

Tacoma

Newsletter

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Harry's Roadside Shop



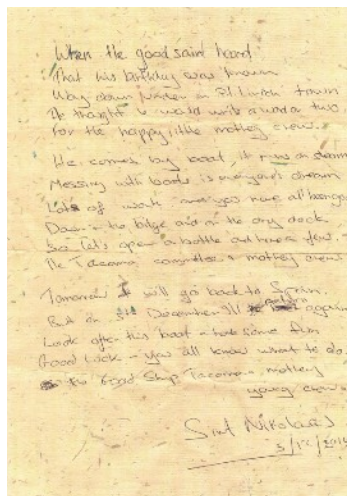
Our newest outlet at Harry's Roadside Shop between Port Augusta and Port Pirie has received our calling card - a Tacoma life ring to hang in the shop. Harry is currently selling our tuna in a jar, and we hope that this will be complemented with smoked and frozen products when we can supply after we catch more fish in the February tuna poling trips.

We now have 8 full-size life rings displayed, from the Port Lincoln Airport to 1802 restaurant in Coffin Bay. If Coca-Cola can do it, we can too! If you see a life ring anywhere, we have been there. It pays to advertise!



MFV Tacoma

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Merry Christmas and Happy New year from the newsletter scribblers.

“When the good saint heard that his birthday was known way down under in Port Lincoln town, he thought he would write a word or two for the happy little assorted crew. He comes by boat; it runs and steam. Messing with boats is everyone’s dream. Lots of work and you have all been good. Down in the bilge and on the dry dock. So, let’s open a bottle and have a few. The Tacoma committee, a motley crew. Tomorrow I will go back to Spain. But on 5th December I’ll return. Look after this boat and have some fun. Good Luck — you all know what to do. The good ship Tacoma a motley young crew. Saint Nikolas, 5/12/2014”

Rowing News



There's nothing like having a new coach to spur the team on to improve their rowing skills. Joining us is young Callum from Cornwall. Callum is a gig rower – a 32ft 6-oared traditional rowing boat that has been revived into a cultural icon in nearly every Cornish village. In Cadgwith, Callum's rowing club has 6 gigs for a population of 100. Each year, the Silly Iles host a world championship with over 3000 competitors and some 150 boats in all categories. The rowing group has also been in touch with a rowing group in Albany, WA, and all eyes are on a wooden boat festival in 2026. Watch this space for updates.

Flotilla around Australia Boat Visit



The AGM

The AGM was held 15. November 2024. A new committee with 15 members was elected, comprising:

Ross Haldane President, Verona Taubers Sec, Anne Gordon Treasurer, Trevor Filmer Captain, Greg Sleep Engineer, Fred Houwerling Carpenter, Carin Haldane Boat shop, Anna Van der Hart Social, Kate Erlington Social, Claire Webber Rowing, Peter Jessop Fishing gear and netting, Grant Lomman Deck boss, Jack Bellamy Galley, Ib Svane Newsletter Editor, Ian Doyle Media and Technology.

You might rightly think that's going against the known wisdom of a committee; the best number is 3. In 1889, an anonymous reader sent a letter to the editor of "The Western Times," of Devon, England, arguing against large committees: "Somebody had said that no committee should consist of more than three, and that the business would be better done when two were absent." However, the reason is our modern retired lives; they are full of things to do - an oversea trip, a caravan jaunt to nowhere, the grandkids sports, birthdays, christenings, first day at school, etc. Time is precious. The Tacoma committee will meet quarterly in the propria persona (QSO Eyeball) or via internet link in spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

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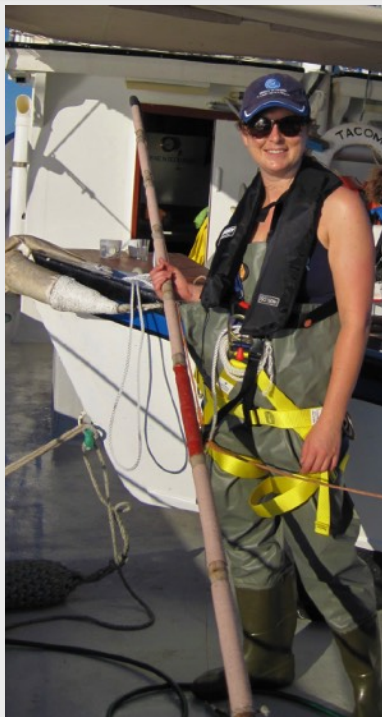


"Whew! That was close!
We almost decided something!"

