

Coordinators



Brisbane High-Rise
Rotary Club



MAHENO HOSPITAL SHIP ANZAC CENTENARY 2015



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Custodians of the
Maheno Ship's Bell



Maheno School
Otago, New Zealand



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SS Maheno Ship's Bell Replica Fund Raising Appeal

Having served as a hospital ship in the WW1 off Gallipoli and France 1915-1919, SS Maheno was ship wrecked on the shores of Fraser Island in 1935. As the passage of time and the ocean slowly claims the wreck, the ship's bell is a permanent reminder of the contribution of the ship and those who were on her.

Support production of a replica of SS Maheno ship's bell to be presented to the Queensland Maritime Museum as a lasting symbol of this the historically significant ship.

Tax Deductible Donations payable to Qld. Maritime Museum via Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise. [DONATE NOW!](#)



SS Maheno Ship's Bell Replica Presentation Cocktail Function

5:30 pm Tuesday, 21 April 2015

Queensland Maritime Museum, Southbank, Brisbane. Qld.

Tickets \$50 each. Sponsored by BDO, Chartered Accountants.

Please join the students and others from Maheno School in NZ at the presentation ceremony when the Maheno's original bell visits the Maritime Museum and a replica bell is presented to the Museum for its retention, in the presence of dignitaries including the Lord Mayor of Brisbane and the Canberra based NZ High Commissioner.



ANZAC Day 2015 Commemoration Service

10:00 am Saturday, 25 April 2015

Maheno Shipwreck, 75 Mile Beach, Fraser Island, Qld.

This is a Public Event – All Welcome



ANZAC Day 2015 Commemoration Luncheon (using NZHS Maheno 1918 Christmas Menu)

12:30 pm Saturday, 25 April 2015

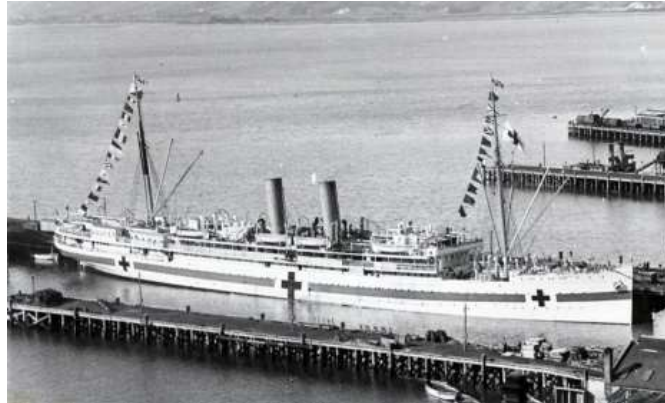
Fraser Island Retreat, Happy Valley, Fraser Island, Qld.

SORRY – NOW FULLY BOOKED





MAHENO HOSPITAL SHIP ANZAC CENTENARY 2015 PROJECT DETAILS



ANZAC DAY 2015 COMMEMORATIONS AT THE WRECK OF THE SS MAHENO – N.Z.H.S. MAHENO was at ANZAC from 26 August 1915

This shipwreck on Seventy Five Mile Beach at Fraser Island connects Australia and New Zealand with the Anzacs at Gallipoli.

ANZAC Day was borne out of the campaign on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915 when the Australian and New Zealand armed forces combined their efforts in an effort to overrun the Turkish army. Whilst the campaign did not achieve the intended goal, the conduct of the ANZAC's indelibly shaped the Australian and New Zealand nations.

The New Zealand Hospital Ship Maheno collected both Australians and New Zealanders from Anzac beach in 1915. After the withdrawal from Gallipoli and for the duration of WW1 the Maheno collected the wounded of all nationalities from the major battle fields of France and transported them to Britain where they could get the care needed. So many owe their lives to the dedication and efforts of the medical teams and the hospital ships, including the Maheno.

The proud wreck of the NZ Hospital ship Maheno has been resting on the eastern beach of Fraser Island since 1935.



Project coordinator

The project is being put together by the Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise as a community project. The Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise has organised a number of events in recognition of the Centenary of ANZAC as, one hundred years later, the bond of the two nations continues, and the spirit of the ANZAC's is still revered.



