



# THE HOLLOW LOG

## The Classic Australian Wooden Power Boat Association Inc.

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Some of the boats on show at the VSBC 70th birthday celebration

## Victorian Speed Boat Club 70th Anniversary

The Victorian Speed Boat Club held its 70th birthday anniversary on a Saturday early in September. The event was held at the club's grounds at Lake Eppalock. To help with the celebrations, the CAWPBA put 10 boats on display to commemorate the club's as well as race boat history.

Many of the boats on show were ex VSBC boats which had raced with the club at some time. These were *Stormy* and *The JET* in the late 1950's, *Electric Girl* and *So Long II* in the early 1960's and *Aquaholic*, which raced as *Gemini* in the late 1960's. The skiffs *Scrubcat*, *Invader* and *Pagan* and runabout *B.Pee*, while not previous members of the VSBC, represented other race boats of 50's and 60's. Having said that, *Invader* is now a current VSBC member boat.

Other woodies on display were *All-Torque* and *The Eagle*. *All-Torque* is a 13' Fiat powered Simpkin skiff, owned by VSBC Commodore, Greg Holland. *The Eagle* is a 15' Everingham powered by a rearmount 253 Holden and owned by Tom Heffernan.

It was a really good day. The weather was mild and sunny and the lake was glassy in the morning and rippled up slightly in the afternoon. Few

boats took to the water, with *Pagan* and *Invader* being the only woodies to venture out.

It was good to catch up with each other again after the winter break from activities.

As is always the case with these events, new info was gained on a couple of the boats. Doug got a bit of background on *Electric Girl* and its original owner from a previous club member that knew both the boat and the owner from their race days.

Michael also got talking to someone who knew about the history of his boat *Aquaholic* when it was set up with twin Fiat motors and was raced as *Gemini*.

Some excellent food was available all day and that continued into the evening for a few of us who stayed on for the celebratory dinner. These were Michael Nealer, Ross Foster, Alan Price, Bob Carter and yours truly.

The clubrooms, which had been decorated up with many pictures of boats and events over



## VSBC 70th Anniversary cont'd

the club's history, was packed with party goers - a really good turnout. Some entertaining speeches were made, which also included recognition and a thank-you to the CAWPBA for putting on the boat display.



There was also an interesting auction held for a "one off" framed mirror that had been engraved to commemorate the club's 70th anniversary. The proceeds from the sale would go towards the running of the next Griffith Cup. Bidding began at a price and rate one would have expected before becoming a little more spirited with the bids



climbing considerably. The winning bid came in at \$4,500, with the new owner, in a very club-minded spirit, offering the mirror back, to be kept and permanently displayed in the club rooms.

It really was a very good day!



## Damn!

Member Michael Nealer had some unwanted excitement recently when moving his boat around in preparation for the Victorian Speed Boat Club 70th anniversary display.



Cruising down the highway, everything was going fine, Michael said, until he saw one of the trailer wheels pass the car. He figured something was not quite right with the trailer and pulled over. Unfortunately, he was in the right lane when things went awry and had to pull off the road on the right shoulder. To make things worse, he had to contend with the wire rope barrier system that the Victorian government is placing along all major roads at the moment, meaning there is really not enough room to get clear of the traffic.



A call to the RACV saw a flatbed tow truck despatched and retrieval of the wheel was executed while waiting for the truck.

The trailer and boat were delivered to Bacchus Marsh for repairs in time for its display at the VSBC.

It seems that the stub axle had sheared off. Gladly, there was no damage to the boat and only some minor damage to the trailer, which included some ground down U-bolts and fishplates.

## CAWPBA Book Raffle

The CAWPBA held a book raffle recently as a fund raiser for the club.

The book offered was coffee table book, **WOOD ON WATER IN AUSTRALIA – Edition V**, by Graham Lloyd.

The publication features 35 timber ski/race-boats and launches, covering a broad range of this style of boat from the 1920's up until the

1970's. Some of the builders featured are Lewis, Simpkin, Goldsbrough, Eddy and Everingham, to name just a few.

The high quality hardcover book measured 32 by 28 cms and was printed using Premium Lustre Photo Paper. It contained 218 pages of high quality photos showing both action and detail, with coverage of the history and restoration of many of the boats with associated text.



