

## Curator's Report to RIG Committee July 19th 2021

### Additions to the Collection.

Record no. 28 consisting of 3 photos of the Annual Regatta at the River.

This is an example of an "object" in the "Collection" which is a photograph of an event of maritime significance, not a physical object donated to and held by RIG. (RIG's acquisition record records several categories of object.) Donors are Dorothy Linnett and David Hales and you can find the record at <https://ehive.com/collections/200519/objects/1382239/regattas-at-american-river-from-1922-to-the-1970s>

### Research: Karatta.

There is a lot of information from many sources about SS *Karatta*, even a photo of *Karatta* at anchor out in our harbor, where it had to anchor due to insufficient depth.

Thanks Irene Halley for two pages of photos and info from W. John Thomson's *Photographic Album of South Australian Passenger Vessels*.

I've had to omit a lot and the essence is still too long, at 160 words, to fit on a plaque.

Please send me your even more succinct précis. It has to give the context (*Karatta*), and then tell a brief story about the lifeboat, which is the focus. Tell me if I'm correct in using the pronoun 'her' for her.

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Built in Scotland in 1907, the steamship *Karatta* was the lifeline to the mainland for residents and visitors, central to the development of the island's economy.

The ship traded extensively between Kangaroo Island and Port Adelaide in South Australia from 1908 until 1961, carrying both freight and passengers. She also offered excursion trips from Glenelg Jetty for thousands of visitors to the island.

*Karatta* made her first call to American River on 6th December 1907 where she anchored out in the bay.

Though feared lost in a severe gale in 1946 *Karatta* weathered all storms. Under the command of Capt'n R. Pearson for 54 years, after a last visit to American River in September 1942 *Karatta* was retired from the Kangaroo Island run in 1961.

**This lifeboat** was built around 1907. It was never used in the 1946 – or any - emergency, but was used to carry freight to and from *Karatta*, and to ferry passengers when the weather was too rough to tie up.

Donors ... & ...

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### NMM Funding submission 2021 for a new display cabinet

Results of RIG's bid are due July 31<sup>st</sup>. Result in next month's report.

### Have you looked at the RIG Collection, online?

In the event of a fire this online collection will survive, to interest the curious, to reward the donors, and to remind us of American River's maritime heritage. Of course it is in its infancy. It needs this community, you, to build it.

You can see it at this link: <https://ehive.com/collections/200519/the-rebuild-independence-group-rig-collection>

You will not need to log in. Comments, complaints, notices of error truly welcome. Dorothy Linnett is marvelous at doing just that, and I so appreciate her corrections, in long and delightful phone conversations.

Thanks, Anne A'Herran Curator, RIG collection