Background of the SS Maheno

The Maheno was owned by the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand and more significantly for 2015, it was the NZ Hospital Ship Maheno (NZHS Hospital Ship No 1) in WW1.

The SS Maheno, a passenger ship launched in 1905 operated as regular passenger ship primarily on the cross Tasman run between Australia and New Zealand. The Maheno held the speed records for almost two decades. Following the start of WW1, the Maheno was chartered by the New Zealand government and converted to be HMNZ Hospital Ship No 1. Much of the medical equipment on board came from a public appeal.

The first voyage of the Maheno as a hospital ship was from 7 July 1915 to 1 January 1916, arriving at Anzac (beach) on Gallipoli for the first time on 26 August 1915.

The journey was recorded in detail and published in a book by Lord Liverpool, the Governor of NZ, in August 1916.

The book details the dates when the NZHS Maheno visited Anzac to collect the sick and wounded and the numbers and nationalities collected. The book refers to the location as just Anzac.

These records show that most of those brought on the ship at Gallipoli over its many visits to Anzac beach were primarily Australians. They were transported to Mudros, Malta and Egypt and Southampton.

At Gallipoli the Maheno retrieved those injured of all nationalities and transported them to Lemnos, Malta, Alexandria before ultimately returning to New Zealand with the injured residents of New Zealand.

On 8th October the Maheno sailed for Southampton with cases requiring major surgery.

These records show that from arrival at Anzac on 26 August 1915 until 8th October when the Maheno sailed for Southampton, it had embarked 2,350 cases of which 331 were New Zealanders.

Later hospital ship journeys saw it assist at Fromelles and the Somme.

After WW1 the Maheno was refitted as a passenger liner and returned to the cross Tasman run.

As a result of the combination of the Great Depression and the better efficiency of the newer ships, the Maheno was laid up from 1931 to 1934. The ship returned to service briefly in 1934 before being retired in 1935.

The ship was sold to a Japanese company to be broken up for scrap. Prior to its sale the owner, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand removed the ship's bells. One is with the main New Zealand museum and the other at Maheno School.

In July 1935 when it was being towed to Japan to be broken up for scrap a winter cyclone caused the two line to break and the Maheno was pushed onto the eastern beach of Fraser Island.

Another cyclone in March 1936 dashed any remaining hopes of refloating the ship.

In WWII the wreck was used for commando training by the Z Force (precursor to the SAS) and for bombing practice by the RAAF.



Maheno Ship's Bell – visit

Maheno is a small community between Dunedin and Christchurch – the original SS Maheno ship's bell has hung at the Maheno (Primary) School in NZ since 1967. The bell was removed before the ship was sold to be scrapped, and retained by the former owners of the ship Union Steamship Company of New Zealand until the bell was donated to Maheno School.

As part of this service, the original bell from the Maheno will return from New Zealand to be at the wreck for the first time since it was removed over 80 years ago. This bell will be accompanied by students from the Maheno School, the proud custodians of the bell.

The school has a total of 49 students. Seven of those 49 students will travel from New Zealand with parents and the school principal to attend the service at the Maheno on Anzac Day.

2 past students who were at the Maheno School when the bell was donated in 1967 will also be attending, one travelling from Brisbane and her sister flying across from Dunedin, NZ.

The bell weighs 40.6 kg so is quite substantial. The bell has a crack that has been repaired over the years but we hope for it to be rung at the Anzac service.



SS Maheno Ship's Bell Replica – Fund Raising Appeal

As the passage of time and the ocean slowly claims the wreck of the Maheno, the ship's bell is a permanent reminder of the contribution of the hospital ship and those who were on her.

A replica of the original ship's bell is to be cast in Queensland by Olds Engineering at Maryborough. Olds is a fourth generation family business that was started in 1918 by a soldier after he returned from WW1. This replica is to be presented to the Queensland Maritime Museum as a lasting symbol of this historically significant ship.

Support for the production of this historically significant bell replica can be made by way of tax deductible donations to Qld. Maritime Museum via Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise.

To donate, please go to www.rotarybrisbanehighrise.com/donate.htm



SS Maheno Ship's Bell Replica – Presentation Cocktail Function

5:30 pm Tuesday, 21 April 2015

Queensland Maritime Museum, Southbank, Brisbane. Qld.

