



Greetings Living Boaters,

Its been a busy six months since the last eNewsletter what with all this globalisation and ever increasing commitments we all seem to be tying ourselves up with. The LBT has continued to have been active and productive with an impressive list of achievements and innovations. But more importantly there are lots of things about to happen as well:

- Focus on Franklin is on this weekend and the LBT is putting a big effort behind the lively celebration which starts with a ball on Friday night, 25<sup>th</sup> March, and rows on into Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> with lots of activities ashore and afloat. The big finale is a parade of boats all lit up after dark at 8:30pm. We would like to ask each and every one of you, especially LBT members to come along and be part of the fun on the Saturday, and to donate an hour or two of your time to helping. We will need people to help in the tent at the rowing ways, people to set up our display boards, people to be hosts at the shed, boat hire assistants, people to rig and de-rig boats, lighting enthusiasts who can make all the boats look lovely after dark, and people to be in all the boats for the lit parade. And we need help on Friday during the day as well, to get all the boats in tip top condition and tidy up shed and surrounds and to move our pontoon to the rowing ways. Please respond to this email with an indication of when you could donate your time, and which job you would like. If anyone has battery operated fairy lights or similar they would be happy to lend they would be much appreciated. There will also be rowing races, sailing displays, the annual 5 km traditional clinker dinghy race. Grebe dinghies are available at premium rates for this prestigious race currently held by Chris Wilson in *Huon Harmony*.



*Swiftsure, rowed by the Geeveston Mums on their way to breaking another oar*

The on the water program is reproduced below, lots more will be happening on land over the weekend, visit <http://www.focusonfranklin.org/> for more information.

## FOCUS on FRANKLIN PROGRAM 2011

The Huon River is an essential part of the Focus on Franklin for the fifth program of events this year. Saturday 26th March, the Main Event, opens the day's activities:- At 11a.m... with demonstrations of the "On the water" program. Schools throughout the Huon Valley will be showing off their skills gained from weekly sessions run by the Living Boat Trust in Franklin in conjunction with the Education Department. The program below has been carefully designed to suit the river conditions, particularly taking the tide and wind information into account. Times and types of events may alter accordingly.

From Midday.... craft arrival and preparation for the afternoon's events, Scouts kayaks At 1pm, the afternoon activities sail into action with the fine-tuned skills of the model yacht events.

Canal tours through the Egg Island Canal will operate throughout the afternoon.

1.30.... the clinker dinghies row into action as the annual Roger Harwood trophy will be fought over the course that takes in Egg Island and the canal. An event that should have the punters cheering- a clinkers and punters event!

Rat race assembly for the sailing race around Rat Island-a sailing race, run by the Living Boat Trust. A decorative rooster will be offered as first prize. This recreates the events which were recorded in the 1800's, when regattas featured in people's lives, and a metal rooster was awarded to victorious vessels, no wooden spoon for last place but there is a wooden "enticement".

3pm ...proceeds with a history tour taken by Alan Cato on wooden boats. These go through the Egg Island Canal, retracing the history and stories of local communities through a time when river transport was the only means of transport. There is also the one and only "in the water" challenge. It will be an inaugural swim-through to Egg Island and return, a distance of approximately 500 metres, which is enough to entice experienced and fledgling swimmers alike. A "fin" section allows the use of wetsuits, flippers, masks and snorkels, and support crew are welcome

4pm.... There will be a conglomeration of rivercraft, big and small, from small inflatables to dinghies to kayaks to whaleboats to sailing yachts as a leadup to the evening lightshow. Next is a Dragonboat race, which will have the drama and excitement of drums & brightly decorated boats with names such as Dragonfly and Seadragon.

5-7pm ....A paddle boat event, through to Egg Island and back should provide loads of energetic exercise and free-wheeling fun for some. Solar light displays will feature throughout Egg Island Canal and the foreshore. Boats will start to assemble for the evening water and light show

On the foreshore, solar-lit bikes and ride-on lawnmowers will be gathering as a lead in to the river water and light show. Music and food, and a wonderland for children will also be operating from the land.

7.30... The thrill of a foreshore light show and samba drum band Chicada, with lanterns and a musical finale-what could be more enjoyable, in conjunction with the river program?

8pm....There will be an illuminated boat parade as an introduction to Earth Hour from 8.30 to 9.30, when the town will be asked to join in by switching off home lights, music by the Daystar Duo 8.30-10pm.... Winding up of the Illuminated Boat Parade  
Wooden Boat Hire will be operative all day with the Living Boat Trust, and paddle boats will be available from 1pm. Check the main program for details on the land-based activities.

