

NQUEC Christmas Function

On the 11th of December 2010, NQUEC ended the year with a visit to the Townsville Maritime Museum.

I met Ian and Robyn at the first display, and we were joined by Vince, Monica, Rosanne, Chris, and later Joanne. The first display provides an overview of the RAN ships that have carried the name HMAS Townsville, and covers the naval activity in QLD waters during WWII. The display then focuses on Townsville during this period, as portrayed through personal accounts from locals, finishing with a section detailing contributions made to the war effort by Townsville women.

The next display shows various ships navigational instruments and signalling devices; although, the film of the SS Yongala grabbed our attention in this area of the museum. This footage shows a young Mike Ball, Ron Taylor, and Valerie Taylor exploring the wreck and attaching a memorial to a section of the hull. This would have been pioneering footage in its day, and it still no doubt provides a valuable photographic account of the wreck.

We then had a look over a diving suit as used by pearl divers off the WA coast during the 19th Century. The next display showcases ships ropes and sails, knots, splices, pulleys, and timber boat building tools and equipment. This area also has an interactive knot tying display which kept us all occupied for quite some time!

We finished up with the display of the Bay Rock Light House, the SS Yongala, the Model Boats, and the old timber Townsville Port Authority pilot vessels.

Our group then met Peter, and Jeff and Suzie with their newly arrived son, at the Yacht Club for drinks, and from here we moved to the refurbished Metropole Hotel and joined Tony for dinner.

It was great to catch up over a few drinks, and the Maritime Museum provided a fitting venue for us to see out the year. Thanks to everyone that came along, and I look forward to future club activities in the New Year.