



THE HOLLOW LOG

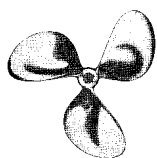
The Classic Australian Wooden Power Boat Association Inc.

Volume 16, Issue 2

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Darren in Al Falfa at the 2016 Aquafest. Gi Gi and Jeff in Linda-K.

Feast of Woodies at Aquafest

Well it's hard to believe that the Aquafest has just been run for its fifth year. What started as an event to support the opening of the remodelled Goolwa Aquatic Club, has now turned into an annual event that continues to attract entrants from around the country. Even as people were packing their toys away on the Sunday at Goolwa, plans were being made for next year.

The weather for both days was reasonable and definitely better than had been forecast. With a lot of people either arriving late during the week or on Saturday like ourselves, there was a good turn up of boats for the test & tune on Saturday. Most hit the water for at least a few laps before Sunday, unfortunately that was the end of the weekend for a couple of boats too.

The Wooden Powerboats were out in force and there was certainly something for everyone, Hydros, Runabouts, Small and Large Skiffs.

Not all Woodies in attendance were club members but here they are, apologies if I've missed anyone. Steve Moritz's *Clinker*, Tia Maria, *Fury*, *The Sting*, *Rascala*, *Pace Set'R*, *Hi Fi*, *Miss Dee*, *The Jet*, *Lady Bird*, *Resurrected*, *Rhonda Babe II*, *Miss*

Cindy, *U-Too*, *Katrina*, *Pagan*, *Maryanne*, *Al Falfa*, *Gi Gi*, *Skitter*, *T-Bird*, *Jayme II* and *Rush*. Also must thank club members who made the trip without a boat in tow.

Dave Pagano and Bob Walker had worked hard on getting the 18' 6" Lewis Skiff, *Rhonda Babe II* to the event. With her maiden voyage at Windsor going very well all they had to do was get her to Goolwa, this is where Dave's first hiccup came in. The Wagon he had planned to use had a major engine issue that couldn't be fixed in time so Dave hooked up *Rhonda Babe II* to a very recently purchased 25 year old Statesman which he really hadn't driven much, let alone towed a big Skiff. Anyway, packed with 2 adults, 2 children, everything that's needed for a long weekend away and towing *Rhonda Babe II*, they ventured off across 3 states until they made it to Goolwa. The car performed well except for an overheating issue early on the trip which was quickly fixed when a person that was admiring the Skiff whilst Dave was stopped, just happened to have a new radiator handy!

Aquafest 2016

On Saturday Dave launched *Rhonda Babe II*, fired up the Big Block Chevrolet and made off for some laps around the buoys. Quite a few people were keen to see her going around, and from the bank all looked good and she was showing signs of being very quick but then Dave brought her in saying the oil pressure had dropped. After some umming and erring about whether to run her again, Dave decided not to, a wise decision as it turns out because a recent tear down of the engine revealed that it had spun bearings on 7 & 8. This was a definite shame for Dave and Bob, as well as the event on Sunday. Although Dave wasn't able to drive *Rhonda Babe II* on Sunday, he did get to drive Colin Bailey's winged Lewis, *Miss Dee* with Colin riding in the back.



Dave working on *Rhonda Babe II*

The owner of *Skitter*, Dave Keller, decided this Aquafest was the one to address a sudden and urgent "need for speed", so he enlisted Paul Siddall to assist him. *Skitter* has had some niggling engine tuning issues at previous outings but with the lovely Twin Four Barrel, 283 Corvette engine ticking over nicely, the brains trust of various club members came to the conclusion that the 3 blade fishing trawler propeller might be the issue. Paul offered to lend Dave a 2 blade race propeller that he just happened to have with him. With some pesky technical fitting problems rectified with the craftsmen like use of an Angle Grinder, *Skitter* was ready to be the boat Dave had been dreaming of. And so she was, Dave was amazed at the difference, and was grinning even more than usual. Dave was unable to convince Paul to part with his 2 blade propeller and he and his co-pilot looked like kids that had lost their favourite toy as they circulated around their final outing with the old propeller fitted. Not to be beaten however, shortly after the Aquafest Dave sent out an email to everyone in his address book pleading for a 2 blade propeller. Feeling Dave's pain, Bob Carter



Paul helping Dave with *Skitter*

kindly responded with a few that he had available and I understand Dave now has a couple ready for the 2017 race, sorry demonstration.



