



TACOMA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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October 2016 - Newsletter # 6

REPORT FROM THE CROWS NEST/WARDROOM



... the Pilot House (or that little box on top of the deck house)

We had a nice storm mid-October. The glass or barometer graph was the lowest I've ever seen, so we quietly went down to Tacoma's berth and doubled her lines. It's better to be prepared.

Tacoma weathered the storm but Port Lincoln lost power for over fifty hours. We fired up Tacoma's generator and put on the freezer to help keep things cold. When it was all over however we found someone had forgotten to empty the freezer properly and left a bag of Bugs to thaw – bugger!

While I was in Cairns, I concentrated on the Jangaard Berth, the Stanley Fowler project and created several stories for various national magazines.

Hopefully, the five years of work to get our new berth is nearing an end. It feels like a marathon but it took the Haldane boys seven years to build Tacoma, so what's five years to build a three metre wide floating pontoon near a Fishermen's Memorial in a safe boat harbour. If we succeed, it will have been all worthwhile but over five years we've spent \$100,000 so far in bureaucratic costs. You know the drill; reports, meeting, travel, plans, meeting, emails, reports, meetings, objections, reports, more emails - four State government ministerial departments, not to mention the Council and the Regional Development Board. - a lot of "Yes Minister" stuff. The construction costs are estimated at \$120,000.

Meanwhile the rest of the crew in Port Lincoln busied themselves with the surfboat and as you can see below, it was well worthwhile.

Right: latest pontoon design drawing



Talking about up and coming events, the BBC and Foxtel *Coast TV Series* with Neil Oliver and featuring the Tacoma is due in February. There will be a big red carpet party night when it happens.

We've had a few enquiries about the next 2019 Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart and if we have enough interest, we might be able to also pay the Eden Killer Whale Museum a visit.

We have an active sailing/fishing program this season so if you are interested in joining our boat crew, please jump aboard. We would love to have your company. There are still some vacant berths.

MUROTO EXCHANGE STUDENTS: by Anna Vanderhart



On a wintery, wet afternoon in early August we entertained a group of Japanese students on board the Tacoma. These students come from a coastal fishing town 7000 kilometres away. They were part of the Muroto Friendship Exchange program which this year is celebrating 25 years of friendship and cultural exchange.

The language barriers were swiftly overcome with smiles, gestures, demonstrations and a tour of the boat. There was laughter and song and I think they all enjoyed themselves. They bravely faced the weather to attempt poling *Tina Tuna* and they climbed all the ladders to see and learn about the boat. I must admit they were very happy to gather in the cosy warm welcoming galley to enjoy our delicious sashimi followed by scones and muffins.

The students tucked into the sashimi prepared and sliced to perfection by Chay Haldane.

They sang us a delightful Japanese children's song all about fishing and it sounded so pretty. I gather the best experiences in Port Lincoln for most of them was seeing kangaroos, koalas and tasting our tuna. They were lovely kids and thanked us all very formally for the hospitality. I do hope they enjoyed their time here despite the rather inclement weather.

Braden Stockham centre, with a Port Lincoln and Japanese guide. Braden demonstrated tuna pole fishing and took the students over the boat.



CURRENT RESTORATION PROJECT: *SURFBOAT*

PLUGGING ALONG

The hull of the surfboat has been scraped bare of paint and every rivet removed from the thirty-seven cracked ribs. The total number of ribs in the boat is fifty-two. The inside of the boat has been primed.



New ribs have been cut and laminated together with 'West System', a multi-purpose painting / glue product.

The ribs were slipped between the gunwale and hull from one side to the other. The new ribs are fastened to the hull with copper rivets. These rivets have to be one size bigger for a tight fit. The resulting space above the rivet is injected with 'West System' that's been thickened with filler. Next, an Oregon wood plug, coated with more 'West System' is popped in place.

All this is done wearing rubber gloves as the job is sticky, tacky, messy and smelly. Fortunately, it cleans up well with methylated spirits.

Sixty-five years ago Hugh Haldane built the frame first, so to repair it from the inside is a challenge for us - and a labour of love. The skin of the hull itself is still in perfect condition.

Tension straps hold the hull firmly in place



Fred's guess at the number of Oregon wood plugs! These plugs were all made on site.

740 plugs are needed per 37 ribs,
48 plugs for 6 seam batons,
80 extra-large plugs are needed for the gunnel.

