



# AMATEUR BOAT BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION

October November 2013

## THE OLD MEETS THE NEW — SEXTANTS AND WEBSITES

### AGM

Our October Tech Meeting was in many respects a mix of relatively new technology and very old technology. This was also our Annual General Meeting. However, the formal AGM business was concluded expediently with your existing committee being re elected with the addition of Harry Speight who kindly volunteered in response to the Chair's invitation for additional committee persons. The Chair also indicated that there would be a more formal committee meeting structure in the ensuing year to assist in planning and to distribute committee tasks. A report on the subsequent committee meeting appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Website Launched

Following the close of AGM business, Mike Beanland provided a 'guided tour' to launch the new website [www.abba.org.au](http://www.abba.org.au) which he and his staff have so generously developed for our Association. The website includes wrap-ups of recent activities and reminders of upcoming events. We also have a Library containing nearly all the newsletters from August September 1999 and a separate section referencing the Toolbox visits over all those years. Population of the section on 'Our Boats' has commenced with photos and brief descriptions of Harry Speight's Farrier F82A trimaran and Bruce Cadee's 23 ft jarrah motor sailer. Similarly, the 'Buy/Sell' section contains the material referencing the logos and shirts, hats etc that Bruce has arranged for the Association. The remaining 'Gallery' and 'Useful Links' sections have yet to be populated. This might also include a 'useful tips' area and a 'question & answer' section.

During his presentation, Mike encouraged us to progress the population of the remaining sections with material of value to members and for all of us to provide any feedback on the website to the Committee. He pointed out that we might choose to

provide advertising for suppliers considered of value by members in return for a small fee. There is also the potential to insert videos or make our own instructional material for assistance of members on aspects of boat building technique.

Amateur Boat Builders' Association

HOME Home

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TOOLBOX ACTIVITY

LIBRARY

OUR BOATS

ABOUT US

GALLERY

USEFUL LINKS

BUY / SELL

ABBA Spotlight: ABBA LOGO (Bruce Cadee reports)

Following a suggestion from one of our members about a shirt logo, we have 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.

Examples of the logo are available for inspection at Technical and Toolbox meetings – See Bruce Cadee. 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.

REMINDERS

NOV 21 FLARES & FIRE EXTINGUISHER NIGHT 151 MARINE TERRACE

DEC 1 DECEMBER TOOLBOX VISIT (SUNDAY 1 DEC) 86 VICTORIA AVENUE

DEC 4 DECEMBER TECHNICAL MEETING COFFEE POINT/OUNCRASS RD

RECENT ACTIVITIES

AUG SEP 2013 TECHNICAL MEETING

AUG SEP 2013 TOOLBOX VISIT

ABBA NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

OCEAN RACING MULTIHULLS (CHRIS DAVIS REPORTS) 2013

JUNE 2013 TOOLBOX VISIT

Mike completed his presentation by suggesting that the next step was a 'call to action' to all members. So.....members, this is now YOUR website. Please use it, refer friends and colleagues to it and proactively provide input and suggestions for ongoing further content and enhancements aimed at assisting other members, spreading the amateur boat building message and attracting further members to our forums.

Members present at the meeting enthusiastically endorsed the chair's vote of thanks to Mike Beanland and his staff for the very significant contribution they have made to ABBA in the development of this website and we endorse this appreciation in this newsletter. Thanks once again Mike for this terrific effort.

### **Sextants Revisited**

In keeping with an objective of avoiding inviting external speakers on AGM nights, Ed Essers volunteered to enlighten us for the remainder of the night on the operation of sextants. This was a tech meeting subject that emerged when we appealed to members for suggestions about 12 months ago. Ed's ability to speak with both knowledge and experience on anything required to successfully build your own boat and go cruising is well respected by members, so it was no surprise that this was a very interesting session. We had a total of five sextants around the table so everyone had an opportunity to handle the real thing when we got to the practical bit.



