



MEDIA RELEASE

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QUIETEST STEAM BOAT ON THE MURRAY ON DISPLAY AT ALL STEAMED UP EVENT

Visitors will hear the sounds of steam whistles, paddle floats slapping the water, blacksmith hammers hitting anvils and the chugging of engines but one boat will be the quietest on the river.

Along with Australia's first steam car on display at the All Steamed Up event in Mannum, we will see 'S. L. Qui-e-tude', a steam launch, fitted with a steam engine designed and built by Clive Sterling, the first in Mannum since the Shearer Brothers built their famous steam car nearly 100 years ago.

After being one of the restoration volunteers for six years on the PS Marion, he decided to design and build his own steam engine in 1998.

"It took 10 months to build the engine, then I acquired a wrecked wooden 26ft hull called 'Ajax' from Goolwa" said Clive Sterling, a retired mechanical engineer.

"The boiler was found by well known river identity John Norris for a carton of beer".

“I took the wreck home and placed a pivot on the stern and the bow to be able to rotate the hull easily and then I set about removing all the underwater lined planking including the keel”.

“I could not have completed the boat in 12 months if it wasn't for my lovely wife June who assisted me with the fastening of the new planks that I had cut and steamed”.

Clive asked his wife June to have a look in the dictionary and find out the definition of something to say quiet and peaceful.

June found 'Qui-e-tude', a state or condition meaning freedom from noise, disturbance and alarm: tranquility, repose, so the SL Qui-e-tude, she was named.

Rob Bowring Chairman of the Mannum Dock Museum said, “Clive is a genius and everyone goes looking for him when the problem cannot be solved”.

“ Years ago when I asked Clive how quiet his new steam engine was, he said, “how much quieter than quiet do you want”.

Clive and his wife used to take “Qui-e-tude” out a lot before the drought set in and his wife June did all the driving (some 4000 kilometres) whilst Clive stoked the boiler and looked after the engine.

Clive further added “Every fifteen minutes she needed more wood”.

Later after the drought Clive converted the steam engine to diesel and made it dual fueled.

“I had to find an easier way to operate the boat. I got a flash in my mind one night and got a diesel atomising nozzle and the only place I could get one was from a spit water pressure cleaner. I made a gadget to test how it worked so I made up a manifold and tacked it all together and put in the boat and took it on the river but did not have enough power.”

“They didn’t have bigger nozzles so contacted a place in America to find them, cost me \$20.00 here for existing nozzles and \$3.00 including postage from America for the new ones”.

“Technical term for the engine is a twin cylinder simple steam engine with a keel cooling condenser”, said Clive.

“It is a reticulated system and does not take any water in from the river and is this day is environmentally friendly engine”.

“It uses one litre of diesel for every 1.4 kilometres, not cheap but not cheap on wood either and has been using the same oil for 15 years by purifying the oil with a centrifuge. I modified an old milk separator!”

Cruising again since 2013, Clive is very excited to showcase “Qui-e-tude” at the All Steamed Up Event on 15th and 16th November with the largest congregation of blacksmiths in South Australia, 30 engine displays and 45 boats registered to date to line the front of the Mannum Dock Museum and Mary Ann Reserve near the Bowling Club.

With live entertainment on the Saturday with the SA Detachment of the Royal Australian Navy Band and the Backwater Band on the Sunday, cruises on the PS Marion and PS Oscar W in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of the PS Marion recommissioning, there will be something for everyone.

Entry is only \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 4 to 14 and under 4 free.

Free parking at the Mannum Football Oval with a gold coin donation shuttle bus to Mary Ann Reserve to see the boats on display, Mannum Dock Museum and Arnold Park for the inaugural All Steamed Up event.

For further information contact the Mannum Visitor Information Centre on 85692733 or visit www.psmarion.com.

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