

MV Queenscliff, the passenger Ro-Ro ferry owned and operated by Searoad Ferries of Victoria, Australia, has just emerged from an AUD\$2m refit and was successfully launched back into service by the Minister for Tourism Louise Asher.

The LNA team was tasked with enlarging the passenger accommodation space, providing enhanced viewing opportunities and with creating a modern light-filled interior to entice new passengers to travel on the Queenscliff-Sorrento route. The brief was based on creating a series of zones throughout the interior to provide for the needs of a variety of travellers. A new 13-metre skylight now floods the interior with natural light. When combined with a new forward full-width glass wall this gives the feeling of a far larger accommodation space. LNA Managing Director Jennifer Knox said: "The outcome for this project was extremely satisfying, a complete transformation of style and utility has been achieved"

They say a picture says a thousand words and this document illustrates a number of before and after shots of the main lounge, café, new kids' zone, forward observation lounge and other facilities. The difference in ambience and functionality is stunning.

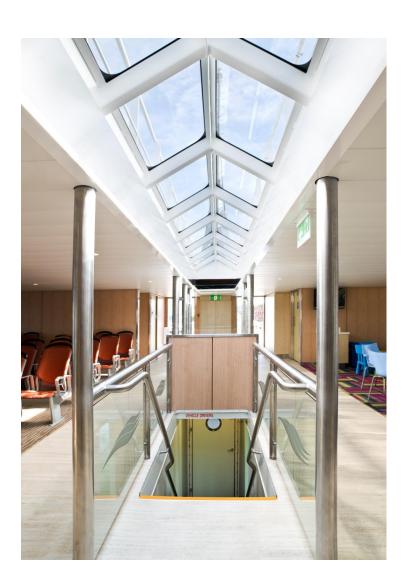
In a news article, published in The Age and Sydney Morning Herald, Searoad Ferries Chief Executive Officer Matt McDonald said "…the ferry was [now] a tourism experience, not just a transport service…"



Creating a light filled ambience for the whole ship.



A new 13 metre skylight now floods the interior with natural light.





Dining Area





Diners now enjoy their meals in an open plan, fresh, bright dining area. The partial side decks were removed and the side windows increased in size to create a feeling of space and light.

New brightly coloured furniture added to the appeal.



Kids Area





The ferry service is focusing more and more on the tourist market and so LNA felt that it was important to improve the ambience and facilities in the children's play area. Parents can now relax at café style seating while their kids play on dedicated equipment such as climbing frames, play/chalk boards and child-sized tables and chairs.



Cafe





An inviting open style café servery was developed.

Two service areas can be opened for busy times to double capacity and the customer flow now caters for those wanting a full meal service as well as those just seeking drinks and snacks. In addition a delicious new menu should see sales soaring in this area.





Lounge





Seating is now arranged in informal groupings using banquette and lounge tub chairs with tables to create a more relaxed and open atmosphere.

Fresh carpet and new colours brighten up the journey and passengers can enjoy the views through the newly enlarged windows.

Wi-Fi is fitted throughout the ship so commuters can catch up with their emails as they travel to and from work as well.



Forward Lounge





The foredeck access area was completely opened up with large viewing windows and bar style ledges / seating from which passengers can watch the local dolphins playing by the ship. A more inviting and accessible doorway was installed to a new outdoor viewing area. A double entry breeze way ensures that travellers sitting inside, with the new stunning artwork, remain in comfort at all times and in all weathers.



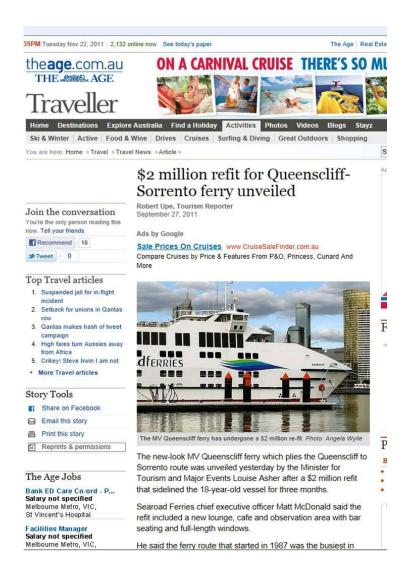
Toilet Facilities





Bathroom facilities were improved with modern décor and the latest facilities. A new accessible and baby change area now makes travelling with families even easier.





The new look MV Queenscliff now caters comfortably for a number of different types of passenger: -

- The regular commuter traffic benefit from Wi-Fi access through out the ship, private seating areas with table surfaces for lap tops, and good coffee to start the day.
- The increasing tourist market can now use the ferry route as a family friendly sight seeing trip with a dedicated children's play area, baby change facilities, improved indoor and outdoor dolphin viewing opportunities and dedicated tourist information areas on board.
- Searoad Ferries are now also targeting the charter and functions market to extend use of the ship out of hours, with full catering and entertainment facilities available on board.

This refit is a great example of how an existing ship can be transformed by thoughtful and careful marine interior design and some well placed internal structural redesigning.

For more information about this project contact the team at: - Lightning Naval Architecture Suite 12.13 Quattro, 4 Daydream Street, Warriewood, NSW 2102 tel + 612 9979 9815 email navlight@lna.com.au or visit the website www.lna.com.au