



THE HOLLOW LOG

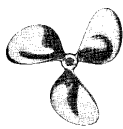
The Classic Australian Wooden Power Boat Association Inc.

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Some of the crew aboard *Tomboy* during the Hobart Wooden Boat Festival

The Australian Wooden Boat Festival

February 2017 saw the return of this spectacular biennial event.

Several of us mainlanders made our way to Hobart again this year for this marvellous event.

After arriving on Thursday, Jacqui and I, along with Frank Wicks who had just flown in from Sydney, were picked up from the airport by Stuart Beattie and chauffeured to our hotel in town. As others flew in, they too were generously collected and brought into town. The Griffiths family had arrived from the mainland by ferry earlier in the day and driven down. Andy, Wendy and Mitch would spend a few extra days in Tassie touring around after the festival.

Thursday night saw us at the Beattie's for dinner. After inspecting Stuart's extensive collection of wooden boats we were treated to an excellent dinner. Later in the evening saw the arrival of the Prices from Melbourne. It was really good catching up with everyone, making for an evening full of conversation and laughs.

Wandering down to the waterfront at Sullivan's Cove on Friday morning offered a vista crammed with classic timber vessels of all types and sizes. It is always a splendid sight.

Chris "Chivs" Chivers had invited several of us to come aboard *Tomboy*, Chivs' 1932 25' speedboat, on Friday for the Parade of Sail. Having made our way down to the waterfront we boarded *Tomboy* and headed out on the magnificent Derwent River to get out and amongst the boats participating in the parade, which marks the opening the festival and welcoming of the boats.

The weather was superb, being warm and sunny with a light breeze. The river just sparkled.

It was really something special weaving in and out of the sail boats, all moving slowly under the light breeze. It was particularly special sidling up close to the tall ships that were taking part, with their masts and sails towering above us and their decks lined with passengers waving to us as we slowly moved past.

After cruising around amongst the incoming fleet Chivs headed back past Sullivan's Cove towards the Tasman Bridge. On our way there, Chivs gave us an excellent commentary on points of interest as well as explaining about the bridge, the accident in 1975 that saw part of it collapse and the aftermath. We cruised under the bridge, with the roadway towering some 50 metres above us, before returning back to *Tomboy's* berth at the

festival. It was truly a very entertaining couple of hours out on the water, greatly appreciated by all on board. Many thanks Chivs.

As always with this festival, the overwhelming majority of boats on display are sailing boats. The power boats usually start at about 10 metres - cruisers. Walking around the docks observing at all these boats is a real eye opener. There are so many beautiful wooden boats around of all different shapes and sizes, with some dating back to the 1800's, truly remarkable for timber pleasure boats.



Barry Jones and POSH

But, as always, there is something for us. Several runabouts were on show, including member's boats *Tomboy* and *Posh* (Barry Jones). *Tomboy*, Chris Chivers' 351 powered runabout was mentioned earlier. Barry Jones' 350 powered 20 footer was built by Barry, being completed in 2015. American style runabout *Miss Tamar* graced the hardstand while *Marguerite* and *Elionora* shared water time along with shore time.

Also adorning the hardstand was the 1963 built Lewis skiffboat *Fury*. Being based in Launceston, the 350 Chev powered boat had a long and successful racing career in Tasmania during the 1960's. After disappearing for several years, *Fury* was discovered in Victoria in 2001 and brought back home to Tasmania.

Of interest was the recently built 1935 style speedboat *Zelectra*. The 20 footer is powered by 72 x 3.2v lithium battery cells. We saw this boat in the early stages of its build at the "The Wooden Boat Centre" at Franklin when at the 2015 wooden boat festival. Apparently performance is very good, but I'm just not sure how well the silent running electric motor as opposed to the sound of an old V8 suits the boat.



Zelectra



Saturday night saw us back at the Beattie's for a BBQ and what an excellent night it was. Along with our hosts Stuart and Sara were Chivs, Alan and Melinda, Frank, Ray and Carol, Andy, Wendy and Mitch, Bob and Lynne and yours truly and Jacqui.



Sunday and Monday continued with more of the same with plenty to keep us all occupied, even though the weather did occasionally challenge us.



Unfortunately, all good things must end and another exceptionally good Wooden Boat Festival held in an exceptionally good location came to an end.

On behalf of all of us mainlanders, I would like to offer a huge thanks for the marvellous hospitality shown to us by Stuart and Sara Beattie.