Ed explained how the sextant is actually  $1/6^{\text{th}}$  of a circle and hence its name but because of the double mirrors it allows a larger field of vision. When using the sextant it is particularly important to use an appropriate number of the shades which are graded from the lightest at the front to the darkest at the back. This even applies at night when taking sights of very bright stars.

The most fundamental aspect of sextant operation is to ensure that the sextant is adjusted correctly to avoid inbuilt errors before commencing to take sights. Using his own sextant to demonstrate, Ed explained to us how to go about checking each of the four vital adjustments required to ensure that the sights to be taken are correct. When the first two checks are completed, the operator can be confident that both the mirrors are at right angles to the sextant body. The third 'index error' refers to the residual error remaining when the perpendicularity adjustments have been completed to the two mirrors. Index error is addressed mathematically in the calculations using the rule of thumb that if the error is 'off the arc' the error is added and if the error is 'on the arc' the error is taken off in the calculations. The fourth check is to ensure that the telescope is parallel to the frame of the sextant. Significant errors of this kind are

unlikely unless the instrument has been dropped in which case it is likely that professional assistance will be required to undertake the required adjustment.



To take sights at sea, Ed recommended leaning against the mast with feet apart on the cabin top and to ensure that you get a good sight. But before proceeding always have a lanyard attached to the sextant around your neck! For noon sights the sun will keep coming up and then stop when the sight should be taken. The sextant can be used for a number of purposes such as calculating distance off from an object of known height via measurement of vertical angle, using the sextant horizontally to measure the angle between two objects or taking a running fix by way of sextant sights at 10.00am and 2.00pm if you know the direction and distance sailed over that time difference. At night, a good fix can be achieved via sights on four different stars. Ed noted from experience that he has also found a radio direction finder inshore to be useful in conjunction with a sextant at sea.

Once sights have been taken, Ed recommended the calculation method using a small publication called 'Celestial Navigation with the S Table' by Mike Pepperday. This is much more convenient than alternative methods using the much larger sight reduction tables. The Merlin Calculator, also of Mike Pepperday origin is a very convenient and useful tool. For time, Ed uses just a simple electronic stopwatch from Dick Smith of the type that has a lap time that will freeze whilst allowing the clock to continue in the background.



If members wish to explore the intricacies of sextant adjustment and operation in more detail, Ed recommends 'The Sextant Handbook' by Bruce Bauer as a very clear account of the subject. We thank Ed for sharing his clearly extensive knowledge and experience with us on this most interesting subject.



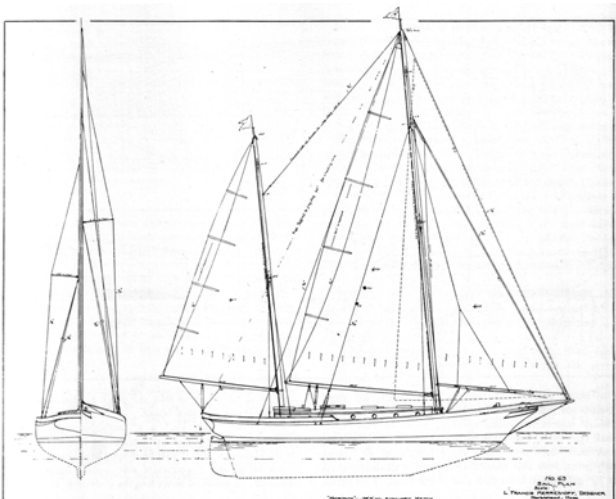
## November Toolbox Visit – Ed Essers Major Project

The November Toolbox Visit was to member Ed Essers project as it takes shape at his purpose built shed just out of Armadale. As previously reported in the Nov Dec 2012 Newsletter, Ed is starting construction of his 14m Mobjack design Herreshoff Ketch. He has purchased the 14 pages of plans from Mystic Seaport Museum and converted the original Herreshoff 3/8" to the foot scale plans from inches and eighths to millimetres. The original design was in wood but Ed has made the design changes needed to construct it using aluminium plate. The original plans are in great detail but Ed won't be following them exactly as he will be fabricating most of the fittings and framing for the fit out himself in aluminium.

