

# P.S. Ruby slips her moorings and heads for Buronga

WENTWORTH'S iconic P.S. Ruby steamed her way to Buronga this week where she is expected to spend the rest of the month undergoing maintenance repairs.

While on the slip, a band of volunteers will strip, caulk and re-paint her hull, the work overseen by Captain Leon Wagner.

"Our volunteer team will be working seven days a week to get through these tasks as quickly as possible," Captain Wagner said.

"We are expecting the hull timbers to be in good condition, but considerable caulking will be required."

The Ruby slipped out of Wentworth on Wednesday, stopped overnight just short of the Abbotsford Bridge before proceeding bright and early yesterday.

The Ruby steamed at pace past Johnson's Bend, significant because it was from this stretch of the Murray River that the Rotary

Club of Wentworth retrieved her as a rotting hulk back in 1968.

Club members towed Ruby back to Wentworth and arranged for her to be displayed on dry land Fotherby Park.

The Wentworth branch of the National Trust then rallied the Wentworth community to get behind a campaign to 'Save The PS Ruby', raising funds by staging a Gala Ball to get the restoration 'ball rolling'.

Volunteer board members and skilled local craftsmen have volunteered their time, labour and expertise during the past decade to bring Ruby back from the brink. She is now back on the water, and in better shape than ever.

Valued at \$750,000, the P.S. Ruby is now a major Wentworth community and tourism icon. The Ruby will commence her primary commercial work later

this year when she cruises for the first for the P.S. Ruby Voyage of Discovery Youth Leadership Cruises.

"There will be no public access or inspection opportunities while she is in the slipway," Captain Wagner said. "However, we are expecting to have her back in Wentworth from early May when she will re-open for public inspection every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm."

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