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THE FRIENDS OF THE P.S. OSCAR 'W' NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 527 GOOLWA S.A. 5214

www.oscar-w.info

Please pass me onto a friend



October 2014

Volume 26 Number 2



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QUIZ QUESTION.

For many years a paddle steamer hulk lay along the bank of the island opposite the Renmark wharf. What was the steamer's name and where was she built and where is she now?

Answer—page 17

Friends of the P.S. Oscar W Inc.—Committee Members

NAME	POSITION	PHONE & E-MAIL
David Finnie	President	0407 717 812 David.finne@bigpond.com
Bruce Martin	Vice President	8556 5931 bruceemartin@bigpond.com
Angela Borchardt	Secretary,	0428 813 501 angeladawn@bigpond.com
Mike Cordell	Treasurer	0423 890 210 christinacordell@hotmail.com
Anthony Presgrave		8555 3311 anthony.presgrave@bigpond.com
Christine Somerville		8555 2595 christinasomerville@yahoo.com.au
Wayne Burford		0418 839 861 burford@senet.com.au
Dennis Borchardt		0408 813 501 lightningaustralia@bigpond.com
Don Rowe		0411 755 480 lerowen@bigpond.com
Graham Pratt		8555 5098 0418 803 377 grahampratt@westnet.com.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CRUISES

1 hour cruises

11:00am 12:30pm 2:00pm

Taking in points of interest along the River Port of Goolwa



FOR BOOKINGS

GOOLWA INFORMATION CENTRE 1300 466 592

CRUISING FARES

Adult	\$20
Concession	\$15
Child	\$ 8 (5 – 15 years old, must be accompanied by an adult)
Family	\$48 (2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN)

CRUISING TIMETABLE

CRUISING SCHEDULE

Sunday	14.12.14	Saturday	21-02-15	Wooden Boat Fest.
Saturday	27.12.14	Sunday	22-02-15	Wooden Boat Fest.
Sunday	28.12.14	Monday	09-03-15	Adelaide Cup Day
Monday	29.12.14	Saturday	21-03-15	
Thursday	01.01.15	Saturday	04-04-15	Easter
Friday	02.01.15	Monday	06-04-15	Easter
Saturday	03.01.15	Saturday	18-04-15	
Sunday	11.01.15	Saturday	25-04-15	Anzac Day



CHOWILLA CRUISE - FROM THE SKIPPER



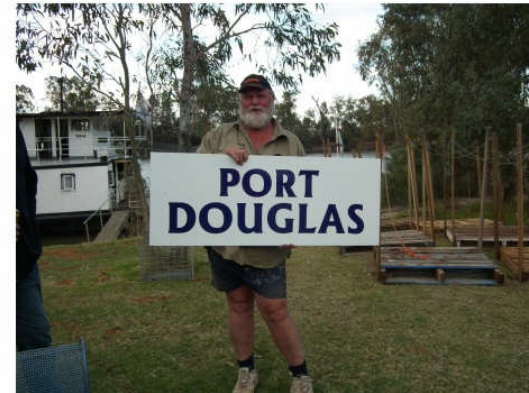
WHEELHOUSE WATCH



Wood at Doug's



Dougs outdoor heater



What a great run to Chowilla and back! We started with a rough crossing and finished the same way. Thank you to Dennis and Scotty for their helmanship. The whole crew were instrumental in the loading of approximately 50 tons of wood! Sounds a lot, but when it's done as methodically as we do, it simply takes time. One in, all in, and the job gets done. It was refreshing see all the crews loading wood for all boats at Chowilla.

The visit to Port Douglas at Loxton once again proved that Doug's is not to be missed and he also extends the invite to anyone moving by boat to call in and make themselves known. Cold beer and a hot shower...can't get better than that! Unless you have been invited to a BBQ! Once again, a huge thank you to Doug, Carmen and butcher Nigel for making the Oscar W so welcome.

