



P.S. Ruby NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 49 - December 2008

(Printed quarterly)

Battling the Bureaucrats – *but we're optimistic of a positive outcome soon!*

The last twelve months have been tough for PS Ruby volunteers navigating the Heritage Fleet boat through the difficult process of meeting the regulatory requirements for survey. However, in November a major milestone was met when the boiler design plans were lodged for approval.

After having 'steam up' in July 2007 for her centenary, PS Ruby was unceremoniously 'grounded' when NSW Maritime surveyors raised queries regarding the design calculations of safety valves and whether the "connecting" seams around the Tube Plate Flange should be riveted or welded.

In January 2008, NSW Maritime requested a complete set of engineering designs for the boiler and demanded that a small section of non-structural welding of the tube plate be removed. All modifications and design work is required to meet the *Riveted Boiler Standard of 1957* and the *Australian Standard 1228, 2006, Part K7*.

Chairman of the PS Ruby Board of Management, Leon Wagner, said that "finding people who have the necessary qualifications has not been easy, and then they need approval from NSW Maritime Services". In addition, each step of the operation has been monitored by a NSW Maritime surveyor who has to travel from Sydney to undertake inspections—and at a time suitable to them.

An enthusiastic team of qualified engineers with expertise in all aspects of boiler design and steam operation have worked on the boiler renovations and the plans to ensure the best outcomes for PS Ruby.

The team and talents behind the restoration of the boiler, include Frank Hendricks, a certified design engineer from Woodend, Victoria. Frank's role has been to undertake the

detailed drawings and calculations pertaining to the boiler design. Due to poor health, this took Frank a little longer than expected, however the plans were finally completed in July of this year.

These boiler design plans then had to be approved by a qualified "verifier". Ian Thomas, of Thomas & Associates, Williamstown, Victoria, a verifier with vast experience and qualifications, undertook this role. Ian visited the boat in June and has confirmed the plans were true and accurate before they were submitted to NSW Workcare for registration, and finally, to NSW Maritime in Sydney.

Mr John Norris of Lake Goldsmith Steam and General Engineering, a well known authority on steam engines, has not only given invaluable advice, but has also donated fittings for the boiler and engine re-fabrication. John is also an active engineer aboard the PS Marion, operating from Mannum in S.A. and is well known among river boat enthusiasts. *continued overleaf*



Arrow shows disputed circumferential 'seam' weld position

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends

Installation of fire-proof cladding completed



Another regulatory requirement has been the installation of fire-proof cladding on the deck-head above the boiler area. The insulation and the cladding each have a thirty minute fire retardant capacity and so provide improved safety conditions. The work was completed over several months by the trusty (or should that be crusty!) team of PS Ruby volunteers.

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Other experts who have had critical roles in the re-fabrication of the boiler include Rod Muller of Strathsteam, Goolwa S.A., and Chris Gibbs, a Boiler Inspector from Bendigo, Victoria. Rod Muller calculated the "safety valve" requirements for the boiler design. Chris Gibbs was involved with the calculation and supervision of the welding of two sockets to the barrel of the boiler. One socket for the "water injection" fitting, the other for the relocation of two safety valves. The welding work was carried out by Ray Dickerson of Nichols Point, Mildura, Victoria. On completion of Ray Dickerson's work, Chris Gibbs returned to examine the final product and issued a written report.



John Norris at the boiler

Submission to the National Approach to Maritime Safety

Recently the PS Ruby Board of Management had the opportunity to respond to a national review of Maritime Safety in Australia reviewing the inconsistencies with and between state jurisdictions regarding regulatory requirements, recognition of ship survey and safety certification, and crew accreditation. Both the Board of PS Ruby and the PS Marion submitted detailed responses regarding the adverse impacts of inconsistent regulations on their operations.

A high emphasis was placed on the current lack of recognition of the Heritage Fleet as a specific class in its own right, fitting neither recreational nor commercial categories.