Michelle in *Rascala*

This years Aquafest was a fair bit different for a couple of people that had attended prior events but had never been behind the wheel on the Sunday. Both have usually been busy assisting other entrants with boat handling but this year Jack Traeger and Michelle Stevens hit the water on Sunday.

Graham Stevens had been flat out preparing and testing *Rascala* for Michelle to drive at the Aquafest, he shifted the engine position in *Rascala* forward in an attempt to calm down the bouncing and was reasonably happy with the outcome. Michelle was initially fairly nervous about being out on the water with other boats circulating at speed, which is exactly how most that hadn't raced or participated felt prior to the 2012 event. Once the first heat was over, Michelle picked up the pace from the next heats and thoroughly enjoyed driving *Rascala*. I'm fairly certain Michelle would've been the first female entrant driving in Aquafest history.

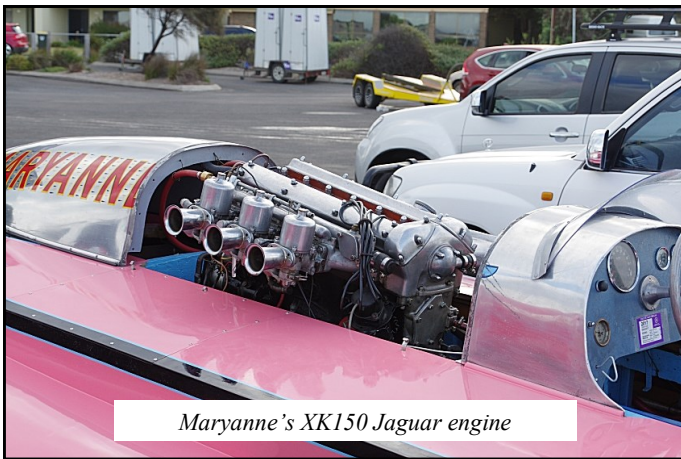


Maryanne, *The Sting* & *Miss Cindy*

Jack isn't actually old enough to drive solo and so had an experienced family friend ride shotgun as he zoomed around the course in Glen's glass Everingham, *Tuff Too*. Later in the day father and son shared the water with Glen in his Lewis Skiff, *Fury*. When you add to Dig Traeger in his Hydroplane, *The Sting*, this makes 3 generations of Traegers piloting boats on Sunday, surely another first.

Aquafest 2016

Maryanne, the Jaguar powered Hydroplane made her first appearance at the Aquafest, Rob & Vicki also displayed a large collection of Trophies and Certificates. I was lucky enough to take her for another spin on the Saturday and eventually might get the knack of turning! *Maryanne's* Sunday finished slightly early when Rob came in concerned that something hot was hitting his legs. A quick investigation found the thrust bearing had seized and the "something hot" was molten Aluminium from the bearing housing.



Maryanne's XK150 Jaguar engine



Glen in Fury & Mick in Tia Maria

Nick in Resurrected

Now & Then

Last minute ad filler ☺



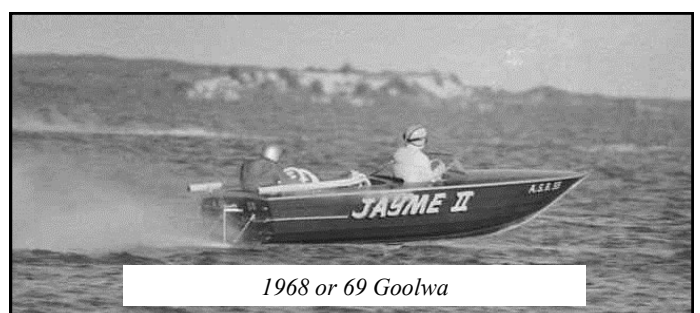
2015 Narrandera



1970 Yarrawonga



2013 Goolwa



1968 or 69 Goolwa

More Aquafest 2016

As mentioned in a previous Hollow Log, Frank has *The Jet* back to its best after nearly disappearing at last years Aquafest and it certainly was a pleasure to see Frank and *The Jet* doing their solo runs again.

