

NEWSLETTER

THE FRIENDS OF THE P.S. OSCAR 'W'

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Please pass me on to a friend



February 2023

Volume 35

Number 1

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY CRUISES

1 hour cruises: 11:00am 1:00pm 2:30pm

Taking in points of interest around the River Port of Goolwa

FOR BOOKINGS GOOLWA INFORMATION CENTRE 1300 466 592

CRUISING FARES:

Adult \$20 Concession \$18

Child \$9 (5 - 15 years old, must be accompanied by an adult)

Family \$55 (2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN)

TWILIGHT CRUISING FARES: -

6:00PM - 8:00PM BYO LICENCE

Adult \$40 Concession \$36

Child \$18 (5 - 15 years old, must be accompanied by an adult)

Family \$110 (2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN)

CRUISING DATES

TBA

Phone 1300 466 592 to book, or book on line at: www.visitalexandrina.com/book-cruise



ROLY'S QUIZ QUESTION

Which paddle steamer came from the Napier and Sons in Glasgow in 1855 and accompanied the Steamer which featured in the last edition of Oscar W news-letter



NOTICE BOARD

FRIENDS DAY OUT/ONSHORE GATHERING

On Saturday March 25th

From 12 noon

Goolwa Barrage Picnic grounds area

BYO everything, a BBQ will be available for use, or bring drinks and nibbles, a picnic or whatever your fancy takes you, also a chair and maybe a small table, from 12 noon onwards, please phone Christina on 0437 552575 so that we have some idea of numbers.

Park in the Barrage car park and walk into the grounds, BBQ ahead of you on right.



Have you seen the PS Oscar W short film?



Follow the story of the biannual restoration works on the historic Paddle Steamer Oscar W vessel, we are enormously grateful to the hardworking team of volunteers and contractors who undertake the repairs.

Their skill and dedication ensure the PS Oscar W continues to run regular tours out of the Goolwa

Wharf Precinct to share the rich cultural heritage and where visitors can learn about this magnificent vessel.



SCAN HERE
TO WATCH
THE FILM

PORTFOLIOS 2023

Roland Bartlett OAM	Patron	rolden@bigpond.com.au
George Kaiser	President Promotions & Public relations Barbecue Safety Officer Special Projects Council liaison	georgekaiser18@gmail.com
Paul Hannagan	Vice President Trips & charters Crew rosters Trip logistics Liaison with VIC	hannaganpl@internode.on.net
Mark Commene	Secretary AMSA liaison	psoscarw@gmail.com
Clive Harris	Treasurer—Interim	clive5214@bigpond.com
Kelvin Brown/Wayne Burford	Maintenance & Survey/slipping	kiwikel6@gmail.com
Kevin Cross	Engine Maintenance, Engineering & Training Officer	kcross4145@gmail.com
Ian Sutton	Wood yard & procurement of wood	iandcsutton@hotmail.com
Christina Somerville	Social coordinator, Archives	christinasomerville@yahoo.com.au
Janne Harris	Data entry, River Boat Centre coordinator, Volunteers	janne5214@bigpond.com
Gill Bridle	Newsletter Editor	gilleb@adam.com.au

VALE ALF HART

On Saturday 24th December the Friends of Oscar W and the Goolwa fraternity lost a loveable outgoing and versatile member with the death of Alfie Hart.

Alf was born on 12 February 1929 at Glenelg where he lived with his parents and siblings until they later moved to Yundi where his schooling started. Later the family moved to Ascot Park.

After his schooling Alf took up a motor mechanics apprenticeship at Tilbrook's brake service. Later he worked for Dunlop Tyres

Early in Alf's marriage to Marion they went for the occasional holiday in a plywood caravan towed by a 1920s Austin heavy twelve. Their home was in Blackwood where Alf decided to build a small "houseboat". He constructed the plywood hull in the garage which was not high enough to add the superstructure. Alf's ability to build great relationships and easy going camaraderie (for which we all love him), came to the fore as he engaged the local footy club to lift, and turn the hull and relocate it to the carport for completion of the superstructure. The vessel was commissioned as "Maid Marion" and moored at the Veenstra's Captain Sturt Boat yard.

Alf soon struck up friendships with fellow boat owners and became an integral part of the boating fraternity. It was on one of the outings up Currency Creek, with three friends in houseboats that an unforgettable tragedy occurred when Alf's wife, Marion suffered a fatal asthma attack. It is difficult to imagine the trauma for the family on such an occasion: life would never be the same.

Amazingly Alf's pleasant demeanour prevailed, and he continued his association with the Veenstra's and the boating fraternity at the Captain Sturt. He eventually remarried, and new wife, Joan became part of the family.

