

## Upcoming Cruises and Charters

September	Sunday 26th	10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:00pm
October	Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:00pm
	16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:00pm
	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Private Charter
November	Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:00pm
December	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:00pm

## Family Day

A reminder to all Members and supporters to the ps Industry that the family day will be held on 14th November at Lock 5. It will be a BYO everything event but we do request that you bring extra salad that can be shared amongst friends.

The event will start at 11:30 and we hope to see as many members as possible attending and enjoying the day.

## WELCOME TO NEW FOTI MEMBERS:

We welcome several new Members to FOTI and thank them for their support:

- ◆ Janet Veenstra from Renmark (widow of Capt Richard Veenstra who passed away a few years ago).
- ◆ Belinda & Dave Dunn, now living in Renmark and new to the area.
- ◆ Capt Allen Frost and his partner Vivien Jiao who live in Adelaide.
- ◆ Hank Theunens from Berri.
- ◆ Denis Smith and his partner Dorree Rogers also new to Renmark.

## The 'Paddle Wheeler'

### PS 'Industry' Newsletter—September 2021



Chairman	David Nattrass
Vice-Chairman	Barry Sullivan
Secretary	Helena Whitman
Treasurer	Denise Bihun
Safety Officer	John Brodie
Maintenance & Operations	Luke Bihun
Quartermaster	Donna Rayner/Bazz Elliott
Committee	Trevor Paterson
Promotions	Denis Smith/Helena Whitman
Facebook	Don Smith
Newsletter/Website	Helena Whitman
Roster Co-ord	Stuart Auld (Ex-officio)

### PS Industry

Address: PO Box 671, RENMARK SA 5341  
Email: [psindustry.renmark@gmail.com](mailto:psindustry.renmark@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PSIndustry.Renmark](https://www.facebook.com/PSIndustry.Renmark)  
Website: [www.psindustry.org.au](http://www.psindustry.org.au)

## Thank you

At the AGM several Committee Members did not seek re-election. Sandra Daniel our publicity and promotion person, Kathy Hazelwood our Quatermaster, Mark Hazelwood, Vice President and Tom Walsh Committee Member.

All had been extremely hard working in their various rolls and are thanked for their, in some cases, years of service to the *ps Industry* and FOTI. Retiring Committee and long standing retiring volunteer Jocie Cooper as well as the Renmark CWA have all been awarded Certificates of Appreciation by the Committee.

New Committee Members elected at the AGM were Trevor Paterson and Denis Smith. Bazz Elliott and Donna Rayner are sharing the role of Quatermaster. Barry Sullivan has been elected to Vice President and Sandra's role is being shared between several Committee Members.

## TREASURERS FINANCIAL REPORT 2020-21

Due to major work on the vessel, COVID-19 restrictions and lock down during this financial year, it may look like our total income has improved however slightly, however if we take into account the \$4000 grant money from the Renmark Paringa Council, then the amount of total income stays almost the same as our previous financial year.

With the refurbishment of our top 4 cabins, the grant money covered most of the costs involved in this job, however we have still continued with repairs and maintenance and survey costs, as we do every year.

On paper we made a small profit, bearing in mind that the grant money makes this look better than it is.

## Treasurer's Report Cont:-

After lock down finished last year, we moved our coin machine into the Renmark Paringa Information Centre, they also sell covers for the coins. This was a very good move, as we have made \$939.00 since that time. Our 3 donation boxes, 1 on board, 1 in the Information Centre and the other at Wilkadene, show we made \$1362.65 in the last financial year.

After being able to continue with steaming days in December, and not being able to steam due to heat wave days in January, we have been able to do very well with passengers. The new system at the Information Centre having bookings on line, has meant that we have been booked out on quite a few days, which is good news for the PS Industry.

Denise Bihun, Treasurer

## From the Archives

If you have any historical photos to add to our records we would very much appreciate your sharing them with us.



## Life Membership

As I have mentioned, this organisation only survives through the continued dedication of our volunteers, Committee has this day recognised the long dedicated commitments of Members Rob Knight and Allan Langley and awarded them Life Membership.



### Arthur Robert Knight

Rob Knight's involvement with the Industry commenced in early 2000 when Ian Smallacombe suggested he help with repairs to the paddle boxes. Rob was instantly interested and became a dedicated member.

He was elected to the Management Committee in 2003 and served for 13 years until 2016. At the commencement of his term, Rob recognised the need for boiler attendants. He enrolled in a boiler attendant course and earned accreditation in 2004. Since then these skills have been invaluable in our ability to operate.

Rob has also been a consistent volunteer with all aspects and tasks required to keep the Industry mobile. He is never far away be it general maintenance, operational days, wood splitting and loading or slip work.

