

Tacoma Preservation Society



July 2021 - Newsletter 19

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Dear Reader,

Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter, we hope that we make up for it with plenty of news and stories! If you have any submissions for future editions, we'd love to see them.

We hope that you are keeping well, and look forward to hearing from you and perhaps seeing you aboard soon. Enjoy!!

A VIEW FROM THE STERN

We were on our way back from this year's tuna fishing at Rocky island with a big south-west swell. As it rolled onwards and Tacoma slide down the swell just fitting in to the enormity of the Southern Ocean, and the Grenna chugged on taking our crew towards Cape Catastrophe. and safety. There I sat looking forward watching the hull respond to every wave, watching the bow wave serge out into the blue, and I thought "my dad built this boat". ... It was one of those moments that seemed to capture all of the last 70 years on the ocean. And how lucky I was to experience one man's achievements. The generation that was challenged with a depression, confronted with the brutality of a war were a special generation. I hope that we can all look back and appreciate those that went before us. - *Ross Haldane*

What's on in the Tacoma world:

- Annual General Meeting - TBA
- Port Fairy trip December 2021—January 2022
- Ladies Poling trips 4th & 11th February 2022
- Men's Poling trip 18th February 2022

For more information on any of these events please contact us on the details above.

Don't forget to
find us on
Facebook!!

'Tacoma
Preservation
Society'

TUNA FISHING TRIPS

Some call it La Nina, some call it a mild summer, or good living weather on Tacoma at Rocky Island ... we call it “a bit rough”! Yes, our three trips (two girl’s trips and one boy’s) presented us with some challenges; but also some great experiences!

The swells this year were the biggest we have fished in, but also the grandest when looking up and seeing the mast of a near by boat. Or when watching our tuna spotter fly past after putting us on to a shoal of not so hungry tuna. Seeing the grandeur of the ocean and the islands; and the birds, from the majestic Albatross to the delectate Mother Carey’s Chickens, is one of life’s great joys.

The three trips caught six fish between them: three fish for the boys and three fish for the girls. The girls were the only successful “polers” with Leonie, & her daughter-in-law Caitlin, poling a beauty. The boys caught the biggest fish at 20kg (total weight 30 kg); but, the girls caught the most ‘weight’ at 33 kg. The super crew looking to catch 1 ton managed 6 fish over 2 days with a total weight of 38 kg!

And the reason for this result? Let’s blame La Nina and the colder than usual water! From that the water has been cold and the report has been that our upwellings are working strong so there is lots of food for bait fish and lots of food for the tuna, hence they are not hungry. The commercial fleet have had similar disappointing results with their season doubling in length in order to harvest some 5000t. While the amateurs have been having a great time with the participants in the 2021 Tuna Classic catching some 380 fish with 24 boats over two days, making an a hourly catch rate of 0.88 fish per hour trolling. While Tacoma’s catch rate three days later, in the same location was 0.87 fish per hour. You can learn a lot from statistics!

So, happy days to all the crew ... lots of story to tell and hopefully everyone will be back next year! Proposed dates for next years trips are: Ladies’ departing on 4th & 11th February and Men’s departing 18th February 2022.





A lot of fun was to be had on the second ladies polling trip, which departed for Memory Cove on Friday 12 February, 2021.

The adventure voyage was once again fully booked, with 12 ladies on board, in addition to 4 crew. Whilst meandering down the passage the ladies had a trial run putting on the gear they would wear whilst hauling in the 1.2t quota, most likely in pairs for fish in the target range of 15-20kg.

