



President's Report

2006 Clean Up Australia Day on Bruny

The Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania Inc registered the 'Duckpond' in Barnes Bay for the first time. as its official Clean Up site, although we cleaned the same area last year . Registering the site provided us with the official kit and all of the paperwork required to report on the event.

Fortunately the Guild had twenty-four members and family register on the day and we collected in excess of thirty bags of rubbish for removal by the Kingborough Council. We also had three visitors to the site register. The rubbish collected included broken glass, cans, glass and plastic bottles, other paper and plastic refuse, mattresses, disused steel fabrications (including an old scallop dredge) and more!

The unfortunate part of the exercise was to discover the continuing use of the area as a toilet, including disposal of Porta-Potti refuse . The area is so readily accessed by both sea and land visitors that it is in dire need of a composting toilet or other environmentally friendly facility to cater for users' needs. If you would like to support this proposal please complete (with your address and the date) and sign the letter at the back of the *Skeg* and post it to Kingborough Council.

Many thanks to all who assisted cleaning up the Duckpond area, making it a cleaner and safer anchorage and a pleasant land base for camping.

Peter Higgs

Misty morning on the millpond. (photograph Peter Higgs)

WBG Members out on the Water

It's a Hard Life ... recent jottings from the WBG member at the helm of the AWBF.

Although not able to attend many Guild activities lately, you might like to know I am with you all in spirit, rowing determinedly each weekend. Yesterday it was Hobart to Kingston Beach (yes, in the light following breeze...). This was my second crack at that course, this time managing it in two hours flat. But being hardly able to walk, talk or even eat afterwards is what has to be changed – as soon as possible!

Why am I doing this to myself? It's all about training to crew on *Hawbingsten fra Glendalough*, the 30m replica longship launched at Roskilde 18 months ago. To translate the name we get 'Sea stallion from Glendalough'. (Glendalough is near Dublin.) This impressive Viking ship will be sailed to Dublin in 2007. The expedition this year is to test the various aspects and try to prepare the crew for various weather events before facing the daunting conditions of the North Sea and Irish Sea. The 2006 trip departs on July 10 for a month's voyage around the Skagerrak and the Kattegak. The ship does have a sail, but it also has 60 oars and will be crewed by 70 bods. If yesterday is any indication, you can forget and burning, pillaging or anything else for me....

Come to think of it, a weekend lazing around the Duckpond sounds extremely appealing. Next year, perhaps?

Andy Gamlin

Festival Director

Australian Wooden Boat Festival



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

The museum visit was good, beginning with the 'WELCOME' signal flags on the verandah. Its location, overlooking the river, is outstanding. John was very welcoming, and gave a comprehensive narrative on the Bellerive area's history including, of course, the boats and other maritime items of interest. There is so much information that one would need to make several visits to take it all in. Of special interest to us was the area devoted to the Tasman Bridge tragedy. I had no idea how far off course the Lake Illawarra was when she hit.



John Sargent's museum & 'welcome' flags (Photo: Penny Morton)

The afternoon closed with an enjoyable tea session, highlighted by Noelene's delicious sandwiches and healthy (?) stuff provided by the Mess Officers. Brilliant sunshine and colourful racing yachts made the day a memorable occasion for the twenty members who attended.

Penny Morton



'Dinghy' display case (Photograph: Penny Morton)

At the Duckpond, Bruny Id Barnes Bay Bash—March 4th & 5th



Ros and Ainesley's *Lady Daphne* (Photograph: Penny Morton)



Frank and Merle Lazenby's boat (Photograph: Penny Morton)



Noel and Noelene's "Farewell" (Photograph: Rob & Jo Nolan)



The getaway

Rob to the rescue of the Ghost Who Rows.

(This moment captured by MZ)



Rob and Jo Nolan's NIS (photo: Rob & Jo Nolan)



Jim & Carol Tayton's boat (photograph by Millard Ziegler)



Chris and Penny Morton's boat *An Old Captivity* (photo: Barbara Murphy)



The Clean-up crew (photograph from Peter Higgs)

Nautical Notes

Remember the previous *Skeg's* note on *show a leg* 'which now means 'get a move on' (get up and do something)? Although it is a traditional call in a British warship for all hands on deck, the expression arose from the days when seamen were always refused shore leave in harbour for fear they would desert. Instead women (ostensibly wives) were allowed to live on board while the ships were in harbour, and naturally joined the men in their hammocks at night. When hands were called in the morning, the women were allowed to lie in and the boatswain's mates, seeing the hammock still occupied, checked the sex of the occupants by requiring him/her to show a leg over the edge of the hammock.

