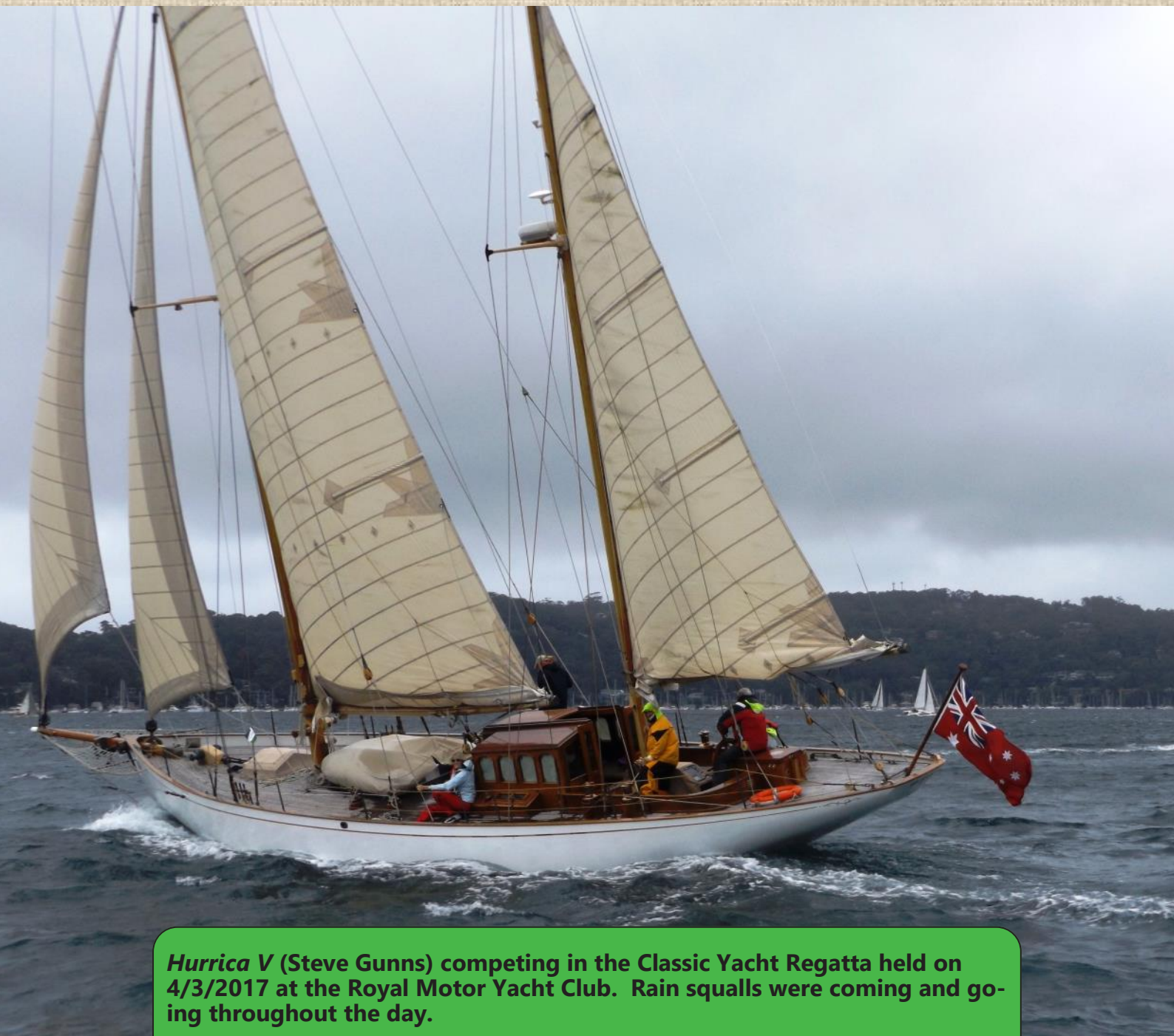


Scuttlebutt

June 2018



***Hurrica V* (Steve Gunns) competing in the Classic Yacht Regatta held on 4/3/2017 at the Royal Motor Yacht Club. Rain squalls were coming and going throughout the day.**

Photo by Rob Brown RMYC



President's Report

Jon Bell

On behalf of the members of the WBA NSW Inc, the committee gave our condolences to Chris Goddard whose mother passed away unexpectedly last month. This impacted the publication of April's Scuttlebutt and it was decided to combine April and May into one edition. (If you felt like you were missing something, you were ...).