He has given 21 years of quality service to FOTI and for this reason has been awarded Life Membership.

## Life Membership Cont:-

### Allan Langley

Allan joined the Industry in 2010. His experience was immediately recognised and he was elected to the Management Committee in 2011. He was the Maintenance Coordinator for 5 years from 2013 to 2017. After relinquishing the roll, he continued as a willing volunteer.

Allan's skills are frequently called upon to perform specialty repairs and would often be found quietly doing maintenance at the wharf. Most recently he expertly coordinated the upgrade to the upstairs cabins. He continues to volunteer for crew and has often crewed on the long away excursions.

For his dedication as a regular reliable volunteer that enables the Industry to continue operation, we have awarded him Life Membership.

## Membership Fees:

Thank you to everyone who has paid their membership for the current financial year, July 2021 - June 2022, this is much appreciated and helps us to keep going.

If you haven't paid your membership and cannot find the form, it is on our web site: [www.psindustry.org.au](http://www.psindustry.org.au) or you can ring me (Denise) on 0488 566 414 and ask for a copy to be sent to you.

Unfortunately due to extensive works on the *ps Industry*, the Committee have had to increase Membership Fees this year. New fees are:

Family	\$40
Adult	\$30
Concession	\$20
Child	\$10

As a Member you are entitled to a 50% discount ticket price for one short cruise annually. Book through the Visitor Centre quoting your membership number and standard booking fee will be applied.

## Chairman's Report to AGM 2021

Who would have predicted that the pandemic would still govern our life?

We began the year in maintenance mode as COVID 19 restrictions continued to control operations. Repairs to the port side paddle shaft and confined spaces issues were attended to.

However, we were able to resume cruising with a modified schedule in January with reduced passengers and Devonshire teas suspended. Passenger numbers exceeded our reduced capacity which resulted in an extra cruise being scheduled. And then as we adjusted to the new normal, COVID threw us into lockdown again and we were forced to abandon our trip to Berri and the slipping.

As it is now more than 30 years since the initial replanking, a detailed study of the hull had been scheduled to formulate a plan for expected future major works. Unfortunately, we must reschedule the slipping and assessment for a date next year.

On the positive side, the online booking system was successfully implemented, patrons can view future cruise dates and it has simplified the purser's duties on operating days. The first Sunday of the month cruising schedule has been amended to be more in line with tourist attendances, taking school holidays and long weekends into account.

Committee has revised ticket prices, membership fees and entitlement. We have dispensed with the issue of complimentary tickets and introduced a 50% discount on one annual short trip.

The lingering uncertainty surrounding interstate travel has seen an influx of visitors to the region which has seen our regular cruises well patronized. However, tour visits from bus groups are continually rescheduled or cancelled.

Despite the disruptions, volunteers have refurbished the upstairs cabins, partially funded by a generous grant from the Renmark Paringa Council. Thanks to Big River Carpets for donating materials and the Renmark Hotel who provided accommodation during the upgrade and the venue for tonight's meeting.

Ongoing support with the production of our Tourist information leaflet by Angove Family Wines is greatly appreciated.

### *Chairman's Report cont:-*

We continue to process the large tonnage of donated timber at the wood yard. In excess of 2250 volunteer work hours were recorded this year.

Last year's high maintenance costs and reduced income saw us call on our accumulated reserve. Despite a disrupted cruising schedule again this year, patronage numbers have been exceptional, and we posted a small surplus. One can only hope that the year ahead has less disruptions.

We have been fortunate to welcome several new volunteers this year. Unfortunately, we saw the passing of retired Maintenance Coordinator Rob Mead. Qualified crew continue to present challenges to the roster coordinator however with the cooperation of volunteers, Stuart has been able to fulfill our obligations.

The success of our organization is only achieved by the input of you, the volunteers. There are too many to thank individually as one risks overlooking some. However, I wish to commend committee members, the Tuesday working-bee gang, operating day crew and anyone else I have missed for their support in these difficult times. This organization only survives through their continued dedication. Thanks for your services over the years as it is paramount to continuing success.

Dave.

### **Maintenance & Operations Update**

With the refurbishment of the cabins completed, the volunteers are now focusing on the outside of the vessel. Thanks to a committed effort by Brenton Beal and his group of volunteers the portside paddle box has been completely sanded back and repainted. Denis Smith has taken on the task to upgrade the insect screens in the cabin vents. Luke and Alan have been working on upgrading the access to the boiler areas.

While these tasks are underway on the vessel the wood yard gang is toiling away at splitting the accumulation of wood. It's great to receive the support of new members Denis, Brenton, Hans, Alan and recently retired Trevor to the maintenance gang.

Meanwhile Stuart continues to battle with the constantly changing cruise roster caused by COVID cross border restrictions and lockdowns.