



## TACOMA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

[www.tacoma.org.au](http://www.tacoma.org.au)

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August 2016 Newsletter # 5

### REPORT FROM THE CROWS NEST / WARDROOM



While winter finds Tacoma snug at her berth at Sandy Point Drive, her new address remains uncertain. Pontoons and politics stretch Ross, Fred and Ian's patience, but they remain determined to find a secure berth for Tacoma.

Nevertheless, life goes on and the crew strive to keep Tacoma shipshape.

### MAINTENANCE PROJECT: A labour of love



Anna Vanderhart and Kate Eglinton happily painted the galley ceiling. Results were fantastic and their next project will be the bunkhouse ceiling. Thank you ladies.

## **CURRENT RESTORATION PROJECT: Surfboat**

The Surfboat has been taken to Busseys for repairs to cracked ribs.

To keep costs down, Braden, Daryl, Fred, Mark and Ross are doing the preparation work for Chris Tuck, the master craftsman. Timber and fasteners have been ordered. This will be a lengthy project, as 37 ribs will be needed to be replaced.

### **Surfboat History:**

In 1944 whilst waiting for MFV Tacoma's plans to arrive from America, the Haldane brothers, William 31, Alan 27 and Hugh 25 decided to build a surfboat for use in seine netting salmon from surf beaches.

Plans used were adapted from a Sydney surf boat which was originally developed from fishing boats that enabled three to four men to set a net in moderate surf conditions.



*Photo above: Surfboat under construction at Port Fairy in 1944*

The Surfboat is 22 feet long and carvel built. The hull is planked with Oregon and the frames are stringy bark.

The surf boat has been in the ownership of the Haldane family except for a brief period when the boat was given to the local sea Cadet group.

A complete documentation of the Surfboat including the vessel management plan (VMP) can be found on our website: [www.tacoma.org.au](http://www.tacoma.org.au), under the heading 'NEWS'. This section is very interesting with many facts, figures and old photos.

*Photo below: Surf boat in Busseys shed.*



*Photo above: Surfboat being used in Boston Bay by YTAP on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015.*





*Photos above and left: Ross removing paint from the hull in preparation to repair cracked ribs. It sounds easy, but is actually very time consuming.*

## **ARCHIVE UPDATE:**

### **Alrita 1 & 2: Two of the Jangaard boats.**

In response to the Jangaard website contact, we heard from Dan Brown in Ballard, Norway. If you would enjoy the full transcript of the emails between Dan and Ross, please contact me on [medley0246@gmail.com](mailto:medley0246@gmail.com).

**June 18<sup>th</sup> Email:** [Daniel.T.Brown@gmail.com](mailto:Daniel.T.Brown@gmail.com)

*The Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard had some unknown and very dusty electronic equipment sitting on a cart in the boiler room. My son and I have been cleaning and identifying the equipment for the Museum. One item is a Second World War (manufactured 1944) US Navy aircraft LORAN navigation receiver and display unit.*

*When we cleaned the receiver, we found a tag from the M/V Alrita dated 1967. We are trying to identify the boat and find out how a US Navy aircraft LORAN instrument would have wound up in a fishing boat. I should mention that these particular LORAN units were used primarily in the Pacific, so presumably they would have been available on the West Coast as war surplus items.*

*A different Alrita was built in Sitka Alaska in 1947 and used by a Canadian cannery for decades.*

**And then June 21<sup>st</sup>, we hear from Dan again:**

*Ref: 'Merchant Vessels of the United States':*

*The 1940 Alrita (registration 239254) built in Tacoma, Washington and owned by Sverre Jangaard, was - as you mentioned - taken over by the US Government during the Second World War.*

*The 1952 edition states that during the year, the Alrita was transferred to the US Government. I do not know what happened to it after that. The 1945 Alrita (registration 248401) built in Seattle, Washington and owned by Lars Jangaard, continues to appear until at least 1965 (the last year that I checked).*

*Ref: Nordic Heritage Museum:*

*[http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=5759](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=5759)*

*Notice the mention of the Alrita, describing the LORAN unit and the radio direction finder. The LORAN unit found in the boiler room of the Nordic Heritage Museum has a tag marked 'Alrita' and the date '1967'.*

*The unit corresponds to Arnold Reinholdsten's description that it is a Second World War (1944 manufacturing date) US Navy aircraft navigation unit designed to receive LORAN signals from two transmitters at a time, rather than the three of the later LORAN systems. In addition, we have an Intervox direction finder (antenna only, not receiver) with the name 'Alrita' in pencil on the bottom.-- Dan*

## **A TRAVELLER'S TALE:**

As part of her Rotary exchange to the USA, Claire Webber took the opportunity to visit Tacoma, Washington USA and delve into history. (*Claire is a Researcher and Liaison Officer at the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association*) This is her story:

### **City of Tacoma – Our Creative Origins**

After a restful night in a motel in downtown Seattle off the back of a 32 day whirlwind Rotary tour of Washington State and British Columbia, Clare Petrich collected me for 24 hours of adventure around Tacoma.

