

Colour postcard Le Groupe Folklorique, Tahiti. Nui en attraction a la Hotel Taaoone, front showing female dancer surrounded by seated dancers in dressed in headdress and playing drums, unsent postcard. Photographer: Hawkins, Clifford William NZMM 2021.29.847

This colourful postcard from Tahiti captures dancers wearing ātaahua flower crowns and bright costumes, moving to the beat of drums. Their dance, called 'ori Tahiti, is full of rhythm, energy, and grace.

Each performance tells a story through movement and music. Once banned, this traditional dance was passed down through generations and today celebrates Tahitian culture with rhythm, colour, and joy.

Ocean Odyssey: Cruising the Pacific

Sept School Holidays

Weekdays 22 Sept-3 Oct 2025
10am-2:30pm | \$5 per child
Bookings recommended

Set sail on a Pacific journey and step back in time to the golden age of ocean cruising. Make a vibrant lei to wear on your island-hopping adventure, embark on a scavenger hunt through our museum galleries, and strike a pose in vintage cruise-ship fashion like a true ocean voyager.

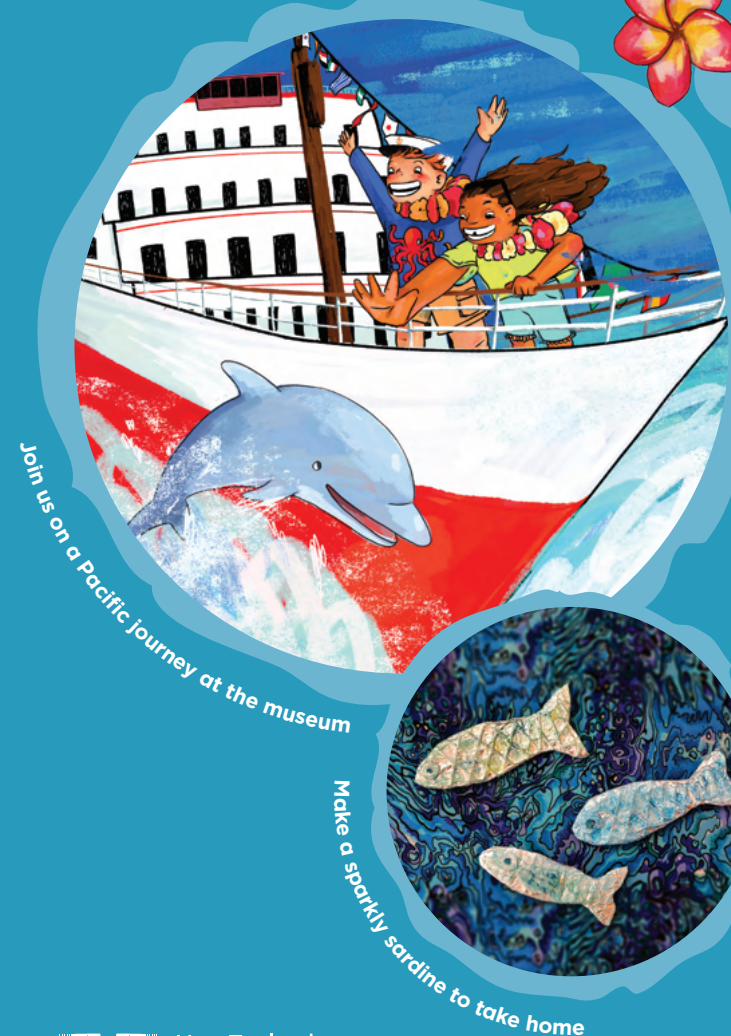


THE mini māui CLUB

September 2025

#20: Ocean Odyssey

Kua reri to cruise the Pacific?
Find out about Ocean Odyssey, our
new school holiday programme!



Crossing the Line ceremony on Rangitata, Feb 1957
Photographer: Browne, Mervyn NZMM2022.61.8

Crossing the Line

Have you heard of the Equator? It's an invisible line around the middle of the Earth. When a ship crosses it, sailors have a special party called the *Crossing the Line Ceremony*!

People who have never crossed the Equator before are called "Pollywogs" (which means tadpoles.) During the ceremony, they get to join the "Shellbacks" — the sailors who've done it before. It's a fun way to welcome them!

There are often costumes, silly games, and even a pretend visit from King Neptune, the ruler of the sea! Pollywogs might get their faces painted, be splashed with water, or do funny challenges to become Shellbacks.

It's all just for fun and helps everyone on the ship feel like a team. A long time ago, it was also a way to show bravery and teamwork.

In this photo from 1957, some children were part of a Crossing the Line Ceremony on a ship called the *Rangitata*. The ship was sailing between the United Kingdom and New Zealand. The grown-ups dressed up as King Neptune and his queen, Amphitrite!

Would you like to take part in a sea adventure like that?

Crack the Code

Can you work out the names of these famous passenger ships, written in morse code?

Once you've cracked the code, match each ship with its story. Me tīmata tātou!