That's 868 plugs or somewhere around that number.

Are there any volunteers to count the correct number?

Photo of Oregon wood plugs with Chris Tuck filling some 'of all those holes'.

The inside of the boat is now finished. All the paint used was donated by Hemple Paints.

The boat was then turned over and the rest of the holes filled with the help of Carin Haldane, Anna Vanderhart and Leonie Sawyer.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the hull will have its final five coats of paint and this mammoth project will be finished.



Ross Haldane holding a tin of Hemple Paint.



Plugging along Leonie Sawyer, Carin Haldane and Anna Vanderhart.

For more information, look up *SURF BOAT VESSEL MANAGEMENT PLAN* on the Tacoma Preservation Society website www.tacoma.org.au

A TRAVELLER'S TALE:

Fred and Chris Houweling visited Manjimup WA for a visit with Alan Dun to see the model he's making of the Tacoma and to check on jarrah that's been ordered by the Tacoma Preservation Society from the Middlesex Wood mill.



Alan drove us to the Middlesex Wood mill and introduced us to the manager Michael Drake. Although the visit was not prearranged, he was happy to take us around the mill.

The mill was small but diversified.

It supplies plant nurseries with fresh and rotted saw dust. Nothing is wasted. We were very impressed.

Tacoma's jarrah planks were in the kiln drying but these are similar planks to those to be used on the Tacoma.

Later at Alan's house, we viewed his motorised model of Tacoma.

He demonstrated a tool that he applied to bend wood before being told about using cold cloudy ammonia. The model's upper deck, front railing was soaked overnight in ammonia and curved with ease next day. Fred was very impressed and keen to give the idea a go.



Alan's shed was an Aladdin's cave of restored trucks, motorbikes and other models of planes and boats he'd made over the years. Alan then took us to his house where we chatted with him and his wife Gail. Their hospitality was delightful. Alan explained that he was originally from Port Lincoln. We had so much in common that it was hard to leave them both. We could have talked all night.

Apparently this technique with ammonia is only used for models.



The planking inside the hull is visible in this photo. Alan works from Tacoma's original boat plans supplied to him by Ross.



The model isn't finished yet but from what Alan has accomplished so far, it will be spectacular.

Look up our Model Builders Group on the Gallery page on the Tacoma Preservation Society website www.tacoma.org.au for more photos and information.



TACOMA'S 2016/17 BOOKING SCHEDULE:

15/10/16	Opening of Port Lincoln Yacht Club	Anchor in the Bay
04/11/16	4pm AGM and 7pm Tacoma's 65 th birthday	
	<i>All invited to party on board for cake cutting and a wee dram</i>	
06/11/16	EP Crows Supporters Club	Boston Bay Cruise
20/11/16	Taylor Island Trip to collect wool bales	Crew welcome
25/11/16	Red Hatters	Boston Bay Cruise
04/12/16	Marylyn Povey	Boston Bay Cruise
10/12/16	Magic FM	Boston Bay Cruise
16-17/12/16	<i>8pm for a night with the Sing Australia on Friday December 16th & a band on Saturday December 17th for Lighting of the Marina</i>	
16/12/16	Christmas Cruise DEWN	Boston Bay Cruise
04/01/17	Jenny Chillingworth	Boston Bay Cruise
04/12/16	Bedford / West Coast Youth Services	Boston Bay Cruise
28/01/17	Murato, Blessing of the Fleet	Boston Bay Cruise
24/02/17	*Ladies' Tuna Trip - Cabbage Patch	Crew welcome
03/03/17	*Men's Tuna Trip - Out Wide	Crew welcome
18/03/17	St. Patrick's Day Tour	Boston Bay Cruise.
29/03/17	Probus Club of Hamilton	Boston Bay Cruise

All departures from **Sandy Point Drive** unless otherwise advised. The booking schedule is subject to the tide and the weather. To book a charter, or to go on one, please contact President Ross on 0477 162 488. Taylor Island and Blessing of the Fleet are very popular, so please book now.

***for a detailed flyer about the
2017 MEN'S TUNA POLING ADVENTURE
& 2017 LADIES' TUNA POLING ADVENTURE**

www.tacoma.org.au



All future contributions will be gratefully received.

Please email them to me on medley0246@gmail.com if you have an article and photos to offer.

TPS Newsletter Editor - Chris Houweling