The April meeting gave us an opportunity to review progress on a number of members' projects, including Bill Thompson's Folkboat, Michael Coleman's canoe yawl and Malcolm Boyd's Feather pram. As we continue to evolve the website it should become possible for all members to follow progress, either by hosting the information ourselves or by providing links to the builders' own blogs or other digital records. As always, information about current, pending or completed projects is always appreciated.

Members attending the May meeting were entertained by accounts of recent outside events: Malcolm Boyd reported on the Lake Mac Heritage festival at Rathmines, Ross McLean on the Toronto event and Peter Widders with Terry Lance covered the Geelong festival and the Paynesville rally, all held in the last couple of months or so. The latter is a recent creation (I believe this year was number 2) and is held every two years. Interest is growing in having even more members and their boats go down in 2020 to swell the numbers (from the 450 boats this year!) and make a holiday of it. Peter Widders has offered to be unofficial coordinator and act as an information clearing house.

Feedback on the Sydney CWBF was also invited, with the ANMM stakeholders washup meeting being held in mid April. Also at the last meeting we held a quick auction for some donated surplus equipment; at least, it would have been quick if the auctioneer had been more explicit about the lots – was that 1 lot of three items or 3 lots of one item each? Thank you bidders and donors.

Briefly returning to the subject of Scuttlebutt, missing an edition was not only disappointing but it also slows the news cycle which can have a knock-on effect. It also highlights the relatively precarious position we are in with regard to our association. If the WBA was a ferry, it would be a leaky one and perpetually sinking (not necessarily financially – bear with me, it's a broad metaphor). It is kept afloat on a monthly basis by committee members and other volunteers manning the pumps; one unexpected problem, one volunteer goes missing and the boat floats a bit lower in the water – a Scuttlebutt missed here, a potential new member missed there, a merchandise sale missed here, a meeting with no raffle there – but the ferry continues its rounds, a bit slower and more uncomfortable perhaps, and after a while it seems more people are getting off than getting on, so fewer people are on board to take a turn on the pumps and many are regulars who've travelled before and know what it's like down in the bilges, and you can see where this is going, can't you? We need reinforcements, because without reinforcements we'll be looking for replacements, and they're much, much harder to find. And the ferry floats lower Hal



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Harpur! Nominations close September 30th – only 4 months of chilly evenings away.

Hal Harpur Award & Christmas Dinner – similar place and format to last year. Ticket prices around \$30 a head subject to final menu. Last year we left it open to non-ticket holders to buy their own dinner and join us in the partitioned eating area, but it turned out that the catering staff needed to get all the booked WBA dinners out before they served anyone else, so many people missed out or were late into the award. Be advised, be ticketed, be happy!

