



President's August Report 2011

What a wet few weeks we have had. Attendance at meetings has been lower but the Morions are always there from Geeveston. Congratulations to David on becoming the new owner of the ex Dudgeon Elver. There is plenty of work ahead but what a great design. Thanks also for organizing the very successful Model Day at the Huon Yacht Club.

Whilst we have had some lovely weather for our rowing days we have not been so lucky with the *Terra Linna* working bees. However Noel and his team have been plugging away and she slowly gets closer to a launch date.

It seems that many of our wooden boat friends are off cruising soon, have been roaming the Mainland or are going off to Europe. Robin and Sherelle are just back and have many wonderful photos and stories to tell about wooden boats, tall ships and reclusive designers. I can't wait for a session or two at our meetings on the third Monday of the month.

Work is proceeding apace on planning the AWBF 2013 and exciting things are contemplated. Congratulations to Peter Higgs for taking over as Vice Chairman from retiring Committee member Ben Marris. Thanks Ben for all your time and effort over many years for the Festival. Colin Finch, ex CEO of MAST, has joined the Committee.

We recently received early advice about the Mawson Centenary Flotilla on Friday 2nd December 2011. Planning is well underway for a spectacular flotilla of vessels sailing down the Derwent exactly 100 years after Douglas Mawson's departure for the Antarctic. More information to come later.

Remember the next rowing day is at the Port Cygnet Yacht Club – always a great venue.

President

Graeme Hunt



Secretary's August 2011 Report

I was down on *Maori Lass* the other day.....on arrival the wind was freshening from the nor' west and I thought to myself, better not stay too long in case it gets too rough to row ashore (woos!). So, I went below and busied myself for some time before I realised that the wind had completely stopped, the sun was shining brightly and the water was as flat as a tack.....beeeauuutiful.

While I was below doing chores I found that the cutlery draw had been left slightly open and some rain water had managed to sneak through the storm boards and half fill it! At least it was only cutlery! Since the weather was now almost perfect I thought I might just put my feet up and have a nice little relax and contemplate all the chores that need attending to, as you do....so, I put my hand into the ice box to extract a nice cold beer, as well as the beer, I also found an abandoned Chinese takeaway container tucked up in the corner that had obviously been there for some time and had something manifestly grotesque growing in it....crikey, I wasn't game to take the top off to examine it! I didn't think Cheryl would miss the container so straight into the rubbish bin it went.

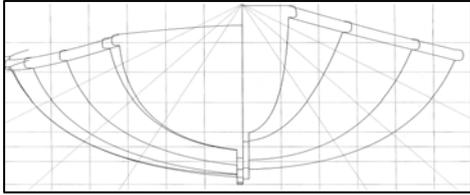
Speaking of putting your feet up....the *Terra Linna* is looking really fantastic, 'Team Terra Linna' certainly haven't been putting theirs up!. If you get a chance, drop in and have a look but ring Noel and Noelene first. I called in to the Halls the other day to deliver a 6 metre (top) section of an Oregon Dragon mast that had been sourced by Rob Virtue from the RYCT. Thanks Rob. We might be able to use it for her new bowsprit.

Don't forget our next meeting will be on **Monday 15 August at 1930hrs** and our next rowing day will be on **Sunday 21 August**, which will be at the Cygnet Yacht Club. And on **Sunday 28 August**, there will be a model working bee to get stock ready for the coming shows. Check the **Calendar 2011** in this edition for all our outing

details.

What's that I hear you say Cheryl?....no, no, it couldn't have been me who had their feet up....I'm far too busy for that sort of thing....oh yeah!

Roscoe



Last month's question was: What is a 'pipe cot':
1) a fireproof rack for smokers' pipes 2) A broth prepared with leftovers on the last evening of a voyage 3) a hinged cot which folds against the ship's side

And the correct answer for that is: a 'pipe cot' is a hinged cot which folds against the ship's side when not in use

This month's question is: *Cumulus humilis* clouds are:
1) fair weather clouds if they show no vertical development, 2) indicative of heavy showers often with lightning and thunder, 3) a precursor to severe winds and possible hail

Questions courtesy Jim Broadside from AFLOAT

Secretaries Trivia: With her marriage she got a new name and a dress....

