

NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Volume 38 - Number 1

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

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Please pass me on to a friend



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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

Online bookings can be made via our website www.psoscarw.com or visit Alexandrina website, or by phoning the Visitor Information Centre 1300 466 592

CRUISING FARES:

Adult(15 and up) \$30 Concession \$25

Child \$10 (5 - 15 years old, must be accompanied by an adult)

Family \$75 (2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN)

TWILIGHT CRUISING FARES: -

6.00 - 8.00pm February - March

5.00 - 7.00 pm April

3.30 - 5.30pm May

BYO DRINKS AND NIBBLES

Adult \$45 Concession \$40 Child \$20 (5 - 15 years old, must be accompanied by an adult)

Family \$115 (2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN)

LUNCHTIME CRUISES: Cruise with 2 course lunch at Pier 28 Clayton Bay

Depart 10.00am to return 3.30pm

Adult (13 and up) \$90 Child (4-12 years) \$45.00

CRUISING DATES

Saturday 1st February - Twilight Cruising/BYO	Saturday 5th April - Twilight Cruise/BYO
Sunday 2nd February - General Cruising	Sunday 6th April - General Cruising
Saturday 15th February - Lunch Cruise Clayton Bay	Sunday 20th April - General Cruising
Sunday 16th February - General Cruising	Friday 25th April - Twilight Cruising/BYO WBF 4.00-6.00pm
Saturday 1st March - Twilight Cruise/BYO	Saturday 26th April - General Cruising Wooden Boat Festival
Sunday 2nd March - General Cruising	Sunday 27th April - General Cruising Wooden Boat Festival
Saturday 15th March- Lunch Cruise Clayton Bay	Saturday 3rd May - Twilight Cruising/BYO
Sunday 16th March - General Cruising	Sunday 4th May - General Cruising
Saturday 22nd March - Friends Day Out	Saturday 17th May - Lunch Cruise Clayton Bay



NOTICE BOARD

FRIENDS DAY OUT

The next Friends Days out will be an on water event Saturday 22nd March leaving the Goolwa wharf at 10am The cost will be \$10 per person, restricted to financial Friends and partner only.

Ladies, please bring a small salad to share, meat and sweet will be provided, along with tea and coffee. Please BYO alcohol and glasses.

All names to Christina by 14th March.

As we will be restricted to 45, if you book and cannot make it let Christina know so that someone else can take your place.

The correct cash on the day would be appreciated.

ROLY'S QUIZ QUESTION

How many river boats can you name incorporating the name "QUEEN"? Which one was a famous Goolwa related "travelling Shop"? Hint The first vessel of this type is assumed to be the **Prince Alfred** and has a family connection to the answer!

PORTFOLIOS 2025

Roland Bartlett OAM	Patron		rolden@bigpond.com.au
George Kaiser	President	Special Projects, Council & VIC Liaison, Trips & charters, Crew rosters, BBQ, Public Officer	georgekaiser18@gmail.com
Peter Collins	Vice President	Safety Officer, AMSA & Survey contact. Slipping	dragonsafe@bigpond.com
Caroline Dickson	Secretary		psoscarw@gmail.com
Helen Gabriel	Treasurer	Finances	treasurer@psoscarw.com
Martin Frances	Committee	Website, museum	martin.waymark519@gmail.com
Ian Sutton	Committee	Wood procurement, woodyard management	iandcsutton@hotmail.com
Christina Somerville	Committee	Social events, FDO's, Facebook admin.	christinasomerville@yahoo.com.au
Janne Harris	Committee	Data entry, volunteers, RBC admin. Trips & charters, Rezdy	bookings@psoscarw.com
Nigel Robinson	Committee	Special projects, Council Liaison	nigelrobinson@bigpond.com
Peter Marshman	Committee	Special Projects, Constitution Advisor	lizpeter@bigpond.com
NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS			
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Christy Refchange		Membership list	christy.refchange@bigpond.com
Mark Commane		Training Officer. Inductions	commane@ozemal.com.au