Geelong Revival

The organisers for the Geelong Revival asked the CAWPBA to come back and display boats again for the 2017 event, something we were more than happy to do.

This is a great event for all things classic and automotive and being right in amongst it all is a great experience.



We took *Fleetwood*, *Nightmare*, *Pagan*, *Scrubcat* and *Stormy* along this year.

Again the feedback and interest from the crowds was excellent. It's amazing how *Pagan* pulls a crowd and particularly so at Geelong.



The event is huge, with approximately 400 cars and motorcycles competing and a further 500 cars, bikes, boats, caravans and trucks on show over the weekend.

The weather was a bit marginal on Saturday, but it remained dry and even warmed up a little on Sunday afternoon when the sun pushed through the overcast.



Geelong Revival proved to be another successful event for the club, even though the boats remained on their trailers. Although the water was only metres away from the site, the impracticalities of getting the boats in and out of the display area for launching at the nearby ramp prevents an on water demonstration.

Another one in storage

In the last newsletter I mentioned another skiff that popped up. This one has been known of for a while, but had dropped off the radar again for a couple of years. I have nothing on its race history.

RONAL is a 13 footer powered by a 4 cylinder Peugeot. I don't know much more about it other than it is tucked away in the corner of a shed somewhere in NSW. The boat seems to be in excellent condition.

I wouldn't be surprised if it comes up for sale in the not too distant future, although I think I said the same thing about 10 years ago.



JINX

It was probably a couple of years ago now that I spoke to Phillip Elliot at the Marong Vintage and Classic Car Show about a boat he had been given. I did remember the boat, its picture having appeared in the Hollow Log some years ago. Phillip contacted me recently about the boat, his email reproduced in part, below.

A few years ago my uncle gave me an old speedboat that he raced in the 1960's. The boat, *Jinx*, was featured in the Hollow Log Volume 7, Issue 2, April 2007 at the Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart.



My father had a prominent boat racing history in the 50s and 60s in Tasmania racing a hydroplane named *Miss Hobart* among others and my uncle was usually co driver in *Miss Hobart* as Dad said it was better balanced with two.

Now back to *Jinx*, *Jinx* was bought in Tasmania by my uncle in 1960. It had come from Victoria and had a VOC (Victorian Outboard Club) pennant painted on the side of it.



Jinx was based on an American Hal Kelly design that was published in *Mechanix Illustrated* magazine in 1956, but we know nothing of her Victorian history.

My uncle converted *Jinx* to an inboard and ran a 750cc Renault engine before upgrading to an 850 Renault Gordini. My uncle raced *Jinx* and at one stage sold it to my father who got a bit more speed out of her before eventually selling her back to my uncle. When my uncle retired her, he stored *Jinx* under his house, at one stage throwing the engine away as it was rusty.

Skip forward many years and my dad and uncle decided to convert her back to an outboard configuration (unfortunately) and give her a spruce up for the Wooden boat festival in Hobart, where she was pictured in the Hollow Log.

My uncle gave me *Jinx* as he knew it would be looked after and I plan



JINX on its way back to Melbourne in 2013

to restore her to the way she raced when she was an inboard with the 850 Renault Gordini. I've found an 850 engine but have much work to do. The hull is in great condition but the only other bits I have are the skeg, prop, prop shaft, dashboard and wheel. I have to make the rudder, log, steering, cav plate etc.



I would really appreciate it if you could put me in touch with someone, preferably in Melbourne, that would be able to give me some advice on the restoration as I have no experience in this area. Things like a recommendation as to where I can source the missing bits or get them made, etc.

If anyone has any information on Jinx or can assist Phillip, you can contact him on 0448 440 187.



Balranald Wet Together

March saw many club members take a trip to the town of Balranald, located in the Riverina district in the south west of NSW, a place we, as a club, have not visited before. Balranald has a population of about 1200 and is located about 850 kilometres from Sydney, about 430 kilometres from Melbourne and 550 kilometres from Adelaide.



Plenty of room here - no boats bumping together

CAWPBA member Andy Griffiths reigns from Balranald and over the years I have seen glimpses of the lake he uses for boating. This lake always looked flat and big and certainly piqued my interest.