Mick McCardle has reconfigured so she now runs a V-drive *Tia Maria* and is even quicker than before.

As it has been for previous years, and just about always when boats are involved, there were stories of tough luck but also plenty of good laughs with good people. I and many others are looking forward to next year.



Mick in the reconfigured Tia Maria



Jayme II, Resurrected & Hi Fi



Pagan, Katrina and Miss Dee

Ray Russell's Hartley

Club member Ray Russell has followed in the footsteps of many others with our wooden powerboat affliction, adding another woody to his fleet, finding it impossible to turn down the offer of this Hartley.

With a Skiff and a couple of runabouts already in the shed, this fishing boat completes the collection, or does it.....?

In Rays words;

The short story behind the Hartley was that it was destined to be a sandpit boat but the chap who owned it wasn't happy with his wife's decision so he caught up with me at work and asked if I was interested in saving it.

We had often talked about my boats and what we do as a club and he would quite often visit our web site to see what was new.

The boat was bought new by him in the 70's and was a professional build. As far as condition goes, it has some light wood rot around the front cabin window and a small bit either side of the outboard well. I bought the outboard motor to go with the boat which is a 60hp oil injected Johnson with 20 hours on the clock. The engine has done

about an hour's running a year!!

By all reports it gets up and boogies and will probably be faster than either Pagan or Wooden Worry.



YARRAWONGA



The Victorian Australia Day weekend at Yarrawonga was pushed back this year to mid March due to some event clashes. Yarrawonga has been an excellent weekend where the club pretty much takes over the occupancy of a waterside motel on the outskirts of the town. This gives us a pool, BBQ's, a huge grassed area down to the water's edge and the ability to make a fair amount of merriment late into the night without worrying about disturbing other guests.

Unfortunately, this year was affected by blue-green algae that infected the Murray over an extensive area, which included Lake Mulwala at Yarrawonga. This no doubt put a few off, with warnings from the authorities about staying out of the water for health reasons, meaning numbers were down a bit. All the same, numbers were good enough for us to enjoy a wonderful weekend with friends.

The weather over the weekend was hot and quite humid with the lake quite flat, making for excellent boating conditions. Unfortunately, the algal bloom put a dampener on that. Saturday was spent catching up and socialising, with only *Resurrected* hitting the water after a bit of engine tweaking. Sadly, it returned under tow after an electrical failure.

As the hot day turned into a very balmy night, we gathered for a BBQ dinner together, which then kicked on until late. Much laughter ensued and many world problems were solved. Chairs collapsed, people were nearly set on fire, unseen possums were pursued and even some advice was given about what to do in Sexyland – man, what a great night.

Sunday saw most arise late into the morning and the decision made to run the boats across the lake to the Mulwala Water Ski Club was made. We were originally going to meet up with the Classic Speed Boat group for lunch, but due to problems with their accommodation arrangements as well as the algal issue, it did not eventuate. As our boats were readied for the run, gremlins kept appearing.

John Sullivan's timber decker decided to have some fuel issues, which turned out not to be, which we will not go into here because I don't want to embarrass John, only to be thwarted again by a bent prop shaft. This was to be the boat's first run in decades. Luckily, John had a backup boat there (as a local, you can do that . . . you know, bring along a back-up boat).

Then, water pump issues arose for *Eskimo* after Matt was supplied with an incorrect impeller that he had changed the morning before. That was fixed for the day by removing the impeller completely and

Greg Carr

relying on ram pressure for cooling.

The boats that finally set off were *Stormy*, *Steinway*, *So-Long II* and *Eskimo*.

The trip across to the club was a little rough, with not many boats seemingly creating plenty of boat wakes and then that Lake Mulwala slop to negotiate. On arrival, we idled into the lagoon in front of the club and tied the boats up. We spent a short time there with some having a beer and the kids and others a soft drink.

For the return trip, we ran past the bridge and along the Yarrawonga foreshore where possible all the way back to the motel, a distance of around 5 kilometres. It was a much better run back with the water being more settled than before and what little breeze there was behind us.