Roscoe

Terra Linna June July Report

At the working bee on the 7th of August Graeme Hunt and Noel worked on *Terra Linna* at Hill St. It was a pretty wild and woolly day so most work was confined to being in the shed. Mean time, yours truly, spent about 5 hours in the Berriedale Rd Workshop grinding and polishing bronze hardware and marking out for drilling and countersinking. Noel has the rudder checked out for the fittings already. Un-be-known to Noel I also found some 1/4" copper bar in Hobart, at last! This brought a real smile to his face. Every time he sent me on errands for it I came back and reported I could not get any, "Bah" he would say "They have no right to call themselves chandleries if they can not supply the basics." Copper bar is not the only hardware that has had the same response! For the rudder the copper bar has

now been formed to fix and rivet the rudder to the gudgeons and pintles bronze fittings .

Sadly on the Monday following the working bee Noel had a mini stroke and was admitted to the Royal. On my first visit he told me he had to be out by Saturday because he had work to do on the *Terra Linna*. My response was "don't worry about that Noel, we can do the work". The look I got said it all.

On my next visit Noel had improved and he was sitting up. Noelene was there also and we got back on to the *Terra Linna* and she told Noel "he had to be right to work on her [*Terra Linna*] this coming weekend". They certainly set some pretty tough examples!

Noel from all your friends at the WBGT we wish you a speedy and healthy recovery but please leave the *Terra Linna* work to members and we will let you supervise.

Peter Higgs



From the Editors Desk June July 2011



Pvt. E Murphy's Merchant Ship flag chart, courtesy TMAG

Recently I attended the Maritime Museum of Tasmania lunch time meeting to hear about **Vexillology**. It was a

great meeting with a very interesting presentation by Mark Risby on signal Flag Charts developed by Private Murphy and used on old Hobart Port. "These historic flag charts occupy such a unique and important place in our maritime heritage because they are the only existing pictorial reference to the merchant ship house flags of Van Diemen's Land" (TMAG).

So as "not to give the story away too much" because I would like Mark to attend the WBGT and present on the topic if there is enough interest, I have adapted an old MMT article from Mark.

"MMT News Letter No. 29 Spring 2009.

As an amateur vexillologist (a person who

studies flags) my quest is to uncover the reason why my forebears chose to adopt our house flag which they first hoisted over 150 years ago when three brothers founded their boat building and timber processing business of Risby Bros. in 1844.

Our house flag is now the international signal flag S, the reverse of the Blue Peter, but originally it was the number one from the Marrayat signal code for merchant vessels devised in 1817. This is the same flag but just different signal codes have been developed and adopted over the years. My interest in solving this puzzle was rekindled following a visit to the Mount Nelson signal station earlier this year when my wife pointed out to me the coloured pen and ink diagram of The Signal Flags of Hobart Town produced by Private Edward Murphy in the late 1840's and early 1850's.

Murphy's picture details the ship identification flags for vessels sailing to and from Hobart as well as signal codes for ships.

Amongst the numerous ships flags listed was one of the Risbys' earliest steam and sailing ships, the *Gem*, showing our distinctive house flag.

In the hope of learning more about Murphy's works I contacted the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery where I was eventually directed to Peta Knott, the Maritime Museum's own maritime archaeologist.

Peta has been most helpful and obliging in showing me more of Murphy's works as well as early Hobart Regatta silks which detail my families participation in the whale boat and sailing races of the 1840's. I look forward to participating in the museum's events and hope that my quest to solve my family's house flag history will be solved with the Maritime Museums membership help.

Mark Risby"

So if members are interested I will arrange for Mark to attend and make a presentation to us on this very interesting topic of *Vexillology*.

Interestingly I heard at the same meeting that WBGT member Tony Lee and the Engineers Society have some Historic walking sessions on "Early engineering on the Hobart Waterfront, sounds very interesting". So if you are interested ask Tony.

Peter Higgs

Roving Event Report –July 2011



Guild members in the Huon Yacht Club, photo Susie Carter

Model Day Huon Yacht Club

The July WBGT Roving day was a very successful "Model Day, no not our normal model working bee day but a day where members

were invited to bring along model boats to display or in some instances, model boat collections. Members were invited to talk about their models explaining origins, designs and purpose. Firstly, on behalf of the Guild I sincerely thank Susie and Roger Carter of the Huon Yacht Club for preparing for and hosting our Model Day. Now on with my report.