Son of a Gun

This was the description given by the 'lower deck' to children born on board ships of the British Navy during the period when the 'wives' of seamen were allowed to live on board in harbour, or occasionally at sea. As the gangways always had to be kept clear, the only place on board where women in labour could produce children was in the spaces between the guns on the gun decks. Inevitably, any male child born on board was known as 'the son of a gun'.

(from The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea)

At the last meeting Bill Foster's informative talk featured techniques of rowing. He demonstrated ways of expending the least amount of energy while rowing long distances, especially by matching the oars to rower and boat. While the length of the oars depended on the beam of the boat, it was also important to gain maximum leverage to suit yourself. Bill showed that extra leverage can be attained by placing the stops out further and rowing cross armed.

Bill continued by showing that rowing with straight wrists enables you to drop them to feather the blades on the return stroke. This should be enough so that the waves just hit the tip of the oars. Feathering saves 10 to 15% of energy expended. Putting just $\frac{3}{4}$ of the blade in the water should be sufficient for the power stroke.

Bill says to throw out those rubber stops and substitute them for leather ones which slide much more easily. Your oars should preferably be light like those made from close grained oregon: current oak oars are too heavy.

Bill also advised on how to store oars, demonstrated sculling techniques and described the ideal oar dimensions, ending with an exposé on why Venetians do it standing up.

Thanks Bill

*General Meetings are on the
3rd Monday of each month, inc. public holidays.*

*The next meeting of the
Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania Inc.
will be held at the Mariners' Cottage,
Napoleon Street, Battery Point at
7.30 pm
Monday 20th March 2006*

*There will be a committee meeting held at 6.00pm
prior to the general meeting.*

Meetings calendar for 2006

20 th March	17 th July
17 th April (Easter Mon)	21 st August
15 th May	18 th September
19 th June (AGM)	16 th October

Guest Speaker

20th March : At the next meeting Lew Garnham will be presenting a talking picture show on the history, rebuilding and restoration of his motor launch "Latura".

This will whet your appetite. Latura was built in 1924 of Huon pine with Huon frames and a hardwood keel and deadwood. She is 24 feet long with a seven foot beam, three foot draft and powered by a 35 h.p. diesel. She is modelled after "Zenith", a William Hand design for the Motor Boating magazine.

Lew found her at Carlton River in 1996 and took from 1998 to 2002 to restore her. She was launched at the Wooden Boat Festival in 2002.

Officers of the Guild

<i>President</i>	Peter Higgs	03 62491695
<i>Sen. Vice President</i>	Millard Ziegler	03 62235472
<i>Vice President</i>	Robin Singleton	03 62439033
<i>Secretary</i>	Millard Ziegler	03 62235472
<i>Treasurer</i>	Graeme Hunt	03 62278652
<i>Flag Officer</i>	Amanda Stark	03 6229 7558
<i>Mess Officers</i>	Penny & Chris Morton	62950278
<i>Committee</i>	Noel Hall	03 62445583
	Ross Barnett	03 62233451

To
Kingborough Council
Bruny Island Councillor/s &
Community Development Dept.
15 Channel Highway
Kingston
TAS 7050

**Subject: The need for a public facility at the
“Duckpond”, Barnes Bay, Bruny Island.**

I am a member of the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania Inc and as such enjoy boating and camping on our beautiful water ways, sometime with interstate and international visitors. Tasmania is blessed with very picturesque waterways that are at times compromised by poor sanitary practices.

For the last two years now on “Clean Up Australia Day” the Guild has cleaned up the Duckpond, Barnes Bay, Bruny Island which is very popular with both land and water based users.

One of the disappointments on both occasions has been the increased practice of using the site environs for toileting purposes. This seems to be increasing, with some users obviously dumping the contents of the “Porta-Pottis” in the environs of the Duckpond.

As a proud member of the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania and a resident of Tasmania I request that the Kingborough Council installs a facility at the Duckpond that would enable users to toilet and dispose of “Porta–Pottis” in a safer , more hygienic way.

Yours sincerely,

Date: