

Scuttlebutt

January 2015



WBA Member, Peter Gossell (right) being presented with the 2014 Hal Harpur Award by our President for a sea chest containing a signal canon.

Photograph by the Editor





President's Report

Ross McLean

Our last meeting was our Christmas function, and Hal Harper Award night, with Peter Gossell taking out the honours, so we expect Peter to give us a lively talk on his award winning entry later in the year. Preceding the Award's Presentation, it was dinner as usual as per our monthly meetings, at member's own expense down stairs, followed by the Award's Meeting up stairs. The committee paid for a bartender from 07:15 PM to 08:15 PM on the night, but as most members brought their drinks up, he was dismissed. A cheese platter and snacks were on hand following the meeting and many members enjoyed being able to just stand around and chat.



Prior to our last meeting, we had our raft up at Quarantine Bay, where about a dozen members turned up, with once more the threat of thunderstorms in the air. Several brought boats, and we all enjoyed a pleasant bar-b-que at the facilities provided at the park. Some members thought I should have brought my boat, but as I explained at our December meeting, the van I drove in to get to the raft up not only floats, but can be hooked up to shore power as per our overnight stay at Pittwater.

The floating comes from riding the backwash as we exited a huge pool of water following a truck near Chullora.

Our next meeting is usually a quiet affair, as most of us are away on leave, and some will be on their way to Tassie for the Wooden Boat Festival. So, we can have a night of small presentations, therefore, if you have something to say, here's your chance.

I look forward to seeing you there,
Fair weather and smooth sailing.

Ross

Next Meeting Tuesday January 13th

The Next Edition of Scuttlebutt

The February edition of Scuttlebutt will be produced by our President, Ross McLean as your editor will be joining the group to sail *Lorita Maria* down to Hobart for the Wooden Boat Festival. *Lorita Maria* was the late Paul Smith's boat for many years and was originally built for Norman Rydge Jr, an avid yachtsman and member of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia. The vessel won the CYCA Blue Water Championship for 1963-64 and was 5th over the line in the 1963 Sydney-Hobart and 3rd on handicap.

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The Wooden Boat Association
of NSW inc.

www.wbansw.org.au

Meets at the Gladesville Bowling and Sports Club,
the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm

A recent study found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

Opinions and advice expressed in this publication and the Association's meetings are those of the individual originator's only. The Editor and the Association's Committee do not necessarily endorse views expressed in this publication or at such forums. 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.

Printed by Power Colour Pty Ltd, 106 Grose Street, Parramatta NSW 2150 A.B.N. 58 066 215 021



Scan the QR code to go the WBA of NSW Inc. on the web and follow the links to Scuttlebutt, Hal Harpur Award and more useful information

Peter Gossell awarded the 2014 Hal Harpur Award

The first time a maritime artifact has been successful.

by Chris Goddard



Each year, the Wooden Boat Association of NSW invites nominations to be considered for the Hal Harpur Award. Hal Harpur was one of the founding members of the WBA. The award covers areas such as wooden boat building, the restoration of wooden boats and artefacts, and maintaining the skills of wooden boatbuilding. The projects need to have been completed in the past year to be eligible. The person(s) nominated does not have to be a member of the WBA.

There were four entries for the 2014 Hal Harpur Award.

- Peter Gossell, for fabrication of a sea chest from "materials on hand" to house a signalling canon.
 - nominated by Christopher Goddard
- Brian Jones of Smiths Lake (Tuncurry), for building nearly 60 plywood canoes & paddle boards with TAFE / High School students, Aboriginals girls and kids-at-risk.
 - nominated by Dave Giddings
- Antony Harvey of Braidwood, for building a 4.5 metre boat
 - nominated by Dave Giddings
- Antony Harvey, for building a 3.6 metre row boat
 - nominated by Dave Giddings

And there were a number of firsts for this years HHA.

- ◇ It was the first time that a marine artefact has won rather than a vessel,
- ◇ The first time where three of the entries have been nominated by the same person, (Dave Giddings)
- ◇ The first time than an individual has been nominated twice in the same year for two different items, (Antony Harvey).



Peter is yet to obtain a permit to use the canon. He has advised us that it does not fire projectiles but will be used when required, from the deck of *Wandeen*, his 14.6 metre schooner, to ensure right of way!

Among some of the most personalized and idiosyncratic of all a sailor's possessions, the sea chest was not only his storage locker, it served as table, seat, workbench and was often decorated lavishly in his free-time aboard ship.