A more solemn duty was performed at Renmark before the departure of the fleet for Wilkadene. Our old rivermate Sid Redfern finally had his river service and his ashes scattered alongside the Industry wharf with all of the boats in attendance. It was an excellent service held by his minister daughter Kerry and myself, and it's good that wife Gwenny can get on with her life, though I do not doubt that Sid will never be forgotten, as

long as his larrikin daughter Kerry is anywhere close anyway! It was then on our way to Wilkadene overnight and the last run into Chowilla on the Saturday morning. Unfortunately Ruby got stuck at 690 mark above Warrakoo and couldn't take part, although the crew and passengers were bussed down for the dinner.

Over →



Chowilla was a HUGE show! 8000 people came to look at country, sheep and paddleboats! And they saw a spectacle. All boats moved very well together with only a couple of minor incidents. Mind you, I've never had a meal in a sheep pen before! Different!

After another stopover at Port Douglas, we headed for Goolwa, stopovers at Telegraph Cliffs and Big Bend were highlights. A rough crossing found Blythe Spirit using our Lee side to come across the Lake. She did manage to slip out of it every now and then, but generally, did very well. THANKS TO ALL CREW FOR THE PROFESSIONALISM SHOWN.
Captain EJ



Blythe Spirit moves out of our lee protection and takes one.

clearing the Hall, assisting with the food, assisting at the registration of delegates and assisting with the wharf Barbeque on the Friday night before the Wooden Boat festival. If you can give some time to ensure the conference runs smoothly and our delegates are welcomed and looked after – please contact me on 85 370 456 or email to broadoak@activ8.net.au
Regards

Geoff. Braddock

QUIZ ANSWER :-

Of course it is the 'Colonel' collected from Renmark in 1974 by Steve Moritz who sheathed her in plastic and moved her to his slip at Murray Bridge for restoration which is slowly happening. Colonel was built in 1895 at Echuca and is 80 ft. long, she had a 12 HP Marshal in her originally. Her first owners were the famous shipping company Permewan Wright & Co Ltd.



The organizing sub-committee for the ANMM Conference meeting at the Riverboat Centre. From left –Tanya Mitchell (Council) Rob Bowring (ANMM & Mannum Dock Museum) Peter Shipperside (Armfield Slip) Geoff Braddock (Oscar W & Committee Chair) Kevin Jones (ANMM) Mary Burford (Oscar W) Graham Pratt (Oscar W)

and I believe in the short term things will move along as before. Certainly the volunteers who help out at the Centre won't notice much change and be assured as things start to happen I will be the first to keep everyone informed. Just remember if you are unsure please do not hesitate to give me a call or pop in on a Tuesday and have a chat.

Thanking you all.

David Finnie.



**AUSTRALIAN
MARITIME MUSEUM
CONFERENCE 2015.**

February and March in 2015 will be a festive busy time in South Australia, with the Australian Maritime Museum Conference (AMMC) in Goolwa.

Following will be the South Australian Wooden Boat Festival, also in Goolwa and then the South Australian Festival of Arts in and around Adelaide.

The organisation for the AMMC conference in Goolwa on February the 18th, 19th and 20th is gathering pace. The Program has been agreed to and the call for papers has gone out. The Program session topics include:- The Maritime Heritage of the Lower Murray, Maritime Museums and Maritime Heritage, Commemorating World War 1, Visit to Armfield's Slip, Encouraging Volunteers, Strategic Planning for Museums. There has been quite some interest in presenting papers

from a range of experts and people experienced in organising Museums and their volunteers.

These papers have to be presented to AMMC in Sydney and those accepted will fill the program and be printed in the conference hand book.

The AMMC's Web site went live in September and we have had a number of delegates register to attend the conference. I would expect with the publicity that will be going out that registrations will pick up later this year and early next year.

