



Nellie again kisses the salt water after 18 months! - Sunday Jan 30, 2011

Sunday arvo 30th Jan 2011 was very hot but this did not deter Russ Watson from relaunching his famous "Nellie".

Sadly, the lovely Couta Boat had been overwhelmed in rough conditions and went to the bottom of Port Phillip Bay near the Wedge Pile some 18 months ago when under the command of "Rooster" the famous professional sailor and son of David Cross!



The many hours of hard work since, is very evident in the splendour which we now see in the refurbished Nellie.

Russ thanks the efforts of all sailors who kicked in and supported him during the difficult times when insurance, time, weather and other problems caused so many headaches for him.

Special thanks go also to the Les Disting and the Queenscliff Maritime Museum for extensive assistance, including providing storage and many other small and large elements towards the restoration project.

As can be seen from the photographs, Russ is overjoyed that the challenge is finally over with the wetting of Nellie's hull as she slipped quietly into Swan Bay from the museum trailer.

A traditional drop of champagne anointed her to ensure the occasion was celebrated in style in the presence of a few supporting sailors. Russ is now looking forward to Nellie's re-rigging to complete the project so that he can re-joining the fleet off Queenscliff to finish off the QLYC racing season.

