



## **Presidents Annual Report – 06/07** **“Roscoe’s Ravings”**



It's that time of the year again when all the office bearers have to stand down from the committee and a new team is elected. It only seems just a moment or so ago, when I was elected as President with a list of challenges for the Guild over the last twelve months. I don't seem to have achieved all of them but there is still time our trusty secretary Peter, keeps telling me!

Thankyou to all committee members and their respective partners, who have achieved an excellent result throughout the year.

Along with mucking about with boats I think the Guild has had a quite rewarding year with the Terra Linna project, being probably our largest focus. And we have done well in my opinion. Our fund raising has now hit the \$10,000 mark and we are about to embark on the corporate sector. There have been numerous working bees constructing our little WGBT boat models and opportunities to market them at many of the festivals and shows that we have attended, and of course the well organised raffles have also contributed enormously.

The Guild has had some wonderful publicity over the last year. The presentation of the Terra Linna model, and case, built by Noel and Noelene to the Maritime Museum of Tasmania, accepted by their President Colin Denny, which was covered by radio ABC Chris Wisby's Sunday show. There has also been a recent article by Jocelyn Fogagnolo in the Mercury updating the progress and direction of the project. As well, the Terra Linna is now listed on the Australian National Maritime Museum's register of historic Australian vessels. Let's hope that we can keep the momentum going. I would like to thank Peter Higgs (chair) and the Terra Linna sub-committee for their ongoing effort.

We have had many outings over the last twelve months, spreading the word of the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania, increasing our membership and collection of vessels. That's what it's all about, enjoying wooden boats as owners, onlookers and sharing the passion with others who have not been smitten by the 'wooden boat bug'...yet.

Our outings have been many and varied; at the Austins Ferry day we rowed where Mr Austin rowed a barge loaded with 2-300 sheep or a couple of Bullock Drays as a regular service. We had a talk by George Burrows about the area and Alan Witt brought along his Derwent Skiff prototype, the winner of the Australian Wooden Boat Festival design competition.

We rowed in Cygnet and drank Gleuwein; we rowed in Tinderbox along with some of our larger cruising boats that joined in and one of our members rowed all the way from Hobart, obviously couldn't afford the petrol at today's prices! Not to mention Guild fishing exploits. We rowed at our Christmas gathering. We rowed the AWBF. We rowed at the 'Bishops' Point rowing day and many of our members, including northern members, had a delightful weekend rowing at Orford along with some interesting talks at the Saturday evening dinner. Thankyou Trip Leaders for organising and also writing your articles for the Skeg, so as those who were unable to attend could enjoy.

We had a presence at the Bellerive 'Seafarers' festival, the Huon Show, the Australian Wooden Boat Festival and the Working With Wood Show. These events helped the Guild to inform the public and to publicise our 'wooden boat cause' and also helped us immensely with our fund raising attempts. The Australian Wooden Boat Festival welcome BBQ was a fantastic success and the Festival itself, was I think, one of the best with many of our members playing vital roles in it's organisation. Again, the Guild was well represented with the Teepookana, Guild stall and forum, 'Marine Art, Clogs, Kippers, Couta's and Ketches.

Our monthly meetings have been very well attended, with on most evenings an almost full house. The guest speakers have been well received and have always been interesting, these have varied from a Rhykenologist, a rowing excursion in the Havhingsten Fra Glendalough, a holiday video, a Canadian wooden boat show and members just mucking around in boats with a treasure trove of stories to share. Our web site is also worth looking at and is always kept up to date with

plenty of photos and copies of the Skeg, thankyou Brian,

<http://www.maritimetas.org/taswoodenboatguild/>

Guild members Peter and Dallas were married and Bill Foster received the Order of Australia for mucking around with some 'old queen'....what's that I hear you say Bill, it was the 'May Queen'....oh I knew that!



Roscoe

## Oh what an Orford experience!

### Orford Raid 26 - 27th May

#### Saturday

Someone once said ' I love it when a plan comes together' , and so do !!

After designing "flexibility" into the weekend program it was just great to see members using the time and places as they wished for maximum enjoyment.

Saturday's 10 - 10.30 rendezvous overshot a little with activities in the Prosser being enjoyed until take-away time. Brian Templar's lovely craft "Vashti" (plus electric outboard motor was a feature, along with a sailpast by 'Anna K'; hon. Rear-Admiral Williams reviewing the fleet.

After collecting samples of Orford's fine fare attention shifted to Bentley's heritage boatshed with Barbara and Nigel hosting a very happy crew in fantastic ambience. 'Touchwood' and 'Anna K' were in the water and under sail - although wine tasting is more appealing for some at times it seems! Returnee members left for home during the afternoon after a satisfying day's outing.

#### Saturday night Spring Bay Hotel

John Bishop lit the fire to make us all cosy and Barbara inspired us with her family's wooden boating traditions and those of the Prosser Bay Crayfish Derby.

Simon Brooks outlined the aspirations of the Dunalley Boat Club and the potential activities to be shared on their waterways.

