



**FRANKLIN WORKING WATERFRONT ASSOCIATION INC
NEWSLETTER March 2017**

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**FAREWELL TO THE 'THE DUTCHIES' AND
BM16m²**

Thursday 9th February was the day to farewell our friends from the Damen Shipyards who had been a part of the Franklin community for several months. The occasion was in two parts, the first being more formal and the second informal and entertaining after a welcome BBQ.



Finishing touches in preparation for the journey to Hobart ready to take pride of place at the Wooden Boat Festival (above) and part of the appreciative gathering enjoying some musical entertainment. (below).



THE FESTIVAL

Set up commenced on the Thursday evening, following the farewell at Franklin. A quick turn-around was required. Our tent was in an ideal location offering two or three sides available for the public to access (see pics below) – depending upon the wind, which was rather pestiferous at times. There were ample helpers and the site was a hive of activity throughout the festival, with sales of goods proving profitable, and lots of interest in courses, and other work at the WBC.



We were in an excellent position to view the various water activities, and were able to welcome those arriving into Waterman's Dock after the raid. (See pics below).

Meanwhile, those representing WBC in the Shipwright's Village were kept equally busy with demonstrations in oar-making. There was a huge 'spin-off' visitation to the WBC during the course of the festival.



This photograph is of particular interest in that it represents thousands of years of technological development, beginning with the bark canoe of the First Tasmanians, then a leap in time and place to the St Ayles Skiffs – both would use the 'Armstrong' method of propulsion, and finally a rubber run-about with outboard.

The auction of the Dutch build on the Sunday afternoon proved a moment of interest, with the boat selling for \$28,000 dollars. After some final finishing touches at the WBC it will move across Bass Strait to Apollo Bay.

WBC Managers Report to Franklin Working Waterfront Committee Meeting - March 2017

People:

- Jen Tubman has been employed as a part time casual to work on Wednesdays. She is still doing her volunteer hours as well, so making a great contribution to the 'front of house'.
- Our volunteers outside, in the workshop, front of house and tour guides have been amazing coping with big workloads, lots of people and taking at times huge groups through the centre. It's great to be able to share the enthusiasm for wooden boat building and Franklin.
- Francis and Christina have renovated the front garden area, looking fantastic at the moment. They continue to come up with new things to make for sale – all to a very high quality.
- Welcome to Neil Purdon and Peter Shimeld as new tour guides.
- Thanks to Pete Heading for organising the oar making activity for the AWBF. He has completed the 2 sets of oars since (woodwork only) for sale.
- All staff have soldiered through the crazy past few months – over crowded lunchrooms; multiple activities and groups; enthusiastic 'Dutchies'; distracting tourists; long days and general summer fun.
- WBC strategic planning process beginning on 9th March. This will begin with WBC staff (+ Alan Cato) then soon include the volunteers, Committee, wider community and external stakeholders.

Tourism:

- In January 817 people and 82 family groups were guided through the centre.
- In February 1,282 people and 1 family group were guided through.
- A lot of specific interest visitors generated by the Dutch build and the AWBF.
- Coral Expeditions have finished for the year – to return 1 Jan 2018 with a larger boat.
- Other group bus bookings are coming regularly – Austrips, Makehams Coaches etc.

Wooden Boat Festival

- We had a sound presence at the AWBF – a lively stall; oar making activity in the Shipwrights Village; displays of dinghies and past boats around the festival by others - Wayne Furnance and Andy Moran
- We enjoyed the assistance of many people during this busy time – volunteers; committee members; visitors and their friends and family. Special thanks to all.
- Also Julie Hinks, Jen Tubman, Harry Rettino, Neil Purdon, David Hume and Sandi kept the WBC pumping whilst everyone else was at the festival.
- We had great interest from many people about courses, oar making, repairs and restorations and a couple of potential new builds. We also sold a lot of little souvenir boats and other WBC made items to passers by.
- There was a lot of spin off visitation to the WBC especially Sunday and Monday of the Festival, but also for the week prior and week after.

