

SHAVINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOODEN BOAT ASSOCIATION INC. VICTORIA
Reg. Inc. No. A0022538U Website: www.woodenboat.org.au
Volume 17 Number 4 November 2006

From the President

I have noticed two items of interest re wooden boats this month, and I wonder if any others have noticed?

Firstly in the *Herald Sun*, 21st October, an extensive article about traditional wooden boats especially Couta boats, featuring the Wooden Boatshop in Sorrento. This article was written by Steve Burnham the former editor of *Watercraft*, so I guess we can call him our own.

Also there is currently a TV advert about apprenticeships and other skills based programs, and one of the activities shown is caulking a laid deck of a wooden boat.

I have had two emails from people looking to work in the wooden boat building industry, so maybe there is a renewed interest.

Last meeting Rob Ripley gave us a great talk about the trip to Russia and other places he and Pat have recently returned from. The waterways of Russia are huge and used extensively by all manner of craft both large and small. Thank you Rob for giving this presentation.

David Stott
President

WBA (Vic.) Calendar July 2006 – July 2007

Date	Event	Venue
22 nd Nov	Club Night (7pm start)	Wooden Boat Centre, Victoria Harbour
26 th Nov	Sailing day	Altona Yacht Club
10 th Dec	Sailing day and Christmas lunch	APYC
28 th Jan	Sailing Day	APYC
21 st Feb	Club Night	APYC
25 th Feb	Sailing Day	Rye
21 st Mar	Club Night	APYC
25 th Mar	Sailing Day	APYC
18 th Apr	Club Night	Night river trip aboard <i>Firefly</i>
22 nd Apr	Sailing Day	Cowes
23 rd May	Club Night	APYC
27 th May	Sailing Day	River trip?
20 th Jun	Club Night	APYC
24 th Jun	Sailing Day	APYC
18 th Jul	Club Night	APYC
22 nd Jul	Sailing Day and Annual General Meeting	APYC

Wednesday Club nights (from 7:30 pm) and Sailing Days (from 10:00 am) are held at Albert Park Yacht Club unless otherwise specified.

Committee meets first Wednesday of the month

The First Annual Great Southern Sail.

Plans are well under way for the group sail from Geelong to Melbourne, with overnight stops in Portarlington and Werribee River. This event is open to all club members and their boats, and will take place on 17th 18th and 19th of March 2007.

If you are still making your mind up about participating, or if you would like to crew on one of the participating boats, talk to Geoff Divko.

Mobile: 0416 365 127 Email: geoffdivko@safe-mail.net

Member Profile: Alan Chinn

I first met Alan Chinn online, in a web forum for builders of Selway Fisher boats. The advice Alan gave, to me and to other members of the forum, inspired me to purchase the plans for our Coble, and to join the Wooden Boat Association.

Alan describes himself as a "shed dweller". He says that this trait first exhibited itself during WWII, when his family was bombed out during the blitz. They moved to a house that had a large garage, where the young Alan began spending most of his free time, fascinated by the equipment, bits of wood, and the possibilities that they suggested. It was not long before most of the boys in his street were equipped with wooden rifles, and Alan's love of woodworking was firmly entrenched. When combined with constant reading of books by Arthur Ransome, it is easy to see how Alan progressed to building wooden boats.



Alan had started his working life as an engineer and toolmaker, later taking on management positions within engineering businesses. Having refurbished a Mirror dinghy in 1982, the first boat Alan built from scratch was a clinker rowing and

sailing boat, completed as Alan's project during a hobby boatbuilding course at Footscray Tech. The plan for this boat was found on "page 422 of Chapelle's *Wooden Boat Building*".

For a while he and Bruce McConkey ran boat building classes in the hull of *Polly Woodside*, and later he ran classes at the Wooden Boat Centre on Station Pier. Later still Alan started Ibis boatworks, where he currently runs classes and provides workspace for novice and seasoned boat builders. Sadly, Alan tells me that he is planning on leaving his current factory at the end of the year. While he will be cutting back on classes, he will still be offering assistance, plans and supplies – if he can work out how to fit everything into the space available at home...

Over the years Alan has built boats by a number of designers, primarily Sam Devlin, Paul Fisher, and Ian Oughtred. Some of the designs have been built as specified, but others have been modified to suit the needs of the builder concerned. Often the modifications have been incorporated into subsequent plans by the designer.

