



Australian Wooden Boat Festival

6-9 February 2009 Hobart Tasmania



e-news: August 2008

Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees on board for 2009

It has been another busy month, but perhaps the most exciting news is that Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees are signed up as an Event Sponsor, 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. You can read more about the *Shipwrights' Village* in the August "Story of the Month" on our Hot News page:

<http://www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au/html/hotnews.html>



Update from the Festival Manager

Festival Manager, Rob McGuire reports that planning is on schedule for the 2009 Festival. Consultation with stakeholders in regard to the site and site boundaries has been completed with a similar site to 2007 being the outcome. The Festival program is coming together very well with many new and exciting displays and activities happening in 2009. Boat registrations are well ahead of expectations, so we encourage those of you who are planning to be a part of the 2009 Festival to register prior to the closing date (15th October) to secure your place.

Accommodation in Hobart in February 2009 will be at a premium, but we have special rates at a number of Hobart hotels, all of which are listed on our website. To view availability, cost, and to make a booking, please go to our website: <http://www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au/html/travel.html>

An increase in **on-water activities** is a real priority for 2009 and we will be contacting boat owners in the near future to advise of the various on-water activities and to see who wants to participate in these activities during the Festival. We have also started looking at the **social** side of the event, and will start planning functions and other social activities during the Festival for boat owners, exhibitors and sponsors. If you have any suggestions in this area please drop Rob an email:

manager@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

Registered boats

Another 40 boats have registered this month, bringing the total to 278. An alphabetical list of boats registered is now up on our website, and can be found top right on the Boat Registrations page:

<http://www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au/html/boatreg.html>

Who to look out for Ashore

Each month we show you some of the boats that are coming to the Festival. We are spoilt for interesting stories, so please forgive us if we don't choose yours. And remember, you can always send in your own story – either a paragraph for the newsletter or a couple of pages for our "Story of the Month". Photos are essential!

Featured this month are a boat named after a house on the Isle of Skye, a geodesic aerolite (are you *sure* that's a boat?), and a trio of wooden craft owned by an octogenarian.

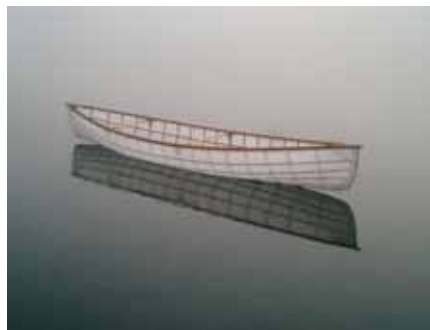
Scorrybreac - pronounced “scorry” (as in lorry), and “bray” – is a 14’3” general purpose dinghy, built by her owner Graeme Nichols. She’s a Paul Fisher (UK) design, and takes her name from the ancestral home of Clan Nicholson on the Isle of Skye. A monument now marks the site of the original home which gradually fell to ruin after the clan Chief was forced to abandon the property during the Highland Clearances and moved to Ross in Tasmania.

Although Graeme’s own family tree can be traced back to family arriving in Tasmania in 1836, the links beyond that cannot be established. But it’s a nice bit of romance to name a boat after the possibility. Speed bonnie boat...sadly the photos that Graeme sent in didn’t make it through the airwaves of the worldwideweb in time for publication, but we’ll include next month!

Smile3 - a traditional skin on frame canoe? Well, skin on frame it might be, but hardly traditional. This 12ft Geodesic Aerolite design by Platt Monfort is constructed with Tasmania’s beautiful Huon Pine, Kevlar and Dacron to be a real featherweight. We’ve never had one at the Festival before.



