



TACOMA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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April 2016 Newsletter # 4

REPORT FROM THE CROW'S NEST / WARDROOM



The Executive Committee is in the final stage of their 5-year effort to secure a permanent berth for Tacoma, waging a bureaucratic ping pong game. This has gone on far too long. The TPS has decided to apply for our own Marina lease alongside Mr. Sarin's. The existing pontoon will need to be moved east 13 metres (*photo on last page*).

It's time consuming however we maintain an optimistic outlook. In this newsletter we'll give you some highlights from our busy season, the seasonal trips, the charters and the celebration of Jangaard's visit sixty years ago.

DRAMA ON THE SLIP April 4th to 8th: *Reported by Fred Houweling*



Initially, the hull still fresh from the sea was pressure cleaned to remove the barnacles and marine growth by Daryl, Ross and Mark. Meanwhile Jack scraped by hand the stubborn bits.

Andy Haldane came later to help and supervise the propeller's removal in preparation for slipping the shaft. Once this was done, Andy, Daryl, PJ and Mark climbed down into the bilge to assess and repair the clutch's leak. Washers and rubber seals were replaced then the Grenaa's innards were reassembled. Now

the variable pitch propeller with so many parts could be reassembled.

The hull was prepared for painting and the heat exchange bars on the hull's 'bottom' were painfully detailed by Andy, Jack and Daryl.



Every time Tacoma goes on the slip the zinc anodes are replaced. To save money, Ross collects the old used zinc anodes from other boats, including Tacoma's. We melt them down and pour the zinc into moulds at his house.



On Thursday afternoon Tacoma's hull is spray painted by the slip and we are back in the water by 1300 hours on Friday.

Andy had forewarned us, the propeller's settings might not be the same as before, but this couldn't be checked until the Tacoma was afloat!

Once in the water we discovered we couldn't go forward only backwards. We anchored offshore. We could see Braden, who'd been helping on the slip, watching from the boatyard. He was contacted to find Andy. After a few hours of Andy's guidance by phone the clutch was disassembled. The shaft was turned five times clockwise, clutch reassembled. This didn't work. We removed the clutch again and gave the shaft another four turns before again reassembling the shaft.

We were getting pretty good at this now! This gave us 50% forward motion, enough to get us back to the mooring at Sandy Point Drive. We arrived at 1555 hours in time for our committee meeting at 1600 hours.

The following Monday was spent fine tuning the Grenaa. Unfortunately, she still leaks and we now await spare parts from Denmark.

Each time Tacoma goes on the slip we realise the urgency of completing the refastening of the hull and the removal of many years of accumulated paint layers.



After this episode on the slip, to receive Marion and Ken Mayne's kind donation, with the comment 'I know how much it costs to keep a boat afloat' was truly appreciated.

The Girl's tuna trip visited Cabbage Patch, Rocky Island, Greenly Island, The Hummocks and Liggy. Places Marion used to hear roll of her father's tongue and the magic sunset at Greenly blanked out the fact they caught no fish and it was rough. Marion really enjoyed the trip, despite the bad weather and disappointing catch. Spirits remained high amongst participants.

This seasick sailor tucked in between the eskies is not Marion - but shall remain nameless.



CHARITY CRUISES:

Besides our regular seasonal trips, the Tacoma is also hired for parties and functions. Each year the TPS receives \$5,000 to provide a cruise for three community groups. These can be used to thank volunteers for their work (e.g. MOW) or used to raise money, as the Flying Doctors did this year. These cruises raised \$7,000 for their charities. Our last trip on April 17th, hosted and paid for by Sue Bishop, after expenses, raised \$1,700 for cancer research.

TAYLOR ISLAND: November

It's an unusual sight to see bales of wool in a small dinghy. You don't seem to notice the man steering the dinghy.

Since Tacoma was given to the Tacoma Preservation Society she has been collecting bales of wool from Taylor Island. This is a popular trip with many of Tacoma Preservation Society members and crew. It usually happens in November. Put it in your diary for later this year.

THE HISTORY TRIP TO BOSTON ISLAND: December

On board was historian Lee Clayton. He's writing a book about the four Watherston brothers who grew up on Boston Island. With their cousin they all fought in WW1 and never came home. It's a very moving story. We took a rowboat ashore to collect sand from Squeaky Beach to go to Lemnos Island Greece to be scattered over their graves.

This historic event was followed by a cruise around the island with owner of the island and TPS supporter Peter Davies giving a running commentary. It was an excellent event. Everyone enjoyed the experience and in appreciation, Peter Davies donated \$250 to TPS. James Watherston's great grandson Mark Williams, with Lee Clayton, later told their story to presenter Neil Oliver for the BBC TV and Foxtel's *Coast Australia*.

Coast Australia presenter Neil Oliver speaking to James Watherston's great grandson Mark Williams.
Photo: Port Lincoln Times



REEVESBY ISLAND: March

The Riviera Owners Club of SA used Tacoma as a platform for their annual 'get together' at Reevesby Island. In 2015 it was for dinner but this year they held a Hawaiian night.

A three-piece band played from the top deck. The Riviera folk swayed and danced to the music and enjoyed the evening. Many slip inside the galley to warm themselves at the AGA and some can't resist climbing down to the engine room. Anna, Kate, Fred, Ross, Daryl and Chris talked themselves hoarse telling Tacoma stories. This is the second charter from Riviera Club and we hope to see them again next year. It's great fun.



TUNARAMA FESTIVAL: January

Tacoma had a float in the annual parade. Braden stood in the stern of a sailing dinghy being towed by a ute. Claire Webber also stood on the back of the ute throwing out pretend 'bait' whilst Braden poled *Tina Tuna*.

Both Claire and Braden entertained the crowd with a running commentary and antics.

Tina Tuna is a new addition to the Tacoma crew and is used regularly on guided tours for poling practice. She was made in August by Fred with help from his son Dan, who lives in Queensland.



New Tacoma crew member 'Tina Tuna'



Claire & Braden having fun with 'Tina'

OPENING OF JANGAARD EXHIBITION: March

On 4th March TPS hosted the 60th anniversary of the Jangaard's visit to Port Lincoln. Work on the Jangaard Exhibition began over twelve months ago.

Braden Stockham collated all the archival material to make display panels of the Jangaard visit in 1956 for the TPS website and the Jangaard Exhibition. Braden researched seven of the Jangaard boats and prepared summaries and line drawings. TPS President Ross produced seven oil paintings of the Jangaard boats while he was on holiday in Queensland with his family.



It took Ross quite a few weeks to complete and Carin's tale of a paint splattered Ross and the unit that they were renting at the time made us all laugh.

Kate Eglinton was the Exhibition's curator. The paintings and line drawings were well presented and the centrepiece of a spectacular tuna, complete with stripes, complimented the setting.

Ross and Braden with the tuna lent by Linda Castle. It was part of her father's collection. To find a taxidermic tuna, complete with the flush of stripes is rare. We are indebted to the Castle family.

The food prepared by Anna, Carin, Kate and Leonie was superb but the fresh tuna sliced by Chay Haldane was unbelievable. [Ed - I'm running out of superlatives here]

Ian Doyle opened our Jangaard Exhibition. He explained the importance of Tacoma's heritage to Port Lincoln and of the importance of finding a new berth for the vessel.

Ross spoke of his time spent as Braden's mentor and then Braden entertained us with his version of events. Claire Webber, one of Jangaard Exhibition Coordinators, introduced Ms Wansima Rapp from Norway. She welcomed everyone to the Jangaard Exhibition in Norwegian.

There was never a dull moment. The night was a buzz of excitement, happiness and love for Tacoma from all her followers.



Ross, Ian and Braden after the opening of the Jangaard Exhibition

BBC TV'S COAST AUSTRALIA: February

In February we hosted **NEIL OLIVER** and the crew of BBC TV and Foxtel History Channel's *Coast Australia*.

The Tacoma episode is expected to be broadcast on the History Channel in mid-autumn. **Neil Oliver** flew from the UK, sailed on our noble lady, poled a tuna with 'Captain' Jack Bellamy and filmed that and the Tacoma story for the *Coast Australia*. It's a continuation of the British series, focusing on Australia's coastline and the many people and historical elements that shaped it. The program commands an audience of 3.5 million in Britain and 300,000 in Australia on Foxtel's History Channel. The Tacoma episode will be broadcast on the History Channel in mid-autumn.