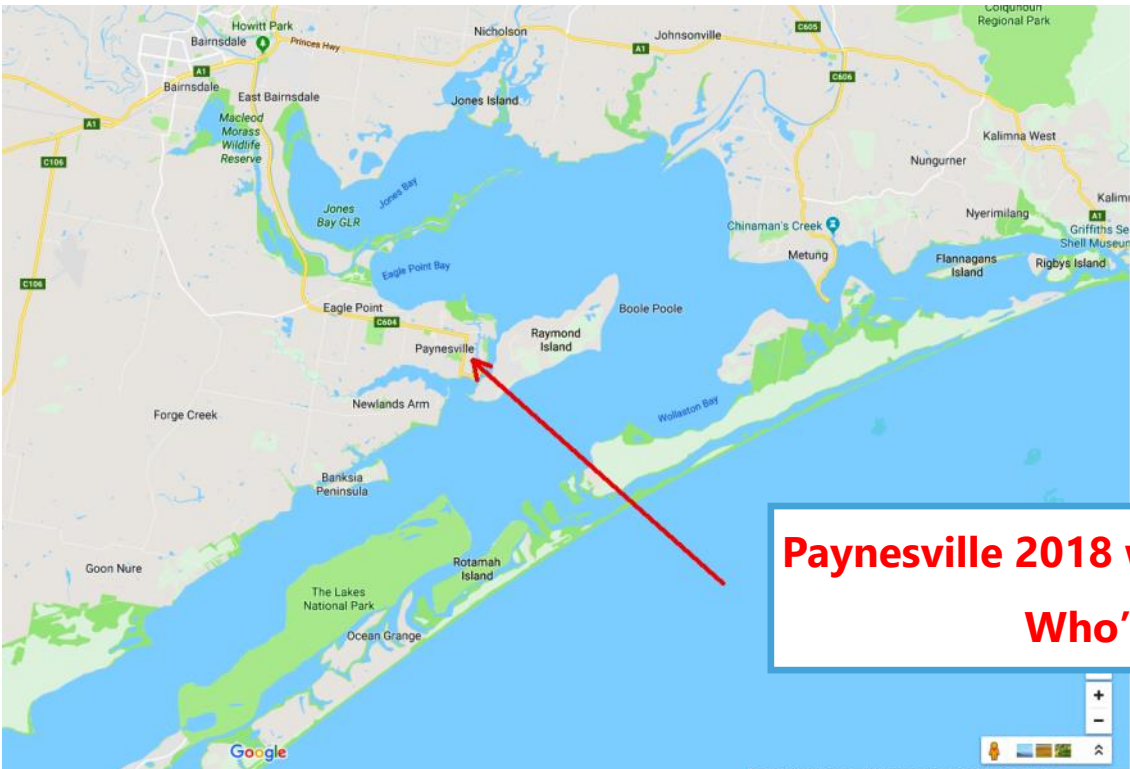


The June Meeting guest speaker is Tim Calleia, last year's Hal Harpur winner, pictured here at the Classic Wooden & Boat Festival with his subject matter.

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Participation in events organized by the Association may involve certain risks which include the possibility of harm or damage to vessels, equipment or persons inherently associated with the perils of the sea or weather. Such risks will require the exercise of the prior judgment of members on behalf of themselves, their guests and invitees whether to commence or continue any particular activity irrespective of information supplied by Association officers.

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**Paynesville 2018 was terrific:
Who's in for 2020?**

Chris Dicker has written in his usual eloquent style about the success of the 2nd Paynesville Classic Boat Rally held on 3 and 4 March 2018. I can

only concur heartily with Chris's comments.

As with most events of this type, success or otherwise depends on a number of factors: chief among them are people and location. For our party of 3 boats (18ft replica skiff *Britannia*, 14ft Whiting Skiff *Grace Lanyon* and our 15ft Oughtred Whilly Tern *Muckle Mootie*), it was the people who made the Paynesville event a great occasion.

With 240 boats registered, the 'behind the scenes' people were always going to be central to the success of the event. Organizer and festival 'catalyst', Peter Medling assembled a committee and a volunteer team of around 20 locals. Each wore a red T-Shirt for the 2 days and were always



available to assist with any issues or refer visitors to the correct source for assistance. From 'bump-in' on Friday afternoon, to pack-up on Sunday afternoon, the volunteers were a highly visible group who made everyone feel welcome. Rally participants also deserve great credit for the success of the event: a relaxed, friendly atmosphere on and off the water made for some very enjoyable 'boating'.

The location of Paynesville has already made it a boating 'mecca' for locals and visitors alike. Chris Dicker reported that there are regularly 40 yachts for Tuesday twilight racing. A healthy marine industry is also located along the Paynesville waterfront.

The Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club was the rally HQ and an ideal location for registration, briefings and viewing the on-water action. The club was also the location for a very entertaining talk by retired Port Phillip Bay fisherman 'Dugga' Beazley, as well as the location for the popular dance party.

Boat locations included marina docks along the foreshore, an extensive hardstand area and beach-front areas. Boats on the hardstand were very well served with 2 tractors making the launching and retrieval of boats an absolute doddle.

On-water events included the Saturday 'sail past', led by the tall ship *Lady Nelson*, the Sunday, sailing 'race' and equivalent for motor boats, as well as the always entertaining 'quick-and-dirty' boatbuilding competition.

We have every intention of attending the next Paynesville Rally to be held on 28 February and 1 March 2020. Keep an eye on Scuttlebutt in 2019 for more information.

May Meeting Raffle



First prize was won by Grant Holmes, second prize went to Steve Brompton. The raffle was drawn by Grace Widders.

Happy Building (or stripping, sanding, painting, polishing or even, hopefully, boating!)

Jon Bell

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ANMM Classic & Wooden Boat Festival April 2018

Pictures & text by Rob Hardy



View of the festival from the ANMM site, overlooking the Halvorsen fleet at the festival

Sydney has a wonderful heritage and history of timber boats and we are lucky to have two excellent festivals to celebrate this, the biannual Classic and Wooden Boat Festival hosted by the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour and the annual Timber Boat Festival hosted by the Timber Boat Division of the Royal Motor Yacht Club at Newport. Both provide an opportunity for owners of timber boats to display their boats and meet the owners of other boats to admire, and discuss many different points of interest. Both of these festivals are "live aboard" events as often owners and their boats travel some distance to attend. The attraction is not only the event but the opportunity to start and renew friendships amongst other owners.



Crowds of visitors on the Cockle Bay Marina.

The Classic and Wooden Boat Festival in Sydney is held every second year (in April), alternate to the Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart (in February). The next festival in Hobart will be held 8th to 11th February 2019. The next ANMM Classic and Wooden Boat Festival will be in April 2020. Planning for the 2020 festival has already commenced and by all reports, it will be the biggest yet, to

mark the 250th anniversary of the arrival in Sydney of Captain Cook.

The festival is co-ordinated by the ANMM, but supported by the Sydney Heritage Fleet, the Halvorsen Club and the Wooden Boat Association of NSW. Representatives of each are included in the organising committee.

The 2018 festival was held over the weekend of Friday 13th to Sunday 15th April. Around 140 boats were on display, both ashore and in the water at the ANMM and also on the Cockle Bay Marina in Darling Harbour, ranging from the most elegant classics to working boats, including the first diesel powered timber tug on Sydney Harbour. There were steam boats, rowing boats, ferries, yachts, trawlers, motor cruisers and putt putt boats. A regular ferry service was provided between the two sites by the Sydney Heritage Fleet vessels, *Berrima* (1955) and *Harman* (1943). The Sydney Heritage Fleet was also well represented with their 1903 Gentleman's Schooner *Boomerang*, 1908 Motor Launch *Protex* and 1902 Steam Launch *Lady Hope-toun* on display. In prime position in front of the Museum, at the heritage pontoon was the magnificent Steam Yacht, *Ena*, built in 1900 at Berrys Bay for Thomas Dibbs, Commodore of the RSY, considered to be one of the finest examples of an Edwardian period steam yacht in the world and the equally magnificent 60ft Nicholson Ketch, *Hurrica V*, built in 1924 at Berrys Bay, which featured in the 2013 film, *The Great Gatsby*.

Boats began arriving very early on the Friday morning, with yachts and taller vessels berthed in Cockle Bay having to wait for the



The "Bote Cote" canoe building site at the festival

regular openings of the Pyrmont Bridge, along with the entry of the sail training ship, *Young Endeavour*. The festival commenced with the "Welcome to Country" ceremony, and on both Saturday and Sunday mornings, we were thrilled to hear the Australian Girls Choir sing at the Museum waterfront. There was a program of talks and discussions throughout the weekend in The Theatre on a range of subjects, including "Fleet of Tall Ships" by Marty Wood, "Boomerang - Bona" by Peter Gossell, an update on the forthcoming MyState Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart, by Paul Cullen, "The history of SY Ena" by David Payne, and "John Oxley Restoration" by Andy Munns.

