



AUSTRALIAN

W O O D D E N

B O A T

FESTIVAL 2025

7TH-10TH FEBRUARY

HOBART, TASMANIA

AWBF.ORG.AU

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The Australian Wooden Boat Festival acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the first boatbuilders, the first ocean explorers, and the first custodians of the sea.



**THIS IS A SMOKE
FREE EVENT**



HELP US SPREAD THE JOY!

Our focus is on spreading the joy of wooden boats, connecting the community, inspiring new generations of boat enthusiasts, and ensuring the Festival remains sustainable. As a not-for-profit, we receive some funding from government grants—for which we are incredibly grateful—but this doesn't cover all our needs. It's only with the help of our community that we grow and survive.

DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please support the Festival's essential role in the wooden boats and maritime community by making a tax-deductible donation of \$2 or more. Choose from one-time donations to the Festival, regular contributions as a **Festival First Mate**, or become a major donor through **The Captain's Table** collective. The choice is yours – you make all the difference!

AWBF is now on the Register of Cultural Organisations and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office for deductible gift recipient status.



FIND OUT MORE



Premier and Minister for Tourism and Hospitality

JEREMY ROCKLIFF

The Australian Wooden Boat Festival is a standout event on Tasmania's vibrant events calendar. Set against the stunning backdrop of Hobart's historic waterfront, this Festival is the State's largest free event, drawing visitors from near and far. It showcases Tasmania as a captivating destination and plays a vital role in boosting tourism. The Tasmanian Government is a proud supporter of the Australian Wooden Boat Festival. As part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania, we remain

committed to enhancing the State's event sector and hospitality industry. We extend our gratitude to the dedicated team behind this remarkable Festival for their continued efforts.

AWBF Chair

SCOTT RANKIN

Last Festival was hard to top. We enjoyed bigger crowds, more boats, and a wider range of activities, all celebrating wooden boat culture and helping Tasmania's economy thrive. So, it's a joy to bring you an even more vibrant and diverse Australian Wooden Boat Festival in 2025. This year, Paul and his team deliver a program that not only covers wooden boats and culture from around Australia but also looks further afield to the remarkable maritime traditions and First Nations knowledge of our Pacific neighbors and Japan. As always, the beating heart of the Festival is the wooden boats and their owners, and 2025 will showcase hundreds of unique craft, their owners, and families. Our much-loved audience, attending each day in their tens of thousands, will enjoy wooden boats of all kinds. Perhaps best of all, amidst cost of living concerns, the Wooden Boat Festival is free, with beguiling activities for all ages on one of the best weekends of Summer.



AWBF General Manager & Festival Director

PAUL STEPHANUS

For four days at the height of Summer, Hobart's waterfront reaches its full potential and becomes a place of pilgrimage for the 400 boats and tens of thousands of visitors from across Australia and the world. Over these four magic days, there is only a thin distinction between the presenter and the audience, the performer and the punter, the boat owner and the admiring aficionado. This is because the

token of currency at our Festival is not the almighty Dollar, but the humble story. We humans are bound to wooden boats. They teem with our stories. Each one is its own vast library of fairy tales and adventure novels. Multiply that by the 400 boats and you have the starting point of this joyful Festival. Thank you to the people of Tasmania for sharing your island; thank you to the visitors who flock to Sullivans Cove; thank you to everyone who takes part in any way. This is your Festival.



THANK YOU TO THE BOAT OWNERS

Congratulations to our over 400+ boat owners who have had their boats accepted into the 15th Australian Wooden Boat Festival! Thank you for opening your vessels to the 60,000 visitors who flock to the Hobart Waterfront every second year to meet you, hear your stories, and dream (perhaps) of one day experiencing the freedom and responsibility of owning a wooden boat for themselves.

With all the Festival's success, sometimes it is hard to remember that we are a community event powered by the enthusiasm of our volunteers, community groups, and most importantly – you, the boat owners. This is a boat Festival; without you, it simply wouldn't exist.

In 2025, we will present a wide range of vessels representing the unique maritime culture of lutruwita / Tasmania, Australia, Aotearoa / New Zealand, and the Pacific. These wonderful objects tell the history of entire civilisations and, at the same time, are steeped with the stories of unique individual lives.

This is the heart of the Festival around which everything else is built. You, the boat owners, have created something truly spectacular. Thank you.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

At the core of the Australian Wooden Boat Festival lies its vibrant community spirit, powered by hundreds of dedicated volunteers. From the Festival Board to the core volunteer staff, many have devoted countless hours to making the Festival a success. Volunteer crews manage the majestic tall ships that grace our docks, and the essential programming is largely driven by community groups, nearly all of whom are volunteers.

During the Festival's four days, a dedicated contingent of AWBF volunteers steps up, proudly donning the Festival colours to coordinate the event and oversee the vast grounds. Whether it's the docking crews zipping around in zodiacs to guide incoming boats, the communications teams glued to phones and radios fielding a flurry of questions, or greeters welcoming boat owners and guests, every role is essential. Volunteers truly shape the Festival into what it is. Thank you to each and every one of you!



2025 FESTIVAL THEME

Australians and Kiwis are the best of friends and the most convivial of foes, and the 2025 Festival is a chance to unite across the blustery Tasman Sea and share our distinctive but interwoven maritime heritage.

Join us in welcoming *Te Karangatahi*, Australia's first and only traditionally carved Māori waka taua (single hulled war canoe). And get your betting ledgers out because Auckland's *Ngataki* will join the fleet of storied New Zealand vessels and sail once again beside Hobart's *Te Rapunga* in their first meeting since the 1934 trans-Tasman.

And from New Zealand, we launch into the wider Pacific, presenting navigators, artists, curators, intrepid explorers and maritime artisans from across the region to share their work at our Pacific Seafarers Precinct and across the Festival site.

Our Boats Afloat program will present throngs of vessels with links to the Pacific. The Little Sailors Village will feature the Australian debut of the Japanese kumondar wooden jungle gym. Maritime trades will again be on show at Shipwrights Village. The Maritime Marketplace will be abuzz with commerce. We're expanding our Film Festival and are returning the ever-popular Wooden Boat Symposium, delving deeply into topics of boatbuilding, craft, navigation, (mis)adventure, and history.

Hulking windjammers will descend on Sullivans Cove during the Parade of Sail. Nimble Derwent Class yachts and swift proa will dash from wharf to wharf. In Constitution Dock, families and children of all ages can paddle boats of every shape and size, culminating in the frenetic Quick & Dirty Boatbuilding Race.

In 2025, we're casting the net wide, as wide as we possibly can, to share the absolute joy and positivity of this Festival with our neighbours from the Pacific and around the globe. A place of pilgrimage and an absolute pleasure, the 2025 Australian Wooden Boat Festival has something for everyone.

2025 FESTIVAL POSTER

The 2025 AWBF poster is a collaboration between Aotearoa / New Zealand artists Michel Tuffery and Tony Blake. Tony's painting depicts a Māori waka unau off the coast of Moutohorā Island sailing alongside HMB *Endeavour*, with famed Tahitian navigator Tupaia on board. The waka's sail is modelled after the sail Te Rā, made of woven flax and the only known traditional Māori sail still in existence.

The letters by Michel are from a series of intricately carved woodblock prints with seafaring motifs. See what you can find! Don't miss the chance to watch Michel in action at the Pacific Seafarers Precinct, where he'll be running an upeti woodblock print workshop for all ages.

PARADE OF SAIL ROUTE AND VANTAGE POINTS



HOBART

Tasman Bridge

Queens Domain

Regatta Grounds

Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Reserve

Kangaroo Bluff Reserve

Princes Park

Wrest Point Casino

Red Chapel Reserve

Long Beach Reserve

Alexandra Battery Park

Mt Nelson Reserve

John Garrow Light

12:00pm

Opening events

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12:00 - 13:00	Parade of Sail	Starts John Garrow Light, Lower Sandy Bay
13:00 - 17:00	Docking of Parade of Sail vessels	Sullivans Cove
16:45 - 17:15	Festival Welcome	Constitution Dock
17:30 - 18:30	Boat Owners Welcome	Ironhouse Waterside Tavern
18:30 - 20:30	We are the Ocean	Theatre Royal Hobart

PARADE OF SAIL AND DOCKING OF VESSELS

A magnificent fleet of 11 tall ships and over 200 wooden boats will sail up the Derwent River and into Sullivans Cove to kick off the 2025 Festival. Catch the spectacle from prime viewing spots along the river, then head to the Hobart waterfront to ogle at the controlled chaos as the vessels settle into their berths across the Festival site.



FESTIVAL WELCOME

Foremost Tasmanian Indigenous boatbuilder Sheldon Thomas launches watercraft *Truganini* in Constitution Dock, inviting boats and Festivalgoers to Sullivans Cove. Joined by traditionally carved NZ waka taua *Te Karangatahi*, we welcome visitors from across the Pacific and the world.