*Ray Russell declining his win*



*Mia Goldberg drawing the "second" winning ticket*

The raffle was drawn on November the 25th.

The winning tickets were drawn by Mia Goldberg. I say tickets because the first ticket drawn was for Ray Russell. Ray, who had already purchased one of the books, graciously declined and asked that another ticket be drawn. A second ticket was drawn, with the winner being Anthony Marks from Victoria. Congratulations Tony.

## Nostalgia

Pictures from the Phil Channing collection

*Right: "MAE-BEE" at Albert Park*



*Left: Wasp Two and Stampede (?) at Eppalock*

## ITDUZUS

Another “potential” gem has come to light.

This 14’ plywood runabout was heard about by Dave Drewer several weeks back. A little more investigation saw Dave dragging a tandem trailer to Renmark in SA to collect the boat.



Apparently “ITDUZUS” had been sitting exposed in a paddock for a few years at least.

The story goes that it was supposed to have been destroyed in a local demolition derby where they tow boats and caravans behind the cars. For some reason that never happened and the boat was then left outside to the elements.

Dave found that the boat was in desperate need of a major amount of TLC, but it was essentially all there.



After finding the Grey motor was initially seized, with a bit of oil poured into the cylinders, some leverage, some dodgy wiring sorted out and some petrol in the leaky carbies, the old Holden fired up and ran, albeit, roughly.

Dave is still working out what he will do with this new addition to his stable of boats.

Another survivor comes to our midst, this one a true survivor.



## NARRANDERA 2018



Well, there's another Narrandera done and dusted. That's quite a few times now that I've said that.

Numbers were a bit down this year, with just 12 boats on the lake. A couple of late withdrawals didn't help the numbers nor their very disappointed owners. Nathan couldn't get his Glen-L Thunderbolt painted due to the paint not arriving in time and metal in *Rhonda Babe II*'s oil filter put paid to its attendance this year

Boats that did make it this year were *B.Pee*, *Butter Box*, *Electric Girl*, *HL219S Hydro*, *La' altra Donna*, *Leanne*, *Ronda*, *Scrubcat*, *So Long II*, *Stormy*, *Torque Wood* and *Turbo-Fire*.

*Stormy* and *Electric Girl* both began badly with starting issues, but both were quickly resolved when their respective faulty battery isolators were "isolated". Regarding *Stormy*, it never ceases to amaze me how a boat will start so easily on the trailer but the moment it is in the water and pushed away from the bank, it decides to be cranky. At least *Electric Girl* was cranky on the trailer.

Other casualties for the weekend were *Leanne* with carby issues, *B.Pee* with an annoying miss (that developed), and *Scrubcat* with some unwanted water amongst all the mechanical stuff.

New boats for the weekend were Tony Marks' beautiful 20' self built Glen-L Monaco classic runabout, *La' altra Donna*. Tony spent about seven years building the boat, completing it last year, and has done a truly superb job. The boat is simply immaculate and the attention to detail outstanding. *La' altra Donna*'s 350 Chev PCM engine moved things along very nicely and sounded delightful in the process. You may even have seen the boat before—it was featured recently in a series of print advertisements for Peter Jackson Menswear.

Another new appearance was *Torque-Wood*, Andy and Mitch Griffiths

17' Trahacraft bondwood runabout. Looking very similar to a Syndicate hull, *Torque-Wood* was one of only a few of these hulls that were built in country Victoria. With not a lot of time to prepare the boat for Narrandera, Andy and Mitch seemed to have done enough to it to get it running really nicely over the full weekend, with the 265 ci Hemi engine performing strongly.

Also new to Lake Talbot was Graham Stevens Toyota powered Molinari hydro. Graham gave the boat a run on Sunday and the performance for a stock 1.6 litre was really something. The boat was very quick, indeed.

Ray Russell's *Ronda* was also a new face at Narrandera this year. Ray acquired the Lewis runabout late last year, it being in very good original condition after being stored for about 20 years. Carol was rapt—she could actually ride in a boat with Ray this year, instead of watching him circulate in that anti-social single seater of his.

Although *B.Pee* is not new to Narrandera, having attended before as *Resurrected*, it was its first appearance since its restoration and re-naming by new owner Ken Lemin. *B.Pee* was its original (race) name. Resplendent in its new red livery, it was certainly a change from the previous yellow and blue hull colours.