VALE JIM DAVIS

Jim, a Goolwa resident and strong community supporter through Rotary, was also a Councillor on Alexandrina Council and in 2005 became Council's representative on the Friends of Oscar W committee. This meant that we were positively represented at council and Rotary meetings. His term of office was during the restoration of Oscar W to survey standards and Jim was there to advise particularly where expenditure was involved. He always took the approach when it came to the Dart Barge that it should be preserved, but always supported the project, particularly at the Maritime Museums Conferences in Darling Harbour and again in Hobart where Jim helped us set up a photographic display which, in turn resulted in a \$10,000 grant toward a new set of frames for the Dart Barge. Then recently, some may recall, despite his declining health, Jim spoke in support of the Friends of P S Oscar W as the Wharf Shed saga was being debated.

Remembered fondly.

Roly



ANGELA'S RECIPE

Yummm..... Brussels Sprouts

"not everyone's favourite, but we love them"

Ingredients (serves 4 to 6)

500 g Brussels Sprouts (cut in half)
4 slices Bacon Short Rindless (sliced)
3 tbsp. Olive Oil
3 Spring Onions (sliced)
200 g Swiss Brown Mushrooms (sliced)
1 small Red Capsicum (sliced)
1 small Yellow Capsicum (sliced)
Lemon Juice to taste
Salt & Pepper to taste



Method

Steam brussels sprouts until just tender.

In a large no stick pan sauté bacon for about one minute.

Add olive oil, spring onions, mushrooms, capsicum and sauté on medium heat for about ten minutes keep stirring with a wooden spoon.

In the same pan add and stir through brussels sprouts, lemon juice, salt and pepper.

Serve warm.

Enjoy



Angela Leaver



Enjoy

Here are “more adventures” in the restoration of the P. S. Oscar W, as promised in the last newsletter.

The year 2004 began with the Oscar W cruising to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Goolwa – Port Elliot Railway. This event was filmed, and Oscar transported the film crew and took part in a barge towing demonstration. P. S. Industry came down for the celebrations and P. S. William Randell joined in the fun as well over the three days in May.

But the celebration of P. S. Ruby recommissioning coinciding with the Junction rally required a voyage to Wentworth and the Skipper for the trip was Max Lindsay, with Engineer John Norris, and fireman Phil Reed. The trip was from 30th June to July 15th. This was a magnificent weekend incorporating steam and stationary engines on land, sail pasts on the river with steam and motor launches, as well as more than ten visiting paddle wheelers, topped off by music with instruments and singing in the evenings. But one of the main features was the recommissioning of P.S. Ruby after so many years as a land display, now to be back on the water again due to the enormous efforts of volunteers headed up by Captain Leon Wagner, whose efforts were highly praised. It is interesting to note that the Canally featured, as a barge yet to be restored to the paddle steamer which she now is.

Of course, between and even during trips, maintenance and smaller improvement tasks were being carried out by the amazing volunteers which Oscar W seems to have enjoyed over the years.

It was, however, vital that the restoration phases continued, hence by July 26th 2004 Oscar W was back on the slip at Mannum Boat Haven. This time she was slipped stern first so that the aft section could receive its planking, frames and Jarrah floors just as the forward section had done in Phase 2. Again Malcolm Somerville and myself journeyed to Mannum until the Oscar steamed back home again on September 21st, this time however, we took the P.S. William Randell and lived aboard for the duration. Again Adam Auditory, shipwright, and Charlie Gerchie, caulker, came back. Thankfully Geoff Braddock was available with ute and trailer to collect red gum planking and a new stern post from Deniliquin, he even made a new aft mooring bit (post) during one of his visits. A useful stream of other volunteers again attended for the many little jobs needing attention, particularly oakum rolling. On the 12th September we steamed the William Randell down to Murray Bridge to represent the friends of Oscar W at their festival. During slippings we were visited by Marine Surveyor, Bob Wright, who listened to what we had planned to overcome the various challenges we faced and was very helpful in advising us of ways to meet survey with a heritage vessel.