WE ARE THE OCEAN: VOYAGING AND THE PACIFIC

Join historian Dame Anne Salmond, artist Michel Tuffery, and waka captain Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr in conversation with Professor Kate Fullagar as they investigate the epic stories of the original Pacific explorers and the powerful connection between people and the ocean. Featuring a performance by the Māori cultural troupe Ngā Mātai Pūrua. More info is available on page 15.



Where is Tupaia? Meretoto June 1773, by Michel Tuffery, 2019.

FEATURED VESSELS

NGATAKI *(If she makes it across the ditch!)*

Ngataki was built by a 20-something Johnny Wray while he lived at his parent's house in Auckland during the Great Depression. In classic Kiwi fashion, Johnny designed the vessel from scratch, scavenged the materials, learnt all the necessary trades, and relied on the goodwill of friends and family to complete the project. He and his crew went on to have hilarious and sometimes nail-biting adventures throughout the South Pacific. Detailed in his autobiography *South Sea Vagabonds*, these exploits included the first trans-Tasman race against *Te Rapunga* in 1934.



TE RAPUNGA

Te *Rapunga* was launched by George Dibbern and his cousin from a small boatyard on the shores of Northern Germany on the eve of WWII. In 1934, she faced off against *Ngataki* in the first trans-Tasman race, from Auckland to Melbourne to Hobart. A self-declared citizen of the World, George flew a flag of his own design and sailed with many crews in the Pacific and as far north as Canada. *Te Rapunga* has since been meticulously restored and was relaunched in 2023.



TE UIRA

Built in 1896 by the storied Bailey Brothers in Auckland, *Te Uira* was one of the first racing yachts to be exported to the thriving colony of Victoria, Australia. One hundred and twenty-eight years later, *Te Uira* has been returned to her former glory after a faithful restoration by Cygnet Wooden Boats, utilising a lucky cache of locally stored kauri, which rivals Huon pine as a boatbuilding timber.



LADY GAY

Lady Gay was built for Joseph Wilson, proprietor of the *New Zealand Herald* and one of Auckland's founding fathers. Like many New Zealand vessels, *Lady Gay* was offered to the New Zealand Navy and served as part of the coastal defence during WWII, clocking up 8,000 hours before returning to civilian life as a day cruiser. Classed as a New Zealand Protected Object, *Lady Gay* has permission to remain in Australia until 2027 before she must return home.



MAHI MAHI

Originally built by brothers Dan and Matt Tucker of Bruny Island, *Mahi Mahi* was inspired by the outrigger voyaging proa of the Pacific. The unique design and sailing prowess of the Pacific proa served voyagers faithfully for thousands of years and has since influenced many high-performance and experimental modern yacht designs.



GRACE

Small proas like this sit on the beach outside most outer-island houses in Kiribati. Used for transport and fishing in the large atoll lagoons, and racing on Sundays, they are often given poetic names like *Tebutinnang* ('movement of clouds'). *Grace* is just under 18' in length, with a maximum hull width of 16" (400 mm) and is strip-built of paulownia to a Gary Dierking design, which allows the boat to be easily disassembled and cartopped.



TE KARANGATAHI

The *Karangatahi*, Australia's first traditionally carved Māori *waka taua*, was launched in Fremantle in 1996 and was later showcased at Federation Square in Melbourne, drawing over 50,000 spectators. The project, sparked by a suggestion from Jill Morgan (CEO of Kulcha Multicultural Arts WA & Multicultural Arts Victoria) to Wairangi (the vessel's custodian), was always aimed at supporting at-risk youth. Initially hesitant, Wairangi gathered local rangatira, and together, they brought the waka to life, with the hull crafted in New Zealand and other taonga carved at Fremantle TAFE. Propelled by 20 paddlers, *Te Karangatahi* continues to embody cultural resilience, unity, and strength.



Australian Government
Festivals Australia



MORE INFO



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TALL SHIPS



ONE & ALL (SA)

The 141 foot Brigantine was built based on a traditional carvel construction and a topsail schooner rig. It will be sailing to Hobart from South Australia.



SØREN LARSEN (NSW)

Søren Larsen, built in 1949, was one of the last fully traditional, cargo carrying sailing ships made for Baltic trade. She was lovingly restored and re-rigged by the Davies family in 1978 to the graceful 19th century brigantine she is today.



ENTERPRIZE (VIC)

The 27-metre topsail schooner *Enterprize* is a fully operational replica of a tall ship originally constructed in Hobart in 1830 by William Harvey and William Pender. It first sailed to mainland Australia (settling in the Yarra River, Melbourne) in 1835.



JULIE BURGESS (TAS)

The *Julie Burgess* is a wooden auxiliary gaff rigged ketch used for cray fishing in Tasmania for over 50 years from the 1930s.



JAMES CRAIG (NSW)

Launched in 1874, the three-masted barque *James Craig* was rescued as a rusting wreck from Tasmania's Recherche Bay and underwent a 40-year restoration. Now one of only four of her era still sailing, she stands as a symbol of authentic heritage preservation.



YOUNG ENDEAVOUR (NSW)

Atwo-masted, square-rigged sailing ship that was purpose-built for sail training. Since 1988, *Young Endeavour* has welcomed over 14,000 youth on board to take part in an immersive youth development experience at sea.

**MORE
INFO &
TICKETS**
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ENDEAVOUR REPLICA (NSW)

The Australian-built replica of HMB *Endeavour* is one of the world's most accurate maritime replica vessels. Constructed from 1988 and commissioned in 1994, the vessel features 30 kilometres of rigging, 750 wooden blocks or pulleys, and the masts and spars carry 28 sails that spread approximately 10,000 sq feet (930 m²) of canvas.



LADY NELSON (TAS)

Built locally and launched in 1988, the current *Lady Nelson* is a replica of the original *Lady Nelson* brig involved in establishing the settlement of Hobart Town in 1804.



WINDEWARD BOUND (TAS)

The 110 foot brigantine has crossed Bass Strait more than 40 times and has carried more than 6,000 young Australians on her award-winning youth development programs.



RHONA H (TAS)

The 52 foot vessel was built in 1942 in Launceston. An ex-fishing ketch, it is one of the last functioning traditional rigs of its type.



KERRAWYN (TAS)

A true Tassie gem, Beltz-designed and Wilson-built in circa 1948. Recently restored, the 53 foot ex-fishing ketch now sails the Huon as a comfortable cruiser and a notable example of continuing tradition.



OUT ON THE DERWENT

PARADE OF SAIL

The Parade of Sail, the opening event and a highlight of the nautical calendar, is a spectacle not to be missed. Whether you watch from the shore or join a crew, witness an extraordinary display as 11 tall ships and over 200 wooden boats, led by the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania's launch *Egeria*, glide into Sullivans Cove. **Fri 7th Feb 12:00-13:00 John Garrow Light**



ACCESSIBLE SAILING

Providing people of all abilities the opportunity to experience the joy of sailing. Sailability Tasmania will offer accessible sailing throughout the Festival, which includes participating in the official Parade of Sail. Proudly supported by Australian Sailing and the Derwent Sailing Squadron. **Fri 7th Feb 12:00 & Sat 8th to Mon 10th Feb, from Sandy Bay Marina, check website for schedule.**



DERWENT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Derwent Class yachts, unique in design and local heritage, have recently enjoyed a surge in restoration and interest. Their "World Championships," held at each AWBF, highlight their historical charm and the competitive spirit of modern sailors, celebrating a seamless blend of tradition and contemporary sailing excellence.

Check website for schedule.



TOUR WITH TASPORTS

Hop aboard for Tour with TasPorts—a fun, family-friendly and informative event, providing you with a unique insight into operations at the Port of Hobart. Tour with TasPorts is so much more than a river cruise! Auslan interpretation services will be provided on the tour and all ticket fees will be donated to a local charity. **Sat 8th Feb 09:00-14:00, from Brooke St Pier**



NGATAKI VS TE RAPUNGA RALLY *(We hope!)*

In 1934, the inaugural trans-Tasman race had only two competitors. One of these was the storied *Te Rapunga* recently restored to pristine condition at Denman Marine in Kettering. The other was *Ngataki*, adventure vessel of the Pacific recently restored by the Tino Rawa Trust in Auckland. In 1934, *Te Rapunga* won both the Auckland - Melbourne leg and the Melbourne - Hobart leg. Now, after 90 years, the two vessels will face off in the Derwent once more.

Sat 8th Feb 15:30-18:30

KETCH REVIEW

The AWBF revives the traditional "Ketch Review," highlighting ketch sailing prowess and their significance in Tasmania's maritime industry. Once the workhorses of the state, these vessels were designed for local conditions and played a vital role in trade across Bass Strait. Spectators will be treated to the stunning sight of ketches showcasing their skills as they raise their topsails.

