for a permanent home for the fleet was enthralling. It has had temporary homes in Rozelle, the Rocks, Cockle Bay and back to Rozelle. There was an attempt to become part of the National Maritime Museum and a serious plan to go to Goat Island, which seemed ideal but was turned down by the fleet's members. It spent time at Cockatoo Island and at Banks Street, Pyrmont.

Ambitious and exciting plans are now coming together to move the fleet to Berrys Bay with the collaboration and support of North Sydney Council. The fleet would widen its brief so that it became part of new concept called the Museum of Sydney Harbour. A new cultural tourism offering would deploy the fleet's vessels for historical tours around the harbour.