



THE HOLLOW LOG

The Classic Australian Wooden Power Boat Association Inc.

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Inside this issue:

Narrandera 2013	1
Yarrawonga Rod Run	2
Narrandera in pictures	6
Dodos are not extinct	7
Around the Traps	8
Your Committee	8
Coming Events	8
Club Contact Details	8



Many of the Narrandera gang

Narrandera 2013

Well, another great weekend at Narrandera. The weather was a bit of a challenge, with it being very warm and overcast on Saturday and somewhat cooler but with a bit more sunshine on Sunday. The wind was up a bit, but still allowed good boating. For those who could stay on an extra day or so, temperatures were more than acceptable on Monday, but in the morning the wind had the lake whipped up and at one stage started producing white caps, something I've never seen before on Lake Talbot.

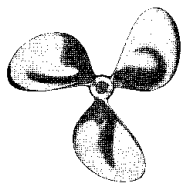
There were some new faces there this year and a total of 23 boats. What was also pleasing is that many members are coming along for the weekend even if they can't, for some reason, bring along their boat. Others, too, will put the effort in to come along even if they can only manage one day. We even had Blair Gregory come over from Lower Hutt, New Zealand. Blair has an 18' Australian built clinker that he is restoring and wanted to have a look at a few similar set-ups here. Blair has gone the extra step and joined the CAWPBA. Welcome, Blair.

Boats attending were *Al Falfa*, *Bernadine*, *Butter Box*, *Echo Too*, *Electric Girl*, *Griffin*, *Impact*,

Jayme II, *KAY-OS*, *Puff n Huff*, *Leanne*, *Matt's Botterill*, *Mystress*, *Rascala*, *Red Devil*, *Righty O*, *Screamin Eagle III*, *Steinway*, *Stormy*, *Stu Pott*, *Touche'*, *The Jet* and *Vintage Red*.

Many of us hadn't seen several of the boats before. These included *Bernadine*, Dave Pagano's 14' 1958 Goodlear runabout. While Goodlear hulls are pretty scarce anyway, *Bernadine* is even more special because of the Repco cross-flow head fitted to its 138 ci Holden. The boat performs very well, albeit an overheating issue which was eventually sorted out. It was also suffering a little from a leaky hull, but considering it has been several years since the boat has been in the water, the little clinker was entitled to leak a little.

James Wiseman's *Echo Too* was another newie for many of us. The circa 1960 hull had been stored since the mid 60's and after being taken down from the rafters by James, the boat was restored and relaunched in 2009. James then went on to do a little more development on the old family boat by supercharging its side valve V8 Ford motor. It really is an eye catcher and sounds wonderful. I have it on good authority that it goes very



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... to page 4

Yarrowonga Rod Run

Northern Suburbs Street Rods held their annual Rod Run in Yarrowonga in November. The event was huge and attracted over 800 rods. Also there on the Saturday, through a lot of good work being put in by local CAWPBA member John Sullivan, were six (and a half) classic timber speedboats. Also there and close by were a few immaculate Seacraft boats from the SSBOC.

We made John sweat a bit when, for some time only two local boats, his own and Michael Nealer's *Aquaholic*, turned up. It wasn't long though before the rest of us rocked up all about the same time. We were then a bit nervous about being noticed because although we were



The line up

in a really good position on the grassed foreshore area, we were located well away from the main rod action. Our concerns soon evaporated when a steady stream of the public arrived and hovered around our boats, something that kept up all day. The weather started off cool, but warmed to a typical sunny Yarrowonga day.

Boats on show were *Aquaholic*, Matt Williams Botterill, John Sullivan's *Lewis*, Ray Russell's *Pagan*, Greg Carr's *Stormy*, Frank Wicks' *The JET* and *Hot Stuff* (Ray's little 8' pickle fork tunnel hydro hull outboard).

Ray had arranged to pick up his new baby *Pagan* the night before at Numurkah and seeing it was reasonably close to Yarrowonga, decided to bring it along. It received quite a bit of attention. The boat is quite special in that it's the only diagonal laid skiff hull we know of. It is



And from the other end



John Sullivan's Lewis

also a time capsule, being very original and very raw. The boat is a fantastic example of a boat owned by someone (a farmer, I think) who wanted to go boat racing. The way the boat, along with its four cylinder Vanguard engine, is set up with home made exhausts, motor cycle carburettors, wiring, etc is simply pure backyard mechanic. It just all works. Ray will leave the boat as original as possible and is champing at the bit to get it in the water.

