



Story of the month: July 2008
From John Young, Living Boat Trust



Tawe Nunnugah 2009 – Invitation to register 28th January- 6th February 2009

The first Tawe Nunnugah expedition was organised by the Living Boat Trust Inc. and took place in February 2007, immediately prior to the Australian Wooden Boat Festival. It was an expedition from Recherche Bay to Hobart in a fleet of small open boats, and a replica of the only surviving Tasmanian whaleboat in the world, Swiftsure II, built by the Trust and launched in 2004. Unlike the popular “Raids” held in Europe, this Tasmanian open boat adventure added a cultural dimension by providing an opportunity each evening to discuss and learn, with the help of experts in various fields, about the history and culture of the region through which we sailed.



In 2009 the Trust plans to do it again. We plan to form a fleet of up to 15 small open boats, and rowing crews in our replica whaleboat to cruise in company under sail and oar from Recherche to Hobart over a nine day period. After spending a whole day exploring Recherche Bay, we'll take in the Southport Regatta, then cross to Mickey's Bay on Bruny Island, back to The Far South Wilderness camp near Dover, up to Franklin for a concert of local music in the restored Palais Theatre, then on to Randall's Bay, North Bruny Island and Hobart to join the great wooden boat fleet in Sullivan's Cove for the 2009 Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

This time the cultural experience will focus on the importance of “Place” in environmental thought. The theme will be introduced at Recherche by Tasmanian poet, scholar and activist, Dr Peter Hay, who teaches in this field at the University of Tasmania. At each stopping place in the journey, the theme will be developed by an outstanding team of Tasmanian writers, artists, scientists, musicians, local activists and historians who have found inspiration for their work in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, and its communities. It will be an experience like no other.

In 2007 each boat was self sufficient and in some ways independent. The response from a feedback questionnaire from the majority of participants in the 2007 expedition was in favour of a daily catered evening meal, so this time we have decided to provide a pre-paid 3-course communal evening meal each day, including vegetarian options, which will be an opportunity for weather briefings and pilotage instructions for the next day. Breakfasts and lunches will be your responsibility, unless we make a different collective decision after the membership of the expedition is finalised. We also aim to provide every boat with a hand held VHF marine radio, and a safety pack containing charts, a Living Boat Trust pennant for your identification, flares, and notes on navigation.

Fast rescue boats will be part of the fleet to deal with emergencies. We have engaged Karen Tie from the Pancake Cafe at the Margate Train, an expert cook, and Darren Clarke and his 60 foot mother ship Breaksea as in 2007. She can carry a lot of gear and food, thus making small boat cruising safe and simple, but still inexpensive.

Applications are invited to join the expedition either in small boats or the whaleboat for the whole distance, or for the first part, from Recherche to Dover, or the second part, from Dover to Hobart as the only choices. Or you can hire a 13'6" wooden sailing dinghy from Franklin to Hobart for \$50 per day. We have to keep our numbers down to 35 people and 15 small boats at any one time. To pay for all of the above, our insurance costs for the voyage, camping fees where necessary, and entry to the wooden boat festival for 4 days the fee will be a maximum of \$414 per head (\$46 per day) for the whole expedition.



For either the first or second part of the journey, that is, Recherche to Dover, or Dover to Hobart, the maximum cost will be \$207. We are offering these choices only, so that we know who we are responsible for at all times.

Events Tasmania has supported Tawe Nunnugah 2009 with a small development grant, and further funding is being sought by grant applications to help with the provision of VHF radios and rescue boats. If successful, fees may be reduced, but we won't know about that for a few months. We hope to be able to offer sponsored "Adventureships" for children.

Small boats must be capable of being rowed and sailed. They do not need to have engines. For the whole voyage or the first part, boats should be 5 metres or over in length, and all vessels must carry adequate buoyancy for them to be righted by their own crews in the event of a capsize.

There will be six places for members of the whaleboat crew at any one time. We expect that fewer than six will want to go the whole way, thus leaving places for others who want to do either the first or second parts of the expedition. To plan effectively and co-ordinate with the Wooden boat Festival we need to know the numbers as soon as possible. They will close when enough have been received and approved. A number of applications have already been received.

Application forms and further details can be obtained by contacting John Young.
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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

