



# THE HOLLOW LOG

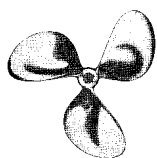
## The Classic Australian Wooden Power Boat Association Inc.

Volume 15, Issue 3

July 2015

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*Dodo heads the 7 boat line up at the Adelaide Boat Show*

## Winter reflections

As tends to be the case at this time of year, water activities quieten down and the noise is moved onshore, where projects or maintenance consume our cold winter evenings in the hope of enjoying them on the water in the forthcoming warmer weather.

Well that's the situation for those of us that live in Southern states anyway, if you live in Queensland you can still have a very decent day out in 20 something temp, more on that a few pages in.

The Aquafest has been run for the 4th year with club members having differing fortunes but I guess that's boats, especially the older wooden variety like most of ours. Some new boats were revealed to the public for the first time at Goolwa, one newly built skiff, one newly rebuilt winged Lewis and one new to SA Hydroplane.

For me the Aquafest was my last weekend before I went under the knife for back surgery so I approached the on water activities with a couple of conflicting thoughts, the usual excitement of getting out for some fun laps with friends, and with the knowledge that it would be my last chance to pilot a boat for an uncertain amount time. Anyway

those melancholy thoughts disappeared once the flag dropped for the first demonstration, and then magically reappeared as I struggled to stand up straight at the end of the fantastic weekend.

Whilst recovering and not doing much, I decided to be realistic as to how much time and money it was going to take to get the *Lewis skiff hull* and *Frank Lewis skiffabout* finished so I advertised them on the Bulletin Board. I'm very happy that both were picked up by club members. In the case of *Lewis skiff hull*, Nathan is flying into the project and I'm sure we'll see some rapid progress.

Nearly 3 months on and fortunately the surgery appears to have been successful so I'm hoping to get into the driver's seat at the Powerboat picnic this coming weekend in Goolwa, that's weather permitting of course!

With the Winter solstice now behind us the days are getting longer, then before you know it Nar-randera will be upon us and those little jobs we've had months to do will still be there. So once you've finished reading and have hopefully enjoyed the Hollow Log, remember that and I'll see you on the water soon.

## Aquafest at Goolwa SA

There was another fantastic array of club boats at this year's Aquafest with some previous attendees unfortunately unable to make it but others making the journey for their first time.

*Rascala* returned to Goolwa, a venue she had been to in her competitive powerboat racing days. Ken was very pleased with her performance and the chance to run her around the closed water circuit.



*Rascala, Tia Maria & Skitter*

Darren Crawford and family decided to cross the border a little earlier in the week so they could venture up to our "big smoke", Adelaide and for some sight-seeing in the local area. During their stay there was the now familiar sight of *Alfalfa* sitting on her trailer, or at the bank with bilge pumps going flat out as Darren attempted to swell the planks and reduce the water intake to a slow gush. The appearance of another cracked plank hardly rates a mention and Darren is my hero in this regard as he never seems to be phased as he heads out for a few laps.



*Shooting Star, Skitter, Miss Dee, Strewth and Pagan*

A last minute decision was made by Greg Carr to drive over, opting to leave without a boat in tow, a decision that he may have regretted a little once the boats hit the water. This did however free him up to look around the local area and take a trip on the "Cockle Train" across to Victor Harbor. With his love for Steam trains this was something he'd wanted to do for some time, his decision to let his wife know he'd taken the trip in her absence, one he may have regretted a little more.

There were mixed fortunes with the Traegers. Glen managed to get the ribs in *Fury* repaired in time, only to have a universal joint between the engine and gearbox disintegrate at 6,500rpm during a test run. Being short on time, Glen decided to leave *Fury* as a static display. Dig and some dedicated helpers had been working flat out since the Wooden

Boat Festival to repair the hull of *The Sting*. 40 years after her original construction, Dig took the opportunity to modify a couple of items including the propeller shaft angle. By all reports from Dig and Glen, *The Sting* handled and performed better than ever without any hiccups.

The well documented trials of Ray Russell and *Pagan* seemed an almost distance memory as Ray continued to circle virtually trouble free, and with a pleasing grin. Given the choice, and fuel, I think Ray would've happily driven *Pagan* from dawn to dusk. Certainly this was a great testament to Ray's perseverance to get through what I'm sure were some very frustrating times.