A great effort by Frank Wicks as well, bringing *The JET* down from the NSW central coast. This was particularly so after having spent the previous weekend at Narrandera.

New to many of us was John Sullivan's *Lewis*. I had known this boat as *Pluto*, but there is nothing to identify it as having been called this. The boat is in excellent condition after a freshen up and is ready to be fitted out with all its running gear and 6 cylinder Holden. It won't be long at all before it is out on Lake Mulwala.



PAGAN on show

We had a TV crew from TV Channel 31 drop by. Channel 31 is a Melbourne based community TV station that offers specialised broadcasting. The station produces a couple of excellent motoring type of shows, one being *Rev Heds*, for which the crew were filming. Three of us were interviewed with plenty of footage being taken of the boats. I was told that it will be some months before it gets to air, so keep a look out. Note that Channel 31 can only be seen in Melbourne and some outer areas, although I think *Rev Heds* is shown on various channels in most other states. I will request a DVD of the interviews



Michael Nealer being interviewed

once the show has gone to air. I am pleased to say that most were jealous as I was the only one to be interviewed by the cute blonde. Unfortunately, she ran away with someone else in a plastic boat (shock, horror!).

A bonus on the day was getting a look at a completely original Simp-

kin runabout that hasn't been in the water since 1999. This immaculate and much loved boat is brought out occasionally for a dust off and to fire up its Holden 186. Yep, they're out there.

A big thanks to everyone who brought their boat along (most at short notice and only a week after our nationals) and especially to John Sullivan for making the day happen.



Rev Heds film crew



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Narrandera cont'd

well, indeed.

Peter Drofnik brought along his recently restored Everingham, *Griffin*. Pete has done a wonderful job on the boat with some distinctive inlaid woodwork on the deck making it quite unique. The sound of its 313 Chrysler is quite distinctive amongst all those Chevs.



Some of the boats

Also attending for just the Saturday was *KAY-OS*, a Hartley half-cabin powered by a Morris 1500. At 18', the boat had some presence and certainly stood out. Owners Jim and Kay Cuthill says that while she's not quick, she a comfortable cruiser. I'm sure there's more to the boat's name, Jim.



... and a few more

Paul Siddall's 18' Hammond, *Leanne*, was also making its Narrandera debut. This hull is typical Hammond with its understated poise on the water. I took the boat for a run and while it is a substantial amount of speedboat, performance and agility were surprising. The 400 ci Chev moved the hull along quite briskly. Paul then took the wheel and put the boat through some tight turns. The hull really hooks in and was most impressive..

Although Matt Williams' Botterill runabout has been to Narrandera before, this time it was on the water and a goer. With still a few restoration items to finalise, the boat had a good shake down over the weekend and I think Matt was very pleased with its performance.

Ken Lemin's David Gill hull *Rascala* arrived, also fresh out of a restoration. The ex racer was purchased by Ken early in the year and refurbished over the following six months. *Rascala* came fitted with a Holden 202, but Ken decided a 253 Holden would be more suitable, even if getting the V8 in did cause some headaches. *Rascala* looked and sounded great on the water.

Ray Russell brought along *Red Devil*, his 8' pickle fork outboard hydro. Now, that description might be a little over the top, but I'm not too sure how else to describe the little outboard. Ray had a ball working out how to drive his new charge, providing plenty of entertainment for the rest of us.



It was good to see SE III back on the water

Alan Pottie brought along his Hartley runabout, *Stu Pott*. The boat was built to plans by his father in 1980 and was restored by Alan, with him completing the boat in 2012. Alan also brought along his Mum and Dad for the day.

Graham Steven's Eddy runabout *Touche'* was another newie to many. The boat originally ran a side valve Dodge six cylinder, but Graham has fitted with a 283 Chev. The boat really does get along and sounded wonderful.



The problems of the world were being solved here

Also back after several years in the shed was *Screamin Eagle III*. This champion ex racer had some new carburetion fitted and the boat was really getting up and going until the Holden grey had some sort

of internal failure, after which it began to transfer the contents of the sump into the bottom of the hull. Even so, it was found that if engine revs were kept below about 3000 RPM, the oil stayed in the engine, allowing the boat to continue to run for the weekend.



"Leanne". Hammond. 18' Say no more

Impact was back this year with new owner Stuart Beattie. The engine wasn't running all that flash until a loose linkage on one carburettor was identified, after which it was given a good workout by Stuart.