Sun 9th Feb 14:00-16:30

REGATTA FIREWORKS

Our friends at The Royal Hobart Regatta Association will once again deliver a breathtaking pyrotechnics display on the Derwent River. Secure a spot aboard a tall ship to get amongst the action, or find a spot along the waterfront or Regatta Grounds for a spectacular view. **Sun 9th Feb 21:00**

WBG PINER'S PUNT & FAZACKERLEYS RALLY

The rally is based on the practice of West Coast piners who regularly used piner's punt to crayfish off Edwards Island on the West Coast of Tasmania, with amateurs using Fazackerleys.

Sun 9th Feb 09:00-09:30 Kings Pier Seawall

PROA PARADE

Perhaps the most iconic design of the Pacific Islands, marvel at the speed and unique sailing techniques of these Festival proa.

Mon 10th Feb 12:00-13:00 Kings Pier Seawall

ADMIRAL'S SAIL & REGATTA

Capping off the 2025 AWBF, over 200 Festival boats and 11 tall ships will set sail from Sullivans Cove led by MYCT's launch *Egeria*. Together, they'll sail past the Regatta Grounds in a grand celebration of 187 years of this beloved heritage event. **Mon 10th Feb 16:00**

HUON RIVER CRUISES

Experience the on-water events and boats in luxurious comfort aboard the 1948 historical Tasmanian motor cruiser, *LaDrone*.

Fri 7th to Mon 10th Feb

**MORE INFO
& TICKETS**
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PACIFIC SEAFARERS PRECINCT

AWBF guests from across the Pacific share their unique maritime stories through captivating demonstrations, interactive workshops and engaging displays.



UPETI BLOCK RUBBINGS WITH MICHEL TUFFERY

Renowned Aotearoa / New Zealand artist Michel Tuffery will guide you in mark-making during this hands-on workshop. Using rubbings from a traditional Sāmoan Upeti woodblock carved by Michel, you'll craft a unique piece to take home—designed to be fun for everyone!



PASIFIKA WEAVING WORKSHOPS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Join Pasifika weavers Seve Faleupolu (Samoa), Sionemaletau Falemaka (Niue), and Keren Ruki (Māori) as they showcase diverse weaving techniques from Aotearoa / New Zealand and the Pacific, using both natural and artificial materials. Book a spot at the Pasifika weaving marquee to make your own woven object to take home.



PACIFIC ADVENTURERS

If you're passionate about small wooden boats and big Pacific swells, be sure to meet record-holding adventurers Tom Robinson and Thor F. Jensen. You'll find equipment and memorabilia from their wild adventures, daring tales and copies of Thor's books at their stall.

TINO RAWA TRUST

Founded in 2007, the Tino Rawa Trust is committed to preserving Aotearoa / New Zealand's classic yacht and launch heritage. The Trust focuses on conserving and restoring historically significant vessels, often employing traditional boatbuilding techniques and materials. In March 2024, it played a pivotal role in delivering the inaugural Auckland Wooden Boat Festival.

**MORE INFO
& TICKETS**
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LE MUSÉE MARITIME DE NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

Celebrating 26 years, the museum houses 7,000 archaeological objects and a preservation lab. Highlights include artefacts from the 18th-century Lapérouse expedition, a 14 metre wooden rudder from the *Roanoke* ore carrier, the original light from the Amédée lighthouse, and relics from the 1846 wreck of the *Seine* corvette, New Caledonia's first European shipwreck.

NEW ZEALAND MARITIME MUSEUM - HUI TE ANANUI A TANGAROA

Join the korerō (conversation) with adventurers and storytellers as they explore Aotearoa / New Zealand's voyaging history. Discover the ancient art of Pacific navigation, the significance of first encounters, and the diverse narratives that have shaped the nation. This relaxed discussion invites you to drop by anytime and immerse yourself in the stories of Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, the vast Pacific Ocean that unites us all.



PACIFIC TRADITIONS SOCIETY

The Pacific Traditions Society (PTS), founded in 1988 by Dr Marianne (Mimi) George and Dr David Lewis, supports teaching youth cultural knowledge about the ocean while on the ocean and partnering with modern science students and allies. PTS believes that ancient wisdom about the ocean, climate, and biodiversity, developed over millennia of voyaging in Oceania, is crucial for sustainable living and cultural survival.

TE FARE IAMANAHA - MUSÉE DE TAHITI ET DES ÎLES

Te Fare Iamanaha – Musée de Tahiti et des Îles is the primary museum of French Polynesia, established in 1974 and completely rebuilt between 2019 and 2023. With over 18,000 items, the museum's collections include ethnographic objects, archaeological artefacts, fine arts, photographs, and archives related to the contact period.



Voyaging and the Pacific

WE ARE THE OCEAN

THEATRE ROYAL

The vast Pacific covers one third of the world's surface, and the story of its exploration and settlement is an epic tale of human endeavour.

Cross-cultural historian Dame Anne Salmond, visual artist Michel Tuffery and waka captain Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr recount and relive this incredible story in writing, artworks and waka voyaging.

Their work celebrates the achievements of the original Pacific explorers, voyaging in wooden watercraft, guided only by the stars and their intimate knowledge of the sea. It also provides new insights into contact history, and the key role played by charismatic individuals, both Polynesian and European, in creating cross-cultural understanding.

This is a unique opportunity to hear these three revered interpreters of Pacific history and contemporary identity, in conversation with Kate Fullagar, with performances by Māori cultural troupe Ngā Mātai Pūrua. **Fri 7th Feb 18:30**


HAUT-COMMISSARIAT
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE
EN NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

FONDS PACIFIQUE



Cookie in Te Wai Pounamu meets Cook Strait,
by Michel Tuffery, 2011.



Tupaia's chart Cook and Banks/Tupaia's and Parkinson's
paintbox, by Michel Tuffery, 2004.



Moderator

KATE FULLAGAR

A professor of History at Australian Catholic University, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities and Vice President of the Australian Historical Association. She is the author of *The Savage Visit: New World Peoples and Popular Imperial Culture* (UCP, 2012) and *The Warrior, the Voyager, and the Artist: Three Lives in an Age of Empire* (YUP, 2020). Her most recent book is *Bennelong & Phillip: A History Unravelling* (Simon & Schuster, 2023).



DAME ANNE SALMOND

A distinguished Professor in Māori Studies and Anthropology, and a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equal Opportunity) at the University of Auckland. She has written a series of prize-winning books about Māori life, European and Pacific voyaging and cross-cultural encounters in the Pacific. In 2013, Dame Anne won the Rutherford Medal, New Zealand's top scientific award, and became the New Zealander of the Year. She is a Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Sciences in the US, a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy, and a Foreign Member of the American Philosophical Society. In 2021, she was awarded the Order of New Zealand.

HOTUROA BARCLAY-KERR

The captain of the oceangoing waka *Haunui*, *Hinemoaana* and *Aotearoa One*. Hoturoa has been sailing around the Pacific for more than thirty-five years. He paddles waka, sails waka, and teaches waka—Hoturoa lives waka. Diving deep into the art form of waka, he is one of the few holders of mātauranga whakatere waka (waka sailing knowledge) in Aotearoa. Throughout the years, Hoturoa has used his specialised knowledge to encourage tauira (students) to look at mātauranga waka from all aspects, which include science, technology, astronomy, arts and more. These teachings have taken him to many different indigenous spaces, working with many different rōpū (groups).

Hoturoa is an orator on his marae at Kāwhia, the home of his waka, and the ancient landing and settlement place of his ancestral waka, *Tainui*, captained by his tupuna (ancestor), Hoturoa.



MICHEL TUFFERY

An Aotearoa / New Zealand-based artist of Samoan, Rarotongan and Ma'ohi Tahitian heritage. In his art practice, he plays the role of connector, working "in between" people and places and focusing a fresh lens on environmental, community, cultural and art historical divides. He exhibits worldwide and has undertaken research and community residencies throughout the USA, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Asia, India, Australia, Aotearoa, and the Pacific. In 2008, Michel was appointed as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to art, but his real reward comes from enriching communities through his art.

MORE
INFO
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CONSTITUTION DOCK

Constitution Dock is the vibrant centrepiece of the AWBF, hosting the official opening and welcoming guests, including *Te Karangatahi*, to our Festival home. Lined with a variety of wooden boats, the dock buzzes with activities like model boat sailing, dragon boat races, parbuckling and public rowing. The My First Boat crew will launch their vessels for the first time, along with The Wooden Boat Centre who will launch their tortured plywood canoe. The Festival's grand finale, the iconic *Quick & Dirty Boat Building Challenge & Race* will see thousands of spectators cheer on young sailors competing in their newly crafted boats.



