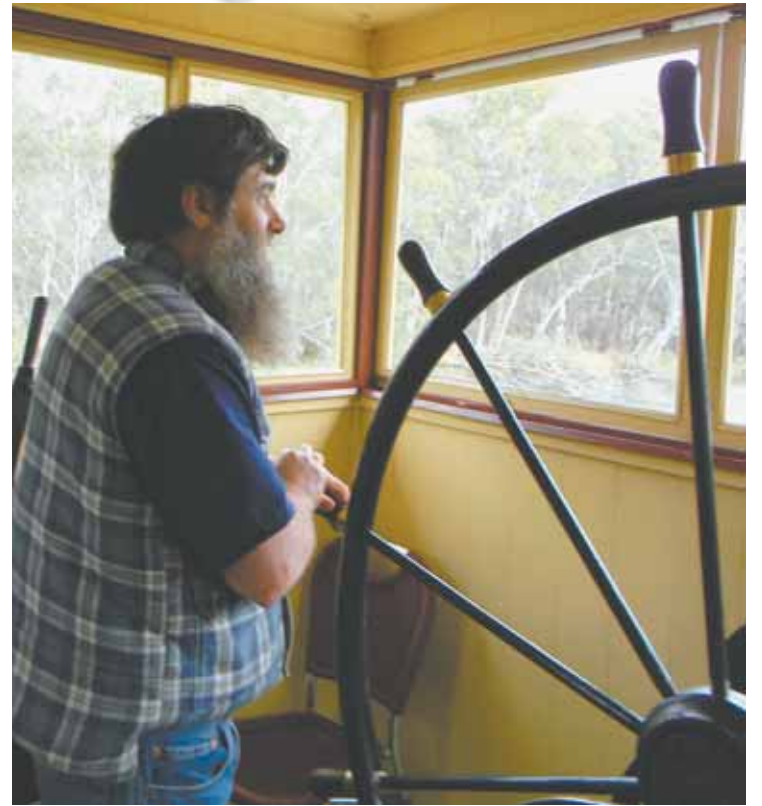




PS *Emmylou* on the River Murray near Echuca, Victoria



Honorary PS *Emmylou* captain, Gary Olsson

*Full steam ahead for the pearler
of a diamond jubilee year at*



GN OLSSON MASTERCRAFTSMEN (EST. 1983)



With over 45 years association with steam engines, initiated by ride on model steam trains in his family's backyards, this honorary engineer enjoyed stoking the largest engine ever – a fully restored, British Marshall, Sons and Co 1906 model

In our want-it-now modern society, the 30th jubilee is the diamond jubilee. Traditionally, the 30th anniversary was known as the pearl anniversary. For sheer brilliance the year 2013 certainly is a pearler for GN Olsson Mastercraftsmen.

This year of landmark business achievement included a tribute to Australia's colonial past. The renowned and traditional restoration, conservation and reproduction commissions for local and national clientele are still a feature of GN Olsson Mastercraftsmen's services. Remarkably, this is all done in the contemporary context of our information technology world.



Portable steam engine driven threshing machines were regularly seen working on farms and travelling along rural roads in by the late 1800s. Grain is separated from the stalks and husks with some machines able to separate out various sized grains. Grain was bagged whilst hay was cut into fine chaff or stacked, and with later technology, baled



The recently restored Ruston Hornsby of Lincoln, England, Bucyrus No. 4 Face Shovel tops the scales. Originally imported in 1923 to work the Fyansford (Geelong) quarry, it remained in operation there until 1958



Steam driven timber mill demonstrations occurred over the weekend at Lake Goldsmith steam rally

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The *PS Emmylou* is one of the very few paddle steamboats which remains genuinely steam driven

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MURRAY RIVER RAMBLING & LAKE GOLDSMITH STEAMING

Gary and Cathy Olsson enjoyed a memorable sabbatical including a paddle steamboat cruise aboard the *Emmylou* for three nights on the Murray River from the historic, river port town of Echuca in Victoria. The *PS Emmylou* is one of the very few paddle steamboats which remains genuinely steam driven. The rhythmic charm of her chug, chug, chug, and splash, splash, splash on her leisurely jaunt along the ever-winding Murray River lined with River Red Gums was joyous to behold.

A highlight was a guided tour by a past employee of the original Torrumbarry Weir. This weir, originally built in 1923, consisted of a series of steel trestles that were guided along a concrete slab extending the full width of the river. A steam-powered winch, still there today, powered the cable drive which placed and removed the trestles. The height of the weir pool was adjusted by a well orchestrated team who manually added or removing horizontal wooden drop boards on the upstream side of the trestle frame. They also used to operate large chainsaws whilst standing thigh high in rushing water to remove flood debris.

The next stop on the sabbatical was to the largest steam rally in the southern hemisphere. Held at Lake Goldsmith, about two hours west north west from Melbourne, the successful mission was to exhibit and to research steam and other engines. Hard to locate collegiate expertise and restoration publications became temporarily abundant. It was an excellent adjunct, delving into restoration and engineering practicalities for steam engines, traction engines, stationary engines, even windmills and associated early Australian.



Ploughing engines were bought and worked in pairs. Parked either end of a field the steam driven winch pulled the plough to and fro between them along the rows. Individual engines, let alone pairs, are quite rare to see these days





Werribee Mansion laundry was one of the largest in the colony during its heyday and included living quarters for the head laundress. It now boasts an audio visual presentation detailing the Victorian era use of laundry items and consumables

EXPLORING WERRIBEE MANSION

Finally, to delve deeper into early colonial and rural Australia, we travelled to Werribee, half an hour west from Melbourne. A guided tour with the curator of the Werribee Mansion and a self guided tour about the adjacent farm

proved highly rewarding. This would be one of the best conserved and restored built and natural, Victorian era environments in Australia. There are highly formal gardens in the grounds of the mansion and the adjacent, internationally acclaimed, Tudor style Victoria State Rose Garden. Informal gardens of both



Single men's quarters kitchen at Werribee Farm

ornamental and food plants are in the farm section, with all being appropriate to the Victorian era and name tagged.

Completed in 1877, Werribee Mansion, a Victorian statement of Italianate architecture, was built by wealthy pastoralists Thomas and Andrew Chirnside. The Mansion boasts 60 rooms in several wings. Many of the Chirnside family's items, including clothing, furniture and other household items, remain on display, demonstrating authentic restoration and conservation of antique interiors and furniture, plus a keen eye for detail.

Werribee Farm is in impressively good order boasting many outbuildings including the manager's house, stables, single men's quarters, the store, carriage shed – later becoming the machinery shed, blacksmith's shop, carpenter's shop and more.

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Werribee Mansion, a Victorian statement of Italianate architecture, was built by wealthy pastoralists Thomas and Andrew Chirnside

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Werribee Mansion Drawing Room



Inside the stables at Werribee Farm



Historic Beechworth in autumnal display had lots of early Australian streetscape and architecture. It also boasts a fine museum and many heritage buildings. The centre lower photo depicts conduct of Morse code by telegraph volunteers in the telecommunications museum

REVISITING BEECHWORTH

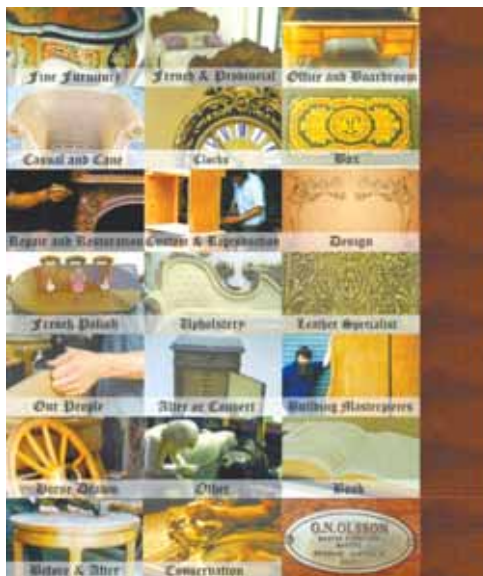
Beechworth, an historic Victorian town, 45 minutes from Albury Wodonga, was visited by Cathy in the early 1990s. It was revisited by both Gary and Cathy with a key focus on early architecture, furniture and Australiana themed collectables.

EASY TO NAVIGATE WEBSITE

The new experience and knowledge gained from this memorable year will benefit clients with antique interiors, furniture, clocks, Australiana and engine restoration commissions. The impressive and informative website, www.gnolsson.com, offers an excellent reference to the services and products available at GN Olsson Mastercraftsmen.

Additionally, the user friendly menu system with photo buttons makes for easy navigation around the site, whether using a desktop computer, iPad or smart phone. For example, click on 'Other' to view an amazing array of miscellaneous items including Australiana and engines.

For more information or advice contact
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393 Narangba Rd, Kurwongbah
Brisbane QLD 4503 Australia
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