All these things should make for an interesting, enjoyable, never-seen anything-like-it, free community event for all! For more information, visit [www.focusonfranklin.org](http://www.focusonfranklin.org) or ph 62663224

- The official launch of the On the Water Program will be held at the LBT shed on Wednesday 20 April 2011 at 3 pm towards the end of our regular program daily activities. This Tasmanian State Government funded

program is run every Wednesday and Thursday of the school year and will introduce around 300 schoolchildren to rowing, sailing and being safe on the water. Franklin Primary School started off this year and a students, some of whom were from grade 4, qualified with the Yachting Australia Basic Skills 1 certificate. This program is open to students from the Huon Valley, and members are welcome to see the program in action and to participate in the celebrations. please let us know if you intend to come so we cater adequately.



There have been Several Swallows and Amazons expeditions all meeting huge success, the most recent was on March 12 with Cookie being Captain Flint this time and being defeated in the famous battle then made to walk the plank.

- Of course in late January and early February there was our major activity, the third Tawe Nunnugh expedition, which ended with the spectacular parade of sail heralding the utterly enjoyable Australian Wooden Boat Festival in its new format. While difficult to estimate, close to 100,00 people filled the docks over the weekend and of course there was no entry fee this time, the docks simply vibrated with a massive celebration of our maritime history and being public space. If only Hobart's burghers and planners had the foresight to recreate a maritime precinct around our waterfront area, using it as a transport hub, utilising our wonderful waterways as very effective, cheap to create and maintain transport corridors.
- The Tawe Nunnugh was also a great success, the first not including founder and stalwart John Young, Alistair McRae taking on the taxing role of Admiral, ably assisted by Ros Barnett and Dave Abbott as ground crew and John Rose as skipper of our mother ship, *Chapparral*. 65 people in many small boats of all shapes and sizes made the 100 nautical mile trip from Recherche to Hobart over ten days, some rowing all the way. The cooks Jamie Bannerman-Roberts and Jill Middleton provided amazing food in a variety of places and were always a source of good cheer. The route varied slightly this time with Alonnah, Cygnet and Oyster Cove being

overnight stops for the first time. Franklin was not included and each night saw a concert of some form or other and with our resident musician Leena Tavershum performing along the way we were treated to cultural feast as well as a gastronomic one. We had Silkweed perform Lady Jane Franklin at Alonnah, singer songwriter Dwayne Everett-Smith at Oyster Cove treated us to some beautiful music, including his song *Milaythina* sung in Palawa Kani, the original language of these parts and author Danielle Woods at Dover. The scheduled visit to Mickeys Bay was cancelled due to forecast westerly gales the following day and we suffered the loss of one boat during a sudden squall as we left Southport. A couple of boats capsized, one could not be righted and suffered mast damage being towed back to Southport by a very helpful fisherman. Our rescue boat system and big boat buddy system worked well and we had one injury when the whole traveller on one of the bigger boats decided to part company with the boat hitting a crew members leg on the way. This also happened during this fierce squall.

- There were three three day expeditions for the Friends School to Bruny late last year, some of which were in inclement weather which tested students and staff but all enjoyed the experience. The expeditions ranged as far south as Southport and began from either Franklin or Port Huon, ending up at the the Friends adventure camp establishment at Far South, Dover.



*The LBT shed with levelled area to the north in preparation for Project Understorey*

Back in the shed, workshop activity is continuing apace with 15 to 25 volunteers there most Monday evenings. Some no doubt attracted by the ever splendid meals provided by our volunteer cooks Ros Barnett and Jilly Archer. As these have gradually become more elaborate, usually sumptuous two course meals, cost have increased to \$8. Much has happened at the workshop with the paddock to the north of the shed levelled and prepared for grass, this is where we plan to build a sail trader, a re-creation of a the coastal trading ketch along the lines of the famous Wilson boats of Cygnet. This will be built under our Project Understorey, heralding the coming Age of Sail and sustainable transport. The fleet of dinghies, whaleboats are all maintained and oars especially are continually being made to keep up with wear and tear.

An office has been created in our old demountable, this is temporary accommodation while we prepare to extend the shed southwards with a similar verandah to the very successful addition to the north.

We have formed a committee looking at acquiring a new expedition boat, and suggestions would be welcome. Perhaps a copy of the *Capricornia* with buoyancy, storage and even water ballast tanks!

Watch out for a new list of LBT courses: coxswain training, boat building tool and toolbox making, etc.....

Wishing you fair winds,

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