In 1981 The couple decided to build a steel hulled houseboat and move permanently to Goolwa where they would live on the new boat" Swamp Fox" which they did for 14 years. Alf became more involved in the boating ventures of the Veenstra family, becoming, among other things, delivery person for the 'Murray River Queen' and the motor vessel 'Aroona' where he was also cook for some time. With the building of the Paddle Steamer 'Mundoo', Alf became a support for John Norris who restored the Garret Compound steam engine and boiler, and then gained his MED Steam ticket and became engineer on the vessel. All this involvement resulted in a great bond of friendship with the Veenstra family particularly between Alf and Captain Keith Veenstra who Alf affectionately referred to as Cornelius, (his correct name). During the low moments of Keith's terminal illness, he often called on his friend Alf to cheer him up. Keith would sometimes say to Alf, "I think you and Joan need a break take my suite on the Queen for a trip."



With all this involvement with steam it was inevitable that Alf would become a major player in the Friends of Oscar W. As soon as the 'Dart' barge came to Goolwa as part of "the plant". Alf was into caulking and maintenance once it was delivered to Captain Sturt slip by the local Sea Rescue fraternity. When the old boiler of Oscar was removed for replacement 'The Friends' thought it was possible to retain parts of the Marshall boiler and began many working bees to drill out the rivets, only to be told by the surveyor that nothing could be reused. Alf and the "Friends" had spent many hours on the project and were disappointed, to say the least. But Alf, undaunted, retired to the space left in the Oscar by the Boiler and proceeded, to set up a gantry, then remove the Keys from the big gear wheels and transfer the gears to the opposite side shafts, thus exposing the less worn reverse side of the gear teeth to the forward thrust.

If one examines the pad welded initials on the Oscar W wood splitter you will find the initials of the makers' names, one being A.F. (Alf Hart). Alf was also instrumental in making the steering wheel which is on the 'Dart' barge at the present time.

There are also wonderful memories of Alf as crew and cook on 'Oscar W' upriver cruises, during which we supported many river communities and established a great camaraderie along the river. Indeed, any readers who remember Alf will have a tale to tell. For some years Alf was Father Christmas at the 'Oscar W' Christmas party and would on occasions seemingly emerge from the 'Oscar' smokestack. On a few occasions when required I (Roly), would take on the role. One year confusion reigned, and we each thought we were being Father Christmas.

Christina, (arranger of all things hysterical) said, "Well we will just have two Father Christmases, which lead to much hilarity between the two with much fun being had by all.

In later years Alf and Joan became active and well-respected members of the Historic Vehicles Club and took part in club activities in their red MG B. They also had a Toyota Coaster camper and did many trips in that.

Alf will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and condolences are with his families.



Alfie Hart

★ IN the engine room Alf Hunt (left) and John Norris at the controls of the old steam engine which spent 55 years in a junk yard.

**A 95-year-old engine, fired
by redgum logs, drives the new
'old style' paddlesteamer Mundoo**

ANGELA'S RECIPE

Blueberry Cake

Ingredients

1½ cups SR flour
¾ cup castor sugar
zest of 1 lemon finely grated
½ tsp salt
¾ cup milk
¼ cup vegetable oil
1 large egg
½ tsp vanilla extract
1½ cups blueberries

Lemon Icing

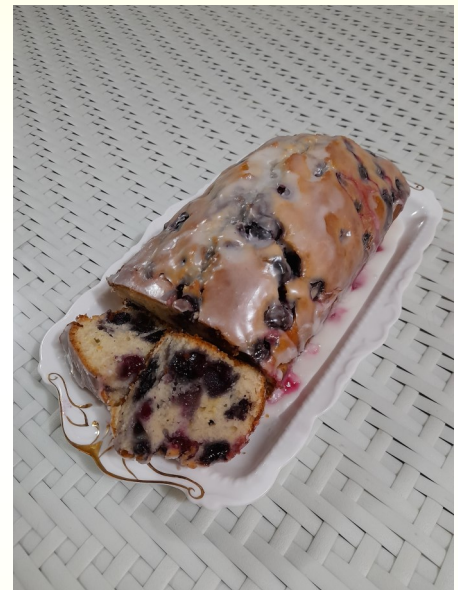
1 cup icing sugar
2½ tbsp lemon juice

Method

Preheat oven to 180°
Line loaf tin (8 ½" x 4 ½")
Mix all dry ingredients together in a large bowl
Add all wet ingredients together to flour mixture to form a batter
Gently fold in blueberries (fresh or frozen)
Pour batter into prepared loaf tin and bake for an hour

