



THE HOLLOW LOG

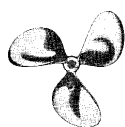
The Classic Australian Wooden Power Boat Association Inc.

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Inside this issue:

Narrandera 2011	1
Deborah	2
Spotted	3
Timely reminder	6
New classic	7
Quiz	7
Your Committee	8
Letters	8
Coming Events	8
Club Contact Details	8



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Narrandera 2011

Narrandera 2011

Well, here it is at some ridiculous hour on a Sunday morning and I am sitting at work writing an article for the newsletter. It is one of the rare quiet nights I get nowadays, actually, it's quite busy with plenty of work, but I have good people and supervision numbers in, making my workload much lighter.

It seems so long ago that we were at Narrandera for our annual regatta and I have delayed writing this too long. With my shocker of a memory, my worry now is that I will miss some key points of the weekend.

As in previous years, most of us turned up on the Friday to maximise the weekend time and for many, an opportunity for a quick run in the afternoon. Those making an early run were met with some curious signage at the entrance to the lake, stating "Keep Out due to Construction Zone". Again, Narrandera council was doing work on the lake around the time of our event and I later discovered that they had intended to leave it as a construction site all weekend! This would have effectively prevented any use of the lake. What

incredible timing! I also understand that the council was told they would be billed for the caravan park's loss of revenue from cancellations received from us, causing them to have a rethink. As it turned out, for those of us that stayed for an extra day, we were still prevented from using the lake on the Monday due to works being carried out. Rest assured I will ensure we receive a guarantee that the lake will be fully available from Friday through to Monday in 2012. It also raises the issue of the need for contingencies if we can't use Lake Talbot for any reason. We have spoken of this before and been lucky so far, but we do need to look around.

We were widely travelled again this year with members coming from as far as Darwin and Hobart. Thanks for the effort folks.

Weather was pretty good this year after the previous year's chilly weekend. Not too hot, plenty of sunshine and not a whole lot of wind.

It was a typical Narrandera weekend – fabulous.

(... page 4)

Deborah

Below is a greatly précised down pictorial on the restoration of Deborah, Paul Siddall's 1961 built Hammond.

The boat was in a sad state when discovered by Paul. Initially believed to be a pretty standard sort of Hammond hull, further investigation revealed the hull as an 18 footer fitted with a 427 Hi Comp Chev V8.

After some months under restoration with Ron Johnson, the boat is just about complete.

The pictures here and additional pictures of this restoration will be placed on the website over the next month or so, so keep checking.



Spotted

This Cracker Box was spotted recently at Murray Bridge by Dave Drewer.

Dave spoke to the owner, Bruce, a cabinet maker who had built the boat and launched it about four months earlier. He'd built it vaguely to plans, but with his own modifications, such as more of a V in the hull.

The boat is just under 16' and runs a 253 Holden which was built to run to 8,000 rpm. Currently, it will only rev to 4,000, so he is going to play with some different props as he believes it is loading up.

You'll have to keep an eye out for this one Dave and keep a check on its progress.



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Narrandera cont'd



Dave Pagano made a big entrance with *Cassata* and *Renegade*

Plenty of new (but old) boats to paw over and some new people to get to know. Boats attending this year's event were:

Al-Falfa (Darren Crawford)
Cassata (Dave Pagano)
Bullitt (Jon Levett)
Butter Box (Al Price)
Cesilde (James Nicholls)
Classique (Andy Griffiths)
Dragon (Peter Sawtell)
Electric Girl (Doug Bamberry)
Jan II (Colin Bailey)
Jayme II (Dave Drewer)
Mystress (Neil Blyth)
Ol Skool (Paul Siddall)
Rebound (Bob Carter)
Redskin (Scott Botterill)
Renegade (Dave Pagano)
Ric Shaw (Rick Schoeneur)
Scrubcat (Darren Goldberg)
Stormy (Greg Carr)
The Stig (Dig Traeger)



First time wet for the restored *Jan II*

Tom Boy (Chris Chivers)
Turbo-Fire (Brenda Carter)
Vamoose (Bernie Sanson)
Wooden Worry (Ray Russell)
Woodwork (Ian Rickards)



Dragon, The Stig and Mystress

Boats not seen by many of us included *Bullitt*, Jon Levett's 327 Chevy powered Lewis. Still a work in progress, Jon managed to get the boat to Narrandera after many late nights working on it. Jon, I was always impressed when the boat came out of the lake by the amount of water that came out of the boat.

Woodwork, a 17' Syndicate hull owned by Ian Rickards, was another boat making its debut at a club meet. It was the first outing for quite some time for the immaculate 202 Holden powered boat, with Narrandera offering a great excuse to get the boat wet.

Also at Narrandera was *Cesilde*, James Nicholls beautiful 1956 Donoratico runabout. James has owned this boat for some considerable time and actually brought the boat with him from the UK when he moved to Australia. The only outboard at Narrandera this year, the 15 footer offered a great contrast to the rest of the fleet and looked a picture cruising around.