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

A ● -	J ● - - -	S ● ● ●
B - ● ● ●	K - ● -	T -
C - - ● -	L ● - ● ●	U ● ● -
D - ● ●	M - -	V ● ● ● -
E ●	N - ●	W ● - -
F ● ● -	O - - -	X - ● ● -
G - - ●	P ● - ● ●	Y - ● - -
H ● ● ● ●	Q - - ● -	Z - - ● ●
I ● ●	R ● - ●	



W _ _ _ _ _
An inter-island ferry
wrecked in a storm in 1968.

_ a _ _ a _ _
A passenger liner that became
a hospital ship in WW2.

_ i _ _ _ ra
A huge liner that sank on a mine in
1940—luckily, everyone escaped!

M _ _ e _ _
NZ's WW1 hospital ship,
sailed to Gallipoli.

_ _ r _ n _ i
Sailed across the Pacific, linking
NZ, Australia, and Canada.

_ o _ o _ a _
A passenger ship turned
troopship in World War II.

Tiny Ships, Big Stories



At the New Zealand Maritime Museum, our model makers are ship builders in miniature! With steady hands, wood, and paint, they create tiny copies of real ships. Each model tells a story about adventures at sea.

Stuart made a model of the *City of Paris*, the ship he

sailed on when he was just ten years old. His favourite memory? The “Crossing the Line” party, when the ship crossed the equator into the Southern Hemisphere—a moment so big, he never forgot it.

Tino pai, Stuart!



Wish You Were Here!

Win your own squishy wheke and a cute stacker bracelet—to keep or give away!

Imagine you're on a dreamy cruise through the Pacific—sailing past tropical islands, spotting whales and flying fish, or dancing under the stars on deck. Write a postcard from your imaginary voyage! What did you see? Who did you meet? What made your cruise unforgettable?

Enter

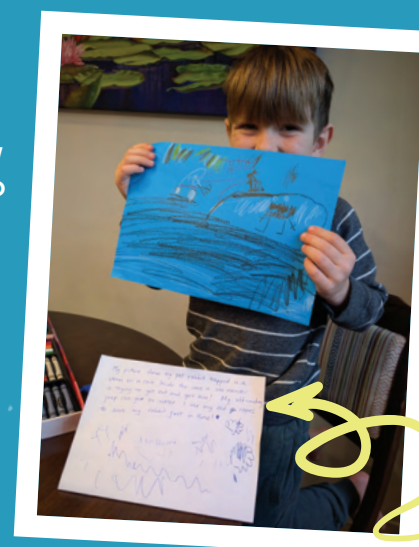
by emailing us at
info@maritimemuseum.co.nz
or tag us on Insta
or Facebook:
[@nzmaritimemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/nzmaritimemuseum)



We had so many miharo entries to our *Safety at Sea* competition—tino pai rawa atu!



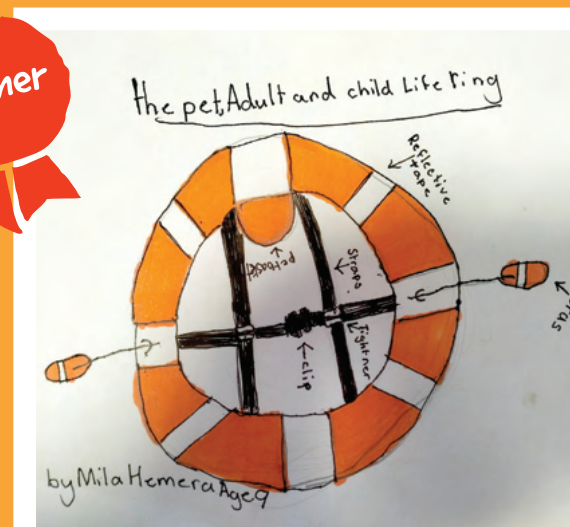
Lily, 8, with her colourful submarine



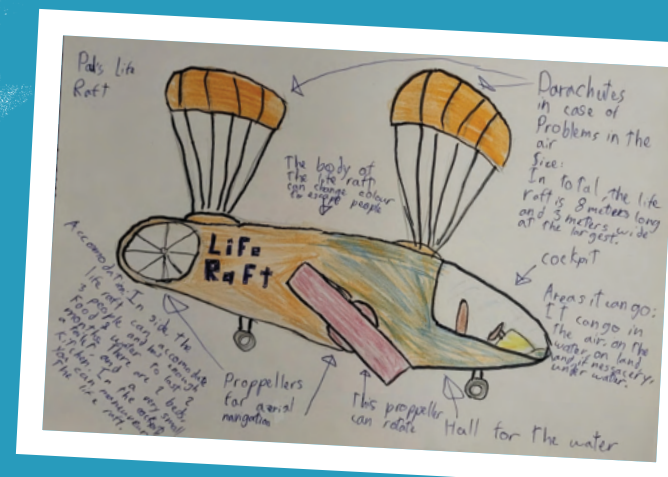
Emilio, 5:

“My pet rabbit trapped in a storm on a cave. Inside the cave a sea monster is trying to get out and get him! My off-roading jeep can go on water.”

winner



Our winner is Mila, 9 with her design to keep her and her cat Luka safe at sea!



Paul, 12, with an incredible life raft parachute!