Lemon Icing :-Mix icing sugar and lemon juice together

Let cake cool for 15 minutes and transfer to serving plate
Pour Lemon Icing over cake
Cake can be served warm or cold



Enjoy XXX



Angela Leaver



Annual & General Meeting 2022

THE FRIENDS of the OSCAR W INC.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18th, 7:30pm

at the Church of Christ Hall, Goolwa

(Minutes of 2021 AGM, the 2022 Financial report and the meeting Agenda were available at the entry desk)

PRESENT: Kelvin Brown, Malcom & Christina Somervaille, Garry Bridle, Richard & Mandy Stokes, Roly Bartlett, Bruce McIntosh, Janne Harris, Katherine & Jason Loney, Ian Sutton. Paul Hannagan, Libby & Geoff Braddock, Bruce Martin, Dave Newman, Jane Thorpe, Michael Stratton, Dianne & Greg Strike, Peter Marshman, Dennis Borchardt, Kevin Cross, Wayne & Mary Burford, Tony & Chris Brooks, Judy Przibilla, George Kaiser, Mark Commane (31)

APOLOGIES: Faye & Allan Payne, Lesley Rochow, Gary Satterley, David & Lorraine Finnie, EJ & Cathy Thorpe, Don

Hay, Angela & Gill Leaver, Lois Hannagan. Wayne Jones, Ian Bulmer, Ray Cooper, Yvonne Attrill, Jennie Commane,

Bronwyn Lewis. Julie Jordan, Liz Marshman Denise Bartlett, Greg Murray (22)

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

George welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their interest and support.

MINUTES OF 2021 AGM – 26th November 2021

Tabled Accepted m Mark Commane, sec

Janne Harris.... carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

REPORTS

1. President – George Kaiser

- 1.1 Acknowledged and thanked the dedicated, skilled, and committed committee members
- 1.2 Wharf Development – still a thorny, unresolved issue
- 1.3 Twilight Cruises – very popular and in 2022 have increased to two per month.
- 1.4 Oscar W four week slipping 2022 –
 - 1.4.1 the work, knowledge and skills of Malcolm Somervaille & Wayne Burford were acknowledged with acclaim.
 - 1.4.2 Wayne prepared a slipping report for Council which should help with future planning.
 - 1.4.3 28 volunteers assisted contractors and contributed 1300 hours of work.
 - 1.4.4 Council held a thankyou barbecue lunch to acknowledge the work of volunteers. **1**

1.4.5 Thirteen planks were replaced, caulking conducted on all the hull, a new spring beam fitted to the port side of the paddle box, galley wall replaced, cable over the saloon was replaced along with posts on both sides of both sets of stairs.

1.5 Committee members – competent, skilled, and committed.

1.5.1 The contribution of each committee member was outlined and acknowledged.

1.5.2 Thanks to Paul Hannagan, Mark Commane, Wayne Burford, Janne Harris, Kevin Cross, Ian Sutton, Christina Somerville and Greg Murray – an amazing skill set, willingly contributed to the well being of the Oscar W enterprise.

2. Treasurer's report – Bruce McIntosh

2.1 The financial statement - tabled.

2.2 The Friends have a healthy bank balance. Plan to use much of this money to refurbish the Riverboat Centre when and where it will be finally located in the wharf refurbishment.

3. Secretary's Report – Mark Commane

3.1 Despite the hundreds of hours and energy spent campaigning for the Oscar little progress has been made in advancing it's needs and that of the River Boat Centre as a history source in the proposed wharf redevelopment. The decisions re the wharf were made by the elected body using information that the ombudsman considers to be adulterated. A presentation will be made to the newly elected Council when it meets in December to try and advance the Oscar cause.

3.2 The two Friends Days Outs were well attended and enjoyable.

3.3 Volunteer Day Out on the Cockle Train and lunch in Victor Harbor was funded by the Friends to acknowledge and show appreciation for the work of active volunteers.

3.4 Four school visits this year.

3.5 Vouchers have been given to several groups fundraising for various causes.

3.6 Engineer replacement – to assist with the transition the Council planned to have somebody shadow Wayne Burford during the slip but this was unsuccessful.

3.7 Des Berwick resigned as treasurer and as Newsletter editor at the end of June. Bruce McIntosh replaced him as interim treasurer and the newsletter editor position is still to be filled.

3.8 Newsletters reduced to three per year.

3.9 Milang Rally will be held again in January 2023.

3.10 Wentworth Rally – has now been cancelled due to high water.

3.11 Wood and chainsaw qualifications continue to be an issue.

3.12 Have been given access to peruse the Council budget for the Oscar to enable checking for accuracy.

3.13 Carol Cooney (a great supporter of the Oscar) has created a record of the costs associated with the 2022 slipping so that in future a realistic budget can be set.