"Will you be scheduling a model day for next year?" was one of the many ways attendees at the recent Model Exhibition day reacted on Sunday, July 24th. Several more of the 20 people there made quite positive comments about the event, something of a relief as at times I wasn't sure if I would have ANY company, having never tried this before as a Guild event. The idea was inspired by *Kermit*, Bill Foster's bright green radio control sail boat I saw a Brown's River about two years ago, although this boat didn't attend.

Guild members met at the Huon yacht Club at Shipwright's Point, Port Huon from 10:30 AM with one or (usually) more models of many types to display on a warm, mostly sunny

Photo Peter Higgs



Grahame Dudgeon talking about his own crafted half models



Guild members enjoying a chat and the model boats—Photo Graeme Hunt

day after many showers of rain; and we had a most enjoyable event that was planned and evolved as we went. The original plan was to bring models for display, and the two long trestle tables were all but overflowing.



Photo Henry Dennison

Graeme talks about his collection of model boats ranging from a wooden pond boat to his put put and tin boats

During the event, a request was made for a whip 'round so that each display could be briefly explained by its owner. This was duly done, although I had never contemplated that possibility. One

contingency I had tried to accommodate was a venue for getting suitable models wet, and it was one thing no one pursued.

I announced some challenges for members in the Skeg and among the many models presented offer the following photos as highlights:

Photo David Morton



A Noel Hall designed and built model, restored during the week before with Nolene making new sails on the morning of the event.



Photo David Morton

A model for viewing but not sailing, quite unique!



Photo by David Morton

Looking back to Graeme Hunt's models with Noel's Cadet Dinghy in the foreground



Photo David Morton

Rob Nolan's Model Reed Boat from the Middle East

Photo David Morton



Some of Roscoe's model boat collection, note the smallest model boat (in a bottle) on the deck of the centre model

Photo Henry Dennison



Model of Jo and Rob Nolan's *Shearwater* NIS Boat in the foreground



Another panoramic shot of the Model Boat Day at the Huon Yacht Club—photo Graeme Hunt



Another table of models overlooking the river!

Photo Henry Dennison

So come to Cygnet rain or shine

And be sure of a good time!

Trip Leaders

Phone Cherelle 6295 1668 or Robin 0439839033

Reed (Bark) Canoe - Spring Bay Maritime and Discovery Centre

You are invited to two days of the unveiling of the recreated Indigenous Reed (Bark) Canoe, By **David Payne Curator, Australian Register of Historic Vessels Australian National Maritime Museum**

Official unveiling at 11am on Saturday 3rd September

Power Point presentation by David Payne at 11am Sunday 4th September 2011

Both days Centre open from 10am to 3pm

Local Indigenous Dancing and Basket Weaving throughout the two days.

Spring Bay Maritime & Discovery Centre 17 The Esplanade, Triabunna

Entry cost \$5 Adult \$2 child

Other Discovery Centre exhibitions on show.

Also Darlington wines, BBQ, Devonshire Teas

David Gatenby

Last meetings presentation pr`ecis

Jim Tayton presented the last of the Cousta Boats

video which was a real treat to view the original and restored Cousta's on the Bay again! Also the Guild holds in its library a copy of the Cousta Boat crossing of Bass Strait from a previous presentation. If you are interested in Cousta boats this is also a good video.



Cousta boat *Storm Bay* restored now by Tim Phillips of the Cousta Boat Shop

Photo courtesy Tim Phillips

Photo Peter Higgs



The trip leader tutoring Henry on cork model boat making.

David Morton

Next Rowing Day,

Cygnet Rowing Day 21st August 2011

Come along to the Port Cygnet Sailing Club. They will be opening their newly extended clubhouse especially for us. We will have the use of their BBQ and they will open their bar for us. So please buy your grog from them!!

Also Craig Carlstrom has invited us to inspect his 8 Metre yacht being built at Wilson's Shed from 11:30 – 1:00pm as an added incentive. We can row across or drive round. So that we do not all arrive at the shed at once we need to coordinate our departures.

Boats can be launched at the club or at the public ramp.

