



The English-Speaking Union (Victoria Branch)

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MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network wins grant to support its digital advocacy

For immediate release, 30 May 2021

The English-Speaking Union Victoria Branch (ESU) is delighted to announce the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) as the runner-up for its 2021 Major Project Grant.

The grant of \$3,500 will enable the MMHN to improve its digital advocacy via its website and the management of online events.

The MMHN was established in 2019 as a membership organisation. It is a relative newcomer to Victoria's heritage sector but has quickly demonstrated its value to people involved with Melbourne's maritime activity, including state and local government decision-makers.

The MMHN wants to see Melbourne acknowledged as a port city with a rich maritime heritage that is celebrated, preserved and sustained.

About the project

The MMHN notes that blue-water maritime engagement has underpinned Australia's national development and prosperity, and thus contributes to our heritage and culture. Melbourne remains the nation's largest port. The Australian identity is built on more than two centuries of maritime discovery, daring, expertise, innovation and competence.

The MMHN has, however, encountered widespread amnesia in relation to maritime heritage, culture and identity across the public realm as well as within the plethora of responsible authorities and all three levels of government. The MMHN has also noted that many maritime groups, although valiantly struggling to preserve and share the stories of our maritime heritage, have rarely engaged in collective endeavour. The MMHN therefore aims to act as a conduit, facilitating connections between a diverse and geographically-dispersed group of maritime sector stakeholders.

The MMHN's website is a critical element of its work, central to fostering fellowship amongst existing stakeholders and reaching out to the wider public.

The ESU's grant will support improvements to the MMHN website and online engagement. The grant will empower MMHN's digital advocacy, resulting in better information, education and recognition of our rich maritime heritage.

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Comments attributable to ESU Branch President, Robert Furlan, a member of the award judging panel:

“The ESU understands the many challenges facing membership organisations and the important role of websites as the hub of such organisations.”

“The ESU acknowledges the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network’s commitment to celebrating, preserving and sustaining Melbourne’s rich maritime heritage.”

“The ESU is pleased to support the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network in improving its platform for digital advocacy.”

“The ESU congratulates the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network and looks forward to seeing its website re-launched, later this year.”

The Role of the English-Speaking Union (Victoria Branch)

The ESU’s mission is to promote the heritage, culture, identity and fellowship of the English-speaking peoples. Via a range of competitive awards, the ESU provides funding for activities that align with this mission.

The ESU is a registered Australian charity.

The ESU has been active in supporting educational and cultural projects by Australians for over 100 years.

Further information

Details of the ESU Awards Program can be found at esuvic.org.au/content/awards.

For information about the ESU, please contact the President, Robert Furlan, on 0419 559 608.

To arrange an interview with a representative of the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network, please contact awards@esuvic.org.au.