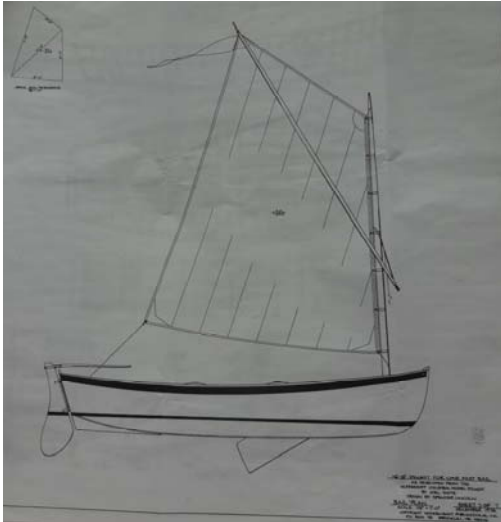


Ed is waiting for a bit of warm weather to dry out the access to the shed before he can arrange delivery of the tonnes of aluminium and lead required to build the Mobjack. However, at the time of our visit, he had substantially completed the lofting for the boat on convenient sized sheets on the workshop floor. This clearly signalled that this is going to be a very big bodied boat. Ed was also able to show us how he had made minor modifications to the stern area to accommodate a transom hung rudder rather than mounting it inboard on a rudder shaft as designed.

Also of great interest was the work Ed had done using the software package TurboCad Professional to convert the paper imperial drawings into electronic metric drawings. The package very easily allowed Ed to show us that the vital measurements of this vessel are 13.812 metres over the deck, 3.828 metres beam and 1.686 metres draft. The Mobjack will be constructed using 8mm aluminium plate welded with a MIG machine capable of using between 1.2 and 1.6mm welding wire.



Also available for us to inspect was Ed's current project which is the tender for the Mobjack. This is a Catspaw dinghy built from plans that Ed obtained from the Wooden Boat Store for \$60. The Catspaw is a Joel White interpretation of Nat Herreshoff's classic Columbia Dinghy. She is 12' 8<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" long with a beam of 4' 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" and is designed for oar and sail... and in Ed's case sculling as well. The Catspaw has a housing type centreplate with a lead insert to assist stability.



Ed has used red oak extensively to date for the stem, keel, transom and the ribs. The lapstrake planks will be 6mm hoop pine ply. At the time of our visit, the stem, keel, transom and ribs were completed over a temporary building frame and the first of the planks at the keel, close to being finally fitted.



The ribs had been steamed prior to fitting, a process which required about half an hour in the pine steam box that Ed had constructed for the purpose. This will be a very pretty dinghy when completed and will very ably complement the traditional lines of the Herreshoff Mobjack when both projects hit the water.



We thank Ed for facilitating our visit at short notice. This was a very informative and enjoyable afternoon and members look forward to future visits as this very major project progresses. Thanks Ed.



A completed Catspaw similar to Ed's

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Your committee met on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October to plot the course for ABBA for the next 12 months. A summary of the main items discussed is recorded below for members' information.

- Constitution – Rob Bingham guided the committee through a review of the Constitution that he had undertaken and the revised draft will be available shortly for formal acceptance at an appropriate Special General Meeting.
- Delegation of roles to facilitate more effective management of ABBA affairs was discussed. Harry Speight volunteered to arrange speakers for Tech Meetings and venues for Toolbox Visits. Bruce Cadee volunteered to be the Webmaster for the new website, Alun Dufty volunteered to compile 'useful tips' and the like for publishing on the website and Rosemary Nayler and Chris Davis confirmed their roles coordinating the library and editing the newsletter respectively.
- It was agreed that several committee members would assist in a review of the library after Christmas with a view to disposing of some of the 'tired' books and potentially purchasing some new ones.
- A list of meeting and toolbox topics was tabled for follow up by Harry Speight.

Members wishing to contribute in any specific areas are invited to contact the relevant committee member as indicated above.