The one thing on a chest that was almost always made by the sailor were the handles at either end (the "beckets"), used for carrying, hoisting aboard and securing to a bulkhead or batten. Beckets are considered by many to be the absolute epitome of a knoter's art and the more ornate were constructed over the course of much time. It is not unusual for a pair of really ornate becketts to have cloth or canvas sewn onto the strands which make up the 'knobs' securing the becket to the cleat, highly ornate and complicated hitchings on the barrel of the becket (created over an equally complex 'pudding', or filler which gives the becket it's characteristic "chubby-in-the-middle" silhouette) and turkshead or footrope knots, Matthew Walker knots, ring-bolt hitching (Spanish Hitching) around the "Bails" (the round portions where the "axle" passes through the becket and which are ended by the "knobs" referred to above, leathered axles, needle-hitching... there truly is no end to the sorts of becketts that a sailor would make for his chest, and all depended solely upon his skill and knowledge. Peter informed us that more time went into producing the handles than fabricating the chest!



Letter to the Editor:

I am writing to express my delight and appreciation upon being awarded the Hal Harpur Award for 2014. My initial thoughts, when Chris Goddard approached me to enter the sea chest I had made, were that as a project it wasn't in the same league as some of the previous winners. Major projects such as Bob & Barbara Tullet's rebuilding of 'Fairlie', Ian Smith's researching and building a faithful replica of 'Britannia', an historic 18 foot skiff, or of course Chris Dicker's 8 year rebuild of 'Westwind' came to mind.

On further reflection, however, I thought my entry might be an encouragement to others to submit smaller and more varied projects. When we originally set up the Hal Harpur Award, it was to encourage the development and retention of skills as they apply to traditional maritime endeavours. Projects that demonstrate such skills as traditional sail-making, marine engineering and even maritime archeology can and should be considered.

In the case of the sea chest, the handles, known as beckets, are traditional Marlinspike seamanship and actually took longer to make than the sea chest.

I hope my little project will encourage others to submit more and varied entries for the Hal Harpur Award in the future.

Peter Gossell

28th December 2014



The Hal Harpur Award 2014

Brian Jones of Smiths Lake (Tuncurry), for building nearly 60 plywood canoes & paddle boards with TAFE / High School students, Aboriginal girls & kids-at-risk.

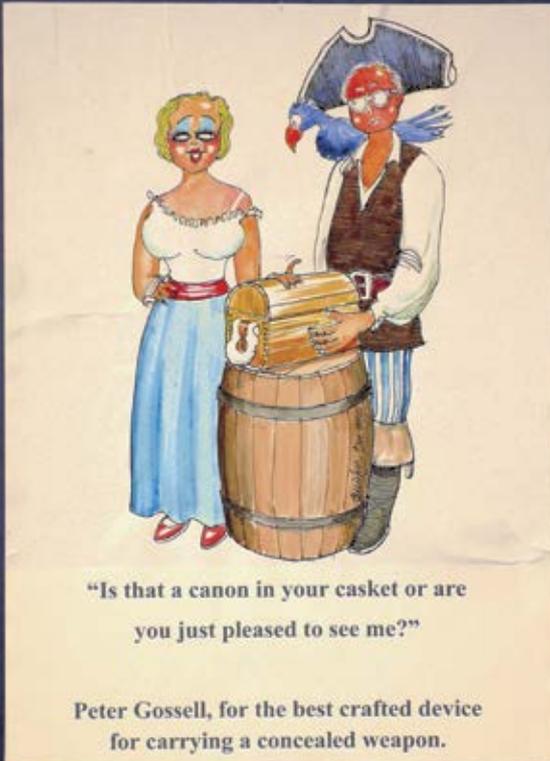


nominated by Dave Giddings

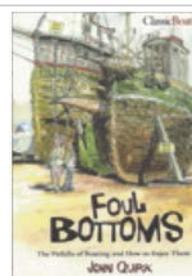
One of the more unusual nominations for the annual Hal Harpur Award was received in 2014. The project was described as "Canoe building with students". The person being nominated was Brian Jones.

Initial enquiries revealed that there were 12 canoes to inspect. When completed, these brought Brian's total canoe build for 2014 to 34. A special Wooden Boat Association award was created for this project by the judges, and has been presented to Brian Jones on behalf of his team.

More on this in next month's Scuttlebutt in an article from Rob Hardy.



A Quirky cartoon presented to Peter Gossell



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.

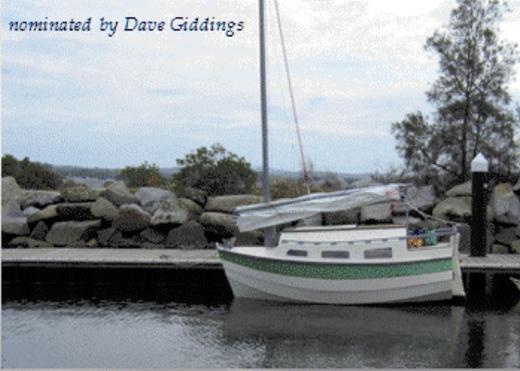




The Hal Harpur Award 2014

Antony Harvey of Braidwood, for building a 4.5 metre boat to a John Welsford / Fafnir design

nominated by Dave Giddings



The Hal Harpur Award 2014

Antony Harvey of Braidwood, for building a 3.6 metre row boat to a Selway Fisher design

nominated by Dave Giddings



Raft up @ Bantry Bay, February 21st and 22nd



This has become a regular feature on the WBA calendar and has always been well attended.