Ian Rickards Syndicate *Woodwork*

Dig Traeger hauled his 26' hydro, *The Stig* across from South Australia. With the limited size of Lake Talbot, both in length and width, the big block powered craft could not really be wound up to show

what it is capable of. All the same, Dig still managed to impress us all with his high speed demo runs.

Peter Sawtell, also from South Australia, towed his 20' carvel *Dragon* to Narrandera this year. This hull is very similar to Paul Siddall's *Lincoln*, also from SA, which is definitely the home for this type of boat. The 307 powered craft offered some real presence on the water, as all these bigger carvels seem to do.



First time wet for the restored *Scrubcat*

Classique, Andy Griffiths' new shed accessory, was also at Narrandera. We saw a preview of this boat in the last newsletter and she proved to be everything Andy described. The 253 Holden powered hull was a real performer and as always with the 253's, sounded wonderful on the water.



Three skiffs together: *Renegade*, *Scrubcat* and *Rebound*

Recent resto's included Col Bailey's Lewis, *Jan II*. This wonderful runabout, built in the late 50's, was on its inaugural post restoration run. Colin chose to step away from the traditional colours of the reds and went to a green for the hull and deck trim as well as upholstery. It was an exceptionally good combination with everyone commenting on how smart the boat looked. I really enjoyed watching the boat running with that early round bilged hull rolling over in the turns. Ahh, 1950's hulls. I have a boat just like that Col and come to think of it, I also have a green hulled boat

Another freshly completed restoration was Darren Goldberg's Lewis skiff, *Scrubcat*. This well pedigreed racer has been in Darren's shed

for a number of years after he tracked it down in Victoria in 2004. The boat had been renamed *Geerloose*. After getting the 327 running again, the boat was given a try out at Carrum, delighting all who drove her by the way the deck moved about on the very tired hull. *Scrubcat* then underwent its long restoration, emerging for its debut at Narrandera. So fine was his timing, Darren was still finishing some last minute details on the boat at Narrandera. The boat was just immaculate and a credit to Darren. Also notable was that the boat performed virtually faultlessly all weekend, with the engine behaving from the start. Sure, there is some fairly minor tweaking in order, but a credit to Alan Price who rebuilt and set the engine up.



Andy Griffiths giving *Classique* a workout

Not many breakages this year from memory, just a few niggling things and owners getting their boats sorted out. Actually, do we ever get them sorted out?

The shoreline was certainly crowded this year. We have lost a bit of shoreline with the improvements made to the site and with numbers of boats on the water hovering around the 24 mark, it makes for some close parking. It wasn't too much of a concern a few years ago when the willows in the water on the opposite side flattened the wash, but we now find the boats moving around quite a bit, so much so that I saw some fenders being fitted to boats. If this event continues getting bigger, and it will, another venue might have to be considered.

One of the highlights this year would have to have been the number of skiffs on the water. It wasn't that long ago that skiffs, and particularly V8 skiffs, were a rarity. This weekend we had four skiffs circling, two V8's and two sixes. They were a great look on the water with many wondering how long it's been since two V8 skiffs had



Chivs and Hookster mulling over *Bullitt*

Narrandera cont'd

been circuiting together and then throw in a very quick six cylinder, we really could have held a race.

I was bemused on the Monday watching Darren taking his wife Liz for a ride in *Scrubcat*. With all the macho blokiess stuff that surrounds a V8 skiff, in its day the ultimate displacement raceboat, Liz went out very relaxed and wearing a cardigan. Now, who would ever have worn a cardigan in a race boat, let alone a V8 skiff. Liz, how could you? Think of what are you doing to the "myth".



Darren and Liz (with her cardi on) in *Scrubcat*

We had some pretty good media coverage this year with two regional TV stations and a couple of local newspapers doing stories on us. Both TV stations sent cameramen and took some footage. The reporter for PRIME raved about the Tiger Moth aircraft fly-in he had just covered and said any story from then on would have to be pretty good to beat that. Well, we got just under two minutes of air time and the Tiger Moths got about 50 seconds. If you haven't seen it, the footage, with some lousy comments by yours truly (I still cringe whenever I hear it), is still up on the WIN website.

The Saturday night BBQ was popular with the majority of us behaving ourselves. In seriousness, we were all well behaved. Actually, I reckon the standards have definitely improved since the bottle of Scotch brought out in previous years has remained in the cupboard.

The AGM on Sunday morning was well attended despite the late night before. The AGM was kept to minimums and as no committee positions were contested, the same committee as last year was re-elected.

A general meeting was then opened. Some really good discussion took place about where we are going as a club and how we conduct events such as Narrandera.



The delightful Cesilde

After the meeting closed it was back down to the lake to continue on with burning petrol and enjoying our boats.

