

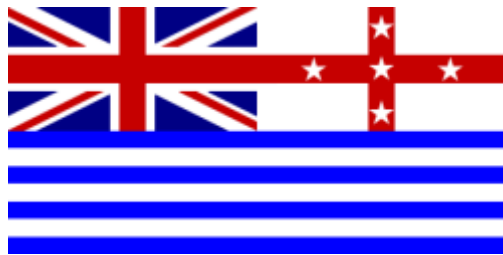
My Lady Instruction Manual

My Lady

Registration Number:



Instruction Manual



My Lady Instruction Manual

This Instruction Manual should be read in conjunction with the current versions of the following South Australian Government publications:

- 1. The Recreational Boating Safety Handbook.**
- 2. The South Australian Fishing Guide.**
- 3. The Code of Practice for Vessels on Inland Waters.**
- 4. The Sustainable Recreation Guide.**
- 5. Code of Practice: Vessel and Facility Management Marine and Inland Waters.**
- 6. Managing Vessel Wastewaters,**
- 7. River Vessel Waste Disposal Stations.**

Should this instruction manual conflict with these publications, they must take precedence.

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1 About This Manual



This manual is provided to assist you to plan and enjoy your time on *My Lady* safely with a minimum of fuss.

Don't panic if there seems to be a lot of material in the manual. Its main purpose is to allow you to become familiar with the facilities on the houseboat. You will not need much of this information under most circumstances. Most of the time, you can just ask Mark and Alexa for guidance. However, if Mark and Alexa are not aboard and you need to find out how to do something, it can come in handy.

*NOTE: It is recommended that you skim the **Table of Contents** to get an idea of what the manual covers and how it can help you to solve problems quickly should they arise.*

2 Other Relevant Publications

In addition to the regulation-related publications referenced on the inside cover, “*The My Lady Voyage Planning Guide*” should be consulted when planning extended river voyages.

3 Contact Information

If they aren't onboard, Mark and Alexa can be contacted by the following means:

Mobile Phone	
Home Phone	
e-mail	

Table 1 - Contact Details

4 Boat Information

4.1 Houseboat Information

Boat Name	<i>My Lady</i>
Registration Number	
HIN (Hull Identification Number)	
Outboard 1	
Outboard 2	
Generator	

Table 2 - Houseboat Identification

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4.2 Tender Information

Boat Name	<i>My Lass</i>
Registration Number	
HIN (Hull Identification Number)	
Outboard	

Table 3 - Tender Identification

5 Insurance Information

Any incident that causes personal injury requiring medical treatment or damage more than \$300 must be reported to a transport safety compliance officer (dit.recreationalboatingunit.sa.gov.au) or a police officer within 48 hours (or 24 hours if it involves a hire & drive boat).

Every incident should also be reported to the insurance company if it involves a person, another vessel or infrastructure, such as a wharf or jetty.

Insurance Company	
Policy Number	
Contact Phone Number	
Renewal Date	
Insurance Excess	

Table 4 - Insurance Company Details

6 Restrictions & Responsibilities



There are restrictions on the activities that can be carried out on the vessel and responsibilities on each passenger. These restrictions and responsibilities are a result of marine regulations, for safety reasons, for the comfort of everyone on-board and to comply with the wishes of Mark and Alexa,

- **Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the vessel.** This is especially true during the storage and use of fuels that can be highly explosive, such as petrol and LPG.
- **Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must always be worn in the dinghy and the kayak.**
- **Children less than 12 years must wear a PFD on the open deck** until the houseboat is securely moored and the engines are off.
- **PFDs/Lifejackets must be worn if directed by Mark and Alexa.**
- **Weapons, including firearms and bows, are not permitted onboard.**
- **Chainsaws are not permitted onboard.**
- **Fire restrictions must always be followed.**
- **Bio-security regulations must be always followed.**
- The number of people on board, while it is under way, must not exceed the number of lifejackets on board, currently twelve (12) persons.

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- There are beds for two (2) additional couples maximum, although it is normally only configured for one extra couple. Additional persons will need to bring sleeping bags and inflatable mattresses or camping equipment.
- It is generally not possible to bring a pet as Mark and Alexa's dog *Marduk* will be on-board. Do not expect that your pet will be accepted without prior approval.
- If you go walking with *Marduk*, keep control and clean up any droppings, if necessary. Dogs bothering stock may be shot by landowners.
- You are a guest wherever you go ashore, so leave everything, including gates, as you found them.
- If you want to have a campfire, you **must** bring your own wood and kindling. ***NOTE: It is an offence to collect wood (live or dead) from crown land and you are mostly a guest on other people's land elsewhere. Dead wood with hollows is often used for nesting by native wildlife and should not be moved or burnt.***
- During the voyage, everyone is responsible for ensuring that rubbish is disposed of correctly. Do not leave rubbish ashore unless it is in a designated garbage disposal container. Normally garbage is disposed of at a Waste Disposal Station (WDS), but small amounts may be deposited into riverside garbage bins.
- No rubbish or biodegradable items, such as waste food, are to be thrown overboard or into the river.
- **Do not** feed the wildlife. They can end up being aggressive and a danger to themselves and people. Councils may have to destroy aggressive wildlife.
- During the voyage **everyone** is expected to help with domestic duties such as dishwashing and cleaning.
- At the end of the voyage, **everyone** is responsible for ensuring that the houseboat is left clear and tidy. This includes assisting with pump outs, sweeping the floor, (possibly) washing the towels and linen, swabbing the decks, cleaning the toilets, and emptying the rubbish bins.

7 What You Need to Bring

Much of what you will need for your trip is provided on *My Lady*. The following list provides some indication of what you may need to bring:

- Food – To suit your tastes and dietary requirements. Shops along the river are scarce. ***NOTE: Travel from Adelaide to Blanchetown crosses the boundary of the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone (FFEZ) and you must comply with all current regulations and directives relating to bringing in fruit and vegetables to the Riverland. Non-compliance can incur heavy penalties.***
- Clothing – Don't forget your hat, walking shoes, and warm clothes if winter!
- Drinks (alcoholic from Blanchetown Hotel or others from Blanchetown Stores)
- Music (some supplied, but not necessarily to your tastes) – Music is played using SD cards or USB sticks in the radio.
- Fishing Tackle (some available to use – no fishing licence required in South Australia but is required if the state border is crossed, even if you do not intend to fish as there will be fishing equipment on-board).
- Bait (may be available from the Blanchetown Stores).
- Reading material (some available, but it may not suit your interests).
- Board and/or Card Games (some available).
- Sunscreen (always) & insect repellent (in summer).

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- Personal medications (enough for the entire voyage, plus a bit extra).
- Camera (and plenty of memory sticks) and charger.
- Binoculars (two pairs available, but Mark and Alexa get first use).
- Wood & kindling, if having a fire (available from the Blanchetown Stores).

The Blanchetown Hotel is located just above *Lock 1* and provides an ideal place to stock up on drinks; and have a nice meal. Blanchetown also has two general stores for last minute purchases. See **Figure 1 - Blanchetown to Marina** for locations.

8 Getting There



The *My Lady* houseboat is moored at the *Blanchetown Boat Haven* marina, located at Blanchetown, under the bridge. The best way to get there from Adelaide is via the Sturt Highway to Blanchetown. If using Google for directions, enter “Blanchetown Public Toilet”. Refer to **Figure 1 - Blanchetown to Marina** on how to get to the marina from the turn-off to the township at the Blanchetown roadhouse. Once in Blanchetown, follow the signs to *Lock 1*. Continue down “The Parade” until it comes to the public boat ramp.

Take the dirt track between the two large trees next to the Blanchetown Boat Haven marina sign past the cottage. The marina gate is normally locked for security purposes, so please arrive at the agreed time so that the gates can be unlocked for you. Phone coverage can be patchy at the marina gate, so if you are going to ring to say you are arriving, do so when passing the Blanchetown Hotel. The (approx.) GPS location of the front gate is “-34.3455645° 139.61448°”

NOTE: Be aware that the marina **cannot** be reached from the bridge on the Sturt Highway, except down the stairs on foot. Vehicle traffic must come via Egerton Street and The Parade.



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Figure 1 - Blanchetown to Marina

Once you are in the marina, continue straight ahead until you reach a large dead tree with a power box mounted on it. *My Lady* is the second boat back from the dead tree and can be identified by the photo on the front page of this document.



Figure 2 - My Lady Berth

9 General Information

9.1 Car Parking

To unload your car, park it in front of *My Lady* on the cliff side of the road, making sure that you do not block the road. After unloading, move your car to the car park under the bridge and inside the locked marina fence. It is not permitted to leave your vehicle parked on the roadway.

9.2 Welcome Aboard!



Anyone who wants to drive the houseboat (or the dinghy with the outboard fitted) must possess a **current boat licence** valid in South Australia and bring it with them.

PLEASE NOTE: If damage should occur because of an unlicensed driver, the insurance may be void, and all costs may be the responsibility of that person.

Before a licensed driver can take control of the houseboat or dinghy, instruction will be provided. Every boat is different, so this instruction lets you will know *My Lady* and/or the dinghy will behave. If you do not follow the instructions, you will not be permitted drive to the houseboat, or use the dinghy with the outboard fitted.

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9.3 Houseboat Layout

9.3.1

Lower Deck

Please familiarise yourself with the layout of the houseboat, as the manual will refer to the items identified in this figure.

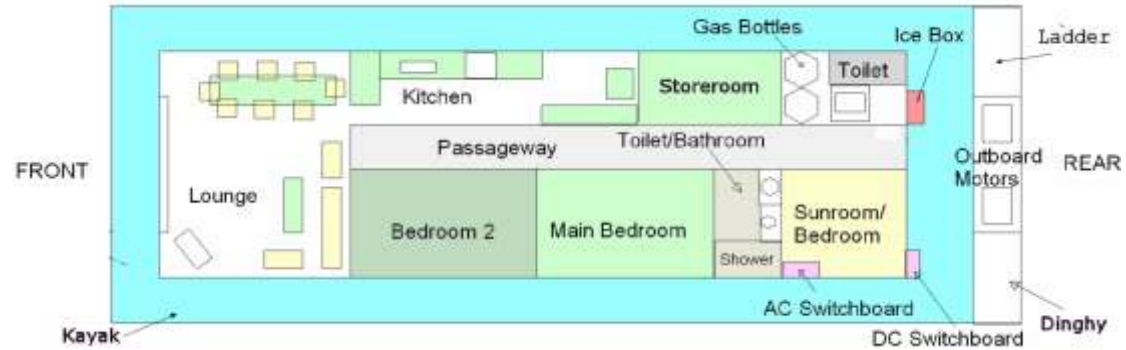


Figure 3 - Houseboat Layout

9.3.1.1 Safety

- A safety railing encloses the lower deck. Guests should not sit on the railings. Do not go outside the safety railing until the houseboat is moored and all engines are off.
- Do not attempt to access the swim deck unless the houseboat is securely moored and all engines, including the generator, are off.
- Ensure that all gates are closed unless the boat is moored.
- Do not attempt to swim under the houseboat at any time.
- The number of people on board, while it is under way, must not exceed the number of lifejackets on board, currently 12 persons.

9.3.1.2 General

Mark and Alexa use the “Main Bedroom”, while guests use “Bedroom 2”. Although the “Sunroom” can be used as a bedroom, it is usually used as a recreation & craft room. The “Toilet” is accessed externally from the lower deck.

There is a lockable storage area in the front of the lounge on the port side. This storage area contains a selection of books and games. The items in this storage area should be returned when they are not in use.

9.3.1.3 Emergency Keys

A key safe mounted above the gas bottles next to the back door holds a spare set of boat keys. These keys are only to be used in case of an emergency where the normal keys are not available. The code to open the safe can be obtained from Mark and Alexa, if required.

NOTE: The keys in the key safe are **not** to be used as an extra set of keys for general use.

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9.3.2

Upper Deck

9.3.2.1 Safety

- The upper deck is accessed by a ladder on the rear deck – use the handrail.
- A safety railing encloses the upper deck. Guests should not sit on, or go outside, the safety railing.
- Brackets holding lengths of spare metal for houseboat maintenance are mounted outside of the rails. Do not play with this metal, as it may fall onto the deck below.

CAUTION: *The upper deck is slippery when wet, so care should always be taken.*

9.3.2.2 General

There is a fluorescent light mounted under the Bimini cover in the middle of the enclosed deck area near the table and chairs. The switch is mounted on the light, so take a torch to get to and from the light.

The upper deck has a table and chairs. The legs of the table are filled with sand to stop the table being blown across the deck. To stop the chairs from blowing across the deck, the chairs must be placed around the table and secured under the table by the rope provided when the chairs are not in use.

The radio/MP3 player has speakers on the top deck. Refer to **Para. 14.8** for instructions.

The 240V outlet on the top deck requires shore power or the generator to operate. It will not operate using the inverter. Refer to **Para. 16.2.2.2** and **Para. 16.2.2.3** for details on setting up the power.

The unlocked storage box on the top deck contains selections of shade cloth, rope and other oddments that can be used to provide addition shade on the houseboat if required. This may include stringed shade cloth so that the Bimini provides additional shade in the morning and afternoon. Any additions to the shade must be removed and placed in the box before casting off, or where there is a risk of high winds.

The locked storage boxes on the top deck contain non-perishable goods such as houseboat spares and do not contain items for general use.

9.4 How Far Can the Houseboat Go?



The houseboat is permitted to operate upstream of the Wellington car ferry (protected waters). This gives well over 1000 kilometres of waterways to travel. As a guest of Mark and Alexa, expect that most trips will go downstream no further than *Lake Carlet* and no further upstream than *Caudo Vineyard (Hogwash Bend)*, and will depend on the time available. Refer to the *My Lady Trip Planning Guide* for details about trip planning. The parameters in Table 5 should be used for voyages on *My Lady*.

