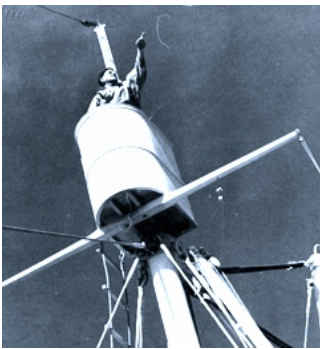


TACOMA PRESERVATION SOCIETY



www.tacoma.org.au phone no. 08 8682 1124 Sandy Point Drive, Port Lincoln.
P.O.Box 3088 Pt. Lincoln. 5606. December Newsletter 2014: No.1

Report from the Crow's Nest.



TACOMA BOOKINGS:

December 19th Lighting the harbour.
January 9th Committee meeting onboard 1600hrs.
January 25th Tunarama Saturday night 5pm.
February 14th a wedding.
January 17th MOW charity trip outing.
February 28th Lyns's overnight tuna trip.
Late February EP mental youth health trip.
March 9th 2015 Five day Tuna Poling Trip.

By Ross Haldane

From the pilot house

On a dark night it's hard to see far. Before the installation of the Williams Island lighthouse, tuna fishermen would use the loom of Port Lincoln as a rough guide with Neptune Island flashing behind them. It was a nerve-racking plunge into Thorny Passage past Cape Catastrophe, through a gap of only one nautical mile. Well that how things have been on and off on our Tacoma project but I can report that of late, things have been much better.

With our Grenna back in full swing and a steady increase in membership plus our new 2014/15 Committee, Tacoma's future is more assured. Not that we're ever going to run aground but you always have to keep a weather eye.

2015 holds many opportunities for us. Hopefully our berth will start to materialise after 4 years plus the opportunity to have several film crews on board. This will increase the profile of the boat and Port Lincoln.

There is an addition to the Tacoma fleet that is always a great event in a growing family. (See article on the Dolphin). And there are weddings on board, our charity days are fully booked and Tunarama will be a hoot blast with our new lighting scheme, courtesy of Bendigo Bank.

Plus there is also good news with Matron Leonie finally getting her badge. But on a serious note, Leonie's attendances in her capacity as a nursing sister, at the last two incidents have been much appreciated.

The ongoing search for Tacoma's new berth:



After four years the society is now having monthly meetings with council. The latest development is that while the existing berth was considered not strong enough for the Tacoma it has now been discovered that it had only a load capacity of three ton! OOPS This precludes most of the existing charter fleet in Port Lincoln and will hopefully speed up the design and installation of a berthing facility that will handle not only Tacoma but the expanding tourism charter sector as well as private craft. The existing pontoon has been seeing traffic of some 10,000 people per year a great boost for nearby business.

Run aground: Andrew Haldane's yacht Claire Allen was in serious trouble after running aground recently at Thistle Island. The rebuilding of Clare Allen by Andrew is going apace. If you have a quiet hour, just pop your head into the shed and have a look. It's worth it to see what the human spirit can achieve. Photograph: Ron Campbell



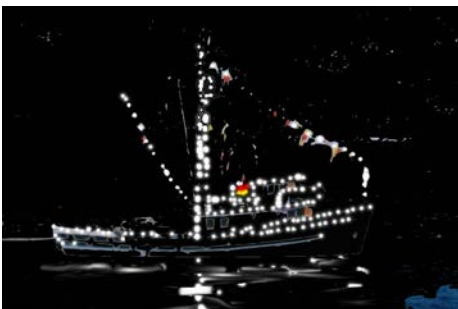
Tacoma under lights :

Thanks to a grant of \$1,000 from the Bendigo Bank Tacoma will light up for this festive season and many other occasions in the future.

We have two options: flooding the deckhouse and funnel or the full make over.

As part of the proposal put to the bank we're encouraging all boats in the marina to switch on their red, green and white riding lights and for other groups to dress up their boats and tour the channels on the night of December 19th.

To complete the picture, the Port Lincoln town band will cruise the canals to add to a great night of light and music.



