

TACOMA Newsletter

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Tacoma Replacement Mooring



Proposed draft for working operational base for TACOMA. Construct pontoon and gangway to fixed pylon blue. Remove pontoon and pylon in red. Relocate the vessel from berth 1 to 3

The new operational base will require the purchase of two existing leases and the removal of an L-shaped pontoon. This will allow Tacoma to manoeuvre alongside a new 24 m pontoon with gangway access to the land. The project will require two new piles to support the pontoon. Cost estimates are yet to be finalised but appear to be within our budget estimation.

The White Sailor Sweater

The jumper in the photo below was made by Ross' two aunts, Agness and Peg.

Tacoma and Ross make Headlines



The article above was printed in the Sunday Advertiser June 6-7 and has been distributed to TPS members.

Tasting Australia

Tasting Australia, presented by Journey Beyond, is a festival of eating and drinking, bringing together the people, produce and places that define Australian food culture.

This year over 150 events unfolded across Adelaide and regional South Australia — from long lunches and intimate dinners to tastings, tours and one-off collaborations with chefs, winemakers and producers.

Sailors White Sweater continued...

The jumper is still great to wear after 94 years. The dark stain at the front is from a squid ink attack.

Originally called a Guernsey (or Gansey), these tightly knit, unwashed wool garments naturally contained lanolin, making them water-resistant and windproof. Similar white wool jumpers were subsequently adopted by the British Royal Navy as a standard-issue uniform component.



Tasting Australia, continued...

At its heart, Tasting Australia celebrates the moments that happen around food. So, with a 15.3 kg tuna, Port Lincoln's iconic fish, an exclusive group of chefs, and the Tacoma team to feed and entertain 60 guests that had flown into Port Lincoln for the day and the guests visiting EP Seafood Capital Coffin Bay to feast at Yarnbala and the yacht club. So, the Tacoma crew had serious competition in this culinary extravaganza. It was cutting up time for local chef Kerri Lawson (in picture).



Keeping Tacoma fit for Purpose

Behind the scenes of tuna pooling and celebrity events is a group of skilled volunteers who maintain Tacoma. Without them Tacoma wouldn't leave the dock. Dion has the overall responsibility followed by Greg and Fred. The steel cover of the rudder box has been replaced with an aluminium one. Two leakages in the hydraulic steering system has been fixed etc, etc.



The Silver Fish

Ross Haldane sailed and fished down memory lane in Port Fairy

In the early 1930s, Bill Haldane, 20 years old, and his two brothers Alan 16, and Hugh 13, as young crew on a 26 ft open wooden sailing couta boat, would put on lanolin scented woollen hand-knitted polo-neck jumpers and their smelly oilskins, the only barrier from the icy southwest wind, and leave the shelter of Port Fairy's Moyne River to face the Southern Ocean swell. Barracouta were most active at dawn and dusk, determining the working day of a couta fisherman.

To be a couta fisherman, you must get up at 5.00am each morning.

This year, at a 9.00 am start, the weather was perfect, light southwest. Three couta boats sailed down the river to be met by a lumpy swell. After 2 hours and no fish, it was a peaceful sail back up the river. The night before, we had met at the Stump, a local watering hole, to plan our adventure on the couta boat "Arial," built in 1927 and owned by Garry Kerr of Portland. He had sailed over the week before to be slipped. Garry Stuart in the "Legend" also did a quick bottom clean (when two sailboats meet there is a race!). Garry Kerr's boat was the first couta boat to be restored, saving the wooden couta boat from the grave. Garry Stuart's "Legend" is a new build. The third boat, "Sally," is a part of Port Fairy's fleet of 7 couta boats.

Day 2 of our fishing folly dawned with a forecast of rain. So, it was off to the shed to tell stories of old and bold. This year's event tested the concept of preserving the history of Port Fairy's fishing past. Unfortunately, the barracouta fishery off Victoria no longer exists.

Tacoma and the Salmon Fishery



Garry Kerr (see Newsletter 37) is currently producing a piece related to the Australian salmon fishery. The fishery has a wide geographic range from Perth in the west to Sydney in the east, with three separate and distinct methods of fishing. The fish in the west are along the south coast near Albany and its beaches, the method of fishing is beach netting with tractors. In South Australia, offshore vessels use aircraft and purse seine nets, while out of Lakes Entrance to Tasmania a combination of both. Historically, the fisheries have been family operated often dubbed as the gentlemen fishers. There are no deadly catches and no dramatic howling winds. Salmon fishing requires great skill with a mix of patience and timing.



Tacoma and the Salmon Fishery, continued...

Andy described Tacoma's role in the early fishery as the practice of waiting for the salmon to come off the reef and towards the beach, where the fish could be netted. Snelling's Beach on Kangaroo Island was such a place. The daily routine was to go ashore, climb the hill, and watch for the predictable pattern of the fish going offshore to feed during the day and return to the protection of the reef in the evening. Occasionally, the fish would swim close to the sandy beach where they could be netted. While sitting on the hill, boredom inevitably set in. Often other crews from competing boats would join in the wait. The gentlemen's agreement was the first to the beach had the first set on the fish. Others waited for their turn if the shot was unsuccessful. After hearing the same stories several times, it was out with the building tools, down to the beach to collect driftwood, and a salmon fisher's shelter was erected — The Snelling's Beach Spotters Rest. Not only shelters but cairns rose on the hilltops. The South Australian salmon fishery peaked at about 2000 tons but is now near 600 tons. Once canned for human consumption, it is today the principal supplier of bait for the rock lobster fisheries.



Couta boats off Port Fairy