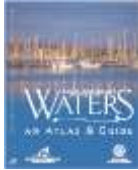
NOTE: *Strong winds or currents can severely reduce speed and increase consumption considerably, as do inexperienced helmsmen. It is best to expect on no more than 350 km round trip using a tank of fuel plus the jerry cans.*

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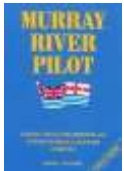
Parameter	Value
Engine Speed	2000 - 3000 rpm
Average fuel consumption (litres per hour)	7 lph
Generator consumption (litres per hour)	0.5 lph
Speed (kilometres per hour)	7.5 kph
Fuel Capacity (litres)	560 l

Table 5 - Travel Calculator Parameters

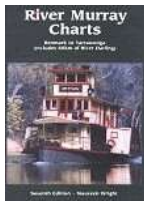
9.5 Maps



The *South Australia's Waters* book provides a series of 1:20,000 topographical maps covering from the mouth of the river to South Australian border. This is the preferred book for navigation and contains notes and updates by Mark and Alexa.



The *Murray River Pilot* book of maps is provided to allow you to effectively plan your trips. These books not only provide maps of the river, but also provide background information about the river and its history. This book covers from the mouth of the river to the border.



The Murray River Charts cover the area upstream from Renmark and will not normally be useful for trips of a few weeks' duration or less.



A series of maps from Canoe SA show kayaking in areas such as Loch Luna and Chowilla. These maps will only be useful for longer trips that go to Kingston-On-Murray or further upstream.

NOTE: Please consult these books for information about sandbars and snags but be aware that the positions of sandbars and snags can change.

9.6 Wildlife Reference Books

To make your trip more enjoyable, a series of wildlife reference books are provided so that you can identify the birds and animals that we will see during your time on the river.

9.7 Astronomical Books and Telescope



The river often provides an excellent opportunity to view the night sky without the lights of the city. An atlas of the constellations and a Planisphere are provided to assist you in identifying stars and constellations in the night sky. For those with a greater interest in the stars, a 114mm astronomical telescope is onboard.

PLEASE NOTE: The telescope should not be used to view the Sun as this can cause severe and permanent eye damage, including blindness.

NOTE: Do not leave the telescope out over night as dew/rain can cause damage to the telescope.

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9.8 Logbook



A logbook is provided to record the details of the voyage. The log must at least record details of the dates travelled and the locations visited and/or moored overnight. Ideally, it will contain items of interest about the voyage. Please be aware that others, including children, may read the log.

Significant weather events (such as heat waves, high winds, and storms) should be recorded in the log, using the information from the weather station (see **Para. 11.1.10**). The type of clouds can be estimated using the provided *Sky Watcher Chart* cloud chart and the *Cloud Identification Guide*.

The log may also be necessary for insurance purposes. If there is an incident, record all details including location, date and time, a description of the incident, the name of the vessels and any people involved, plus contact details of any witnesses to the incident. The current GPS location can be obtained from the GPS Navigation Unit (refer to **Para. 0**).

Previous logbooks are available for viewing in the bookcase under the air-conditioner controller in the lounge room.

9.9 Banners

When moored amongst other boats, the houseboat name painted on either side of the houseboat may not be visible. To make the name of the houseboat visible from directly in front or behind the houseboat there are two small banners that can be tied to the front and rear lower deck railings.

The banners should be firmly tied to the railings to ensure that they do not flap in the breeze as this can cause damage to the banners, however they should not be tied so tightly that there is excessive pressure on the eyelets holding the cords as this will also cause damage.

9.10Flags

My Lady has a selection of flags that can be flown from the stern of the vessel. Although there is no legal requirement to fly flags, it is a tradition on *My Lady* to fly flags when the houseboat is out of the marina.

The flags are mounted on poles that can be put in place on the rear corners of rear deck roof, by sliding them into the receptacle. As the receptacles and poles are only plastic, the flags should be removed if there is likely to be strong winds or storms.

The following flags are available for use:

- **Lower Murray River Flag.** This flag usually flown when out of the marina. The Murray River is one of the few rivers in the world to have its own flags.
- **Australian Red Ensign.** The Australian Red Ensign is normally flown when out of the marina.



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- **South Australian Flag.** The South Australian flag is normally flown when in the New South Wales parts of the river but may be flown at other times if desired.
- **RMBOA (River Murray Boat Owners Association) Flag.** This flag is normally only flown during RMBOA functions.
- **Australian Blue Ensign.** A large flag kept in the storeroom and traditionally flown around *Australia Day*. It usually flown so that the flag is spread out even if there is no wind – see the photo on the front page of this handbook for the usual location of the flag.



All flags must be taken down, dried and put away at the end of a voyage to ensure that they do not wear out prematurely due to weathering and wind damage. They should also be removed during periods of high wind to prevent loss or damage.

9.11 Black Water Record Sheets

The “Black Water” from the toilets, as well as “Grey Water” from the sinks in the galley, bathroom, and external toilet, goes to two holding tanks under the vessel. Unless these tanks are periodically pumped out at a Waste Disposal Station (WDS), the sinks and toilets will back up.

To ensure that this does not happen, use the Black Water Record Sheets to record how much black water has been generated and estimate when the tanks should be pumped out. The pump-out process is described in **Para 13.2.3**.

10 Mobile Phones

10.1 Mobile Phone/Internet Coverage

Mobile phone and mobile Internet coverage along the river is patchy. Your mobile phone service provider will usually provide coverage maps that will indicate if you can expect coverage along the river, but it is best to assume that you will not have Internet or phone coverage unless you are within a couple of kilometres of a township.

NOTE: *If you must be in constant phone/Internet contact, a trip on My Lady is not for you.*

10.2 Using a Mobile Phone on the Houseboat

A mobile phone holder is provided on the left-hand side of the control panel. This is in the forward glassed area and will provide better coverage than further inside the houseboat. If the signal is poor, you may get a better signal standing on the top deck.

10.3 Recharging a Mobile Phone

Mobile phones can be charged using the 12-Volt socket located under left-hand side of the control panel. To use this outlet, you will need to bring the car-charging adaptor. Two sockets are provided, allowing two phones to be recharged simultaneously. Alternatively, a multi-outlet USB charger powered by the 240V power points and running the generator, or the inverter can be used to charge phones and torches.

11 Houseboat Operation

11.1 Control Panel



Figure 4 - Control Panel

The major instruments needed to run and monitor the houseboat are located on the control panel above the steering wheel in the forward lounge as shown in *Figure 4 - Control Panel*.

11.1.1

Outboard Tachometers

The centre of the control panel has two tachometers that show the speed of each outboard. The engine speed in revs per minute (rpm) gives an indication of how hard the motors are working. The faster the engines are turning, the more fuel they will consume.

NOTE: Depending on the river flow and desired cruising speed, the recommended operating speed for the engines is 2000 - 3000 rpm for the optimum speed and economy.

It is possible to operate the engines up to about 5500 rpm, but the fuel consumption (and hence the cost) will rise very sharply as the engine revs increase. The speed of the houseboat does not increase proportionally to revs, so travelling at high revs will be much less economical and greatly reduce the range of the boat.

The tachometers also provide information about the motors, including the amount of fuel used and the current rate of fuel consumption. Refer to the tachometer handbook for more details on reading the status of the engines.

11.1.2

Battery Voltage Meters

The houseboat uses four (4) batteries; two outboard motor batteries, a domestic battery, and a fridge battery. The outboard motor battery meters are part of the engine

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tachometer while the domestic and fridge battery meters have separate voltmeters on the console. The meters on the console tend to read about 0.5V high, so be aware that the batteries may have less charge than you think.

If the domestic battery or the fridge battery show low voltage, refer to **Para. 16.1.2** for information about recharging the battery.

11.1.2.1 Domestic Battery Meter

The domestic battery voltmeter shows the state of the battery that is normally used to run the lights, MP3 player, 2-way radio, the CPAP machine and the 12V-240V inverter. This meter should be monitored to make sure that the battery is not becoming discharged due to cloudy conditions or excessive use of the inverter. The domestic battery can be recharged using the generator.

11.1.2.2 Fridge Battery Meter

The fridge battery meter shows the state of the battery normally used to power the 12V electric fridge/freezer in the kitchen. The meter should be monitored to make sure that the fridge battery does not become fully discharged due to cloudy conditions. The fridge battery can also be recharged using the generator.

11.1.3

Rudder Guide

The rudder guide is used to show the direction in which the engines are pointing. This is an electric meter connected to the steering mechanism and is powered by the port outboard motor.

Note: When the rudder guide is first turned on with the port outboard key, it will buzz, and the needle will flick before settling.

The needle shows which way the motors are pointing, so when the engines are in forward gear, the rear of the boat will move in the direction from the end of the pointer to the pivot. When the engines are in reverse, the rear of the boat will move in the direction from the pivot point to the end of the needle. When the needle is in the centre, the boat will go directly forward or astern (subject to wind and current).

11.1.4

Navigation Light Switch

The navigation light switch will turn on the external navigation lights and the console instrument lights. These lights are required if the houseboat is travelling between sunset and sunrise, or when there is poor visibility. The navigation lights should be turned off when the vessel is moored on the riverbank. Turning on the navigation lights will also illuminate the voltmeters, steering indicator, and the switches on the console.

NOTE: *If you turn these lights on, they will draw power from the domestic battery and possibly help flatten it. These lights should not be needed under normal conditions. Mark and Alexa **DO NOT** permit travel at night or in poor conditions, **except in emergencies.***

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11.1.5

Flood Light Button

The flood light button is located to the left of the navigation lights button on the console. When activated, the two LED flood lights on the front deck will be activated illuminated the bank or river in front of the houseboat. These lights are only meant for intermittent use as they draw their power from the domestic battery. Their prolonged use can result in a serious drain on the battery if they are left on for a long period.

11.1.6

Horn Button

The horn button is located on the right-hand side of the control console. The horn will sound for as long as this button is pressed. Please see *Table 6 - Using the Horn* for the codes to be used with the horn.

PLEASE NOTE: This horn is very loud, and people should not stand near the horn when it is sounded. Please warn the passengers and crew **BEFORE** sounding the horn.

11.1.7

Speaker Button

The speaker select button is located under the navigation and the flood light buttons on the console. This button selects whether the rear channels of the radio will be directed to the Sunroom or the Upper Deck.

PLEASE NOTE: The Sunroom can be used a bedroom, so please refrain from selecting the Sunroom at night where it can disturb people sleeping. It is also to note that the speakers on the top desk will carry along the bank and the river, so the volume must not be excessive.

11.1.8

Depth Sounder



A Lowrance Hook 4x Depth Sounder is mounted on lower left corner of the control Panel. This unit will give you an indication of the depth of the water under the middle of the front of the houseboat. Remember when looking at this depth that the houseboat is long and wide, so that depth may vary considerably under other parts of the houseboat.

The depth sounder also measures the temperature of the water, and this may help you decide if you want to go swimming.

Please consult the handbook for more detailed instructions on operating the unit.

Figure 5 - Depth Sounder

PLEASE NOTE: *The depth sounder is not a substitute for following the channels shown on the maps. The depth can drop rapidly if you try to cut across a bend. Channels can have quite steep sides. As a result, the depth sounder may not give you enough warning to change direction or stop the houseboat before you run aground if you are not aware of your general location. The depth sounder indication may also be unreliable when the river is very choppy.*

NOTE: Do not forget to turn it off after use as it draws power from the domestic battery.

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11.1.9

Water Tank Level Monitor

The Water Level Monitor on the control console is used to measure the amount of water remaining in the drinking water tank. To read the level, press the button under the bar level indicator. A “Full” reading corresponds to 100 litres of water in the tank. The red “Res” reading indicates 20 litres or less.

11.1.10

Weather Station



The weather station display is mounted near the driving console. The internal temperature and humidity are measured from the sensor mounted on the wall near the air-conditioner controls. This wall unit has an internal battery that may need to be changed if the readings cease.

The solar powered external sensors are mounted on the railings on the top deck of the houseboat. See the weather station handbook for operating details.

Figure 6 - Weather Station

NOTE: The wind speed and direction measured by the weather station are affected by the orientation and movement of the houseboat. The wind direction is measured relative to the bow of the houseboat, rather than true North. The measured wind speed is a combination of the speed of the wind and the motion of the houseboat.

11.1.1 Rear Deck Thermometer



Although it cannot be read by the weather station, there is a wall thermometer on the back deck which can be used to compare the inside temperature to the rear deck temperature.

Figure 7 - Back Deck Thermometer

11.1.2

GPS Navigation Unit

The Garmin GPS Navigation Unit shown in **Figure 4** is not a permanent fixture and is shared with Mark and Alexa’s Tuscon car. It will display the heading of the houseboat and the speed of travel.

Although it provides a basic map of the river, it cannot be used to plot a navigation course. It provides a general indication of the houseboat’s location on the river and identifies adjacent waterways. It also provides maps of the riverside communities and can be used as a hand-held unit when visiting townships. It can also be used to get the

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current location of the houseboat, if required by touching the speed indication on the display – see the GPS handbook for more instructions. To use the GPS unit, plug it into one of the 12V outlets under the driving console. After agreeing to the conditions of use, select the car and then select *display map* to use.

Note: Do not forget to turn the unit off after use as it draws power from the domestic battery.

11.2 Throttles



The outboard motors are controlled from two throttle units mounted on the right-hand side of the driving console.

Pushing the throttle level forward from the neutral position put the outboard motor in forward gear and increases the engine speed. Pulling the level back from the neutral position out the outboard motor in reverse and increases the engine speed. If the round black button on the side of each throttle is pressed, the throttle will increase the engine speed, but it will not put the engine into gear.

The rocker buttons in front of the throttles will raise or lower the engines. The rocker button on the side of the port throttle will raise or lower both engines.

WARNING: DO NOT run the engines if the motors are raised as this will result in catastrophic damage to the engines due to overheating and/or over-revving. YOU will be held responsible for any damage caused in this manner.