Friday 7th February

TIME	PROGRAM/ACTIVITY
13:00 - 17:00	Docking of Parade of Sail vessels
16:45 - 17:15	Festival Welcome

Saturday 8th February

TIME	PROGRAM/ACTIVITY
09:00 - 18:00	Free Public Rowing: Ages 8+
10:00 - 16:00	Parbuckling
10:00	<i>Te Karangatahi</i>
12:00 - 12:30	Dragon Boat demo
13:00 - 14:00	Hobart Outriggers demo
14:30 - 15:00	Dragon Boat demo

Sunday 9th February

TIME	PROGRAM/ACTIVITY
09:00 - 18:00	Free Public Rowing: Ages 8+
10:00 - 16:00	Parbuckling
10:00 - 10:45	My First Boat launch
11:00 - 11:45	SCAMP capsized demo
16:00	<i>Te Karangatahi</i>

Monday 10th February

TIME	PROGRAM/ACTIVITY
09:00 - 13:00	Free Public Rowing: Ages 8+
10:00 - 12:00	Parbuckling
11:00	Plywood Canoe launch
14:00	Quick & Dirty parade and race
15:00 - 15:20	Poroporoaki haka
16:00	<i>Te Karangatahi</i>

TE KARANGATAHI WAKA TAUA

Kia Ora! Join us on Friday to welcome Australia's only traditionally carved Māori coastal vessel in action at Constitution Dock. Marvel at the craftsmanship and skill of the paddlers. Then, on Monday, come bid farewell to our Kiwi guests as they paddle out of Sullivans Cove and embark on their journey home. Haere rā!



PUBLIC ROWING

Grab a dinghy and row for free among the beautiful boats berthed at Constitution Dock!

PARBUCKLING

When your barrel of rum falls overboard, all you need is a couple lengths of rope and a bit of dexterity to retrieve it from the watery depths. Have a go at this time-honoured maritime skill.



DERWENT STORMS DRAGON BOATS

Join Derwent Storms Dragon Boat Club for an exciting on-water demonstration of dragon boat paddling. Whether you're new to the sport or an experienced paddler, come and witness the teamwork, rhythm, and power that drives this thrilling water sport!



THE HOBART OUTRIGGING SOCIETY

Hobart Outrigger Canoe Club will showcase one of Australia's fastest-growing water sports. Experience the tradition of outrigger canoeing, a practice that dates back 30,000 years to the coastal cultures of the Pacific Rim. Fun for all ages, from social paddling to international racing!

MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU



Tasmanian Shipwrights & Co.

QUICK & DIRTY BOAT BUILDING CHALLENGE



One of the Australian Wooden Boat Festival's most popular events, for both competitors and spectators.

A race of creativity, ingenuity, perseverance and time. Student teams from around the state race to construct a boat on-site during the Festival—with limited materials and time, this is sure to be a must-see spectacle! On Sunday, the teams decorate and waterproof their boats. On the last day of the Festival the boats will be launched in Constitution Dock, then raced under sail and oar!

The Quick & Dirty Boat Building Challenge has been held during the AWBF for several years, with Tasmanian kids learning the art of boat building and competing with thousands of spectators in Tasmania's iconic Constitution Dock. Prizes are on offer, and the experience is once in a lifetime!

In 2025, we welcome Tasmanian Shipwright's & Co. as the official sponsors of the Quick & Dirty. And, what a great fit! Tasmanian Shipwrights & Co. specialise in the construction of new boats and the restoration of classic wooden boats. Their focus on craftsmanship, quality, and relationships fosters a community of boatbuilding professionals dedicated to preserving the great tradition of wooden boat building in Tasmania. Grown from humble beginnings and the dreams of its founders, Tasmanian Shipwrights & Co. is based in the bustling Oyster Cove Marina in Kettering.



WHAT	DAY	TIME
Build	Saturday	13:00 - 16:00
Decorate	Sunday	10:00 - 16:00
Judging	Monday	13:00
Parade	Monday	14:00
Race	Monday	14:30

MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU

A square QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the dark teal box, providing a quick way to access more information about the event.



Spirit of Tasmania

CLASSIC DINGHY DISPLAY

HOBART CITY HALL



CLASSIC DINGHY DISPLAY

This exhibition features beautifully restored Australian Classic Wooden Sailing Dinghy Classes, from the diminutive Sabot training class to the grand sail plans of classic Sydney Harbour skiffs. Classic dinghies will be rigged and displayed, emphasising the classes that have popularised dinghy racing on Australian waterways.



BUMBLEBEE DINGHY DISPLAY

This year, the Festival features five delightful “bumblebee” dinghies, each with a unique story. The boats were constructed from high-quality Brunyzeel Marine plywood, with gunnels, thwarts, knees, and tillers made from Tasmanian Huon Pine and King Billy.

While some children may be too young to navigate them alone, they still enjoy sitting in the boats and being pulled around, filling the air with laughter and joy.



WELSFORD CRUISING DINGHIES

From the stability of the Tender Behind and the versatility of the SCAMP to the enduring popularity of the mighty Penguin, few small boat designers have achieved the cult-like following that John Welsford has garnered over the past 40 years. **Can you find these gems elsewhere across the Festival site?**

MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU

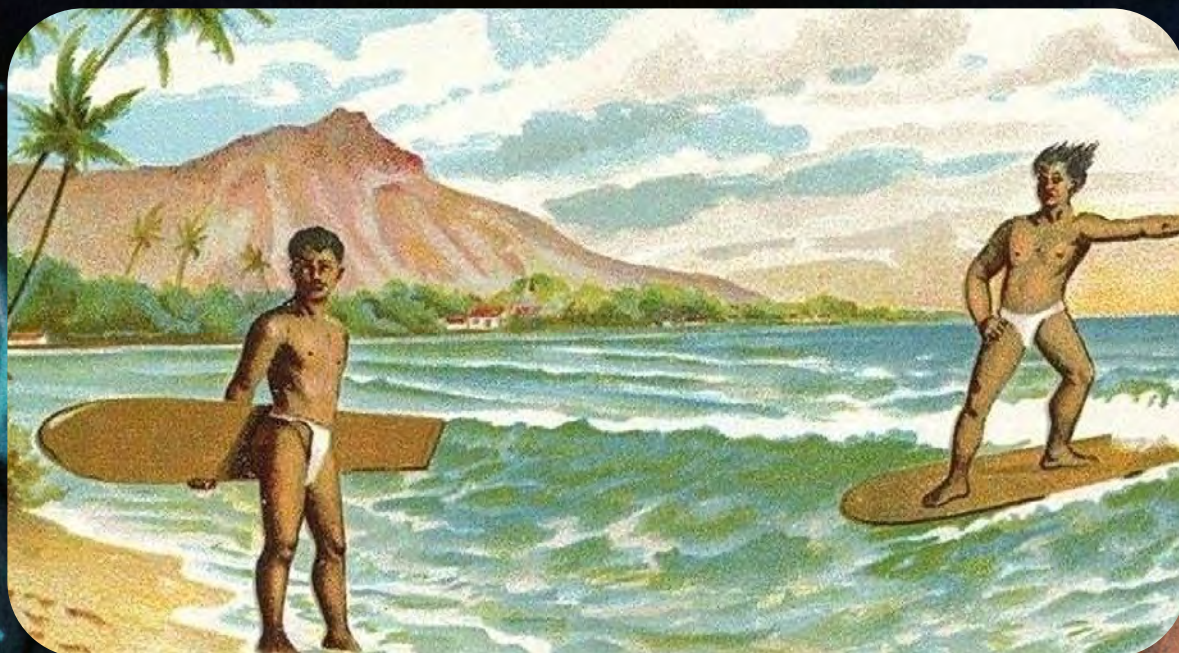


REVIVING THE RAINBOW DINGHY

The Making Waves Foundation's "Wright of Passage" program offers hands-on opportunities for personal growth and job readiness, focusing on wooden boat building, sailing, and mentoring. Over four days, watch their team expertly construct a Rainbow dinghy hull, and be sure to check out their beautifully finished Rainbow on display.

EVOLUTION OF THE SURFBOARD

The "Evolution of Surfboards" exhibit traces the development of surfboards from their wooden origins to modern foam fibreglass designs. It begins with the ancient solid timber boards weighing between 40-60kg and moves to the introduction of the lighter but cumbersome hollow plywood "toothpick" boards. These were later replaced by the more agile Okanui and balsa wood surfboards weighing 10-20kg. The journey culminates in the sleek, lightweight foam and fibreglass Malibu boards surfers use today, showcasing the remarkable transformation of surfboard design over time.



SHIPWRIGHTS VILLAGE

The Shipwrights Village is a major Festival attraction, offering a firsthand look at the craftsmanship behind wooden boat building. Watch live demonstrations of time-honoured skills like caulking, roving, and rope work, and see boats built on-site. Explore the materials and techniques that have shaped this craft for centuries and get swept up in the artistry of wooden boat construction.