During the months leading up to January, the committee will need to continue with its planning and looking to ensure that the conference runs smoothly. We are working closely with the Alexandrina Council and this will ensure that the Centenary Hall and Signal Point are ready to host the conference. A major Exhibition titled "Women of the River Murray" will be on display at Signal Point during the Conference and the Wooden Boat festival. I would like to extend an invitation to all the Friends of the Paddle Steamer Oscar W to come and visit the exhibition and to think about attending the conference. Costs are: - for conference registration \$145.00, and the conference dinner at the Fleurieu Function Centre at the Aquatics Club is \$60.00. Also I am seeking volunteers to assist in running the conference. This could be welcoming visitors to the exhibition, assisting with setting up the Centenary Hall and

NOTICE BOARD

CHANGES FOR THE FRIENDS DAY OUT AND CHRISTMAS PARTY -CRUISE CANCELLED -

Due to the overwhelming response for the Friends Day Out on the 23rd November, rather than disappoint many of the Friends, it has been agreed that we cancel the FDO cruise and bring the Friends Christmas Picnic forward by 2 weeks and hold a combined party at the Wharf on Sunday 23rd November 2014.

THE FRIENDS CHRISTMAS PICNIC

Will now be held on

Sunday 23rd November

**at the River Boat Centre, Goolwa Wharf
from 4.00pm**

For catering purposes

All names - by the 15th November - to the
Goolwa River Boat Centre - 8555 2108

Phone between 10am and 3pm

For those already booked on the 23rd November please
advise of any changes or cancellations for the new arrangements.

Ladies - please bring a small salad to share

Meat, sweets and treats will be provided

Father Christmas and lucky door prizes on the day

Also - please bring a chair and a picnic table along with any other creature comforts you may require for the Party.

BYO alcohol

Please note:-

We wish to remind Friends that due to the increasing popularity of The Friends Day Out, this is for financial members and partners only.

Christina

Coming Events

- **All Steamed Up festival in Mannum, November 15th. & 16th. Oscar will be there, and running short cruises with passengers**
- **Goolwa XMAS Pageant, 6:30pm. December 14th. Our Oscar float will be taking part.**
- **Holiday cruising—lots of holiday cruises—see the schedule on page 2.**
- **Wharf picnic—November 23rd. See page 5.**
- **Yesterday's Power Rally at Milang—January 17th. & 18th. Old engines, tractor pulls. Oscar will be at the Milang Wharf both days.**

NOTICE BOARD

Mary Burford is recovering well from surgery for lymphatic carcinoma, with radiation still to come. Our best wishes for a complete recovery Mary, and our good thoughts are with both you and Wayne. As well as supporting Mary, Wayne (our maintenance engineer) has still found time to slip down and calibrate a few things on the boat—above and beyond the call!

It was great to see Don Ledo on the boat for a cruise recently. Don is recovering from a stroke, but we hope to see him back on deck as Mate on some cruises once again. Don is at front left, with wife Sue (back middle) and his sister Sue (back left), supported by Ship's Mate Dennis Borchardt (right front) and Engineer Phil Reed.

Long time Friends and volunteers Terry & Carole Crabbe saw a beautiful sketch-painting of the Oscar W and could not resist buying it. They have very generously presented the painting to the Friends to raffle over the Wooden Boat Festival. Thank you Terry & Carole.

. At times we were on 195 volts and could not get sufficient water flow. The poor pump was struggling and running slow. The worst times were when the cuppa urn in the saloon was on so we had to 'manage the urn. Adding together all the electrical loads on Oscar the sum was still less than the rated output of the generator, so it is concluded that the generator is getting past its life, and knowing its age and work done it will be best to upgrade.

By measuring water hardness each day we have established that regeneration of the water softener is best done every 15 thousand litres treated, which is about 15 hrs of steaming. With the press of a button it happens automatically over 2 hrs. The system also has automatic alkali dosing to get the Ph (alkalinity) up to a value of about Ph11 in the boiler, and so a significant number of Ph measurements were taken on the trip to settle on a dosing level (river water is Ph 7). What we have found is that up-river, eg Renmark, the dissolved solids in the river are one fifth of that in the Goolwa pond, thus blowdowns are less by about the same ratio when up-river. Thus with more blowdowns in Goolwa a different alkali dosing rate is required and we are establishing this over the cruises during Nov and Dec.