11.3 Outboard Motors

11.3.1

Preparation before Starting Engines

- ✓ Turn the motor key switches to the ON position, but ***DO NOT start the motors as they will be damaged if they are run out of the water, and YOU will be held responsible.***
- ✓ Use the centre button on the tachometer to select the engine angle display.



Figure 8 - Outboard Motor

- ✓ Make sure that the engine legs are in the water by pressing the button on the port (left) throttle until the motors are at an angle of 4 to 5 degrees. Adjust with the button on the individual throttles as required.
- ✓ Turn off the stereo, TV, and other equipment so that you can hear everyone clearly.
- ✓ Position someone on the rear deck so that they have a good view of the river. If the person stands on the starboard (right) side, they will be visible to the driver in the rear vision mirror. You can also use the portable radios for communication, if necessary.

- ✓ Make sure that the area around the houseboat is clear of swimmers.

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PLEASE NOTE: Swimmers should **NEVER** be in the water near the vessel when preparing to start the engines or the engines are running!

- ✓ Ensure that area around the outboard motors is free of ropes, fishing lines or other items that may foul the propellers.

11.3.2

Starting the Engines

PLEASE NOTE: Always make sure that no one in the water **BEFORE** you start the engines!

- ✓ ALWAYS ensure that the outboards are lowered into the water before attempting to start the motors. **WARNING:** Starting the motors out of the water can cause severe damage.
- ✓ Turn on the depth sounder and GPS unit.
- ✓ Make sure the gear levers are in neutral; otherwise, the engines will not start.
- ✓ Ensure that the motor key switches are in the ON position.
- ✓ Centre the engines using the steering meter as a guide
- ✓ Turn each key right to start the engine and then release.
- ✓ If the engine does not start in one or two seconds, wait 10 seconds, and try again.
- ✓ Check that each engine “tell-tale” water stream is flowing. If the stream is not visible and constant *shut down the engine*. Lift the engine leg and check that the area around the propeller is not fouled with weed, then put back down into the water.
- ✓ Allow the engines to idle *for at least two minutes* in neutral to allow them to warm up.
- ✓ Once under way, it is recommended that the engines be run at 2000 - 3000 rpm for best economy at a reasonable travelling speed.

NOTE: The engine speed may need to be altered to account for river conditions such as the river flow and the wind speed.

11.3.3

End of Journey

PLEASE NOTE: Always make sure that the houseboat is securely and safely moored before shutting down the engines!

- ✓ Using the throttle levers, reduce the revs to idle and place the engines into neutral.
- ✓ Centre the steering using the Steering Guide.
- ✓ Turn off both engines,

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✓ Lift the outboards fully out of the water using the button on the top of the starboard throttle.

11.3.4

Warning Signals

If an engine warning sound is heard, check each tachometer to determine which engine has a problem and shut that motor down as soon as possible to prevent further problems. Moor as soon as possible and attempt to resolve the issue.

PLEASE NOTE: Do not run the engine if its warning signals sound.

If there is a temperature alarm, the area around the propellers may be fouled with vegetation. If so, remove the key, lift the engines, and remove any vegetation. When the vegetation is cleared, lower the engine, replace the key, restart the engine, and check the water flow.

11.3.5

Propeller or Outboard Leg Damage



If you should hit anything under the water causing damage to a propeller or the leg, slow the affected engine(s) to idle and place the throttle into neutral, then turn off the engine. If one engine is still functioning correctly, use it to get the houseboat to the nearest safe mooring.

PLEASE NOTE: Do not continue to operate the damaged outboard unless it is an emergency as it could cause major engine damage.

11.4 Manoeuvring the Houseboat

11.4.1

Steering the Houseboat



Unlike a car, houseboats steer from the rear. This means that the rear of the boat will swing out as the boat turns. Also, the houseboat does not have wheels on the road to guide it around the corners; it needs the motors to push the boat around.

NOTE: Always ensure that there is plenty of room for the manoeuvre

The boat will not glide around a corner. The engines are required to push the boat in the desired direction. Increasing the throttle will cause the boat to turn more sharply. Also, unlike a car, the boat will not respond immediately so be sure not to over-compensate.

✓ The wind and current can affect the direction of the boat. Apply more throttle to compensate.

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To make sharp turns, turn the wheel to the direction that you wish to travel and apply forward throttle. When the boat is turning, reduce the throttle to idle, quickly turn the wheel in the opposite direction and then apply reverse throttle. Repeat this process until the turn is complete.

***PLEASE NOTE:** If the water around the engines becomes noisy, the propellers are likely to be cavitating. This reduces the available power and could ultimately damage the propellers. Either reduce the power or change the steering until cavitation ceases.*

✓ When manoeuvring near obstacles, position someone at the front and rear of the boat to check there is adequate clearance and to help, if required.

Remember, the response of the houseboat is sluggish compared to a car, so you will probably tend to over steer initially. Gentle changes in direction will make the boat easier to control. If you are uncertain where the engines are pointing, the steering meter will help. It can be useful in determining when the engines are pointing straight ahead.

11.4.2

Economical Cruising

The most fuel-efficient method of travel is in a straight line, followed by gentle turns. Sharp turns waste fuel. Any sharp turns will cause the houseboat to slow considerably. As it takes time to get back up to cruising speed, your journey will end up taking longer and you will have used more fuel. Zigzagging up the river also means that you will travel further to go the same distance along the river using even more fuel.

Smooth steering is simply a matter of anticipation and practice. If you are coming up to a bend or a curve in the river, it is best to start changing direction as early as practical as it will take the least amount of direction change to get where you want to go and hence you will lose the least amount of speed and energy. To help keep your vessel on course, pick some point on your vessel, like a speck of dust on the windscreen, and a distance object that lines up when you are on course. As soon as you see the two markers moving apart, make a small correction to your steering and when it starts to come back, correct the steering back the other way to prevent an overshoot in the opposite direction. With some practice, it becomes quite simple to keep a straight course even up the longest reaches of the river.

If you are entering a long curving bend, it is often possible to get your vessel turning in a gentle arc that matches the curve of the river and this will provide a smooth passage. It may be tempting to cut across bends, but this can lead to a rude shock if there are sandbars or vessels coming the other way. Getting out of the way in a hurry can end up using even more fuel.

Just like a car, excessive speed and rapid acceleration burn more fuel than a slower, steady pace. When you are taking off, ease the throttle up to the speed at which you wish to cruise. If you can feel the acceleration, or you can hear the motors working hard, then you are probably trying to take off too quickly and wasting fuel. Once under way, it is recommended that the engines be run at 2000 - 3000 rpm for best economy.

When you are coming in moor, or approaching a ferry or other obstacle, anticipate, and ease your speed back so that you slow down naturally. Having to put the engines into reverse to slow down wastes fuel compared to coasting to a stop. When taking off from

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the bank, only apply as much throttle as you need to move gently off the bank. The same applies when you go from reverse to forward. If possible, allow the boat to slow naturally before putting forward power.

11.4.3

Using the Horn

11.4.3.1 General



The vessel is fitted with a horn controlled by a button on the driving console. The function of the horn is to signal your intentions to other river users. It can be considered the indicators on the boat. Don't forget, the horn is loud, so warn everyone before you use the horn.

The table below lists the circumstances where the use of the horn is required and the sequence to be followed. A **“Short” blast of the horn lasts one second, while a long blast of the horn lasts four to six seconds.**

Action	Horn Signal
Starboard (Right) Turn	One short blast of the horn before starting the turn
Port (Left) Turn	Two short blasts of the horn before starting the turn
Reverse	Three short blasts of the horn before starting to reverse
Approaching a Ferry	One Long Blast 400-800 metres from ferry and then wait 150 metres from the ferry for the ferry's flashing green lights before proceeding past the crossing. <i>Failure to wait may cause the propellers to be fouled in the ferry's cables.</i>
Approaching a Lock	Three long blasts at 500 metres from lock. Wait at 150 metres until signalled by the green light to proceed. <i>NOTE: It is preferable to ring the Lock as they may be able to start getting the lock ready so that you can go straight in without waiting.</i>
Nearing a Blind Bend in Channel or River	One long blast of the horn to indicate this vessel is approaching the blind bend. (Vessels coming downstream have right of way)
Signal doubt about other vessel's Intentions	Five short blasts of the horn are used to indicate that this vessel is in doubt about the intentions of another vessel

Table 6 - Using the Horn

11.4.3.2 Kingston Bridge

When the houseboat is navigating under the Kingston bridge, it required to:

- sound **one long blast** when within 0.5 nautical miles (that is, just over 900 m) of the bridge; and
- respond with **one long blast** to a long blast from an approaching vessel.
- not overtake another vessel within 0.25 nautical miles (about 450 m) of the bridge; and
- after giving way, must again sound **one long blast** before proceeding under the bridge. **Note:** Vessels travelling downstream has right of way.

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11.4.3.3 Paringa Bridge

Opening of the Paringa Bridge must be pre-booked to ensure that an operator will be present to open the bridge. When wanting to pass through the opening bridge, the houseboat must sound **three long blasts** when it is no more than 600 m but at least 400 m from the bridge. If the bridge operator is available, he or she will indicate:

- that the signal has been heard, by waving a red flag or flashing a red light; or
- that the vessel can proceed, by waving a green flag or flashing a green light.

Before going through the bridge, the vessel must sound **one long blast** then **one short blast** or wave a flag.

11.4.4

Mooring the Vessel

PLEASE NOTE: For safety reasons, the houseboat should not travel at night! As a result, aim to have the vessel moored at least one (1) hour before sunset as shown on the weather station.

This should provide enough time to select a suitable site for the evening. Mooring the boat correctly is very important to ensure that the vessel is safe and secure. Following the instructions below will help ensure that mooring is both easy and fun.

✓ In flood conditions it may not be possible to reverse the houseboat against strong river currents. If this is the case, go downstream and turn around to travel upstream.

✓ Take your time selecting a site. Ensure that mooring is permitted in the area you have selected. Cruise by the site to ensure that the bank is suitable.

NOTE: Ensure there are no obstructions such as logs or sharp rocks that may damage the boat or propellers and there are no large overhanging branches where the vessel will be moored. Also check that there are suitable trees or posts on either side of the mooring location for the mooring lines.

✓ Turn off the stereo, TV, and other equipment so that you can hear everyone clearly.

✓ Assign a person to tie the stern (rear) and bow (front) mooring lines when the boat has stopped at the bank. These lines are permanently attached to the houseboat and should not be removed. If it is difficult to hear the lookouts, use the portable CB radios to communicate (**see Para 18**).

✓ Make sure that the houseboat is far enough away from the riverbank so that it can be put at right angles to the bank, that is, the bow is pointing directly at the point where you wish to moor.

✓ Approach the selected point as slowly as practical. Make sure that the houseboat remains at right angles to the bank. If the wind or current is strong and this is not possible, point the houseboat into the wind/current and come in at an angle so that if the power is reduced, the houseboat will be blown/swept way from the bank.

✓ The wind and current can take the houseboat off-line. If you are having trouble lining the boat up, reverse out into the middle of the river and try again.

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✓ If you are approaching the bank too quickly, use reverse to slow the vessel. Remember the direction of the steering is reversed when the engines are in reverse.

NOTE: In forward, the bow (front) will go in the direction the wheel is turned, in reverse; the stern (rear) will go in the direction the wheel is turned.

✓ When the houseboat is stationary against the bank, ensure that the engines are left running to hold the houseboat into the bank until the ropes are secured.

PLEASE NOTE: *The helm must be attended, and the engines run until all lines are secure.*

✓ If the wind or current starts to swing the boat turn the wheel in the direction the boat is moving to counter the movement. Remember not to over-compensate or the houseboat will start to move too far in the opposite direction.

✓ Tie the stern lines first. If the wind or current is coming from one side of the boat, tie that stern line first. Once the stern lines are done, secure the bow lines. The wider the mooring lines are spread from the houseboat, the more stable it will be in windy conditions.

NOTE: There are extension mooring ropes that can be added to the end of the fore and aft mooring lines if the closest point to secure the houseboat is out of reach of the mooring lines. The lines should be joined using a double sheet bend using the loops on the end of the extensions. Refer to page 65 of the *Australian Boating Manual* for bend and knot details.



It is important that all lines are firm and secure enough to stop the houseboat from swinging excessively in strong winds but pulling the mooring lines too tight may mean that houseboat becomes stuck if the level of the river falls due changes in the wind. If in doubt, it is better to risk being stuck than being damaged.

PLEASE NOTE: *Failure to moor the vessel adequately may result in damage to the boat or the propellers.*

✓ When all lines are secured, the engines can be stopped.

✓ Turn off the GPS and depth sounder to save power.

✓ Lift the engines from the water when they have cooled, to reduce corrosion and the risk of fouling due to algae growth, floating vegetation, etc.

11.4.5

Casting Off

✓ Assign a person to untie the stern lines

✓ Assign a person to untie the bow lines

✓ Turn on the instruments (steering guide, depth sounder, GPS)

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- ✓ Prepare to start the engines (see **Para 11.3.1**)
- ✓ Start the engines (see **Para 11.3.2**)
- ✓ Increase the revs to approx. 2000 - 3000 rpm to ensure that the houseboat is held firmly against the bank. Increase the engine speed if the conditions are windy and it is difficult to hold the boat in place.
- ✓ Remove the bow lines, then the aft lines. Leave the aft line that is under tension from the wind and/or current until last. Ensure that the lines are not able to foul the propellers, as they are being pulled onboard. Neatly store the ropes on deck so that they can be easily run out the next time the houseboat moors.
- ✓ Confirm that the river is clear behind the boat and then give three short blasts on the horn. If it is difficult to hear the lookouts, use the portable CB radios to communicate (see **Para 0** for details).
- ✓ Bring the engines back to idle and then into reverse.
- ✓ Slowly reverse out into the middle of the river before turning to the desired direction along the river.
- ✓ If the houseboat is stuck on the bank, try turning the wheel in one direction for a short period and then turn to the opposite direction to make the boat's stern "wiggle". The "wiggle" will help to dislodge the pontoons. All people not involved in steering the vessel should stand at the rear of the vessel to lift the front of the boat.

