

Tacoma

Newsletter

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In Memoriam of Leonie Sawyer by Carin Haldane



Leonie Sawyer, great friend, supporter and member of the Tacoma Preservation Society, passed away last Wednesday, 9th October, leaving more happy, wonderful, fun memories than most of us could achieve in a lifetime! Leonie’s zest for life was second to none. She was determined to ‘pole a tuna’ off Tacoma and booked a trip with a group of friends of similar ilk. For Leonie, it became one highlight of her life, often referring to it as something that would make her lovely boys, Mitchell and Brodie, proud of her. And it did. The boys never stopped hearing about it afterwards.....



FV Tacoma

Tacoma and WiSA join forces



The Tacoma Preservation Society (TPS) has interacted with WiSA (Women in Seafood Australasia) for two years to creating unforgettable experiences involving personal leadership development through adventure and tuna fishing, even the occasional seagull chase. The Ladies Poling Trip is such an opportunity which can be an empowering, thrilling adventure for WiSA members.

For me, it was also a highlight, being the first woman to “pole a tuna” on the boat my father-in-law and his brothers had built all those years ago. I hope he would be proud of me, too. But most of all, that event cemented a deep and special bond between Leonie and me – we became lifelong PP’s-Poling Partners, and we had cherished it ever since. I will miss you, my brave friend. Sleep well.

Tacoma Welcomes Bill from Vancouver, Canada



The Tacoma Preservation Society had a visitor all the way from Canada as vividly described in Port Lincoln Times. Garry Luxford introduced Bill to the Port Lincoln Tacoma team. Garry and his brother Ross first came on a tuna trip some years ago and joined the Flinders Island Adventure. Bill was interested in seeing Tacoma for himself. Good and interesting news travels far.

Claire Webber, representing the Port Lincoln sardine industry, attended a so-called “Power Up Breakfast” in Hobart where she showcased the Tacoma Preservation Society, by a three-and-a-half-minute video with the Tacoma and the art of poling tuna. As the video looped, attendees quickly warmed up to the idea of a sea-bound adventure. On each table and in the goodie bags were flyers explaining the thrill of tuna poling and how attendees could become a part of living history. People quickly booked all berths for the special WiSA trip and a waiting list formed. The WiSA Women’s poling trips for 2025 run 31st Dec to 2nd Jan and 14th to 16th Feb.

Tacoma Safety at Sea



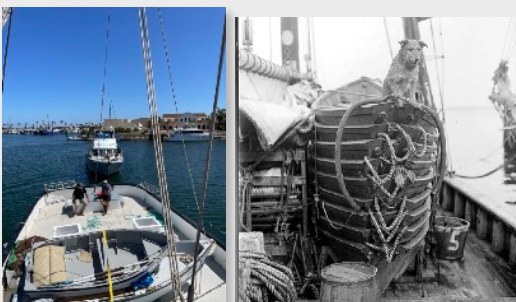
Today, nearly every vessel venturing out to sea over 15 Nm carries a life raft. Increasingly, life rafts are becoming a normal deck safety feature on recreational vessel as well. When working on commercial vessels, you are likely to find yourself on the “Elements of Shipboard Safety” course. Successful completion of this course is an AMSA requirement for anyone who works or wishes to work as a Near Coastal Coxswain, Master, Marine Engine Driver or, where stipulated, as a deckhand on a commercial near coastal vessel. The focus is on theoretical and practical training in matters that impact personal safety, vessel safety, and crew safety. Most of us on Tacoma are familiar with these topics, hoping we will never have to use them. Inspecting the Tacoma life raft every two years is necessary to pass the survey. Unfortunately, the raft gave up the ghost and instead of investing \$4000 for a new raft; we leased a 16-person capacity life raft from Taylor Marine at a cost of \$2230 per annum because everybody must be safe when at sea.

Trash and Treasure

When you go poling for tuna, the secret ingredient is to have live bait. Each year we wheel out our 65-year-old 80 x 20 m bait net and anchor in the bay. We put a light over the side during the night. At dawn, the bait net goes over the side for a bait shot. This year it will be easier because we now have a knotless net thanks to Tacoma member David, who spotted a near-new discarded net at the local rope mountain. Braden quickly loaded the net onto his Ute. With some modification, we now have a new bait net better and bigger than the previous one.



