

e-news: January 2009

See you very soon!

With only a couple of weeks to go, we hope you are all set for a truly spectacular Festival. An email this week from Mr Charles Knight reminded us of the history of the Festival, the number of people who have been involved over the years, and the widespread support we receive from all over Australia and other parts of the world. Mr Knight wrote:

“As an ex- Hobartian who attended the first Wooden Boat Festival, and now the Vice President of the Old Gaffers Association in Western Australia, I wish you all the best for next month’s event. Members of our Association attended (as spectators) the last event, and there is no question that it has developed into the pre-eminent event of its type in Australia. Well done to the team!”

Since that first event, held in 1994 – the result of a passion led by Andy Gamlin for wooden boats and the maritime history of Hobart, and supported by Cathy Hawkins and Ian Johnston – the Festival has grown into an event of international standing. It is a credit to all the people who have given their time and commitment over the past 15 years and we look forward to celebrating this spirit with you in February.

Program of events and other Festival information

A free program of events and a site map will be available at the Festival. In the meantime you can find a program on the Festival website, as well as information about parking availability, and much more. If you can’t find what you want, give us a call.

Classic Yacht Rally – Sunday afternoon

Well-aged yachts as well as more modern craft will be racing for a trophy in Sunday’s Classic Yacht Rally. Veteran yachts Sao and Gypsy have thrown their hat in the ring and will display how yachts used to sail - not as slowly as you may imagine - as you can see in the picture of Gypsy absolutely flying. The smallest entry is a Norwalk Islands Sharpie with a cat ketch rig. Among others there is a Queenscliffe Couta boat that sailed from Smithton to Hobart for the last festival, and a well-presented 40 foot Alan Payne design built for the 1965 Admirals Cup trials.



With an eclectic range of yachts, the Rally will be a major spectacle for the 2009 festival and the on-water action continues with the replica 18 footers and the Derwent Class racing around the same course. It will be a pretty busy afternoon on the river. A few places remain, so if you want to participate please contact the festival office. The trophy is anybody’s at this stage.

Hospitality aboard the Egeria

A limited number of hospitality packages are available on the former Governor of Tasmania’s vessel, the *Egeria*, on the Sunday and Monday of the Festival to go out on the River Derwent to watch the 18-foot replica skiffs in action. The two and a half hour package will include premium Tasmanian food and drinks and will cost \$110pp including GST. For more information, contact the Festival Office on (03) 6223 3375 or email: manager@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

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Tiwi Island canoe log has now arrived!



It may not sound very exciting to you, but news of the arrival of the Tiwi Island log that will be the main feature of the Indigenous Watercraft display was received with delight by project coordinator, Roy Cordiner and others in the Festival office. Roy rushed out to see the log in its crate in a secret location where it will be housed until the Tiwi Island Land Rangers arrive in Hobart. Six Land Rangers will be travelling to Hobart from the Tiwi Islands and will demonstrate traditional boat-building skills during the Festival. It is many years since a traditional dug-out canoe has been built by Tiwi Islanders, and certainly the first time that one will be seen in Tasmania.

The arrival of the Tiwi Island log also prompted a local indigenous team to head for the forest to collect bundles of stringy bark which will be transformed into a canoe alongside the Tiwi Island dug-out version. The two groups will assist each other in completion of both vessels.

It is worth sharing two paragraphs from a letter received from the Chairman of the Tiwi Land Council, Robert Tipungwuti.

“Our Secretary of Natural Resource Management, Kate Hadden, and our Tiwi Land Rangers viewed your invitation as a stimulating challenge of both interest and re-discovery of skills and respect for Elders of earlier times. They have calculated the challenges and perhaps, like us all, under-estimated the outstanding impact of these “discoveries” that have been experienced throughout Tiwi society in construction of “The Canoe.” We understand you have been in touch with Carla whose short movie of these developments and impacts describes them far better than these words are able to.

The Land Council is very grateful to the organisers and planners of your Wooden Boat Festival, and particularly the concepts of your Indigenous Watercraft Project. Perhaps “Craftsmen of Boats” enjoy an impact and satisfaction in their skills that apply across all cultures regardless of society or design or purpose. Thank you for sharing this conclusion with the Tiwi people. It has been a strengthening and very proud achievement for us to participate in your Project.”



Tasports once again a major supporter of the Festival

We have Tasports to thank for much more than use of the Festival site. Their support for our volunteer team, provision of infrastructure, and much of the on-water support for the Tall Ships during their stay in Hobart is greatly appreciated.

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Friday morning Channel 7 Sunrise – weather from the Festival site!