Issues given a high emphasis by the PS Ruby Board of Management were the lack of recognition given under the formal State regulations to the status of the Heritage Fleet, vessels such as the PS Ruby and PS Marion. They are neither recreational nor fully commercial

vessels, and the fact that inland water-ways are different from sea-going conditions.

Currently all maritime regulations are designed for ocean-going vessels and many of the standards the PS Ruby has had to meet have been designed for ocean-going vessels, and *not* inland water ways.

The conditions vary from state to state however, for example the PS Marion, a Heritage Fleet vessel and sister ship to the PS Ruby, operates in S.A. with a number of exemptions from their current survey standards, although all vessels are required to meet appropriate safety standards.

A further issue raised was the need for the standardising of all qualifications for crewing on steam vessels. This would allow crews to move more easily between the heritage fleet boats along the river — this is critical from the point of the limited numbers of qualified crew and the difficulties of training delivery for new crew members.

Environmental Education Resources

During 2007, PS Ruby acquired funds from the NSW Natural Resources Commission (Forging Partnership Program) to purchase some essential resources to support the delivery of environmental education programs and to improve safety for participants. The boat will be fitted with basic educational tools for studying the environment, such as microscopes, so educational groups and water watch programs can use the boat as a learning platform.

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See us on the World Wide Web at www.psruby.com

Natural Resources Advisory Council
NEW SOUTH WALES



Snippets from the Board

The 'Captain' steps Down



Leon Wagner steps down from the position of Chairman of the PS Ruby Board of Management after serving in this position since the establishment of the Board in 2004, and for two years prior to that as Chairman of the Ruby Restoration Committee.

His resignation was tendered at the November Meeting of the Board, but he will remain on the Board in the role as team leader of the volunteers. Leon has been involved with the Ruby since the first meetings in 1992 when he was a member of the Rivers and Riverboats Historical Society. He was instrumental in suggesting the boat be restored and re-floated when an offer had been made by Echuca to purchase the boat from Wentworth Rotary.

Although many said it could not be done, Leon undertook the enormous task as Shipwright, to direct the restoration work, a task he has continued with to the present day.

Now that the restoration is nearing completion, Leon believes it is time for the new Committee to have a fresh leader to take the project into the operation phase. His continuation with the Board will be of great value to the Boards future success.

Bill Brook Acting Chairperson

Bill Brook, Deputy Chairman of the PS Ruby Board of Management, has tentatively taken on the role of Acting Chairman until the AGM and election of office bearers in February 2009.

Bill joined the Board of PS Ruby in early 2008 and comes with a wealth of talent and skills relevant to the future management of the PS Ruby. Bill and his wife Jane, also well known for her contributions to the Volunteer Networks around the Wentworth and Mildura area - and a keen



Ruby supporter - moved to the rural Pomona from Sth. Aust. in 2001. Bill commenced with a career in aviation administration, and then spent over thirty years as an airport General Manager in locations as diverse as Adelaide, Alice Springs and Darwin. His final role before settling in Pomona was as CEO of the Barossa Regional Development Board for several years. Bill is currently the spokesperson for the Wentworth Bendigo Bank Telco committee.

'Au Revoir' Jill

It is with great reluctance and regret that we say goodbye to Jill French. Jill left her home in Winton, Queensland, in late 2002 to take up the Project Officer's position with the Wentworth Shire Council in their 'Sense of Place' Project - leading to her involvement with PS Ruby.

Jill has become well known throughout the district for her dedication to the community.

In 2004/5 Jill moved from her position with the Shire to work with the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority, but continued her involvement with Wentworth and surrounding areas, being a member of the Community Action Team and her position as Project Officer for the PS Ruby, which in turn led to the formation of PS Ruby Inc. (fundraising arm of the boat). She also recently wrote a Business Plan for Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc.

Thanks to Jill, Ruby had many successful funding submissions. When Luke Guthrie left the Ruby Board to go overseas, Jill applied and became a board member, taking over Luke's position as secretary. One shudders at the amount of hours she has put in working on documentation of all kinds on behalf of Ruby!