3.14 Two new quality videos, to be used for publicising the boat, have been created of the evening cruises and the volunteers involved in the slipping.

3.15 The Oscar community were saddened by the death of Des Berwick who volunteered for 13 years, and this included several years as the Treasurer and Newsletter editor.

3.16 Kevin Cross contribution to the boat by advocating and as a captain, mate and engineer is exemplary.

3.17 The Oscar is without a doubt the best maintained boat on the river thanks to the knowledge and management skills of Wayne Burford.

3.18 Christmas Party is on 3rd December 2022

- 3.19 A large 1915 photo of the Oscar loading wool at 'Barrabogie' Station on the Murrumbidgee River has been gifted to the Friends for framing and display by David Sizer from Victoria. It is an amazing journey into the history of the Oscar.

2

4 Engineer's Report

A presentation was made to Wayne Burford acknowledging his tireless work, knowledge, and planning over many years in the role of engineer for the Oscar.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

1. Motion:

'The committee recommends that subscriptions remain at \$25 for a Single and \$30 for a Family membership for the season 2022 – 2023.'

M Paul Hannagan sec Ian carried – one objector Bruce Martin (!)

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Returning officer – Bruce Martin

Retiring members:

- o President: George Kaiser - nominated Mark Commane, sec Christina Somerville - elected
- o Treasurer: Bruce McIntosh – nominated Mark Commane, sec Wayne Burford - elected
- o Three Committee members: Janne Harris, Ian Sutton – both eligible for re election
- o Greg Murray and Wayne Burford – not seeking re election

Nominations received:

- o President: George Kaiser - nominated Mark Commane, sec Christina Somerville
- o Treasurer: Bruce McIntosh – nominated Mark Commane, sec Wayne Burford
- o Four Committee members:

Two Year Term

Janne Harris – nominated Mark Commane, sec Ian Sutton
Kelvin Brown - nominated Mark Commane, sec George Kaiser
One position to fill

One Year term

Ian Sutton - nominated Mark Commane, Sec – Janne Harris

Sitting members continuing in the last year of their two-year term:

- o Vice President: Paul Hannagan
- o Secretary: Mark Commane
- o Two committee members: Christina Somerville and Kevin Cross **3**

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **Trained volunteer shortage** – Bruce Martin

- 1.1 Bruce suggested that Oscar monies be spent to address the current shortage of trained volunteers especially Mates.
- 1.2 Kevin Cross - Regulatory bodies are making it difficult. Moves are being made for the Riverland, Mid Murray, and Alexandrina Councils to make a representation to AMSA and Safe Work SA on behalf of the South Australian paddleboats. Extra, time consuming, expensive training is being demanded that is not relevant to operating a paddleboat. The Councils own the paddleboats, and they have more clout with the regulatory bodies.
- 1.3 Mark Commane - Alexandrina Council are willing to pay training costs for new volunteers. Our problem is not unique as volunteering across SA has reduced since COVID.

2. **New curtains for the front of the boat** – George Kaiser

- 2.1 These will be purchased from Friends funds. A \$500 donation from the Islander Tavern will contribute to this cost.

MEETING CLOSED 8:15 pm_Supper followed

President

Secretary

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

President's Report

On Australia Day I attended Alexandrina Council with our Patron Roly Bartlett and Life Member Dave Finnie where we collected an award for Active Citizenship for Friends of the Oscar W. It was you, the members and volunteers, who are collectively the winners of the award. Congratulations to everyone.

The Wharf Precinct Project is still causing some concern, as I understand the situation, work will commence sometime soon (I'm not holding my breath). We have been asked by Council to gut the Riverboat centre and store the many displays off site. As a result, the Riverboat Centre will be closed until further notice. So much for the promise of minimum disruption during construction. What about the other promise of being on time and under budget. The construction phase will affect our our departure and arrival safe.

Despite the numerous letters both to Councilor's and Council, there is still one Councillor who has stated on the public record that Oscar W only cruises once a month. I would like to point out that the Oscar W has been conducting a minimum of 8 cruises per month since September 2022. The Councillor's statement may effect any decision Council still has to make re our position in the Wharf Shed. Our position has always been the Riverboat Centre remains in the current location.