Ranger Yachts

Compiled by the editor

Recently at a business meeting with an ex TAFE colleague from NSW we got onto boating, only to discover that Sue and her Partner Brendon Moore, owned and sailed a Ranger. So I could not help but ask the question, if they knew of Roscoe Barnett, ex Sydney who also previously owned a Ranger. The following is the email dialogue of this chance meeting. Firstly, from Brendon Moore followed by Roscoe.

“Ross Barnett (if he's who I think it is) [I wonder if it is the same bloke? Ed.] certainly ought to remember her [Careel]!

Pittwater based, she is 23' on deck and thus the smallest of the true Rangers. Most are 24' to 26'.

She was built for Bert Adams (who was Cliff Gale's cousin, and sailed her out of MHC for some 20+ years) of white beech in 1949 by Billy Fisher at La Perouse, as had been *Ranger* herself in 1935.

Cliff Gale who had designed Ranger as a half-model, thought Fisher was the best boat builder in Sydney, and it's true that the ones he built are still the fastest, especially *Ranger*.

And now a story for gaffers. One of Fisher's boats, *Cherub*, was the last built, for famous yachting writer Lou D'Alpuget. Lou knew a lot about sailing and didn't 'believe in' gaff rig, so she had a ghastly s/steel bumpkin and a sloop rig. She never went well through various owners. New owners couple of years ago have finally put a proper gaff rig in her, and now she's going like a rocket, consistently challenging *Ranger*, when a few years ago she couldn't get near her. Bill Gale, should you know him, is insufferable about it!

cheers

Brendon Moore”

“Hello Peter

This was my little ranger (that's me standing next to the mast), 20 foot, Huon Pine and built by Billy Fisher, the house was added later. She (*Tassie Too*) was our boat before Maori Lass, sometimes I wish I still had her....she's still in Pittwater somewhere.....beautiful little boat.

Roscoe”

To provide readers with some more background on Rangers I have sought permission to re-produce this short excerpt. If you want more you can get the whole article here http://classic-yacht.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/21_cyaa_sep_05.pdf

Ranger Yachts – by John Crawford, Classic Yacht Association of Australia, Issue 21, September 2005 - Copyright CYAA 2005

“A SYDNEY HARBOUR DAY BOAT

For those that don't know, the raised deck, gaff rigged 'Rangers' that frequent Sydney Harbour are 'the' archetypal Sydney Harbour day boat. Rangers epitomise the essence of day sailing, with their huge cockpits, and handy size, good for fishing, racing, motor-boating and sailing. They are icons on the harbour, instantly recognisable and sturdily handsome boats. Seen together they look identical at first glance, gaff rigged, raised deck, three portholes, varnished sponsons, bowsprits and toerails, all around 24'3" (7.4m) from stem to stern with a 9'0" (2.7m) beam and displacing approximately 3.5 tons.

People liked them and *Ranger*, the prototype built in 1933, was followed by *Vagrant* (1937), *Valiant* (1938), *Etenne* (1946), *Cherub* (1948/49), *Careel* (1948), *Kilkie* (1953) and *Vanity* (2001). In the tradition of Rangers each is a copy of *Ranger* herself, but each carries modifications and 'improvements', made by their individual owners, with each of the respective boatbuilders adding their personal touch as well. During the period some larger Rangers were launched. *Mathana* (35'0"), *Maluka* (28'0") and *Retreat* (26'0"). Commissioned by the Clark brothers, *Maluka* was launched in 1934 and sailed far afield - up the North Queensland coast, down the Victorian coast and across the South Pacific to Lord Howe Island some 480 nautical miles due east of Sydney [also completed a recent Sydney Hobart, ed.] - thus attesting to the seaworthiness of these