Alan has been involved in the WBA from the very beginning, and has been a very active member, serving as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and even as T-Shirt printer. We don't see Alan at many WBA events now – he claims that his family has conspired to have birthdays and other family events on days that would be otherwise reserved for the WBA.

Alan is no longer on the WBA committee, but he is still the postman, collecting the mail from our post office box... Thanks Alan!

From the Editor

Following on from David's comments about wooden boats in the news, Andrew Cohen reports that his local *Leader* newspaper recently published a piece on the WBA trip to Patterson Lakes.

I noticed that the September edition of *iteach*, the newsletter of the Victorian Institute of Teaching, featured a photo of year 9 students from Lara Secondary College with a Heron sailing dinghy that they are building with the help of their local Rotary club. Wooden boats do certainly seem to be in the news!

Our library catalogue is now available via a link in the Victorian section of the national WBA website. Please let me know of any ideas for improvements to it.

Please send items for *Shavings* to Peter Batchelor
Phone: 9012 3381
Mobile: 0425 733 532
Email: peter@batchelors.net

Articles for *Watercraft* should be sent to Jenny Stott.
Phone: 9435 6623
Email: djstott@alphalink.com.au

Coming events

Club Night. November 22nd

The November club night will take place at the Wooden Boat Centre, Victoria Harbour. Members will be able to inspect the workshop and then listen to a talk on the history of the WBA. This evening will start at 7pm, slightly earlier than our usual time, with a BBQ. There is plenty of parking available. Shed 2, North Wharf Road. Melways Map 2E, B6.

Sailing day. November 26th

Altona Yacht Club is the venue for our next sailing day. Located in the W.G. Cresser Reserve, the Melways reference is Map 55, A10.

Sailing day and Christmas lunch December 10th

This is always one of the most popular events on our calendar. WBA provides the meat and the cooks, but we ask that members bring a contribution to the lunch in the way of salads, or deserts, etc. Members are welcome to bring soft drinks of their choice but because of licensing regulations, alcoholic drinks consumed on the premises must be purchased from the bar.

Non WBA events

2007

3 February	Chelsea Yacht Club classic boat race and static display
9-12 February	Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Hobart
10-12 March	South Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Goolwa
Sunday 11 March	Geelong Wooden Boat festival
7-8 April	Heritage Afloat, Lake Macquarie, NSW
Sunday April 1	Warneet Classic Boat Festival
5-8 July 2007	Junction Rally- Wentworth. Incorporating a river run with the Paddle Steamers <i>Ruby</i> and <i>Cannally</i> .

If you are looking for a unique way to get to the Australian Wooden Boat Festival, SA Tall Ships Inc are planning to sail their brigantine *One & All* to Hobart, departing Port Adelaide on 29th January and arriving in Hobart on 9th February. Cost of this voyage is \$2,500 inclusive of meals, beverages and accommodation. The return voyage departs Hobart on 14th February and arrives in Port Adelaide on 24th February. This trip costs \$2,100. The return voyage costs \$4,000 and round trippers may stay on the vessel while in Hobart. For more information, phone 08 8341 2004 or visit the SA Tall Ships website: www.satallships.com.au.

Welcome to our new members: Peter Cox and Dave Caines

W.B.A. (Vic.) Committee 2006-2007

President	David Stott	9435 6623 - H
Vice President	Tim Gay	9327 8095 - H
Secretary	Rob Ripley	5941 6834 - H
Treasurer	Richard Jackson	9479 2980 - W
Shavings Editor	Peter Batchelor	9012 3381 - H
Librarian	Andrew Cohen	9773 8624 - H
Merchandise	Geoff Walters	9744 2332 - H
Models Co-ordinator	Frank Raisin	9754 4217 - H
Boat Manager	Graham Signorini	9391 5621 - H
Committee members	Geoff Divko	
	Hilton Vermaas	9574 7309 - H
	Steve Clutterbuck	9327 7715 - H



At a recent club night David Stott asked members for suggestions of topics for future club nights. If you have ideas for demonstrations, workshops, guest speakers, etc, please speak to any of the committee members, and we will try to arrange it.

Sailing Days – Sunday 22nd October and Sunday 5th November

In marked contrast to our day at Patterson Lakes, the sailing day at Albert Park Lake was glorious! A light South Westerly wind made sailing easy. Members arrived in stages over the course of the day, to take advantage of the perfect conditions. The water in the lake seems very clean at present, but we already need to keep an eye on how far down we set our centreboards – the effects of the drought are once again being felt by the lake.