The WBANSW was well represented with a host of members vessels at both the Museum and Cockle Bay sites. Our thanks go to Alan Stannard who spent many hours producing detailed diagrams of the Cockle Bay marina layout, and to Judy who coped with the six or seven revisions on the computer.

Apart from the boats on display and the talks, there was a wide range of trade displays of all sorts of items of interest to the boating fraternity. Entertainment was provided across both sites by a number of wandering minstrels, banjo playing duets and an old salt showing his skills in sewing a sail onto a hemp rope. And, a wooden boat festival would not be a



View of the Cockle Bay marina at the festival.



Steam yacht Ena alongside Hurrica V

festival, without the obligatory "quick and dirty" boat building competition, where competing teams take up the challenge of building a boat which has to take part and survive in a race, from provided materials including plywood, timber, adhesives and paint. One of the unsung heroes of these festivals is a fellow, Brian Jones, who encourages school kids, generally from outlying areas or disadvantaged situations to take part in a challenge of building canoes in the "Bote Cote" challenge. Most of these kids have never been in a boat, let alone own one. There were four teams who built identical "Bellinghen" canoes which also had to stand the rigours of Darling Harbour. Brian has been volunteering his time for many years to provide kids with this opportunity. WBA members would remember that Brian was the inspiration behind the Hal Harpur Award entry in 2014 for the building of canoes with the Tuncurry High School. A special award was presented to the group for their efforts and the Association made a donation towards the cost of materials for the next years build. I understand that the total number of canoes built after this festival totals 170 ! Members who attended the last Hobart festival would have seen Brian at work there as well. To add to the kids great thrill, they were able to stay the night aboard the James Craig. Lucky boys and girls ! And, what a champion, Brian is !

Well done to the organisers of this 2018 ANMM Classic and Wooden Boat Festival. We are all looking forward to the big one in 2020. In the interim, the next Timber Boat Festival will be at the RMYC at Newport in November and then the Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart in February next year. Make your bookings before it is too late !

Rob Hardy *Matang*



Alan Stannard presenting Afloat caps to Mia Hardy and Sam Hardy, winners of the "Youngest Crew Members Award" at the ceremony aboard MV Proclaim on the Cockle Bay marina



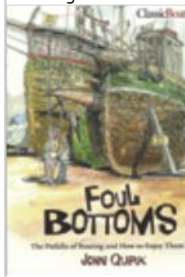
Brian Jones (right), Co Ordinator of the Bote Cote canoe building project at the festival. Members may remember that Brian and the canoe building project at the Tuncurry High School were winners of the Special Community Award in the Hal Harper Awards of 2014 for the building of a number of "Bellinghen" canoes. This design has become a standard for these projects which have been built at a number of festivals, including Hobart. At the completion of the canoes at Darling Harbour, Brian reports that his total would be 170 canoes, all built by school aged kids.

Remember the closing date for nominations for the Hal Harpur Award is September 30th.

One new member joined in the last month.

Stuart King of Birchgrove who has a 40 ft 3 inch Norman Wright Bridgedeck Cruiser moored in Snails Bay. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Based on a series of highly popular articles written for Classic Boat Magazine, this witty collection recalls some of the incidents the author has survived in over half a century of messing about in boats.



Most sailors will find something to relate to in these escapades from around the world and they will bring a wry smile to any boaters lips. The author's wonderfully witty cartoons help bring these anecdotes to life.

All these stories are true so WBA member Alan Williams writes under a pen name so that his architectural clients do not think they are entrusting their work to a seagoing Mr Bean. Copies are available from Boat Books in Crows Nest at \$24.95 or less on Amazon. WBA members can get copies from Alan at meetings for \$ 20.





THE PAYNESVILLE REPORT

from Chris & Gilli Dicker

Yes folks, this is Victoria speaking, well not all of Victoria of course, just Paynesville....well not really all of Paynesville either....this is a small voice broadcasting from a very small corner of a small corner of Paynesville.

I have started this report while on a weekend cruise 'up the lake' in *Westwind*. Every time we leave our berth is a celebration but this weekend particularly so, as we have finally been awarded a permit to build our house and so it may be the end of any leisure time for a while.

Far be it that it will be an end to reporting on the wooden boats of the Gippsland Lakes. Almost every day I am involved with the worm eaten, leaking, sinking, rotting things. Who would have a wooden boat? The whole battle seems to be to stop them returning to the earth, its a real tug off war. Some of the boats I lay under with a caulking iron and mallet trying to delay their demise have already become an ecco system for.....creatures. I believe one quick coat of anti fouling is not enough. When a boat comes out it needs a thorough blasting off, If the old anti-fouling is flaking it is probably time to take it all off. You can get away with it for quite a while by using a good anti fouling primer such as International Primacon or Intertuff. Two good coats of antifouling should follow and don't forget under the keel.

All this before the weather report, which will now follow. Beautiful one day and perfect the next used to be Queensland's slogan, well it's all moving south as we know. Please keep it under your hat until we finish our house. When everyone realises what is happening there will be a huge boom down here as those up north begin to fry and flock to the higher latitudes and we can sell our house and 3.5 acres of manicured 'grounds' for millions and go and live on Macquarie Island before Antarctica melts completely.

The temperatures have been about 5 degrees above average and we are in a state of draught. Warm and dry sounds great for a picnic but.....

There is a large population of Black Swans here. We are visited every day by at least one couple, we never feed them so you



Our neighbours new family

might think they come to say hello. I feel sure they know they are beautiful, all their movements are graceful but somehow not conceited. They build their nest in peculiar places, next to pathways or even busy boat ramps. A way of thumbing their nose or demonstrating that we can coexist. They also have a dark side. If you see three swans together there is bound to be trouble. We have seen some furious battles between the interloper and the spouse. It is sorted quickly.

A seal surfaced and frolicked behind us recently but most of the life is above the surface, a large fleet of cormorants hang their wings to dry every afternoon and also festoon a nearby gum tree, which cannot be ideal for their webbed feet. To me being close up to a bird is like being close up to a dolphin or a seal or a whale or most other wild creatures. In comparison, despite our incredible technology, us humans are very clumsy. There are also rumours that we may have mucked things up a bit.

It is the 28th of April and we have just returned from the annual Bairnsdale agricultural show. It is held out the back a bit near the small airfield. Lots of farmers young and older and lots of dust due to the drought. We are in the market for a 15,000 litre water tank but non of them came with water.

Happy boating everyone, I am very sorry I did not make it to the Sydney Classic & Wooden Boat Festival.

THE EAST GIPPSLAND REPORT. Update 3/6/18

Now that takes in a very large area but I am still waiting for the right heading to present itself.

The weather first. In Cairns it is 28 degrees every day and a steady 25 knot south easterly trade wind. Non of that insipid rubbish down here, we have *real* weather. The barometer goes up and down like a windscreen wiper. It

is cooling but just glorious, no gloves or beanies yet and I was working in shorts today. Very dry. That ends the weather.



all in a days work

It really is amazing what is around the corner of our meandering lives. We were still wild and free when we were blown into the Gippsland lakes. We found a bit of dirt that we might build some creative dwelling on but the council certainly took that dream away and made us stand up straight. We



In tandem pulling a big one out

can still do the dream but we get intimidating letters from big brother that remind us that we are being monitored and don't try any of that creative stuff.