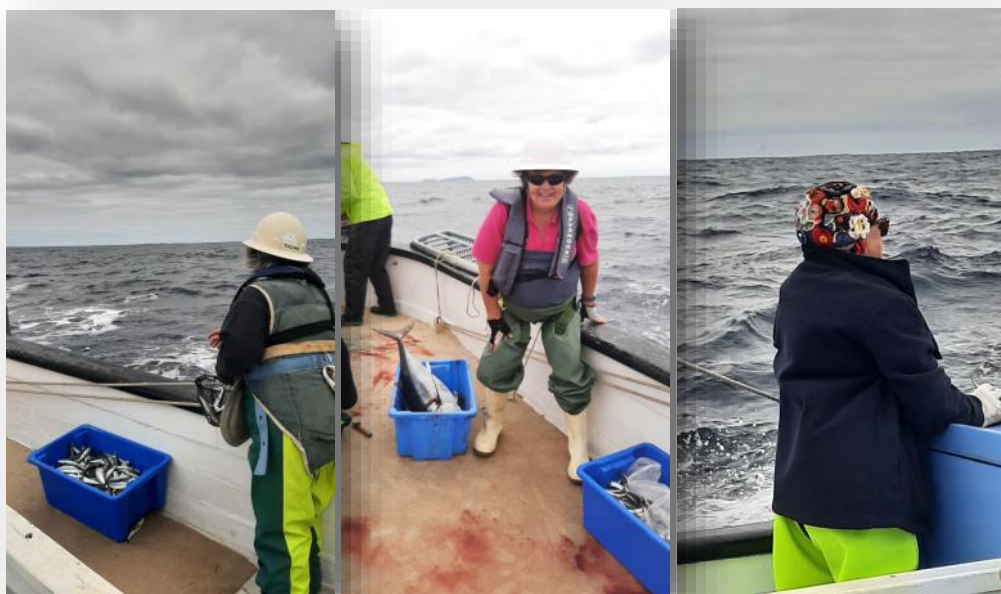
Polling outfits are particularly cumbersome to put on, and practice is required. Once in your gear for the excitement of catching, it is not advised to remove it, as you may be required to jump in the racks at any moment. Polling practice was also mandatory on the steam, with exercises polling Tina Tuna II completed by everyone that wanted to get in the racks.



The plan was to steam for Rocky Island in the wee hours of Saturday morning while peaceful sleep cradled the crew, however the weather was unkind so Tacoma ran for shelter at Avoid Bay for breakfast. Many onboard were suffering the effects of mal-de-mer. Avoid Bay lived up to its name and after rolling through the morning, Tacoma steamed for Greenly Island, which provided a picturesque and calm anchorage. After an evening of recovery and wonderful cooking from Jack everyone retired in anticipation of the tuna.

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Continued..... The steam over to Rocky Island was short, with respects paid to Jacks twin brother Keith lost at sea in 1959, along the way. Upon arrival at Rocky and the first strike the excitement began. A few hours were spent bent over in the racks, with only one fish landed by pole, plus several near misses. Carin after failing to haul in a big one resumed her seasick pose. Several strikes hit the squids, but no other fish were landed. Well done Leonie and Caitlin! A highlight was Graeme Tapley and PJ's visit in a spotter plane - it absolutely added to the uniqueness of the experience! We left Rocky Island at 2:30PM on Sunday for Port Lincoln. The steam was seven hours to calm water. Everyone was happy once we finally crossed Sleaford Bay and made Cape Catastrophe! And that is fishing. ... Flinders had a quirky, though descriptive, way of naming places: Cape Catastrophe, Avoid Bay, Anxious Bay, Thorny Passage, Dangerous Reef, Reef Head, etc.



TUNA EATING OUT

This year 1802 Oyster Bar in Coffin Bay will add Tacoma tuna ribs to its menu. The order is for 150 ribs, or 300 dishes. It's proved popular in trials though not everyone is excited about having a fish carcass on their plate ... typical! But there is a woow factor and rather than discard the frames, why not get the most from the fish.

Next there's the heart, livers, gills, cheeks. ...In the past the Japanese canned the hearts and livers. The Smokehouse product is also wowing the taste buds and it's a great complement to any platter.