After organising a big white stretched limo to pick us up, most headed into town to the Bowling Club for dinner that night. Some time later, with bellies sated, we were safely returned to the motel by our limo, where we gathered in a circle around an imaginary campfire to demolish a few more beverages. Life is tough.

Another excellent weekend.

Thanks all



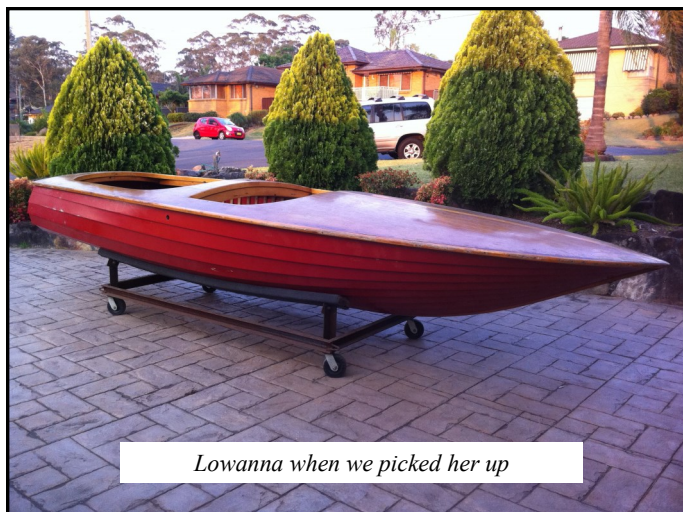
Lowanna and other Bits & Pieces

These two pieces and the trailer are all that remains of what probably was a 17 foot plus Hydroplane. The sad part is the guy that had these parts only realised that his Hydroplane wasn't beyond repair after he saw Maryanne on display, and also saw the photos of the state she was in before the rebuilding began, unfortunately this was also after he'd burnt his Hydroplane.

The good news I guess is that these pieces survived, and although they were initially kept for their "cool" mancave attraction, the owner was happy to let them go if they were going to be part of a Hydroplane again.

These are off to Tassie but the trailer is still available if someone is after a Hydroplane trailer with a stuffed axle.

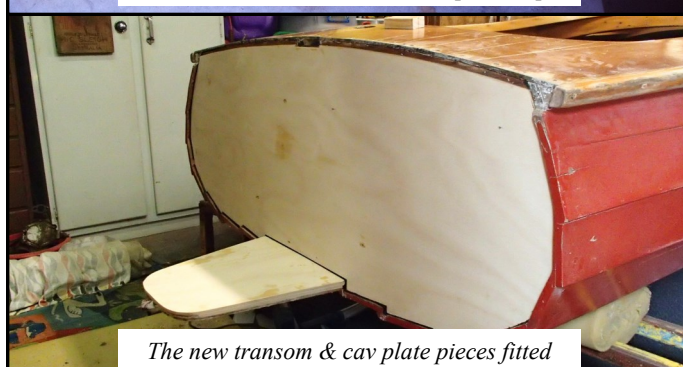
It does make me wonder what has been lost that wasn't really that bad and also what could still be hiding in sheds around the country!



Lowanna when we picked her up



The "reskinned" transom when picked up



The new transom & cav plate pieces fitted



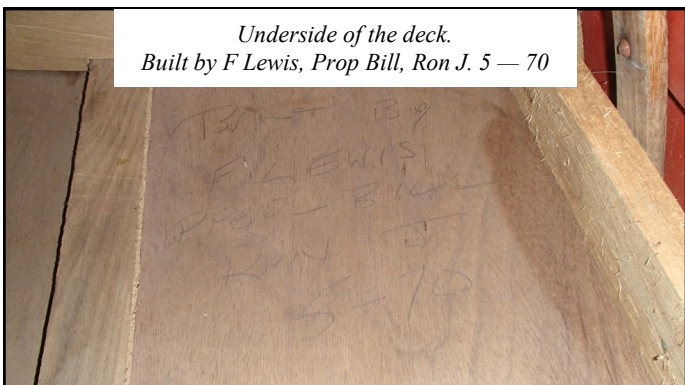
Ready for working on the hull



I mentioned in my first edition that I was working *Lowanna*, a Frank Lewis Ski Boat for my father Gary. I haven't progressed too far but here are some photos of what she looked like when we picked up and the work I've done on the transom.