Combined with fine food and drink , excellent conversation and company and historic photographs of the 'Anna K' a great time was had by all.

#### Sunday Barton Avenue BBQ

A forecast of strengthening NW winds kept activities confined to the Prosser River ( and nearby eateries) between breakfast and lunchtime; - apart from 'Touch Wood' and 'Anna K' voyaging from Shelly Beach to Spring Bay and return.

Iain's bbq and lawn was a very welcome focus into the afternoon providing lots of chat and good cheer - it was still going strong when the mariners ( ancient and otherwise ) arrived from Shelly Beach!

Many thanks to all members and friends who made both days of the weekend such memorable ones, and more power to cruising in company ...with or without wooden boats.

#### David Gatenby



Photos by Graeme Hunt



The "Anna K"



Roscoe & Cheryl in "Bumtickle"



Bentley's Boat Shed



**Ainsley & Ros**



**Which way? Brian in Vashti, Judy in the canoe and David and Sally in their new yellow dinghy**

### **Summary of talk given to Wooden Boat Guilders at Triabunna, 26/5/07**

by Barbara Bentley, 67 East Shelley Beach Rd., Orford, 6257 1118

#### **Boatbuilder - Bunny Thomas**

My father, Bunny Thomas, built two boats on the beach at East Shelley Beach.

- 1) Porpoise - 1954 - a reverse sheer 26 ft yacht
- 2) Lamorna - 1957 - a celerytop fishing boat, 36 ft.

While a POW in Japan, Bunny had many dreams of the future; one was to build a boat. So while working in Nigeria in 1953 he caste the keel from the lead from old batteries. He shipped this to Tasmania in a mahogany packing case - the timber being used later to fit her out. My mother, Mary, made the canvas sails. "Porpoise" was sold and renamed 'Moonbeam'.

"Lamorna" too was built and launched at the same Shelley Beach site. She has been converted to a cruiser ketch and now is berthed at Eden (NSW).

My dad owned 2 other wooden boats -

- 1) Treginna - built by Muirs at Battery Point in 1962, length 36 ft.
- 2) Pirran - built by Micky (Murray) Drake at Triabunna in 1970, length 30 ft 6 in. and this is still berthed at Triabunna.

#### **Wooden Boat Builders - Triabunna**

For 45 years from 1950 over 100 wooden boats were built in the Spring Bay area. The shipwrights, none formally trained, established an enviable reputation for sound construction. These boat builders learnt their trade from others, many from father to son; they were real craftsmen and men of the sea.

Some of them were -

#### **The Drakes -**

Neill built a couta dinghy in 1930 and then went on to build many boats. In retirement he built a replica of a whale boat.

His son, Murray (Micky) for a while worked for Dean Wilson before building 14 boats. One of these was the "Wiaroa", based on the design of Joshua Slocum's "Spray".

#### **Bernard Wilson -**

learnt his trade from his dad Dean building mostly from models - one of his 16 boats was the 46 ft. Rallinga, which was built to carry tin from Port Davey.

#### **Jim Jones -**

built "Baby Dot" in 1924. He and his brother Fred, built 29 boats and 80 dinghies but Jim's son, Dave, constructed over 40 boats, mostly from celerytop. His lifetimes work is still on the water.

#### **The Crayfish Derby - Orford**

This event was born out of the Fishermans Regatta, an event held annually since 1879. The big event on Regatta Day was "The Cock of Spring Bay", a race for fishing boats. My dad Bunny, who was a fisherman involved in this race, was also friendly with many yachtsmen who called in here when returning home from the Sydney/Hobart. They called in and ate crays which Bunny had caught and kept for them. One year, coincidentally, 3 of them called by on Regatta Day, so Bunny organised a race for them. The next year the Cruising Yacht Club of Sydney informed Bunny that many yachts would stop by on their way home for a race. So, Bunny laid out a course, drew up sailing instructions and the race became official. The Fishermans' Association donated cases of crays for prizes and every year the event grew larger. In 1962 'The Mercury' report on the event titled it "The Crayfish Derby". My father worked hard to keep it prestigious and informal as it grew in size and popularity. He also had a plaque made for the handicap winner. This plaque was highly prized by the yachtsmen and has resided in many yacht clubs around the world. It contains names of some of the world's famous ocean racers but the plaque is now lost.

In 1982 the Boat Club od Triabunna took over the organisation from the Fishermans Association. The event ceased some time in the 1990's....

During the hey days of the Crayfish Derby the Swanson brothers always competed with one of their wooden designed yachts. Ron Swanson raced here with, amongst others, Cadence, Carmen and Cavalier, but he like many others stayed for a few days with my father and other fishermen, eating crays and having good times.

My father, Bunny Thomas, had created a most prestigious Tasmanian event.

## Secretary's Report

Well it sounds like the President has covered everything but it must be said on behalf of all Guild members a big "thank you" to both Roscoe and Cheryl for your efforts in steering the Guild so well this year.

