

THE SHIPPING NEWS

The Macleod is the latest addition to the RAMPARTS 3000 series of ASD tug designs by Robert Allan Ltd., delivered to its owner; Rio Tinto – Dampier Salt Ltd. in the summer of 2012. Constructed at Uzmar Shipbuilding in Izmit, Turkey, the Macleod will operate at the Cape Cuvier bulk terminal in Western Australia.

The tug's home port is in a shallow harbour connected to the ocean via a shallow channel, requiring a maximum operating draft of 4 metres. This low draft would normally have a negative impact on the seakeeping performance, with resulting high accelerations. Robert Allan Ltd. proposed a solution which was to develop a quick-acting ballast system that enables the tug to reach the dock at the 4m draft and then ballast to a deeper operating draft of 5m, thus enabling the full performance capabilities and much better seakeeping characteristics for the tug when operating in the open ocean.



The vessel has been outfitted to the highest standards for a normal operating crew of four. Master's and Chief Engineer's cabins are located on the main deck, with two additional private crew cabins located on the lower accommodation deck. An additional two temporary crew can be accommodated in a double cabin, and four riggers can be carried on transit voyages. Also included are an exercise room and an office, also housed in the lower accommodations.

The deck machinery comprises a ship assist hawser winch on the bow, and two large mooring line reels on the aft deck, each with a capacity of 1325 m of 76mm line. In addition, a tow pin/shark jaw set, capstan, three gob-eyes, and a tugger winch are installed on the aft deck to facilitate line handling operations. Fittings are also provided on the aft deck to accommodate a 20 ft diving / stores container.

The wheelhouse is designed for maximum all-round visibility with forward and aft control stations providing maximum visibility to both fore and aft deck working areas.

Main propulsion for each tug comprises a pair of CAT 3516C diesel engines, each rated 1920 kW at 1600 rpm, and each driving a Rolls- Royce, US 205 fixed pitch Z-drive unit, in ASD configuration.

The electrical plant comprises three identical diesel gen-sets, each with a power output of 86 ekW.

In an attempt to find out why the great mining company, Rio Tinto commissioned their newest tug boat:- "MacLeod"; it seems that the boat was named for their Lake MacLeod Gypsum and salt deposits. There is something appropriate about naming the craft "MacLeod", and so, "Hold fast" would be a good motto for a Tug.

Lake MacLeod WA is undescribed in historic origins. It is 60km north of the mouth of the Gascoyne River, Carnarvon, Western Australia.

That river was discovered in 1839 by the explorer **Lieutenant George Grey** who named it after a friend, Captain John Gascoyne RN son of a Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty.

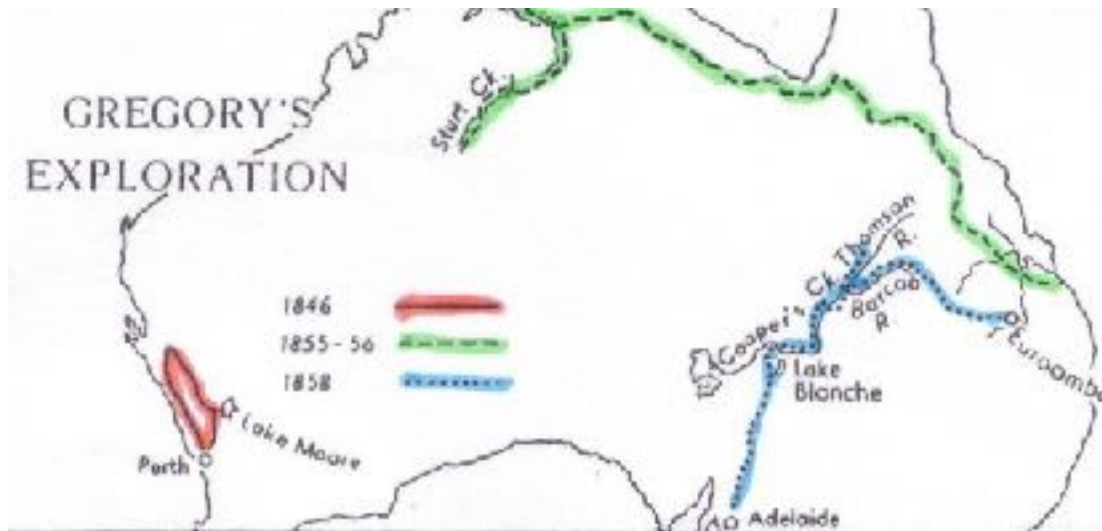
Lt. George Grey also knew South Australia's Governor, **Lt. James Gawler** through the Military, and travel. Gawler (2nd SA colonial Governor) had also been a close friend of pioneer **James MacLeod** who settled in McLaren Vale.

Grey succeeded Gawler as Governor of SA. It is a thin connection, but possibly the Raasay MacLeods of Tasmania have a lake in WA to compliment their wee hill here near Adelaide.

Lake MacLeod is a vast salt lake and produces huge amounts of gypsum and salts.

It is also possible that this could have been named by another pioneer, **Augustus Charles Gregory**, with Henry C. Gregory and Francis Thomas Gregory who completed 3 expeditions to the West's north and interior from 1846 to 1854

This was the famous family of exploring Gregory brothers who later went on to Qld, exploring inland to the Tanami desert, and to NSW in search of Leichhardt. They charted the northern rivers, and the inland flowing Barcoo, Cooper, rivers of Qld. and our Strzlecki Ck.



These were large ventures, for example the Qld. one comprising 19 men 50 horses and 200 sheep. However, for all their history and achievement, I have not unearthed here an associate MacLeod worthy of naming a salt lake.

POST SCRIPT 2017

Notice from WA clan MacLeod Soc. that there are many MacLeods over there and not the least significant is the Macleod of Talisker, the family who as Pastoralists have been in the region for generations.

Donald Norman McLeod took up the pastoral lease of Minilya Station in the Gascoyne region , 1899. He was succeeded by second son Guy McLeod. The Station developed to 2,100 sq.km , or 700, 000 acres. under 33,00 sheep. In 2010 it was acquired by Rick Stowe's cattle business and runs cattle for the asian market. It was sold to WA magnate Andrew Forest for \$10m in 2015.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minilya_Station

I am corrected and educated, thank you, and I had a great exploration. -Alex