The photo below is what I very pleasantly discovered on the underside of the deck when I was crawling around for some reason that I can't remember now.

This will likely be my last newsletter so I'll keep whoever takes over as the editor updated on *Lowanna's* progress.



*Underside of the deck.
Built by F Lewis, Prop Bill, Ron J. 5 — 70*

Skiffo — Part 3

This is the end of the story for the Skiffo build, for now at least. After being on display at the 2015 Aquafest as seen in these photos, Paul has put her away in the shed until time & money allow the finishing touches to be made.

To be continued.....



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**The Classic Australian Wooden
Power Boat Association Inc.**

Postal Address:
18 Grandview St
Moonee Ponds
Vic 3039

Phone: 03 9370 2987
E-mail: secretary@cawpba.com

President's Pronouncements:

Hello all

Here we are again in the depths of winter, oops, well by the time you read this we may well be. The end of another great boating season is almost here, and it has been a very busy one with many invitations and opportunities to display boats on and off the water.

I would like to be able to give an update on our Bulletin Board issues but as I write we are still undergoing some (hopefully) minor rollout problems. The BB has been running well for several years now without any real dramas, but it has now become due for some updates for stability and security reasons.

We have arranged to have it towed to a suitable repair shop and the work is progressing and we hope to see it given a wipe with an oily rag and rolled out any day now.

Stay safe on and off the water.

Alan.

Around the Traps

Victoria

- *Assassin Too* has new fuel tanks and the chrome is done. Ready for an engine now.
- New heads have been fitted to *Torque's Cheap* and she'll likely run much better without holes next to the valves.

Tasmania

- Stuart has added the Storm Skiff, *A Classic* to his collection. Some old Hydro parts will be heading from SA for his big 19ft Hydro.

NSW

- Dave & Bob are both reworking their engines after *Rhonda Babe II* and Bob's glass Skiff, *Reklaw* both suffered from their outings at Goolwa.

SA

- Paul has sold his Everingham rear mount, *Ol' Skool*. It now takes pride of place with its new owner in Bendigo and may not see the water again.

2015/2016 Committee Members

PRESIDENT

Alan Price
AH: (03) 5367 1941
Mob: 0403 838 193
Email: president@cawpba.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Darren Goldberg

Mobile: 0418 171 042
Email: vicepresident@cawpba.com

SECRETARY

Greg Carr
AH: (03) 9370 2987
Mob: 0408 937 029
Email: secretary@cawpba.com

TREASURER

Greg Carr
AH: (03) 9370 2987
Mob: 0408 937 029
Email: treasurer@cawpba.com

COMMITTEE

Dave Pagano Mob: 0413 766 501
Ross Foster Mob: 0409 018 415
Ray Russell Mob: 0408 641 960

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Drewer
Email: editor@cawpba.com

Coming Events

May 2016

- Historic Winton. 28th & 29th. Contact Alan on 0403 838 193 or Greg on 0408 937 029 for details.

June 2016

- Adelaide Boat Show. 30th of June to 3rd of July.

July 2016

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

October 2016

- Narrandera shake down Test and Tune - Venue TBA - will depend on water levels at lakes.
- CAWPBA Annual National Regatta. Oct 29th & 30th. Lake Talbot, Narrandera, NSW. Contact Alan on 0403 838 193 or Greg on 0408 937 029 for details.

November 2016

- Lake Mulwala Rod Run. Nov 6th.

February 2017

- The Australian Wooden Boat Festival. Feb. 10th to 13th. Hobart, Tasmania. www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

April 2017

- Goolwa Aquatic Club - Aquafest. 8th & 9th. 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 for further details.

*Please check for confirmation
of dates and venues*

Quote for Today

*"Life is what happens while you
are busy making other plans"*

John Lennon

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

Queensland/WA Chapter

For further information, contact Greg Carr by phone on: 03 9370 2987 or 0408 937 029 or by e-mail: nh35_stormy@bigpond.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

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

Membership Update:

Vic	31	NT	1
NSW	18	Tas	3
Qld	3	SA	9
WA	3	USA	1
ACT	1	Total	70