On the 2nd October P.S. Oscar W steamed from Mannum to Goolwa with Max Lindsay as Skipper and Jason and Mike Loney on the boiler. By this time the “friends” needed an outing, hence on 10th October, Captain E.J. Thorp skippered the Oscar on a friends Day Out with Bruce Martin and Jason Loney as engineers, followed by the Christmas Picnic on 5th December, with Trevor Bedford, skipper and engineer, Bruce.

2005

Jim Davis had become our Council representative on committee and indeed we were well supported in council other councillors including the Mayor Kym Mc Kugh who was always willing to meet with us to discuss concerns. There were always financial concerns to address as we continually explored possibilities. Funding came from donations via visitors to the boat, souvenir sales, businesses sponsorship, private individuals, various grants, interest and Council grants (annual financial report from Roy Fife, treasurer 2004/2005, reported \$55000 from council.)

WHAT CAN YOU CRAM INTO ONE YEAR?

Of course, in addition to organising the operations of the boat, planning ahead for the final phases of restoration were constantly in hand, budgets planned, funding sought, working bees and employed contactors engaged so that all ran smoothly. Now that the bottom of the hull, frames floors, keelson's,

planking was in excellent condition, our attention was focussing on the steel topsides, the remainder of the decks and final auxiliaries. The foredecks and covering for the forward hold had to be replaced with steel for survey, loadings were calculated., supports and deck beams designed, and Victor Steel did the work.

These were challenging motivating and exciting times, but planning and training for future operations of the boat were not neglected. On the 13th of February Captains Trevor Bedford and Errol Thorp, with Phil Reed engineer, took 32 “friends” on a training exercise. Fire training, life jacket procedure, man overboard procedure and some rope throwing practice thrown in. The weather was excellent and the enthusiasm high. We are so grateful to these experts for their help in this and other areas of operation. Indeed, from this time on E.J. has taken responsibility for crew training. He has become our main Captain, developing commentaries and procedures, so that the P.S. Oscar W is a very professional outfit.

Then in March Oscar W was required again for the Wooden Boat festival with Trevor Bedford as Skipper and Bruce Martin, Phil Reed and Jason Loney, engineers. In April, E.J. returned as skipper and Bruce as engineer for a council outing and Friends Day Out on the 10th.

At the 2005 AGM in May, Bruce Martin was re-elected as President, Jim Davis remained our Council Rep, Christina remained secretary and Anthony Presgrave took over the treasurer’s position from Roy Fife. During this year a comprehensive business plan was drawn up and a 100 year Celebration committee was busy planning for Oscar W’s 100th birthday at which we hoped to also celebrate her commissioning under survey. Council, through meetings with the Mayor, were receptive to our ideas. Also planning was “in the wings” was for an upriver trip in 2007 for Centenary celebrations of P.S. Ruby and Canally. Oh, and just to make life interesting, the Dart was slipped and repairs and painting accomplished to extent her life for a few more years.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF BUSINESS PLAN - A GOOD OUTCOME

Councillor Reedman wrote a response to our business plan which, on first reading, caused us dismay as it challenged a lot of our proposals for future operations of the vessel under survey and some of the estimates for costings which we had made. In discussion with Peter however, we soon found that his desire was to be helpful. The result was that, together, we prepared a submission to Council delivered at their January 2006 meeting, resulting in unanimous approval for financial support and administrative help to go ahead with the final phases of Oscar’s restoration. Forthcoming from this there was enormous help by Vanessa Harvey (Des Commerford’s assistant in council) in setting up a successful grant application through Regional Pathways.

A TUG OF WAR!

Oscar W always had a close relationship with Cadell Primary School and Oscar was their Mascot hence a trip to Cadell and return was accomplished between 26th September and 6th.October – complete with Tug of War between crew and students of course, and a stop off at Morgan during the return trip. Max Lindsay was Skipper and returned from 3rd to 6th November for a quick trip to Murray Bridge and return. E.J. was back with Bruce as engineer for the friends Christmas Picnic on December 11th and again on 16th when Father Christmas was there as well.

NEW MEMBER –WITH POTENTIAL!