Jill is now taking on a new role in Queensland with a private consulting firm as their social planner. This position will take her closer to her family, at a very great loss to us.

It will be hard to replace you, Jill, your knowledge, expertise and willingness are difficult to come by. We are sure you will maintain your very real interest in PS Ruby.



'Ruby' is open every Tuesday and Wednesday 8.30am — 3.00pm
ALL WELCOME ABOARD

BOARD SNIPPETS

New Board Members (continued)

Barbara McIntyre and Dave Eddie were endorsed by the Wentworth Shire Council as Ruby Board members in August this year.

Barbara McIntyre comes to the Ruby Board with a background in both management of facilities and staff in the hospitality industry and commitment to a range of community organisations. Currently she is the Head of Campus of the TAFE NSW Riverina Institute at Coomealla, a position she has held for two years. Prior to this appointment, she was Head Teacher of Tourism and Hospitality at the Wagga Wagga Campus for six years. Barbara is keen to contribute to the fit-out of the PS Ruby galley and development of the house-keeping requirements to ensure PS Ruby is able to meet commercial hospitality standards and is ready for operation.

Dave Eddie has an extensive background in education gained in inland areas of NSW and Victoria and is currently the VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) Coordinator at St Joseph's College, Mildura. VCAL is a hands-on option for Victorian students in Years 11 and 12, it provides practical work-related experience and personal development activities, in addition to the general curriculum, to assist students to move into the workforce. Dave also has Level 1 coaching certificates in Volley-ball, Cricket and Australian Rules Football and is keen to see the Ruby used for outdoor education and applied learning and leadership activities. Dave brings a range of practical skills and enthusiasm and will be a great support for program development and delivery in the future.

OTHER NEW BOARD POSITIONS

Barbara McIntyre has been appointed Secretary and Gaye Lamb Assistant Secretary as well as Public Officer of Ruby Inc.

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RED CLIFFS PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT PS RUBY



On Thursday 30th October the PS Ruby and the NSW and Victorian Water Watch programs hosted a group of students from the Red Cliffs Primary School.

The visit included a tour of the Ruby and participation in the Water Watch program activities such as sampling water from the Darling River and viewing the aquatic life under a microscope. The partnership with Water Watch will be an on-going part of the delivery of environmental education programs on the PS Ruby in the future.

Environmental Education Resources

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The second part of the grant is for improved passenger safety and to develop an "orientation" DVD to ensure all passengers who travel on the heritage paddle steamer are fully aware of safety issues and features.

A local firm, Dantere Safety, is assisting with the identification of potential hazards and the supply of appropriate safety equipment. This will supplement the work being done under the Safety Management Systems Plan and NSW Maritime regulation which has a more operational focus.

Any educational groups who may be interested in this project, should contact Craig Copley on 0439 635 114

"Paddle Steamer Ruby — One Hundred Years On"

Copies still available

ONLY \$25.00

PO Box 371, Wentworth NSW
or email friendsofruby@psruby.com

Proud grandparents!



Congratulations to Leon and Kay on the birth of their first grandson,
William Henry Dunford

born 21st October 2008, weighing in at a massive 4.7kg's (10lb 6oz)!

Mum Annette and dad Neil are over the moon!

In the words of Captains of old,
"He's a foine lookin' lad . . . aye!"



'Friends of the Ruby', contact Rod at friendsofruby@psruby.com

The PS *Wagga Wagga* and the barge *Whaler*

Ron Mitchell, one of our members of "Friends of the Ruby" has managed to trace the remains of two significant river craft that plied the Murray and Murrumbidgee river over 100 years ago.

Ron Parsons in his book "Ships of the Inland Rivers" notes the 'Wagga Wagga' as being an 86 ton vessel of 68 feet with a 76nhp steam engine. She was built for R. Barbour in 1877 and had subsequent owners of G.H. Risby, sawmill owners from Mildura in 1888 and J Roach in 1911. The register closed in 1920 with 'no trace'. "However MSB reported she had foundered in the Murrumbidgee 10 August 1913, while towing the barge 'Whaler' and it would seem she was not repaired."