With our lights up and ready to go the deck of Tacoma will be a nice place to enjoy a memorable night. It will also be an opportunity to catch up with other members and get into the spirit of Christmas, so put it in your diary right now. This will be a night not to be missed.

This event takes place between 8.00 and 11.30 pm. on December 19th.

We will be moored as usual, on Sandy Point Drive.

New look Tacoma Preservation Society website:

Ian (webmaster) Doyle suggested to me that 'the TPS website is a little clunky, old fashioned and past its used by date'. Technology moves so quickly these days.

So off Ian went and organised a new website with the young ladies at BizBoost at Taillem Bend on the Murray. It's a brand new look for the Tacoma Preservation Society. It's taken a lot of time and he hopes you'll be happy with the news, the videos and links, the

articles and thousands of photographs from the 1940s to now.

It's now a resource for the wider community and a document of historical importance for the Tacoma Preservation Society. Ian has engaged the assistance of Dale Manson, a mate and soon to be a TPS member from Murray Bridge to keep the site up-to-date.

I reckon Doyle Media Services and BizBoost have done a great job - and it's been done at his own expense of time and money. Have a look at www.tacoma.org.au

Birdsville Track Soundo:

The producer of **Three Men and a Boat** and **The Boat that Rocked** Ian Doyle has been at it again. This time he has put together a double DVD set of stories of legendary outback Birdsville Track mailman Tom Kruse and the stories about the past 100 years of **The Mailmen Back of Beyond**. The result is **The Tom Kruse Collection**. It's a fundraiser for and is available from the RFDS. It can be found at www.tomkruse.com.au

Ian obviously had an unlimited budget to shoot the last story in the series of four docos about Tom. Besides working with his Pro Bono co-producer Keith Webb, he engaged the services of TPS President Ross Haldane. Ross is without doubt a 6 star soundman, boom swinger and audio expert (who knew).

Ross learnt a lot about the documentary making business on the Birdsville Track.



“Holding a pole with a fluffy thing on the end is not like tuna fishing. Nobody puts anything in the job description about the flies. With two hands holding the sound pole, only a blast of wind would flick the sticky blighters off my face! They are very very friendly. All the while I had to stand still, be totally silent and not let the microphone shadow intrude on the interviewee's face. It's not as easy as it looks (or is that sounds!).”

To have a look at Ross on the job, go to the Tom Kruse website, www.tomkruse.com.au then to Gallery, Photos and click on **Centenary DVD shoot - 2014**.

Ross also very generously painted a scene for the 1954 film **The Back of Beyond** for the daughters of Tom's driving partner Henry Butler. When you get a copy of the DVD from the RFDS (ph: 1 800 813 318), have a look at the credits. You'll see Ross's sound credit and a somewhat surprising credit for the catering on the documentary - **Tacoma Food Services**. That's another story!

Tacoma Charity Days:

Part of the charter of the Tacoma Preservation society is to provide boat trips at TPS's cost for various local groups and charities. We began with the National Returned Service Men (RSL) on November 30th with a full load. We checked out the eastern side of Boston Bay in a perfect west wind. On board entertainment was supplied by Braden Stockham. Also a feeble attempt was made by

the ‘soundos’ on board to select appropriate music for the age group. A short blast of **Blue Hills** was met with a groan that could be heard from bow to stern.

The next charity day is on January 17th for Meals on Wheels. MOW...is that Meals on Wheels or Meals on Water! Late in February 2015 is our final group from EP mental youth health. Everyone has a good time and the groups appreciate the day.

Goolwa claims to host Australia’s oldest Wooden Boat Festival :

February 21st & 22nd 2015

Join us at the historic River Port of Goolwa for the celebration of the South Australian Wooden Boat Festival featuring wooden boats of all shapes and Paddle steamers, music performances, arts and maritime craft displays, workshops, boat building, regional wine and food, two days of great entertainment for the whole family.



sizes,

Tacoma draws too much water to jump the bar at the Murray mouth but we could attend in our surfboat dinghies. Who is keen for a little car trip - or if you are in the district, it’s a great event to attend.