At the end of 2005 a visitor to Goolwa was relaxing near the wharf with his wife when they noticed smoke issuing from the funnel of the P. S. Oscar W and, having an interest in steam and skills in that area, a visit to the source of the smoke was made. An engineer (Bruce) was getting up steam and showed the keen visitor around, discovering his name to be David Finnie and his wife Lorraine. An invitation to a Wednesday working bee was offered. At that working bee Dave was offered the job of splicing in extensions to the wooden cable supports over the stairs so that new stairs could be made wider for survey. By the next working bee this task was completed. Well, Dave never looked back, he joined the “friends” and was successfully nominated to the committee in 2006. Dave introduced us to Symon Huntington from Huntington Engineering, Mt. Compass and we soon had Huntington Engineering working

with Victor Steel on the welding and fabricating for the steel topsides, bulkheads and decks during the slipping in 2006. Dave quickly became involved in all avenues of the Oscar and joined with Peter Gubbins, Mike Loney and myself to study the bilge pumping facilities on P. S. Marion and joined us as we worked with Victor Steel on the cladding of the forward hold and re-welding of the stoke hold bulkhead and installation of the new bulkhead door. As holder of a steam qualification Dave became one of our engineers.

MAINTENANCE AS WELL AS RESTORATION

The maintenance report for 2005 thanked volunteers for 700 hours of labour at working bees and on the slip and noted that in addition to the Oscar expenditure, \$6000 had been spent from "Friends" funds on the Dart. The Dart was used as a travelling display centre for the 1956 flood celebrations. The photographic exhibition was enclosed in the imitation load of piles on the Dart. Meanwhile preparation of replacement cladding for the head and upper cabins was afoot. Tony Brooks took a large part in this, as did Malcolm Somerville. Bruce took a trip to Ballarat to collect the new funnel made for us by Ray Schenk and his TAFE students. In June we had a visit from Jim Emmet who helped us with the re-submission of our Regional Partnerships Grant Application which was ultimately successful and finalised our funding for the remainder of the Restoration to survey standard.

Wow! More excitement in the next newsletter- Survey just around the corner!



Oscar W showing deteriorated floors and keelsons before restoration



Oscar W after restoration showing floors all made by Malcolm.



2003 showing restored stem frames and floors



2004 Oscar W Slipped stern first at Mannum for restoration of stern timbers & frames

Call To Members



As most of you will be aware, significant developments over the past year have resulted in a major change to the relationship between Friends of the Oscar W Incorporated (FOW) and the Alexandrina Council.

Whilst the Council continues to retain ownership of the “*Oscar W*”, all activities relating to the vessel’s operations and maintenance are now the sole responsibility of FOW.

One direct result of these changes is that the current FOW Constitution, which has served the organization well for many years, is now in need of a complete overhaul to both reflect these new arrangements and to ensure that all aspects of the new FOW responsibilities are appropriately described and documented.

FOW Committee member Peter Marshman has accepted the responsibility for completing this task. Before he begins to draft the new Constitution, he is keen to seek input from members wishing to contribute ideas or suggestions as to content.

Similarly, FOW has now accepted the role of independently managing all associated functions such as ticketing, marketing, sponsorship, merchandising and the development and management of the new museum facilities in the refurbished Goolwa Wharf shed. The operation and management of the woodyard is also now completely in the hands of FOW.

Formal Lease Agreements between the Council and FOW provide the legal and functional basis for these new arrangements. They also provide that FOW volunteers now work directly under the control of the FOW Committee rather than as ‘Council volunteers’ as has been the case in the past.

Please refer to “Where’s Your Skillset” article in this newsletter to consider where you can best help The Friends of the Oscar W achieve their goals.

And then, contact Peter Marshman directly at lizpeter@bigpond.com to initiate any discussion where you think you might be interested in assisting The Friends of the Oscar W move forward.

Where's Your Skillset?



The Friends of the Oscar W is calling on all members to actively participate in assisting us to achieve our constitutional goals. We know that there are many knowledgeable and experienced members supporting the PS Oscar W, and with all the changes taking place, it is important to have knowledgeable members guiding us in the best direction.