There were no breakdowns on the trip so well done to the volunteers for maintaining Oscar over the year.

Wayne



Goolwa Riverboat Centre.

Things at the centre are moving along quite nicely, with the wind of late creating a few issues because of all the leaks in our shed, and depositing a lot of dust on stock and the floors. Thank you to all the 'Sadies' that are on top of it and are doing their best to always put our best side forward. The visitor numbers are increasing slowly with a bit of a hiccup with the Oscar up river. People do actually come in and ask where the boat is so I think in the future we will address this a bit better, but my answer in jest is to tell them that it sank overnight and I am waiting for the salvage people. It gets the visitors smiling! The Oscar took a variety of souvenirs on its trip to Chowilla and sold quite a bit which helps toward future restocking. This is another area that we need to look at for future trips. We did try something new but it proved not to be successful.

I must say that the kitchen area at the RBC is an excellent addition to the area and volunteers can go and comfortably have a cup of tea etc. but more importantly it shows that we are responsible volunteers.

As we are all aware things will be changing in the near future with the Alexandrina Council and the Friends



Was loaded across the stern and on the sponson decks. All up there was 15 tonne or more.



The

long aluminium gang plank used on trips upriver was structurally in a poor state with about 30 broken welds, and because it was to be the one for most of the boarding on the trip we trucked it to our welder in Pt Elliot for a couple of weeks. The welds were repaired and diagonal bracing added to spread the load better. It was shared at Chowilla for all boardings on the Marion, Industry and Oscar, so just as well it was refurbished.



The front curtains were no longer clear so they have been renewed. The generator set was serviced. The ship to shore cable port-side had melted into the socket at the on-board

end, so was replaced with a cable upgrade to better conduct heat from the connection.

Loading and preparing all equipment for the trip was mostly done on working bee days. However it was planned to have the new water softener functional for the 1300 km journey and the finalizing of its installation and commissioning had to be done on the remaining week days.

On Monday the 8th Sept, Oscar departed Goolwa and the boiler water treatment was started. Half way across the lake the system was not keeping up the 1000 litres an hour needed by the boiler. We found that lots of air was entering the seacock and into the pump and so we turned it off to let water gravity feed to the belly-tank. Why you might ask? Well we were rolling in 4 to 5 ft waves, some coming over the deck and no doubt the seacock pick-up was gulping air above the water at times. Once back in the river near Wellington we resumed water via the treatment plant. Over the trip two issues arose; we found air slowly accumulated in the pump housing causing a loss of efficiency. Regular bleeding air off the housing fixed this issue. We believe that air bubbles on the river water surface travel along the hull and some enter the pick-up which is 400mm below water line. A second issue of pump efficiency loss was plaguing us, but was not so easily diagnosed. After a while we checked voltage and sure enough it was low.



CHOWILLA CRUISE -FROM THE FIRST MATE

At 7am on 8th September the Oscar and crew departed the Goolwa wharf to join the celebrations at Chowilla Station. Crossing Lake Alexandrina was quite an adventure for some as the wind was up and provided quite a bumpy crossing. By the time we reached Point Pomona one of our members was quite unwell. Bravely, he persevered and by the time we arrived at Murray Bridge he was fully recovered and back to his usual cheeky self. Well done David! The remainder of the trip upriver was enjoyed by all the crew and we were pleased to welcome aboard our second cook, Marilyn at Waikerie. At Loxton we enjoyed the company of Doug and his family and friends to celebrate his birthday. As a great supporter of the Oscar "W" Doug was presented with a large sign (kindly supplied by EJ) that read 'PORT DOUGLAS' and was to be erected on his riverfront block. Day 13 found us at "Wilkadene", an



Boats rafted up at Wilkadene

old shearing shed converted into a brewery. Four of the paddle steamers in the flotilla rafted up for the night – "Amphibious" "Industry" "Marion" and of course "Oscar "W". Much produce was sampled and enjoyed that night!

