



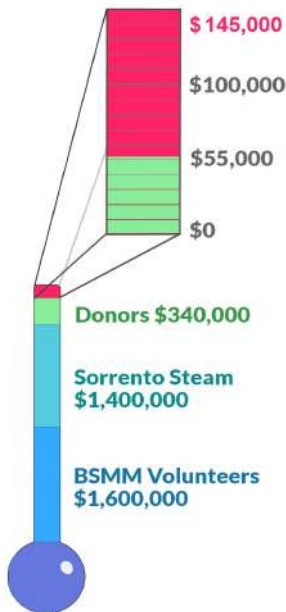
# STEAMLINES©

December 2022

### Special points of interest:

- Chairman's EOY Report P2.
- Engineering Report P3.
- Hull & Fit-out Report P3/4
- Fund Raising Initiatives P4.

**Only \$145,000 needed to finish WATTLE!**



**Please donate to the WATTLE Restoration Fund**

Find out more, head to our website: [tugwattle.org.au](http://tugwattle.org.au)

## Remembering Robbie Coltrane

As some of you would know, we had a stand down at the recent Melbourne Boat show and during a quiet time a couple of the chaps manning the stand started to chat about the recent departure of Robbie Coltrane and how they enjoyed much of what he had done through his varied and extensive career.

I also have fond memories of his roles in James Bond and Harry Potter, however was compelled to re-visit a series he starred in which clearly showed his interest in mechanical engineering. It was called Coltrane's Planes and Automobiles and was produced in the 90's for British TV. This series is now available on YouTube and is interesting in that it traces the origin and development of engines right back to Steam. In fact the Steam section is a two part program and is worth a revisit or, in case you have yet to see it,



**Robbie Coltrane 1950-2022**

check it out on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGM7JFzGHjg>

It is clear that Robbie holds the steam engine in high regard as most do when they see them in action. It is also probable that as a man interested in history, he would be well aware of how England was changed for ever by mechanisation which was a direct result of steam power which led to what is now known as the Industrial Revolution.

It was towards the end of the Part 2 regarding steam that Robbie uttered "A tribute to a time when things were built to last" It was this that made me think of the Wattle and the sturdy nature of its build. I am unsure when the term "planned obsolescence" became a thing but I am sure it didn't apply to the Wattle or anything much in 1933, things were built to last and we were all beneficiaries that. It is our earnest desire to keep it going.

## Thinking about Christmas?

Here are some Wattle based solutions available now for immediate delivery. Order soon so we can get them to you before the Christmas break. To order via Email see box below Right Hand corner:



\$20 + postage



Blue Polo \$40 + postage



White Polo \$40 + postage



Blue T-shirt \$35 + postage



White T-shirt \$35 + postage

**To Order** call Travers on 0421854914 or email: [wattle1933@gmail.com](mailto:wattle1933@gmail.com).  
Postage via Australia Post Satchel @ \$13.25 on top of the cost of the items purchased.  
Check size /availability before ordering.

## Bay Steamers Maritime Museum Ltd Chairman's Report November 2022

2022 - What a year of change and achievement for Bay Steamers Maritime Museum and S.T. Wattle:

- We started our recovery from the assault on our numbers by COVID and lockdowns; from four or five Saturday regulars, we are building up to pre-COVID attendances of 16 - 18 volunteers every Saturday. A true reflection of enthusiasm for our task.
- The bombshell of the year was the decision by Sorrento Steam to cease funding restoration of Wattle, effective 30 June. We will be ever grateful and mindful of what Sorrento Steam did for us - about \$1,400,000.00 funding since 2009 and then to donate Wattle back to BSMM. Such memorable support and generosity.
- To continue we needed to find financial support. Our main energies have been directed at our

Wattle Restoration Appeal (See elsewhere). Our target is \$140,000.00 to cover immediate items such as slipping and re-painting, completing the fit-out and to cover on-going expenses such as insurances, office administration, etc.

- After two near-misses inflicted by COVID, we finally received a Pass mark on our boiler inspection on 11 August.
- Increased activities designed to raise our profile and aid our way to success have been a presence at the Melbourne International Boat Show, production of a range of merchandise, the publication of technical papers and the delivery of talks to the Royal Historical Society and to many Probus and View clubs.
- We continued to attract financial and in-kind support. Details are on our website but major supporters

worthy of special mention include City of Melbourne, Development Victoria, Port of Melbourne and International Paint. We are grateful to these bodies and to all other supporters.

As Chairman, I wish to express my gratitude to a supportive and helpful Board of Directors. To Bruce Warren as Secretary and Treasurer, Kim Hollinrake as Chief Engineer and Hal Hopkins and Richard Sbrana as Directors - my thanks for your backing and contribution over the year. And to all active volunteers, to all members and supporters go the thanks of the Board of Bay Steamers Maritime Museum Ltd.. It has been a long journey but your efforts through the year have brought the completion of the restoration of S. T. Wattle closer to reality.

## Engineer's Report to the 2022 AGM 26/11/2022

During 2022 we have seen quite a bit of progress made on the boiler and in the engine room. Because of Covid and other problems, the planned 2021 boiler survey was not completed. Many boiler mountings had been stripped down and inspected but needed to be repacked and reassembled and this work proceeded for several weeks during this year.

In February, the replacement of the General Service pump along with its newly fabricated pipework was completed and tested successfully. This was a huge project which lasted several months and included extensive repairs to the 'new' pump.

In March, our boiler surveyor conducted a preliminary inspection and recommended some minor additional work be done on the crown-stay retainers which we fabricated last year.

This work was carried out and we were cleared to fill the boiler. In April, a pressure test was done, which showed some leakage from gauge-glass and feed cocks and quite a bad leak from the upper access cover. The latter was fixed by machining and installing a Topog-E gasket. The safety valves were prepared for reinstallation; one to be set for 128psi and the other 130psi.