Photo courtesy Brendon Moore

Brendon Moore's Ranger *Careel*

Continued on page 8

Calendar 2011

- August 7th, Terra Linna working Bee, Halls.
- August 15th WBGT General Meeting
- August 21st Cygnet Yacht Club Big and small boats BYOF. Trip Leaders Robin and Cherelle.
- August 28th, Model Working Bee, 185 Berriedale Rd Berriedale , Peter Higgs.
- September 3rd & 4th , Spring Bay Maritime & Discovery Centre, Triabunna, Tasmanian Indigenous Bark Canoe + Open Days every Monday.
- September 11th Terra Linna working bee BYO lunch
- September 19th WBGT General and Committee meeting
- September 25th, Jordon River Rowing Day BYOG&F. Trip Leader Peter and Dallas Higgs.
- Sept. 29th Royal Engineers Society, Tony Lee, Kennedy's WS machinery & Hbt Wharf maintenance, doors close 7.30pm
- October 23rd Bellerive Seafarers Fest. *Terra Linna* to be sailed to some venues, maybe!
- November 11th—13th Seafest at Triabunna featuring SBMDC
- November 12th Huon Show
- WBGT Christmas in the park December
- January 21/22, 2012 Launceston Wooden Boat Rally
- February 11, 12, 13th 2012 Kettering Wooden Boat Rally, Kettering Yacht Club, <http://www.kyc.yachting.org.au/?Page=54119>
- Catamaran, Southern Tasmania, Feb 25th & 26th 2012 Trip Leader David Morton
- Maritime and Maritime Heritage lunch box talks 12 noon till 1.00pm — 1st Tuesday of each month at TMAG Royal Society Room organised by the Maritime Museum.

Trip Leaders responsibilities; the Trip Leader is to confirm meeting paces and times (including maps) for the Skeg edition prior to the event. Skeg closing time is 1st Monday for text and 1st Monday for photos every month. Following the event the Trip Leader is to provide a short story and up to 5 of their own photos, sized and titled (as file name) appropriately, of the event for inclusion in the following Skeg. Members wishing to submit photos from the rowing days are required to provide a maximum of five to the Trip Leader so that we do not get same/similar contributions. All must be sized as below with a title as the file name.

Members wishing to submit articles & photos: All members articles and photos are most welcome as contributions for the Skeg or other publications. For the Skeg, articles are preferred to be in MS Word with no formatting. Members are asked to restrict their photographic submissions to 5 in total per month and to have resized the photos to the following specs. No PDF's please!

400 Pixels wide X 300 Pixels high, or

5.7 cm wide X 4.2 cm high, with a resolution of

180 pixels per inch

are also welcome. The journal articles need to be articles of value regarding restorations, research and Maritime heritage. Journal articles need to include all due acknowledgements and titled photos. The above conditions also apply.

All SKEG articles must be with the editor in a digital form by the 1st Monday of the month.

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

The next General meeting and Committee meeting of the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania Inc. will be held at the Mariners' Cottage, Napoleon Street, Battery Point commencing

**at 7.30 pm
Monday 19th September 2011**

There will be a committee meeting held prior to the General Meeting at 6.00pm, at which members are welcome

<http://www.woodenboatguildtas.org.au/>

Guest Speaker, 15th August, 2011

- ◆ August, Brian Marriott, update on the Piners' Punts project
- ◆ September, Eleanor Robin, John Watson, Pt Arthur Shipwright, Battery Point slips and Mariners Cottage.

Presenter/s or practical demonstration required for future meetings.

Skeg articles by the 1st Monday of each month please. If the deadlines can't be kept the SKEG will be published without late submissions!

1. Skeg photographs by the 1st Monday of each month.
2. Speaker/demonstration (it can be a demonstration of a wooden boat building activity or problem solving activity) for next month are always needed so get your name and topic in to the Editor.

Officers of the Guild contact list

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<i>Committee</i>	Brian Marriott	0419877684
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Roscoe tending the Gaff Rig on *Tasie Too* photo courtesy Roscoe Barnett



Careel sailing in a recent Ranger World Championship on Sydney Harbour. Photo courtesy Brendon Moore.

Some closing comments by Roscoe;

Yes.....Brendon Moore in *Careel*.....also, Graeme Proctor in *Retreat* and Larry Eastwood in (can't remember).....all Rangers, beautiful boats, know them well, they were all members of Woody Point Yacht Club when I was Commodore (and probably still are!), we used to race in the twilights together.

Another boat that can call Australia home!

For Sale:

Eltin Ronan - *Eltin Ronan* for sale. She's been a big/little restoration job for a boat with a lot of history. Looking for a mad keen wooden boater to take her on and maintain her as part of Tasmania's Mari-



time history.

Great rowing boat and prepared to negotiate the price.

Contact Peter on 0419803317

For Sale:

12ft Fazackerly dinghy (and trailer) in Strahan, both in poor condition but able to be rejuvenated, no price, ring Andrew Dishington, 64 717 396.



View of the Huon River from the Huon Yacht Club—photo Peter Higgs

