



TACOMA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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February 2017 Newsletter # 7

REPORT FROM THE CROW'S NEST/WARDROOM

The Tacoma Pontoon 'Foxtrot'

Slow, slow, quick quick slow, slow - our band of supporters dance to the Tacoma Foxtrot.

- Neil Oliver on *Coast Australia* February 27th 2017 Foxtel



History Channel features the MFV Tacoma

- Tacoma will also feature in a travel program on Singaporean television. ThreeSixZero Productions visited Tacoma on Friday morning and filmed Wong Jinglun having breakfast with the Tunarama sponsors. Mr Wong, a well-known singer performed at the 'Best of Eyre' dinner on Friday evening.
- A feature article in '**SIGNALS**' the quarterly magazine published by the AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM (September / October / November edition).



- **PONTOON PROPOSAL**, front page feature of the Port Lincoln Times Jan 19th. A TPS innovative idea to promote tourism in Port Lincoln. Provided at Ian Doyle and Ross Haldane's cost, out of love for the Tacoma, an historic boat belonging to all the people of South Australia.
- Tunarama parade - our float wins the community award.
- Tacoma again wins the best-dressed boat.
- MFV Tacoma takes Father Dante out to the 'Blessing of the Fleet'

We put Port Lincoln in the forefront of national and world news.

You know it and the Port Lincoln Council knows that the TPS deserves a high profile location to allow public access to the vessel and to celebrate the maritime heritage and the history of fishing in Port Lincoln. MFV Tacoma is on borrowed time at its mooring at Sandy Point Drive. But I'm not going to say anymore - every fairy tale has a happy ending ... Chris Houweling (Ed).

HISTORIC RELAUNCH OF THE MFV TACOMA'S SURFBOAT:

Following months and months of toil on behalf of many TPS members, Tacoma's 72 year-old surfboat re-entered the water on Wednesday 7th December 2016. It was an exciting affair with a dozen spectators coming down to see the launch at the Port Lincoln marina and observe the rowing skills of 5 green crew members (Claire Webber, Kelly Ridgeway, Leonie Sawyer, Millie Johns and Elizabeth Nosworthy). Daryl and Braden were also on board in case things went pear-shaped.



Once the surfboat pushed out from the ramp it became clear quite quickly that no-one had any clue what they were doing, i.e. sitting in the boat the wrong way around (facing forward not aft). Once the crew realised the oars were in the wrong position and had a hasty reshuffle, and figured out which way to hold them for rowing (concave side towards stern), all the meanwhile Claire shouting instructions at random while she experimented with the steering, the small vessel was underway.

Luckily a few commercial vessels had gone past whilst the kafuffle was taking place and the channel was clear while the boat awkwardly made its way towards the second stage of the marina. After a few attempts at coordinating strokes, realising that subsequent rowers needed to time their strokes with rower 1, then getting rower 1 (Kelly) to slow down her pace so the others could keep up, they were off and away!

The crew caught on quickly through this steep learning curve. It's funny how the prospect of ending up in the drink or being hit by another vessel can hasten your adaptive abilities! The helm did get distracted talking from time to time and proved she was not very good at doing two things at once.

The surfboat was brought alongside Tacoma at her berth in record time in a swift and orderly fashion, with everyone (including the surfboat crew) suitably impressed by her safe and timely arrival for champagne and cheese to celebrate.



The true congratulations however goes to those who put in so much time and effort in restoring this piece of Australia's maritime history to her former glory - well done!

Claire Webber

(L-R) Kelly Ridgeway, Claire Webber, Leonie Sawyer, Millie Johns, Daryl Frears, Elizabeth Nosworthy and Braden Stockham

The **SURF BOAT** was built in Port Fairy while the Haldane brothers waited for the plans of **MFV TACOMA** to arrive from the Western Boat Building Company in Tacoma. The survival of the surfboat is in part due to the original material

and building methods employed and also because of its retention of ownership in one fishing family. Its design was chosen because it enabled three or four men to set a net in moderate surf conditions. For a short period, it was used by the Port Lincoln naval cadets

MFV Tacoma's surfboat principal significance is that it's a vessel that having been modified from its original purpose was able to successfully net Australian salmon on surf beaches of South Australian until its retirement in 1968. The vessel is believed to be Australia's oldest operating surfboat.

THE DOLPHIN'S NEW MAST:

The Dolphin, built by the Haldane brothers at Port Fairy was launched in 1939. She worked as a cray boat at Beachport in the south East of SA for much of her sea life until purchased and sailed to Port Lincoln by the Ross Haldane family in early 2015.

Since then the Dolphin has been fully restored by Ross and his son Chey. Coincidentally, the new mast was made at Bussey's at the same time as the surfboat was being repaired.