It has been a great year, albeit a very busy one, as every year that includes a Wooden Boat Festival is.

I must also sincerely thank Chris and Penny Morton for their sterling efforts over the years as Committee members and Mess Officers. Chris and Penny have indicated they can no longer be involved in committee duties mainly due to the required travel. So many thanks and we look forward to your continued presence in Guild affairs.

We look forward to bigger things in 2007/08.

## Terra Linna sub committee report

We have enjoyed some success in gaining corporate support for the Terra Linna Project. Zinnafex have accepted an application for a grant under their small Community Programs and will donate some dollars and timber to the project. Thanks Zinnafex!

Things are moving along but we need to secure the timber for the restoration work before shifting the Terra Linna to Noel and Noelene's backyard. Wise call Noelene! Hopefully you read the great article Jocelyn had in the mercury for us last Saturday.

In the mean time we have to gain permission from the Council and re-arrange our insurance before work can commence.

Brian Marriott has now updated the Web site so that donations to the project can be made online so if any member knows of prospective donors please direct them to;

<http://www.maritimetas.org/taswoodenboatguild/>

## Some more Orford Photo's by Graeme



Saturday gathering of Guild members

## Calendar 2007

- **24th June 2007 Sailing Day on the Lady Nelson.** There is room for 30 passengers only who will get a chance to assist sailing the vessel whilst on our 2 hour cruise around the harbour. **"First in best Dressed" so place your bookings with Chris and Penny ph 62950278 or oldgaf-fers@bigpond.com . Cost is \$25.00 per head including tea and coffee.** Members are invited for a meal after the cruise, more detail later.
- **10.30 am, 22nd July 2007** Cygnet Yacht Club Trip leader Chris and Penny Morton
- **10.30am, 26th August 2007** Browns River Kingston Beach. Trip Leader Graeme Nichols & Graeme Hunt
- **10.00 am, 1 September 2007** Model Working Bee 185 Berridale Road Berriedale. Host Peter Higgs
- **10.30am, 22nd and 23rd September 2007** TAMAR River event. Trip Leader Roscoe Barnett
- **10.30am, 21st October 2007,** Dodges Ferry. Trip Leader Graeme Hunt
- **Time, Date and Event TBA, Piners Festival or WBGT Inc gathering, Strahan.** Trip leader Peter Higgs
- **10.30am, 2nd December 2007** Rowing Day and WBGT Christmas Luncheon, Mariners Cottage Battery Point.

**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 2nd Monday of every month. Following the event the Trip Leader is to provide a short story and photos of the event for inclusion in the following Skeg. Thanks to Jim Tayton and Graeme Hunt for being John Bishops proxies to get this months Trip Leader report in.

## STOP PRESS

**Whilst on about the calendar Chris and Penny Morton have asked that I draw your attention to the Lady Nelson day and some more changes including lower \$'s. Please contact them to make your reservation.**

the Lady Nelson people confirm the outing for 1230, 24th June for 1 1/2hours. In view of the shorter trip thus a lower tariff, we decided to lower the charge to Guild members to \$20. 00 which will still put some money into the coffers for Terra Linna project.

## Roscoe's Sailors Quiz corner

Answer to last months quiz;

Apologies the editor does not have "The Yachtsman's Quiz Book" with him as he writes this months Skeg. All will be revealed!

## Some more Orford Photo's by Graeme



You just keep rowing "Jo Dwyer" Jim!



Another great Orford Bar-B-Q at Ian's



"Anna K", JA, David & Sally and Ainsley & Eva

*General Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, inc. public holidays, but not in the month of January.*

*The next general meeting of the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania Inc. will include our AGM and will be held at the Mariners' Cottage, Napoleon Street, Battery Point commencing at 7.30 pm Monday 18th June 2007*

*There will be a committee meeting held at 6.00pm*

**For the AGM members are to be financial so please complete the attached membership form and bring it along with your subs on Monday night.**

**Nominations required also.**

### **Guest Speaker/s, 18th June 2007**

As of yet we do not have a guest speaker. All equipment will be available for some one who wants to speak.

**Needed;**

- 1. Skeg articles by the 2nd Monday of each month.**
- 2. Speaker/demonstration for next month**

**Have you looked at our Web site lately? Its worth a look! Just ask Roscoe!!**

**<http://www.maritimetas.org/taswoodenboatguild/>**

### **Officers of the Guild contact list**

<i>President</i>	Ross Barnett	03 62233451
<i>Sen. Vice President</i>	Robin Singleton	03 62439033
<i>Vice President</i>	Graeme Hunt	03 62278652
<i>Secretary</i>	Peter Higgs	03 62491695
<i>Treasurer</i>	Brian Marriott	0419877684
<i>Flag Officers</i>	Peter Higgs & Brian Marriott	
<i>Mess Officers</i>	Penny & Chris Morton 62950278	
<i>Committee</i>	David Gatenby	
	Jim Tayton	
	David Barnes	

