



# Australian Wooden Boat Festival

6-9 February 2009 Hobart Tasmania



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## The best of Australia in the heart of Tasmania

There is a sense of not wanting our secret to get out - Tasmania is one of the best places in the world to live (particularly if you like the water, and especially if you have a wooden boat). But promotion we must do, and we're kicking it off in style at the maritime festival in Brest, France, this July. There are more details below, including your invitation to come along to the Hobart launch this coming Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, which includes the unveiling of our 2009 festival poster, created by local artist Tom Samek. It really is fantastic.

We've had a great time reading the entries to last month's competition (skip to the last page now if you want to know who won!), and have come up with another quiz to keep your grey cells working. But let's not dither – read on if you want to know the latest festival news!

### First things first - who's coming?

With entries now up to 171 vessels, it is wonderful to have so much material to whet even the most tragic of wooden boat appetites. This month we've whittled out 3 entries - a superb 1947 Halvorsen motor launch, a gorgeous 54' Herreshoff, and a 22' gem called *Emma* – and they all have something in common. What could it be? The Australian Wooden Boat Festival has been the catalyst for some permanent moves to Tasmania for all three.

#### *Minocqua*

Melbourne-based businessman and Honorary Consul de Monaco, Andrew Cannon, brought his 50' bridge-deck cruiser *Minocqua* to Hobart for the 2007 Festival and loved it so much that she is now living here full-time. "The journey from Melbourne to Hobart was quite an adventure, but after 6 years of cruising around Port Phillip Bay, and a trip to Port Fairy, when I got to Tasmania I knew I had come to the wooden boat capital of Australia", said Andrew. "The opportunities for cruising are just terrific – I've been exploring a lot in the past year and I am looking forward to getting to Hobart again for the 2009 Festival".

*Minocqua* is one of only eight of this particular Halvorsen bridge-deck cruisers and is in excellent original condition. Previously owned by three Commodores - Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, the Cruising Yacht Club and the Australian Yacht Squadron, she was used in the Queen's bi-centennial functions in Queensland in 1988.

#### *Windward Star*



The journey from Gladstone to Hobart for the 2007 Australian Wooden Boat Festival for John, Christine and Nelson Brown was the last opportunity for an extended cruise before Nelson commenced his High School years. Since arriving and thoroughly enjoying the 2007 Festival, the warm welcome, the cruising, the people and the lifestyle in Tasmania, the Browns have deferred their departure date several times. Now it's 'on hold'. Nelson is at school in Hobart, and the consensus seems to be "there simply would not be enough time to return north and be back in time for the 2009 festival".

Highlights since their arrival include being set up with a cray pot in Triabunna by the friendly locals, Nelson making a snowman on Mt Wellington on Christmas day, the welcome in Kettering, the Cygnet and Dover regattas.

*Windward Star* was designed in 1935 by L Francis Herreshoff. Launched at Tuncurry, NSW in 1994, she has competed in two Brisbane to Gladstone yacht races, winning the Racing-Cruising Division in 1999.

### **Emma**

2009 will be *Emma's* fourth festival and a very special one for owners Jeanne and Stewart Males. Jeanne and Stewart have been coming to Tasmania for 8 years now, and having applied for retirement visas in 2006 they expect to be fully-fledged Australians next month. Two of their three children live in Hobart, but as well as visiting them, they have been renovating a property in Barnes Bay where *Emma* is based. Having just sold their house in the UK, Jeanne and Stewart should be moving here permanently in November. Look out for them down the Channel!



Bert Woollacott designed, *Emma* was built in New Zealand in about 1950 and later sailed to Tasmania. More recently she was restored by Neil Houston and later owned by Robert and Lesley Swan. Jeanne and Stewart Males are the present owners and she is based in Barnes Bay. Any other history would be appreciated.

If you have not yet registered, or want to encourage somebody else to, please use our website to get all the info you need along with on-line registration:

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

Remember, if you have registered, we would like a digital photo (up to 50kb) sent by email to: [info@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au](mailto:info@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au).

### **Brest 2008 International Maritime Festival**

The maritime festival in Brest has been the inspiration for many maritime and wooden boat festivals around the world, including the Australian Wooden Boat Festival. In July, Hobart City Council are taking a large display to France where a "Tasmania" stand will be themed around the links that Hobart and Tasmania has with Brest: tourism and the AWBF; Antarctic ties; maritime history and exploration; and maritime-related industries.

The 2009 festival poster will be distributed from the display tent at Brest in the form of an A4 flyer, with information on the reverse about the festival, our website and email contacts. In addition, Tourism Tasmania have assisted in funding a 4-minute DVD using footage from the 2007 festival as part of the display. Hobart City Council, with participation by Tourism Tasmania, will also be hosting an event for some of the organizers and other participants in the festival at Brest. The links already established between the two events will be further strengthened by this well-organised promotional activity.