WOODEN BOAT CENTRE INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS

In a time when fast fashion and disposable goods are so prevalent, The Wooden Boat Centre (WBC) in Franklin strives to preserve the traditions passed down through the centuries. While observing modern technology and methods, WBC still aims to deliver beautifully hand-crafted boats that reflect a timeless beauty.

Wooden boats are many things—art, transportation, sports and skill, perfectly rendered in a floating vessel. At the Centre, staff, students and volunteers work towards the satisfying goals of hand-crafting new vessels and restoring old ones. With dwindling natural resources, there's a responsibility to manage what's left. As one of the only places in Australia where people from any walk of life can learn these important skills, The Wooden Boat Centre is proud to be a part of the AWBF.

During the Festival, shipwrights, students, and volunteers will be on hand with full-sized boats under construction or renovation, offering craft demonstrations, toolbox talks, and more. Festival-goers can ask questions of expert shipwrights, explore the exciting courses offered at the Centre, chat with current and former students, and even get hands-on experience with traditional tools and Tasmanian timbers.

All demonstrations will occur at the Shipwrights Village, next to Watermans Dock, and are free to attend.



PLYWOOD CANOE BUILD

The Wooden Boat Centre at Franklin offers a short course in building a tortured plywood canoe (with paddles) over 5 to 7 days. For the Festival, the WBC team will attempt to complete one in just three days, aiming to launch it on the final day. Wish them luck as they race against the clock!

TRADITIONAL ROPE MAKING

Join Graeme "Critter" Creighton for a journey through the history of rope making, from its earliest recorded origins to the age when wooden sailing ships ruled the seas. Experience the process of making traditional rope just as it was done in the Middle Ages, using a rope-making machine similar to those of the period. These hands-on sessions offer unique glimpses into an ancient craft, sure to be enjoyed by all.

WISDOM THROUGH WOOD

Tasmania's "Wisdom Through Wood" has become the premier destination for learning green woodworking techniques in Australia. Don't miss the opportunity to witness pre-industrial woodworking methods and learn about the deep human connection fostered through this art.

FIGUREHEAD SCULPTING

Renowned sculptor Roland, with Swiss and Italian heritage, will showcase his expertise in crafting wooden figureheads with a live demonstration. With years of experience sculpting timber in Tasmania, Roland invites Festival-goers to witness the transformation of raw wood into intricate works of art. Engage with him as he shares insights into his process, inspiration, and the many public sculptures he has created across southern Tasmania.



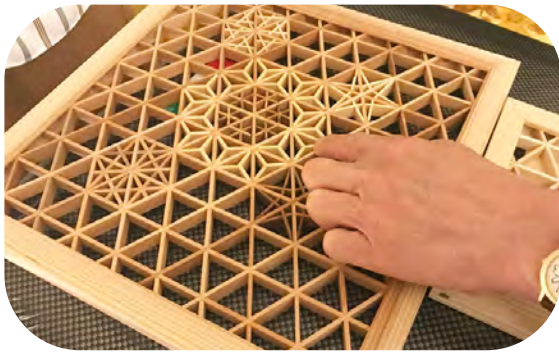
MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU



Noisy Boatyard

JAPANESE JOINERY "TSUGITE" MAKING WORKSHOPS

Join traditional Japanese carpenter Yuji Kanesada from Gifu and furniture designer Hiroshi Yamaguchi from Canberra for hands-on workshops in Japanese joinery. Participants will use authentic Japanese tools, such as saws, chisels, and planes while learning about various joinery techniques and their historical significance. These workshops are suitable for both beginners and intermediate woodworkers. **You can book for each day separately or attend multiple sessions.**



KUMIKO WORKSHOP

Discover the art of "kumiko", a traditional Japanese woodworking technique, with skilled carpenter Katsumi Kawamura from Shiga. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn the secrets of kumiko as you assemble pre-cut wooden pieces to create your own stunning piece of art to take home. **No booking is necessary—come and join the fun.**

KANNA WOODSHAVING FLOWERS

Join Japanese artist Takako Kawamura and learn to craft a beautiful wooden flower using delicate wood shavings from a Japanese kanna (hand plane). In just 15-20 minutes, you can make a stunning Rose or Anemone to take home as a unique piece of art. Additionally, we'll have a special Japanese hand plane experience available for a limited time—come and try your hand at this traditional technique. **No booking is required—drop by and join the fun.**



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GIC Gifu International Center

sojitz Sojitz Foundation



HANDBOARD WORKSHOP

Unleash your inner bodysurfer and craft your very own wooden handboard. No prior experience is necessary—bring your passion for woodworking and the ocean and leave with a one-of-a-kind handboard made by you. Reserve your spot today and ride the wave of creativity.

FENDER OR MAT MAKING TUTORIALS

Discover the art of knot tying in this engaging 2.5 hour tutorial, where you'll learn to craft your own small boat fender or traditional ocean plait mat alongside skilled members of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. All materials are provided, and sessions are limited to six participants for a more personalised experience. Join us and master this timeless craft.



WISDOM THROUGH WOOD TURNING ON THE SPRING-POLE LATHE

In this hands-on workshop, participants will be introduced to the tools and techniques of turning on a traditional foot-operated spring-pole lathe. Learn to master tool control for making clean cuts while crafting round objects such as a rolling pin, porridge spurtle, wooden mallet, or belay pin. Join us for an immersive experience in pre-industrial woodworking.



MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU



The Old Woolstore

LITTLE SAILORS VILLAGE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE LAWNS



In 2025, the Pacific-themed fun at the Little Sailors Village takes centre stage. Kids can reach new heights with the **Kumundar Gujo Project**, a hands-on Japanese woodworking workshop and giant jungle gym in two parts. While **Kapa haka performance workshops**, led by Melbourne-based Māori group Ngā Mātai Pūrua, provide a chance for creative expression and cultural learning.

Under the shady trees at Parliament House Lawns, families can enjoy the **My First Boat** display and parade, racing solar-powered vessels, knotcraft challenges, designing huon pine boats, bubble building, circus workshops, face painting, pirate dress-up and more.

For those seeking a moment of calm, Variety Tasmania presents **The Book Barge**, a tranquil space for children to enjoy maritime stories, while **The Mariner's Makerspace** offers ocean-inspired crafts and storytelling.

Open hours

Saturday 10:00 - 17:00

Sunday 10:00 - 17:00

Monday 10:00 - 16:00



MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU





THE BOOK BARGE

For those seeking a moment of peace, Variety Tasmania is introducing The Book Barge, a tranquil reading nook where children can unwind with sea-themed stories. Families can escape the bustle of the Festival while immersing their little ones in tales from the deep blue. The Festival is encouraging the public to contribute to The Book Barge by donating new or pre-loved sea-themed children's books.

THE MARINER'S MAKERSPACE

The Little Sailors Village will also feature The Mariner's Makerspace, where children can craft ocean-inspired creations and enjoy interactive storytelling sessions. Whether building boats or spinning tales, the space is designed to spark curiosity and encourage creativity.

BUBBLE BUILDING

Join us on the lawns for a Huon Pine Bubble Fest! Children can create clouds of bubbles using handcrafted, steam-bent Huon Pine frames and special bubble mix. It's a fun and interactive activity for kids of all ages!

SOLAR BOAT CHALLENGE

The Solar Boat Challenge invites children to design, build, and race their own solar-powered boats. A race pool will be set up with materials provided for kids to create and test their models on the water!

SCOUTS: KNOT CHALLENGES AND KNOTCRAFT

Join Scouts from all over the Hobart region at the Little Sailors Village to have some knot tying fun with Nautical Knot Challenges and Knot Craft! Suitable for all ages!

WOODCRAFT GUILD WORKSHOPS

Join the experts from the woodcraft guild to design and build your own huon pine boat. Amazing what can be done with a couple bits of huon and a copper nail!

Australian National Maritime Museum

WOODEN BOAT SYMPOSIUM

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS, HUNTER STREET

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

09:30–11:00 - *Official opening and keynote address*

TOM ROBINSON

Rowing solo across the Pacific

The epic tale of a young man's quest.



11:00–12:00 - *Tony Stevenson*

Ngataki, the South Sea vagabond resurrected

The iconic Depression-era yacht and its adventures that inspired a generation.

12:00–13:00 - *Marine Vallée*

If they could speak...

Objects from the Museum of Tahiti embodying voyages and cross-cultural exchanges in Polynesia.

13:00–14:00 - *Thor Jensen*

Circumnavigating PNG in a traditional sailau canoe

A 13-month odyssey by a Danish adventurer and three PNG master sailors.

14:00–15:00 - *Darienne Day*

Nā Wa'a Na'auao: Canoes as vessels of wisdom

Learning through voyaging.

15:00–16:00 - *John Welsford*

Small and capable

Designing and building a modern cruising dinghy.