Meantime away from the ranch I am still involved with some amazing wooden boats. We have a boat in the shed at the moment called Miss Australia. She was built in 1954 (a great year) to ferry the miss Australia contestants around Melbourne waters. Nothing was spared in her construction and fit out. She will need more care than we can provide and I



Gilli the barrow girl

hope she will get it. I suppose where I

am working is a half way house to keep them afloat until there is enough money to do the job properly. So many boats were built in the heady days when we had not a care in the world and there was plenty of timber to build them. We have reached a stage where that is hardly possible these days and so those bearded hulks out there swinging on marginal moorings build of Huon, Teak, Mahogany, fine grained Oregon, Oak, Celery top, Jarra, West Romanian butterfly yellow stringless pine!;? are priceless. It could be east Romania,



Continued on page 8



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WBA members may place a non-commercial ad free of charge if the member's name and phone no. appear. Non-members are charged \$20 for a text ad (maximum 25 words). \$30 with a picture. Ads will run for two issues, member's ads longer if you ask for an extension. Submissions close on the 21st of each month.

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other way, I knew there was an emergency as it is Saturday. It seems Miss Australia had sunk. The only thing that kept her from disappearing completely was the bottom. The water had submerged the Gardner engine and filled it full of water. She was pumped out and towed to the ramp by the coast guard where she stopped leaking altogether. A total mystery. We hauled her out and I went over the entire hull with a torch. I could find nothing. I am not the only one who suggests foul play.

It is all part of the fun. We are settling into Paynesville very well. While we were waiting for the shed to arrive I decided to build an outside laundry and ablutions house....a wash house. It is ten meters square so we did not need a permit. Except for the concrete slab I sourced most of the material from the local tip and have enjoyed building it. It is also good practice for the larger buildings, especially using a square and a level!! I had better get this off to our enduring editor now. One more thing, the 90 trees we have recently planted are doing very well.



which is pretty far east anyway without even being west.

After 14 years *Westwind* is still our home. She is the only home that my wife Gilli has known since she has been in Australia, besides a year traveling around Australia in a campervan.. No she is not Romanian. I wonder what she thought when she came around her corner and found *Westwind* and me living in an obscure boat yard with a half finished hulk under tarps. Well I suppose it is evident what she thought. *Westwind* is like an old friend to me and I imagine with a bit of reluctance, to Gilli.

An update. Miss Australia is back in and slowly taking up, the weather has taken a turn on this last day of autumn, maximum 14 degrees, showers and a strong wind warning that has not eventuated. Hey, I still took my pullover off today....one of them anyway. People are looking at us closely to see how we can survive in these latitudes after so long up north but we have had a wonderful period to acclimatise and it is something new.

Tomorrow our 11m x 8m Shed arrives in kit form. I will be busy for the next two weeks putting it all together and with the help of Mike Warner, who owns the Jock Muir, *Lahara*..

Happy sailing,

P.S. **Stop press, 2nd of June**, I was driving home from a busy day on our block just on dark when I saw our boat yard tractor and trailer heading the



MERCHANDISE



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B WBA Cap\$15	F Polo (white l/s)\$38
C Vest\$50	G Stubby holder\$12
D AWB book\$20	H Burgee (sm/lg) ...\$20/\$25

— — ON THE HORIZON — —

THIS YEAR 2018

June 12 th	WBA Meeting, Gladesville Bowling & Sports Club, Presentation from the 2017 HHA winner.
June 18 th	Committee Meeting
July 10 th	WBA Meeting, Gladesville Bowling & Sports Club - Peter Gossell- <i>Boomerang</i>
July 16 th	Committee Meeting
August 14 th	WBA Meeting, Gladesville Bowling & Sports Club - Guest Speaker - John Vaughan - <i>Flags</i>
August 20 th	Committee Meeting
September 11 th	WBA Meeting, Gladesville, Chris Cleary & John Capaldi 2017 HHA Nominees
September 30 th	Closing date for 2018 Hal Harpur Award Nominations
October 9 th	WBA Meeting, Gladesville Bowling & Sports Club, Member Projects Review
November 13 th	AGM + Film night
December 11 th	HHA Award & Dinner

NEXT YEAR 2019

January 8 th	WBA Meeting, Gladesville Bowling & Sports Club, - Steve Brompton
March 12 th	WBA Meeting, Gladesville Bowling & Sports Club, - Ross McLean - <i>Lightning</i>
June 11 th	WBA Meeting, Gladesville Bowling & Sports Club, 2018 HHA Winner