The Australian Maritime Museums Council – AMMC:

is hosting a national conference in Goolwa, South Australia in 2015. The conference theme *Connections* will stimulate a lively program of discussion inspired by the history and charm of Goolwa, where the River Murray meets the sea. The conference will explore connections with audiences, supporters, communities, historic themes, and professional networks. The AMMC Conference is timed to coincide with the South Australian Wooden Boat Festival, from 21 – 22 February. To conclude the conference, delegates will enjoy a riverside barbecue and watch a wonderful collection of timber craft arrive for the festival.

The Tacoma Preservation Society has attended two previous conferences in Hobart and in Mannum.

Great Ocean, art, ideas & the sea:

Stroll the boardwalk of any fishing hamlet and it’s hard not to reflect on past times: boats arriving with salty fisherman, rusty hooks and fish scales drying in the sun. Canvas drumming in the wind, bending to the heavy air of southern chill; wet, cold salt on a sun-carved face.

Along the Moyne River waterfront, among the black bluestone of the riverbanks, Port Fairy hides a true story of the sea. Faded plaques around Griffith Island hint at the story. “Haldane’s Landing”, a wooden structure like a flash-card into the past. In the town itself, a lone fibro shed.

The riverside was once the domain of the unfortunate class of townfolk. Not so today.

The waterfront luxury dwellings are a far cry from the humble weatherboard fishermen’s cottages of a past era.

And there’s the rabbit works, the smell of rotting fish, the hiss of steam trains arriving at Wishart’s Wharf, the fishermen’s shed full of men spending a windy afternoon sitting on wooden fish boxes, the distinctive smell of pipe smoke and retold stories, young boys lounging like big-eared kelpie dogs in a woolshed, hanging on every tall tale.

Once, sturdy couta boats lined the river with drying cotton sails, crews scrubbing the decks, bucket in hand, the thudding of couta against hulls or the ring of the boat builder's hammer as the copper rivets are dummied home. Planks that sprang to the shipwright's eye and heavy keel timbers that emerged from the forest to be shaped by the swing of the shipwrights adzes

Ed: An extract from **Great Ocean, art, ideas & the sea** www.greatocean.com.au

What is happening in old boat land:

Google Tuna Boats Restoration and you will come across the French boat the **Biche**. Have a look. Her restoration and preservation is a great example of what like-minded people can achieve in preserving our maritime history. She was built in 1933 and if you compare her to Tacoma, designed 10 years later, you can understand the quantum leap America has made when it comes to tuna boats design. It should however be noted that the **Biche** was for a slightly different fishing method. Both boats represent a transition in fishing.

The Biche:

The last evidence of sailboat fishing for tuna.

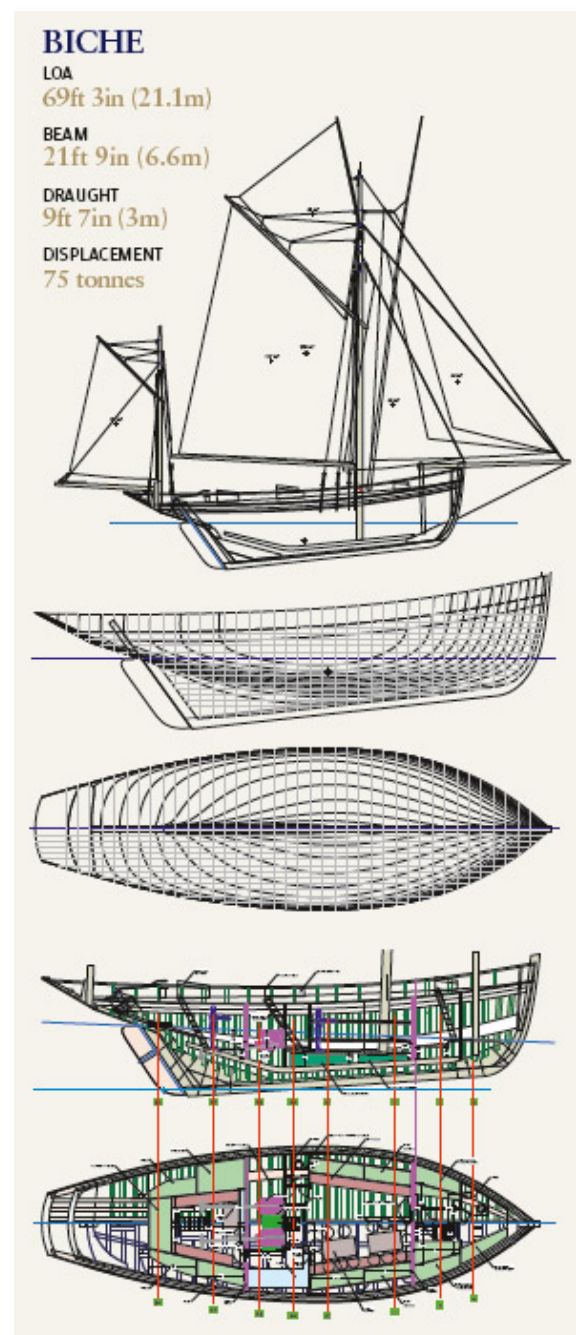
This unique Dundee-rigged boat symbolises the golden days of this activity.