Ron Mitchell suggested she foundered while on a tourist trip to celebrate the end of the First World War, (11.11.1918) in the Murrumbidgee. She was leaking badly so they ran her onto a sand bar near Nar-rander and left her there, although they did have plans to re-caulk her at the time. Ron found her and sent these photos. Unfortunately the reflections in the river make it difficult to pick out the old vessel.

The barge "Whaler" which she was towing at the time, ended up on the river bank near Echuca (as most river boats do these days, it seems). There is certainly not much left of either vessel and with a ban on removing wrecks from the rivers we may never see these old boats again.

Thanks Ron for your efforts.

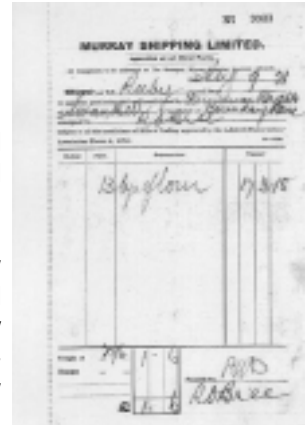


Top: Wagga Wagga remains. Bottom: Whaler barge

A Consignment in History

A few months ago a Mrs. Marge Richards from Nyah, Victoria wandered on board to look over PS Ruby.

She mentioned as a child she and her mother travelled downstream on Ruby from Swan Hill to Boundary Bend. She later mailed us a copy of a consignment note dated 9th, August, 1921, of Murray Shipping Limited, the consignment aboard PS Ruby from Permewan Wright, Swan



Hill for 13 bags of flour, 0.17.3.18 (weight) at a charge of £1.0.6. Consigned to Robert O'Bree, of Boundary Bend.

Robert (Bob) O'Bree owned the wine shanty there together with many thousands of acres of land. This place, in the early 1930's was referred to as 'O'Bree's Corner.'

Mrs. Marge Richards is in fact Robert O'Brees daughter. Another interesting titbit; Robert O'Bree was the brother of Leon Wagner's great grandfather, John (Jack) O'Bree, of Piangil, Victoria

Vale

Trevor John McLeod

The PS Ruby Friends and Supporters wish to extend their sincere sympathy to Jenny McLeod and her two sons, Andrew and Matthew and their families, on the passing of their husband and father, Trevor.

Trevor was a Foundation Member of the Wentworth Apex Club and a Life Member of the Association. Wentworth Apex is a major supporter of the Ruby Project.

Trevor will be sadly missed by the Wentworth Community because of his long involvement with the town's sporting organisations, particularly Cricket, Football and Golf. He was one of the main supporters of the Ruby Project when the Public Meeting was first held to decide whether the community should restore the historic vessel.

Together with Jenny, who became a Restoration Board Member for many years, Trevor was a close friend to Ruby and we will all miss him greatly.

Trevor passed away suddenly at his home in Wentworth on the 26th November 2008 at the age of 69.

Did you know?

One horse, plodding quietly along a tow-path of an English canal, ahead of a fully-laden barge of approximately 40 tons, could haul 80 times more than if it were leading a wagon down a muddy road and could take 400 times as much as a single pack-horse! (from "The Map that changed the world" by Simon Winchester.



Contact Liz at info@psruby.com for general enquiries

'Friends of the Ruby' Newsletter

Postage
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PO Box 371, Wentworth NSW 2648 Australia
PS Ruby is berthed at Fotherby Park, Wentworth
Email: info@psruby.com
Website: www.psruby.com

'Friends of the Ruby' Membership Form
PO Box 371, Wentworth NSW 2648 Australia
Email: friendsofruby@psruby.com (Attention Rod Tabrett)

Name:
Address:
State: Post Code
Type of membership: Amount \$
Phone: Email



Type of Membership

ANNUAL (SINGLE) . . . \$20
ANNUAL (FAMILY) . . . \$50
LIFE \$250

The financial year for annual memberships is from March 31, till April, 1 the following year.

The Ruby restoration project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Regional Partnerships program



AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE