

## ~ Outgoing President's Annual Report ~

Over the past 12 months we have had another challenging year. We started in lockdown but were able to get away to Mallacoota for our annual trip away. Through the year we have had successful trips to,

- Albert Park Angling Club, organised by Bob Morgan.
- HMAS Castlemaine and a presentation from Andrew Campbell on the history of HMAS Armidale.
- Geelong Wooden Boat Festival with Bob Morgan representing the WBA
- The APYC 150 Anniversary
- The Inverloch Classic Boat Festival
- A memorable club night with Dugga Beazley

We've also seen some educational contributions to Shavings including,

- Boat boarding techniques by Jim Stockton
- Halyard splicing by Jim Stockton
- Bird banding by Jim Stockton
- Lanyard knotting by Paul Rubera
- And many fascinating boat building articles from Tom Whitfield.

Members have build some great new boats and stories including,

- A two year Garvey build of "Teal" by Cris Kelly
- "Derry" the Skerry by Gary Hardy
- "Millie" the Oughtred Wee Rob canoe by Paul Rubera
- Mini Mars the RC tugboat by Andrew Campbell
- An Oughtred Elf by Andrew Yen
- A Lakes boat by David Gibson

Some successful innovations from Gary Hardy,

- The new WBA facebook page
- Youtube content
- Mid week boating

We have had 12 new members join and I welcome all to the club and look forward to their participation in club events and input to the running of the club.

As this is my last meeting as President I will take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for their work and effort in the administration of the club on a daily basis. While the members have outings to participate in, often the organisation and communication that takes place to achieve these is often unseen and overlooked.

So, my thanks to our current committee, Andrew, Paul, Sharon, Graham, Peter, Penny, Bob, Andrew and Gary, as well as previous committee members who stepped down last year. Leigh, David and Geoff for your work and support to ensure the longevity and smooth operation of the Association. Thank you for all your support during my presidency and I would encourage everyone to be part of the committee at some stage. as it is very rewarding.

The sad loss of Colin Hunt, a founding member, will be felt amongst those who knew him and appreciated his humour and quiet encouragement for the people and activities of the club.

Chris Kelly



## ~ Presidents' Reports ~

Our AGM day opened up to a beautiful sunny and breezy day for our AGM at Albert Park Lake. Attendance was good, with 32 arriving to enjoy the conditions and to catch up with members we haven't seen for some time.

Our boats were prepared, with many new enthusiastic members waiting for a sail in *Begonia* and *Lyndsay Symons*. Graham Signorini took the first boat load and having checked competency, let them loose on the lake.

Andrew Cohen and his son Jason cooked up the BBQ and the meal was enjoyed by all. Business conducted and a new president elected, my role has now changed, so this is my last report and you can eagerly await some new musings from Ethan Urch.

At the end of the business session our grand raffle was drawn by Graham Signorini. First prize, Graham's wooden lock, was won by Mick Bentvelzen.

Consolation prizes were won by Peter Batchelor and Alex Pigdon.

I look forward the next year and the direction that Ethan will provide the WBA with our support.

Best wishes for the future.

Chris.



I'd like to begin by keeping my first President's Report short and sweet, similar to how long I've been in the position. I'll use this report to recall my experience and the atmosphere of our most recent sailing day on the 24th of July. As well as putting forward how I will be upholding my obligations in this new role.

I was embarrassingly half an hour early and eager for the sailing day. My enthusiasm was definitely in the right place though. The weather was about as good as it can get during the thick of a Melbourne winter. The sun was shining, ready to greet our club's crew. As for the wind, it was at the ready to fill our sails and noses with Andrew's culinary skills.

After *Begonia*, Graham and a few other members had a wrestle with her rigging, she was launched. There must have been some sore fingers after the altercation, no one raised their hands for Captain. Graham took the initiative... and thrust it upon one of our newest members, Louen. With no

hesitation he took the position and crew out on the lake to experience *Begonia's* magic.

Our mystical club boat was not alone that day, many of our member's boats joined the fleet. Hard hitters such as *Talisman*, *Lyndsay Symons*, *Derry* and even David's 'transformer in disguise' dingy were making waves. There were many charming boats out that day, all documented in Gary's video. A link to the channel is on the WBA website, including a backlog of many other spectacular sailing days.

The BBQ-fueled wind had an alluring effect on all the sailers and members. We were all carving up the water watching the waves our fleet carved around Gunn Island. Then within the dip-to-black of a blink, we all were all in the conference room with a mouth full of roast pumpkin.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the mile-long table of delicacy. Every mouthful was a taste of home, the home

we build within our club.

Once everyone was full of food, Chris pulled out his secret weapon... the AGM. Quite clever on his part, hard to run from a meeting when your belly is as full as our sails were in the first half of the day. He recalled the club's exciting events of the past year, including the challenging times the committee and he led us through. He spoke on the heartfelt gathering in Colin's memory, held in the tranquil slice of the world he called home.

"F65!" Graham hollered out into the room of empty plates and raffle tickets. The winning ticket rang in Mick's ears, he came forth and was awarded the lock to Graham's skilled artisan secrets. After a little back and forth of whether the key was part of the prize or not, the next two stunning prizes were awarded to Peter and Alex.

With the heightened adrenaline of a raffle out of the way. It was time for the club to vote and restructure the committee members, with the nominations being top picks and a room full of food-coma affected members, the new committee was elected. Then followed by the long awaited star of the day... dessert!

I do want to thank the club for understanding that I wasn't feeling too well and had to leave during dessert. Could be something to do with Chris

relinquishing the shoulder tension inducing role onto me. With my newly hardened shoulders, enthusiasm, and support from the committee, I will be an ever approachable president (who says he'll keep it short then talk for a whole page - I couldn't help myself, it was such a welcoming and warm sailing day we all had).

In the spirit of section (e) of my obligations as president, "to record the history of wooden boatbuilding and boats", I'd like to put out an expression of interest, for any members who would be comfortable with sharing the stories behind their boat that is a part of the WBA fleet, and their experiences/adventures with wooden boats.

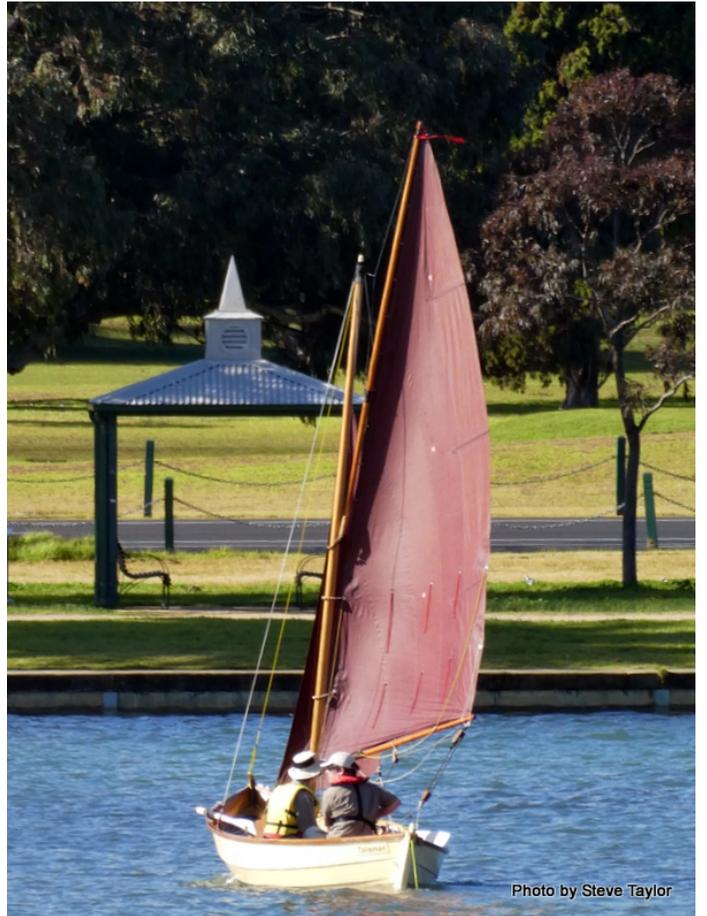
Email me at the [president@woodenboat.asn.au](mailto:president@woodenboat.asn.au). I am very interested in record the collective history of WBA members, then wrapping it up in a pleasant video series that we'll put on the club's social media. The content will be a great way to capture our club's history and to attract new members who share our passion.

I look forward to meeting more of you at the next event the WBA holds.

Good winds, Ethan



~ Stephen Taylor's photos from the AGM sailing day ~



## ~ WBA Events in August and September ~

Your new WBA Committee is planning a full calendar of events for the remainder of the year, here are some dates to put straight into your diary.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To help reduce the spread of COVID infection, those attending our events are *strongly encouraged to wear masks when indoors* and to practice good hand hygiene at all times.

### AUGUST

#### **Club Night – Wed 24 August. 7 for 7.30pm – Albert Park Yacht Club - Movie Night – “The Riddle of the Sands”**

Sit back and enjoy a showing of “The Riddle of the Sands”, a movie based on Erskine Childers’ 1903 classic nautical spy thriller of the same name. The two heroes, Carruthers and Davies, are on a sailing holiday aboard the yacht *Dulcibella*, among the islands in the North Sea off Germany, an area notoriously challenging for sailing and navigation due to the big tides and shifting sandbars. They stumble across a dastardly plot foreshadowing a possible invasion of the British Isles by the Imperial German Navy. Can it be stopped? A great favourite of boaties, with sailing expertise just as important to the plot as the spycraft. Light supper afterwards.

Please RSVP to WBA Secretary Chris Kelly, 0438 519 033 [secretary@woodenboat.asn.au](mailto:secretary@woodenboat.asn.au).

#### **Sailing Day - Sun 28 August – Albert Park Lake.**

Late Winter sailing can be wonderful! Come and see for yourself.

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Club Night - Wed 21 September, 7.30pm – Albert Park Yacht Club**

“The last great simple wooden boat based aquatic culture in the 21st Century is right on our back door”

Bob Morgan’s photographic presentation will introduce us to the mighty and remote Sepik River of Papua New Guinea, featuring the incredible boats, villages and peoples of the aquatic-based subsistence culture of the Sepik River Region and of the Ninigo Archipelago and the Admiralty Islands of the Northern Bismarck Sea.

The presenter, Bob Morgan, is a keen yachtsman, traveller and photographer and an experienced public speaker. His current fleet includes a 112-year-old cedar and canvas canoe and an 1898 clinker fishing boat.

Please RSVP to WBA Secretary Chris Kelly, 0438 519 033 [secretary@woodenboat.asn.au](mailto:secretary@woodenboat.asn.au)

#### **Sailing Day – Sun 25 September - Albert Park Lake**

Sharpen your wits, put on your thinking caps, collect your team and join *The Amazing Raid!* Peter and Gary are preparing a challenging day out on the water at APL. Part Great Race, part Boat Rally, this fun event will test your ingenuity and powers of observation, not to mention your boating abilities. There are prizes to be won and the winning team will be honoured with an entry on the *Amazing Raid* plaque. Registration is essential and open now! Register at <https://www.woodenboat.asn.au/AR-2>

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### **WBA Burgees for sale**

Our new burgees are now available. Measuring 500mm to the tip, and 400mm along the mast edge, they are available now for \$50.

Contact David Stott on [djstott@bigpond.com](mailto:djstott@bigpond.com) to place an order.



~ Long and slender or short and curly ~

Continuing the never ending search for the next boat to build...

In a recent article I described a rowing wherry designed by Dave Gentry. Then my thoughts turned to his Whitehall design which is based on the working row boats that carried passengers and goods on rivers and harbours. Both designs use plywood frames with wood stringers which support a fabric skin.

The photo shows the Whitehall on top and the wherry below. Both boats are to a scale of 1:10 and the stick between the boats is 1m long.



The table summarises the key differences of the two designs.

| Type       | Design name | Length | Width | Design weight of hull | Maximum capacity | Real capacity  |
|------------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| Whitehall  | Shenandoah  | 4.1m   | 1.17m | 27kg                  | 273kg            | 3 adults + dog + picnic basket + folding chairs + ice bucket + champagne |
| Wherry     | Ruth        | 5.5m   | 0.85m | 21kg                  | 159kg            | 2 adults and a picnic basket   |
| Difference |             | -25%   | +38%  | +29%                  | +72%             |  |

The change from the wherry to the whitehall gives a boat that is:

- 25% shorter (easier to store)
- 38% wider (harder to store)
- 29% heavier (harder for one person to put on a roof rack)
- 72% more capacity (Wow!)

So the big advantage of the Whitehall is a 72% increase in capacity. If you are thinking of rowing down a big river on your own for several weeks or a gentle afternoon row with a friend who doesn't weigh a lot, then the long and slender wherry is the winner. However, if you are thinking of that river trip with a friend, the wherry wins, particularly if you add a rudder so one person can steer and the rower doesn't have to keep looking over their shoulder.

Now, what happens if we add an electric outboard? Laundry tub testing with weights equivalent to two adults and an electric outboard submerges the lower part of the transoms of both designs, indicating that an outboard will create drag, so it's not a viable option. The photo with the sun shining through the skin illustrates why. Both designs are double enders under the water, with the lowest pair of stringers coming to a point where they meet the transom. There is no volume in these designs to support the weight of the motor. This illustrates the danger of adding an outboard to historic designs that were optimised for rowing.

Dave Gentry does have a skin-on-frame design for a small outboard motor canoe and the clearest way to describe it is to say it's broad in the bum to support the motor. Maybe I'll make of model of it...

Jim Stockton



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# The Amazing Raid

Mk II



**How well do you know Albert Park Lake?**

***The Amazing Raid, Mk II* takes place on Sunday 25 September, starting at 11am.**

**A cross between a raid and a car rally, with a dash of *Swallows and Amazons* thrown in, the day promises to be fun for all ages!**

**Do you have what it takes to beat the current champions, *Team Talisman*?**

**Open to all current members of the Wooden Boat Association.**

**Use a sailboat, rowboat, kayak or canoe.**

**Compete on your own, or form a team.**

**Registration essential, and now open.  
<https://www.woodenboat.asn.au/AR-2>**

**Not a member? Don't miss out on the fun!  
Join us at [www.woodenboat.asn.au](http://www.woodenboat.asn.au)**

~ The Boatyard ~

**For Sale: Modified GP14**

This is perfect for dinghy cruising for two people as it has the room for extra gear, and light so easy to launch and retrieve, plus adding extra gear will not hamper her at all.

She can carry up to 30 kgs of extra gear no problem. She is dry to sail. Easy to rig.

She is mostly varnished, which is due for a little TLC.

She sails both easy and fast (these two do not always go together).

Good sails: main, jib, spinnaker.

The modifications were to make her lighter and add more buoyancy. Everything else is same.

Comes with two masts: 1 wooden, 1 aluminium.

It is on an unregistered trailer.

Asking \$1500.

Roger Spooner: ropeables@gmail.com

More photos on the WBA website.



**Advance notice - WBA weekend away**

The WBA will be visiting Paynesville at the end of October this year. The plan is to stay at the Allawah Caravan Park, which has its own dock and boat ramp. All cabins have been filled, so book a camping site soon on 03 5156 7777. We are intending to arrive on Friday 28 and leave on Monday 31 October.

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**For sale: Tawney Owl, a 12 foot Tideway**

Hand Copper nailed, Mahogany, lined in Teak with Spruce mast and gaff.

She was made on the River Thames about fifty years ago and shipped to Australia when a friend's father passed away. She still has the original Seagull motor, plus another faster one for fishing.

Stored on a brand new, unused trailer.

A beautiful boat – ideal for families and lake sailing.

Very reluctant sale, but no longer used.

Asking \$7,500.00. Contact Peter Banfield on 0421 237 714



**For Sale: various chandlery items.**

Aluminium Masts. Also some booms. Most have fittings still attached. Second hand but useable in good condition. They are off the following class vessels: Sabre, 125, Hartley 16, Fireball These sections are also used on other classes or retrofit other designs.

Stanchions. 475 mm and 550 mm high. Ronstan RF 405.

If interested call Roger Spooner on 0409020021 to view, then discuss price. Going cheap as cleaning up.



## For Sale: CLC Chesapeake 17 Kayak

LOA - 17'

Beam - 24"

Weight - 23kgs.

Construction: Marine ply glassed over with Westsystems Epoxy, International paint with Awlwood varnish.

Includes seats, toe steer rudder system and all handles/lashing for deck - assembly required.