Last year, Alan Price, Ross Foster and I went on a bit of a tour around northern Victoria, southern NSW and north east SA seeking out boating venues suited to our boats and style of events. Balranald was one of the places we visited and we saw some real potential with an excellent caravan park in town and a huge lake with well maintained BBQ's and toilets close by.

Some weeks later we decided to give the venue a try and a date was decided on.



Display in the main street

Those making the trip were Alan, Melinda and Erica with their boat *Butter Box*, Ken and Karen with *Swiftwood*, Jim with *Vintage Red*, Darren, Liz, Luke and Mia with *Scrubcat*, John with *Impala*, Andy, Wendy and Mitch with *Ric Shaw* and Greg and Jacqui with *Stormy*. Also making the trip, but without boats, were Ray and Carol, Ian and Tania, Doug, Sue and Nick, Jon and Jesse and Nathan.

Most arrived on Friday, so the Shamrock Hotel, an easy walk from the park, was the place for some dinner and the large round table provided

a great way to catch up with each other.

A leisurely start to Saturday saw the boats line up in the main street in front of the Discovery Centre for a display before travelling the few kilometres down the road to Lake Yanga. This lake offers some hundreds of acres of excellent boating water, just spectacular. I could not see this lake ever being crowded - you could always find a quiet spot somewhere.



Our tour group at Yanga homestead

There was a bit of an off-shore breeze that really did not affect the water too much at all, making it a great boating day. While all boats got a pretty good workout, *Vintage Red* was really busy with Jim's grandkids and friends keeping the boat on the go all day.

It was good to see Alan's grey powered butterbox back on the water after a break of a couple of years following a big engine overheat. With a little coaxing and carbie tweaking, the engine, along with its new head, ran like a top all weekend.

As is the tradition, Saturday night was BBQ night. The Bamberry's were hosts for the night and we all congregated at their camp site. It was a warm and clear night, just perfect for sitting around the campfire. Yes, even with the temperature in the mid 20's, Doug insisted you can't sit around in a circle in a camp without a campfire in the middle, so one was lit and maintained all night. Much good conversation was had along with a great meal and beverages (even if some of us didn't really know what they were drinking). It was a great night.



Just cruisin'

For Sunday morning, Andy had arranged a tour for us at Yanga Homestead and its outbuildings. This worked in well after some cooler weather came in through the night, making the morning quite fresh. The homestead was the centrepiece of Yanga Station, at its peak one of the most productive pastoral stations in the Riverina and the largest in Australia. Yanga Station operated from the mid 1800's until about 2000. It was a trip back in time for us, under the informative commentary of Marty with some additional points added by Andy, our own local historian. The hardship, ingenuity and grittiness of life on these stations was well explained and visually displayed, making us very aware of how easy we have it today.



Taking a breather between laps

While at the homestead, a thunderstorm passed through, bringing some unstable weather and a bit of wind with it. After some lunch back at the park, most of us settled in and decided to give the lake a miss. Mind you, those were the ones that were staying on until Tuesday, meaning they still had a full day of boating on Monday. Darren and Alan took their boats down, with *Scrubcat* getting a real workout with good water, keen passengers and a huge lake empty of boats.

Dinner on Sunday night was easy, with catering looked after by the local RSL.



Jim gave his 186 powered Seacraft a good workout

Monday morning came and unfortunately, the workers amongst us had to return home and were bid farewell. Monday also saw a few trailer bearings being replaced, a busy day for Balranald Auto Electrics. For the stayers, the lake beckoned and after some lunch, four of us headed down with, namely, *Fleetwood*, *Impala*, *Stormy* and *Vintage Red*.

On arrival at the lake, a fairly stiff breeze was blowing on shore from



Impala behaving itself

across the lake, with the lake peppered with smallish white caps. Not the best water for boating, but we were determined to have a run.

Impala was first in and did some circuits close in. The other boats were launched and after a warm up were beached and the water situation assessed. We figured if we got to the opposite side of the lake it would be fairly well sheltered and offer some good water.

As we headed off, *Impala* decided it was not going to play and just would not start. John waved us off and we headed out. The water was choppy, but still good for a run. When we got to the opposite side, the water settled down considerably and with the wind behind us we had a good run for most of the way back. It was just too good, so another circuit was completed before we pulled back in to see how John was going. *Impala* still wasn't co-operating, so we put it back on its trailer and John climbed on board *Fleetwood*.



Monday evening dinner - life is good!