Skiffo, alias Paul Siddall used the Aquafest to unveil his brand new boat, and namesake, *Skiffo*! This 17' 10" skiff has been skilfully crafted from scratch by Ron Johnson. It's currently fitted with a 350 Chevrolet small block with a blower and 6 Stromberg carbies on top attached to Z drive gearbox, however this is mainly a dummy used by Ron for set up. Paul assures me a *real* Chevrolet engine will be built with *expletive* adequate horsepower. The hull and deck also need to be coated and polished to the gleaming example we usually see from Paul's boats. This will surely be topped off with some chrome and shiny bling wherever possible which I look forward to seeing.



*Shooting Star & Skiffo*



*Colin heads out in Miss Dee*

Another restored clinker was relaunched with Colin Bailey putting his recently named *Miss Dee*, a winged Lewis through her paces for the first time. The 400 Chevrolet went well and *Miss Dee* looked to sit right from the shore, although with her deck sloping down, it gave Colin the impression he was going to nose dive. Some water pump teething troubles restricted Colin to a few short stints.

Some damage was inflicted on 2 members boats over the weekend. Firstly the propeller of Graham Stevens *Pace Set'R* hit something, taking a piece out of it but not causing any other damage.

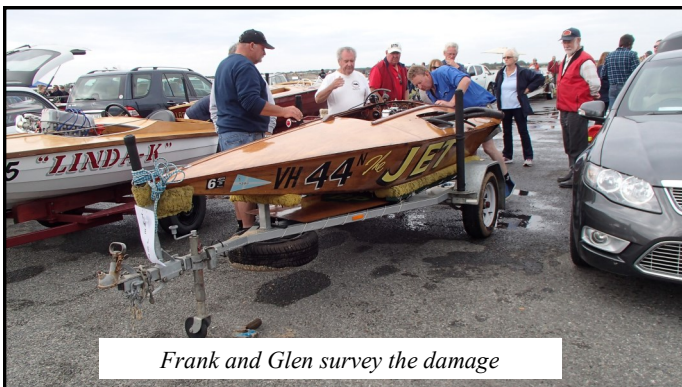


## Aquafest at Goolwa SA

Second was Frank Wicks in *The Jet*, who after winding up to do a solo demonstration run also hit something with her propeller causing her turn sideways violently. The force of the water caved in the port side of the hull, just forward of the transom and *The Jet* started to sink rapidly. Quick work by a shaken Frank and one of the course boats meant they had a rope attached before *The Jet* disappeared. After slow trip back to the bank, a cast of many lifted the special but broken little boat back onto her trailer, one of the tow tractors then pulling her off the beach area and into the car park for assessment.

to those people who spend their time performing the various duties that allow the rest of us to enjoy our day on the water.

By my count there were over 20 Woodies in attendance this year, hopefully this is all of them but apologies if not. *Rascala*, *Miss Dee*, *Lady Bird*, *Skiffo*, *HiFi*, *Alfalfa*, *Pagan*, *Skitter*, *Tia Maria*, *Pace Set 'R*, *The Sting*, *Fury*, *Strewth*, *Shooting Star*, *GiGi*, *After Midnight*, *Miss Dynamite*, *Miss Cindy*, *Jayme II*, *Rush*, *Steve Moritz's Clinker* and an unnamed *Everingham*.



Frank and Glen survey the damage

Whilst obviously upsetting for Frank and onlookers, the safety measures put in place at the event ensured that Frank and his craft were retrieved in a timely manner and many thanks should be given



Me in Rush

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Chris added "I was impressed by their professionalism, attention to detail and ability to restore *Quick Sticks* back to immaculate condition".



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## Adelaide Boat Show

The club received an email from the organisers of this years Adelaide Boat Show, inviting us to display some of our craft. Initially indicating they'd like 6 to 8 boats, I spread the word around to S.A. based members but when I was informed of the 12m x 6m allocation I had to revise the number down to 4 boats.

So at 7.30am on the Tuesday prior to the show Colin, Scott, Mark, Gary & myself duly set up the 4 boats and left for work. Mid morning I took a call saying there was space for 2 more, then just before lunch a call saying there was space for another one. Luckily Colin has a fleet of boats and only lives down the road from the showgrounds.



In the end we had 7 boats on display *Dodo*, *Hi-Fi*, *Lady Bird*, *Jayme II*, *RUSH*, *Miss Dee* and *Glued & Screwed*. Given a bit more notice we probably could've had an example of most boat styles within our club by squeezing a Hydroplane into the display too.