If this does not free the houseboat, move the passengers and as many heavy items as practical to the rear deck to help lift the bow. If this does allow the vessel to move, consider putting a rubbish bin, kayak or similar on the back deck and filling it with water (if the deck can carry the full weight of the water and the weight does not destabilise the houseboat). As soon as the houseboat is free, return all items to their normal location on the houseboat.

If the current is very strong and you are going downstream, it may not be possible to reverse out and point the stern upstream due to the current. In that case, let the stern point downstream, then when in forward gear, do a U-turn and head downstream.

11.4.6

Entering and Leaving the Marina

Only Mark and Alexa can take the houseboat in and out of the marina. If they are not onboard, the houseboat should be moored at the Houseboat Friendly mooring spot between the bridge and Lock 1, just downstream of the Blanchetown pump-out facility.

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11.5 Refuelling



Figure 9 - Fuel Tank Filler

Refuelling the houseboat is a dangerous operation because of the risk of explosion of petrol vapours. It also has the potential to cause pollution by spilling fuel into the river.

The main fuel tank is located under the front deck of the houseboat. Access to the filler cap is gained by a small panel in the front deck on the port side just near the front door.

PLEASE NOTE: Before commencing refuelling, ensure everyone is aware that refuelling is about to occur and that no lighters, matches or other ignition sources are to be used – turn off the gas refrigerator and stove for the duration of refuelling. Close the front door and windows to ensure that any fumes cannot be ignited by any ignition sources in the houseboat.

There is a dip stick in the channel under the deck. Use the dip stick to estimate the amount of fuel required to fill the tank. This will assist you to make sure that fuel is not spilt when the tank unexpectedly overflows. The fuel in the tank tends to blow back when it is nearly full, so reduce the flow of fuel when it is nearly full to prevent fuel from spilling. To catch fuel that is accidentally spilled, or blown back, ensure that the filler cloth is wrapped around the filler before fuel is poured.

Ensure that the filler cap has been replaced, all fuel containers are capped, the filler rag removed, and any petrol fumes have dissipated before opening the front door and windows. Don't forget to relight the gas fridge.

12 Dinghy, Kayak, and Swim Ladder

12.1 General

My Lady comes equipped with a 3-metre dinghy and a two-person kayak. Under no circumstances should these boats be used unless the houseboat is securely moored and the engines turned off. All persons in the dinghy or kayak must always wear floatation devices (see Para. 20 for details).

PLEASE NOTE: The dinghy and kayak must be returned and stored on the houseboat before the houseboat's outboards are started.

The oars for the dinghy and the paddles for the kayak are stored on hooks on the starboard side halfway along the deck. When not in use, the oars and paddles should be placed on the hooks and secured with the cords provided to ensure that they do not fall if the houseboat encounters rough waters.

When using the dinghy and/or kayak, it is recommended that the portable radios are taken to ensure that contact with the houseboat can be maintained.

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12.2 Dinghy



The dinghy is permitted to carry a maximum of three adults. Each person onboard the dinghy must have an approved life jacket in the dinghy. The dinghy can be used with its oars or with the 5hp two-stroke outboard motor provided.

A boat licence is not required if the outboard motor is not attached.

NOTE: *If the motor is attached, the driver must be licensed, even if the motor is not even in the water.*

When the outboard is attached, the 0.9kg fire extinguisher, oars, bailer, and anchor must be carried in the boat.



Unlike the houseboat's outboard motors, the 5hp outboard uses pre-mixed two-stroke fuel in a ratio of 1:50. Refer to the Tohatsu handbook for information on mixing the fuel and oil. The pre-mixed fuel for the dinghy's outboard is held in a 5-litre green plastic petrol container. As the engine has a 2.5-litre internal fuel tank, this container can triple the range of the dinghy. **NOTE:** *Ensure that any pre-mixed two-stroke fuel in the motor or green fuel container is fresh at the start of the voyage, as it may be difficult or impossible to start the outboard with old fuel.*

A small dinghy capable of planing can be susceptible to pooping (a large wave breaking over the stern) when coming off the plane. For this reason, it is advisable not to immediately cut the power off completely when coming off the plane as the dinghy may slow quickly and a large wave form at the stern. It is recommended that the power be reduced gradually to ensure that the wave does not overtake the dinghy. If it appears that you may be swamped, try increasing the speed of the dinghy.

Where possible, the dinghy should be pulled up on the bank to attach or remove the outboard motor. When attaching or removing the outboard, a safety line must be tied to the outboard's carry handle in case the outboard is dropped.

The dinghy is stored on the port swim deck with its stern on the swim deck and its bow resting on the roof of the rear deck. This dinghy can be difficult to lift onto its end on the swim deck, so do not attempt to lift it back into place unless you know what you are doing and strong enough. If it falls off the swim deck, it will enter the water end on and sink.

To store the dinghy, it should be pulled back so that the lifting handles on the stern are over the swim deck and on the wooden blocks. The bow rope is then pulled back, lifting the dinghy's bow to the roof. The foam on the dinghy's lip must rest on the wooden block on the edge of the roof to prevent damage. The dinghy should then be securely tied to the railings so that it cannot move.

PLEASE NOTE: *The dinghy must be very securely tied to the rail so that it cannot move if you push hard on the dinghy, otherwise it can become loose under the pressure of high winds and cause damage.*

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12.3 Kayak



The kayak is a two-person Dagger Drifter and can only carry two people. When not being used, the kayak is

stored on the deck, on its side and strapped to the railing using the ropes attached to the bow and stern of the kayak. If you are moored in a township or where you think theft is a possibility, the kayak should be stored on the rear out of public view.

Lifejackets must always be worn while in the kayak. Although the kayak is a double, the front seat can be slid back so that one person can use the kayak. Two stops are provided on the slide rails so that front seat cannot slide back further than desired. The front footrests are also adjustable depending on the leg length of the person in the front seat.

12.4 Swim Deck Ladder



A fold down ladder is provided on the swim deck. This provides easy access from the water to the swim deck. The ladder should be folded up out of the water when there are no swimmers in the water.

The black poles either side of the ladder can be used for assistance when using the ladder. It can also be used to tie up the dinghy or the kayak.

PLEASE NOTE: People should not sit on the swim deck while any of the motors (including the generator) are running as there is a slight risk that Carbon Monoxide may pool in the area and cause poisoning.

Figure 10 - Swim Deck Ladder

13 Waste Disposal

13.1 General

The houseboat should have enough capacity to store all the waste generated by a full crew for well over a week. If you need to remove rubbish or empty the sewage system, this must be done at the Waste Disposal Stations along the river. Please consult the attached brochure “Riverboat Waste Disposal Options” for the location of the sites and how to use them.

To reduce pollution of the river and to comply with the law, no waste of any kind, including biodegradable matter such as food, is to be thrown into the river. Do not leave any waste on the riverbank in consideration of other river users.

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13.2 Sewage System

The houseboat is fitted with two toilets. There is one in the bathroom, accessible from inside the vessel, and one on the starboard (right) side accessible from the deck.

The toilet pumps river water into the bowl and when flushed it goes into a sewage holding tank (called “black water”). These toilets are like a caravan toilet. Some water should be added to the bowl before you flush it to ensure that all matter is carried away.

Marine toilets and the pump-out systems do not accept anything other than natural, organic waste and toilet paper. **Sanitary napkins, tampons, matches, gum, or other hard foreign objects are not permitted into the toilet.**

PLEASE NOTE: If you haven't eaten or drunk it first, it must not go in the toilet.

13.2.1

Inside Toilet

NOTE: The water from the hand basin in the bathroom plumbed into inside toilet's holding tank.

The inside toilet is in the bathroom and uses a dual pedal system. The smaller pedal controls the flow of water into the toilet bowl, while the large pedal flushes the toilet. Depressing the large pedal will automatically depress the smaller pedal.



To add water to the bowl for flushing or cleaning, depress the small pedal. To flush, press both pedals down for a second or two. This will open the outlet of the toilet while flushing it with water.

✓ Do **not** clean the toilet with the toilet brush while fully pressing the large pedal. This will ensure that the brush cannot accidentally drop into the holding tank.

Figure 11 - Inside Toilet

13.2.2

Outside Toilet



Figure 12 - Outside Toilet

The outside toilet is located on the rear of the starboard deck near the steps to the upper deck – see *Figure 3 - Houseboat Layout*. This toilet has a higher seating position compared to the inside toilet and uses a single pedal system. If the pedal is slightly depressed, water will be added to the bowl. Fully press the pedal and the toilet will flush. Water will continue to flow while the pedal is pressed.

Do **not** clean the toilet with the brush when the pedal is fully pressed. This will ensure that the brush cannot drop into the holding tank.

NOTE: The water from the hand basin goes into the blackwater holding tank of the inside toilet.

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13.2.3

Kitchen Sink

NOTE: The kitchen sink is plumbed into the inside toilet's blackwater holding tank.

Excessive use of the kitchen sink can result in the holding tank filling unexpectedly. As a result, the kitchen sink must only be used for washing dishes and in relation to the preparation of food.

To reduce the amount of water that may end up in the holding tank, the hot water tap in the kitchen has a cold-water diverter. This diverter will return the water to the river until it is hot. If hot tap does not appear to be working, check that the hot water system is turned on.

NOTE: If the hot and cold-water pressure seems very low in the kitchen sink, but normal elsewhere, remove the aerator nozzle from the end of the mixer tap and gently clean with an old toothbrush.

A minimum of water should be used to wash the dishes. As a result, it is recommended that where practical, dishes are only washed once per day to reduce the amount of washing up water generated. To reduce the water required for the washing up, as much material as possible should be removed from plates and utensils before putting into the sink.

NOTE: Do not put grease or oil down the sink as it will clog the drain. Grease can be placed in a container (such as an empty tin) and placed in the refuse bin provided.

Only the cleaning products provided should be used to ensure that the treatment chemicals in the sewage holding tank are not adversely affected.

PLEASE NOTE: It is permitted to place the blue container in the kitchen sink to do the washing up, and then throw the washing up water onto the riverbank. The wastewater must be dumped at least 10 metres from the river such that *no water can run back into the river*. This method reduces the amount of water than goes into the black water holding tank.

13.2.4

Pumping Out the Sewage

As the toilet waste is held in two storage tanks under the houseboat, the tanks must periodically be pumped out. Waste Disposal Stations (pump-outs) are provided along the river where the tanks may be emptied in an environmentally sensitive way. Refer to the document *River Vessel Waste Disposal Stations* for the location of stations and the instructions for using them.

Each holding tank has two pipes connected to it. One pipe is to suck the black water (sewage) from the tank and another to allow flushing water to be put into the tank. The vacuum pipe and the water must be connected to the correct pipes for the pump-out to work successfully. The following table identifies which fittings are used for the flush water, and which are used to suck out the wastewater.

Tank	Flush Water Connection	Waste Extraction Connection
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1	Starboard (right) at rear attached to the rail	Starboard (right) side near gate against wall
2	Attached to wall on Port (left) side near the bathroom window	Attached to rail near the outboard motor gate on the rear deck.

Table 7 - Blackwater Flush Connections

The instructions on the pump-out equipment must be followed to ensure that the holding tanks are properly emptied and flushed. Care must also be taken not to spill any sewage into the river, or on the decks.

13.3 Greywater

Greywater is all wastewater that does not include toilet waste. The shower and the washing machine are the only sources of greywater that are discharged back into the river. Care must be taken to ensure that as little pollutants as possible go back into the river. Material removed from the filters must be placed in the rubbish and not throw into the river.

13.3.1

Washing Machine

The washing machine has a lint filter inside the bowl and this filter needs to be cleaned before each use of the machine. Read the handbook for cleaning details.

The washing powder for the washing machine is stored underneath the laundry tub.

PLEASE NOTE: Only use the recommended amount of biodegradable washing powder for the type and size of load being washed. Excessive use of washing powder does not produce a better clean, wastes washing powder, and adds to the greywater returned to the river.

13.3.2

Shower

The shower has a filter under the drain hole. Twist the drain cover to unlock and remove. Pull out the filter using the handle and clean. This filter sits in a secondary filter which must also be cleaned using a long-handled brush.

PLEASE NOTE: Use the wall mounted pump dispensers for body wash, shampoo, and conditioner, or an equivalent biodegradable product. Excessive use of cleaning products does not provide a better wash, wastes product, and adds to the greywater returned to the river.

13.4 Rubbish Disposal

13.4.1

Waste Containers

Waste containers are provided in the kitchen and toilets to hold waste material that cannot be recycled. Plastic liner bags are provided and should be used to line the containers after they are emptied. The full bags of rubbish should be placed in the designated rubbish bin.

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13.4.2

Refuse Bins



Three refuse bins are provided on the rear deck (see *Figure 3 - Houseboat Layout*) to hold the bagged waste. These bins are also provided with liners to allow for easy and hygienic disposal of the waste. The garbage bin is the smaller bin with the green lid against the railing on the back deck. Recyclable material such as non-deposit bottles, clean paper, and cardboard, etc. should be placed in the bin against the railing, next to the garbage bin. Deposit cans and bottles should be placed in the third bin adjacent to the BBQ. The garbage bins can be emptied at any of the Waste Disposal Stations (WDS) (see **Para 13.1**). Recyclables and deposit container bags should be taken home for disposal as the WDS does not handle recyclables and they will be dumped with the garbage. The deposit cans should be taken home as they can be redeemed for cash at a recycling depot.

14 Equipment, Appliances, and Fittings

14.1 Cabana



Figure 13 - Cabana
from the afternoon sun.

A portable Cabana is stored in the unlocked deck box on the top deck. The Cabana is designed to provide shade on the riverbank. Erecting the Cabana will require the hammer to drive pegs into the ground to secure the Cabana from being caught by the wind.

NOTE: It is recommended that consideration is given to making sure the long side of the Cabana is aligned North-South and with the side with the most shade is faced West to protect

14.2 Refrigeration

14.2.1

Refrigerator (Propane)

14.2.1.1 RGE 400 Operating Instructions



Figure 14 - Gas Fridge

Unlike your home refrigerator, this unit runs from either mains power or the gas bottles. In marina, the unit will be set to operate on mains power but will need to change over to gas and the pilot lit when the vessel leaves the marina. The unit has been set to the normal operating temperature and should not need to be adjusted. Adjusting the wrong controls could cause the unit to switch from gas operation and stop working – leave it to Mark and Alexa to adjust.

To change the fridge between gas and mains power, or for instruction on lighting the pilot flame, consult the manufacturer's handbook.

14.2.1.2 Storing Your Food

The food storage compartments are completely closed and unventilated, which is necessary to maintain the required low temperatures for food storage. Air does not circulate in the unit like it does on most home units. Foods with strong odours, vegetables, salads, etc. should be covered to contain odours and retain crispness. The coldest area is at the bottom.

NOTE: Do not overload the refrigerator, as this will decrease its effectiveness.

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14.2.2

12V Fridge / Freezer

14.2.2.1 Operating Instructions



The 12V Fridge / Freezer is a compressor unit that can be used a variable combination of fridge and freezer – see handbook for details. The power for the unit comes from the fridge battery when there is no mains power available.

If the shore power or the generator is used to power the houseboat, the circuit breaker panel above the fridge will automatically change the power over to the mains supply.

Figure 15 - 12V Fridge / Freeze

NOTE: The 12V supply to the fridge / freezer is NOT removed if the 12V isolation switch in the power board is turned off. The 12V supply will remain available to the fridge unless the breaker in the battery compartment trips. Power will also be provided to the fridge / freezer if there is mains power available via shore power or the generator. If this is a problem, unplug the power cord from the unit.

14.2.2.2 Storing Your Food

It is suggested that the fridge-freezer be used to store food that will not be immediately used. The two compartments can be set at different temperatures so that one of both sides can be a fridge or a freezer. The configuration should be set based on the storage need - leave it to Mark and Alexa to adjust.

A chest fridge-freezer has the advantage that the cold air does not run out when the lid is opened, however, because there are no shelves, the food must be stacked on top of food. This makes it harder to find and remove food. It also means that care must be taken to put heavy items on items that can be squashed.

14.2.3

Refrigeration Troubleshooting

Read the handbook of the refrigerator giving problems. Handbooks are generally in the box under the lounge suite.

Both fridges cool by removing the heat from inside the units and exhausting it into the air around itself. If the air temperature in that part of the houseboat is high, the cooling efficiency, especially for the gas fridge, is reduced. If the temperature on that corner is high, increase the ventilation by opening the windows, or using a fan to blow air into the corner. If this does not work, run the ducted air conditioner (see **Para. 14.7.2**) to cool the inside of the houseboat.

If the gas fridge does not appear to be cooling at all, open the door and look on the bottom left of the fridge to ensure that the pilot is burning. If not, attempt to restart the pilot. If this does not work, check that there is gas available (see **Para. 17.2**).

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If the fridge / freezer appears to have power, but the compressor is not running when expected, run the generator to confirm that the supply voltage is sufficient to run the unit. If running the generator, plug the fridge directly into the power pack to bypass the automatic selector.

NOTE: There is a delay between applying power and when the compressor starts, so wait a minute or two before deciding if it is working.

If you cannot get a fridge working, remove power (12V fridge) or turn off the gas tap (gas fridge) as appropriate. Attempt to pack the perishable food into the remaining unit, making sure that you do not squash items. Leave non-essentials such as drinks until last.

14.3 Cooking Appliances

14.3.1

Microwave



Figure 16 - Microwave

The microwave is a high-power device that operates on 240V. Shore power must be connected, or the generator must be running before the microwave can be used. If power is available, but the microwave does not operate, check that it is plugged in and turned on. If the unit still does not work, check the electrical power board (see Para 0). Consult the microwave handbook for detailed cooking instructions.

14.3.2

Stove and Oven



Figure 17 - Gas Stove

The stove is a standard gas appliance. The burners are lit with a standard gas lighter. The appliance's operating instructions are provided with the manuals for the other appliances and equipment on the houseboat.

If the appliance does not light, turn off the gas and allow any gas to dissipate before attempting to light the griller or oven again. **NOTE:** The oven lighter does not work, and the oven must be lit by hand.

14.3.3

Rear Deck BBQ



Figure 18 - Gas BBQ

The BBQ on the rear deck is connected to the houseboat's main gas supply. If the BBQ will not light, check that the yellow lever of the gas tap under the BBQ is in the vertical position. It is a good safety measure to turn off this tap after using the BBQ as it will prevent gas leakages if the knobs are accidentally bumped or turned on by children on the boat.

NOTE: The burners in the BBQ are susceptible to winds blowing across the rear deck. Under these conditions, it is more practical to cook inside on the stove.

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14.3.4

Coffee Maker

The coffee maker is a DeLonghi MagnificaS. This unit is shared with home and as a result, it may not always be on the houseboat. The coffee maker requires shore power, or the generator to be running, before it can be used. When running from the generator, the generator must have the *ECO* switch turned off, otherwise there is a probability that the generator will stall when the heating elements come on.

NOTE: Read the instructions for more details on the use and maintenance of the appliance.

14.4 Laundry

14.4.1

Washing Machine



Figure 19 -
Washing Machine

On the back deck, next to the laundry tub, there is a Haier automatic washing machine under a white cover. The machine is capable handling a 7kg load. This machine requires shore power or the generator to operate. Refer to the handbook for details on operating the washing machine.

To use the machine, remove the weather cover and connect the laundry tub hot and cold taps to the washing machine using the hoses provided. Ensure that the washing machine outlet is placed in the laundry tub before use. Use the laundry detergent provided – it stored under the laundry tub. Remove the hoses and replace the weather cover after use.

NOTE: As the washing machine discharges greywater into the river, use the minimum possible amount of detergent.

14.4.2

Clothesline



Figure 20 - Washing
Line

A Hills four-wire extendable clothesline is mounted under the roof of the back deck. When extended, the clothesline reaches across the width of the back-deck roof. When the line is clipped into the bracket on the other side of the back deck, pull the main unit's level down fully to tension the lines.

NOTE: The clothesline should not be left extended when not in use as insects such as wasps or spiders will nest in the open main unit.

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14.5 Hot Water System



Figure 21 - Hot Water System

The Rinnai B16 hot water system mounted on the outside wall near the external toilet is an on-demand gas heater that requires 240V to be available to produce the spark required to start the heater. The hot water system's 240V has its own inverter powered from the main domestic battery. This means that the domestic battery must be turned on for the hot water system to work.

To save power, the hot water system inverter is automatically switched on when a hot water tap is turned on and will stay on for about a minute after the hot water tap is turned off.

NOTE: The hot water system's 240V inverter does NOT need the inverter switch on the Main D.C. Power Board to be turned on. The power for this inverter is derived from the "Power" breaker on the Main D.C. Power Board – see **Para. 16.1.4.1.**

14.6 Heating

14.6.1

Gas Heater



Figure 22 - Gas Heater

A gas space heater is provided in the lounge room. The heater uses a considerable amount of gas, so use it sparingly to conserve gas. In the marina where there is power, the oil heater should be used instead.

The heater connects to the gas supply, by a flexible hose and a bayonet fitting, between the dining table and the starboard wall in the lounge room (see *Figure 3 - Houseboat Layout*).

The hose can be removed by twisting the bayonet fitting anti-clockwise. This allows the heater to be placed in a more convenient location during the day or the summer months. Pushing the connector into the silver fitting on the floor and turning clockwise until it locks and reconnects the gas.

Pressing the start button starts the gas flow and ignites it. Hold in for a few seconds after the gas ignites. The heater can operate at full or half heat by adjusting the slide above the start button. The heater has a safety cut-out if the flame goes out. The igniter is powered by a 1.5V 'C' cell in a holder at the rear of the heater.

WARNING: As a safety precaution, people must not sleep in the lounge area when the gas heater is fitted.

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14.6.2

Electric Heater



An electric oil heater is provided, but because it draws a lot of power, **the oil heater should only be used when the houseboat is connected to shore power.** When out of the marina, the gas heater should be used.

Figure 23 - Electric Heater

14.7 Air Conditioning

The air conditioners on the houseboat are evaporative air conditioners. They cool the air by evaporation of water in the pads across which air is blown. As a result, the air-conditioner is less effective when the relative humidity is high. If high humidity renders the evaporative cooling ineffective, the water should be turned off and the fan left running to increase the airflow through the vessel. To be fully effective, there must be airflow to the outside. As a result, windows should be left slightly open to allow the air to circulate correctly, although the gas safety vents in the lounge room provide some venting.

14.7.1

Pedestal Fan



The two pedestal fans are low power three speed oscillating fans. Because of their low power consumption, they can be powered by the inverter, although excessive use of the inverter will help flatten the domestic battery.

Figure 24 - Pedestal Fan

14.7.2

Heller Portable Air-Conditioner



The Heller portable air conditioner is a low power remote controlled evaporative unit running on 240V. It has a self-contained water reservoir which is filled by removing the lid and pouring water into the inbuilt funnel on the top of the unit – river water may be used for this purpose. Ice can be placed in the top of this unit where the water is added to provide additional cooling.

Because of its low power consumption, it may be powered from the inverter, although excessive use of the inverter will help flatten the domestic battery.

Figure 25 - Heller Air-Con

WARNING: DO NOT use this air-conditioner using the inverter if the spare 12V-240V Inverter is installed. Take notice of the warning label on the unit. The spare inverter is a modified square wave model and the high frequencies in the mains will most definitely **burn out** this unit and **it will be a fire risk!!**

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14.7.3

Ducted Air Conditioner



The ducted air conditioner is an evaporative unit, which operates on 240V. As a result, the generator must be running before this unit can be used. The controls are located on the lounge room wall near the hallway. There is a stop cock under the kitchen sink that controls the water to the ducted air-conditioner.

Figure 26 - Air Con. Control

This unit cools the air by evaporation of water in the pads. As a result, the air-conditioner is less effective when the relative humidity is high. If high humidity renders the evaporative cooling ineffective, the water should be turned off and the fan left running to increase the airflow though the vessel.



Figure 27 - Air Con. Water Tap

To be fully effective, there must be airflow from the air conditioner to the outside. As a result, the windows should be left slightly open to allow the air to circulate correctly, although the gas vents in the lounge room will provide some exhaust air flow.

The ducted air-conditioner can output much more air than is required to just cool the lounge room. The bedrooms can be cooled by closing all the windows in the lounge room and in the back door; and opening the doors in the two internal bedrooms. The air from the lounge room will be exhausted via the bedrooms, cooling them as well. It is also prudent to leave the small windows above the 12V fridge / freezer partially open to provide air flow around the refrigerators to remove the warm air they generate.

14.8 Radio/MP3 Player



Figure 28- Radio/MP3 Player

The radio/MP3 player is in the console and operates on 12 Volts. The radio can be very loud and carry a long way along the river. Please think of others when using it as sound can travel a long way along the river. Using the radio may disturb others if played loudly late into the night.

NOTE: The radio has three sets of speakers. The radio's front speakers are in the front lounge. The rear speakers are switched between the sunroom and the upper deck using a switch mounted on the control console.

When the switch is in the "Out" position, the speakers are switched to the sunroom. When it is "In", the speakers are switched to the upper deck (see **Para. 11.1** for details).

The FADE control of the radio can be used to vary the relative volume between the front or rear speakers. Set the fade control to **7F** to turn off the rear speakers and **7R** to turn off the speakers in the front lounge. Please consult the attached handbook for instructions.

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14.9 Video Entertainment

14.9.1

General

The television/media equipment is plugged into the left-hand power points so that they will run from the inverter, without starting the generator (see Para 16.2.2.4), but if it is necessary to conserve the domestic battery, it should be run from the generator.

14.9.2

Television



Figure 29 - Television

The television mounted under the photos on the lounge room wall is connected via the media player so that you can either view the available television stations or watch a video.

The television is mounted on the wall shared by the front bedroom and the bed is behind that wall. So please take this into account if you wish to watch the television late at night.

14.9.3

Media Player



Figure 30 - Media Player

The media player contains a wider selection of music and videos on the supplied USB disk. If you have a favourite program that you want to watch, you can plug a USB stick into the rear of the player. The remote control for the play is labelled “A.C. Ryan”. Select HDMI 1 Input on the TV to view the player.

14.10 Deck Blinds

The front and port side of the houseboat has roller blinds that can provide protection from the morning or afternoon sun. The photo of the houseboat on the front page shows some blinds up and some blinds down. As can be seen from the photo, the blinds are attached behind the rails with the ends into wire loops (to prevent rubbing of the blinds on the rail).

NOTE: Do not attempt to adjust the wire loops, as they are set to put the blinds under tension to hold them in place if a breeze comes up.

The blinds should not be left down when the houseboat is travelling, or when there is a strong wind.

CAUTION: If the blinds get loose in the wind, a whipping roller can smash the windows.

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14.11 Trolleys

14.11.1

Gas Bottle Trolley



While gas bottles can be “walked” along the deck, it is preferable to use the provided gas bottle trolley if you are swapping gas bottles. Before using the trolley, ensure that the tyres are inflated to the pressure marked on the sidewall using the 12V compressor.

Make sure that the bottle is turned off and disconnected before attempting to move. Ensure that all bottles are restrained in their new locations.

Figure 31 – Gas Bottle Trolley

14.11.2

Four-Wheel Trolley



A four-wheel trolley is tied to the outside of the front deck railing. This trolley can be used to transport fuel container or any other general-purpose load.