At the time of writing, we have not been able to determine whether the Sydney Heritage Fleet will be joining us as has been the case in the past.

Some members may just want to make a day of it and come for the BBQ on Saturday while others will anchor overnight with the usual breakfast on shore Sunday morning.

- ◆ A tough old sheep farmer from Scotland gave some advice to his granddaughter.
- ◆ He told her that the secret to a long life was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder onto her porridge every morning.
- ◆ The granddaughter followed this dictum religiously until her death at the venerable age of 103.
- ◆ She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, 25 great great grandchildren and a forty foot hole where the crematorium used to be.



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THE CAIRNS REPORT

from Chris & Gilli Dicker



It is dry, it is very dry and it should be wet. What's more a north easterly came in two weeks ago and has blown with varying strengths till today.

Today the south east wind regained its footing; the planes took off and landed in a southerly direction, the southbound sailors began complaining about the terrible headwinds again and the coconut palms are leaning the right way. This is the Cairns that we are used to.

As I write, *Westwind* is anchored off Fitzroy Island, a popular destination for the locals. The very clear water is 26 degrees with just enough breeze for comfort and an unseasonably blue, blue sky. We have just done a circuit of



Michaelmas and Vlassoff cays out on the reef, which we had to ourselves and so Christmas passed almost unnoticed.

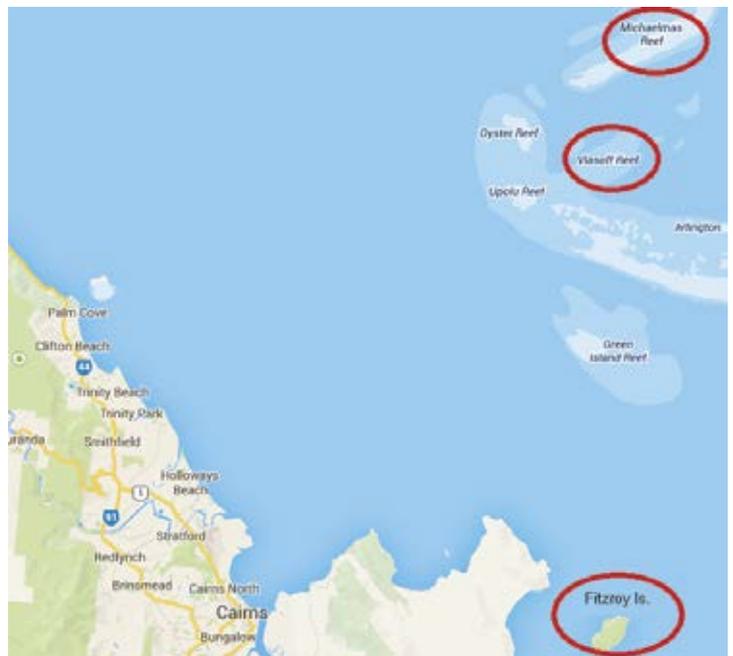
We are anchored in 17 metres well away from anyone with all our 65 metres of chain out, this is retrieved with a manual anchor windlass (poor Gilli), in fact we have very few mod cons such as self tailing two speed winches (poor Gilli) or outboard motor for the dinghy. Gilli can't row and will not be taught so I have been lumbered with rowing hundreds of miles. Our next dinghy will have a sail.

There is something fulfilling about rowing a dinghy; especially one that rows well; the sound it makes is music, dreamy, like the murmur of chooks on a hot afternoon. Like putting one foot in front of another when you walk, you can take the same pride in dipping the oars. There are so many nice things to fill our life up with. On the other hand the sound and commotion an outboard powered inflatable makes is second to 'those jet skies', especially when they are being unnecessarily zoomed around an anchorage. We get stared at, even laughed at but we know. What's more they have to give way to us.

All that aside, I have been given the great honour of being part of a group of people that are taking *Lorita Maria* down to Hobart for the Wooden Boat Festival. *Lorita Maria* was the late Paul Smith's boat for many years and has certainly been passed on to the right



Lorita Maria



owner; Greg Barrel, fastidious, energetic, a devout tea drinker. I'm sure we can beat it out of him by the time we get to Hobart!

Happy New Year to all from *Westwind*

FOR SALE



1950 Arthur Digby 21ft yacht. Hull and deck renovated 2011 by Ian Smith. New main, 3 jibs and rigging 2011. Dofin 12 hp diesel. Antifouled Dec 2014. Fore and aft mooring available Tarban Creek. Give away \$6000 ono. Tom Fawcett

0419 128 641

BUY SWAP and SELL

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.
NOTE: Items for free, No Charge. Contact the Editor, see page 2 for details.