The Wooden Boat Festival will this year be held at Coorong Quays as a static display. It is quite difficult for Oscar W to conduct cruises from Coorong Quays. We will be running cruises from the new wharf (I guess I'm an optimist). The plan is for us to be operating from Hector's Wharf. That creates another problem as our barbeque members may have to operate from two separate sites, being near Hector's Wharf, and at Coorong Quays. The Wooden Boat Festival Barbeque is a substantial source of income for Oscar W. I will be looking for as many members as possible to run two barbeque sites over two days 29th and 30th of April 2023. You only need to be a member of Friends of the PS Oscar W to help with barbeques.

Unfortunately, on the 7th of January 2023, Oscar W had a collision with the fender of the Hindmarsh Island Bridge that caused substantial damage. Oscar W is being repaired at Coorong Quays slip at this time and it is hoped the repairs will be completed soon and she will be operating soon. Volunteers may be required for fetch and carry duties. I will be contacting members per phone for your availability. With a bit of luck Wednesdays during normal working bees.

For us to continue operating from Hector's wharf there is the problem of getting wood to Oscar W. This problem is not insurmountable but may require more volunteers than usual to load wood on the boat. Whilst we have more than enough wood at our wood yard, the wood yard is looking quite untidy due to an influx of donated whilst the wood yard crew being are used for other duties and the shed for other storage. It is a credit to Ian Sutton and his crew for the stockpile of wood ready for use on Oscar W. I estimate there is 5 years supply in the wood yard.

George Kaiser
President



FROM THE SECRETARY

Time moves on faster than ever; here we are in 2023 and two months have already passed by.

Quite a few changes have occurred since our last newsletter.

I would like to welcome Gill Bridle, who has taken on the role of editor for this newsletter. She aims, with your contributions, to produce an interesting and informative edition three times per year.

Kelvin Brown has joined the committee and agreed to assist Wayne Burford in coordinating the ongoing maintenance requirements of Oscar.

I would also like to welcome Ray White Goolwa/Victor Harbor as a major sponsor and thank them for their support, it is greatly appreciated.

Our Treasurer has sadly expressed his desire to stand down from the position (although temporarily) due to serious health issues and so we have been looking for a replacement Treasurer until Bruce is well enough to resume. After my email to all members asking for assistance, we had Clive Harris put his hand up to take over the reins until Bruce returns. Thanks Clive.

Membership of "The Friends of the Oscar W" has continued to grow despite several past members deciding not to renew their membership for 2022-2023. We currently have 79 family, 51 single, 10 Honorary and 10 Life members, plus our valued sponsors. What a great team supporting this wonderful vessel.

Volunteer numbers have also begun to grow again after a significant number decided, for a variety of reasons, not to return after COVID. We will be looking for more volunteers to staff our newly renovated Riverboat Centre once all the decisions have been made and the development completed.

Regarding the wharf development and the riverboat centre; the current proposal from Council is to remove the toilets from the shed, allocate 5 bays each to the Riverboat Centre and the Wharf Barrel Shed and move us to the Southern end of the shed. Decisions need to be made at this month's Council meeting to confirm these proposals and hopefully there may be a Stop Press announcement in this newsletter with some definite decisions.

Last of all I strongly recommend you look at the short new video of Oscar W produced during the last few months of 2022 whilst undergoing her biennial maintenance on the slip and various cruising events. The link and QR code are to be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Mark



STOP PRESS

After a large crowd of Oscar W and Community members rallied at the Council Chambers tonight (20th Feb) and a fantastic deputation on our behalf from Nigel Robinson the Councillor's voted to send the Riverboat Centre to the Southern end of the Wharf Shed with a much reduced area.

A very disappointing result.

VIEW FROM THE GALLEY WINDOW

How can it be time for another Newsletter ???? Welcome to our new Editor, Gill Bridle.

Time marches on as we continue to ride the roller coaster, we have certainly had our “ups and downs” in the past few months, sadly the VIEW FROM THE GALLEY WINDOW has not changed, but things are looking brighter for the OSCAR and the River Boat Centre as we move forward towards our next stage.

A very successful 114th Birthday party for the OSCAR was celebrated in October, it was great to see so many visitors and locals attend for the cutting of the cake, whilst the local Jazz Band, Nostalgia, kept our feet tapping.

Then, of course, we had the Alexandrina production and release of the PS OSCAR “W” publicity video, featuring the OSCAR and volunteers whilst working on the slip. This will be used for future promotions amongst the boating fraternity, especially the Wooden Boat Festival being held in April 2023.

The Friends Christmas Party was a great success, 79 members and partners enjoyed the evening at a wonderful venue, Alexandrina Cove, (thank you once again) also thanks to the catering team who made it all happen, Angela, Karen, Chris and Christina, along with all the members who helped out during the evening. We were all pleased to see the arrival of Santa and His trusted Wood Fairies, welcomed and cared for by Bronwyn, bearing treats and good wishes for all. On a down, 11 Friends put their names down and did not turn up on the evening or let us know they were not coming, very frustrating for the catering side.