To use this trolley, untie the trolley and assemble the sides using the clips provided. Ensure that the wheels are pumped up to the pressure indicated on the tyre sidewalls using the 12V compressor before use.

Figure 32 - Four-Wheel Trolley

After use, dismantle the trolley and store the clips before securely tying to the outside of the front deck railing.

14.11.3

12V Air Compressor

A 12V air compressor is provided to pump up the tyres on the gas bottle and general trolley. The compressor is plugged into the 12V outlets under the driving console to operate. The 12V extension cord can be used to allow the compressor to operate on the front deck if required.

15 Water Supply

15.1 Fresh Water

15.1.1

General

When fully provisioned, the houseboat holds 160 litres of water, consisting of 100 litres in the freshwater tank, one (1) white 20-litre containers, two (2) 15-litre blue container in the bathroom and one (1) white 10-litre container in the kitchen.

WARNING: Do not put river water into the freshwater tanks as it is not suitable for human consumption. Some of the taps in the riverside parks use water pumped directly from the river. It is advisable to check that water is potable (drinkable) before taking drinking water from these taps.

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15.1.2

Fresh Water Tank

The 100-litre freshwater tank gauge is mounted on the driving console (see **Para. 11.1** for details). Unlike the river water taps, the freshwater tap connected to the main water tank uses a caravan-type hand pump. The freshwater tank filler is located on the starboard deck near the kitchen windows.

Because of the sediment content in the river water, it is recommended that all water for drinking and cooking be taken from the fresh water tap in the kitchen sink.

15.1.3

Water Containers

The 20-litre containers are provided for drinking water that can be used to refill the containers in the kitchen and bathroom.

A 15-litre container is provided in the bathroom to allow you to brush your teeth using fresh water and a 10-litre container is provided in the kitchen to make filling pots easier.

CAUTION: All freshwater containers must only be refilled with potable (drinking) water.

15.2 River Water

River water is drawn directly from the river and used for hot and cold water in the sinks, shower, and toilet. The water from the shower and washing machine are returned to the river, so please make sure to use biodegradable soaps and detergents.

NOTE: Use as little soap and detergent as possible and the keep impact on the river to a minimum.

15.2.1

Pumps & Water Pressure

The river water supply uses pressure pumps and accumulator tanks, which must be operational for the taps to function. The water pumps and accumulator are in the same compartment as the main batteries, under the rear left-hand deck.

If air is trapped in the pipes, it may result in the pumps constantly running even when no water is flowing. This can be annoying and will start to discharge the 12-Volt domestic battery unnecessarily. Normally, turning on a tap and letting it run for a few minutes can overcome this problem.

Often the tap will “spit” when the trapped air is released. If this happens, turn off the tap to see if the pump stops within 10-20 seconds. You may have to do this a couple of times if the pump continues to run.

There is a pump for the hot water and one for the cold water, so you may have to repeat the exercise for the hot and cold-water taps. Refer to **Para 16.1.8** for instructions on operating the pressure pumps.

If this does not fix the problem, run the hot water tap in the kitchen until the water turns hot, then turn off the tap to see if the cycling has stopped.

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15.2.2

Accumulator Tanks

Accumulator tanks are provided in the river water lines to dampen the pulsating of water pumps when taps are only turned on slightly. They also make water available at a moment's notice without cycling the pump. The accumulator tank consists of a bladder which is pressurised to the operating pressure of the pumps. The bladder contains about 600 ml of water, and this allows it to supply water without the pump starting. Because of this, the accumulators reduce cycling of the water pump when only low volumes of water are needed.

The pressure in the accumulators is controlled by a standard bicycle valve stem. Periodically, the accumulator pressure should be checked by turning off the pumps, turning on the taps and then use a standard tyre pressure gauge to measure the pressure. Pressure can be added using a standard type of pump. Do not exceed 40 psi during adjustment or damage may occur. Refer to the SHURflo Accumulator Tank Model 181-2XX data sheet provided with this manual for more details.

NOTE: Adjustment of the accumulator pressure should be left to Mark and Alexa.

16 Electrical System

16.1 12 Volt Power

The 12-Volt power system allows the lights, the stereo, media player, television and 12V refrigerator to run without the generator operating. Although the batteries are capable of supplying power to the equipment for some hours, they are not inexhaustible. As a result, care should be taken to conserve power. Turn off the inverter, lights, television, and media player when they are not required as a conservation measure. It should also be noted that the water supplied to the main air conditioner is supplied by the water pumps which are also powered from the domestic battery.

The solar panels require sunshine to charge the batteries. The shorter hours of daylight in winter and/or cloudy days may mean that there is not enough light to fully recharge the batteries each day.

16.1.1

Batteries



The vessel has two sets of heavy-duty lead-acid batteries to supply 12-Volt power without running the generator. The batteries can run the chest refrigerator, pumps, lights, television, and stereo, but they do not provide unlimited power.

NOTE: It is recommended that care be taken to conserve battery power wherever possible.

16.1.2

Recharging the Batteries

The solar panels will provide a charge to the batteries during the day, but it can take many hours of sunlight to recharge the batteries, especially in Winter when it is often overcast. The mains battery charger will need to be plugged into the generator if the

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solar panels are not providing enough charge. The generator will need to be run to recharge the batteries and this can take hours if the batteries are flat. This is expensive and is best avoided, if possible. During winter, it is recommended that the battery charger cord is left plugged into the generator so that the batteries will receive a charge when the generator is running.

16.1.3

12V Refrigerator Power Feed

The refrigerator power feed directly provides power to the 12V refrigerator in the kitchen, without going through the Main DC Power Board. This feed is protected by an in-line fusible link attached directly to the battery selected and via the circuit breaker in the refrigerator power change-over unit in the kitchen.

Because this battery is not connected via the Main DC Power Board, it will continue to provide power to the refrigerator even with the Main DC Power Board is isolated. This allows the domestic lights, power, and pumps to be disabled, without putting the refrigeration at risk. *However, it does increase the risk that the chest refrigerator will be left on when not required.*

16.1.4

Domestic Power Feed

The domestic power feed powers the Main DC Power Board. This provides power all the 12V systems on the houseboat except the refrigerator. If the domestic battery starts to go flat, the lights will start to dim, and the stereo and television will stop working (if using the inverter). It will also mean that the water pumps used for the hot and cold water, as well as the main evaporative air-conditioner water feed, will stop.

Conserve domestic power:

- ✓ Ensure that all lights are turned off if they are not in use.
- ✓ Turn off the main inverter when it not in use.
- ✓ When the inverter is being used, unplug equipment that is not being used.
- ✓ Start the generator and use it to run the TV and video in periods of cloudy weather.
- ✓ If practical, use the shower while the Sun is shining.
- ✓ Run the generator & battery charger to recharge the batteries, as necessary (see **Para 16.1.5**).

16.1.4.1 Main DC Power Board

The Main DC Power board contains the circuit breakers and switches for the domestic 12-Volt DC power system. The board is located on the back deck to the left and below the BBQ (see *Figure 3 - Houseboat Layout*). In the event of a problem with the 12-Volt supply, check this board for circuit breakers that have tripped. If the breaker

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immediately trips as soon as you reset it, there is a problem that you will need to report to the Mark and Alexa.

16.1.4.1.1 All D.C. Power Off Configuration



Figure 33 - All D.C. Off

With the 12V isolating switch off (down), all power from the domestic battery is removed. The position of the other switches will not have any effect. **This configuration is normally only used when the boat is not being used.**

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16.1.4.1.2 12 Volt D.C. On Configuration



Figure 34 - D.C. Power On, No Inverter (Normal Setting)

The 12V ISOLATING SWITCH and all the circuit breakers must be on (up). The INVERTER MAIN SWITCH should be off to remove power from the inverter (see **Para 16.1.5**). The pump circuit breaker on the right is used to protect the hot and cold-water pumps. The next breaker along is the internal light breaker and protects all the internal room lights in the boat. The power breaker is used to protect the 12 Volt DC outlets in the bedrooms and the sunroom. The final circuit breaker is used to protect the 12-Volt feed to another distribution board under the driving console (see **Para 16.1.4.2**).

16.1.4.1.3 Inverter On Configuration



Figure 35 - D.C. Power On, Inverter On

In this configuration, the 12 Volt D.C. power to the boat is connected and the 12 Volt D.C. to the inverter is also connected. This configuration is used when the inverter is running, and the INVERTER MAIN SWITCH **must** be turned off when the inverter is not in use to conserve battery power.

WARNING: If the INV MAIN SWITCH is ON, then the port (left) side power points may be live even if the generator is off! See **Para 16.2.2.3** for details.

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16.1.4.2 12 Volt D.C. Sub-Power Board

The sub-power board is located under the driving console behind a panel and is used to protect the equipment in the driving console such as the UHF CB radio, the CD player, and the navigation lights, etc. Unlike the other lights on the houseboat, the fluorescent light on the top deck has its fuse protection on this panel. Access to this panel is not normally available.

16.1.5

Main 12 Volt – 240 Volt Inverter



A 12-Volt to 240-Volt inverter is provided to allow small appliances such as the DVD player and television to be run without operating the generator. The inverter uses a modified sine wave output, which may not be suitable for all types of equipment.

The inverter output is restricted to the left-hand power points on the houseboat.

NOTE: Do not connect any additional equipment to the left hand 240V outlets, except low power items such as the pedestal fans, portable air-conditioner, mobile phones, or a laptop computer, as the inverter may shut down. Plugging in any item may result in the inverter temporarily shutting down as part of its self-protection regime.

The inverter can only supply a limited amount of power for a relatively short period of time. The solar panels may not be capable of recharging the batteries in a single day, especially if the inverter has been used. This normally means that the generator may need to be run to charge the batteries, especially in winter.

WARNING: The normal 12V-240V Inverter is sine wave inverter and all equipment that can be powered within the inverter power limits will operate correctly. The spare inverter is for emergency use only and outputs a modified square wave. This can cause some items of equipment to burn out. If using the spare inverter, **DO NOT** connect items that have a warning label, or you do not know if it will function correctly using a modified square wave inverter.

16.1.6

Hot Water System 12 Volt – 240 Volt Inverter

The inverter for the hot water system is power via the “power” circuit breaker (refer to **Para. 16.1.4.1** for details).

The inverter is powered by a control box in the battery compartment. The control box will turn on the inverter when the hot water pump starts running for more than five (5) seconds and turns it off after the pump has stopped for at least two (2) minutes.

16.1.6.1 Battery Chargers

A 40A battery charger (domestic battery) and a 20A battery charger (fridge battery) are available for use when there is either town power or the generator is running. It more likely that the battery chargers will be required in the Winter months when the daylight

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hours are shorter, and it is more likely to be overcast. To use these chargers, there is a 10A plug that can be plugged into the spare generator outlet or connected via an extension cord to the power when connected to shore power.

16.1.7

Solar Panels



The solar panels on the top deck must be kept clean to ensure that they work efficiently in the sun. They can be cleaned using a damp mop or a damp cloth. Care must be taken when cleaning the panels not to step onto the roof of the rear deck as it is not designed to support your weight.

The panels should be cleaned at least weekly on long voyages, more often if they appear to be dirty. Check after periods of high winds as bark and leaves may have fallen on them. The panels are used to charge all batteries (except the outboard batteries) and dirty panels will reduce the charge that can be provided by the Sun.

Figure 36 -
Solar Panels

16.1.8

Pressure Pumps

Because the water for the sinks for the sinks, shower and toilet is drawn from the river, pumps are required to lift the water from the river. The pumps operate with pressure sensitive switches so that the pumps will come on when the taps are turned on.

If the pressure pumps fail to operate when the taps are turned on, check the power board (see **Para 16.1.4.1**) to see if the circuit breaker has tripped. Attempt to reset the circuit breaker if it has tripped.

16.1.9

Domestic Lighting

The permanent lighting is powered from the domestic 12V battery. The domestic battery has sufficient capacity to handle all normal use of the lights, but all lights that are not being used should be turned off to conserve the domestic battery.

The night light units that mount on the ceiling using magnets are battery powered and need to be charged using a USB outlet when they discharge, becoming too dim to provide sufficient light.

16.1.10

CPAP DC Outlet

There is a 12V outlet under the bed in the main bedroom for powering a DC-DC converter to provide 24V for a ResMed 10 Elite CPAP (Continuous Positive Air Pressure) device. When not in use, the DC-DC converter should be turned off to reduce the load on the domestic battery.

NOTE: When shore power is available, the CPAP machine should be powered from the 240V power point in the bedroom.

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16.2 240 Volt Power

16.2.1

Connecting Shore Power

While in the marina, the houseboat should be connected to the marina mains power. This is done using a long 15A extension cord. The extension cord is stored in the storeroom (refer to *Figure 3 - Houseboat Layout*). The power cord is plugged into the houseboat on the outside of the boat opposite the AC power board in the sunroom. The other end of the cable is connected to the mains power board mounted on the dead tree on the roadway near the houseboat. The power point in the marina shore power box to use is labelled *My Lady* and requires the key to turn on the power outlet.

The key is stored on the key rack in the kitchen and can be identified by the attached yellow float. The key must remain in the lock for the power to be turned on.

16.2.2

240 Volt Power Board

The electrical power board contains the circuit breakers and safety switches for the 240V power system. The 240V Power Board is in the Sunroom on the right of the far wall, behind the curtains (see *Figure 3 - Houseboat Layout*).

16.2.2.1 Mains Safety Switches

The PPTS MAIN GEN and the PPTS INV MAIN switches on the power board will trip if it detects an abnormal condition. The operation of this feature can be tested by pressing the circular blue button on the switches. This should result in the breaker tripping (providing the power is currently available to the switch input). If this does not occur, then maintenance by a licenced electrician is required.