16:00–17:00 - *David Payne*

Traditional watercraft of Papua New Guinea

An ANMM research project to document and showcase these sophisticated, functional and beautiful craft.

17:00–18:00 - *Yuji Kanesada*

A master carpenter in Japan

Sustainable forestry and the construction of a traditional minka farmhouse.

18:30–20:30 - *Pecha Kucha Hobart*

Pecha Kucha: Pacific Stories

Join us for a casual and relaxed evening featuring an eclectic series of speakers who will present very short, visually-based stories.

SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

10:00–11:00 - *Mimi George*

Tepena TePuke

How an ancient Polynesian voyaging vessel is built and used today as sustainable sea transport.

11:00–12:00 - *Larry Paul*

The Daring rescue

The remarkable recovery of a schooner buried in sand dunes for 153 years.

12:00–13:00 - *Valérie Vattier*

Is there any news of Lapérouse?

The tragic history of one of the greatest maritime expeditions of the 18th century.

13:00–14:00 - *Ben Hawke*

Pacific adventures on *Kathleen Gillett* and *Maris*

The Pacific of the 1940s to 1970s, through the eyes of Jack Earl, yachtsman and artist.

14:00–15:30 - *Darienne Day, Heu'ionalani Wyeth, Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr, Mimi George*

Waka voyaging today

Veteran voyagers discuss traditional navigation, sailing, and life aboard a voyaging canoe.

15:30–16:30 - *Matt Poll*

Objects collecting people

Engaging communities in Indigenous collections research.

16:30–17:30 - *Alson Kelen and Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr*

Building canoes, building community

Pacific projects that address social and environmental issues through seafaring.

17:30–18:30 - *Matt & Dan Tucker*

Tradition meets innovation

A voyage of proa design and discovery.

18:30–20:00 - *Five young shipwrights and sailors*

To D or not to D?

What is it about the iconic local Derwent Class that sparks the hearts of next-gen sailors?

MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

10:00–11:00 - *Bob Downes*

Getting the most out of modern materials using old-world rigging techniques

Blending the two can yield efficient, durable and elegant rigging solutions, as seen on *Tally Ho*.

11:00–12:00 - *Leo Goolden*

Tally Ho: A dollar, a parrot and a fool

Behind the scenes of the ambitious rebuild that started with a \$1 rotten hull and became the most widely followed boatbuilding project of its time.

Library of the Sea

Between sessions, visit the Library of the Sea in the Symposium foyer. Presented by the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania, the library collection offers a rich tapestry of maritime history, craftsmanship, and unique books on seafaring, shipbuilding, and nautical lore.



EXHIBITIONS

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY (TMAG)



Image: Rex Greeno, Travelling to Hunting Grounds, 2022-23, mixed media on paper.

REX GREENO: MEMORIES THROUGH SEA STORIES

An exhibition of works by Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder Rex Greeno—artist, fisherman, and maker of tuylini, ninga and pyerre (Tasmanian Aboriginal bark and reed canoes)— that tells a story of deep connection to culture, family and the sea. Inspired by Rex’s life experience as a commercial fisherman, “Rex Greeno: Memories through Sea Stories” shares a collection of drawings that feature life on and by the sea, his passion for traditional watercraft, and the sharing of Ancestral knowledge and skills passed through generations. **6 Dec 2024 to 27 Apr 2025**

CATALOGUE LAUNCH

Join senior artist and Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder, Rex Greeno, for the launch of the Memories through Sea Stories catalogue. FREE event and no bookings required, includes entry to the exhibition. **Wed 5th Feb 18:00 Watergate Courtyard TMAG**

Acknowledgement: “Rex Greeno: Memories through Sea Stories” is a multi-venue project developed by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Devonport Regional Gallery and University of Tasmania. Supported by Creative Australia.

MARITIME MUSEUM OF TASMANIA

Maritime Museum of Tasmania proudly supports the Australian Wooden Boat Festival with boats on display both afloat and ashore. Visit the museum to explore Tasmania’s rich maritime heritage and see the model boat-making exhibition. **Daily 09:00-17:00**



MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU



TOILES DE MER

Discover the charming “Toiles De Mer” (Sea Canvases) exhibit in 2025. This beloved tradition, originated at the Wooden Boat Festival in Brest, France in 1992. It showcases intricately decorated plaques made by sailors that tell the story of their vessels. For the first time, we have invited our proud boat owners to contribute their own plaques. Don't miss this unique display of maritime artistry! **The Sunroom Gallery, College of the Arts, Hunter St**



WATER WAYS 2025

The Art Society of Tasmania presents “Water Ways 2025”, inviting artists to interpret the theme of water in any medium. Reflecting Tasmania’s bond with the sea, the \$2,000 prize will be awarded by people’s choice. **Long Gallery, Salamanca Arts Centre**



THALLASOPHILE & LAGAROSTROBOS

Thallasophile: One who loves the sea Artist Jane Flowers showcases her latest maritime oils on canvas, capturing the beauty of the sea, sky, and littoral zone. With numerous awards and years of sailing experience, Jane blends her passions into stunning works that reflect her deep connection to the ocean. **Social Gallery, Salamanca Arts Centre**

Lagarostrobos: A communion with Huon Craftsman Ned Trewartha leverages 30 years of boat-building expertise to create custom furniture and maritime and bird-inspired sculptures from precious Tasmanian woods, particularly Huon pine (*Lagarostrobos franklinii*). He has actively participated in every Australian Wooden Boat Festival since its inception. **Social Gallery, Salamanca Arts Centre**



SAILING INTO THE FUTURE: THE AMAZING WOODEN BOATS OF MADAGASCAR

Photographer, Tom Polacheck’s exhibition highlights Madagascar’s rich maritime heritage, where wooden boats blend influences from Southeast Asian outrigger canoes, Arab dhows, and Western schooners along the island’s 3,000 km coastline. **Sidespace Gallery, Salamanca Arts Centre**



Ironhouse

WATERSIDE TAVERN



Step into the Ironhouse Brewery Waterside Tavern, the Festival's ultimate pop-up by the sea. Grab a drink, feast on great food, bust a move or soak up the sun while watching the boats and people at play. With an eclectic lineup of rock, pop, folk, jazz, Celtic beats, storytellers, and shanty bands, the vibes flow all day and well into the night.



BABY COME TACK

Tasmania's premier Yacht Rock tribute band, Baby Come Tack, will have you singing and dancing your boat shoes off to the smoothest hits of the '70s and '80s. Enjoy music from Hall and Oates, Toto, America, Little River Band, The Doobie Brothers, Steely Dan, Christopher Cross, Earth, Wind & Fire, Player, and more!

THE GRUBBY URCHINS

On the nebulous intersection of trad jazz, sea shanty and good ol' fashioned folk sit a duo of happy-go-lucky young Melburnians. The Grubby Urchins. Armed with heady harmonies and intrepid instrumentals, the Urchins wage their reckless stylistic war on songs old and new, leaving audiences grinning in politeness and confusion and wondering where the youth of today went wrong.



SUGARTRAIN

For over 20 years, this dynamic seven-piece ensemble has mesmerised audiences with their captivating multi-part harmonies and an extensive setlist of over 300 songs. From disco and rock to pop, jazz, and funk, Sugartrain knows exactly how to kick off the party and keep the energy high!

CAPTAIN O'BRIEN'S CRAIC

Hailing from Launceston, Tasmania, Captain O'Brien's Craic is a seven-piece punk/pop/rock band drawing influences from traditional Irish and Celtic sounds.



ROVING AND FLOATING ENTERTAINMENT

SEA SHANTY CIRCUS

Sea Shanties are work songs performed by sailors as they went about the repetitive daily tasks involved in operating sailing vessels.

Sea Shanty Circus uses the metaphor of circus skills to emulate the work performed on sailing ships. Even the flags on the boat spell “circus”. Enjoy this unique interactive experience as they create their own world on their self-contained stage/boat/tricycle in a show full of sea shanties, circus, theatre and fun.

FIDDLE ME TIMBERS

Batten down the hatches and follow the sound of the sea! In 2025, “Fiddle Me Timbers” brings the ocean’s spirit to life with lively sea shanties and hornpipes. Roaming Kings Pier, this one-man, one-fiddle act will lift the spirits of sailors and landlubbers alike. Whether you’re swabbing the deck or hoisting the mainsail, let the fiddler’s bow transport you to a world of maritime mischief. Grab your crew and let the music guide your seafaring adventure—no boat required!

UNVEILING THE INCAT FLOATING STAGE

We’re excited to unveil INCAT’s floating stage, debuting at the 2025 Festival! This innovative entertainment pontoon, designed by Festival volunteer Marc Richards and crafted as part of INCAT’s College of Aluminium trainee program, has been made possible with generous support from INCAT along with Boss Polymer, Sunbrella, 42 South Marine, Kedge Marine, and Spectrum Engineering. Get ready for a memorable entertainment experience on the water!



MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU



Mikelangelo

IN THE BELLY OF THE WHALE

THE PEACOCK THEATRE, SALAMANCA ARTS CENTRE

Follow Mikelangelo, the Nightingale of the Adriatic, as he sails the wild seas and the darkest depths of the ocean with his trusty guitar, his booming baritone and his sparkling accordion. He weaves songs and storytelling into a magical solo show that will captivate and delight audiences young and old, and everyone in between.

Mikelangelo is the alter-ego of songwriter and creative dynamo Michael Simic. He has packed venues and received critical accolades from the Sydney Opera House to London's West End, and performed in the sold-out season of *Songs of the Sea* at AWBF 2023.

Created in collaboration with writer/director Tracy Bourne, *In the Belly of the Whale* has its international premiere at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

Sat 8th - Sun 9th Feb 18:00-19:30



The Cambodian Space Project

THE BARBARIAN SHIP

IRONHOUSE WATERSIDE TAVERN

The Cambodian Space Project premieres *The Barbarian Ship*, an immersive rock opera that plunges audiences into the high seas of the 19th century. Based on the true story of the mutiny on the brig *Cyprus*, it follows Tasmanian convicts, led by self-appointed Captain William Swallow, as they hijack a ship and escape across the Pacific, facing samurai in Japan before returning to England. Packed with pirate anthems and intense drama, this groundbreaking production creates a carnival atmosphere that blurs the line between performer and spectator.

Ticketed Event Mon 10th Feb 10:30



MORE INFO
& TICKETS
AWBF.ORG.AU



FILMS OF THE PACIFIC

THE PEACOCK THEATRE, SALAMANCA ARTS CENTRE

Experience the beauty and diversity of the Pacific at our Films of the Pacific Festival! Join us at the iconic Peacock Theatre for a captivating showcase of thought-provoking documentaries celebrating maritime history, culture, rich storytelling, and the power of film.

See website for full program and timetable.

MORE
INFO



AWBF.ORG.AU



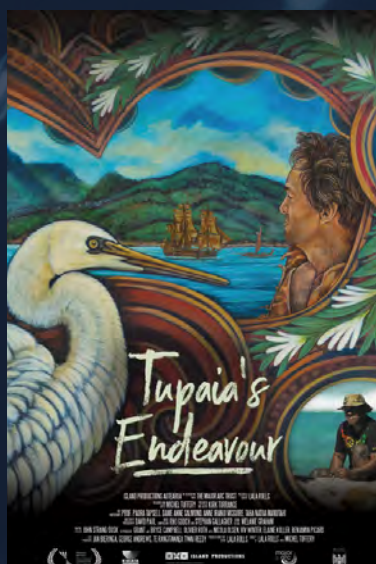
SAILAU (2023) FILM SCREENING AND Q&A

Award-winning documentary about the circumnavigation of the island of New Guinea in a traditional canoe. Followed by a Q&A with the Director.



WHETŪ MĀRAMA - BRIGHT STAR

For Māori, the canoe underpins our culture. We built waka from giant trees and sailed the vast Pacific by the stars. These arts were lost to us for 600 years. Then the stars re-aligned and three men from far flung islands met by chance to revive our place as the greatest navigators on the planet.



TUPAIA'S ENDEAVOUR

A first contact story, told from a Pacific point of view. Who was Tupaia—this high-priest, star-navigator, and extraordinary artist? This film seeks to uncover the history of Tupaia and his journey aboard Cook's HMB Endeavour. Retrace the footsteps of Tupaia in true Polynesian style.

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

HOBART TOWN HALL



Visit the Hobart Town Hall for a captivating exhibition of knotwork and rope-making, featuring demonstrations by members of the International Guild of Knot Tyers alongside local artisans. Explore both traditional and innovative techniques as you connect with the diverse world of rope craftsmanship.

MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU



WOMEN ON WATER

FOUNDERS ROOM, SALAMANCA ARTS CENTRE

Join us in celebrating 30 years of women on the water as we honour their remarkable achievements and contributions. This special event features inspiring stories and valuable networking opportunities, with a captivating conversation led by Sarah Gilman, ABC reporter and board member of Womensport and Recreation Tasmania. Don't miss this chance to connect and be inspired by the incredible women shaping our maritime community.

**MORE INFO
& TICKETS**
AWBF.ORG.AU



HERITAGE TREASURES

MODEL BOATS

Explore an extraordinary collection of wooden model boats, expertly crafted to scale. From Navy ships and clinker dinghies to sailboats and tall ships, these models capture a wide range of nautical history. Some hold deep historical ties to Australia, while others are treasured family heirlooms passed down through generations.

Visit the Waterside Pavilion near Constitution Dock to admire this captivating display of maritime craftsmanship. **Waterside Pavilion**



VINTAGE STEAM VILLAGE

The Vintage Steam Village returns to the Festival showcasing the impressive 1928 Robey and Hobart City Council's 1928 Marshall engines.

Watch as these historic machines operate amidst billows of steam, powering smaller marine steam engines and bringing the past to life. **Victoria Dock**



HERITAGE DIVERS

Witness the mighty divers as they don their authentic early 1900s diving suits and step into the water, showcasing rare and fascinating skills from a bygone era. Experience firsthand how divers once braved the deep in this captivating display of talent and tradition.

Watermans Dock



MORE INFO

AWBF.ORG.AU



GOTTA LOVE TASSIE SEAFOOD MARQUEE

COOKING DISPLAY

Experience the taste of the ocean. Watch as our chefs prepare fresh, delicious Tasmanian seafood dishes right before your eyes. Be inspired by how these species are caught, processed, and delivered to your plate.





GOTTA LOVE TASSIE SEAFOOD INTERACTIVE DISPLAY

Jump aboard into the world of Tasmania’s seafood industry. Learn how to steer a vessel using a state-of-the-art simulator, or about Tasmania’s traditional custodians of Sea Country, or simply pop by to meet Brendan “Squizzy” Taylor, Aussie Lobster Man!



CRAY POT MAKING DISPLAY

Visit the Gotta Love Tassie Seafood Marquee to watch master craftsman Marcus Hardwick handcraft traditional cray pots. Marvel at the intricate skills and time required to create Tasmania’s iconic “beehive” rock lobster pots. Don’t miss this opportunity to see Marcus in action—and you might even be inspired to order one for yourself!



**SEAFOOD
INDUSTRY
TASMANIA**



MORE INFO
AWBF.ORG.AU



MARITIME MARKETPLACE

PRINCES WHARF NO. 1



Whether you're a seasoned sailor or simply curious, the Maritime Marketplace at Princes Wharf No. 1—and in select areas throughout the Festival site—has something for everyone. Discover a vast array of nautical products and services while engaging with industry experts to discuss all things boating, from your next ocean voyage to your touring plans. From paint to propellers, this is Tasmania's largest maritime market, offering everything you need for your next adventure on the water.



ATL COMPOSITES

ATL Composites is the licensed manufacturer of WEST SYSTEM Epoxy. WEST SYSTEM Epoxy is a versatile, high-quality, two-part system that is used for construction and repairs requiring superior moisture resistance and high strength. Formulated wooden boat applications.



NORMAN R. WRIGHT

Australia's oldest and most respected custom boat designer/builder providing the highest quality timber vessel refits/restorations and contemporary new builds since 1909.



AKZONOBEL

Akzo Nobel manufactures and supplies Yacht paint under the leading brand names of International, Awlgrip and Sea Hawk.



BIRDBOSS

BirdBoss is an innovative bird deterrent designed to keep birds away from boats and various other applications. Engineered with versatility in mind, and proudly manufactured in Australia, BirdBoss combines high-quality materials with cutting-edge design.



BOATCRAFT PACIFIC

Marine Epoxy Resin and Polyurethane Adhesives and Surface Coatings for boatbuilding, maintenance, woodworking and timbercraft. Simply the best.

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS

42 South Marine
Adjusta Mattress
Altex Yacht & Boat Paint
Aquacare Marine & Dive Tas
ATL Composites
Austral/Veem Propellers
Birdboss
Blue Star Eyewear
Boat Warehouse & Classic Boat Supplies
Boatcraft Pacific
Britton Timbers
Craig Howard and Son
Dieselheat
eBoating
Eco Abrolhos Cruises-Food & Wine Cruises
Fixtech Bonding Solutions
Fixtech Marine Solutions
Harry West Flags
Hobart Marine Fabrication
Hughes Marine
International Paint, Awlgrip, Sea Hawk
Johnson Pumps

NOT FOR PROFITS

Clipper Ship City of Adelaide Ltd
Friends of Maatsuyker Island - Wildcare Inc
Friends of One and All Sailing Ship Inc
Friends of Tasman Island/Wildcare Tasmania
Paynesville Classic Boat Rally
The Wooden Boat Centre - Tasmania Inc
Victorian Wooden Boat Festival
Woodcraft Guild Tasmania Inc.
Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania, Inc.

