



All aboard: South Australian Governor Kevin Scarce shows why he has the added title of Rear Admiral as he takes the wheel of the PS Marion during the journey from Bowhill to Mannum.

Marion hits full steam ahead

IT was all systems go on Saturday as the PS Marion arrived in Mannum following the re-creation of its historic trip down the River Murray.

Fifty years ago the Marion limped into Mannum after taking what was supposed to be its final journey down river from Berri on June 15, 1963.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said about

500 people travelled to Mary Ann Reserve to welcome the PS Marion into shore on the weekend.

"It was fantastic to see the dream come together for the many volunteers involved," he said.

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Marion retraces journey

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Mayor Burgess said there were 10 boats following the Marion as she made her way down river from Bowhill on Saturday but the number grew along the way.

“We started out with 10 boats falling in behind us and by the time we arrived a flotilla of 40 were behind us.

“It was great as we never put out the call for the boats, they just

joined in the spirit of the day.” The plan to leave the PS Marion in Mannum as a stationary museum after she was retired was replaced in the 1990s with the dream to restore her to her former glory and put the last wood fire burner steamer back in the water.

Mayor Burgess said refusal by the people of Mannum to allow the PS Marion to remain a static museum was a testimony to the spirit of the town.



Mid Murray Councillor David Peake and Mayoress of Loxton and Waikerie Lynette Stasinowski.



PS Marion original board member Trevor Muirhead sits with Liz Scarce aboard the PS Marion.



Kaye Hall joins Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess and Lyn Burgess for a trip from Bowhill to Mannum aboard the PS Marion.



Tiffany Venning, of Adelaide, catches up with Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.



Dean Grosse and SA Tourist Commissioner John Evans enjoy the ride.



State Opposition Tourism Spokesman David Ridgeway chats with His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR Governor of South Australia Kevin Scarce and Pat Muirhead.



Mid Murray council chief executive officer Russell and Merrin Peate aboard the PS Marion.



Trevor Miller, of Mannum, captured this photo of the PS Marion being welcomed back into Mannum after a trip upstream to celebrate her 50 years located in the town.