Owner/builder Peter Jones says that the “Smile” name came from his first attempt with this construction method – a 14’ canoe built with Western Red Cedar which weighed in at 7.5kg – and he couldn’t get the smile off his face. See Peter at the Festival and ask to hold Smile3 in your hands. Bet u : -) 2



Berandi, Ittleo and Pride

Eric Sargent has displayed canoes *Berandi* and *Ittleo* at previous festivals, but at 80 years of age he’s got a new Derwent Skiff, *Pride*, under construction to bring in February. In fact, the day we phoned him to find out a bit more, he couldn’t talk for long because he had to get back to his workbench. The Allan Witt design Derwent Skiff was a project from the 2007 Festival, so if you are thinking about building one, better have a word with Eric to get some hints from a dedicated expert!

Eric is pictured here paddling *Berandi* off Mersey Bluff.



Got a story about your kayak, dinghy or other vessel that will be displayed ashore? If so, please get in touch with media@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

Do you know this family?

This photo turned up recently in one of the Lost Property boxes from a previous Festival. The note attached to it says “found floating in the Derwent River”.

All we can decipher on the back, written in feint biro are two names – Patricia and Moira. We hope this is a lost piece of treasure and that somebody can claim the original black and white print. (Great turban, Patricia!)



Family fun – no strings attached!

On the subject of families, two things will please those of you with children and other nippers to keep busy during the Festival. Firstly, kids under 16 will get into the Festival free, so that means 4 days of no-cost entertainment. As well as all the boating action, we’ve got some special activities lined up just for kids. The model boat display, a model boat pond, and the I-Spy ‘tour quiz’ booklet are all part of the program.

The Terrapin Puppet Theatre will also present 6 performances of their show *Boats*, a story about Jof and Nic, two life-long friends and sailors. They meet through bizarre circumstances involving a chicken, a deserted island and a sombrero. It’s classic storytelling, where the magic created unfolds before your eyes. Jof and Nic enact the story using everyday objects that would be found on a boat’s galley.



The sound effects for the show are made live through two microphones, one of which goes in water. *Boats* has acrobatics, physical theatre, object manipulation, storytelling and of course the wonderful puppetry that has made Terrapin famous. The writer of *Boats* is well-known German, Finegan Kruckemeyer – surely there are hours of fun just working out the anagram for his name.

What you thought about the Festival in Brest

Feedback from the festival in Brest from those of you kind enough to send in comments was that the Tasmanian display, which included the Festival, was a great success. Hits to our website certainly rocketed and with a lot more information about our Festival now on-line, including a 4-minute DVD which you can download, we are getting to the world sooner than ever before!

The biggest surprise at Brest was not the number of boats on display but the lack of access to anywhere near them for anybody but boat owners. In summary, as well as providing some good ideas for the future, there were examples of where we “do it better”, and plenty of reasons to be very happy with our unique Australian event.

Community Boat Building

The response from the article in the Mercury this month proves that there is a great deal of interest in learning to build a wooden boat. A brand new event being introduced in 2009, the Community Boat Building invites small groups of friends, family, community groups or corporate teams to tell us why they want to build a wooden boat together. We will then choose 10 groups to participate in this exciting project. The event will involve training, then building and launching a quality boat during the festival under the watchful eye and guidance of professional boat builder, Mark Singleton.



Ian Johnston + Feather



Peace Canoe



Cathy Hawkins + Feather

All the materials are included in the cost of entry and will be prepared by the project coordinator, Ian Johnston. Teams can choose one of two small boat designs for the project – the Peace Canoe as featured in Wooden Boat Magazine or the 10ft Feather designed by John Smeeton from Low Head, Tasmania. For more information and an entry form please contact us by email at office@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

Festival faces

Ian Johnston and Cathy Hawkins were co-founders of the very first Australian Wooden Boat Festival back in 1994, and they are still involved in many aspects of the event. Cathy is our Boat Manager and when the boats are all docked she works tirelessly on the Quick 'n' Dirty. Ian coordinates the Quick 'n' Dirty, trains the school-children who enter, and has also now taken on the Community Boat Building project. They are both pictured above with the Community Boat Building photos.

We would love to hear from you!

To contribute stories please get in touch by email: media@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

Festival Office: Space 229 Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart, Tasmania 7000

Phone: (03) 6223 3375

www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

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