Becoming a member of a sub-committee will be both useful and rewarding, and enormously helpful in guiding the Oscar W into the future long-term.

Are you already an expert in any of these areas? Are you keen to get involved and help guide us in the best direction to keep the PS Oscar W on the water long-term?

These are likely to include:

- Recruitment and Induction
- Training
- Volunteer Management
- Sponsorship
- Marketing
- Riverboat Centre
- Governance and Legal
- Vessel Operations
- Vessel Maintenance
- Wood yard management

If you have some knowledge and/or experience in any of these areas, your input would be greatly welcomed.

Please feel free to contact Peter Marshman directly at lizpeter@bigpond.com if you have any questions or suggestions in respect of the proposed Constitutional changes or to indicate your willingness to be involved in any of the proposed Sub-Committees.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Committee

I am pleased to advise our members that all Committee positions are now occupied. Thank you to Peter Collins (Vice President), Helen Gabriel for taking on the Treasurers role and Martin Francis for Museum refit. All three nominations came at our December meeting. Congratulation to the others that were elected at our Annual General Meeting, Caroline Dickson (Secretary) Peter Marshman (Special Projects) and Janne Harris (Riverboat Centre) I look forward to working with you all for the next 12 months.

Mooring of Oscar W

Oscar W is again moored alongside the Goolwa Wharf Shed since the middle of December. Oscar W is moored in the safest and most practical position given that the wharf is a solid steel construction. Additional spring poles may be added as per the original plan.

Trips and Charters

Captain Dennis Borchardt has resigned from volunteering for Oscar W. Dennis, I thank you for your service over the past 15 years and wish you well in the future.

On a better note, we welcome back Captain Mick Edgar, Captain Kevin Cross and Captain Allan Boman. I am hoping these Captains will take some of the workload off Captain EJ Thorp.

During the months of December and January Cruising has been on the first and third weekends, we are still restricted by the availability of qualified crew members. If any of our new members are Master 4 Captains, Engineer (Marine Engine Drivers plus steam) or Coxswain qualifications, please let me know.

Slipping of Oscar W

During the month of November 2024 Oscar W was on the Slip, on Hindmarsh Island and during that 4-week period there was a major repair carried out on the port side sponson deck by Huntington Engineering. Unfortunately, Simon Huntington was also repairing the boiler on the Marion at the same time. His employee and one of our volunteers, Hayden Van Der Lee did most of the repairs to the hull. Thank you, Hayden. Before and after Hayden did his repair, The sponson deck had to be removed and later replaced in readiness for cruising. This task was carried out by John Carver with the assistance of his grandson (also John Carver). A big thank you to John, John and Peter Collins for the new sponson deck. There are many others who should be thanked for their time. I'm hoping there will be a report showing the amount of time our volunteers spent while Oscar W was on the slip.

Thank you all.

George Kaiser



FROM THE SECRETARY

Welcome to the new year and welcome to all the changes taking place. So much paperwork to attend to now that the Friends have taken over responsibility for the Oscar W. What a delight to see her parked at the new wharf precinct, looking as awesome as ever! I say she, because she's a water vessel, although ironically has a boy's name. Never mind, hopefully her namesake won't be too upset that we refer to our Oscar W as a 'she'.

Oscar W has just returned from her visit to the slip on Hindmarsh Island, looking refreshed and very, very seaworthy. The boys from Jordy Burgar Marine, Simon Huntington and the Slipway did a fabulous job on all the extra repairs that needed doing. Special thanks to John Carver who was there almost every day, helping with the tradesmen, to ensure the work kept steaming ahead!! There were, as always, many other volunteers who worked on the boat on various occasions during her time on the slip and all need to be recognised and thanked for their input. It's a huge job and could not be completed without all these willing workers.

We have transferred most of our vehicles over to The Friends of the Oscar W, with extremely patient support and guidance from Services SA at Seaford, in conjunction with ASIC and DPTI. Who knew so many people needed to be involved. And yes, government departments can be great!

We've got a few new faces on the committee, mine included (although if you look closely, you'll see it is actually an old face !!), as well as all the most important and continually reliable, stalwarts. As the articles in this newsletter allude to, we need plenty more, so take a moment to consider how awesome you are too and get involved!

Caroline Dickson

VIEW FROM THE GALLEY WINDOW

Well, it looks as though summer has arrived, warm weather and visitors everywhere.

What a wonderful celebration we all had on Saturday 30th November. Eighty one friends enjoyed a fun filled afternoon/evening at the Alexandrina Cove Retirement Village Hall. We started with the well-attended AGM, followed by a draft video clip of Theme 5 "Shipbuilding", which will be part of the exhibition in the River Boat Centre. Then followed by the Christmas party with a delicious array of meats, salads and sweets and the arrival of Father Christmas surrounded by those shy Wood Fairies' rounding the evening off.

On the 10th December, great excitement, after slipping back into the River, the Oscar returned to her new mooring on the Goolwa Wharf. Lots of cleaning up was carried out in readiness for our cruising season to commence again.

On Friday 17th January the Oscar steamed over to Narrung. On the way a fire drill and man overboard drill was conducted, essential crew training. Saturday morning we steamed over to Milang Jetty to take part in the Yesterdays Power and Machinery Rally. The Oscar had a very busy weekend cruising from the Milang Jetty, catching up with old and new friends, in all a total of 14 volunteers took part in the weekend, selling tickets, crewing, and support. The weather was a tad warm, and we had to cancel the last cruise on Sunday due to the build-up of heat. Oscar returned to Goolwa Wharf midday Monday in readiness for another busy Australia Day long weekend.

Our next Friends Day Out is on Saturday 22nd March, leaving the Goolwa Wharf at 10.00am. The cost will be \$10 per person, restricted to financial Friends and partner only. We ask that ladies bring a small salad to share, meat and sweet will be provided, along with tea and coffee. Please BYO alcohol and glasses. All names to Christina by 14th March. As numbers will be restricted to 45, if you book and cannot make it let Christina know so that someone else can take your place. The correct cash on the day would be appreciated.

That's it for now, stay safe and keep cool.

Follow us on Facebook - PS OSCAR "W" Friends Incorporated

Christina
Social Co-Ordinator.



Goolwa Riverport Heritage Centre

.Since before Christmas progress has been full steam ahead at the Wharf. Oscar has returned much to the delight of the Committee and volunteers.

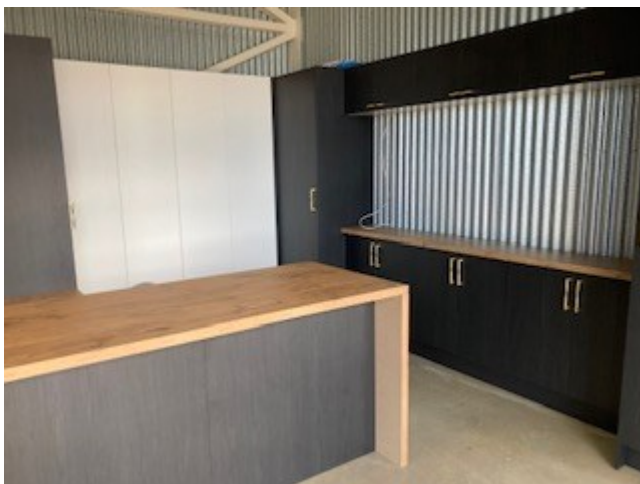
We now have a semblance of an office which looks very stylish with lovely woodgrain benchtops and cupboards highlighted with darker brown laminate. The workroom/kitchen is also progressing with cupboards and sinks installed. The museum fit out should commence very shortly.

I recently held a casual get together with all the members who indicated an interest in volunteering, either resuming or starting anew. A shirt fitting also took place for our uniforms. A decision was recently made by the Committee to rename what was The Riverboat Centre. We will now go by the name Goolwa Riverport Heritage Centre. This name captures the much wider story we have developed for the exhibition with the aim of engaging a much wider audience of locals and visitors.