Once out at sea, its long and supple spinnaker poles tow lines and hooks with picturesque names: 'grand plomb', 'bonhomme' or 'sabaille', or even 'mange M'.

And they catch tuna as though that were, their job. The rigging is continually being changed according to the needs of the fishing lines that claw at the smooth surface of the wake. The valiant Dundee rigger responds to the slightest touch by the boss and so it can still continue to fish even at 5 or 6 knots.

Inside the boat, there is a place to rest and to share a convivial dish, because fishing and the sea make you hungry. The joys of sailing, approaching ten knots, standing on a solid deck, enjoying the pace and the excitement of fishing, that's what Biche is all about.



But if you can't afford the airfare to France there is always the annual Tacoma poling tuna trip. It's a frolicking journey back in time aboard a 1950s tuna clipper .

Ed: for more about the Biche story www.brittanytourism.com



The Dolphin:

Braden Stockham has done a great job writing the Dolphin's Vessel Management Plan. You can access The Dolphin VMP at www.tacoma.org.au

The Dolphin was built by the Haldane brothers at Port Fairy before they built the Tacoma. The Dolphin was launched in 1939. Until this season, she has been a working cray boat at Beachport in the south East of SA for much of her sea life. The Ross Haldane family again own the Dolphin and in February (2015) a crew will sail her to Port Lincoln.

Ed: more great photos of the Dolphin at www.tacoma.org.au - go to Gallery.

Underwater shark viewing:

Lucy Waller is testing out the underwater glass viewing area in Adventure Bay Charters' new boat. Now you lilly-livered-lot have no excuse to not see these creatures of the wide screen in total dryness.

Perhaps we could drop a glass port hole in Tacoma or better still just use Gro Pro. with a big screen.



The Boys Trip to Whyalla:



An Aga stove needs its coke. After three years, our supply of coke has run out. So off to Whyalla the boys, Jack and Gary go.

The last time they were at the site of the 'One Steel' manufacturing company they had to under go a safety induction to be allowed on site. We all know the drill, paperwork to protect the innocent and put blame on others. Jack the lad had his first go at a computer answering, the safety questions, by pressing buttons!

Eventually all went smoothly and 120 bags later Tacoma had her supply of much needed coke. Thanks to One Steel's gift we can all warm ourselves cold and windy nights, enjoy a roast or a stew and the homely comfort provided by the Aga.

What is the Crew up to?:



Apart from the ongoing maintenance Tacoma is running smoothly touch wood. Unfortunately we missed out on our MMAPS grant. The grant application was to replace the old galvanised nails with bronze screws in the mid section of the hull. However we will re apply next year and if successful, this will fit better with our two yearly slipping program.

Another date for the calendar / diary, is the slip April 2016 Please put it aside for ...well something other than being under an old lady's bottom!

We'll need all hands under deck, to undertake this big job.

The Taylor Island Trip:

A letter from Anna Vanderhart.

On the 2nd of November with 20 people aboard we set sail for Taylor Island.