If you are up and about the Festival site on the morning of Friday 6th February, come along and watch Channel 7's Sunrise weather girl, Fifi Box, try her hand at some of the activities being set up for the Festival. Or stay at home and watch live weather report crosses from 6.00am – 8.30am.

Saturday morning – Chris Wisbey ABC 936 live broadcast

Local 936 ABC Hobart radio presenter and long-time supporter of the Festival, Chris Wisbey, will be hosting his **Saturday** morning show from the Festival site. Find him at the ABC tent close by the tall ships *Enterprize* and James Craig, at the Macquarie Shed end of the busy Hunter Street precinct.

Andy Muirhead gets into the Quick 'n' Dirty on Saturday and Monday

Who better to commentate on the antics of the Quick 'n' Dirty student boat building challenge than ABC radio's Andy Muirhead. Andy will be on site from 2pm – 3pm on Saturday as the teams start the construction phase of their vessels. On Monday he returns to Constitution Dock to help the Community Boat Building teams launch their boats before he calls the race of the Quick 'n' Dirty crews at 2.00pm.

Come and say G'day to Macca – Sunday 8th early in the morning!

It's a few years since ABC Radio legend, Ian McNamara "Macca" came to the Festival, but he's back for 2009 and will broadcast live from the Festival site on Sunday morning. Catch him bright and early and get involved in the show. <http://www.abc.net.au/australiaallover/>

Location: car park area beside the Constitution Dock fish punts. (no ticket required, but access back into the site when gates open will be by ticket only so remember to have your pass or ticket with you).

Festival Dinner – Sunday 8th February – Hobart Function Centre

Tickets are now on sale for the Festival Dinner which will be held at the Hobart Function Centre on Elizabeth Street Pier (right beside the Festival site) at 7pm on Sunday 8 February 2009. Guest speaker will be the renowned Irish yachtsman and yachting historian, Hal Sisk.

Cost for a fantastic three-course dinner with choices is \$75 per head. Make up a table of 10 or come along and we will sit you on a table. It is a great opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones, talk about wooden boats or just enjoy a good casual night out. For more information or for tickets, please contact the Festival Office on (03) 6223 3375 or manager@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au Tickets must be pre-purchased – no tickets will be available for sale at the Festival.

Enterprize – get aboard for the Parade of Sail and more

Melbourne's tall ship, *Enterprize*, will be taking out passengers for the Parade of Sail on Friday 6 February. Get aboard and join the Parade for the official entrance of the Tall Ships to Hobart. Departing at 11:30am and returning at 3pm this sail will give you the sights of Hobart from the River Derwent along with a chance to sail with the Festival fleet.

Call to book 03 9397 3477. Cost: \$60 per person including a light lunch.

Details of *Enterprize* inspection times, sunset sails, and a special "Regatta" fireworks sail on Monday can be found in the Hot News section of the Festival website:

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

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James Craig Sails Again – documentary screenings at State Cinema

To mark *James Craig's* visit to Hobart for the Festival the State Cinema in North Hobart will be screening the documentary story of her restoration. There will be daily screenings from Saturday 7 – Friday 13 February. Tickets are \$20 and includes drinks and finger food. For screening times please visit the State Cinema website: www.statecinema.com.au

Merchandise, posters and limited edition prints

There will be two stalls for Festival merchandise – one in the Maritime Marketplace and one near the Waterside Pavilion, Mawson's Place. This year we have a great range of gear including good quality t-shirts, polos, hats and caps. For those of you who have fallen in love with Tom Samek's poster artwork, not only can you find the image on Festival t-shirts and posters, but limited edition prints are still available to order from the Festival office now office@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au, or at Event HQ during the Festival, which will be located in the car-park area adjacent to the Fish Punts.

“Early bird” ticket sales at 2007 prices

Just a reminder that up to 5th February, “early bird” tickets are on sale at 2007 prices from *Centertainment*. Day tickets and 4-day passes will also be available on the gate during the Festival. For all ticket prices and to purchase “early bird” tickets and 4-day passes please go to: www.centertainment.com.au Tickets are also on sale at the Burnie Civic Centre, Devonport Entertainment & Convention Centre and the Princess Theatre, Launceston.

Registered boat owners' passes and entry to Festival

All boat owners are reminded that they will be provided with a limited number of 4-day passes for the Festival – these will be provided when you register after your arrival. If you do not have a Festival pass, you will not be able to access the Festival site so please make sure that you take your pass with you every time you leave the Festival site. The passes are not transferrable – they will be stamped each day and there will be a pass-out stamp for re-entry. Additional passes can be purchased prior to the Festival from Centertainment – details above – or at the gates at the Festival.

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