Our new booking system is up and running making the on-line cruise bookings very streamlined. We will still take bookings on the wharf on cruising days for walk-ups to ensure we fill the boat with happy passengers. We had a hot and busy time cruising at Milang in January, soon to be followed by the Wooden Boat Festival in April.

We are committed to being opened for this popular event, please pop down and check out our new Riverport Centre, better still, bring some friends along and book a cruise!

Several new Committee members have recently started, taking some of the pressure off existing members. We are still short of someone to fill the Marketing portfolio. If you have any experience or know somebody who might be interested in coming on board to assist us, please let one of the Committee know.



Janne Harris

ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE RE- PORT

PS Oscar W Slipping

The Oscar W was successfully moved from Hectors Jetty to the slip at Hindmarsh Island on the 5th November without incident and after the Volunteers unloaded the ballast and wood off the Oscar and emptied the tanks the Oscar W was pulled up onto the slip.

The Surveyor has inspected the Oscar W and was happy with the work and the continuing maintenance efforts of the Volunteers. He reviewed the maintenance records and the Vessel Management Plan.

For the next 4 weeks Jordy Burgar and his team worked on the planking and major tasks, Simon Huntington's team tackled the replacement of rusty steelwork.



The initial planning suggested 3 planks would need to be replaced however following the cleaning of the hull it has been determined that 8 planks would need to be replaced. The shipwrights have steamed, bent and fitted planks to both port and starboard and starboard side and stern.

A large number of steel supports under the Port Side Aft Deck required replacement and sections of the hull had to be re-plated. FOW Volunteers removed the sponson timbers and Simon Huntington's crew removed the support brackets and welded new brackets. The new sponson timbers were painted by FOW Volunteers prior to installation with a final topcoat applied after installation. The Port Side Aft Bollard was also identified as deteriorating and the base plate replaced and welded onto the deck.



John Carter needs special mention for leading the process of replacing the timbers and in extreme temperatures and with increasing time pressures.

There were a few other tasks completed including cleaning up the paddle wheels removing rust and painted, and 3 new paddle blades were fitted.



The flooring in the Galley has been renewed with floating flooring and new tiles to replace the loose and broken existing floor. The floor in the wheelhouse has been repaired to fix a hole in the floor at the port side door.

The work boat has had a number of repairs and improvements made and repainted while the Oscar was on the slip ready for the return trip to the Wharf.

Oscar W was moved off the slip on Friday 5th December and returned to the Wharf on Tuesday 9th December.

This slipping was managed by Jordy Bugar, and it should be reported that this was a great success, the replacement of the planks was carried out without any assistance from the FOW Volunteers.

The PS Marion was on the slip before the Oscar which delayed the Oscar slipping into the warmer months and in fact one day volunteers were working in 38 degree temperatures which not only a health risk risks but drying out the timbers of the Oscar and potentially increasing the time required to pump out the bilges.

The next Slipping is scheduled for September 2026 with the following items to be included in the schedule:

- Sponson Timbers on Port Side at the Stern.
- Sponson Timbers on the starboard side stern to be replaced
- The Paddle rings will need to be replaced,

There were no injuries reported during the slipping activities and all volunteers signed in and out when on duty.

Volunteer Hours recorded during the slipping schedule totalled 622 hours which if you estimated an hourly rate of \$45 per hour is the equivalent of \$27,990 of labour cost.

Peter Collins

Vice President FOW

QUIZ ANSWER

Charles Oliver and Edward Walker started trading on the rivers using the Goolwa built Prince Alfred (1867) and visited many settlers and isolated workers at homes and camps along the rivers. This must have been a very welcome event in the lives of these settlers, to have not only visitors but traders who could supply merchandise otherwise available only by uncomfortable primitive travel if at all.