In January, due to the high level of water at Milang, we had to cancel our proposed annual trip to Milang for the Vintage Machinery Rally, this is always an enjoyable event for our passengers and crew to experience a short cruise on Lake Alexandrina.

With the OSCAR back on the slip (at the time of writing) and being unsure of where our future mooring will be, due to river conditions and wharf plans, along with the River Boat Centre being closed down for the Wharf Development Plan to proceed, we do not have an onshore base to work from. All archives and artefacts have been move away for safe storage during the development of the Wharf Shed so they can be used for our future exciting project and exhibition on our return.

We have now been advised that the OSCAR will not be cruising in time for our FRIENDS DAY OUT on Saturday March 25th, it was agreed that we hold an onshore BBQ to enable us all to keep in contact with each other. It has been suggested that we hold a BBQ/ get together at the Goolwa Barrage picnic grounds, BYO everything, a BBQ will be available for use, or bring drinks and nibbles, a picnic or whatever your fancy takes you, also a chair and maybe a small table, from 12 noon onwards, please phone Christina on 0437 552575 so that we have some idea of numbers.

Finally, The Friends of the PS OSCAR “W” were thrilled to receive the Award for Active Citizenship 2023, presented on Australia Day.

Please keep up to date and in touch via our Facebook page, PS OSCAR W Friends Incorporated.

Until the next time,

Christina



RIVERBOAT CENTRE

With the closing of the Riverboat Centre and the clearing out of all stock, equipment and displays, there is not much to report from the Riverboat Centre. However, I can report that at our “End of an Era “celebration BBQ at the almost empty Wharf Shed, several RBC volunteers joined in to enjoy a champagne or two, sausages and patties, and cakes and honey crackles made by Angela, Christy and Mary. We all look forward to the final council decision on the Wharf Shed, and work towards moving back to a rejuvenated Riverboat Centre, front and centre, on the historic wharf.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers, in the RBC, at the BBQs, in the woodshed, and Oscar crew and maintenance, for your tireless work and dedication to Oscar, and look forward to welcoming you all back with renewed enthusiasm.

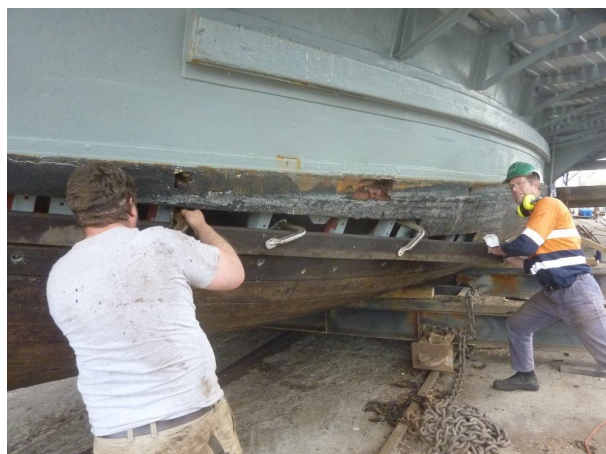
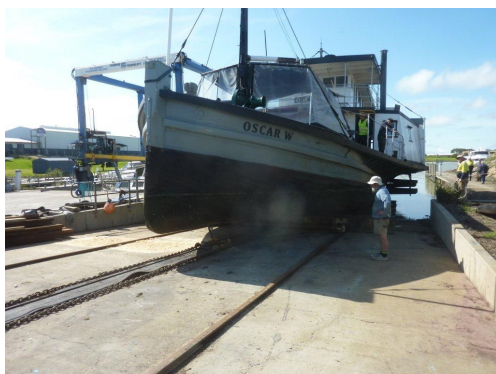
Janne Harris,



ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

The last news letter was done toward the finish of slipping over on the Coorong Quays slip, so I will summarize what we achieved over the month on slip