### **Come along to a pre-Brest media briefing and 2009 AWBF Poster launch**

We will be unveiling the 2009 festival poster at a special media event this Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June. The Minister for Economic Development and Tourism, Paula Wriedt MP, Lord Mayor of Hobart, Rob Valentine, and the artist himself, Tom Samek will be attending. You are welcome to come along!

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**Time:** 1.15pm

**Venue:** Waterside Pavilion, Mawson Place, Constitution Dock, Hobart

### Wooden surf boats to compete at Festival – athletic and authentic!

AWBF Committee Member, Peter Higgs has been working hard on one of the special program events for 2009 which will see up to 15 wooden surf boats from around Australia converge on Hobart next February. This will be a sensational new addition to the action afloat and ashore, and all of the individual boats have their own unique history.

We're excited to hear that the first surf LS boat used in Victoria – a double-ender supposedly used as a ships rescue craft - as well as the Freshwater double-ender that featured in the 2007 Centenary celebrations will be part of this amazing get-together (is there a name for a congregation of surf boats I wonder...)

Peter himself also has a pretty unique history when it comes to surf life saving - he is a life member of Hallett Cove SLSC (SA), and has been Captain, Chief Instructor and Competition Coach of both the Seacliff SLSC and Hallett Cove SLSC. His 30-year association with and passion for surf life saving, combined with wooden boats (he is also Secretary of the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania) is sure to result in an action-packed jamboree (how's that?) of authentic and athletic proportions.



### Egeria takes on official role

With thanks to the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania (MYCT), Lindisfarne, we are thrilled to advise that the **ML Egeria** will be on duty as our Official Launch during the Festival and also be available for catered events for our sponsors during the weekend.



This treasured piece of Tasmanian maritime history, popularly known as the Governor's launch, was gifted to the MYCT by Tasports in 2007. Built by Purdon & Featherstone, Napoleon Street, Hobart, for the Marine Board of Hobart, *Egeria* was launched in October 1941. She was named after *HMS Egeria*, flagship for the Hobart Regattas of 1888 and 1889. She cost a total of £10,451 and in early 1942 was almost sold to the US Army. Just before the contract was signed, however, the Australian Navy requisitioned the *Egeria* for harbour patrol in the Derwent. Coincidentally, that happened at 9.30am on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942 – 66 years ago.

### Festival Organising Team – date of next meeting

The Organising Team will be meeting again on 7<sup>th</sup> July, so if you have any suggestions you would like to put forward for consideration please contact Rob McGuire:

[manager@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au](mailto:manager@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au) or by phone on (03) 6223 3375.

Site boundaries, security and access are all under the spotlight this month. If you are a local trader or business associated with the site you will already have heard from us, and have until 30<sup>th</sup> June to respond formally to the proposed site layout. Any other contributions to this subject are welcome.

### May competition winners, and this month's question!

To win a signed copy of Julian Stockwin's book *Mutiny*, we asked the question: "What is a ship?", and we had some wonderful and imaginative answers!

**Bob Appleton** from Geelong wrote: "As a survivor of the 39-45 war, in the Royal Navy's submarine service and a survivor of a submarine sinking, the answer to this question is patently obvious. A ship is A TARGET."

Sandy Bay sailor **Brian Walpole** was clearly in a reflective mood when he composed his answer: "What is the difference twixt a ship and a boat?" and for that I defer to Kenneth Grahame ("The Wind in the Willows") where Ratty extols to Mole the joy of "simply messing about in boats". So for me, a ship is a commercial craft for navigating from A to B, whereas a boat implies the simple joy of being on the water. My old Viking sailing skipper, Anders, used to say: "If you can spit over the side from the helm position, lad, then she's a boat, all others are ships"

**Sam Humphries** of Stanley was certain: "Too easy! A ship is NOT a boat that you can put a boat on, a concept born of fools who work on big modern boats like tankers and such so they can call their tub a ship!! A Ship is any boat with 3 (Three) or more masts! Just ask any good master!"

But the first correct entry came from **Dianne Hergatt**: "In strict maritime usage, "ship" signified a vessel square-rigged on three masts."

Congratulations Dianne. From Julian Stockwin's official website we have: "Calling anything other than 'a three masted vessel square rigged on all three masts' a ship marks you out as a landlubber. All the others are either a brig, barque, poleacre, bean-cod, pink, xebec, felucca etc."

Thanks to all those who entered. Have a go at this month's question.

### "What did this sailor tell his Mother when he got home from the Australian Wooden Boat Festival?"



Make your entries as funny or as serious as you like. The winner will receive a signed copy of Julian Stockwin's "Command"

Send your entries to [office@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au](mailto:office@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au), marked "Command Competition", before the end of June, and Graeme will pick the winner. As they say "the Boats Ashore Manager's decision is final!"

### Coming up in July

In addition to more "who's coming to the Festival", we will have a story about The *Terra Linna* and news about the Shipwright's Village, both of which were deferred this month due to the large amount of news surrounding Brest and other events on the program.

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

To contribute stories or make any suggestions for the e-newsletter please get in touch with Lois by email:  
[media@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au](mailto:media@australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au)

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