

## S.T Yelta



The steel Steam Tug *Yelta* was built in 1949 by Cockatoo Docks and Engineering Co., Sydney. She was owned by Ritch and Smith of Port Adelaide and was originally coal fired but was converted to oil in 1957. After twenty-seven years service guiding vessels in and out of Port Adelaide, *Yelta* was finally laid up in November 1976. In the following year she was sold to the Port Adelaide branch of the National Trust of South Australia.

In May 1985 *Yelta* was purchased by the South Australian Maritime Museum and after a programme of restoration and re-fitting by an army of enthusiastic volunteers, South Australia's last commercial steam tug began a new life as one of the museum's floating exhibits.

*Yelta* is of riveted steel construction throughout, except for the plate butts, which are welded. There is also extensive use of cement render throughout the vessel. She has accommodation space for a fireman, a greaser and two deck hands, often used by crewmembers when laying over between shifts. *Yelta* is also equipped with a galley, an engineer and captain's cabin and a saloon. The structure on the top of the wheelhouse is the "monkey's island", where a compass was placed free from magnetic interference from the ship.

The engine is a triple expansion steam engine that delivers 970 indicated horsepower and the boiler takes eighteen hours to reach operating pressure. The tug's towing hook can move up and down and turn freely to allow towing from all angles and directions.

Dimensions – Length 103'3" x Breadth 26'8" x Draught 13'

Tonnage – 223

Power – 165 h.p. Steam engine

### **Source**

South Australian Maritime Museum.

Parsons, Ronald. *Steam Tugs In South Australia*. (Magill: 1983)