Unloading tuna at 1802, Coffin Bay



RIVIERA

Tacoma was once again the lead vessel for the Riviera Port Lincoln Tuna Classic. Early morning calm was broken by our horn blasting to send off the 24 entrants in the 2021 Riviera Tuna Classic. Some 380 fish were caught and released over the two days. Tacoma provided fuel at Memory Cove and hosted the event's now famous, meatballs and spaghetti to the hungry, weary fishers; as well as acting as an overnight dorm for the crew from the smaller vessels.

<https://www.facebook.com/RivieraPortLincolnTunaClassic/videos/112710861447414>



Tacoma again acted as the support vessel for The 2021 R Marine SA Port Lincoln Experience. What a fantastic few days for vessel owners in South Australia, bringing the boating community together in one of the most amazing boating locations in SA! Guests were treated to an Italian cooking master class aboard Tacoma with none other than celebrity chef Adam Swanson! Port Lincoln is known as the seafood capital of the world and Adam's smorgasbord consisted of some of the freshest and tastiest seafood on offer across Eyre Peninsula.

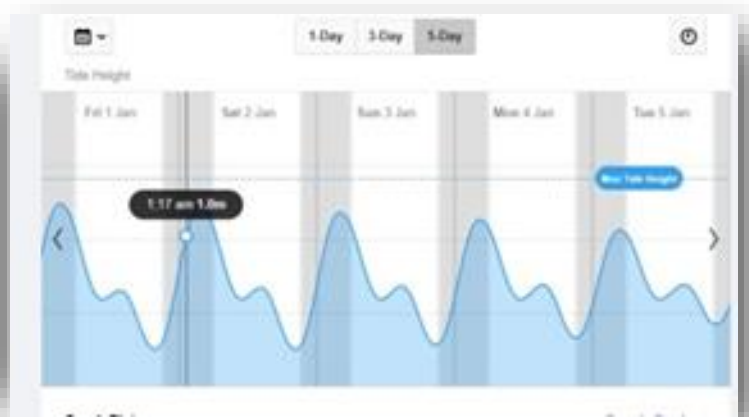


TACOMA PORT FAIRY VISIT

Port Fairy or bust - Update!

At our January committee meeting the Port Fairy project got the go ahead. Yes, there are some challenges but nothing that can't be overcome.

Looks like the most likely plan is to leave Port Lincoln after Christmas lunch, just in time to test the Sydney to Hobart weather forecast! Arriving in Portland 45 hours later or any time after depending on weather. The Tacoma originally departed Port Fairy on 6th January 1952 so we'll plan to stay in Port Fairy until that date. ... Or around that date, depending on weather. Having checked out the tide charts we've found that we will have to enter Port Fairy at 2.00am to get sufficient water depth. We already have some interest in being part of this adventure! There will be the delivery trip, plus the trip home; so if you're interested in coming along, get in touch! Once in a life time trip!!



TACOMA CREW

Blueie bring the BIG T through the treacherous Thorny Passage past Cape Catastrophe. ... And all by hand steering!



CHARITY TRIPS

You may or not be aware that one of the things we do with the Tacoma is what we call our 'Charity Trips'. Thanks to a generous annual donation we're able to provide free one-day cruises for groups involved in charities and other similar entities. We've had great feedback and enjoy being able to give back to our community by supporting these groups and the wonderful work that they do. Sadly due to Covid etc, these trips have had somewhat of a hiatus last year and into this year. We're definitely planning to get the programme up & running again no later than next year. If you have any recommendations that you'd like to nominate for our consideration of well-deserving group/s we'd love to hear from you! We recently received this lovely letter from Centacare about their trip and shows why we find these trips so rewarding to be able to do.

"Dear Tacoma Preservation Society,

"I have been reflecting on the events that took place this time last year and am writing to thank you for the lovely cruise we enjoyed with our foster carers and their children as a part of your Charity Days program. Everyone had a great time and we had excellent feedback from those who took part.

"The trip was eagerly anticipated by the group, some of whom had never been on a boat before. I recall hearing that two little people donned their life jackets at 7.30am in readiness for the 11.30am departure.