Colin's immaculate *Dodo* featured in a short cameo by our boats dur-

ing the local TV news weather report, this caught the eye of Ian & William Leitch. Their Uncle & Great Uncle, Max Lawton was the original owner of *Dodo*, and so they headed to the show Sunday. Some good timing meant that Colin was on hand when they visited. Ian recalled learning to ski behind *Dodo* as a teenager, and they still have pictures of her hanging at home. Both parties were very happy, the Leitch's because their much loved *Dodo* had survived and Colin because another piece of her history had fallen into place. During the conversation even the "would you sell" question was asked and answered with a polite "no", with a comprise of arranging a day together on the river in the near future.

Over the course of the four day event many admirers recalled owning or enjoying a wooden powerboat in their past, with some commenting on the whereabouts of some hidden treasures.



With the positive feedback from the public and organisers alike we'll look forward to seeing whether we're invited again next year.

## Ron Johnson's new Ski boat

What do you do when you're a retired boat builder who has some time on his hands in between various boat projects for other people. Well if you are Ron Johnson, you build another fantastic wooden clinker Ski boat, without even having a potential buyer in mind, just because you can.



I was fortunate enough to see this craft part way through its build when I picked *Jayme II* awhile back and now it's been launched, and has a buyer lined up.

These photos are of Ron and his son Michael on launch day. The boat is basically the same as *Phoenix* that Ron built a few years back but a different seating arrangement and power coming from a Ford 351 Cleveland V8.



## PACE SET'R

A pleasant surprise at this years Aquafest was another hydroplane, *Pace Set'R*, newly purchased by Graham Stevens. This was a logical solution to Graham's problem that other members can surely appreciate, his Eddy hull *Touche* was in a million pieces for repairs and he needed a boat for the event! Apparently he had his eye on it for some time and managed to make a deal, and a trip to Victoria and back in time for the Aquafest.

This boat takes Graham back to his Powerboat competition days as the OZ lites class is the evolution of the Formula Ford class of which Graham was an Australian Champion.

*Pace Set'R* ran well over the weekend and I expect Graham will tweak a few things as he gets used to her. The only hiccup was like Frank in *The Jet*, she hit something submerged which took a chunk out of the propeller, fortunately no other damage was done and Graham had a spare.

Graham and Pace Set'R at the Goolwa Aquafest.



### History.

The hull was built at Lake Como Italy by Angelo Monilari in the early 1970's for Phil Rolla (Record Propellers) as a shovel nose hydro and originally fitted with a highly modified Alfa GTA 1300cc engine. In this configuration Phil Rolla set a 1300cc world record.

The 1300cc Alfa was replaced by a much modified Alfa GTA 1500cc and it was found that the hull was very flighty so it was converted to a pickle fork. This combination exceeded 125mph in time trials.

In 1977 the boat was purchased by Alan Eddington and transported to Australia and later fitted with an Alfa GTA 2000cc engine. When the expected 2 litre class didn't eventuate, a 1600cc Twin Cam Ford engine was installed. Alan raced the boat as *Havoc 3*.

Jack & Glen Eddington purchased the hull from Alan and installed a 1600cc Formula Ford engine.

The boat was then sold to Tony Foster who installed the 1600cc Formula Ford engine from his Donzi hydroplane.

Glen Eddington re-acquired the boat and in 2005 installed a Tony Pennington prepared 1600cc Toyota 4A-GE Oz lite engine. He placed second in the 2012 and 2013 Oz lite championships.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 at Lake Eppalock, Glen Eddington set an Oz lite Australian speed record of 169.95 kilometres per hour (105.60 mph) with this boat. In doing so Glen also gained his 100 MPH badge. The boat has not competed since 2013.



### Membership renewal

It's that time of the year again folks, when club subscription is due for renewal.

You should find a renewal noticed attached with this newsletter. You can complete and return it via post with either a cheque or money order made out to CAWPBA.

Postal address is PO Box 804, Heathcote, Vic, 3523.

Or, you can simply do a direct transfer into the club's bank account, details of which are:

#### Bendigo Bank

Account Name: Classic Australian Wooden Power Boat Ass.

BSB: 633-108

Account Number: 132989179

Still \$50.00

No renewal notice found? Then you must already be financial.



## Somerset Dam Queensland

My parents Gary & Diane were touring up the coast of Queensland on their annual escape from the cold here in South Australia when Alan posted about a gathering being organised by wooden boat enthusiasts Jason Paroz and Ian Grant at Somerset dam, Queensland.

A detour from their loosely made plans meant they could enjoy some wooden boats as well as the warmer weather as they started their return trip.

Congratulations to all those involved for the great turn out of boats, cars and people, I read many are keen to do it again and with low to mid 20's temperature, that's something us Southern staters can only be jealous of at this time of year.