It was another very successful Narrandera weekend with many having already booked for 2012. Looking forward to seeing you there.



JAYME II playing camera boat for a TV cameraman

Timely reminder

I needed to tow *Stormy* up to Heathcote a couple of months back and I had forgotten about a rumbling I had heard last time I towed it. I figured I had a bearing on the way out and was going to check it. Well, here I was, all set to go, when I felt the resistance to roll when hooking the trailer on to the car. I decided to push on as it was only 100 kms and would be a slow trip because I was following a truck. It rumbled all the way and I sweated all the way.

I parked the boat and a couple of weeks later I finally got around too checking the bearings. The picture shows how lucky I was. The one roller was the only one left. The outer bearing, while intact, was absolutely shot. I was fortunate. I won't take the chance next time.



Newbuild

Below are a couple of photos of a new clinker runabout under construction. Member Ron Johnson felt like building a new boat and started the project a couple of weeks ago. Not too sure about the exact dimensions, but probably around the 17 - 18' mark like his last one, Phoenix. Robyn, Ron's wife, is dreading the next stage of construction - roving - where she has become quite expert. Last one Robyn? I think we all know better.



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This is not a Boat racing event

Quiz Answer

Well, no takers again this issue. The boat on the right was built in 1961 in Granville, Sydney, By A. Fletcher, who built several runabouts. The boat is currently somewhere in Victoria.



OK, can you identify the builder of this one. The boat was built in Victoria the early 1960's.



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President's Pronouncements:

All fairly quiet out there in wooden boat land.

The South Australian boys have had a couple of outings over the past couple of months and the Victorians got together at Yarrowonga a few weeks ago. These events were of minimal planning and were a case of let's just get some boats on the water. There were several boats at each event, which is a great response.

There are a few events coming up that we have been invited to that will give owners a chance to run their boats. These events are always interesting in that you just don't know what gems will turn up at them. Great news from Queensland member Glenn Hickmott in getting a few woodies out and on the water in the far north.

A little late again with this issue, but that just means you will have less of a wait until the next!

Happy and safe boating and remember, keep talking to me . . .

Greg

Around the Traps

Tasmania:

- It seems a couple of hydros have headed south from NSW to who is fast becoming Tassie's Mr Hydro. Member Stuart Beattie is now the proud owner of hydroplanes *Crazy Baby* and *The Bug*.

Victoria:

- There's been a bit of activity around northern Victoria recently with boats being discovered, bought and sold in the border area. Boats with names like A-Jay and Grumpy have been mentioned.
- After sorting *Screwit* out, Ross Foster has made a start on an un-wetted skiff he has had tucked away for a little while. It sounds like a challenge, but then Ross does like a challenge.
- A 262 ci powered 18' 6" Walker built hydro is about to undergo a long awaited restoration with its original owner in the Gippsland district. More later.

South Australia:

- Still a couple of restos under way in South Australia. One recently back (ref page 2) and a Lewis skiff about undergoing some serious hull work.

West Australia:

- *Ski-Bee* has travelled from Victoria across to WA where it will undergo restoration with new owner Darren Schneider.

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Bob Carter Mob: 0418 101 626

Coming Events

February 2012:

- Geelong Waterski Club 50th Anniversary celebration. Feb 18 at the Club on the Barwon River in Geelong. CAWPBA members have been invited to display their ski-boats, with the option of a demo run on the river. Please contact 0408 937 029 or email nh35_stormy@bigpond.com

March 2012:

- North Queensland Classic & Wooden Power Boat Club inaugural get together. 3rd & 4th. Loam Island Community Centre, Townsville. Contact 0418 710 230.
- Hammond Boats trip to Wyangla Waters, NSW. Timber and glass Hammond boats. 9th and 10th. Contact Billy Bastian on 0448 892 837.

April 2012:

- Victorian Chapter Maribyrnong cruise. 7th. A leisurely putt down Melbourne's "other" river. Looking at Saturday to save the Sunday carnage at the Warmies ramp, but if Sunday suits others better, we'll change it. Let me know on 0408 937 029.
- Goolwa Aquatic Club Classic Speedboat Spectacular. 14th & 15th. It would appear

that three club boats from Victoria are heading across for this event. See page 7 for details.

- Seacraft Syndicate Boat Owners Club Annual regatta, 14th & 15th. Merool, Echuca. Refer <http://ssboc.com.au/> for details

*Please check for confirmation
of dates and venues*

Tired of a listless sex life, a man came right out and asked his wife during a recent lovemaking session, 'How come you never tell me when you have an orgasm?' She glanced at him and replied, 'You're never home!'

Quote for Today

*"Enjoy life - it has
an expiry date"*

Club Contact Details

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South Australian/NT Chapter

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Victorian/Tasmanian Chapter

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Membership Update:

Vic	44	NT	1
NSW	18	Tas	4
Qld	3	SA	10
ACT	1	USA	1
WA	1	Total	84