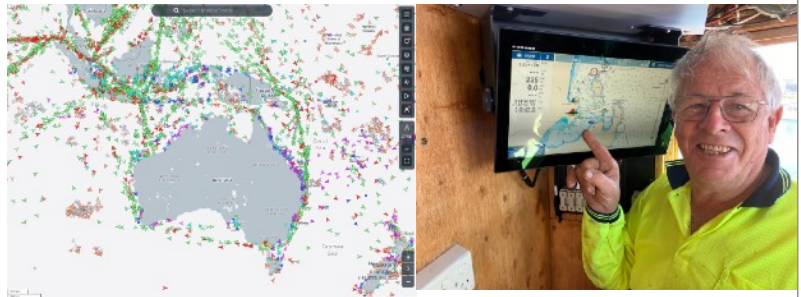
Dinghies on the Deck



Dinghies on the deck take up a lot of space and need to be properly secured when going to sea. By consulting a maritime library, an obvious solution was found.

Maintaining Tacoma’s safety equipment is an expensive and challenging undertaking. The new raft is now in place on the deckhouse roof. Thanks to those who did this work.

Tacoma AIS is Up and Running



The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a tracking system that uses transceivers onboard ships. AIS allows ships to view marine traffic in their area and to be seen by that traffic. This requires a dedicated VHF AIS transceiver that allows local traffic to be viewed on an AIS enabled chart plotter or computer while transmitting information about the ship itself to other AIS receivers. In this way, all vessels equipped with AIS transceivers can view and identify one another within the VHF range, about 10–20 Nm. Viewing marine traffic, a passing ship can often upload the AIS signals a relay station, showing the time of the last data upload beyond this range. The system is beneficial by providing the name of a vessel, its speed and compass heading. After delays, the Tacoma AIS is working and you will hopefully be able to look us up on the website (<https://www.marinetraffic.com>).

An Act of Gallantry

We know a lot about Tacoma, how, where, and why she was built. We know relatively little about the people behind and their relationships. The Haldane brothers, Bill, Alan, and Hughie, must have been aware that building a fishing vessel of that size would involve immense sacrifice; not only by them but also by their families. It was hard work and money was needed. What we do know is that the three brothers had a courage to be admired. The story below proves this.

The Tacoma Puzzle

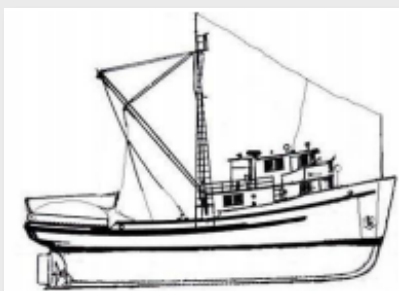


Tacoma was once an enigma. Now it's a puzzle. Ask for current price and bulk rebates.

The Tacoma Play School



A fleet of toys for the Tacoma Play School is now available for bulk buy or single item purchase. Contact the Play master and experienced grandfather, Ross, for prices and opening hours. Little Tacoma's are available at the Port Fairy visitor information centre, the Queenscliff Maritime Museum and the Port Fairy news agent and onboard Tacoma.



Case		Award.
5286 5287 5288	<p>HUGH HALDANE, aged 21 years; STANLEY TERJESEN, aged 19 years; and GEORGE WILLIAMS, aged 42 years, of Port Fairy (Vic.), Fishermen, who risked their lives in attempting to rescue other fishermen from drowning in the sea at Port Fairy on March 23, 1939. A party of 14 set out in a large fishing craft, to salvage a boat which had been wrecked. They were assisted by a land party of 30 men. An 18 ft. boat containing five men was lowered from the larger boat and put off to the operations. A signal from the land party not to proceed was misunderstood. The 18 ft. boat negotiated the first line of surf safely; but in the second line of breakers the boat capsized in the treacherous sea and the five men were thrown into the water, and immersed in its strong swell and under-currents. Haldane, from the land, took a rope and tried to reach the men, but lost his line and only reached the beach after a desperate struggle. Terjesen also took a line and reached his brother James, who was supporting himself on an oar, but he declined assistance, sending Stanley Tyson to the relief of Ronald Artis, who was in extreme difficulties. Williams also made an attempt, but lost his line and had great difficulty in regaining the shore. The undertow was so strong that those paying out the lines were only kept from being washed away by others ashore standing knee deep in the sea. The only available lines were so heavy that they were difficult for a swimmer to tow even in smooth water. Many of the short lengths of which the lines were made up were old and much worn, of unknown strength, and easily parted.</p>	Certificate of Merit to Each.



Donation for Tacoma

Craig & Sandy Robinson have been generous supporters of the Tacoma Preservation Society for several years. Their continuous donations allowed the Society to support several community charity foundations by accessing Tacoma for fund-raising events. The programme has ended, and we would like to thank Craig and Sandy for their support, giving the Society funds to operate and maintain the vessel and the opportunity to interact with a wide cross-section of the Port Lincoln community.