Lewis Marine
Muir Anchoring Systems
Musto Australasia and Dubarry of Ireland
Nanni Australia
Norglass Specialty Finishes
Norman R. Wright & Sons
Omarine Pty Ltd
On Board - Tasmanian Expedition Cruises
Peter Johnston Ship Chandlers
Poly Flex Group Pty Ltd
Powerwincher Electric Winch Handle
Renovator Tools
Riley Fittings and Saint Marine
RL Welding Marine Centre
Ronstan & Wichard Pacific
Stormy Lifejackets
Tassie Timber Things
The Professional Nibbler
Timbecon
Vanuatu Noble Kava Australia
Vetus Maxwell Aust Pty Ltd
Wooden Boat Bits

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Unwind and discover a curated selection of cider producers, winemakers, and brewers, all showcasing the unique flavours of premium Tasmanian produce. The 2025 Festival will feature beloved vendors alongside emerging culinary talents. Stay tuned for the full list of participants on our website!

EXPERIENCE VIRTUAL SAILING

Experience the thrill of sailing in a Hansa Accessible dinghy—right on dry land! Sailability Tasmania and Virtual Sailing invite individuals of all abilities to try their Virtual Sailing simulator at PW1. Book your spot at their stand during the Festival; no prior experience is required.

MORE INFO



AWBF.ORG.AU

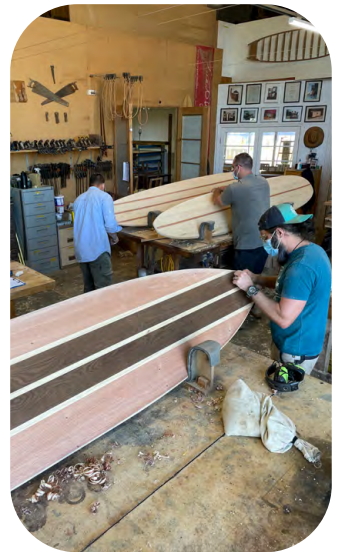
PRE-FESTIVAL SURFBOARD WORKSHOP

THE WOODEN BOAT CENTRE, FRANKLIN

Craft your very own hollow wooden surfboard with Bywater Surfboards at the Wooden Boat Centre in the Huon Valley. This 5 day workshop is perfect for all skill levels—no experience necessary. Choose from a variety of board styles and lengths to create a board that truly reflects you. Celebrate your craftsmanship and leave with a surfboard ready to hit the waves!

Jan 31-Feb 4, 2025

MORE
INFO &
TICKETS



SCOUTS WASTE MANAGEMENT

The 2025 AWBF continues the strong collaboration with Tasmanian Scouts, Cubs, and Joeys. Since 2013, these youth groups have played a vital role in supporting the Festival, from cleaning and recycling efforts to assisting at special events. In 2023, the Festival's "Sort it out for the Scouts" program decreased waste to landfill by 28,000 litres, increased compostable streaming to 57,600 litres and reduced general waste by 21.54%. For 2025, Scouts will again be on hand to help with waste management, educating the public on proper waste sorting at designated stations. When on-site, "Sort it out for the Scouts" and help keep the Festival sustainable.



Scouts
TASMANIA



MORE INFO
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ROYAL HOBART REGATTA

While you're out, be sure to visit the Royal Hobart Regatta, which has been celebrated at the same site since 1838! Enjoy exciting activities like rowing, sailing, wood chopping, military displays, a Saturday night riverside concert, and the renowned Trans Derwent Swim. Plus, don't miss the carnival rides and the spectacular fireworks show on Sunday evening! For more information, visit royalhobartregatta.com. If you need to drive, ample parking is available at the Queen's Domain/Regatta Grounds, thanks to the Royal Hobart Regatta. Park securely for a small fee and enjoy a quick 10-minute walk to the Australian Wooden Boat Festival site.

GENERAL INFORMATION



The details in this program are accurate at the time of printing. For the latest updates, visit awbf.org.au

**MORE
INFO**
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CONTACT

For inquiries, email us at office@awbf.org.au or call (03) 6223 3375. Please keep in mind we're a small team, but we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

OPENING TIMES

Opening times vary, see specific programs or go online for times.

UPDATES

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for Festival updates and sign up for our monthly e-news on our website. The full site map and schedule will be available online and on-site in February.

GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

Parking: Secure parking is available at Queen's Domain, courtesy of the Royal Hobart Regatta, just a 10-minute walk from the Festival for a small fee.

Additional public and private parking can be found in the Hobart CBD, but Sunday parking isn't free. Check Hobart City Council's parking info and accessible parking map.

Public Transport: Skip the car and take a fast, frequent Metro Tasmania bus straight to the event, connecting to the Eastern Shore, northern suburbs, Taroona, and Kingston all weekend. Or take a Derwent River Ferry from Bellerive Pier to Brooke Street Pier. Thanks to McConnell Dowell, free ferry rides will be available on Sunday, 9th February! Hop on a chartered Derwent River Ferry and enjoy complimentary trips throughout the day.

McConnell Dowell is the lead contractor for the construction of the New Bridgewater Bridge, Tasmania's largest ever transport infrastructure

project. Known as the Creative Construction company, they build iconic, landmark assets and deliver major infrastructure projects across Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

PHOTOGRAPHER CREDITS

All images in this program are copyrighted by the photographers. We extend our thanks to the talented professional and semi-pro photographers who contribute their work each year to help promote the Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

To list every photographer's name on every photograph, we believe, would clutter your enjoyment of the images. Instead, we'd like to express our gratitude to Alex Nicholson, Andrew Fuller, Andrew Wilson, Angie Kennerson, Anna Cretan, Antje Worledge, Ben Wilkinson, Cameron Green, Daniel Guajard, Donna Summers, Doug Thost, Eric Graudins, Francois Fourie, Gary Morris, Geraldina Dijkstra, Island Image, Jenny Schorta, Lisa Bromfield, Mark Chew, Mary Lincoln, Melinda Thomas, Michael White, Neil Buonaccorsi, Nigel Richardson, Rachael Green, Raian Best, Rob Cruse, Rob Oates, Simon Whittaker, Stu Gibson, Susan Mace, Syd Reinhardt, Terry Sims, Theresa Harrison, and Tyr Liang. We hope we haven't missed anyone! If you're interested in a specific image and would like to get in touch with the photographer, please email us at office@awbf.org.au, and we'll gladly assist.

ACCESSIBILITY

Most areas and venues are wheelchair accessible. Limited accessible parking is available along Castray Esplanade and Hunter Street. For convenient access, there's a pick-up and drop-off zone at the front of Brooke Street Pier, with access via Elizabeth Street. For further details about accessibility please go to the Festival website.

SULLIVANS COVE



MACq 01 HOTEL

KINGS PIER MARINA

ELIZABETH ST. PIER

BROOKE ST. PIER

HUNTER STREET

VICTORIA DOCK

MURES

CONSTITUTION DOCK

MAWSON PLACE

DAVEY STREET

MAWSON'S HUT

ELIZABETH STREET

MORRISON STREET

WS

C2

ATM

VS

PS

IR

ATM

TS

GL

MB

QD

I

ATM

ATM

TMAG

DAVEY STREET

MAWSON'S HUT

ELIZABETH STREET

MORRISON STREET

SC

MMT

TH



AUTO TELLER MACHINE

FOOD & BEVERAGE

TOILETS

ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

FIRST AID

WOODEN BOATS AFLOAT



WS AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
WOODEN BOAT SYMPOSIUM

PS AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
PACIFIC SEAFARERS PRECINCT

C2 CUSTODIANS II

SAC SALAMANCA ARTS CENTRE

VS VINTAGE STEAM VILLAGE

GL GOTTA LOVE TASSIE
SEAFOOD KITCHEN

IR IRONHOUSE BREWERY
WATERSIDE TAVERN

MB MODEL BOATS

QD TASMANIAN SHIPWRIGHTS & CO.
QUICK & DIRTY

I INFORMATION

TS TALL SHIPS

VTS VERY TALL SHIPS

MM MARITIME MARKETPLACE

NB NOISY BOATYARD

TMAG TASMANIAN MUSEUM
& ART GALLERY

MMT MARITIME MUSEUM
OF TASMANIA

SV SHIPWRIGHT'S VILLAGE

TH TOWN HALL

LS THE OLD WOOLSTORE
LITTLE SAILORS VILLAGE

SC SPIRIT OF TASMANIA
CLASSIC DINGHY DISPLAY

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



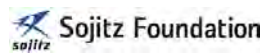
MAJOR PARTNERS



PROGRAM PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



For more information please scan
the QR code or visit awbf.org.au