I had a couple of chats with Darren Knagge over the weekend. Darren is associated with the Narrandera Ski Club, which has played a very large part in the recent improvements to the facilities at Lake Talbot. I think we were all really pleased with the grassed foreshore that was put in place for last year and while there was a little inconvenience with the carpark being out of use last year, the new and very user friendly drive in/reverse out parking bay system in the new trailer park was certainly worth the wait. Many would also have noticed a proper toilet block being constructed alongside the carpark. I dare say the ladies (and probably a few blokes too) will applaud the improvement



Was the excitement too much, Dave?

over the old pit lavatory. Darren was genuinely pleased to have us there and was keen for feedback on the improvements and to hear of anything else that we might need. He also made mention of the intention to have BBQ's installed on the foreshore area. I'd just like to say, on behalf of the CAWPBA, many thanks to Darren and all others involved with the implementation of these improvements and a big



Rascala making its debut

thanks as well to the Narrandera Shire Council.

Saturday night's dinner was as good as it ever is with a big group of us gathering around the only BBQ at the top of the hill. We were all saved again by Darren Crawford bringing his own largish BBQ. Thanks Darren. The unit's burner operation was a bit tricky though, with "the pig" having chewed off all the knobs - but that's a whole other story. There was plenty of food consumed, drinks drunk and deep and even some serious and meaningful conversation buried amongst the copious amounts of bs. Again, lots of laughter late into the night.



Echo Too's blown flathead

Our annual AGM was held on Sunday morning and was well attended, with 34 members in the room. We had some good discussion around funds and costs and particularly the newsletter format and its production costs. Most agreed that they still preferred to receive a printed black & white copy over a downloadable colour copy that is available to members from the website.

Another really good weekend came to a close all too soon for most, with a few lucky ones taking advantage of the Melbourne Cup weekend and staying on an extra day. Here's looking forward to next year - the BIG one. More on that later.

Over the page are a few more pictures of this year's event.

Narrandera 2013 in pictures



Vintage Red memories for Ken



Graham Stevens in Touche'



The patina of Bernadine



Is that a skiffabout man in a skiff?



Ray and Red Devil



Hey, some were little kids when we started

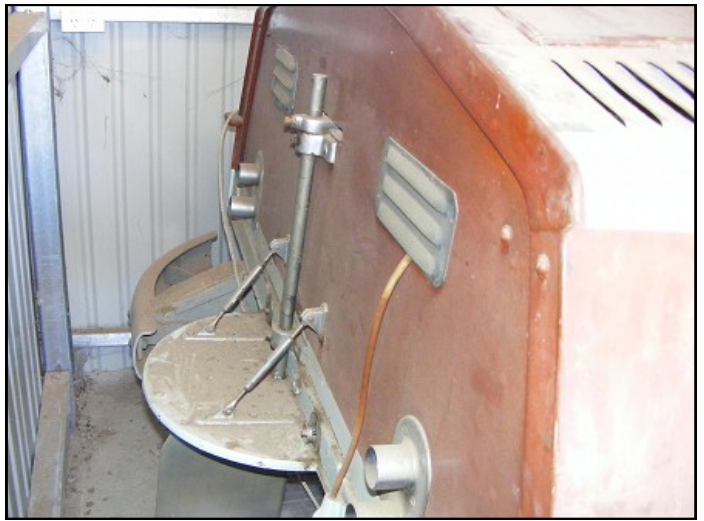
Dodo - not extinct

Who said the Dodo was extinct?

We keep talking about those exceptional shed finds that are so rare, but they just seem to keep happening. Most of these are beauts, with the boats often in excellent condition. Well, here's another.

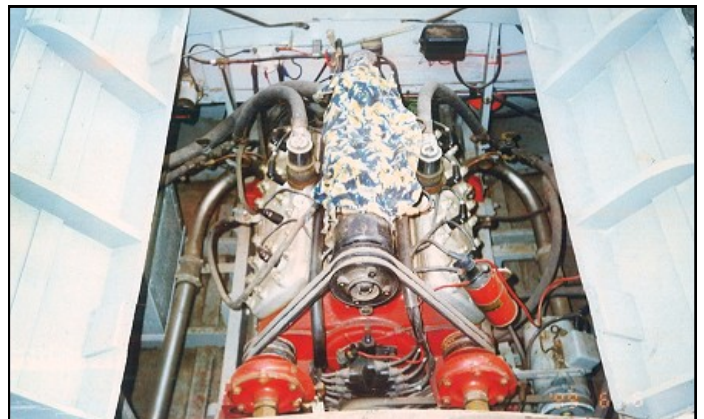


This example turned up in South Australia. It seems the boat had been built to specification for a boat yard, probably in the late 1940's or early 1950's. It received little use with the yard over the years and was



parked in the back of the shed in 1966, where it remained until 2013.