Dolphin's mast on left, surfboat on right with the large oars are in the right hand bottom corner.



Expertly the handcrafted varnished mast was carried out of Bussey's shed and transported to the Marina on the back of a large truck. It was hoisted into position by a crane. The mast slipped into position without a hitch - a very professional job.

TUNARAMA 2017



TUNARAMA: *Wong Jinglun holds up one of the tuna he threw as he had his first attempt at the tuna toss for his travel program. Wong Jinglun, also known as Jing Wong or Hayden Wong, is a Taiwan-based Singaporean singer and actor. He is managed by Universes Entertainment Marketing Limited, along with Show Luo, Elva Hsiao and Nick. Wong visited the Tacoma, (see next page).*

Tunarama Sponsor's Breakfast, the 2107 Street Parade and the Blessing of the Fleet - it's the high season and Tacoma, the magnificent old lady that she is has done us proud.

During Tunarama she hosted the sponsors breakfast as usual and a Singaporean film crew. Next



morning getting ready for the parade Malcom Turnbull just happened to pass buy and say hello. Tina Tuna had her photo taken with him. In the parade our float took out the community award. Tacoma took out the best dressed night award and the Dolphin took out the day award. We left for the Blessing of the fleet with the Muroto exchange delegation on board. We had a full complement of folk and never has the atmosphere been so vibrant and alive. Father Dante, a visiting priest from the Philippines climbed the mast to sprinkle the holy water. It was all so beautiful and on a perfect evening.

Above and below, Friday 27th Jan ThreeSixZero Productions filming Singaporean star Wong Jinglun with Ross and Diana.



The Muroto float won the best float in the parade. Muroto became Port Lincoln's sister city in Japan 25 years ago and during that time there have been a continuous stream of exchange students



Chey Haldane, a former Muroto exchange student, is the captain of the Dolphin which won 'best dressed boat'. He towed the flattie in the parade behind the Battler, the lead boat. The two long Japanese fish flags were a stand out!



Braden with two helpers in parade. The Tacoma replica is the flattie with the cabin made and painted by Fred, Braden and Daryl. They took out the best community float award.

STANLEY FOWLER - Tuna Explorer Extraordinaire:

We know a lot about Captain Cook and Matthew Flinders men who literally drew the map of Terra Australia and named the continent Australia.

After that our list of discovers is often blurred by the huge list of our great men and women our sport stars and perhaps once everything is discovered we need new heroes. In Australian public history there is very little knowledge of our marine discoveries. The early surveyors and mappers had the privilege of naming Capes bays rivers and hills after a host of sponsors Kings Queens LORDS and inventive names like Point Avoid Cape Catastrophe Thorny Passage Anxious Bay - names that tell a mariner's story.

But it was Stanley Fowler who unlocked the key to finding shoals of fish by air.

Today we use Sonar, Satellites and Spotter Planes:



About Seaview PRO©

Engineered for commercial fishing vessels, Ocean Imaging's Seaview PRO© is the most powerful oceanographic data analysis tool on the market – in any price range – worldwide.

Initially, military scientists copied dolphin echolocation to find submarines in all of the world's oceans. Now fishermen use SONAR. The acronym stands for Sound Navigation and Radar. SONAR is a type of fathometer. Fathom is a nautical measure of depth or distance of 6 feet. The word 'fathom' comes from the Old English, meaning outstretched arms.

Sonar equipment — essentially a speaker, microphone, stopwatch, and display — detects fish and other objects in the water by bouncing sound waves off the ocean floor and measuring the time it takes the sound to return. Newer fish finders discern 'signature echoes' for specific species of fish, possible because the various shapes and sizes of fish swim bladders reflect sound differently. Rapid advances in satellite oceanography revolutionized commercial and recreational fishing by minimizing search time and operating costs. High resolution Sea Surface Temperature (SST) maps reveal weather fronts, warm or cold eddies, and the position of large currents and upwelling zones. In the same way that topographic or bathymetric maps show steep or gradual slope, tight thermal contour lines on SST maps indicate temperature breaks.

Satellite ocean colour maps reveal concentrations of small microscopic plants called phytoplankton. These plants collect along the cool side of a temperature boundary where nutrients often are more plentiful. Plankton provides most of the primary production and energy for ocean ecosystems, kicking off a food chain that draws bait and predator fish.

Stanley Fowler's Biography:

In 1927 he was appointed investigating officer with the Development and Migration Commission. He played a key role in organizing the Australian Fisheries Conference which recommended in 1929 that a federal body be established to conduct a 'scientific, statistical and practical investigation of the fisheries, aimed at their commercial exploitation'. Transferring to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research as fisheries officer in 1935, he was involved in discussions that led to its fisheries investigations section (later fisheries division) being formed in 1937. Fowler immediately joined the new section.

