



3333 Huon Highway, FRANKLIN Tas 7113

Owned and operated by the Franklin Working Waterfront Association Inc

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER May 2017

Management Committee

President: Alan Cato (acato@netspace.net.au)

Vice President 1: Mike Dredge (flatcalm @ozemail.com.au)

Secretary: Bec Enders (becjon@iinet.net.au)

Treasurer: Sonia Shimeld (sonia.shimeld@gmail.com)

Public Officer: Helen Gasparinatos (gasfam@bigpond.com)

Ordinary committee members:

1. Tim Brown (timb635@gmail.com)
2. Andrew Perkins (andrewp@apcoengineering.com)
3. Fiona Peate (fiona.peate@bigpond.com)
4. Graham Rankin (woodenboatfreak@gmail.com)
5. Neil Purdom (ntpurdom@iinet.net.au)

Wooden Boat Centre Manager: Anne Holst (anne@woodenboatcentre.com)

Newsletter editor: Alan Cato



The Wooden Boat Centre in 1996.
(Photo: Ruth and John Young Collection)

Note the horse tethered to the railing to the left. Does anyone know the identity of said horse?
Also note the framework for the boat shed right of centre.

WBC LOGO AT HEAD OF NEWSLETTER

You will note the change in letterhead logo to that of the WBC. This is not a computer glitch, but is a carefully considered change by FWWA. The Franklin Working Waterfront Association Inc. continues to pursue its mission to lead regional, social and economic development through sustainable maritime activity at Franklin and currently this is focused through the activities of the Wooden Boat Centre. The WBC is the visible manifestation of our aims and objectives, and it is the institution more readily recognised within the community and with visitors. Members of FWWA will see no significant change in the organisation.

FWWA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOW AT FULL STRENGTH

Neil Purdom was formally inducted as a member of the Management Committee at our May meeting. Neil has extensive experience in developing educational courses and WH&S.

The committee appears to be operating well, with a good level of continuity.

TIDYING THE ENVIRONS IN AND AROUND THE WBC CONTINUES

Members of the Management Committee are continuing their plan to assist with improving the environment around the WBC. Poor weather conditions have necessitated moving inside to help with sweeping, vacuuming and tidying. A number of apple bins have been purchased for the storage of garden rubbish and odds and ends of timber.

THE MONTAGUE WHALER ('MONTY') WELCOMED TO THE LBT FLEET

On Monday 8th May, around 60 people joined the LBT dinner to welcome the 'Monty' to the fleet. You may well remember the Montague Whaler in a terrible state at the WBC before restoration. The restored 'Monty' is a credit to all the shipwrights and volunteers who worked on it. An outside fire, an almost full moon and flares were in order as she came alongside to the sound of bells and whistles.

This was followed by dinner with a speech by John Young where he outlined the contribution of the Wooden Boat Guild, the WBC and people like Cody Horgan and many others in finding a suitable home for this historic vessel. Thereafter came singing and merriment. All those involved can be confident that the 'Monty' is in good hands.

GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MMAPSS

A grant application has been lodged with the Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme. The aim is to upgrade our front-of-house maritime display. Special thanks go to Sonia Shimeld for the amount of work, which went into preparing the submission. If successful, all would be worthwhile, if not, a lot of groundwork will have been done for future grant applications. A letter of support was included from the History Group.

WBC Manager's Report to Franklin Working Waterfront Committee Meeting 11th May 2017

People:

- Our 'Busiest Summer Yet' celebration is planned for the 18th May 4.30 for 6pm dinner soiree in the shed. This is a time to celebrate the great contribution everyone makes to the WBC.
- Pete Laidlaw has started the Viking boat build with Josh a young student from Perth. Pete will share the build with Mike Johnson to be able to fit a few other commitments into his busy schedule. Thanks to Richard Forster for providing a friendly accommodation option to Josh.
- Adrian Dean's clinker workboat crew is working happily and steadily on the 16' build. They are a lively and skillful team that enjoy their time in the shed together.
- Jono Vey-Cox is working on the completion of the Kirkwood dinghy - painting and varnishing.
- David Nash is again working on *Leshelen* in between *Yukon* trips.
- Cody Horgan joins us in the shed for some time this week. Cody is down from Sydney away from his regular work at the Australian Maritime Museum. He will lend a hand to the Viking boat build.
- Anne was away for a week's break during this period, with everything carrying on just fine without her.
- There are fairly regular gaps in the rosters with a number of our volunteers heading off for warmer weather and adventure - all well deserved of course.

Tourism:

- Visitation is reduced but still there is a fairly constant flow of small numbers of tourists.
- A good number of group bookings flowing in for next season.

Education:

- Clinker dinghy course continues with 3 very capable students.
- Our Year 9 work experience student, Beinn will again be with us on Thursdays for the next 4 weeks from Kingston High School. He will assist on the Viking build when in the shed.
- We are still planning to run a Certificate II Engineering Pathways this year and a Certificate III Marine Craft Construction to begin next year (or as soon as TasTAFE can get the course on scope, once we have provided them all the documentation). The Cert II is on scope and has prerequisite units for the Cert III. It is intended to make the course content as appealing as possible for potential students. Progress is slow as there is a lot of work involved in writing the assessment packages.
- The Viking boat build has just kicked off to build an 18' open clinker double ender.