- Stripped all excess weight like ballast, beds, boiler water, etc.
- Onto slip and evaluated hull condition after jet spraying growth off.
- Approx 13 wooden planks progressively shaped, steamed, bent and bolted to internal steel ribs.
- Poorer seams raked out, and all seams pneumatically hardened with freshly rolled oakum.
- A pitch like material was heated to melting point and then wiped into all seams to cover the oakum.
- Whilst hull work continued the steel spring beam of the portside paddle box was changed from a rusted and bowed 'C' channel, to a new zinc rich epoxy coated 'I' beam.
- The 'C' section gunwale along the galley wall was damaged and rusted out so was replaced with a galvanized section.
- These 2 beams carry rubbing timbers in their sections so were renewed as well.
- The galley wall, full of wood rot, was re-clad and lots of improvements made to avoid water pooling.
- Several sponson timbers were renewed.
- The posts either side of the starboard stairs were replaced due to wood rot.
- The paddle box support cable which runs side to side and through the saloon ceiling was replaced.
- Several deck leaks were solved near the staircase by welding in new steel sheet.
- Any rust showing on the steel hull above water-line was cleared and re-primed before final matching gray top coat applied. We did this by paint-brush, rather than full grit blasting and spray painting.
- Wooden hull sprayed up with a bitumen material.
- Re-floated and monitored for leaks over a couple of days. Ballast etc. reloaded and steamed back to the wharf.
- Slip area tidied and cleaned up including removal of scaffolding.



The work was done with a combination of volunteers and contractors and was one of the biggest slippings for many years.

Back at the wharf Oscar was tidied and prepared for cruises with lots of twilight cruises in addition to the twice monthly 3 cruises on Sundays.

A new hatch cover over the pressi-suite is now finished with improvements to avoid water and weather issues. Aft sponsons have been repaired and repainted.

The forward curtains were very cloudy and un-cleanable, so a new set made from an improved material has been fitted.

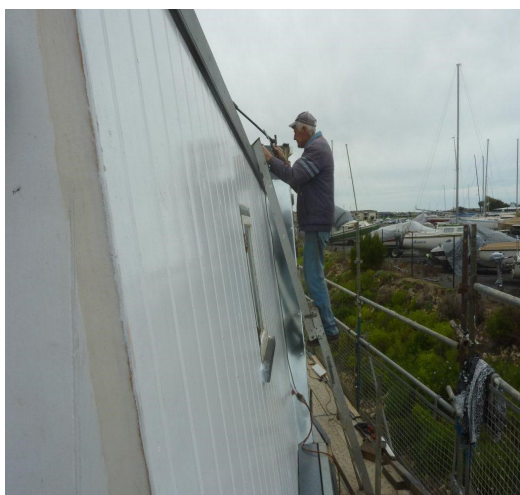
In the engine room the main water pump has been overhauled and includes a newly machined piston; the aim being to improve reliability. The boiler is being well cared for and passed its regulated inspections mid-year.

As the President has written, Oscar is on the slip for repairs to the starboard paddle-box and bathroom which may take a couple of months. It is likely that volunteers will join to finish off some of the work to make ready for public cruising.

The River Boat Centre building is to be re-built and over 2 weeks volunteers have completely removed every exhibit and piece of memorabilia; even the kitchen. All is in storage to make a future RBC.

Again, I thank all the volunteers who have helped this last year, because without such, Oscar could not meet the annual survey regulations to keep public cruises.

Wayne



Quiz Answer

Happy that you remembered the P.S. Albury featured in the last edition!

The other steamer arriving at Port Elliot aboard the Brig Lady Emma, was the Gundagai, off loaded onto the beach in pieces and transported to Goolwa on the horse drawn railway ready for assembly which was completed by September 1st 1856. Her engine was an oscillating type of steam engine of 50 hp built by Neilson and Co. Glasgow and at 38rpm was said to propel the vessel at 10.5 knots. Ronald Parsons (Ships of Inland Rivers) reports a description of her by Sir Thomas Elder on Sept. 7th as follows - The saloon is raised above the deck with windows on both sides, a large airy space, used as a dining room and sitting room during the day and as sleeping for gentlemen at night, curtains for privacy. Several state cabins for ladies and children. Seating positions at the tables are maintained for the voyage, the voyage from Goolwa, 2000 miles, £15 including provisions and steward's attendance. Parson's also reports that the vessel worked on the Port Adelaide /Goolwa run. The Gundagai and Albury were part of the River Murray Navigation Co's fleet of which William Younghusband was one of the partners and she was registered in his name in 1859.

On the 12th July 1863, Lieutenant General Duncan Cameron was head of joint imperial colonial force in New Zealand at which time conflict with the Māori's was occurring, particularly along the Waikato River , where the Māori were understandably hostile to their land being take over. Francis Cadell had been involved in various enterprises, or attempts at various enterprises, but in 1863 was entertaining ideas of New Zealand trade and fitting out the steamer Wakool, built on the barge Wakool which he had commissioned to be built on the Wakool river earlier. He had her then steamed to Dunedin via Tasmania, where some repairs were made. Meanwhile the Governor of New Zealand was George Grey who had been Governor of South Australia and was influenced by another Cadell acquaintance, Edward Wilson to have Francis Cadell's experience brought to bear on the Māori /Waikato River situation. The result was that Cadell was appointed to take charge of the Waikato Steam Transport Service fleet and keep the river open during the conflict with the Māori. As part of this fleet, one J.C. Firth, negotiated with Younghusband for lease of the Gundagai. She sailed to New Zealand under the command of Captain Ritchie. Unfortunately the Gundagai met her demise on the bar of the Patea River New Zealand 25th June 1866 whilst transporting government stores upstream for the war effort.

