



Regional Information Sessions promoting the Australian Register of Historic Vessels.

The Australian National Maritime Museum are the custodians of the Australian Register of Historic Vessels (ARHV). Recently they have advertised for and selected a Tasmanian based Assistant Research Officer to assist the Curator, David Payne, of the ARHV to increase the number of Tasmania historic vessels to register on the ARHV. Peter Higgs has been appointed in a .5 capacity until 13 June to assist David Payne in the role of Assistant Research Officer and is based in Hobart.

The Australian Register of Historic Vessels (ARHV) is a database of significant vessels that are a part of Australia's maritime heritage and social history. The Register is managed by the Australian National Maritime Museum in association with Sydney Heritage Fleet.

Tasmania has a rich maritime heritage including vessels that meet the criteria to become registered on the ARHV data base. Many of the Tasmanian vessels are still afloat and or working on Tasmanian waters yet Tasmania it is not overly represented on the ARHV.

Why would I register my boat on the ARHV?

- Boat owners will benefit from providing information for the ARHV by:
- Receiving a certificate and ARHV Burgee rewarding their active participation in the project
- Gaining recognition for their boat in the form of a statement of significance, putting it into historical context
- Gaining access to research information on designers, builders and similar vessels
- Making contact with other boat owners, clubs and museums
- Receiving advice on preservation methods and materials, and suppliers
- There are no specific restrictions for either the owner or the historic vessels maintenance or restoration program. It is not at all like the restrictions placed on heritage buildings or infrastructure.

Vessels that have been registered on the ARHV may include vessels meeting the following;

1. All vessels built up to and including 1970 which meet a set of [assessment criteria](#) for Australian heritage, along with a small number of vessels with special significance that have been built after 1970.

2. Vessels of all types and sizes - there is a diverse range from canoes, Indigenous watercraft, dinghies, skiffs, through to yachts and power craft, the wide variety of commercial vessels, Australian military craft - it is open to vessels that have operated on inland waterways as well as sea going craft.
3. Vessels with a known provenance and background.
4. Vessels that satisfy the assessment criteria but are now owned, operated or displayed outside of Australia
5. The ARHV does not include wrecks or replicas. A wreck is a vessel which is submerged, semi-submerged and abandoned.

The ARHV assesses vessels on the well-established standard criteria of significance used in the heritage and museum world.

The 2 most important criteria to meet for ARHV acceptance are;

1. Provenance, that is can we prove how old the boat is, who built her etc.
2. The history and stories about the boat. For example, why was she built, how did she service the community, purpose or family she was built for. These stories are very important.

If you believe your vessel is worthy of registering it on the ARHV consider the above criteria. If you believe it does meet the criteria and you can support that with documented evidence you could contact Peter Higgs to enquire further into registering it on the ARHV.

Peter Higgs works Wednesdays and Thursdays and can be contacted on 0417030941 or by email at Peter.higgs@anmm.gov.au