Asking \$1,700.00.

Contact Nick Atkins: 0422 063 476 or [info@woodenboatcentre.com.au](mailto:info@woodenboatcentre.com.au)



~ Please Note ~

### Opinions and advice

Opinions and advice expressed in Shavings and the Association's meetings are those of the individual originators only. The Editor and the Association's Committee do not necessarily endorse views expressed at such forums.

### Participation in events

Participation in events organised by the Association may involve certain risks inherently associated with the perils of the sea or weather which include the possibility of damage to or loss of vessels and equipment as well as injury or death to persons.

Such risks will require the exercise of the prior judgement of members on behalf of themselves, their guests and invitees, whether to commence or continue any particular activity, irrespective of information supplied by the Association, its Committee or officers.

The Association, its Committee and officers accept no responsibility for damage, loss, injury or death arising from these risks.

### Contributions to Shavings

Contributions to Shavings by members of the Association on relevant topics are most welcome. Contributions may be edited before publication at the Editor's discretion. By submitting any material for publication the contributor warrants that he/she is the copyright owner, and consents to the editing of the material and its publication in Shavings and on the Association's website on a royalty-free basis.

~ WBA Committee 2022 - 2023 ~

|                    |                  |              |  |
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| Committee          | Bob Morgan       |              |  |
| Committee          | Andrew Campbell  | 0408 847 319 |  |
| Committee          | Nick Atkins      |              |  |

## ~ Murray River cruise. October 2022 ~

A group of us who have previously cruised on the Murray River in pre-pandemic times are thinking about another informal trip next spring.

The proposed route is from Yarrawonga to Tocumwal. This is a distance of 100km by river. If we average 20km each day this will give us a trip of five days. There may also be some current if water is being released which will help us on our way.

Although the proposed daily distance is a modest compared to some of the previous efforts, some of us are out of practice and this will ease us back into river cruising.

The proposed dates are some time between early October to 25 October, depending of participants' preferences and the amount of water in the river. This time avoids the school holidays in NSW and Victoria and will get WBA people back with time to spare before their weekend trip away to Paynesville from 27 October to 1 November.

There is a caravan park downstream of the dam wall in Yarrawonga, called the Yarrawonga Caravan Park, which has its own boat ramp on the river.

There are numerous camping grounds along this stretch of the river, and a sizeable town at Cobram which has a full range of facilities. There are also a number of sandy beaches which look tempting and could provide peaceful camping spots.

There may be some bank to bank shallow sandbars. Draft and clearance might be issues for some. A good supply of propeller cotter pins would be essential for

all outboard owners.

Getting back from Tocumwal to Yarrawonga to collect the cars and trailers is relatively easy as there is a bus service that runs on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The bus service is operated by NSW Train Link and takes 1 hour 10 minutes. It will drop us in Mulwala on the NSW side of the border, which is the sister town to Yarrawonga, and we can catch a taxi from the bus stop back to our cars and trailers (wherever that may be).

We are operating on the usual assumptions that each boat will be self-contained for all the important things like food, fuel and maintenance.

Engine repair facilities are available at Yarrawonga and Cobram.

The entire route is covered by the maps in the booklet titled *Murray River Access Yarrawonga, Mulwala, Cobram-Barooga, Tocumwal, Ulupna Island*, published by Spatial Vision.

### **Things that we need to check.**

- Does anyone have any suggestions for a place to leave the cars and trailers in Yarrawonga or Mulwala?
- Are there outboard motor repair people in Tocumwal?

### **If you are interested in joining the trip.**

If you are interested in hearing more about the proposed trip, please contact Jim Stockton via email at jimstockton1@gmail.com and I will add you to the distribution list.

Jim Stockton

## ~ OK, so it wasn't quite goodbye after all ~

Yes, I'm still here!

The search for a new Editor for *Shavings* continues, and in the interim I will keep editing the newsletter, at least in the short term.

It doesn't look like I'm going to be able to keep editing *Shavings* for the entire year, so the WBA is urgently looking for

a replacement. If you are interested in being more involved in the Association, editing the newsletter is a great place to start. Phone me on 0425 733 532 or email shavings@woodenboat.asn.au. If you don't know where to start, I'm happy to help you put your first newsletter together.

Peter