Tim Gay made a welcome appearance, recovering from an operation on his back, and Rob Ripley and an extended family made the most of the day. I came with *Rosamund*, our Northumbrian Coble, and enjoyed a pleasant sail to the far end of the lake, and then my daughter Amelia and a friend insisted on rowing me across the lake – not much progress, but lots of fun!

Werribee South was also a very pleasant day. There was a fresh onshore wind, but it was nowhere near as strong as last year, when even the coffee cups had whitecaps, according to one WBA member.

We made an early start, and arrived around 9.30. Tony and Linda Remington arrived with their Heron not long after, followed by David and Jenny with *Penguin*, and Jim and Penny arrived with *Talisman*. Geoff Isle arrived with a small dinghy and electric outboard, used to get out to his lifeboat, which proudly flew a WBA burgee.

I wanted to try out a new propeller on *Kirsty Ann's* electric outboard, which was supposed to improve performance and battery life, so we headed up the river with Tony and Linda. They, and the sound of their Seagull outboard, soon left us astern, and the only sounds were a low hum from our motor, the splash of the water against the hull, and the birds in and above the river. At one time we counted three eagles in the air – the hunting must be good for them there!

David and Jenny also rapidly overtook us in *Penguin*, and we saw only an occasional fishing boat, until we happened upon David and Jenny with Tony and Linda in tow, heading back down the river. The intake of the Seagull had become blocked by some of the weed growing on the river bottom and they had not been able to clear it.

We continued upstream, past spectacular cliffs, lined with exposed tree roots and swallows' nests, until we thought it prudent

to conserve battery charge and head back downstream. It was just as well that we did – we had a strong headwind all the way downriver, and by the time we could see the launching ramps our speed was reduced to a crawl. We finished up sailing the last few hundred metres, and I resolved to never go out again without recharging the battery first. I'm not convinced of the efficiency of the new propeller – I think some more testing is in order.



When we arrived back at the launching ramp we were met by Geoff Divko, sporting a wound inflicted by a man-eating daschund, and there were many more WBA boats in the water, either heading out towards the mouth of the river, or sailing upriver. *Begonia*, in the company of a few other boats, could be seen sailing up the river, Lewis Goldman was sailing *Erika Vin* (see *Shavings*, November 2005) up an down in front of the piers, and Graham Signorini was sailing one of his models, while paddling in *Stringbark*. Other boats were tied up to the pier, but as we had to leave early I didn't get the chance to find out who they belonged to.

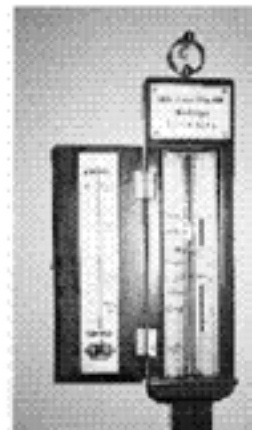
We had a great day, and look forward to returning next year – with a better charge in our battery!

Peter Batchelor

MERCURY BAROMETERS

Robert Earl-Smith,
23 Parer Street,
Mount Martha, 3934
Telephone 5974 4789,
rhearl@iprimus.com.au

Robert Earl-Smith designs, makes, and sells mercury barometers, including the mahogany cased ship's barometer illustrated. It is modelled on an 1830 London instrument and is fitted with a boxwood cistern and transport screw. Available with a top ring or gimbals.



WBA - East Gippsland New

2006-2007 East Gippsland Branch Committee - PO Box 272, Bairnsdale 3875

Helmsman:	Bernard O'Kelly	5152 6423
Coxswain (Vice-Helmsman)	Laurence Marshall	5156 3071
No.1 (Secretary)	John Nicholson	5156 7183
Purser (treasurer):	Maureen Marshall	5156 3071
Bosun (Equipment)	Colin Hunt	5156 6149
Signals (Publicity)	Jacqui Nicholson	5156 7183
Archivist: (Library)	Bill Jones	5157 5425
Events Coordinator: (new)	Maureen O'Kelly	5152 6423
Committee Member	Graham Holmes	5156 6813
Committee Member	Janis Jones	5156 6813

Waves crashing on the shore of Paynesville beach, bitter southerly winds strong enough to get a couple of boats (not WBA members) into trouble and need expert assistance, plus the threat of rain quickly convinced members that the comfort and shelter of our home at Eagle Point was the way to go on Sunday, 8th October. This was to be our first boating day for the 2006/7 season but was not a day to be out on the water. A notice pinned on the bbq shelter advised any late comers where to come.