On arrival at Chowilla Station we were greeted with the fantastic sight of so many vessels moored along the banks with the paddle steamers rafted up in front of the Chowilla Shearing Shed. On Sunday the support and enthusiasm of the huge crowds in attendance was incredible – a camp could be seen behind every available bush or tree. All crews turned in mammoth efforts to ensure the boats were loaded with wood ready for departure on Monday morning. Some of the "Oscar "W" crew changed over for the homeward leg of the trip.

On a personal note, I would like to commend our crew who completed their daily tasks so well and always with good humour, making my job a pleasure. You're a really great bunch! I must also thank EJ. As Captain he spent a great deal of time passing on his vast knowledge of the navigation of the Murray to me and I am most grateful to him. Thanks again EJ.

Dennis



Oscar and Amphibious rafting up at Chowilla



**CHOWILLA
CRUISE - FROM
THE
GALLEY WINDOW**

After preparations that had gone on for ages, the hull sound, the boiler/engine in tip top condition, the wood loaded, the provisions on board, the Crew settled into their accommodation, the PS OSCAR 'W' headed up River towards Chowilla. Our first port of call was Murray Bridge where a wind battered crew were pleased to tie up for the night. We loaded timber in the morning and set off towards Bowhill where we spent the night at the Jetty, leaving early morning for Swan Reach where we spent the night moored at the Reserve, Thursday we arrived at Morgan, knot practice and ropework techniques were carried out by the crew in readiness for bush site moorings and wood was loaded. Then a visit to the Morgan RSL Club who welcomed the crew for tea along with the locals and visitors, and once again the crew were extremely lucky in the raffles – chooks were exchanged for wine!!!! The next day, Friday, was the annual Sports Day and Tug of War with the Cadell Primary School, off we set ready to 'thrash them' but after a morning of races with the students, the crew were unable to win the Tug of War – losing by 2 pulls. Boy can those little tackers pull – even without the help of the local Policeman, so the cup will be proudly displayed at Cadell for the next year. We are going to have to look for younger crew with pulling strength if we want to win the cup back. It was good that we had some young blood on board, Jason, Jesse, Simon, Josh and Robert covering various stages of the trip to give us

'oldies' a bit of a break. It was good to welcome aboard fellow crew members Gordon and Bradley from the CANALLY and Michael and Jackson from the INDUSTRY. Saturday we cruised into Waikerie and once again loaded more timber thanks to the Waikerie Council. Sunday was a busy day with a boat load of passengers joining us to cruise down to Lock 2 to meet the PS MARION. Monday we took on passengers and cruised to Kingston on Murray, the next day going through the Kingston bridge and Lock 3, onto Loxton. Wednesday we went through Lock 4 and onto Berri. Our "Parish Notes" for the day read "bloody great snags and sandbars" but where were they, the crew asked? as our experienced Skipper manoeuvred safely through them all. Arriving at Lock 5 Thursday and through the Paringa Bridge at 2pm, and there were plenty of spectators at the bridge to watch the flotilla pass through the opening span. We spent the night at Renmark and on Friday had a memorial service for Captain Syd Redfern who passed away on Mothers Day last year, Syd had been a PS INDUSTRY volunteer for 20 years along with his wife Gwen, and as the Flotilla departed Renmark there was a Symphony of Whistles in memory of Syd.



**The triumphant Cadell Tug-O-War team.
Well done guys, but we'll be back!**

done and thank you to you both and all the other volunteers who assisted. As well the new kitchen is now complete and many thanks must go to Don and Mick for all their work here too. While I'm thanking people – special mention to Terry and Carol Crabb for their kind donation of a painting of Oscar by P Schultz that will be raffled during the Wooden Boat Festival. We extend our sincere thanks for your generosity.

The trip to Chowilla was a huge success despite some of the crew being felled by the dreaded lurgy! Geoff is very enthusiastically involved in the planning for the National Maritime Museum Conference being held here in Goolwa early next year, just prior to the Wooden Boat Festival. If you are going aboard Oscar any time soon just check out the brand new clear weather curtains – all for your comfort on those breezy days on the water!