17 boats turned up on the day including the following *Resurrection*, *Mean Machine*, *Y Not*, *Hurricane*, *Scotty*, *Hold On*, *Wendy*, *Riptide*, *Glo-Worm*, *Baby Dolphin*, *Helrayzer*, *Alfa II*, *ELVA D II*, *Splinter* and *I Owe Nothing*. Apologies for the names that have missed.

Some were being towed by classic Fords and Holdens.





## Skiffo — part 1

Now that Paul Siddall's new Ron Johnson built skiff has been unveiled, I thought I'd publish some photos taken during her construction to show this work of art taking shape.



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## President's Pronouncements:

*Hello all*

*The South Australian boys have had an outing with a display at the Adelaide boat show, but I'll let Dave tell you about that. Sydney boat show also looks like a place where some wood may be on display, Melbourne? who knows, there has also been some new boats surfacing, (not skiffs for a change) can't wait to see what turns up next.*

*Some planning has started for get togethers in Vic to make the best of the upcoming season, and for those in other states, don't leave it too late.*

*Another event that is worth watching out for is the upcoming, Paynesville Classic Boat Rally 5th & 6th of March 2016*

*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

### General:

- Beauties are still being discovered in sheds around the country like the recently found old hydroplane, *Satan* so keep listening and looking.

### Victoria

- *Rebound* is still for sale. Bob just thought he'd mention it.
- My *Frank Lewis skiffabout* is now Darren's long term project.

### NSW

- Dave & Bob edge *Rhonda Babe II* closer & closer, putting her on display at the Forster Boaties Reunion.
- My *Lewis skiff hull* is now with Nathan Reed in Deniliquin and he's off to flying start with its restoration.

### SA

- Another Traeger has decided they need a Hydroplane after being at the Aquafest. John & Dig recently did a quick trip to Queensland and returned with *U-Too*, a 14ft Turbocharged 4 cylinder Hydroplane. I'm looking forward to seeing her in person soon.

## 2014/2015 Committee Members

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Ross Foster Mob: 0409 018 415  
Ray Russell Mob: 0408 641 960

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Drewer  
Email: editor@cawpba.com

## Coming Events

### July 2015

- Goolwa Aquatic Club. 11th of July. Powerboat picnic day. Refer [www.goolwaaquaticclub.com.au](http://www.goolwaaquaticclub.com.au) for further details.
- Sydney International Boat Show. 30th July to 3rd of August. Only Dave Pagano's collection will be on display.

### August 2015

- Winterfest. Who's game, again? Heathcote/Lake Eppalock. Just a diary entry at this time. Further details later.

### October 2015

- Narrandera shake down Test and Tune - October 10th. Venue TBA - will depend on water levels at lakes.
- CAWPBA Annual National Regatta. Oct 31st & Nov 1st. Lake Talbot, Narrandera, NSW. Contact Alan on 0403 838 193 or Greg on 0408 937 029 for details.

### November 2015

- Lake Mulwala Rod Run . November 7th. To be confirmed.

### February 2016

- Maribyrnong River Cruise . February 7th.

### March 2016

- Paynesville Classic Boat Rally. March 5th & 6th
- Yarrawonga - Bundalong cruise. To be confirmed.

### April 2016

- Goolwa Aquatic Club - Aquafest. 9th & 10th. Boats of all types ranging from vintage Skiffs, Hydros & Runabouts up to and including more recent BAD race boats. Spirited demos and more. Refer [www.goolwaaquaticclub.com.au](http://www.goolwaaquaticclub.com.au) for further details.

### Nagambie winery cruise - TBA

*Please check for confirmation  
of dates and venues*

### Quote for Today

*"Imagination is more important  
than knowledge"*

*Albert Einstein*

## Club Contact Details

### New South Wales/ACT Chapter

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

### Queensland/WA Chapter

For further information, contact Greg Carr by phone on: 0408 937 029 or by e-mail: [secretary@cawpba.com](mailto:secretary@cawpba.com)

### South Australian/NT Chapter

For further information, contact Paul Siddall by phone on: 0419 826 377 or by e-mail at: [lema033@bigpond.com](mailto:lema033@bigpond.com)

### Victorian/Tasmanian Chapter

For further information, contact Greg Carr by phone on: 0408 937 029 or by e-mail: [secretary@cawpba.com](mailto:secretary@cawpba.com)

### Membership Update:

Vic	37	NT	1
NSW	17	Tas	3
Qld	4	SA	16
WA	3	USA	1
ACT	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>