In July, the boiler was fired over three days until safety valve lift enabled us check and adjust the pressure settings. During firing, more experimentation with burner tips resulted in much reduced smoke but only using smaller tips which wouldn't be suitable to maintain prolonged cruise speed. Work in this area is ongoing. The engine was also turned under steam for the first time since March 2020. With great satisfaction, it was noted that the LP valve mods which were done last year, had eliminated the screeching noise that has plagued the Wattle

since before it was lifted out of the water. In August, the boiler was again fired to raise steam for the survey. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the surveyor witnessed the safety valve settings, feed pump and injector operation etc. with engine turning over and declared that everything was in order. This was a significant milestone because the boiler has not been in survey since 2009



Safety valve check

## Eng. Cont./-

An open day was held for donors and members of allied organizations on the 28<sup>th</sup> and during this time we had the engine turning slowly for four hours with only a couple of minor problems. One was lack of vacuum caused by the air pump relief valve not seating properly (now fixed), the other was a minor oil leak from the thrust block which still needs attention.

Other work done this year included fixing all the fuel system leaks (mainly caused by incorrect packing material), refractory repair along with the inevitable soot removal, painting, cleaning and bilge cleaning. The old switchboard was refurbished and put back for display purposes. There is still a lot of work carrying into next year and this includes rust removal and painting, especially around the stern tube gland area, steam pipe lagging installation and repair, burner and smoke issues to be solved, slipping, lip seals during the lay-up.



Wattle Engine room



And twin Scotch Boiler

and generally working towards marine survey. Thankfully we will not be required to remove the propeller and shaft during slipping this time. The aforementioned oil leak from the thrust block frd. seal will need attention. These seals were replaced with lip seals during the lay-up.

I would like to thank the many people, involved with all this work. For a final comment, in the coming year it will good to see those who have done the boiler course getting their hours up and passing the test.

Kim Hollinrake  
Engineer, S.T.Wattle

## Change of Steamlines Editor

You'll notice a new Steamlines editor - Travers Falkiner has taken over from Jeff Malley. Jeff relinquishes the editorial desk after a tenure which began in December 2010 and saw the publication of 23 editions - a notable and noteworthy achievement. And not only the words - Jeff published many, many photographs illustrating the progress of the restoration of S.T Wattle.

As our Photographer-of-Record, all the photographs were Jeff's own work. Jeff has made a significant contribution to the annals of Bay Steamers Maritime Museum. We thank him most sincerely for his contribution.

The archives will stand as testimony to his achievements.

## Hull Report

Major hull work is the survey and certification of the vessel as fit for service. This involves removing the vessel from the water by pulling her up a slipway and then using high pressure water blasting the underwater portion of the hull to remove all marine growth. The entire hull and topsides will then be sand-blasted back to bare metal.

Our Marine Surveyor will inspect the hull and any defects detected will be made good before the hull and topsides are repainted.

Three coats of paint (primer, tie coat and an anti-fouling coating) will be applied to the underwater portion of the hull whilst the topsides section of the hull, the superstructure and decking will receive the primer, tie coat and top coat.

Repainting will consume some 222 liters of paint and 80 liters of thinners (generously donated by International Paints) and the whole slipping operation is scheduled to take 5 days.



## Fit-out Report

### Fit-out Report.

The following fit-out items have received attention in the past year:

- Wheelhouse (complete). it is now the home fit for the most discerning of skippers. Binnacle bench with cupboards under, chart table, flag locker and cupboards of the highest quality.
- Battery Box Seat (complete), adding to our mandated seating requirement and at the same time housing the battery for the VHF radio.

- Dumb waiter (90% complete) - a co-operative effort between carpenter and electrician.
- EPIRB housing - (complete) - up to Australian Maritime Safety Authority standards and cited by our surveyor as a model to be copied by others.
- Foredeck and wing decks sealing and caulking (90% complete).
- Galley cupboards - underway.



Wood working team member Ken sitting on the Battery Box Seat



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We are on the web:  
[tugwattle.org.au](http://tugwattle.org.au)

Help get ST Wattle back on the Bay.



Registered Charity Number 1126323  
 ABN: 30 0050229 238

**Callout to Volunteers & Staff for the 2023 season**

As we head into a new era of sailing the Wattle on the Yarra and Bay area we must reflect on the inevitable requirement to man the vessel with suitably qualified staff, Deckhands, Kitchen Staff, Wait Staff with approved liquor handling certification and Office Staff to handle bookings for the public, corporate and education clients who will all require confirmation of their bookings and receipts for payment etc. If you would like to join the volunteer group or become a member of our paid workforce please let us know via our email: [wattle1933@gmail.com](mailto:wattle1933@gmail.com)



**Fund Raising Initiatives**

An open day was held for the existing donors and contributors to the Restoration of the Wattle on August 28th which was well attended. Many had expressed interest in what had been done over the last decade of restoration work largely completed by volunteer members of the Baysteamers Maritime Museum Ltd.

Funds were raised by the sale of merchandise throughout the duration of the event.

The Baysteamers have also started a Go Fund Me site the link to which is depicted above this article.

We also had a stand at the Melbourne Boat Show held in October



Pic. To Port: Chairman Tony Lewis addressing the guests and volunteers at the Open Day

As with all such endeavours it is a never ending process, we continue to seek out new opportunities, let us know if you find one.



Free with orders over \$40



Linen Tea Towel \$20 + postage

Also available—some perfect stocking fillers ; Fridge magnets and Drink Coasters with Wattle images from \$1.50 (or free with orders over \$40) The Wattle Tea Towel is also popular, (first run sold out, we have ordered more for Christmas however) @ \$20 plus postage