"The children loved exploring the boat, looking around the crew quarters, visiting the engine room and steering the boat. The appearance of 'Tina Tuna' was an unexpected highlight for everyone, whether they were in the rack or watching the demonstration.

"Articles about the trip were published in the Port Lincoln Times, the Centacare Board report, staff newsletter and carer newsletter. A story and photographs were also posted on our Facebook page and website.

"Thank you for your warm hospitality and please pass on our thanks to the generous benefactor who made the trip possible for us. It will be talked about for many years to come."

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH



Tacoma's bandsaw

MEMBER'S DAY OUT

This summer has been, well, a little chilly! It's all to do with the La Nina or so they say. Our day out was a surprise in that we retraced the activities of Matthew Flinders on the 'HMS Investigator' while it was in Bay 10. (He numbered all the bays and then later added the names. Boston Bay features in his log with the firing of the cannons to determine the distance of the bay. Also the entry in the log referring to the people that inhabited the shoreline as "Australian" is the first written reference of any to define an "Australian" as an "Australian". We then anchored up in Proper Bay, where Flinders took on 60t of fresh water. - History comes alive when you have his charts and logs! A great day was had by all!



JACK'S BIG DAY OUT



Jack always enjoys a fishing challenge, so a day on the 'Dolphin' is always an eventful one! Armed with bags of mussels harvested off the tuna rings and his favourite rod, Jack's happiness was shattered by mid-afternoon. ... Apparently, the hooks he was using went on strike, the line was the wrong colour, and to cut a sad story short, Jack's big day out mirrored the Indian cricket team

- all out for 30-something! At least the fish he didn't catch will be there next time, bigger and hungrier! At least we can hope! The score 15 to one!

“TACOMA-RAMA”

Next year will be 60 years since the first Tunarama was held in Port Lincoln. So this year with the event cancelled, you guessed it! ... We social distanced in the bay with a big tuna light display in the rigging. As night fell the bay light up, and Tacoma swung on it's anchor in the bay. The weather was perfect, and there was activity in the bay while the rest of the town remained Tunarama quiet. We're looking forward to sharing in Tunarama's belated 60th birthday next year!



TACOMA'S STORY

This time in “Tacoma’s Story” we’re bringing you the story of the Bandsaw! This is the original bandsaw used to build the Tacoma and is still in operation located in the Tacoma shed. The bandsaw came from Stephens Coach Builders in Warrnambool, Vic. It’s amazing how such tools have stood the test of time! The bandsaw was packed aboard Tacoma



along with all the other boatbuilding tools when she left Port Fairy and most are still in storage today. I (Ross) can remember as a 4 year old going to the Tacoma as it was being built and my dad picking up a piece of wood, sawing a bow shape and hammering a nail in it as a mast - “There! A boat.”

For an interesting view into the world of boatbuilding saws look up this video on YouTube.

[Episode 5 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SFwMCnca6E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SFwMCnca6E)

THE BOAT SHOP

POLO SHIRTS

Short sleeved, navy polo shirts with the Tacoma Preservation Society logo.

Available in all Men's & Ladies' sizes
\$40.00 each (+P&H for mail orders)



Ask us about other clothing items available, including jackets, caps, etc.

LINE CAUGHT TUNA AVAILABLE



Tuna Loins now retailing through Mori Seafood for \$30
26 North Quay Bvd Port Lincoln

Also available through these local outlets



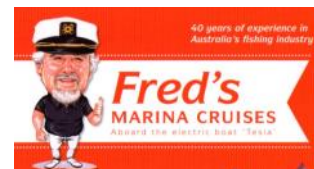
28 Tasman Tce
Port Lincoln



61 Esplanade
Coffin Bay



20 Proper Bay Rd
Port Lincoln



Port Lincoln
Marina

The Pantry

30 Tasman Tce
Port Lincoln

Oyster HQ

The Esplanade
Coffin Bay

Adelaide Pasadena & Frewville Foodland
sell fresh tuna in season during
February & March