Tickets \$50 each. Sponsored by BDO, Chartered Accountants.

www.eventbrite.com/e/cocktail-function-rotary-club-of-brisbane-high-rise-tickets-16116878016

Please join the students and others from Maheno School in NZ at the presentation ceremony when the Maheno's original bell visits the Queensland Maritime Museum and a replica bell is presented to the Museum for its retention, in the presence of dignitaries including the Lord Mayor of Brisbane and the Canberra based NZ High Commissioner.



ANZAC Day 2015 Commemoration Service

10:00 am Saturday, 25 April 2015.

Maheno Shipwreck, 75 Mile Beach, Fraser Island, Qld.

A commemorative service on Anzac Day at the Maheno's wreck will recognise the significant contribution of the Maheno, all who sailed on her and also those who were fortunate enough to not need these services but fought the battles in the knowledge that medical assistance was there.

A starting time of 10:00am should allow travel time with the 8am low tide for attendance to be possible for persons on a single day visit from the mainland and so as to not clash with the traditional Anzac Day dawn service that is held each year at Orchid Beach.

Attendance at the Anzac service is free to all and that access to a display of memorabilia at the Fraser Island Retreat, Happy Valley, will also be free. We hope to have much of the memorabilia on display for an extended period.



ANZAC Day 2015 Commemoration Luncheon (using NZHS Maheno 1918 Christmas Menu)

12:30 pm Saturday, 25 April 2015

Fraser Island Retreat, Happy Valley, Fraser Island, Qld.

Following the Anzac Day commemorative service, a luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise, will be held at Fraser Island Resort. The menu being used is the actual Christmas Day 1918 lunch menu NZHS Maheno whilst it was still a hospital ship. Those attending, including the students and others from the Maheno School NZ, will be pleased to know that roasts were the order of the day.

The luncheon will be by pre-booking only with a limit of 150 people.

Costs: \$65 Adults \$40 Children (12 and under)

For bookings: www.fraserislandretreatqld.com.au ***SORRY – NOW FULLY BOOKED***



Display of memorabilia

At the Fraser Island Retreat, Happy Valley, there will be a display of Maheno memorabilia / photos etc. for free public access. (the township of Happy Valley is the closest community to the shipwreck).

As part of the project there will be built a scale model made of the Maheno in its Hospital ship colours (at a scale of 1:96 so about 1.3 metres long).

We also want to establish an extended display of Maheno memorabilia to highlight the hospital ship history and how the ship impacted on so many Australians and remains a true link to Anzac – a NZ Hospital ship on an Australian beach.



Connection with other activities

The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa based in Wellington is preparing a display focused on the First World War and the Anzac legend.

As part of this, a model of part of the hospital ship interior of the NZHS Maheno is being built by the leading NZ model business Weta Workshops (known for their work on Lord of the Rings). The curator has confirmed that the museum will look to work with this project to promote each organisation's activities.

In addition the New Zealand Maritime Museum in Auckland has offered support through a link on the Facebook page for this project with their page and they will promote the event to their support group. Facebook is a key part of their communication strategy. The object of these involvements is to further strengthen the cross Tasman ties.



Summary

This project offers the following

- the spirit of Anzac since the Maheno was a hospital ship that was actually at Anzac during the campaign that established the legend of the Anzacs
- highlights the connection of the hospital ship Maheno with both Australia and New Zealand
- highlights the contribution that the hospital ships and the medical teams made in the both the war effort and the safe return of those injured during the course of the war;
- the connection of youth with Anzac through the involvement of the Maheno school and of Australian youth
- provides a lasting legacy with the replica bell at the Queensland Maritime Museum
- provides an enduring legacy with the display of memorabilia at the Fraser Island Retreat over an extended period
- a series of activities that reflect Anzac since the Maheno was a NZ hospital ship at Anzac retrieving Australian soldiers and Australia is now the permanent resting place.



Supporters include

- Queensland Maritime Museum
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- RSL Orchid Beach Sub Branch
- Fraser Island Association
- Fraser Coast Regional Council
- ABC Radio & Television
- Rotary Clubs in Maryborough & Hervey Bay
- TVNZ
- New Zealand Maritime Museum



Participants include

- Discovery Tours
- Manta Ray Barges
- Kingfisher Bay Resorts
- Air Fraser

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or contact president@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com