



MEDIA RELEASE

24th October 2017

Milestone celebration weekend in Wentworth for two grand old ladies of the Murray

The PS Marion departed today for her 13 day trip to Wentworth to join one of her oldest friends the Paddle Steamer 'Ruby' to celebrate her 110th Birthday in a weekend of festivities on the 4th and 5th November.

Celebrating 120 years this year, the Marion's official birthday cruise to Wentworth takes her back to her origins as a hawking vessel (floating department store) in Wentworth with Wm Bowring & Co and over 100 years later today, Great Great Grandson of Mr William Bowring, Rob Bowring OAM will take the helm as the 'Mate' assisting Captain Frank Tucker on this magnificent journey up the Murray.

Celebrations include a private birthday party for the two sister ships at Lock 9, an official birthday riverside dinner at the Wentworth Civic Centre on Saturday 4th November and a riverside birthday party at the Wentworth Wharf on Sunday 5th November.

"It will be a very special birthday party dinner at the riverside Wentworth Civic Centre overlooking the boats and I am sure many will reminisce as to bustling days when the township was alive with boats and steam" said Rob Bowring OAM, Chairman and long time volunteer of the Mannum Dock Museum.

These beautifully restored vessels operated by dedicated teams of volunteers will be offering one hour cruises on Sunday 5th November at the Wentworth Wharf with live entertainment, food stalls from 9.00 a.m. and will conclude with a 2.5 hour cocktail cruise up the Darling at 5pm.

“It will be the first time a cocktail cruise has been offered by the Marion and the Ruby up the Darling and our volunteers are looking forward to bringing her up to join the Ruby to celebrate these milestone birthdays”, said Chairman of the Mannum Dock Museum, Rob Bowring OAM.

“To have both boats together on this Darling cruise will again create history after so many years highlighting the importance of retaining our maritime heritage on the inland rivers for the future”.

The PS Ruby was built at Morgan by David Milne in 1907 for Captain Hugh King And as sister ships, the Ruby and Marion were operated by the Gem Navigation Company in the early 1900’s. These grand old ladies were operated by a union of the Ben Chaffey Steamboat Company and Captain Hugh King’s Gem Line of steamers, with headquarters in the Adelaide office of Messrs. A.H. Landseer Ltd. This Company was later to become the Murray Steamship Company.

In their heyday these passenger/cargo steamers travelled the mighty Rivers becoming lifelines to so many who lived along the river highway. Ruby was known as being as fast as any vessel on the river and travelled the Morgan to Swan Hill route for most of her working life and was known as a ‘bottom ender’ as never ventured further up the river because of her length.

Boaties are welcome to join the festivities and tickets are now on sale for the Sunday cruises and the official birthday party dinner at the Civic Centre through the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre phone 03 5027 5080 , tourism@wentworth.nsw.gov.au or visit www.visitwentworth.com.au for further details..

The PS Ruby 110th Birthday Celebrations will be on Sunday 5th November at the Wentworth Wharf from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with Free Entry, food stalls and live entertainment.

[End]

For further media information or interviews contact Karen Arnold, Wentworth Visitor Information Centre on 03 5027 5080.

Event at a Glance:

Event; PS Ruby 110th Birthday Celebrations in conjunction with the PS Marion’s 120th Birthday

Date: Sunday 5th November 2017

Place: Wentworth wharf
Live entertainment/food stalls/heritage paddle steamer cruises

Cost: Free Entry

One Hour

Cruises: PS Ruby and PS Marion – Wentworth Wharf
1 hour cruises – 11.00 a.m. 12.30 pm and 2.00 p.m.
2.5 hour twilight cocktail cruise up the Darling – Departs 5.00 p.m.

Official

Birthday

Dinner: Saturday 4th November – Wentworth Civic Centre
Cost - \$35.00 per person – Live Entertainment – two course dinner

Static

Boat,

Dinner and
Cruise

Bookings: Tracey McInnes - Wentworth Visitor Information Centre -
03 5027 5080 , tourism@wentworth.nsw.gov.au