This change in plans had the bonus of providing members the opportunity to view the excellent coverage of the building of the replica of the P.S. Curlip being undertaken in Orbost. The ABC Landline programme had visited Orbost the previous week to film the craft at its present stage and to talk to those dedicated, skilled men and women taking part, including member, Bill Jones, who is being employed as shipwright. (a fuller report about this project was in Shavings, September, 06).

Congratulations were extended to Lawrence and Maureen who had been married at a private ceremony at the end of September. Lawrence made his present position clear when he came in wearing a nose ring for which a length of chain was quickly found for Maureen to hold.

The serious matter of getting meat cooked on the bbq, then sitting down to eat was soon under way clearing the way for the matter dear to our hearts; talking about boats and boating.

Barry North was welcomed back after his 7 month journey up the east coast from Paynesville to Scarborough Marina, north of Brisbane. Barry had sailed his 11m wooden, carvel, Woolacott yacht "Peace Train", sometimes with crew, sometimes solo (he estimates 70% of his journey was sailing solo). Wife Jenny and WBAEG Vice-Helmsman Lawrence Marshall were among those who helped with crewing.



This trip covered 2,148 nautical miles. The stomatic pilot, "a big reliable motor" (a 65hp Ford Lees which runs at 3.06 litres per hour) and all the modern and not-so-modern aids for safe sailing make for a safe and enjoyable journey.

Barry feels he has now "seen" the NSW coast. Going north he called into Sydney Harbour where he spent 3 weeks, timing his arrival for the harbour city's Wooden Boat festival. He moved around the harbour as well as Middle Harbour. Having been to the

Hawkesbury River previously, he sailed past Lion Head into Brisbane Water with Gosford at the top of the bay. Tuncurry and Wallace Lakes were also enjoyed before moving north to Lake Macquarie where he spent 3 weeks, timing this visit for the Heritage Boat Festival.

One month in the Clarence River motoring right up to Grafton was a highlight. The clouds and reflections on the water were "magic" and he's encouraging other members to explore this area.



One week spent in Ballina saw Barry out whale-watching and then onto Brisbane where he spent a month tied up at a mooring alongside the Botanical Gardens. Here the wash from the ferries carrying commuters back from work in the early evening made conditions uncomfortable but Barry was very impressed with the facilities and closeness to the city providing quick access to transport and local sights. Moving onto Scarborough marina, a one month's stay gave him the opportunity to make a couple of excursions to Bribie Island. Time to start the return journey saw Barry return to a mooring in Brisbane for another two weeks waiting for the weather-window to sail home.

This occurred on 1st September with an express trip down the coast, only calling into a few ports, usually when the weather reports were predicting bad weather. One week was spent at Camden Haven for this reason where it was so wet that even the local Rugby Union team decided not to play. Barry appreciated this safe anchorage before setting out on the last leg of his latest adventure.

Barry is now planning his trip for the Wooden Boat Festival to be held in February, 2007. Other members intending to be in Hobart are Kaye Lynn and Margaret Coulton, Lawrence and Maureen Marshall, James Frecheville and John and Jacqui Nicholson.

Another member who is hard at work, but enjoying it, is Colin Hunt. Colin bought a kauri 26' Pompeii-style, 2 berth cruiser, named "Knotty", earlier in the year. This cruiser is currently out of the water, the interior gutted by Colin who is now fitting it out in the way he and his wife, Jan, want. Fellow WBA'er and local shipwright, James Frecheville, is assisting with his expert advice, Colin appreciates the new skills he is acquiring along the way and expects "Knotty" to be back in the water in the near future.

Helmsman, Bernard O'Kelly is having a lot of fun with the fit-out and motoring of "Nellie". At the moment he is busy making the laminated mast.

At a recent committee meeting it was decided that at the boating day on Sunday, 8th April, 2007 members are invited to display their wooden boat, on the hard or in the water. An independent judge will be appointed to choose "the best new or restored boat". The winner will be presented, on the day, with the "East Gippsland Wooden Boat Association Trophy". This should give the association an ideal opportunity to promote wooden boats and as it is in the Easter break there is the opportunity for boats from other areas, providing they are members, to enter. See list of Summer Programme for further details.