The weather had not been so great on the previous day and I was a little worried about turbulent waters and heading out for a long journey, towards the Thorny passage.

I did note that there was an extra life raft on deck to accommodate all on board.

My worries were quickly assuaged and the weather was very kind. There was a cool breeze but the sun did come out and the waters were calm. The wonderful AGA was alight and made the galley very cosy indeed.



Ray Watherstone has been grazing approximately 600 sheep on this island for many years and for the last 4 the Tacoma has had the pleasure of bringing the woolclip back to Port Lincoln. Taylor Island is one of just a few islands used to graze sheep in our area. It's a special place and the water was an amazing colour, or rather many amazing colours. The island is home to much wildlife including possums, penguins, seals and curlews. The island lighthouse was built during the fifties and with the other local lighthouses plays an important roll for marine safety. I am certain that the fishing is pretty

good as well and hear that the shearers who visit each year for a weekend of shearing enjoy some recreational fishing time as well.

The journey to Taylor Island took about two hours. We were accompanied for a time by a couple of beautiful sleek, cream and tan coloured "common" dolphins. There was much oohing and aahing as they entertained us with their graceful antics and we all took dozens of photos. The magnificent shot Steve Sykes took would have to be the pick of them.

The launch took several trips to and from the island to the Tacoma to transport the 16 large bales of AAA Merino wool. With the captain in charge of the winch and the crew on deck the bales were

carefully and successfully loaded. Some passengers took the chance to visit the island during this time, while others enjoyed watching the action and enjoying the view from the top deck.

When we arrived back at the Marina, the owners had taken their boat to Taylor's Landing and driven around to unload the cargo of wool.

Those of us that had lazed on the soft white bales during the return journey, paid the price with a touch of sunburn despite the cool weather.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first trip to Taylor Island and hope that it becomes a tradition and a firm fixture on the Tacoma calendar

The Lure of Fishnets:

Constructing a model net to scale of the original purse seine net of the Tacoma turned out to be a lot



more fun and games than Kate, Leonie and Anna had anticipated, when they took on the task. It also took rather more time than they originally anticipated and as they sat around the deck or on the verandah at home and even once or twice down at September Beach they did indeed look as though they were wearing fishnet stockings. Our little net is only 8 meters long, but with beads and ropes and sinkers it looks pretty real.

The original net was 800 meters by 80 meters and the enormity of the task of making that one and setting and hauling the 20 ton wet cotton net is astounding. A crew of 13, with strong muscles and tough hands was needed to set the net once a day. Today's crew do it easily, with the flick of a lever and the screech of hydraulics. That is progress.

We are now able to use the net for onboard demonstrations on trips and for the Friday visitors to Tacoma to better grasp the concept of fishing in the early days.

We have recently also incorporated the model boat and net into the Schools program, giving the children hands on demonstrations where they are actively involved, holding the net and pulling the ropes etc. They really seemed to enjoy it and it worked well. Ed: written by Anna Vanderhart.

Man Overboard:

This is a situation where a person has fallen overboard, is in water and needs to be rescued.

Whoever sees the person's fall should shout "man overboard" ("man" here meaning "person") to alert other crewmembers and attempt to maintain visual contact with the person in the water.

Pointing continuously at the victim can aid the skipper in approaching the man overboard.

Action: Equipment needed includes a life jacket, lifting strap, Gaff , throwing line, life ring, lifting block .



Season's Greeting from TPS:

Thank you to all the contributors to the Tacoma Preservation Society Newsletter and in particular for the good work done by Jo and Mark Bray on the website and previous Newsletters.

All future contributions will be gratefully received. Please email them to me on medley0246@gmail.com if you have an article to offer - and I encourage you to have a look at the new TPS website www.tacoma.org.au.

Season's greetings to you and your family from the Tacoma Preservation Society and we look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Christine Houweling
Editor & TPS Secretary

STOP PRESS:

More to come on the Tacoma flag story in the next newsletter.

Our Tacoma friends certainly know how to impress as we arrived at the Kochi railway station in Japan there to greet us was the largest banner.

We will be able to use it on festive occasions and displays.

The words mean good catch.