The Committee is undertaking an Audit of all our active volunteers. To be certain that everyone is covered by Council insurance we need ALL volunteers to check and let us know that as well as being paid up members of the "Friends of the Oscar W" you have also completed an Alexandrina Council Volunteer Registration Form (3 pages) – most important! This applies to anyone who works in the Riverboat Centre as well as on the Oscar itself. If you need a Volunteer Registration form

please contact me either by telephone or email urgently.

E: angeladawn@bigpond.com
T: 0428813501

Till next time
Angela



**MAINTENANCE
REPORT
July 2014**

Since the last newsletter the efforts of the maintenance team have focused on both maintenance and preparation for the Chowilla trip.

Last quarter's big works at the slipway, and the adding of 5 inspection sockets on the boiler whilst back at the wharf, along with Official Inspection for re-registration of the Paddle steamer and its boiler, is well behind us. We continued to monitor all those individual jobs; eg for seam leaks, paddle bolt tightness, plug leaks on the new sockets etc, and no problems have presented. Thus, volunteer workmanship has passed the test.

As a follow-up from the Survey we had to fit a new VHF radio, have 40 plus children's life jackets and have the latest flares to comply.

Having taken a beating over the years, the two forward hold hatch doors were refitted. The centre hatch cover was removed and broken aluminium welds repaired, along with some extra strengthening.

Three weeks before the Chowilla departure wood accumulation began. Forward of the boiler not one more log could be fitted, so on the last Wednesday wood

The Oscar & DART birthday cakes.



Presenting the plaque to Mayor McHugh, with the plaque shown at left. It has since been mounted on a section of original Oscar plank.



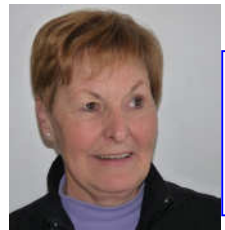
Saturday evening at Chowilla 270 guests sat down to a delicious 3 course meal in the woolshed, some of us sitting in 'sheep pens'. Sunday came around all too soon and by 10.30am all cruises had been booked out, the PS MARION took on three extra cruises to help out. 1500 were expected for the Sunday celebrations, which included Paddle Steamer rides, sheep shearing and blacksmith demonstrations, tours of the Station, Royal Australian Navy Band, and an estimated 8000 turned up - what a wonderful day in a magnificent setting. Many historic craft had made the journey from Mildura and the River Port of Goolwa to join in the celebrations, amongst them was the LOTUS from Goolwa who had undertaken the 600 km journey to take part. Volunteers of Armfields Slip at Goolwa have meticulously rebuilt her over three years. LOTUS was used both as a pleasure and work boat at Chowilla Station for many years before being discovered by Armfields Slip, and the craft was donated to

Armfields in 1999, a great achievement for all concerned. This was a trip that will hold many memories for all of us who took part. *Christina*



Amphibious passing under the Paringa lift bridge, just before Renmark.

Lotus, on the right, leads Marion and Oscar in the final parade.



**FROM THE SECRETARY—
October 2014**

The gentle breeze of change is about to blow across the Goolwa Wharf! A new era of management for Oscar and the Friends group is imminent. The Committee has been working in close con-

sultation with Council staff and the Three Barrels consortium to prepare plans for the future development at the Wharf. The plans for a re-designed Riverboat Centre to accommodate these changes have been displayed at the Council office.

The maintenance and Survey of the Oscar has been successfully completed and special mention must go to Malcolm and Roly for their mammoth efforts during the slipping process. Well





**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT—
October 2014**

The Friend's s world has been busy as always. Immediately after the very successful and eventful cruise to Chowilla—the boat was away for 22 days—, we had Oscar's 106th birthday on the wharf, supported by 3 public cruises, a jazz band and a display of historic engines on the lawns.

Mayor Kym McHugh cut the twin cakes—the DART barge was 100—and he remarked that early in his 19 year term as Mayor he had been a key player in the purchase of the Oscar W for the Alexandrina community. Kym has been a great friend of the Oscar over the years, and we presented him with a plaque in recognition of this, and the plaque will be mounted on an authentic piece of original Oscar planking.

