

MARCH 2015

REGATTA

Princess

by Alex Blacker

Built 1910 in Port Pirie by Mr Bill Burgoyne and motored to Pt Adelaide with a Hudson Spider 6 car engine in 1937. *Princess* had a forward cabin and a wheel house and a large cockpit.

Herb Charlesworth purchased *Princess* from Bill Burgoyne in April 1935 for £125 plus a smaller launch *Elva Rose* named after Herb's sister. Herb and his son Chappy Charlesworth ran a fishing charter which was licenced to carry 25 people around the lighthouse for 1/- per adult and children 1/2 price. When Chappy returned from the navy during WWII he took over *Princess* and replaced the Hudson motor with a Volvo 6 and continued to run the charters, *Princess* was moored at Port Adelaide Sailing Club.

Chappy Charlesworth did a major overhaul on *Princess* in 1963 including making the wheelhouse larger and cockpit smaller. Searle's boatyard at Birkenhead did most of the work. This overhaul included changing the motor to a circa 1950 Volvo ed6 engine. She was then moved to Royal Adelaide Yacht Club. *Princess* was then sold to Mr Slater and then to Garry Hisco who brought her to Goolwa. Roly Bartlett bought *Princess* from Garry Hisco. Again she had another overhaul this included replacing the Volvo engine with a 3 cylinder 30 hp Yanmar diesel.

Craig and Chris Blacker bought *Princess* from Roly Bartlett in December 2011. Again *Princess* underwent another major overhaul at Captain Sturt Marina and Slipway Goolwa with most of the work being done by Ron Grooby, Michael Veenstra and Craig Blacker. This overhaul took 18 months and approximately 4,000 hours. The overhaul included replacing and extending the roof line, refitting the v berth and shower toilet, relaying new teak decks, new hydraulic steering, replacing the cabin and interior with mahogany timber, lowering the windows, and replacing the electrical wiring throughout the entire boat. Throughout all these overhauls the hull on *Princess* has remained as the original, and during her most recent overhaul the hull seams were raked and re caulked. *Princess* has her original steering wheel, gear lever, throttle, horn button, hour meter and mast.

Back in September 2014 we were gathering information about *Princess* and made a phone call to Charlesworth Nuts to see if any original family members still worked there. I was fortunate enough to be put through to Mark Charlesworth who was very excited to hear where *Princess* was and what we were doing with her. We exchanged photos of *Princess* and again I learnt some of her history and the part she played in their family. We invited the Charlesworth family to join us at the Wooden Boat Festival and were very pleased to meet Mark and Lisa Charlesworth (son of Chappy Charlesworth). Spending the day with Mark and Lisa was both emotional and enjoyable with Mark speaking of his adventures on *Princess* and reminiscing of the family time spent on her. We also learnt a lot about numerous other Goolwa boats including *Pauline* who was owned by good friends of the Charlesworths and they spent many holidays together cruising to Pt Vincent. Mark also

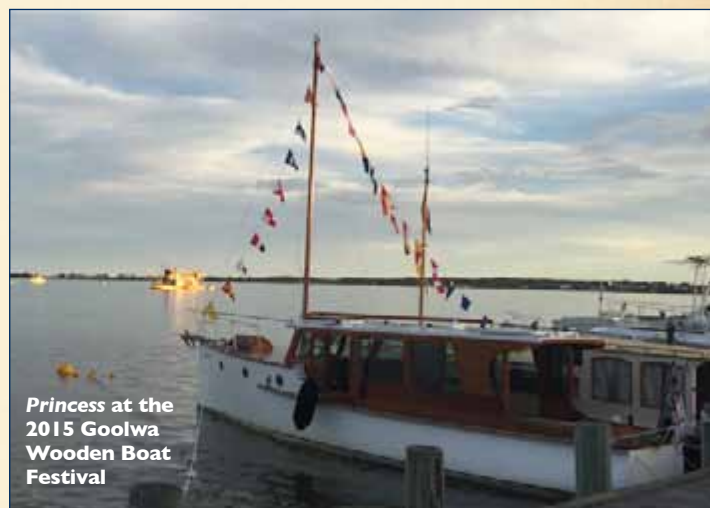
Princess as naval auxiliary patrol vessel WW2



spoke of *Keylargo* and remembers her original launching and the various name changes she has had over the years.

During the grand parade Mark was sitting on the roof of *Princess* with Beck comparing tales of their favourite things to do while on *Princess* I think jumping off her roof into the water was a common favourite... As the day came to an end Mark thanked both Craig and me for allowing him the opportunity to show his wife Lisa a very important part of his childhood that he would not have normally had the opportunity to do so.

Princess won "Best Cruiser Under 10m" at the recent South Australian Wooden Boat Festival. We are extremely proud of the way *Princess* has turned out and of the workmanship of local businesses, makes us proud to call GOOLWA home.



Princess at the 2015 Goolwa Wooden Boat Festival



Mark and Lisa Charlesworth with Chris and Craig Blacker on 'Princess' at recent festival