



e-news: October 2008

## Is it nearly November already?!

Our focus this month has been on finalizing the site plan for everything we will be doing ashore in February. As regular readers will know, we have added more to the ashore program, and later in this newsletter you can read all about it. Many of our sponsorships have also been confirmed and we await news from two Federal Government departments in response to our submissions for funding with regard to an Indigenous Watercraft Project.

## I say, I say, I say. How do you fit 420 boats on the Hobart waterfront?

All we can say is that the hard yards are about to begin on working out the docking plan and the answer to this question will not be known until closer to the event. Suffice it to say that the Festival will once again have a spectacular display of vessels ashore and afloat, with over 500 vessels registered in total.

### ***Boats afloat – late registrations on to a waiting list***

With 420 boats registered for positions on the water, any late registrations received for boats afloat will now be held on a waiting list until such time that we are advised of any withdrawals.

### ***Boats ashore – late registrations still being accepted***

Although we are about to tip the 100 mark for boats ashore, there is still room for more boats on land. Late registration fees apply, but with a potential “Parade of Trail” through the streets of Hobart in the days before the Festival, we think there will be a lot of interest in the boats ashore from the general public in 2009.

A reminder for all registered boat owners regarding refunds, withdrawals, etc. is posted at the end of this newsletter.

## Historic racing skiffs

The latest news from Sydney is that four of the 18ft replica historic skiffs will be at the 2009 Festival. ***Mistake, Alruth, Britannia, and Yendys*** (which is Sydney backwards) will be docked on a floating pontoon in a similar position to where the lovely Dutch boats were in 2007. From here they will be racing twice a day, and a display ashore between Kings Pier and Constitution Dock will follow the story of 18ft skiff racing from its first season in 1892, through to its revival and the replicas built to participate in this “new” class of event. In the weeks leading up to the Festival **936 ABC Hobart** will be running a competition to get a ride in a skiff, so be ready to enter if you feel like getting your bum wet!

Pictured right is 18ft skiff, ***The Mistake***



### What's on shore

The Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania, the Living Boat Trust and the Woodcraft Guild of Tasmania will all have a display at the 2009 Festival. In addition to the Maritime Museum of Tasmania having a display, The Maritime Heritage Organisation of Tasmania will also be operating a stand. A variety of local woodworkers/boat builders including Ned Trewartha, Allan Witt (see page 4 for a special offer from Witt Design) and Andrew Denman will be demonstrating their craft, and we will also be welcoming the Victorian Woodworkers' Association. They will have a working display including 3 or 4 small boats.

We are very pleased to have also secured a terrific marine weather display from the **Bureau of Meteorology** which gives an in-depth view of weather patterns at sea and features some pretty hairy images of wild weather encountered by boats, ships and other vessels.



Expanding on their marine conservation display in 2007, the **Department of Primary Industries and Water** will be back with a larger stand, promoting how everybody can help them with their work of reporting and recording the animals around our shores. Did you know that 80% of Australia's whale stranding events happen in Tasmania?

The DPIW display will give you information about how they respond to these events, the international genetics studies being undertaken, and how you can assist in the Whale Watch program. And a lot more, including

representatives from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery who are taking samples from Tasmanian strandings as part of a museum collection.

### Community Boat Building teams get their first lesson

Teams for the Community Boat Building got together last weekend with Ian Johnson and Mark Singleton for their introduction to building their 10ft Feather or the Peace Canoe. They are a great bunch of people, with diverse interests and skills, and they all came up with great ideas as to why they wanted to build a boat. We're delighted that **936 ABC Hobart** will be following the progress of one or two of the teams between now and February and will be on-site during the Festival with their outside broadcast tent and Festival-going presenters.



## Time to let off a bit of steam

The Festival offers boat owners and visitors alike the opportunity to relax and reflect on the wonderful skills, traditions and all the preceding hard work that has gone into keeping boats in top shape. When it comes to things gleaming and gurgling, though, it is the steam boats that make you realize how much work (mostly shoveling?) would have gone into running vast ocean-going steam-powered vessels. Two of the steam vessels that will be at the Festival are the **SL Huon**, and the **SL Lady Lyn**.

### **SL Lady Lyn**

SL Lady Lyn is a 20ft Huon Pine carvel planked traditional river launch, restored over three years, and fitted with a single cylinder double acting piston valve steam engine with vertical fired boiler and steam condensing system. Rumoured to have been built in Glenorchy for local fishing, the **Lady Lyn** appears to have had no name until Brian Forster bought her in



2001. Moored (and almost sunk) in Prince of Wales Bay, Brian had her towed dead in the water with no power or steerage across to Lindisfarne Bay. Steeled by a local club member's aside comment "she'll never see water again" (as her keel collapsed under her as she was winched out), Brian spent 3 years putting her to rights. Named after his late wife, who died of cancer at the age of 45 in 1993, the SL Lady Lyn is not only back in the water, but enjoys many days steaming around the top end of the Derwent, has been down the Huon, and spends many great weekends at Lake

Meadowbank (pictured above, on location). She's a beauty, and Brian is looking forward to bringing her to Hobart, and perhaps down the Huon again for a bit of a cruise.

### **SL Huon**

Bruce Jessup brought his newly-built SL Huon to the last Festival, and she was a great addition to the on-water action. Built by C9 Marine of Launceston, her design is by John Georgallas of Melbourne. She carries a York compound engine, engineered by Charles Singleton of Westbury, Tasmania and her boiler was engineered by Strath Steam of Goolwa, South Australia. Bruce will again trailer her down from Launceston and will hopefully have tales to tell of his exploits in the last two years. SL Huon is pictured right, with, as it happens, Brian Forster on board.



### **Build your own Derwent Skiff in time for the Festival**

At the 2007 Festival we launched a new design of boat, the Derwent Skiff. Plans and kits have been selling well, but for the 2009 Festival Witt Design is making a special offer you might be interested in taking up if you are keen on building your own. Witt Design (who won the 2007 competition) have developed a Derwent Skiff mould and kit which means you can start immediately on the hull and build quickly. You can set up the mould and laminate the stem and keel on day one! What a challenge – buy your kit and build a Derwent Skiff in time for the 2009 Festival. There is still time to register boats ashore – just go to the boat registrations page on our website for more details. To get you moving, Witt Design will donate \$75 to the AWBF for every order placed up to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Witt Design will dispatch your order within 2 weeks, so the faster you get in touch with Allan Witt, the longer you will have to complete your boat.

For more information about the skiff, the kit, the components and the cost, please go to [www.wittdesignwoodenboats.com.au](http://www.wittdesignwoodenboats.com.au), or simply ring Allan Witt on 03 6273 0254 or mobile 0408 331 510, or email [allan@wittdesign.com.au](mailto:allan@wittdesign.com.au).

Allan is very happy to support people by phone and email as well as personal visits where practical.

### **Registered boat owners – withdrawal and refunds reminder**

As per the terms and conditions of boat registration, we thought it worth reminding you of the dates relating to withdrawals and refunds.

- An applicant who registers and who then withdraws before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 will have 50% of the registration cost refunded.
- An applicant who registers and who then withdraws after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 will forfeit all the registration cost.
- An applicant who registers and who then withdraws at any time will not be entitled to receive any of the benefits – plaque, flag, entry passes, poster – that are provided to registered boats that arrive at the Festival.
- Boats who make a late registration and are put on the waiting list will have their registration fee refunded in full if no position becomes available for them to participate in the event.

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### **We would love to hear from you!**

To contribute stories please get in touch by email: [media@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au](mailto:media@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au)

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