With the lake open to the public as well this year, we still managed a great weekend with only a couple of "public" boats sharing the lake with us. Weather was a bit blowy on Friday, but remained warm and very boating friendly for the weekend, with none of the storms that we normally have to endure happening.

Friday night saw most of us head into town for a meal at the Charles Sturt Hotel. We certainly had the longest table in the pub that night.

Saturday was a great day on the water, with the temperature down

just a little on the very warm Friday. Regardless, the shade and shelter offered on the lake foreshore plus a couple of marquis makes it very pleasant. Also good was the gate to the public swimming pool being left open at water level, providing easy access for us to get a pretty good quality coffee.

We held our AGM on Saturday night after dinner at the Murrumbidgee Hotel. Very convenient, although the service was somewhat disappointing. I think they were overwhelmed by our numbers. Still, we all seemed to have plenty to talk about while waiting for our meals to come out.



*Suspicious characters, those two*

The AGM, as per usual, was short and sweet, allowing us to continue on with socialising back at the caravan park. The AGM minutes will be posted in the Bulletin Board's member's area shortly.

Sunday continued on in our typical relaxed manner, just enjoying our boats and each other's company. Sunday evening saw us having a BBQ under the stars on a clear and balmy night. These are such wonderful evenings, a great way to get to know each other and find out what's been happening since we last met, which was usually before winter set in. These nights are always mixed with plenty of laughter.

Monday morning saw a few of the group having to head off home, but several of us lucky ones stayed on until Tuesday, having the lake pretty much to ourselves.

There was a surprise appearance of a couple of characters in the afternoon when a boat turned up with a Viking being chauffeured by a Panda. These two suspicious characters did a couple of laps before parking the boat and hastily disappearing into the woods. You see some strange sights at these Narrandera weekends.



*Tony Marks and La' Altra Donna*

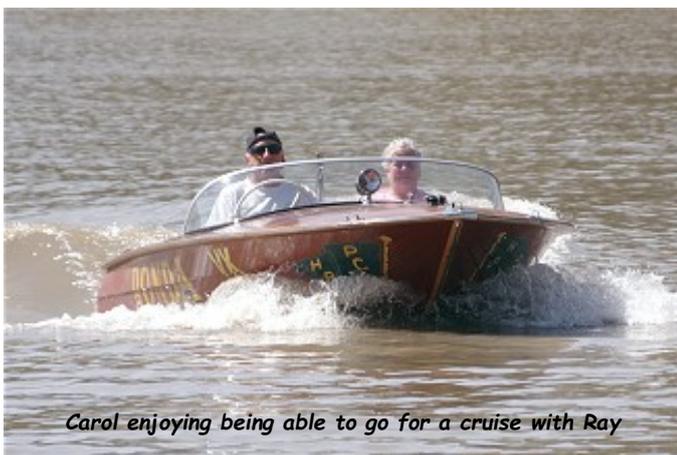
Monday finished with another BBQ and us all heading to the common room to for a sit down meal at the tables. There was even a game of championship table tennis for some after dinner. It must have been an exciting match because we were asked to tone it down a bit because of the "old" people staying in the units close by. As a result of the match, there were a few muscles not used for a very long time that made themselves known the following morning.



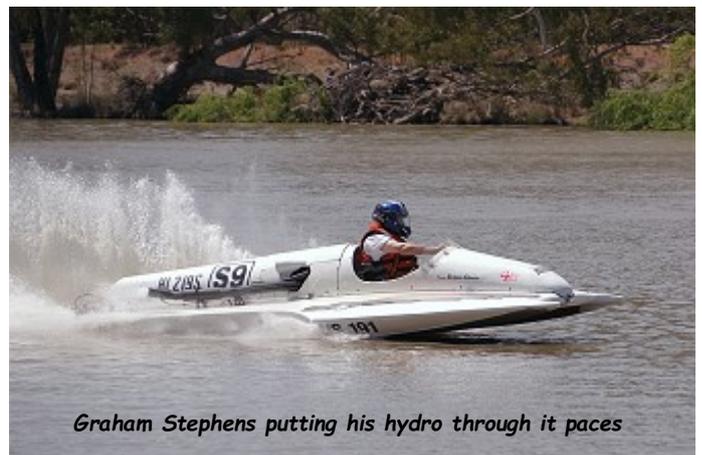
*Torque-Wood*

Once again, the long weekend came to a close all too soon.

