



Australian Wooden Boat Festival

6-9 February 2009 Hobart Tasmania



Story of the month: August 2008
By Roscoe Barnett

The 2009 Shipwrights' Village – presented by Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees

Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees are an Event Sponsor of the 2009 Australian Wooden Boat Festival, and are supporting the Shipwrights' Village as their signature event.

Established in 1887 (when the May Queen was only 20, and 9 years before Preanna was built), Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees are a major provider of financial products and trustee services. Their involvement with the Festival is terrific and we welcome them aboard most wholeheartedly.



Pssst.....want to know how to build a clinker dinghy?

Have you ever wanted to know how a 10 foot clinker dinghy is constructed, or a much larger timber vessel for that matter? Well, all will be revealed in the Shipwrights' Village at the coming Australian Wooden Boat Festival.



The ever popular Shipwrights Village is the educational end of the Australian Wooden Boat Festival where the public and boat owners can view some of the wonders of how a shipwright works.



In today's hectic world, with all manner of electronic devices we are slowly losing the art of constructing beautiful timber vessels, and there are a number of reasons why.

The time factor for one. Why wait eight to twelve months for a timber boat to be constructed when you can go out and buy a 'plastic fantastic' straight off the shelf? No offence to 'plastic fantastic' owners! And if you could wait to have it constructed then you would have to find a qualified shipwright to complete the task. Not to mention sourcing the materials to do the job. Fortunately Tasmania has some wonderful species for boat building and can be obtained with relative ease. Pictured below is one of the stunning examples on display at the 2007 Festival. 'Yoar' dreaming if you think perfection is achieved in 7 days.



In the Shipwrights' Village precinct there will be a number of shipwrights, shipwrights in training and craftsmen conducting the demonstrations. Students from the Wooden Boat Centre, in Franklin, (which runs the only formal boat building certificate course in Australia) will be constructing a Foster 10 dinghy under the leadership of the schools head tutor. This will include shaping timber, steam bending, roving and the manufacture of oars and spars for the dinghy.

Half model making

'Half models' were built in sections so as after the model was made it could be taken apart and the lines were then transferred to the lofting floor and then construction of the full size vessel began. The Village will have a 'Half model' maker in attendance producing models and answering questions from the public.

Name board carving

As well, there will be a craftsman hand carving 'Name Boards', you know, the beautifully carved names you see on the transom of some timber vessels. Along with others he will be making a 'Name Board' for the Foster 10.

Caulking

There will be caulking demonstrations. For those who are unfamiliar with this term, it is when the planks on a boat are butted together (carvel), as opposed to overlapped (clinker); caulking cotton has to be driven into the seams to prevent the water from getting in. This task is achieved by hammering in specially prepared cotton with 'caulking irons', again a craft that is slowly being lost as the demand has reduced somewhat.

Pit Sawing and Adzing

There will be 'Pit Sawing', unfortunately no pit but we will be able to demonstrate how logs were cut into planks before the event of power saws. Along with the Pit Sawing there will be



'Adzing' demonstrations, and if you don't know what that is, you had better come along and find out!

And more!

It is expected that we will also have some representatives from the International Guild of Knot Tiers, there will be a 'Figure Head' carver and the Blacksmith will be there to show us how it's done as well.

All of this will be exciting to say the least but most importantly, there will be question and answer sessions, so if there is a question that you have always wanted to ask, this will be the time to do it. See you there!



For more information about the Wooden Boat Centre: www.woodenboatcentre.com

Do you have a "Story of the Month"?

"Story of the Month" allows us to publish in-depth articles that are too big for our monthly newsletter. If you have an interesting story please contact Lois Ryan media@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

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The Australian Wooden Boat Festival is supported by the Tasmanian Government through Events Tasmania

