



3333 Huon Highway, FRANKLIN Tas 7113  
Owned and operated by the Franklin Working Waterfront Association Inc  
**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER November 2017**

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**OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup> MARKS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE**

It was on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 (three years ago) that FWWA took ownership of the Wooden Boat Centre. A huge thankyou to our benefactors that gave so generously, and since then our staff and all the wonderful volunteers that maintained the momentum. Of course no opportunity is ever lost to hold some sort of celebration for our valued members and volunteers. The afternoon of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> was the closest convenient day to the actual anniversary. There was a huge birthday cake, prepared by Helen Gasparinatos, and it was dutifully cut by the Manager of the WBC and the President of FWWA. It was a pleasant afternoon, enabling those present to enjoy some sunshine.



This was the second of two photographs taken by Anne Holst. The first was more adventurous and artistic, as it featured a very appropriate wavy cloud formation over Old Road. However, the photo was not such a good one of the special people who helped us celebrate our third birthday.

We were then asked to all turn round, so that the back row became the front row and we could all be seen more clearly, in the wonderful Spring sunshine. Thank you to all who helped us celebrate the day.

## WE BADE FAREWELL TO OUR VIKING FRIEND

It was pure coincidence that on the actual date of our anniversary the WBC received nation-wide, and international publicity thanks to the ABC's coverage of the launching of the Viking build. (We know it was aired in Scotland, although the commentary was a little different.)



A little more wind was needed to fill the sail, but the atmosphere was rather Nordic!  
(Photos: A. Cato)



A view of the WBC precinct and the Viking build from the on board *Nancy*

## **WBC Manager's Report to Franklin Working Waterfront Committee Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

### **People:**

- Jono is working on a laid Teak deck on the steamboat, which will be back on the water for Steamboat Day on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.
- David is working in with Bruce Hummerston the past three weeks in an intensifying effort to get Leshelen ready to go back in the water in summer.
- Mike completed a clinker dinghy course and began a strip planked kayak course.
- Pete Laidlaw completed the Viking build and is taking a well-earned breather to catch up on his other jobs.
- Francis assisted the completion of the Viking boat components; has been running a trial woodcarving course and generally assisting generously during his two days/week.
- Julie began work 'front of house' 2 days per week sharing the role with Jen. With assistance from Wunjo, Leslie and Louise they welcomed many tourists as well as 244 people seeking information (or having a look at the front of house area only) and 80 people just shopping – these statistics began to be counted on the 13<sup>th</sup> October only.
- Adrian and his team are back working on Adrian's workboat after some weeks away.
- Pete Parko has been turning out mounted varnished little boats that are proving popular.
- The warmer weather also means our groundsman's activities step up. Thanks to Alan who mows the front grass section and Andrew Perkins that brings his tractor along to slash the grassed approach to the Centre, they are noticeably assisting Mark's work.

### **Tourism:**

- Tourism numbers: Adults 243; Concession 331; Children 8; Families 13; Seniors week special 88 people and LBT shed Warming special for 7 people.
- This included 4 Group tours – Queen Victoria Home 11 people; a Probus group of 12 and 2 Holiday Vacations groups of 37 people and 35 people.
- Brand Tasmania were also guided through the workshop with a client looking to invest in the 'maritime industry' in Tasmania.

### **Education:**

- There are places available in all our courses.
- A strip planked kayak course began to build 2 kayaks. This course needs at least a month, which has been planned into future advertised courses.

### **Boat builds:**

- The Viking boat build completion and pick up for launch on Sydney Harbour. Congratulations to Pete Laidlaw for his beautiful work on the boat and pulling the project people together. Also to Francis Shepherd for his amazing first effort at woodcarving of the figureheads. This build also included a boat cover made by Franklin Canvas; sail made by Caroline Mason and shields made by Vaughn Morphett.
- Pete Heading's 2 canoe hulls are complete. Extra work to the gunwales and adding seats is underway. One canoe will then be available for sale through the 'front of house'.