Things are changing in Oscar's world. At our AGM on October 17th. some 40 members of the Friends of the Oscar W present voted to form an incorporated body, adopted a Constitution for the Friends of the Oscar W Incorporated, and elected a committee of 10 to administer the group. The present committee is actually a Section 41 Council Committee, and this will be dissolved when the new Goolwa Wharf Precinct Board is formed. At present the Friends of the Oscar W do not have any legal entity to conduct business,

and indeed have not needed any, because the Committee had delegated authority from the Council. Under the new arrangement, the Council, through the Goolwa Wharf Precinct Board, assumes full responsibility for funding the maintenance of the boat, and will manage the tourist aspects, of promotion, ticketing, charters and cruises, and the Management of the Riverboat Centre. The Friends of the Oscar will provide labour and expertise to maintain the boat, and will provide and roster crew for the boat, as well as providing volunteers for the Riverboat Centre.

Forming an Incorporated body allows us to limit individual liability, have our own bank account, arrange insurance to cover public liability for any events that we may arrange that do not come under Council auspices, arrange director's insurance for the Committee and so on. Maximum liability for any member is limited to one year's subscription, and of course the Committee will not have any unfunded liabilities. The limited funds that we need will come from our own fund raising efforts, such as raffles on the boat, the regular sausage sizzle, and so on. These funds will cover volunteer amenities, insurance, provision of the Newsletter and so on. If we ever have excess funds, we can provide equipment for the boat, if the committee so decides.

It is important to note that volunteers will be covered by the Council's insurance while working on the boat,

crewing on the boat, or working in the Riverboat Centre.

These are all very positive developments, and we are confident that they will safeguard the future of the boat, as the major heritage tourist attraction that it is.

Our new committee will be presided over by Dave Finnie as President, with Bruce Martin as Vice President, Angela Borchardt as Secretary, and a new committee member, Mike Cordell as Treasurer. The full committee is listed on the inside back page of this Newsletter, and you will see that many of the old committee have continued on. Thus we have a lot of experience and expertise on the new committee, and as many of you will know, both Dave and Bruce have previously served as President. Well done to all. As outgoing President/Chairman of the old committee I would like to say that it has been a privilege to be involved in such a worthy enterprise, and with such a great group of people. Thank you one and all for your support and friendship.

In particular I would like to thank the outgoing members of the committee. Geoff Braddock for his support as Vice President, and for his meticulous and enthusiastic work in chairing the sub-committee preparing for the Australian National Maritime Museum Conference in Goolwa next February, and Jesse Wagner for his contribution and work chairing the sub-committee that organized the Chowilla cruise. Anthony Presgrave has been a skilled and guiding hand in the Treasury for many years, and his knowledge of Council functions and procedures has been invaluable. Angela Borchardt has

stepped into the role of Secretary with skill and tenacious enthusiasm, and has a guiding principle of 'Let's do it now ', whereas I would usually like to do it tomorrow. Well done both Anthony and Angela.

Thanks also to EJ, probably the most experienced and skilled Skipper on the river, and so very generous with his support of the Oscar, and to Dennis Borchardt who has stepped up as First Mate and made a huge contribution to the management of the boat—we have a history of working our First Mates to shadows, and nothing will change in that respect I am sure.

On the engineering front, we have been most fortunate to have Wayne Burford's professional skills available to us. Wayne has seen us through innumerable Wednesday working bees, major boiler modifications, the installation of our water softener, a fire or two, and many another crisis. Thanks and well done Wayne. What a great group of enthusiastic workers we have. Christina— invaluable, Malcolm, Roly, Simon, the Wood Fairies, Peter, Dave and the Riverboat Centre team, Paul for the rosters and much other, Tony & Chris and the sausage sizzle team, the crew, the Wednesday team—YOU HAVE ALL DONE VERY WELL. Thank you to all. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the future.

Best regards

Graham