The boat's builder is unknown. While only a 16 footer, the mahogany rearmount is beamy, with two rows of three across seating forward of the engine. The seats are like the old steel framed theatre seats, with the backs of the front seats being able to be folded down and the driver's seat adjustable forward and aft. The hood over the cockpit can be neatly stowed on the boat.



sold in 1960. The new owner had a property on the Murray and a boat for his young family seemed like a great idea. Unfortunately, the owner got a job in Adelaide and with the time taken up by his new job and the travelling involved, the boat got less and less use until it was

An extensive suite of instruments is fitted, including a rare for the day custom speedo. The engine hatch, as well as other storage hatches and transom mounted drain plugs can be opened remotely from the cockpit.

Power is from a very nicely set up Ford V8 side valve.



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President's Pronouncements:

How nice has it been to produce this newsletter with so much to write about that I simply don't have the space to include it all. I am just not used to this at all, but I'm happily coping.

There has been plenty of boating news happening of late with so many new boats coming on the scene. All of these boats are real gems and have included both unique speedboat types or ex racers. Yes, something for everyone. Obviously, most are projects, with a few having hit the water recently after a resto.

With Christmas and the holiday season upon us, I would like to thank you all for your support over the past year and to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year. I look forward to catching up in 2014.

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

Greg

Around the Traps

General:

- Great to see that membership numbers have jumped considerably since last issue.
- In the last newsletter I promised some pictures and details of a couple of Frank Lewis boats that had surfaced. Unfortunately, I have had to push them into the next edition due to lack of space in this edition (now there's something I'm not used to).
- I had several people enquire about club Tee shirts and caps at Narrandera. The shirts are the black polo type. These shirts are made up once we get enough interest to make it a worthwhile batch. We haven't had any made up for some years now.

If you are interested in obtaining a cap or shirt, drop me a line and if we get enough interest, we will do a run. I'm not sure of the cost, but they will probably be around the \$25.00 mark for each.

Tasmania:

- A well known 16' 6" hydro has recently changed hands in Hobart Town. *Quickly Too* has found a new home with Chris Chivers and I dare say Chris will be keen to get the DeSilva designed, Grant Lovell built, hydro back on the water. *Quickly Too* is in excellent original condition and achieved speeds of over 100 mph with both six cylinder and V8 engines fitted.

2013/2014

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Coming Events

March 2014

- Geelong Wooden Boat Festival. 6th - 9th. Royal Geelong Yacht Club. Refer www.rgyc.com.au for further details.

April 2014

- Goolwa Aquatic Club Aquafest. 12th & 13th. Boats of all types ranging from vintage skiffs and runabouts to more recent BAD raceboats. Spirited racing demos and more. Refer www.goolwaaquaticclub.com.au for further details.

May 2014

- Seacraft Syndicate Boat Owners Club Echuca Regatta. The SSBoc's annual big one. Marool, May 3rd & 4th. Ref <http://ssboc.com.au/> for details

November 2014

- CAWPBA Annual National Regatta. 1st & 2nd. Lake Talbot, Narrandera, NSW. Contact Greg on 0408 937 029 or Alan on 0403 838 193 for details

Please check for confirmation
of dates and venues

Some Humour

Mrs Brown quotes:

- *Normally I can't dance to save my life, but when I step in dogsh*t, I can moonwalk better than Michael Jackson.*
- *Missed the gym today. That's 10 years in a row.*
- *An expert has predicted that computers will eventually replace paper altogether. He's obviously never tried to wipe his fecken arse with a laptop.*
- *They say that sh*tting is a call of nature. Does that mean farting is a missed call?*
- *If you see someone doing a crossword today, just lean over and say 7 up is lemonade.*

Quote for Today

*"The things you take for granted,
someone else is praying for"*

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Victorian/Tasmanian Chapter

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Membership Update:

Vic	36	NT	1
NSW	18	Tas	4
Qld	2	SA	10
WA	1	USA	1
ACT	1	Total	74