Taylor's Island Annual Wool Pickup

A perfect day; calm seas, light cloud cover, and a hearty crew. This year's wool pick up went off without a hitch. In the early days, our local islands, Boston, Thistle, Louth, Wedge, Revesby, Spilsby, and Grindal, all had sheep grazing operations, with permanent families on the larger islands. Their wool was picked up by the local ketch fleet and delivered to Adelaide. With the demise of the ketch fleet, the farmers were forced to acquire their own fleet of barges and crafts.

When Tacoma visited Port Fairy, Tacoma was joined by Tim Phillips and his historic 1920s fishing vessel, the Storm Bay. Tim accompanied us on our Flinders Island adventure in the rock lobster boat, the Jane Kerr. Tim is now planning another adventure to motor around Australia with a flotilla of 7 boats. They are due in Port Lincoln in late February and plan to stay two weeks before departing to cross the Bight. Tacoma is scheduled to host the group in a raft up seafood event. Should be a good show.

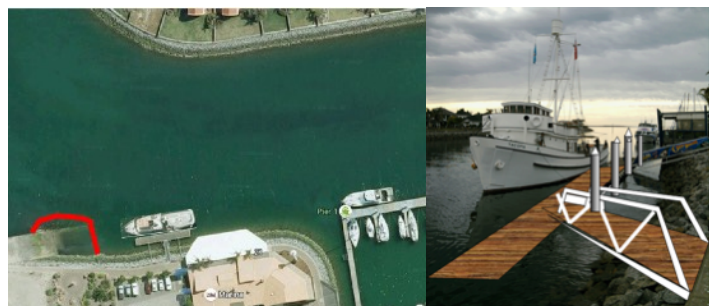


Taylor and Boston are the only islands still stocking sheep, while the other islands have been developed as luxury resorts or housing developments, with some 70 homes being built on various islands. The bigger islands have air strips, while others have been absorbed into the National Park system.



News of the Berth

There is good news about the proposed community pontoon next to the Fishermen’s Memorial in Lincoln Cove Marina. The council is preparing a specification brief and potential contractors list, and it is likely a funding model will be firmed up after Christmas. The proposed location will allow us to offer easy access to the tourist population and enable us to overcome the issue we have with tide at our current berth.

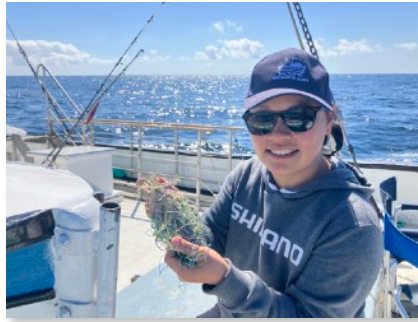


Tuna Trips Next Year

Our tuna trips are fully booked. The program includes two women’s trips and one men’s trip. The 14th Feb women’s trip is supported by ‘Women in Seafood’. It is targeted to provide a leadership program allowing a diverse group of women in seafood to experience the various elements of the seafood industry. Clare Webber will be the deck boss while Jenna James and our two cooks (the most important crew position) Janine Jin and Di Kenny will show us their preparation and culinary skills with the AGA stove - always a challenge when the sea is not friendly! Janine not only brings her cooking skills, but she is an accomplished fisher in her own right, bagging the big ones.

Cruise Ship Visit

Some 90 passengers visited Tacoma in 4 groups of 20 to hear the story of Tacoma, have a pooling demonstration, a tuna filleting masterclass from Del Giorno’s chef Chris Bunder, and sample his signature tuna boat dish. Photo right below.



Tuna Competition and Riviera Cruise

The two events, the Tuna Competition and the Riviera Cruise, provide the opportunity to showcase Tacoma to a wider audience. The tuna competition will take place on March 15th, and the Riviera Cruise on 8th March 2025.

During the tuna competition, we act as a mother ship, providing a platform for the Saturday night get together, with about 40 guests. Our guests are fed a spaghetti and meatball dinner after a long day at sea. Tacoma will provide the service of an on-water backpacker hostel for crews of the smaller boats that do not have onboard accommodation.

The Riviera Cruise attracts over 30 vessels. During the years, we have acted as a gourmet display table, a nightclub with a live band, and seafood filleting platform. This year, the plans are still being developed. We are attempting to change the format; it could be a Pirate Night, a sea shanty singalong, or a “catch it and we cook it” event - all will be revealed in our summer newsletter.