Education:

- Clinker dinghy course completed – the Challis boat left the shed bound for Sydney; the Kirkwood boat to be completed by a boat builder soon.
- 3 students have just started the Strip planked Kayak course, for the next 3 weeks.
- 4 students are expected to begin the next Clinker Dinghy course in 2.5 weeks time to build a dinghy for the WBC to sell over winter.
- 3 students are enrolled to build Skin on Frame kayaks next month – one place remains on this course.

WHEN THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED

Boat builds:

- The Dutch build was completed well, on time and with much fanfare. The boat is now back for coats of varnish and paint, expecting to leave the shed around the 28th March. The new owner is commissioning the extra work.
- The Clinker dinghy from the Oct – Dec 17 course was crated and shipped off via a removals group.

Restoration:

- Leshelen restoration will start again as soon as we have a shipwright available.
- The Montagu Whaler job was completed in partnership with the LBT. It left the shed and made a grand contribution to the Tawe Nunnegah and AWBF. Completion of the boat cover is still pending.
- A Fazackerley dinghy has come in for minor repair work – to be completed in the next month.

Asset management:

- Thanks to the Committee for loading and removing garden and wood waste to the tip last weekend. It is difficult to stay on top of rubbish removal at the busy times of the year.
- The area to the North of the shed has had a clean up as has the lower workshop where the kayak is being made at present.
- We are looking at purchasing some Huon Pine through the Boat Bank at Island Speciality Timbers if suitable.

Media:

- Facebook group following has grown from 500 in January to 700 currently.
- Dutch project and associated print, radio and Social media.
- AWBF associated media – film, print, TV and social media.
- Off Centre Harbour film in the workshop – Anne and Mike
- Coral Expeditions newsletter interview and article.
- Watercraft magazine article.
- Proposed Viking boat build – ABC Radio Hobart interview with John Marchant and huge social media response.

WHS:

- A small fire outside the bottom workshop, with disaster averted by Tim Brown and John Enders. The No Smoking policy reinforced and signage erected; the area to be gravelled and any sawdust removed.
- A slip/squashed finger whilst moving heavy equipment.

External interactions/opportunities:

- Visit by Julie Collins 24th January
- Visit and establishment of contacts with:
 - Caci Cronkite and Sean Koonan from the NW Boat School
 - Off Centre Harbour folks – Steve Stone and Eric
 - Sean and Inger Rankins – Sail making instructors from NW Boat school.
 - A Venetian gondola maker looking to do a boat building project for the next AWBF??

On June 24th 1909, the wooden barque *Natal Queen* was loading hardwood at the wharf in Adventure Bay, Bruny Island, bound for Adelaide. Around noon, a squall came up and Captain J. T. Shimmons decided to unmoor and haul out into the bay. Soon after he commenced the wind strengthened and shifted to the south east, causing the ship to work very close to rocks and was touching the bottom, with increasing force, further attempts to save the vessel at first appeared successful, however a heavy squall swept the bay and the ship dragged both anchors until she hit the bottom again, while being right in amongst the breakers.

Captain Shimmons decided, that the best option was to have the 12 crew abandon ship before it became dark. Both the ship and the cargo were insured and an inquiry was held in Hobart on July 20th 1909.

The *Natal Queen* was owned by Mr C. M. Almond of Adelaide. She was around 230 tons, built in Grangemouth, Scotland by Adamson & Co in 1866. . It is understood that concreted ironwork and some timbers can be found on the shoreline and some material including two small anchors further out in Adventure Bay.



The *Natal Queen* in Adventure bay
(Photo: Cato collection)



The *Natal Queen* on the Derwent in happier circumstances.
(Photo: courtesy Maritime Museum of Tasmania)

Sources: The Mercury Newspaper (via Trove)
www.wrecksite