



# AMATEUR BOAT BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION

December 2019 January 2020

## KARRAWA : A LESSON IN NAIVETY



At our December meeting, ABBA President, Rob Bingham gave us a presentation on the restoration of his 1943 Halvorsen launch, Karrawa including the lessons he and co-owner Ashley Wilson learnt along the way.

First a little history and background. Launched in 1943, she was one of 147 38' launches built by the Sydney boatbuilder, Lars Halvorsen as part of a wartime contract for the Department of Munitions. Initially known as RAAF crash boat 08-41 she was a speedy coastal rescue craft and seaplane tender. Powered by twin Chrysler Royal straight 8 (Royal M8) petrol engines, she was capable of travelling at 28 knots. Construction is double diagonal oregon plank planing hull. Forty three of these 08s were constructed for the RAAF. She was stationed at Point Cook in Victoria, then Rathmines on Lake Macquarie and lastly at RAAF Station Richmond in NSW. After decommissioned in May 1955 she was transported to WA by freighter in the same year and has remained in WA.

Ernie Tomlinson was the first owner and gave her the name Karrawa. She was kept in the middle boatshed below RFBYC in Freshwater Bay until the early 1980s.

Following Ernie Tomlinson the owners were;

- Bob Angell (1961-70),
- John Stewart (1970-83),
- John Kruiskamp and Gordon Traill (1983),
- DD Brown (1984),
- Barry Newton (1984-88),
- Ralph Brockman and Colin Wright (1988-93)
- Ross and Jenny Gregory (1993-2009),
- Robert Bingham and Ashley Wilson (current)



The pictures on this page show her condition when first purchased by Rob and Ashley



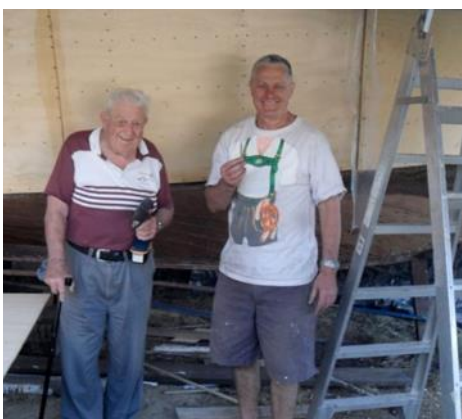
The work began with removal of the engines at RFBYC and then Karrawa was towed to RPYC by the ski boat on loan from the WA Disabled Water Ski Club.



It wasn't all plain sailing for the new owners as the following list of problems shows;

- Underrated engine mounts
  - Cracks in forward engine mounts
  - Port gearbox did not work
  - Extensive rot in forward port topside
  - Wires everywhere and very strange electrical system
- The job of Restoration began in earnest starting with the following worklist;

- Clean and degrease the bilge.
- Repair the rot in the starboard side.
- Overhaul the port gearbox.
- Establish a beer budget.



Rob and his Dad



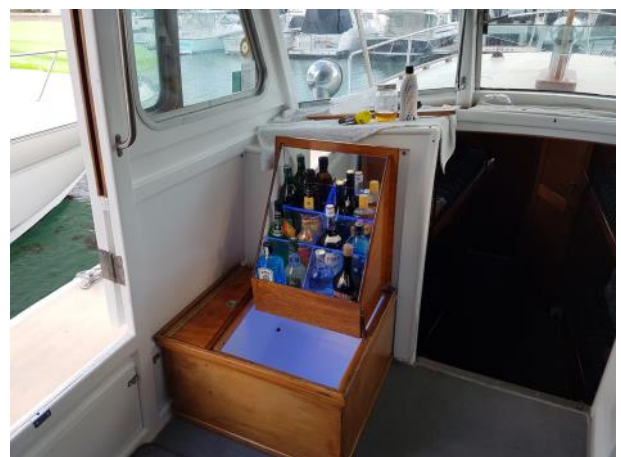
Ashley & Rob

The initial launch consisted of;

- Lift onto Rowan Chick's trailer
- Travel 200m
- Lift onto slip trolley
- Launch at Maylands (no engines)
- Tow to RFWBYC
- Install engines



Despite a few near misses including a near sinking in the pen, Rob and Ashley can enjoy the fruits of their labour.



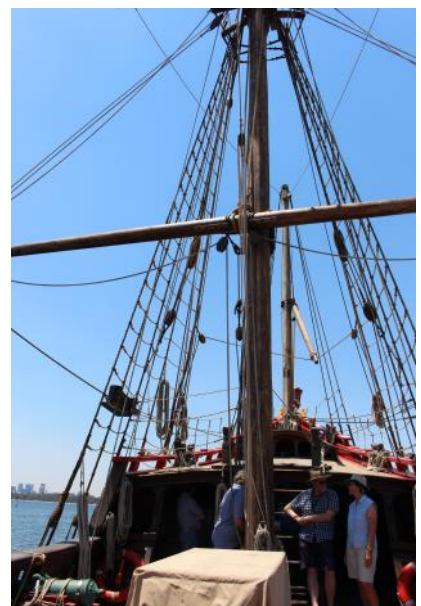
## SOMETHING NEW FOR CHRISTMAS



For the first time in many years we ventured away from the Maylands area for our Christmas get together. ABBA committee member Bob Harrap is a volunteer guide on the Replica Ship, DUYFKEN which is based at South of Perth Yacht Club for the summer. Bob kindly arranged for a tour of the ship and gave us an interesting commentary on her history and construction as well as giving us an insight into life on board the vessel that brought the first recorded European visitors to Australia. Thanks to Bob and the other DUYFKEN crew who made it an interesting and enjoyable experience.

It was a scorching Perth summer's day but an early sea breeze made it bearable to be on board for the tour and quite pleasant for a relaxed sausage sizzle under the trees at the nearby Heathcote Reserve. Thanks to Peter Russell for feeding the multitude again this year.

Also thanks to Damien Bourke who took the photos for this newsletter.









## VALE Dr HYLTON (HARRY) SPEIGHT



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long time ABBA member, and former committee member Harry Speight. Harry was originally from the UK where he graduated as a Mining Engineer and later gained his PhD. Harry's work took him all around the world and he was so struck with WA that he made it his home. For a short time he lectured at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines before working as a Consulting Engineer for companies including Dames & Moore and later for Snowdens. He also had a stint in Brisbane working for the CSIRO.

As well as being a highly competent, practical and respected Engineer, Harry was also very hands on with mining machinery, cars and boats. As part of his early studies, he was involved in tank test investigations of boat hull shapes. He had an obvious interest in boats from a young age. The workmanship in the 28 ft Farrier trimaran that Harry built was an example of a true craftsman. Harry has no family in Australia but his funeral was well attended by ABBA members and former-work colleagues. On behalf of the ABBA Committee and Members we extend our sincere condolences to all of Harry's family and friends. He was a true gentleman.



# 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	Bruce Cadee	0419 508 785
General Committee	Chris Davis	0418 954 602
	Luis Gouveia	0477 172 881
	Bob Harrap	0407 991 901

## SPECIAL ADMIN NOTE:

**Your 2019/20 subs are now overdue. Our annual Public Liability Insurance premium is over \$1,000 and we need your subs to help pay for it. Please pay in cash at a meeting or preferably pay your \$30 annual subs by bank transfer from your computer or phone app. Our BSB is 066130 and account is 10168343. Please include your name in the description. Contact Bruce Cadee on 0419 508 785 or [cadeefamily@bigpond.com](mailto:cadeefamily@bigpond.com) if you want to check if you're financial.**

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Our next Technical Meeting will be held on Wednesday Feb 5th in the Heritage Room at the South of Perth Yacht Club. 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start. Note that we are now starting meetings 30 minutes earlier than previously. This will allow more time for socialising and discussion over a tea or coffee after the meeting.

Our speaker will be Richard (Dick) Beaver who will talk on medieval Mediterranean merchant shipping. His illustrated talk will include aspects of boat building. Dick is a model boat builder and will also show photos of his work.

All are welcome to attend this informative presentation. If you are not a member of the association, feel free to just show up at the venue.

## MARCH TOOLBOX VISIT

Your Committee has arranged a visit one of our members who is restoring steam driven vessel on Sat 7th March from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The visit is still subject to confirmation. You will be advised as soon as the situation is clear but keep the date and time free

**HOW YOU CAN HELP ABBA** — A number of a recent new members learnt about us from Brochures picked up at their yacht club. If you are a member of a club, association or workplace where you can leave some of our brochures, please contact Bruce Cadee on 0419-508 785 or at [cadeefamily@bigpond.com](mailto:cadeefamily@bigpond.com) who will happily arrange a supply for you.

## **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](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 our Treasurer for reimbursement. Bruce Cadee is happy to take orders and liaise with Image Embroidery if you wish.