

ASSOCIATION of HERITAGE BOAT ORGANISATIONS

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

C/- Maritime Museum of Tasmania

16 Argyle Street
GPO Box 1118 Ph: (03) 6234 1427
researchmmt@maritimetas.org
Hobart Tasmania 7001 Ph: (03) 6234 1427
researchmmt@maritimetas.org
Ph: (03) 6234 1427
researchmmt@maritimetas.org



AHBO

Since the start of this year the Association has stepped up its activities across the board. This has highlighted areas which some thought is required. For instance when is it considered a vessel has deteriorated beyond saving and being restored? If it is a highly significant should it be brought to the attention as a project to a museum to carry out preservation procedures? This then brings up other challenges for museums such as available specialists, funding and space. What then? This will be one of the sort issues that will be discussed at the next meeting at the beginning of May.

Over the last few years a project has been forwarded by the Wooden Boat Guild for TasPorts to make available Constitution Dock to display 6-8 vintage boats to the public. Recently there has been promising discussions. AHBO fully supports this venture. In recent years the use of this historical dock has been underutilised. In one corner there are four historical vessels. They are the *May Queen* (1867) the last of the trading ketches, *Preana* (1896) Hobart's last steam yacht, *Matilda* (1892) the remaining fishing cutter of her era and the *Westward* (1947) winner of the Sydney Hobart race in 1947 and 1948. However there are many other boats of interest which are still operational.

About fifteen years ago a group of us took 299 photos of boats of 50 years old or more. This was mainly in the South of Tasmania with some photos taken up North; these were put on a data base. The above group being retired sailing friends, most who are also members of the Maritime Museum. Although older we intend to repeat the exercise in the near future and compare the data. Tracking boats is one of our objectives and not an easy task. Some go boats go to other parts of Australia some become neglected, including those out of sight in sheds. A successful system of keeping tabs on these boats can make us aware when they are no longer cared for as they should be, especially boats of significance. For this AHBO has started a public accessible data base. This data base includes ability for the public to have an input and therefore help us in our task.



An abandoned 28 foot naval gig , 1866 design, possibly last of its type

Recording and Tracing Database.

Graham Broxam, AHBO's registrar, who compiled the first database using excel as well as boats that have been under discussion are now being combined into a new database. This is using iCloud and using the facilities of 'eHive'. This system has proved very successful at Maritime Museum of Tasmania. It has attracted responses and additional information which is very helpful. The work on our side has been carried by our Hon. Secretary, Cheryl Barnett and Lareen Davidson who has come aboard to assist. Lareen is a Marine Archaeologist so is helpful to us in many other ways. The Librarian of the Maritime Museum has guided us into the workings of 'eHive'. As soon as we have enough data entered we will go online, then we will give members the key to access the information. Some personal information will be withheld, unless permission is given, and be available to only some officers of the committee. This will we believe keeps us 'legal'. Interestingly some of the original data of the vessels 'in need' have been restored, which is good news.

Communications

As the Association progresses there is need to resolve for a viable group communication system. Hopefully at the next meeting we are in a position to agree to the cost. Then we can invite members from the other States and those in Northern Tasmania to join us at the June meeting. We would love to have your input.

Half our battle is to be aware of significant vessels requiring support. This needs an input by all who have an interest in the saving of our heritage craft to let a committee member or the Hon. Secretary know. It is handy to have as much detail as possible and also with a photo, from an iPhone for instance. We have the facilities to research further into a sighting report.

Mike Webb

President mb: 0428 254230