The traffic was bad and the two Clares in a bright green mini buzzed out of the city south bound, getting tooted at by stern-faced city folk oblivious to their bad moods. We were very excited to finally meet! There was a lot of getting to know each other to be done and the slow 2 hour drive into Tacoma was a perfect opportunity for that!

I updated her on Port Lincoln and the boat, speaking of the revered ladies' poling trips and the professional Jangaard Exhibition. As we crossed the cable-stayed East 21<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge over the Foss Waterway and past the Glass Museum, Clare told me an interesting story. She pointed out the place her Father and Uncle's slipway used to be.

I asked if her family had ever told her much about the boat in Australia and she said "*Not until I was older. That boat was never spoken of much as it caused a disagreement between my dad and his brothers*". "Ooooh tell me more" I asked, intrigued.

She continued, "*When the letter requesting plans to build a boat in Australia arrived, one of my uncles opposed selling the plans, thinking the company would lose intellectual property. So after some debate, my father sent the plans free of charge to the Haldanes behind their backs!*".

We then met up with her cousin, Alan Petrich and friend Tarin at a seafood restaurant called Anthony's at Point Defiance.

June is the perfect time of year to eat wild caught salmon, as the fish are caught in the mouths of rivers nice and fat, ready to make their spawning migration upstream.



*Photos from top left: Clare and Claire at the cottage on Vashon Island; Downtown Tacoma; Attending the sheepdog classic talking to a wool spinner; Bridge over the Foss Waterway.*

After dinner we walked along the pier and Alan told us stories about Western Boats. Alan explained that when the 90ft vessel *Western Explorer* departed Tacoma in 1938 for the East Coast to teach them the modern way of fishing for tuna, 25,000 people came to see the vessel away.

It was 1938 during the depression, and the town came to Point Defiance in joy and hope that many orders from the east coast for boats would follow, leading to jobs and prosperity in the region.

Clare and Alan's Grandfather Martin Petrich (58 at the time) and Skipper Great Uncle Herbie were both on board. This voyage on board *Western Explorer* was the first in America to have ship-to-shore radio communication, which was marveled at by sailors and land-lovers alike as it passed through the Panama Canal.

There was even a media representative from CBS National Network on board to record the historical journey. He ended up getting off in Florida because of seasickness.





*Photo left: Alan Petrich taking about the Western Explorer, which is pictured on a display board at Point Defiance.*

The next morning we were up early. Clare had a Ports meeting and I went with Tarin from the Harbors Pollution Patrol to the Thea Foss Waterway to capture commemorative drone footage for the 10 year anniversary of cleaning up the inlet. This was once the most polluted waterway in America.



*Photo above: Stadium High School, overlooking the Thea Foss Waterway. The massive building fascinated me. It overlooked the waterway and I was told it was Tacoma's public school, Stadium High School. It was huge and looked like Hogwarts! I squealed to learn it was the set of the romantic comedy film 10 Things I Hate About You, starring our own late Heath Ledger!*

Clare and I caught the ferry to Vashon Island, where she has an adorable cottage on Puget Sound. Thanks to Ross, the cottage is adorned with an MFV Tacoma life ring, which I must admit after so long abroad gave me a pang of homesickness.

In the car we continued to the middle of the island where they were holding the Vashon Island Sheep Classic. It was an unusual event and great fun. Rain threatened and I had a plane to catch in Seattle, so after a Mexican bite we continued to the northern tip of the island.

At the sheep classic I purchased a funny dog whistle that kept us entertained while we waited for the ferry. However Clare probably had to clean all my spit off the inside of her car afterwards (Yuck!).

I recommend catching up with Clare if you are ever in the Tacoma area. She is a hilarious, bubbly, generous and knowledgeable person. I loved every minute spent in her company.

\*For more information on Thea Foss Waterway visit:

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/surface\\_water/restoration\\_and\\_monitoring/thea\\_foss\\_waterway\\_cleanup](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/surface_water/restoration_and_monitoring/thea_foss_waterway_cleanup)

All future newsletter contributions will be gratefully received. Please email them to me on **medley0246@gmail.com** if you have an article to offer. I encourage you to have a look at the TPS website **[www.tacoma.org.au](http://www.tacoma.org.au)** (*Editor: Chris Houweling*)



By now members should have received a notice of membership renewal through the post. In case you have not received the renewal form or if it has been misplaced, another is included here for your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your subscription. This helps us keep the Tacoma afloat.

People who became members after January 1st 2016 will remain current until June 30th 2017.

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## Annual Renewal Invoice for 2016/17 (Due 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016)

Name:.....

Email:.....

Address:.....

City State:.....

ABN: 93 846 869 105

Full Membership - \$100 (Seniors individual & couples \$50)

Junior Membership - \$20

Family \$150 for 2 adults and up to 4 children

Donation (amount over \$2.00 are tax deductible)

I enclose Cheque / Money Order for \$.....

### For Online Transfer:-

Bank details: Tacoma Preservation Society Bank SA

BSB: 105 036

Account number: 101049340

\*\* Please use your name as reference number:

Date of transfer \_\_\_\_\_ (renewal not confirmed until deposit received)

Signature:.....

### Online Transfer:

Amount paid:.....

Signature of member:.....

Date: .....

Please mail your form to:  
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