Boat builds:

- Max's strip planked kayak is being steadily finished by Max in the bottom workshop.
- We are still looking for additional students to be part of the Viking boat build. However this build is progressing regardless.
- The clinker dinghy that will be available for sale once complete is progressing well, being completed by Mike and his crack team of students.

Restoration:

- *Leshelen* restoration is again underway. This work will be done/coordinated by David Nash.
- The Fazackerley dinghy - work still to do or refer on.
- *An Old Captivity* is for sale for \$9,000 ONO, less for FWWA or LBT members. This to be sold as is, or to a potential sponsor, with WBC available to do the work if required as course content.

Asset management:

- We are looking to do some larger renovation jobs over the winter: painting the front of house and front of the workshop discovery areas. A date to be set for this soon.
- We would also like to get work underway to install another of the large LBT pontoons to the fishing wharf. But progress is restricted by available funding at the moment.

Media:

- Facebook group following 716 currently; Ea does our Instagram; David Hume does our Twitter.

WHS:

- No incidents/issues to report.

WBC REPRESENTED AT VOLUNTEERS' EXPO

We are well represented at the Volunteers Expo, along with other Franklin Groups, on Saturday 13th May at the Huonville PYC building. The various groups will hand out flyers prepared by Bec Enders, with a uniform layout.

This is the second part of Ruth Young's article on the reclamation (see last newsletter for part one).

For its originally envisaged maritime purposes, the reclamation was a failure and the workmanship of the piling wall something of a scandal. However, in both the short and long run, the reclamation proved a very real asset for Franklin, for housing and business premises, but particularly for recreation, eventually including an oval, bowling green, tennis courts, a cycle track, camping ground and rowing and swimming clubs. Franklin's destiny after World War II, as a result of the reclamation, was to become a sporting Mecca.

Even before the area was developed, the "sand", as the reclamation was locally known, became a place of entertainment.



The 'sand', looking towards Cradoc, circa 1920, with the band rotunda on the right. The line of people in the distance would be standing on the river bank.
(Photo: Cato collection)

Several carnivals were held there and people gathered on the sand to enjoy picnics and concerts by the Franklin Brass Band. Franklin's first ANZAC day ceremony was held on the sand in 1920.

After the unsuccessful attempt to sell the reclaimed land for business and housing in 1924, the Minister of Lands offered to lease 6.5 acres to the Huon municipality, on condition that the Franklin people volunteered to work at creating a recreation ground, which required several inches of soil and the planting of grass.



This later photo depicts the oval top-dressed and grassed.
(Photo: Cane Family collection)

A Franklin Recreation Ground Committee was formed as a sub-committee of Huon Council and the Franklin people rose to the occasion at working bees to top dress the area and make it suitable for football, cricket, hockey and athletics as well as organising entertainment to raise money to provide soil, grass and eventually sporting facilities. Hundreds of trees were planted all around the ground for the first time on Arbor Day 1927.

The first football match was played on the reclaimed oval on 9th June 1928. In December of that year, the first cricket match was played on a new pitch, between the New South Wales Teachers' Association team and W.H. Kennedy's Eleven.

A unique type of tourist camping reserve was created on the reclamation in 1938, sited east of the bowling green, with tents and bunks for hire and a camp kitchen equipped with stove, water and electric lighting. A dressing room and pavilion for sporting clubs were also completed that year.

After World War II, stimulating sport and sports' tourism was seen as the way to revive Franklin's fortunes. Football, cricket, athletics, tennis and netball revived and, with the admission of women into the previously male domain of the lawn bowls clubs, bowling became hugely popular. Some sports, which had been traditionally very popular in Franklin, notably rowing, suffered a temporary decline until the 1960s when it came into its own again with the staging of the King's Cup.

Franklin Athletic Club was formed in 1946. The new Club laid a Sheffield track and a turf cycling track around the oval, built a shelter shed and supplied electric hot water for the dressing sheds. The flat grass cycling track was followed by an unsealed banked track and this was eventually sealed in 1964, when over 100 cycling events were held. Wood chopping competitions were an important part of the athletics carnivals and were held under lights at Franklin for the first time at any major Tasmanian Carnival in 1959. Franklin Athletic Club organised successful athletic carnivals until the late 1970s.

Football and cricket thrived in Franklin until the late twentieth century. Of the many sporting facilities that were established on Franklin's reclaimed recreation ground from the 1920s, the only survivors are the rowing and bowls clubs, both of which are regularly in use.

Today, the reclamation is mainly Crown Land, much of it leased by Huon Valley Council and it provides a pleasant recreational space for the town's residents and visitors.¹

¹ Young, R. The Palais Theatre. A social History of Franklin's Town Hall 1912-2012, Ashwood Books, Franklin, 2012, Chapters 4, 6 and 8.