This will firmly place Port Lincoln and Tacoma on the world map and assist our endeavours to encourage the local council to assist us to establish a permanent high profile berth for Tacoma.

COAST AUSTRALIA: Reported by Anna Vanderhart



Carin, Anna, Kate and Leonie with Neil Oliver

Those familiar with the television documentary *COAST*, once aired on SBS each Friday evening will be interested to hear that Neil Oliver and a five-man film crew, (armed also with a drone) visited Port Lincoln to capture on film, the story of Tacoma. *COAST* explores the natural and social history of the coast around the United Kingdom and France.

Two series have recently also been filmed in Australia but at this stage only broadcast on the History channel, on Foxtel.



Chef Ross and Neil at a farewell BBQ

The Tacoma crew and TPS Committee were thrilled and honoured to be contacted and to be included in the episode about our fantastic coast.

Neil arrived jetlagged late on the February 21st and shortly after we waved a full crew off into the sunset for an overnight tuna poling expedition.

All bunks were occupied and of course included the one and only Jack Bellamy to show Neil how to pole a tuna, to keep the AGA toasty and to organise the galley in his masterful way.

The weather was great. They found the fish and Jack showed them how to catch tuna as in he did in bygone days. All was successfully recorded for the *COAST Australia* programme and will be aired later in the year. Fortunately, DVDs will become available for those without cable.



As a long time Neil Oliver fan, I would like to add that Neil is utterly charming, extremely modest and a very interesting man. He is an archaeologist, historian and the author of 10 books. He is a wonderful storyteller and with his beautiful soft Scottish brogue, which woman could not be a fan.

We all feel happy and privileged to have had the opportunity to share the history of Tacoma, and our coast, with such a fine documentary team.

'A big highlight of my time in South Australia was going pole fishing for tuna ... aboard the oldest purpose-built fishing boat in Australia'

The Advertiser Neil Oliver March 2016

Two men and their boat's



- The Jangaard Brothers -



In 2016, the Tacoma Preservation Society celebrate the 60th year since the arrival of the two American brothers, Chris and Sverre Jangaard to Port Lincoln.

This is the story of two young Jangaard brothers who at age 20 and 23 emigrated to America from the fishing village of Valderoy on the West Coast of Norway.

During their fishing careers they expanded out from the small American northwest coastal community of Ballard near Seattle to fish in a third of the world's oceans; south to Chile and Australia, west into the Pacific and north to Alaska.



The Jangaard brothers with Premier Playford 1956

The fishing industries they worked included halibut, herring, salmon, shark, sardine, tuna, prawn (shrimp) and bottom trawl fish and all proved to have problems including market difficulties, collapsing resources or the loss of fishing grounds through the re drawing of international boundaries. Always forward looking and innovative, the Jangaards brothers were recommended as having the right stuff to kick start the South Australian tuna fishery.

It's 60 years since their arrival in the sleepy west coast fishing community of Port Lincoln and they immediately put their skills to work. On 29th February 1956 at Rocky Island, south of Coffin Bay, the tuna fishery finally unlocked its true potential and made its first real jump into becoming a truly productive fishery for the state of South Australia. That afternoon, 650 tuna were poled aboard Tacoma and the rest is history!

It's a story of men, boats, fish and towns. It sadly is a reflective story as it highlights the fickleness of our marine resources and

our human understanding of those resources. Hard lessons are to be found in the Jangaard story.

