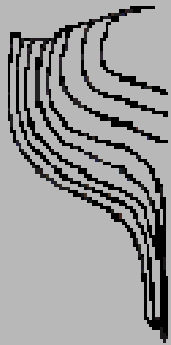


**50 YEARS
1972 - 2022**



AMATEUR BOAT BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION

October November 2022

THE ST. AYLES SKIFF PROJECT



A number of ABBA members are also members of the Bosun's Club at South of Perth Yacht Club. One of their activities is construction of two 22ft long, timber St Ayles Rowing Skiffs. It is intended that the boats will be used for social and competitive events. Our November Toolbox was a visit to the Bosun's Club shed at the yacht club to view the progress of the first boat.

The St. Ayles Skiff (pronounced Saint Isles) is a 4 oared rowing boat, designed by Iain Oughtred and inspired by the traditional Fair Isle skiff. The boat's hull and frames are built using clinker plywood and it measures 22' with a beam of 5' 8". It is normally crewed by four sweep rowers with a coxswain.

The boat design was commissioned by The Scottish Fisheries Museum in 2009 as a vessel for use in The Scottish Coastal Rowing Project. It is suitable for construction by community groups and amateur boat builders.

Over 250 boats have been built worldwide, mostly by communities around the Scottish coast but increasingly by groups elsewhere, including England, Northern Ireland, The Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa, France and New Zealand.

The boats are being built by two crews led by Ken Baxter and ABBA Committee Member, Bob Harrap. The team of around 14 keen but very amateur boat builders work nominally 6 x 3 hour sessions a week.

The first boat started construction in early July 2022. Construction of the second boat should be quicker as many of the components have already been assembled and we have hopefully learnt many valuable lessons along the way.

On display was a repeating slideshow compiled by Rick Steuart showing the stages of construction from the beginning. Rick has been keeping a still and video record of the entire process and keeps the whole club abreast of the progress with the articles he writes for the weekly newsletter.



There will be future opportunities to hear more about the story of St Ayles Skiffs and to follow the progress of their construction. One day you might even be able to come for a row,.



FREMANTLE PORTS MARITIME DAY 2022



The aim of this event is to inform the public about the port, the maritime industry and maritime careers. There were exhibits and displays inside the Fremantle Passenger Terminal and in the carpark outside with rides and other attractions happening on land and on the water. Despite being a cold and windy day, the event was well attended.

ABBA had a stand inside and three boats built by ABBA members proudly on display outside. We shared a stand with shared with the Dutch Australian Foundation, the Maritime Heritage Association, the Old Gaffers Association of WA and the Classic Boat Club of Western Australia. Being present gives ABBA the opportunity to show what amateur boat builders can achieve and the benefits of being a member. Our aim was to attract new members with different projects, ideas, experience and contacts so we can continue to offer a varied range of high quality meetings and toolbox visits for ABBA members.

The Dutch Australian Foundation was established for projects related to the Dutch and Australian history and the head of the Foundation is ABBA member, Elly Spillekom. Elly has done a magnificent job over the last few years organising this event at no cost to ABBA members.

The Dutch Australian Foundation also organised the Wooden Boat Parade in the harbour with a sail past the Fremantle Passenger Terminal between 11am and 1pm. This included a number of boats belonging to ABBA members.

The day was a success for ABBA as a number of people are interested in attending our future meetings and becoming members. We were also successful in meeting a number of people who are happy to make presentations at future meetings. Despite spending time outside in the cold wind, all of our volunteers enjoyed the day meeting the public and spending time with fellow ABBA members.

Our thanks go to the following people for their help and involvement on the day.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| * Elly Spillekom | * Damien Flynn |
| * Damien Bourke | * Bob Harrap |
| * Bruce Cadee | * Lorraine Harrap |
| * Chris Davis | * Ron Lindsay |
| * Simon Dixon | * David Maumill |
| * Andrew Eagleton | * Neil McKenzie |
| * Jeremy Eagleton | * Andrew Minto |
| * Ed Essers | * Doug Watson |





TORTUGA



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SHOW AND TELL



Following our 2022 AGM on 5 October, we enjoyed another Show and Tell.

- Elly Spillekom and Bruce Cadee spoke about arrangements for Fremantle Ports Maritime Day on Sat 29th October.
- Bob Harrap and Bruce Cadee provided some background to the St Ayles Skiff project.

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The boats are being built by two crews led by Bob Harrap and Ken Baxter who work nominally 6 x 3 hour sessions a week, involving a total of around 14 keen but very amateur boat builders.

The first boat started construction in early July 2022. Construction of the second boat should be quicker as many of the components have already been assembled and we have hopefully learnt many valuable lessons along the way.

Bob is engaged in designing hollow timber oars to conform with the international rules. A lot of the timber machining and construction will be done by Bruce Uren.





Chris Davis bought in a “Box of Tricks” containing things that others may not have seen. It included a device for winding caulking cotton to get to the required thickness to suit the seam to be caulked. Chris explained the technique of rolling and looping the cotton. The degree of caulking depends on how much the timber planks will expand when in the water. The cotton is fitted into the seam with Caulking Irons and a well balanced Caulking Mallet that allows you to use it all day.

A good combination is Jarrah planking below the water as it stays shut but a timber like Oregon above the water as it doesn't move as much.

He showed a tool for raking out old cotton made from an old file and another from a hacksaw blade for cleaning out the old putty.

Chris's technique is to rake out the old putty with the file tool, use the hacksaw blade to clean up then prime the joint with metallic grey underwater primer. When the paint has dried, fit the caulking then apply another coat of primer over the top. The seam is then filled with linseed oil putty.

Chris stressed the need to be careful if splining jarrah boats as it could crack the ribs when the planks expand after being returned to the water.

Chris showed us an old marlin spike he has used for wire to rope splicing. It isn't easy but can be done by amateurs. There are some good videos on YouTube.

Chris explained the process of using copper rivets and roves to fix planks to the ribs. It involved the use of a Roving Punch. Most of the protruding nail was nipped off then then a dolly is held on the inside while the end of the nail is peened over from the outside. He used this technique to attached the planks to the Tuart ribs that he shaped and fitted to his boat.

Chris finished his presentation by mentioning the Wooden Boat Festival which is on again in Tasmania in February 2023. Chris showed us examples of some interesting short videos in the “Stories” section of their website. <https://www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au/>
An example involved the wooden ship “Westward”.



ADMINISTRATION NOTES

ABBA COMMITTEE

President	Rob Bingham	0419 995 422
Secretary	Bruce Cadee	0419 508 785
Treasurer	Andrew Minto	0415 852 333
Library	Rosemary Nayler	0427 717 050
Newsletter Editor	Bruce Cadee	0419 508 785
Website	Neil McKenzie	0424 533 063
General Committee	Chris Davis	0418 954 602
	Luis Gouveia	0477 172 881
	Bob Harrap	0407 991 901

December Meeting – Wednesday 7th December

Unfortunately we had to cancel our June meeting at the last minute when our speaker caught Covid. Andrew Muhling has kindly agreed to now give his presentation about building a boat from MDF at our evening meeting on Wednesday 7th December 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start in the Heritage Room at the South of Perth Yacht Club.

Andrew has often built parts of a boat, but he's never built a whole boat. "After doing some Googling I discovered it's likely nobody has explored the MDF boat thing. After reading how so many people thought it was a terrible idea, I wanted to try it for myself." Even if you don't plan to build an MDF boat, come along and find out how Andrew achieved it. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Just show up and you will be made welcome.

Christmas Get Together – Saturday 10th December 2-4pm

Come along to our traditional Christmas Get Together – A Sausage Sizzle courtesy of the Catering Crew (Peter Russell and Mike Wade) at the Maylands Amateur Boatyard, 38 Hardy Rd, Maylands between 2 and 4 pm on Saturday, 10th December. Bring your family, enjoy each other's company, grab something to eat and have a look at the amateur boat building in progress. Again all welcome to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

ADMINISTRATION NOTES (Cont'd)

ABBA LOGO

Members are reminded that Bruce Cadee has made arrangements with Shaun Luong of Image Embroidery at 26 Tulloch Way, Canning Vale (Phone 9456 2324 Mobile 0403 250 389) for an embroidered ABBA logo. The logo can be applied to your own clothing (assuming it can be accommodated in their equipment) or to shirts, caps or hats purchased through Image Embroidery. Feel free to call in on Shaun to look at the limited range of clothing he has on site or visit the following web sites to choose your preferred style, size and colours. The weblinks below are only examples of the wide range available. Half chest measurements are included on the web sites to help ensure you select the correct size. Ladies styles are also available.

Clothing (excluding Logos)

Style 1300 – Aussie Pacific Mens Murray Polo, Navy/White/Ashe or White/Navy/Ashe - **\$20.00 + GST each**

Weblink: http://www.aussiepacific.com.au/the-murray-polo-navy-white-s?color=Navy%2FWhite%2FAshe&primary_color=Navy&secondary_color=White

Style 1304 – Aussie Pacific Mens Eureka Polo, Navy/White/Ashe or White/Navy/Ashe - **\$21.00 + GST each**

Weblink: http://www.aussiepacific.com.au/mens/polos/eureka-polo-sky-navy-s?color=Sky%2FNavy%2FAshe&primary_color=Sky&secondary_color=Navy

Hats/Caps (excluding Logos)

Style 4199 – Headwear Brushed Heavy Cotton Cap, White/Navy (many other colours available too) - **\$6.50 + GST each** **Weblink:** <http://au.headwear.com.au/productDetails.cfm?&prodID=53&prodCatID=2&pageNumber=1>

(Also refer poly/cotton legionnaires hats Styles 4057 or 4126 for maximum sun protection under website sub heading 'Hats, Visor & Beanies' <http://au.headwear.com.au/productList.cfm?&pCategoryID=7>)

Style 4199 – Headwear Brushed Heavy Cotton Cap, White/Navy (many other colours available too) - **\$6.50 + GST each (includes poly/cotton legionnaires hats for maximum sun protection under website sub heading 'Hats, Visor & Beanies')**

Weblink:

Style 4223 – Brushed Sports Twill Bucket Hat, White/Navy (many other colours available too) - **\$8.00 + GST each**

Weblink: <http://au.headwear.com.au/productList.cfm?&pCategoryID=7&page=2>

To make your annual membership even more value for money, ABBA will pay for up to 2 logos per financial year to be applied to your items of clothing. The current cost to ABBA is \$7.15 per logo. There is no intention for this to be an ABBA uniform so the choice of style and colour is totally yours. If you are seen wearing the logo while building, working on or using your boat or anywhere for that matter it might get people asking questions and wanting to join our association. You are free to deal direct with Image Embroidery but please ensure you get an itemised invoice showing a separate price for the logo and present this to our Treasurer for reimbursement. Bruce Cadee is happy to take orders and liaise with Image Embroidery if you wish.