16.2.2.2 Shore Power Configuration



Figure 37 - Shore Power Set Up

When the houseboat is to run from shore power, all switches and circuit breakers must be in the fully up position. **Normally the houseboat only uses this configuration when moored in the marina.**

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16.2.2.3 Generator Configuration

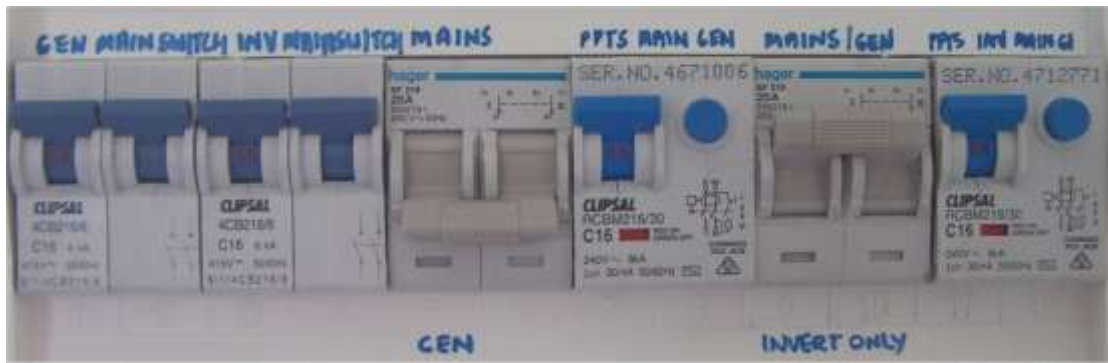


Figure 38 - Generator Power Set Up (Out of Marina)

When the houseboat's generator is to be used to provide power to all appliances on the boat, all switches and circuit breakers must be fully up, except the *MAINS/GEN* switch, which must be fully down. **This is the normal configuration when the houseboat is away from the marina and the inverter is not being used.**

16.2.2.4 Inverter Configuration



Figure 39 - Inverter Power Set Up

When the inverter is to be used, the *MAINS/GEN/INVERTER ONLY* switch must be in the fully down position. This will switch the power points on the left-hand side of the houseboat to the inverter. The inverter must be turned on at the DC Control Panel before the power points will have power (see **Para 16.1.4.1.3**).

16.2.3

Generator



A 3kVA generator is located on the back deck under a weather cover. This generator must be running to use appliances such as the microwave, air-conditioner, and battery chargers. The inverter/generator circuit should be changed to the generator and the inverter turned off when the generator is running, saving battery power (see **Para 16.2.2**).

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Refer to the generator handbook for instructions on starting and stopping the generator.



When running a constant load, use the “eco” switch to reduce the generator’s fuel consumption. This selection is NOT recommended for loads that result in large variations in power, such as using large irons, coffee makers and other machines that can switch off and on during use, such as the microwave. Large load variations while using the *ECO* switch, may result in the generator stalling, and power being lost.

As a security precaution, the generator is chained to the rear deck railing using a security chain. The key for the lock is on the houseboat keyring.

PLEASE NOTE: To ensure that the generator remains easy to start, it should be started at least monthly. It should also be run at least 30 minutes to ensure that the starter battery remains charged.

17 Gas Supply

17.1 LPG Bottles



Three (3) 45kg and three (3) 9kg gas bottles are provided to supply gas for the stove, the hot water system, and the space heater. The gas bottles, located next to laundry tub (see **Figure 3 - Houseboat Layout**); will provide more than enough gas for a normal trip. One 45kg bottle and a 9kg bottle will normally be connected, with the 9kg gas bottle selected for operation – see para. **17.2**. Both bottles should then be turned on by rotating valves fully anti-clockwise. Empty 9kg bottles should be swapped at the next shop with “swap and go” gas bottle facilities.

Ensure that the extra 45kg bottles are secured in position to prevent it from falling over. This is accomplished by lashing the bottles to the railings. There is a trolley on the back deck that can be used to move the gas bottles if required (see **Para. 14.11.1**).

17.2 Gas Changeover Switch



The hoses from the two active gas bottles are connected to an automatic changeover switch, which will swap between bottles if one should run out during your trip.

The position of the dial on the changeover switch should be fully clockwise or fully anti-clockwise, not half-way. Gas will be drawn from the bottle that the switch is pointing to. When the selected gas bottle is empty, the switch will change from green to red to indicate that the bottle is empty.

When changing a gas bottle, make sure the other bottle is selected and the bottle is turned off fully before removing the connection to the bottle. The thread on gas bottles is opposite to normal, so please take care when removing or connecting the gas fittings to the bottle.

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NOTE: If the gas fridge is in use, be sure to confirm that gas fridge pilot flame is still alight after any changes to the gas bottles or the gas changeover, otherwise the food in the gas fridge may spoil.

18 Two-Way Radio

18.1 Purpose



The purpose of the Two-Way Radio is to provide a means to contact other boats if necessary. The radio can also be used to keep in contact with shore parties via the portable radio supplied with the boat.

The portable radios cannot use the repeater channels and should not be used on channels 1-8, 22-23 or 31-38 as these channels are reserved for repeaters or data transmissions. The radio is normally set to Channel 20 to communicate with Murray River Facebook Group users or to Channel 24 for River Murray Boat Owners Association (RMBOA) functions.

18.2 Turning the Radios Off and On

Turning the volume control clockwise switches on the main radio and turns up the volume. Turning the volume control counter-clockwise reduces the volume and eventually turns it off.

19 Making Contact on The Radio

19.1 Setting Up the Main Radio

The radio is located to the left and below the steering wheel on the driving console. Channels 1 to 8 on the radio are reserved for repeater use. The commonly accessible repeaters are channel 4 and channel 8. **Channel 5 is reserved for emergency operations.** Please be aware that many other people along the river use the repeaters, so please be thoughtful when using these channels.

NOTE: Do not use the repeater channels (channels 1 to 8) for general chatter as you may block users that require the repeater.

19.2 Making a Contact on the Main Radio

To transmit, press the button on the microphone attached to the radio. To allow the other party to hear that you are calling, the following calling procedure is recommended:

- ◆ Select Repeater channel or another desired channel
- ◆ Wait until anyone on the channel stops transmitting.
- ◆ Press the Transmit Button and say:

“<Name of person or Vessel being called>, <Name of person or Vessel being called>, <Name of person or Vessel being called>. This is My Lady calling <Name of person or Vessel being called>. Are you receiving me? Over”

- ◆ Release the Transmit Button.

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Saying the name three times will provide enough time to attract the attention of the vessel or person you want to contact before you start your message. The “Over” at the end indicates that you are waiting for a reply from them.

If you do not get a response, repeat the steps above until you do or you are sure the called party is not receiving you. If contact cannot be established by radio, try contacting by phone if possible.

19.3 Finishing the Contact

At the end of your final transmission, use “Out” or “This is *My Lady* signing off” to indicate that you have finished the conversation. Wait to see if the party has any further transmissions before turning off the radio.

19.4 Two-Way Radio with Small Handheld Radio

19.4.1

Setting up the Portable Radios

A small portable two-way radio is provided on *My Lady* so that people on the riverbank can stay in contact with the vessel. The houseboat radio and the portable radio should also be set to Channel 24. If Channel 24 is busy, select another channel. Please consult their handbook on how to operate these radios.

19.4.2

Testing the Radio

Once *My Lady*'s radio and the portable radios have been set up, check that the radios can receive transmissions from each other. Please note that these are public radio channels so please be considerate of other users.

19.4.3

After Using the Radio



Once you have finished using the radio, turn off the portable radio and return it to its cradle. This will ensure that the batteries are recharged and ready for use when required. The charging cradle must be connected to the power points on the left-hand side of the houseboat and the inverter turned on if you wish to recharge the batteries without starting the generator.

My Lady's radio should be reset for general use by following the steps in **Para 19.1**.

19.5 Emergency Calls

19.5.1

Emergency Call by Phone

Where possible, a request for emergency assistance should be attempted by phone. The number for emergencies is **Triple-Zero (000), or on a mobile phone 112**. Have the following information ready for the operator:

- Houseboat name and rego number (My Lady HI 152S)

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- Location on the river as best known – Get location from GPS Navigation Unit, if possible (refer to **Para. 0** for details).
- Description of the emergency. See **Para. 19.5.2** for an example.
- Indicate that an GPS-enabled EPRIB is available and ask if it should be activated.

19.5.2

Call by Radio

When you cannot contact emergency services by phone, a “Mayday” message should be sent on the radio. After setting the radio on **Channel 5** as per **Para 19.1**, the following message should be transmitted, with at least 10 seconds between calls to allow for replies.

“Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! This is houseboat *My Lady* HI 152S, houseboat *My Lady* HI 152S, houseboat *My Lady* HI 152S. We are located at <**say your current location**>. We have an emergency. <**describe the emergency briefly** – for example, A 55-year-old male has collapsed and is unconscious, etc> and we require immediate assistance.”

If the GPS position is not available, the Murray River Pilot provides a six-digit location number that can be used to identify locations near your position. If you do not know your exact position, provide your last known location and whether you are upstream or downstream of that location. Indicate that an GPS-enabled EPIRB is available onboard and ask if it should be activated.

19.5.3

No Contact Available

If you cannot contact anyone by phone or radio within a reasonable time based on the type of emergency, activate the EPIRB (see **Para. 20.7** for details). Continue to attempt to make contact using the mobile phone and the radio.

NOTE: The EPIRB should only be activated in the case of an emergency affecting the safety of the vessel or the health and safety of individuals. Penalties exist for the deliberate misuse of the EPIRB.

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20 Safety Equipment

20.1 General

CAUTION: Children under the age of 12 must wear a life jacket unless the houseboat is securely moored, and the engines are off – unless the child is confined within the cabin area.

Care must be taken to ensure that the jacket is fitted securely and that small children will not slip out of it when in the water. Make sure the jackets are completely dry before storing them back in the lockers.

20.2 Self-Inflating Personal Flotation Devices



There are two (2) Crane Inflatable Personal Flotation Devices Level 150 behind the door in the storeroom. Instructions for fitting and using in in the documentation box under the 3-seater lounge suite in the lounge room. These PFDs are normally reserved for Mark and Alexa, unless they are not on-board, or they give permission to others to use them.

20.3 Personal Flotation Devices



Two PFD (Personal Flotation Device) jackets are located behind the storeroom door. A PFD (or a life jacket) must be worn when using the kayak or dinghy.

CAUTION: The use of these jackets will not be acceptable by law to be used as PFDs from January 2025.

20.4 SOLAS Life Jackets



Twelve (12) SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) life jackets are provided. They are in the lockers above the houseboat's front door.

These devices are bulky and should not be used except if there are no other jackets available. If there is an accident where people are in the water, these jackets can be thrown into the water to be used as flotation devices that people can grab onto, even if they can't put them on.

CAUTION: The use of these lifejackets will not be acceptable by law to be used as lifejackets from January 2025.

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20.5 Personal Flotation Devices

One DFD (Dog Flotation Device) is also stored in the storeroom. This device is **not suitable** for all dog sizes so care must be taken to ensure a good fit if this device is used.

20.6 Lifebuoys



A round solid lifebuoy and a soft horseshoe lifebuoy with ropes are stored on the back deck.

CAUTION: These lifebuoys are not toys and should only be used in emergencies.

When throwing the solid buoy to a person in the water, try to throw it *near* the person, but *not at them* as it may strike the person in the head and cause injury. When the person has firmly grasped the lifebuoy, pull the lifebuoy in smoothly to ensure so that the person does not lose their grip on the lifebuoy.

20.7 EPIRB



A GME GPS-enabled EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radar Beacon) is in the hallway next to the extinguisher next to the bathroom door. It should be tested quarterly as per the instructions on the EPIRB.

In the event of an emergency, follow the instructions on the EPIRB unit and on the instruction sheet on the wall below. Before placing the unit into the water, ensure that the cord is attached to the houseboat or other secure point to ensure that it does not drift away. It can be operated out of water if necessary.

20.8 Fire Extinguishers



Two (2) 4.5kg fire extinguishers are provided for the houseboat. These extinguishers are rated for use on electrical equipment and fires involving oil or fat (cooking fires). One is located near the back door and the other is in the kitchen.

A small (0.9kg) fire extinguisher is provided for the dinghy but may be used to fight fires on the houseboat. It is normally located on the shelves in the storeroom opposite the bathroom.



NOTE: On a monthly basis, each extinguisher must be placed in a horizontal position for at least 20 minutes and then shaken vigorously to ensure that powder in the cylinder has not caked. While doing this check, ensure that the pressure gauge needle is in the green zone.

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20.9 Fire Buckets



Two red fire buckets with ropes attached are provided. Water can be drawn from the river to fight fires.

WARNING: Ensure that the generator and inverters are not operating before throwing water on a fire on the houseboat, as there is a chance of electric shock if they are operating. Turning off the 12V ISOLATING SWITCH will stop the inverters. See **Para 16.1.4.1.1** for details.

20.10 Fire Blanket



A fire blanket is mounted opposite the sink between the hat rack and the door to the first bedroom. If practical and safe, the fire blanket should initially be used, in preference to the fire extinguisher, in the case of a cooking oil fire to help prevent the spread of burning and/or hot liquids.

The state of the fire blanket should be carefully checked on a 6-monthly basis to ensure that it has not perished or damaged in some way.

20.11 Smoke Detectors

If the smoke detectors are triggered by smoke from cooking, open the doors and windows to allow a breeze to dissipate the smoke. If the smoke is coming from the BBQ, close the rear door to prevent the smoke blowing into the inside. Pressing the silence button on the unit can temporarily silence the alarm.



PLEASE NOTE: The smoke detectors are powered by 10-year long life batteries and the unit must be replaced when the battery life expires.

20.12 Torches

20.12.1

Spotlight



This torch is *very* bright and as a result the battery will only last about 20-30 minutes. It is recommended that this torch only be used for short periods. A tone will briefly sound if the battery is becoming discharged. Because of its brightness, care should be taken not to disturb other river users when it is being used.