To make room in my garage to build more boats, I have the following items on offer. I am happy to offer them **free** (pick up from Dee Why) with suggestion that acquirers make a **modest donation to WBA NSW**.

1. Scroll Saw : (similar to this but not the same brand www.machineryhouse.com.au/R836)
2. Boat Plans for Somes Sound designed by John Brooks (version of Herreshoff 12 1/2). (15ft gaff sloop, lapstrake) www.brooksboatsdesigns.com/Somes%20Sound%20main/SomesSoundmain.html
3. Boat Plans for Pocketship designed by John C Harris CLC (14ft gaff sloop, stitch and tape) www.clcboats.com/shop/boats/wooden-sailboat-kits/pocketship/pocketship-sailing-pocket-cruiser-kit.html
4. Boat Plans for Phil Bolget Chebacco (20ft gaff cat yawl, plank on frame or lapstrake) www.chebacco.com/chebacco_news/CHEBFAQ.html
5. Boat Plans for Sam Devlin Winter Wren II (19ft gaff sloop, stitch and tape) <http://store.devlinboat.com/winterwrenii.aspx>
6. Boat Plans for John Welsford Pathfinder (18ft gaff sloop or Yawl, lapstrake) www.jwboatdesigns.co.nz/plans/pathfinder/
Bruce Gregor Mob: 0421 062 118

FOR SALE



Free fibreglass dinghy - 8ft : floats-no leaks
Peter Widders 0481 583 794
pwidders@yahoo.com.au

FOR SALE



JARCAT 5 Catamaran Sailboat.
Plywood, 2 adult berths, 2 child berths. Some rot, needs fair bit of work. Aluminium mast and boom, sails included. Registered tilt trailer with some rust. Mariner 8hp LS outboard.
\$5,000. Long suffering wife says extremely negotiable.
David Verity 0407 111 123

FOR SALE



New plywood dinghy with plans for conversion to sail, antislip floor. It includes anchor, anchor rope, oars , oarlocks, 2 fenders and a lifejacket. \$ 1150.00 negotiable.

For more pics or info phone John Wagemans or email: braeng@ihug.com.au

FOR SALE

HALVORSEN 25 Foot, *Petarli*. Built 1949 for original



Hire Fleet. Chrysler 6 cylinder petrol engine. Original Halvorsen Layout
Price: \$35,000 Peter Mathews 0409 428 070 or 9879 5230

FOR SALE



Reluctantly decided to sell my 27' Tumlaren "Svalan", as I have my eye on a smaller timber boat. Designer: Knud Reimers (Sweden), built 1949 Tuncurry NSW by Alf Jahansson, brown beech timbers; white beech coach house; spotted gum decks; Oregon spars
Mast stepped and coated with Coelan 5yrs ago, still looks new, hull recently stripped and painted, newly antifouled, new toerails, new deck paint, new dynel on coach house roof and after deck, pintels refurbished, new genoa, fairly new main. Jib, storm jib and spinnaker available.

- 8hp outboard available separately
- full history available

Asking \$10,000. Jim Rist 0417 268 952

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The page 8 story.....

Over the Christmas break, I had a bit of time available to fabricate a couple of items for a friend who is restoring a 38 foot power boat. I should have taken a few more pictures.....



The hatch will fit over the anchor locker. From memory, the opening size was 650mm x 450mm. I didn't purchase the materials, but I considered the teak slats were aesthetically too wide at 60mm, my preference is 45 or 50mm.

The plywood base, (some scrappy ply that was provided), is rebated into the teak sides. When the sides were assembled to the plywood base, I provided a liberal coating of an epoxy based timber preservative top and bottom.



Sikaflex caulking applied. A final sand of the top was done after a few days. I understand the hatch will be coated with Coelan.



Two escutcheons for diesel tank deck fillers fabricated from some scrap 20mm thick teak off cuts. I set up the router on a jig cutting the circular outer dimension first, then 'bull nosed' the outer edge, then ran a 2 inch hole saw through the centre for the deck filler spigot.

If you are making something for your vessel, take some pics, put a bit of text together and send it in.

— — ON THE HORIZON — —

NEXT YEAR 2015

January 13	WBA meeting
February 6 th to 9 th	Wooden Boat Festival, Hobart, Tasmania
February 10	WBA meeting
February 21 st /22 nd	Goolwa Boat Festival
February 21 st /22 nd	Raft up @ Bantry Bay
March 10	WBA meeting
March 11 th , 12 th & 13 th	Repton Run, (dates chosen are mid-week as tides are not favorable for weekends around this time)
April 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th	Classic Boat Fest on the foreshore of Lake Macquarie at Toronto
April 14	WBA meeting