We set out again and on reaching the other side, we found the water even better than before. With a solitary camera, there was plenty of hooning around the camera boat for pictures. We were like a bunch of teenagers out there. We just had a ball.

Upon returning to the shore, the wind began to stiffen, so we decided to call it a day and trailered the boats.

After all that effort, a couple of well deserved beers back at the caravan park were enjoyed as was an excellent BBQ dinner and salad spread prepared by those special ladies in our lives (the blokes cooked the meat though, of course).

A truly excellent weekend with pretty much everyone of us saying

Merchandise

we have to come back again.

Thanks very much Andy, Wendy and Mitch, who made the weekend the success it was. And Wendy, those freshly baked and still warm scones, jam and cream were just fantastic!



Andy seemed pretty relaxed about it all

We still have 2017 calendars (only a couple left) available for sale at \$20.00 including postage.

Caps are available now and black or white polos with the CAWPBA logo embroidered on the right breast are available on order. Check with us for pricing.

We now have keyring floaties with the club logo available as well. These are \$5.00 plus P&H. Dimensions are 35mm diameter and 90mm in length.



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President's Pronouncements:

Hello all,

Well, here I am still basking in the glow of having my own actual wooden boat on the water at a wettogether. I'm sure that all who attended will agree that our time at Balranald and Lake Yanga was very enjoyable. Once I sorted out a few cobwebs the little boat was back to normal albeit somewhat sad in the deck department.

I will be attending Goolwa for the first time in a few years this year and find myself looking forward to it very much, and though it may be a bit late to arrange it now, I recommend a trip to take it in.

If you know of any events coming up that you think members might like to participate in put it out there. If you think that an event might like our involvement as a group, please tell them to contact us

Alan.

Around the Traps

Tasmania:

- The 12' skiff *Lightning III* is coming out of storage and moving from Hobart to Melbourne for whole lot of TLC.

SA:

A couple of skiffs have moved from SA back to Victoria recently:

- The late 60's built 12' Simpkin hull *Cougar* has had some mods done over the years and will be restored back to a skiff
- The 1971 built 12' Col Winton skiff *Busy Bee*, which although complete is a bit of a basket case, will have its future carefully considered.

Victoria:

- Simpkin runabout *Tora* has changed hands. The 15 footer's deck will have a freshen up over winter in readiness for the coming boating season.

NSW:

- A 25' carvel hulled gentleman's runabout has come out of what has been quite a long storage. The hull had quite a bit of work done to it some years ago, but the boat has had little use since. The boat, believed to have been built in the mid 1920's, will have some cosmetic work done to it before once again gracing the waters of NSW.

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Coming Events

April

- Goolwa Aquafest. 8th and 9th. Goolwa Aquatic Club. It's on again. Demo boat racing featuring classic and modern boats. Always a great weekend. Refer the Aquatic Club's Facebook page for further details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/252132955174814/>

May

- CAWPBA official season closer. 6th & 7th. A weekend based around Lake Epalock. Details to be confirmed via email soon, so keep a look out.
- Historic Winton. 27th & 28th. We will be displaying some boats at this fabulous event. It's not all about boats, but classic/vintage/historic cars, trucks, motorcycles, caravans, etc. And, then there's the racing. If you wish to display your boat, call Greg 0408 937 029 or Alan 0403 838 193. Otherwise, drop by and say hello.

July:

- Forster Boaties Reunion Weekend. July 1st & 2nd. Boat racing as it used to be. Refer the UHPBC website for details > <http://www.uhpbc.net/>

November:

CAWPBA National Regatta. 4th & 5th. Lake

Talbot, Narrandera, NSW. More info soon

Let us know of any events relative to our passion that you think should be listed here.

*Please check for confirmation
of dates and venues*

HOLLOW LOG

As always, your contributions to the Hollow Log are most welcome

Just for laughs

- *I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.*
- *I entered what I ate today into my new fitness app and it sent an ambulance to my house.*

Quote for Today

*"Team work is important.
It helps put the blame elsewhere"*

Club Contact Details

Victorian/Tasmanian Chapter

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For further information, contact Dave Pagano by phone on: 0413 766 501 or by e-mail: davehotboats@hotmail.com

Queensland/WA Chapter

For further information, contact Alan Price by phone on: 0403 838 193 or by e-mail: president@cawpba.com

Membership Update:

Vic	28	NT	1
NSW	13	Tas	3
SA	13	WA	1
ACT	1	Total	60