**Maritime Museum searches for lost shipwrecks and last mysteries of the deep**

This week marks National Archaeology Week and the Australian National Maritime Museum and Silentworld Foundation are co-hosting an exclusive evening in conversation with some of Australia’s most exciting maritime archaeologists.

From what it’s like to uncover the last mysteries of the Titanic, to finding long-lost mystery shipwrecks, to how we map from space the impacts of shipwrecks on reefs and the environment – this one-off mini-series evening will be hosted at the Maritime Museum in conjunction with Silentworld Foundation, on Thursday 23 May and is not to be missed.

**Special 50% off discount code for your audience “SHIPWRECK”.**

“Our oceans are the last great unexplored frontier. We know less about our oceans than we do the surface of the moon,” muses Dr James Hunter, Australian National Maritime Museum Maritime Archaeologist.

‘Maritime Archaeology Mysteries’ is a special addition to the Museum’s Ocean Talks series as part of National Archaeology Week. The evening will feature five of the country’s most important and interesting maritime archaeologists who among them have over 113 years experience exploring the mysteries of our oceans:

**Emily Jateff, Australian National Maritime Museum**

**Topic: The last mysteries of the Titanic.**

About Emily:

* Dived on the Titanic with James Cameron to discover its last secrets.
* Chief Scientist on the CSIRO / Australian National Maritime Museum expedition that found the long-lost [SS *Iron Crown*](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-23/ss-iron-crown-wwii-freighter-shipwreck-found-off-victorian-coast/11037402), which was sunk by Japanese submarine in WWII with the loss of 38 lives. *Iron Crown* was one of Australia’s most famous lost wrecks until its discovery on 17 April this year.
* Recording an American Civil War-era bridge in the U.S. state of Georgia.
* Investigating and mapping WWII heritage sites for public interpretation, increasing cultural tourism opportunities in the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Dr James Hunter, Australian National Maritime Museum**

**Topic: The Barque South Australian - Discovery and Documentation of South Australia’s Oldest Known Shipwreck.**

About James:

* Survey of the illegally salvaged shipwreck site of HMAS *Perth* (I)in Indonesia*.*
* Discovery and investigation of the barque *South Australian* - South Australia’s oldest documented shipwreck, and one of the vessels that brought the initial wave of free settlers to the then-colony of South Australia in the late 1830s.
* Discovery and documentation of Australia’s first submarine, HMAS *AE1.*
* Involved in ongoing collaborative shipwreck surveys in the Coral Sea undertaken by the Museum and the Silentworld Foundation.

**Irini Malliaros, Silentworld Foundation**

**Topic: Black as Reefs.**

About Irini:

* A champion for women in archaeology.
* One of the team that discovered HMAS *AE1* after 103 years. She was literally the only female on board, including deck crew, galley staff etc.
* Worked on the site and artefact collection of a [16th century Elizabethan warship in Alderney](http://www.alderneymaritimetrust.org/alderney-elizabethan-wreck/), Channel Islands.

**Paul Hundley, Silentworld Foundation**

**Topic: Boots and All – Recent Shipwreck Discoveries in the Coral Sea.**

About Paul:

* Working on American Revolutionary War shipwrecks in the states of Maine and Virginia.
* Dived on the early Dutch shipwrecks off the Western Australian coast.
* Worked on the reconstruction of the Batavia.
* Currently diving on and mapping shipwrecks across the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea and Torres Strait.

**Kieran Hosty, Australian National Maritime Museum**

**Evening host**

About Kieran:

* The hunt for Cook’s *Endeavour* in the USA.
* Survey of the illegally salvaged shipwreck site of HMAS *Perth* (I) in Indonesia*.*
* The survey and excavation of the shipwrecks of *Sydney Cove* (1797), HMS *Pandora* (1791) and HMCS *Mermaid* (1829).
* Three books and around 100 professional articles to his credit.

All speakers are available for interview on any of the above topics.

For more information and to book tickets, visit: <https://www.sea.museum/whats-on/events/maritime-archaeology-mysteries>.

**Ticket includes light refreshments and exclusive access to the** [Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition](https://www.sea.museum/wildlife) **between 5 – 6pm.**

Download high res images here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wud61g4987l73hn/AADrlGNCshARBfkPaWAHcniea?dl=0>

**Full details of the topics:**

**The last mysteries of the *Titanic*.**

**Emily Jateff, Australian National Maritime Museum**
In 2005, maritime archaeologist Emily Jateff participated in the Last Mysteries of the *Titanic* expedition funded by the Discovery Channel and Earthship Productions, and led by filmmaker and explorer James Cameron. The purposes of the expedition were to investigate the interior of the bow section of RMS *Titanic* using state-of-the-art miniature remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and to send the first live video feed from the bottom of the deep ocean.

**Boots and All – Recent Shipwreck Discoveries in the Coral Sea.**

**Paul Hundley, Silentworld Foundation**

In December 2018, a team of archaeologists from the Silentworld Foundation and the Australian National Maritime Museum located a mystery shipwreck at Boot Reef off Australia’s far north-east coast. Archival information narrowed down the possible identity to one of a handful of wrecks from the early 19th century – foremost among them a site first reported in 1891, which according to legend, contained a hoard of silver coins that came to be known as ‘The Jardine Treasure’

**The Barque *South Australian* - Discovery and Documentation of South Australia’s Oldest Known Shipwreck.**

**Dr James Hunter, Australian National Maritime Museum**

In early 2018, a collaborative team comprising maritime archaeologists, museum specialists and volunteers from the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW), South Australian Maritime Museum, Silentworld Foundation, Australian National Maritime Museum, MaP Fund and Flinders University surveyed for and located the shipwreck site of the barque South Australian. Lost at Rosetta Harbour in December 1837, *South Australian* is South Australia’s oldest documented shipwreck. Its significance also derives from its use as one of the earliest immigration ships to ferry European settlers to the colony of South Australia, as well as careers as a postal packet and ‘cutting-in’ vessel for shore-based whaling activities. This talk will discuss the effort to locate *South Australian*, as well as archaeological fieldwork that has taken place at the wreck site subsequent to its discovery.

**Black as Reefs.**

**Irini Malliaros, Silentworld Foundation**
Satellite imagery of reef systems that are home to historic shipwrecks has revealed their effect on the surrounding reef ecosystem. Normally the tougher, metal elements of a shipwreck are all that remains as reminders of the wrecking event. The largest of these, usually iron and in the form of anchors and chain, appear to be releasing iron into the water and the effect is both surprising and useful - the reef around a shipwreck appears dark in colour owing to a change in the benthic community structure, highlighting the area where shipwreck remains are likely to be found.

**-ENDS-**

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