He was concerned that much of Australia's coastline had 'not been explored in a fisheries sense'. With the co-operation of the Royal Australian Air Force, in 1936-39 and 1942-46 he undertook a series of aerial observations of pelagic stock in coastal waters. Fowler spent hundreds of hours in the air, photographing often vast and previously unknown shoals of fish, including such species as the Australian salmon and Bluefin tuna. The results were brilliant. His photographs—some 10,000 in all—are still frequently consulted by fisheries scientists and others interested in the Australian coastline.

Equally conscious of the importance of sea-going exploration, Fowler had been instrumental in the C.S.I.R.'s decision to purchase the research vessel, *Warreen*, in 1933; he was on board for her maiden cruise in 1938 and on numerous occasions thereafter. He welcomed the commercial application of scientific findings and never lost an opportunity to publicize the results of his investigations. Chairman (1940-41) of the Co-operative Fishermen's Association of Victoria Ltd, he enjoyed a close rapport with fishermen and respected their views, though they did not always accord with those of the scientists in the C.S.I.R. His conviction that an abundance of fish awaited exploitation in Australian waters embroiled him in a dispute with his scientific colleagues in 1941.

Fowler's later years with C.S.I.R. were not happy. Promoted principal research officer in 1946, he was overlooked that year for the new position of head of the division's exploration section. He took early retirement in July 1948 on the grounds of ill health, but agreed to compile notes to accompany his photographs; he continued to correspond with newspapers and fishing organizations, and wrote occasional scientific articles for journals. Suffering from atherosclerosis, he died of a coronary occlusion on 22 January 1961 at the Anzac Hostel, Brighton, and was cremated.

Ross Haldane

Fan Mail:



Photo taken by Belinda, Jenny and Cheryl from the Marina restaurant.
(Expert tuna pole ladies of Adelaide)

Hi Ross, Jack and crew!

Many thanks for your kind hospitality when we visited the Tacoma last Friday. Our apologies for lobbing in spontaneously!

We very much enjoyed hearing the Tacoma story, all about tuna fishing and meeting you all, and especially trying our hand at poling tuna.

I will send you some photos of the Tacoma unloading the wool on Sunday and heading out with all your flags flying – she looked magnificent! (Sorry I haven't been organised with that yet.)

We were very touched by Jack and Keith's story and look forward to watching your DVD and drinking your wine (we want to do that together), this story was very poignant for us.

Many thanks again,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACK BELLAMY:



On Sunday January 14th, our local hero, living legend, favourite fisherman, star tuna poler, none other than the very wonderful, beautiful, handsome, charming, Mr. Jack Bellamy himself turned - wait for it.... 83 years young!

With his long lean lithe flexible frame and his youthful attitude, his capacity for hard work, his always helpful manner, his knowledge and his humour, he is an exemplary role model for the rest of us who can only hope to remain as young and fit as Jack.

After a day out on the Tacoma on a charter trip, where Jack, as always, watched over the galley and worked on deck, we had a chance to charge our glasses and toast this inspiring honorary Tacoma Preservation Society a lifetime member. A birthday cake with 83 smarties was very appropriate.

We wish both Jack and Joy many happy returns. We hope they will be tripping the dance floors on Saturday nights for many years to come.

If the committee could have their wish, there would be a bronze statue of Jack down on the foreshore.

Happy birthday dear Jack.

Anna Vanderhart



(L-R) Ian Doyle with Jack and his precious Aga.

TACOMA'S BOOKING SCHEDULE:

21/02/17	Promotional Charter	Boston Bay Cruise
24/02/17	*Ladies' Tuna trip	Cabbage patch? - Crew welcome.
03/03/17	*Men's Tuna trip	Cabbage patch? - Crew welcome.
18/03/17	St Patrick's Day tour	Boston Bay Cruise.
29/03/17	Comb. Probus Club of Hamilton	Boston Bay Cruise.
06/05/17	Anna Vanderhart	Birthday Charter – Crew welcome

All departures from Sandy Point Drive unless advised otherwise.

Booking schedule subject to the tide, weather and man.

To book a charter or to go on one, contact the Tacoma Preservation Society President Ross on 0477 162 488

***For a detailed flyer on
the 2017 MAN'S TUNA POLING ADVENTURE
& the 2017 LADIES TUNA POLING ADVENTURE
go to the front page of the TPS website – a few places are still available
www.tacoma.org.au**

New members are very welcomed. We need numbers to maintain our strength. Members fees contribute to paying the MFV Tacoma's annual insurance policies and boating licences.

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

Editor: Chris Houweling – Tacoma Preservation Society



Tacoma - Best night boat Tunarama 2017 on the far left.

Photo by [wwwtake2photography.com.au](http://www.take2photography.com.au)