I think everybody agreed, it was another very successful Narrandera.



*Carol enjoying being able to go for a cruise with Ray*



*Graham Stephens putting his hydro through it paces*

## Mulwala Rod Run

We did our traditional post Narrandera display on the shore of Lake Mulwala at Yarrawonga in November. It seems we have become a key part of the Northern Suburbs Street Rods weekend, with our display being included as a part of the weekend program.

*Aquaholic, Busy Bee, Eskimo, Miss Lyndy, Scrubcat and Stormy* made up the display.

It was a fairly quiet day, but we still received some great feedback from the public and hot rodders alike.



## Merchandise

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 just need a few more to make an order.

Keyring floaties with the club logo are also available. These are \$5.00 plus P&H. Dimensions are 35mm diameter and 90mm in length. Really handy when you accidentally drop your boat's ignition keys in the water.



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**President's Pronouncements:**

*At the start of yet another season a question has arisen about the the dreaded subject of insurance. This is of course an area of personal choice, and although it can be considered a must that we protect our investment and our attempts to preserve some heritage, always let us not forget that safety, in all its forms, is the foremost consideration to keep our passion afloat.*

*I enjoyed catching up with those old and new who came to our annual general meeting at Narrandera, had a great time, even if I am still wary of stray ping pong balls.*

*Take your time & travel safely, the water is not going anywhere and have a great festive season.*

*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:**

- A reminder for those who either insure or are making enquiries to insure their boat with Nautilus Marine - do not go directly to Nautilus Marine.

The contact point for us is through Fergusons/AB Phillips by calling Alan or Sarah on 03 9783 3200. These are the only people who deal with our boats and, as recent experience has shown, to contact anyone else will end with inaccurate pricing and requirements.

- I just realised that this club has been going for over 20 years now, starting off with a small group of enthusiastic people occasionally communicating with each other about their passion and developing to what we have today . This all began after a website was established in 1995 - 23 years ago. How time flies!

**Vic:**

- The runabout *Mudlark's* restoration continues to progress with floors and framing completed. The Ford Mercury engine is in and running. Thoughts about a trailer are now coming to the fore.
- The 12' skiff *Busy Bee* made its first appearance in many years at Yarrowonga recently. The boat, which is still a work in progress, looked spectacularly good.
- Lewis runabout *She'll Do* has gone to a new home, but will still remain in central Victoria.

**2018/2019  
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As always, your contributions to the newsletter are most welcome

**Coming Events**

**2019**

**February:**

- Australian Wooden Boat Festival. Hobart, Tas. 8th - 11th. Refer <http://www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au>
- Riverland Round-Up. Martins Bend, Berri, SA. 16th. Refer <https://www.facebook.com/GoolwaSpeedboats/>
- Ol Skool Ski Boat Run & Show n Shine. Remark, SA. 23rd & 24th. A 70km run on the Murray. Refer [www.facebook.com/events/1824664507572606/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1824664507572606/)

**March:**

- CAWPBA catch up at Balranald, NSW. March 9th & 10th. Contact Alan or Greg for further details.

**April:**

- South Australian Wooden Boat Festival. 27th - 29th. Goolwa, SA. Refer <https://www.sawoodenboatfestival.com.au>
- Goolwa Aquafest. Goolwa, SA. 13th & 14th. Refer <https://www.facebook.com/GoolwaSpeedboats/>

Please 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*

*Note that not all events listed above  
are supported by the CAWPBA*



*How rude of me. I've been talking about my boat all night. I haven't given you a chance to talk about it.*

**Quote for Today**

**"It's funny how most  
activists are pacivists"**

**Club Contact Details**

**Victorian/Tasmanian Chapter**

For further information, contact Greg Carr by phone on: 03 9370 2987 or 0408 937 029 or by e-mail: [gca42796@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gca42796@bigpond.net.au)

**South Australian/NT Chapter**

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**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 Alan Price by phone on: 0403 838 193 or by e-mail: [president@cawpba.com](mailto:president@cawpba.com)

**Membership Update:**

Vic	21	NSW	11
SA	5	Tas	2
ACT	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>		