Members will recall that for the season 2005/6 the East Gippsland branch held a prose competition for the best story about a boating incident or adventure. This was won by Maureen O'Kelly. The previous year it was for the John Good Memorial Prize for verse, won by David Bamford. For the current year it has been decided to have a Photography competition. This is open to WBA members only. Photographs are to have a Nautical theme. Each photograph is to be of postcard size (150mm x 100m). Details **must be** written on the back (location, incident, boat name, entrants name). Each entrant can enter a maximum of 3 photographs. Entries will be judged by an independent judge. Entries must be received by me, Jacqui Nicholson, 191 Bay Road, Eagle Point, 3878 no later than Friday, 11th May, 2007. The winner or winners (if we receive lots of photographs it is possible they may be divided into categories, e.g. boats, scenery etc) will be announced at the AGM in June, 2007.

Jacqui Nicholson, Signals

WBA - East Gippsland Programme 2006/7

Sunday 12 November - Boating Day Lake Tyers

Meet at Lake Tyers Fisherman's launching ramp about 11am. Bring own food & drink.
[turn left off Lake Tyers Rd (in Lake Tyers) on to Gulley Rd and then Lakeside Drive to the end]

Sunday 10 December - Christmas Boating Day Eagle Point

Arrive at Eagle Point pavilion (near Eagle Point Caravan Park) from 11.00am for a day of fun & laughter and boating. Bring own food & drink. BBQ available for those who wish to use it.

Saturday 13 January - Boating Day Nicholson River

Meet at Nicholson Jetty at any time during the day. -BBQ or Nicholson Pub or??for lunch & tea
Boat on River and stay overnight. Possibly see model boat activities

Sunday 11 February - Boating Day Paynesville

Note the Hobart Wooden Boat Festival is on from 9 to 12 February and some members will be there

Arrive at Progress Jetty Paynesville from 11.00am. Bring own food & drink.

Sunday 11 March - Boating Day Paynesville

Note the Goolwa Wooden Boat Festival is on from 10 to 13 March and some members will be there

Arrive at Progress Jetty Paynesville from 11.00am. Bring own food & drink.

Easter 6 to 9 April

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 April - Boating Paynesville - Kings Rd Boat Ramp

Arrive at boat ramp from 11.00am. Bring own food & drink.

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 May - Proposed boating weekend at Mallacoota

This will include boating on the lake and hopefully some visits. Inspect the progress on the Curlip, in Orbost, on the way up.

The BOATYARD

Please notify *Shavings* Editor when items have been sold or withdrawn from sale.

For Sale: Jim Marvell. A Green Island

15. A superbly built example of the Green Island 15 cruising dinghy - epoxy/marine ply construction with an epoxy-sheathed hull. Equipped with a gunter rig, water ballast tanks and provision for an outboard, she is both a pleasing performer and capable in a seaway. Easy to rig and launch from a commercially built, registered trailer. Sail it confidently one-up or with the family. Included with the boat are anchor and line, oars, a set of lightly used tan sails (slab reefing). Asking \$5400. Inspections at Dromana by appointment. Phone Geoff on 0419 382 739

For Sale: Partially rebuilt 26' double

ender with a 4 cylinder Perkins diesel and gearbox. The hull is Queensland Kauri. Needs deck, floor and seats. Bill also has a **20ft wooden Oregon** mast for sale. Contact Bill Tackle on 0407 367 967

Twin cylinder Blaxland motor in top order \$1000. For more information, contact Kaye Lynn at Marlo on 5154 8228

Free to a good home - Gwen 12 Plywood Sailing Boat.

In need of restoration, mostly complete, missing some small fittings. The Sea Scouts may be able to supply missing parts from stocks collected over the years. The boat comes with sails. but does not have a trailer, one must be provided to pickup. If interested please call Glenn Frankish, 1st Victorian Sea Scouts, after hours on 0439 444 525



Membership Application or Renewal – The Wooden Boat Association, Victoria

Subscription for the year 2006-2007: **\$45.00**

Mail to: The Treasurer, WBA, PO Box 77, Glenhuntly, Vic. 3162
or PO Box 272, Bairnsdale, Vic. 3875

New Membership Renewal of Membership East Gippsland Member

Name:

Address: Postcode:

Email:

Phone: (H) (W) (Mob.)

Interests: (please circle) R/C, Model, Trailer, Rowing, Power, Sail, Canoe, Building.

“In order for you to use your boat at Association events, please complete the details on the current Boat Insurance you hold.”

Boat type Reg. No. Name

Insurance Co. Policy No. Expiry date

SHAVINGS

If undelivered please return to:
The Wooden Boat Association
PO Box 77, Glenhuntly, Vic. 3163



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