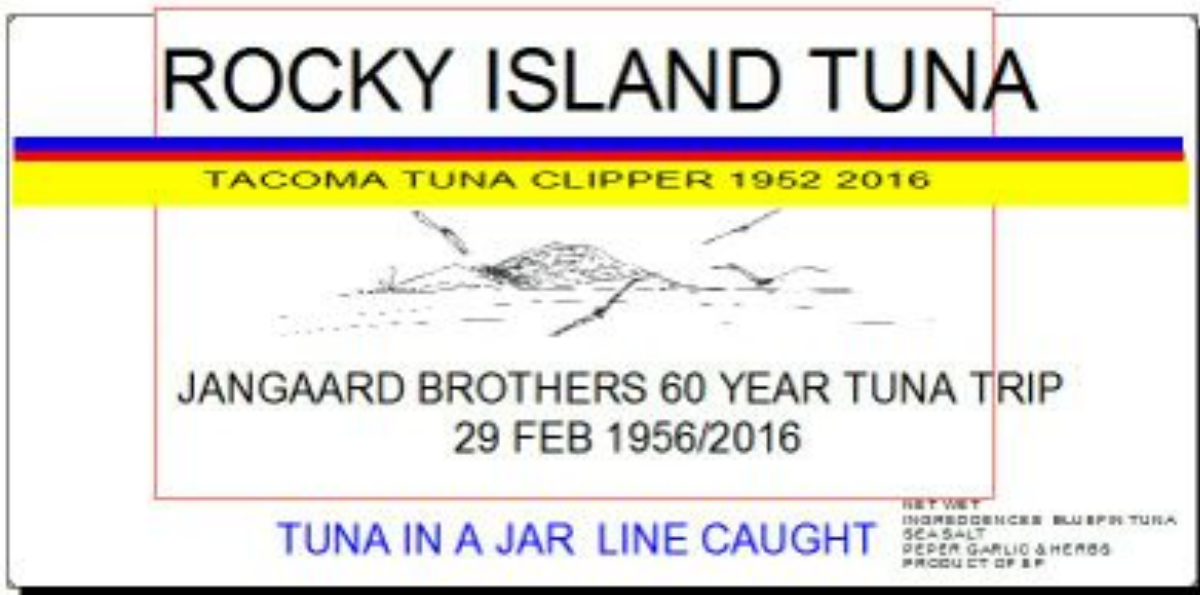
THE WORLD CAPITAL OF FISHING BOATS - TACOMA
THE WORLD CAPITAL OF SARDINES - MONTEREY
THE TUNA CAPITAL OF THE WORLD - SAN DIEGO
SEAFOOD CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA - PORT LINCOLN

Not all the fluctuating fortunes of these communities can be blamed (as was once thought) on over fishing but rather a lack of understanding of the vast changes in the oceans. But there is good news!

The first boat the young Jangaard boys crewed on, the Polaris, harvested halibut from small dories. The boat is a halibut schooner. It still works its trade and the Pacific Halibut Fishery is recognised as one of the best managed fisheries in the world, a testimony to the Norwegians and their descendants who dominated the fishery for well over 100 years.

The Jangaard brothers were true Sons of Norway.

TUNA FOR SALE



The total haul was 800 kgs - we sold 400 kg to wholesalers.

The remaining were processed as follows:

100 kg of loin frozen and vacuum packed - **20kg are still for sale.**

100 kg preserved in oil and put in glass jars - **30 jars still for sale.**

100 kg smoked vacuum packed in small portions - **40 pieces still for sale.**

100kg sold to crew.

Highly recommended and available on Tacoma every Friday.

2016 TACOMA POLING TRIP: March

Every annual Tacoma poling trip has a different story to tell. This one was not only a wonderful adventure where we purse seined live bait in the Bay, found a school of tuna off Rocky Island and poled 700 kilos, the trip was historically significant. The ten paying crew members from across Australia re-enacted the events that started the pole fishing of tuna south of Lincoln 60 years ago.



It was February 29th 1956 when the MFV Tacoma, with the Haldane brothers, the Tacoma crew and Norwegian American fishing brothers Chris and Sverre Jangaard on board, landed the very first southern blue fin tuna, using live bait and bamboo poles.



Jack Bellamy was there in 1956 and sixty years later to the day, he was there again. Everyone on board poled a tuna with Jack off Rocky Island, in exactly the same location, on the same date the Haldane brothers caught the first fish in 1956.



It was memorable and all on board knew they were participating in an important moment in the life of this remarkable vessel. The rest of the story tells the history of Port Lincoln and the Australian tuna industry. *You should tick your bucket list and join us in 2017.*

TACOMA'S PROPOSED BERTH



Imagine a picture of the Tacoma in the text box in front of existing pontoon. To accommodate the new Tacoma berth, the existing pontoon will need to be moved to the right.

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

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