

**MEDIA RELEASE #36**

**Monday 2nd October 2023**

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**AUSTRALIAN WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL – Change of Leadership at the Helm**

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The Australian Wooden Boat Festival (AWBF) today announces the resignation of Joy Phillips, Chair of the Board. After six years of exemplary leadership and dedicated service as a Board member, and two years as Chair of the Board, Ms. Phillips has decided to step down from her position.

Under Ms. Phillips’ stewardship, the AWBF has flourished, growing in prominence and reputation across the world. Ms. Phillips’ commitment to preserving and promoting the rich maritime heritage of Australia has been unwavering, inspiring countless individuals to appreciate and engage with the art of wooden boat craftsmanship.

During Ms. Phillips’ tenue, the festival experienced significant milestones and challenges, including a worldwide pandemic and the first ever festival cancellation.

Ms. Phillips looks forward to spending more time on her cruising ketch, and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next festival in 2025.

The Board and wider wooden boat community extends their heartfelt gratitude to Joy for her exceptional leadership and passion throughout her tenue. The festival Board and Organisers wish Joy the best in her future endeavours.

 The festival Board would also like to introduce Scott Rankin as the new Chair of the Board. Mr. Rankin, a current AWBF Board member will step up to take over the role from Ms. Phillips, to helm the AWBF ship.

The AWBF Organisers and Board look forward to steering the ship into the future with Mr. Rankin.

The next Australian Wooden Boat Festival will be 7 – 10 February 2025.

For more information please visit the AWBF website – awbf.org.au

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***Media enquiries please contact***

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 AT A GLACE (for events calendars)

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| WHAT   | Australian Wooden Boat Festival   |
| WHERE   | 7 – 10 February 2025 |
| WHEN   | Hobart Waterfront, Tasmania   |
| INFO   | [www.awbf.org.au](https://auc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/www.awbf.org.au)   |
| CONTACT   | Office@awbf.org.au    (03) 6223 3375   |