### **Vale Jim Hopkins**

It is with a great deal of sadness that we record in this newsletter, the passing of member Jim Hopkins in early October. Jim had been a regular attendee at ABBA events until relatively recently and only missed meetings and toolboxes when he was away with his other interest – caravanning. We offer our condolences to Jim's family and friends.



## ADMINISTRATION NOTES

### ABBA COMMITTEE

President/Editor	Chris Davis	9387 5042
Sec/Treasurer	Bruce Cadee	9259 0844
General Committee	Rob Bingham	9246 0202
	Alun Dufty	9272 8905
	Harry Speight	9295 4518
Library	Rosemary Nayler	9455 1470

### DECEMBER TOOLBOX VISIT (on a **SUNDAY** this time)

Please note that on this occasion, the Toolbox Visit will be before the Tech Meeting but in the same month of December.

This December toolbox visit will be on Sunday December 1st, 2013, between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. This will be a visit to the Freshwater Bay Museum, which at weekends is only open the first Sunday of each month from 2.00 to 5.00pm.

A key part of the Freshwater Bay Museum is the historic boat shed on the Freshwater Bay foreshore. It was donated to the Museum by the Mews family and moved from its Victoria Avenue site to its current location in 1996. This is the same family and location which featured in the Kiewa story before member Ron Lindsay commenced its restoration. The museum has kindly arranged for Chris Mews to attend to give us a guided tour and provide some additional insight into the various items in the boatshed. Chris has provided great support in assisting to set up the display to reflect where all the items would originally have been placed and then more recently he has conducted several guided tours for visitors. The other connection in all of this is that the museum is run by the Claremont Town Council and Chris Mews is an elected member. We appreciate Chris sparing his time to enhance our visit.

The museum is next to Mrs Herberts Park on the shores of the Swan River in Victoria Avenue (at the end of Bay Road) Claremont so members may wish to have a picnic lunch in the park prior to the toolbox visit.

### **Special Note:**

*The museum has specifically asked if we could give some indication of the number of attendees in advance of the visit. Could you please email Chris Davis at [gonessailing@westnet.com.au](mailto:gonessailing@westnet.com.au) to confirm your attendance. Advice by Monday November 25th would be appreciated please.*

### DECEMBER TECHNICAL MEETING

The next technical meeting of ABBA will be held at the South of Perth Yacht Club as usual, 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start on Wednesday, December 4th, 2013.

Our speaker this month will be member and committeeman Rob Bingham, addressing us on 'Practical Basic Boat Electrics'. Rob last presented to us in March 2012 on his own design and construction of the heat exchanger for his ski boat 'Bruce'. I'm sure that Rob's sharing of his engineering knowledge and practical experience which members enjoyed on that occasion will once again be evident as he enlightens us on boat electrics. Another night not to be missed.

**REMINDER — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to write up the meeting & toolbox visits for the next month.**  
Please email me if you are available to assist. Remember, this helps keep the 'boat' afloat.

## **ABBA LOGO**

(Bruce Cadee reports)

Following a suggestion from one of our members about a shirt logo, we have 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. Examples of the logo are available for inspection at Technical and Toolbox meetings - See Bruce Cadee. 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](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](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 Bruce Cadee for reimbursement. Bruce Cadee is happy to take orders and liaise with Image Embroidery if you so wish.

Thanks to Bruce for making these arrangements. The summer is just around the corner, so members are encouraged to get their orders in for shirts and/or hats with the ABBA logo as soon as possible — either directly with Image Embroidery or by contacting Bruce.



Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Cadee shows off the first embroidered shirt at the last toolbox visit.

### **REMINDER — MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW OVERDUE**

We are now well into the new financial year and membership fees are now overdue. Subs remain unchanged at \$20 for the electronic newsletter and \$30 for hard copy. They are payable to the treasurer, Bruce Cadee, either at the evening meeting on November 4th or by post to him at 7 Fifth Avenue, Rossmoyne, WA, 6148.

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