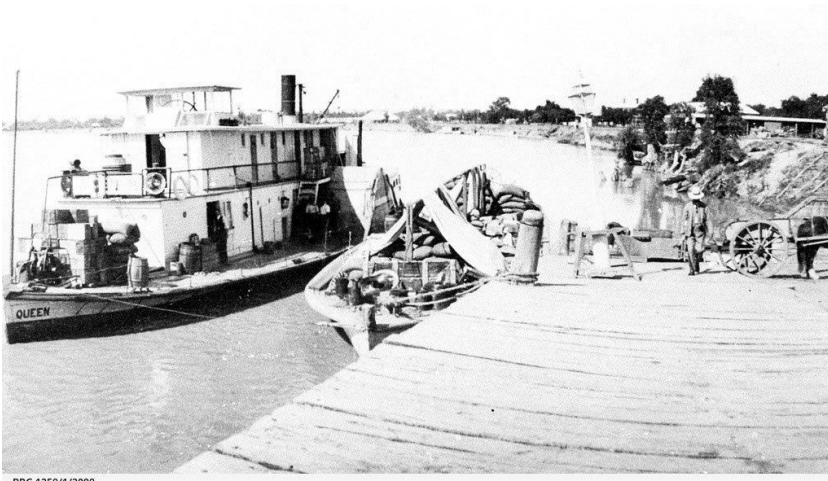
By 1873 the Prince Alfred had changed hands, but the Oliver family continued to be involved in the "travelling shop" trade for over 60 years. Charles senior, Charles junior and Oscar Oliver, all being involved from time to time. They traded particularly with steamer Queen, which was in the partnership of Charles Oliver and William Gunn in 1868 and later in 1875 under ownership of Charles Oliver and sons alone. One notable exception to her shop trade was a brief moment of fame when she took the S.A. Governor (1867) Sir Dominick Daly, on a familiarisation tour of the lakes and river.

The Queen started life in 1865 at 81 feet in length and with a stern wheel arrangement, but in 1872 was hauled up on Hooker & Curson's patent slip to remove the stern wheel and fit side paddle wheels. As part of the modifications, 25 feet was added to the stern during the reshaping using the usual angle iron and 3 inch planking construction. The new paddle wheels and fittings were all made and set by the Goolwa Iron works and the Richards 16 HP engine from the P.S. Providence was installed, hence the skilled Goolwa tradesmen and engineers were well represented. Indeed, the Patent Slip was in great demand, so much so that, during the operations on the Queen, she had to be transferred onto blocks at the side of the slipway so that the P.S. Albury could be slipped for overhaul, and all of the motive steam power for this slipping utilised the little beam engine which will be a major exhibit in our new River Boat Centre!

Most pictures of the vessel show the P.S. Queen with the Barge Bourke which the Olivers owned, but other barges were used from time to time.

PS. Even a travelling Dentist was available at times .

P.S Queen and Bourke barge with merchandise at Renmark courtesy State Library S.A.



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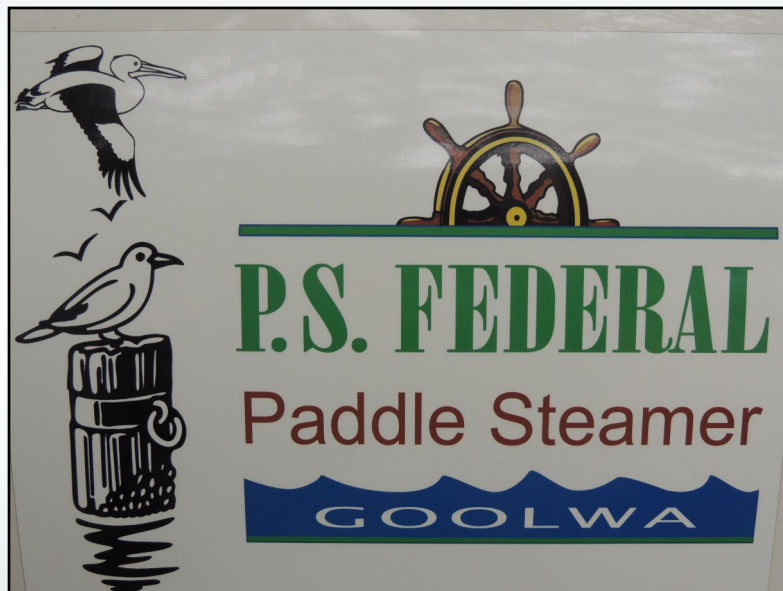
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