The torch should always be recharged after use using the 12V-power outlet under the driving console. The green light in the torch will stop flashing when the lamp is fully charged.

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20.12.2

Safety Torch



A Dolphin All Rounder XL torch is provided as a floating torch is required by regulation to be carried on any vessel operating after sunset. It should be carried in the dinghy or kayak if they are operated after sunset. The torch should be checked monthly to ensure that it is still functional.

CAUTION: Because this torch does not have a rechargeable battery, it should not be used for general purpose activity.

20.12.3

Wind Up Torch



The wind-up torch is a general-purpose battery-less LED torch that can be wound up to provide light. The torch provides approximately 5 minutes of light for each minute of winding. The handle must wound fast enough to illuminate to green LED to ensure that the unit is charging. Adaptors are also provided that allow a mobile phone to be used from this torch.

20.12.4

Bug Zapper Lamps



The bug zapper lamps are used to attract and kill insects. There is a small LED bug zapper and a larger unit using a fluorescent tube.

The large unit is the most effective, but there a noise when a bug is destroyed. The LED above the power switch will glow red when the unit needs to be recharged. It is recharged using the 7V plug pack provided.

The smaller LED unit kills bugs, but it does not “zap” the bugs so that they accumulate on the electrified grid. This unit needs to be more regularly cleaned to ensure that it keeps working.

WARNING: the bug zappers must **not** be plugged in the 12V outlets on the boat as damage to the lamps will result. Only use the appropriate charger to recharge their batteries.

The lamp contains a killing coil around the tube and no objects, especially metallic objects must be inserted in the grill while the unit is turned on. The killing coil may be rendered ineffective if the coils become clogged with dead insects. In this case, the coils should be cleaned using a small brush.

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20.13 Emergency First Aid Kit



A first aid kit is provided for the treatment of minor injuries. The kit is stored in the middle cupboard under the bathroom wash basin.

The first aid kit contains an instruction leaflet, but a more comprehensive first aid book can be found in the library cabinet in the lounge.

The first aid kit must be checked annually for out of date, or missing, items. This check should be conducted on the first voyage of the calendar year and recorded in the log.

PLEASE NOTE: Any items taken from this kit, or requiring replacement, must be obtained as soon as practical after the voyage.

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21 Boating Terms and Abbreviations

Table 8 - Boating Terms

Boating Term	Meaning
Abeam	Level with the middle of the vessel on either side
Abeam Port	Level with the middle of the vessel on Port side
Abeam Starboard	Level with the middle of the vessel on Starboard side
A.C.	Alternating Current – As would be delivered by the mains or a mains generator.
Aground	Bottom of vessel is stuck on the bottom of the river
Aft	Towards the “Stern” or the rear of the vessel
Astern	Directly behind the vessel
Bar	Shallow area in the river formed by sand, mud, or gravel
Bend	Tie two ropes together
Bend	Significant change in direction of river
Bearing	Direction to an object
Bimini	Shade cloth cover over all or part of deck
Bollard	Post for securing ropes – on vessel or wharf
Bow	Front of the vessel
Cast Off	Remove mooring lines and depart
Channel	Path of increased depth along the riverbed
Cleat	Fitting for securing ropes – on vessel or wharf
Cross Wind	Wind blowing across the path of the vessel
Course	Vessel heading
D.C.	Direct Current – As would be delivered by a battery
Dead Ahead	Directly in front of the vessel
DFD	Dog Flotation Device
Downstream	Location down the river towards the mouth, or travelling downstream the river with the water flow
EPIRB	Emergency Position Indicating Radar Beacon
Fore (Forward)	Towards the “Bow” or the front of the vessel
Head Wind	Wind blowing directly towards the bow
Helm	Steering wheel
Hitch	Tie a rope to something
Inverter	Device to convert D.C. (normally 12V or 24V) into the A.C. mains voltage (240V 50Hz).
Lock	Chamber with closeable openings at both ends of a weir to allow vessels to pass up or down stream by changing the water level
Lockage	Act of passing through a lock
Log	Record keeping book (or program)
Make Fast	Secure
Making Way	Moving through the water (by oars, sail, or engine)
Moor	Act of securing the vessel with anchor ropes to the riverbank, or by the anchor
Mooring	Location where vessel is secured by anchor or ropes to the riverbank, or held by the anchor
Mooring Line	Rope used to secure a vessel to a wharf of the riverbank

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Boating Term	Meaning
Unprotected Water	Waters more than two (2) nautical miles from the low-water mark from the coast and the banks of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert
PFD	Personal Floatation Device
Potable	Suitable for drinking
Pool Level	Normal level of water behind a weir (above mean sea level)
Port	Left side of the vessel
Port Bow	Direction between Dead Ahead and Abeam Port
Port Quarter	Direction between Astern and Abeam Port
Protected Waters	All inland waters, excluding Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, and any other waters subject to tidal influence.
Reach	Straight stretch in river
Reef	Shallow area in the river formed by outcrop of rock
Semi-protected Waters	Waters up to two (2) nautical miles from the low water mark of the coast (including the Coorong) and the banks of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert
Skipper's Mark	Blue diagonal cross on white background placed on both sides of the river to indicate the direction of a significant change in location of a channel
SOLAS	Safety Of Life At Sea (lifejacket)
Starboard	Right side of the vessel
Starboard Bow	Direction between Dead Ahead and Abeam Starboard
Starboard Quarter	Direction between Astern and Abeam Starboard
Stern	Rear of the vessel
Tail Wind	Wind blowing directly from the stern
Training Spur	Man-made obstruction across part of river to channel more flow through a channel
Upstream	Location up the river away from the mouth, or travelling up the river against the water flow
Wake	Disturbance of water directly behind a vessel
Wash	Disturbance of water flowing out from a vessel that causes damage, injury, or annoyance
Weir	Adjustable height barrier across river to regulate the height of the river upstream (see Pool Level)

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22 Houseboat Spares

Table 9 – Houseboat Spares

Spare	Function	Comment
12V – 240V Inverter (Modified square Wave)	Emergency spare to replace the normal 12V – 240V Inverter.	WARNING: Not all items can tolerate modified square wave power and may burn out if used with this spare. Check all items before using with this device.
Fusible Link (70A)	Safety fuse between battery and the main feed	This link will blow if there is a short circuit between the battery and next level of fuses. It is a safety device and must not be bypassed.
Water Pump	Hot or cold-water pump	The pump contains a pressure switch which sets the pressure of the hot or cold-water lines
Water Accumulator	Hot or cold-water line pressure equalizer	This device evens out the flow of water when there are low flow rates and stops the pumps cycling and over-heating.
20W Fluorescent Inverter	12V inverter designed to drive a 20W fluorescent tube	This inverter is used in the internal and external fluorescent lights.
LED Strip Lights	12V LED internal lights	These strip lights are used in the lounge room to supply general lighting.
Car Blade Fuse Set	Spares fuses for the fuse box under the driving console	These fuses protect the equipment in the console.
12V Voltmeter	Spare analogue voltmeter for measuring the battery voltages	These meters are old analogue models are not especially accurate but give an indication of relative battery charge until a new electronic meter is obtained.
Rivets (sealed)	Rivets for replacing broken rivets in the houseboat wall panels	The movement of the houseboat will end up cutting through rivets. Defective rivets need to be replaced as they are found.
High Current Cable	Reconfiguration of batteries	These cables are provided in case part of the battery cabling needs to be re-routed due to a failure.
Low Current Twin Flex	Low power D.C. cable run	The cable is useful for running low power 12V D.C. runs, or speaker runs.
Single Wire	Low power D.C. wire run	This wire is useful for running signal wires in the console or similar.

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Spare	Function	Comment
Demineralised Water	Battery Fluid & Steam Iron	The flooded cell batteries must be periodically filled up as they lose water during the charging cycle. Failure to top up will end up in damaging the battery.
2-Stroke Outboard Oil	Lubrication added to 2-stroke engine fuel	The 5hp outboard has the oil pre-mixed with the fuel.
SAE 10W-30 Engine Oil 1 litre	0.55L Oil to fill generator sump	The generator is a 4-stroke engine and has an oil sump. The oil must be replaced every 100 hours of use.
NGK Spark Plug Type BPR5ES	Spare for Generator Honda EU30is	Replace every 300 hours as required. Spark gap 0.7mm to 0.8mm.
Hydraulic Oil	Oil for the houseboat's hydraulic steering.	This oil is used to top of the hydraulic oil reservoir.
C, AA, AAA rechargeable and non-rechargeable cells	Cells for gas heater and various items of electronic equipment	Rechargeable cells are not suitable for some items. Check if it is not clear which cells can be used.

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23 Pre-Voyage Check List

(Photocopy as Required)

Item	Activity	Checked
1	Check kitchen, hallway, and dinghy fire extinguishers. Shake containers	
2	Check the condition of the fire blanket near the hat rack in the kitchen hallway	
3	Check first aid kit for completeness (and expiry dates annually)	
4	Test hallway and lounge smoke detectors. Replace batteries if necessary	
5	Check that all 9kg gas bottles are full. Check reserve 45kg bottles	
6	Turn on the gas bottles connected to the supply	
7	Check and top up fluid levels in the domestic batteries	
8	Recharge domestic and outboard batteries if necessary	
9	Check and fill main fuel tank with unleaded petrol (approx. 400 litres)	
10	Check and fill generator fuel tank with unleaded petrol (13 litres max)	
11	Check and fill the red 20-litre & 10-litre fuel containers with unleaded petrol	
12	Check and fill the Tohatsu 5HP outboard motor tank with 1:50 2-stroke mix	
13	Check and fill the green 5 litre fuel container with 1:50 2-stroke mix	
14	Lower outboard motors into water and test start	
15	Check and fill the main water tank with fresh water	
16	Check and fill 20-litre white water containers with fresh water	
17	Check and fill 10-litre & 15-litre water containers in kitchen and bathroom	
18	Set Mains power distribution to mains	
19	Connect houseboat to mains via extension cord (key required for power box)	
20	Turn refrigerator to electricity to cool down without using gas	
21	Check microwave operation	
22	Check portable radios are charging or are charged	
23	Clean solar panels on the top deck	
24	Check that the Engine Compartment battery chargers are switched on	
24	Turn on 12V Isolating switch and circuit breakers. Ensure the inverter is off	
25	Plug in 12V Fridge power cord and turn on fridge from panel (if it is being used)	
26	Check hot and cold taps work	
27	Check navigation lights (turn on and off from operating console)	
28	Check domestic lights including outside lights and upper deck fluorescent light	
29	Test UHF CB radio and portable radios	
30	Test Horn (daylight hours only please)	
31	Check MP3 player/radio	
32	Test depth sounder then turn off until required	
33	Test by steering indicator by turning helm. Recentre after testing	
34	Change power board to inverter operation	
35	Turn on inverter, check radios charging, turn off inverter	
36	Change power board to generator operation/no inverter	
37	Start generator and check for power then stop generator	
38	Restore to mains power	
39	Check stove and gas heater will light	
40	Turn on BBQ gas, check it will light, turn off gas at stop cock under BBQ	
41	Check air conditioner operation (turn on water under kitchen sink while in use)	
42	Empty all bins. Replace bin liners, if required	
43	Secure dinghy and kayak to rails using supplied ropes	
44	Check lifebuoy and life jackets (gas-inflate, SOLAS, DFD and kayak types)	
45	Check the tyres on the trollies. Pump up. Repair/replace tyres, if necessary	
46	Remove mains power when ready to depart & set switchboard to generator	
47	Change refrigerator to gas and light pilot flame	
48	Put flags on the flag holders on the side of the rear deck canopy	
49	Ensure outboards lowered to 4°~5°. Start outboards and check water tell-tales	
50	Check for clear water behind boat & sound the horn for departure	
51	Visit Waste Disposal Station (WDS) to pump-out black water (if necessary)	
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24 Post-Voyage Check List

Item	Activity	Checked
	After Mooring	
1	Remove flags from flag holders on either side of rear deck roof	
2	Centre the outboards using the steering guide	
3	Lift the outboards clear of the water	
4	Turn off the two-way radio, steering guide, depth sounder, GPS	
5	If needed, connect extension lead to shore power box. Use key to turn power on	
6	Change power switch board for marina use	
7	Change refrigerator to mains power	
8	Turn off BBQ gas tap	
9	Turn off gas bottles (if not needed for cooking and hot water)	
10	Fill generator fuel tank (if necessary)	
11	Fill fuel tank (if any fuel in petrol containers)	
12	Fill freshwater containers in kitchen and bathroom	
13	Fill main freshwater tank (if fresh water available)	
14	Create list of supplies (food, cleaning products, oil, fuel, gas) to be replenished	
15	Check outboard and generator hours and arrange service if necessary	
16	Store dinghy outboard in sunroom	
17	Check Black Water Record Sheet has been updated to reflect voyage	
18	Empty garbage bins in kitchen, bathroom, and outside toilet	
19	Clean toilets	
20	Sweep floors and vacuum carpets	
21	Swab decks, if necessary	
22	Remove bed linen and wash (if needed)	
23	Ensure chairs secured on top deck	
24	Empty refrigerator contents into Esky with freezer bricks	
25	Turn off the 12V fridge / freezer. Unplug power cord from wall socket	
26	Clean refrigerators	
27	Leave refrigerators doors propped open with door catch	
28	Purge the water from the rooftop air-conditioner (see air-con handbook for details)	
29	Close windows and ensure they are latched	
30	Turn off main DC breaker and Inverter	
31	Release water pressure by turning on hot and cold taps until water flow ceases	
32	Turn off mains power, remove key and store extension lead	
33	Secure kayak and dinghy	
34	Draw all curtains and close all blinds	
35	Lock doors (Bedrooms/Sunroom/External Toilet/Rear Door/Front Door)	
36	Check mooring lines before departing	
37	Take garbage to local refuse bins	
38	Take home recyclables and deposit cans/bottle for disposal	
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