P.S. I have tried to severely precis this interesting but complicated story. A full description can be found in John Nicholson's fascinating book "The Incomparable Captain Cadell". (Sue Hines Book. Allen & Unwin)

P. S. William Randell.

Roly Bartlett

I have been asked to write about the Building of the William Randell for the newsletter. I found this piece on my computer so thought it would be OK for an introduction. As you know the boat has now been sold to Graham Foristal and is now a fine Diesel Electric Paddle Wheeler, operated by the push of a button rather than the labours of collecting fire wood, lighting a boiler and cleaning out ashes at some early hours of the morning! I will follow up with info. on how it was done in case some one else may be silly enough to start such a venture!

William Randell was a sixty two foot wooden side wheel paddle steamer built of two inch thick grey box timber on three inch by three eighths angle iron frames and four inch red gum floors. She has one and a quarter inch Kapur decking and is powered by a 1923 single cylinder Ruston Hornsby seven horsepower steam plant with a Tangye duplex steam feed pump as well as an auto positive injector and an inbuilt feed pump. The drive to the paddle wheels is by two inch pitch roller chain with 4.6 to 1 reduction.

P.S. William Randell was the result of a trip from Goolwa to Echuca and return in the P.S. Oscar W in 1991. Jock Veenstra was the skipper and took the opportunity to steam in as many tributaries as possible.

It is amazing how many schemes can be hatched up in the wheelhouse of an historical paddle steamer over a couple of months and 2000 miles at 7mph., especially when Jock is the skipper.

Well! one of those schemes was for me to build a paddle steamer in the traditional style. Imagine how the enthusiasm was heightened when we arrived in Echuca and observed such recently constructed paddle steamers as the James Maiden and saw the Alexander Arbuthnot being restored. Then the climax;- the seven horse power Ruston Hornsby engine and boiler was located at Todd Watson's machinery yard.

By the time we reached Barham on the return voyage to Goolwa, I just had to visit the local newsagent for paper and drawing equipment to start planning the P.S.William Randell.



By November we were able to collect the engine from Echuca, using Jocks truck and what a fine garden ornament it made, (my wife was expecting a small engine which could be concealed in the car port) until we were able to secure a certificated welder to make the necessary repairs, then an ultrasound was carried out (it was a boy!) before new tubes were fitted . Oh! We must not forget the manufacture of the Stephenson link so that we could run the boat astern. The timber for the hull was sourced from various places, the Grey Box coming from the sealing logs of the Goolwa Barrage lock.

Eventually the great day arrived and a commissioning was carried out by Mrs. Barbara Rymill, grand daughter of William Richard Randell, first steam navigator of the Murray Darling system (1853).

Since the commissioning in 1993 W.R has travelled thousands of river miles and had many adventures including a snagging and part sinking at Buxton's Bend, a broken paddle wheel at Wakool Junction and a broken crankshaft a few miles above lock eight. In relation to these traumas I would acknowledge the wonderful network and camaraderie of supportive people along our great river. I would also acknowledge the many blissful hours at the wheel of the William Randell and the many days, nights and peaceful mornings steaming along and enjoying the river.

Roly Bartlett (owner/builder/problem solver and survivor)



Friends of the Oscar W Casual Polo Shirt



We are pleased to advise that the all new Friends of the Oscar W polo shirt is now available for purchase. The shirt, from JB's, is 65% Polyester for durability and 35% Cotton for comfort, 210gsm pique knit fabric with reinforced collar and has a UPF 50+ rating.

The shirt is only available to current members of the Friends of the Oscar W. The shirt cost is \$35

Please ensure that you order the correct size using the table below as a guide

MALE	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
CHEST CM	97	102	108	112	116	124	130	142
FEMALE	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
BUST CM	87	92	97	102	107	111	117	121

ORDER FORM: Please complete the details below and return this form to the Riverboat Centre. Payment may be made either online (see below) or by cash/cheque at the Riverboat Centre. Cheques should be made out to "The Friends of the Oscar W". Delivery is expected within two weeks of order placement.

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