### **Restoration:**

- Leshelen work progressing well with the assistance on site by the boat's owner Bruce Hummerston. The plan is to have the vessel out of the shed this summer with its completion to take place on the water.
- The Fazackerly dinghy repair was completed ready for collection, but will now be painted for the owner in the coming few weeks.
- Inspection and planning to bring an 18' pretty old Couta Boat "Old Digger" into the shed for restoration. This will come in once the steamboat is complete.

**Asset management:**

- Francis and Christina are installing the lattice doors to cover the under-building timber storage. This project was instigated by David Nash and will be completed when we can source more of the same-sized hinges.

**Media:**

- Facebook group following 945 currently.
- An article about the Viking Boat is in *Wooden Boat Magazine* October edition.
- National ABC TV and online content internationally about the Viking boat completion/trial launch and owner John Marchant.
- The website is receiving more regular update and now generates a weekly newsletter that also inks to email, Facebook and Twitter.

**WHS:**

- A potentially very nasty accident – trip and fall from height. The risks of this happening again have been consulted and treated. Report previously sent to the WHS Advisory group and FWWA President.

**External interactions/opportunities:**

- Alison Standen's campaign team approached us to be part of the community/adult training focused campaign video. Vision only was taken inside and outside the workshop with some of our people in conversation with Alison. Our position of 'non political' was communicated and we await similar invitations from other Franklin candidates.
- Our application to Huon Valley Council Community Grants was unsuccessful. However we have been invited to reapply as funds remain in the programme.

**Issues:**

- We have a need for more tour guide support during the coming busy season. Anything from a single tour around morning or afternoon teatime to half-day or even full-day guiding assistance would be most appreciated.

**Attachments:**

*Nil*

**S.S. CARTELA – a brief history**

S. S. Cartela on its way to Franklin  
Source <http://www.franklinwwa.org.au/news.html>

*Cartela* was built for the Huon, Channel and Peninsula Steamship Co Ltd., at the Purdon and Featherstone's yard at Battery Point, from plans prepared by Tom Featherstone. She replaced *Awittaka* which was sold to the British Government in 1911. The hull of *Cartela* was launched in September 1912, the name coming from the Aboriginal word for 'seal'.

There has been some discussion as to what role *Cartela* played during World War One. It appears she was used as a patrol vessel for the lower reaches of the Derwent River. On one occasion she was called upon to rescue a British four masted barque, the *Invernesshire*, which had gotten into difficulties in confused seas in the vicinity of Adventure Bay. *Cartela* reached the stricken vessel late on a Saturday afternoon in June 1915. Due to the difficult conditions the towline broke no less than eleven times.

There is no reference to *Cartela* having served outside Tasmanian waters in her role as a patrol boat, however she did venture to Melbourne on one memorable occasion during the Maritime Strike of 1919 with 4,000 cases of apples from Port Huon. The trip to Melbourne took 21 days due to bad weather, and running out of coal. The return trip was undertaken in 47 hours.

While *Cartela* was built for work in the Huon area, she was, in fact in competition with the more local firm of James Rowe whose company built *Excelsior* at Cradoc, and the first motorised vessel *Excella*. Another of James Rowe's vessels became the rival in the Christmas Day steam boat races to Green Island between 1913 and 1931. *Togo* was built on the Tamar River, and the named after Heihachiro Togo who defeated the Russian Baltic fleet in the Korean Straits in 1905. Flags belonging to *Togo* have recently been donated to the Maritime Museum in Hobart.

This writer remembers many pleasant hours on board *Cartela*, while supervising students on excursions to Bruny Island.

For more information on the history with some interesting historical photos, check out the Steamship *Cartela* website <http://www.steamshipcartela.com.au/about-the-vessel/history-of-the-vessel/>. It is a pity that no reference has been made to the current location of the *Cartela* (more recent history) on their website. You will also note that the *Cartela* Trust is a completely separate entity to any of Franklin's entities.

Sources:

*Ships in Tasmanian Waters* by G. W. Cox

*River & Coastal Vessels Trading out of Hobart 1832 – 2015* by A. J. (Tony) Coen