



Old Gaffers Association

WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Preserving and Promoting Gaff Rig

NOVEMBER 2001

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It can't possibly be.....but it is. Nearly 8 years have passed since the launch of the Endeavour replica, when many of us (an estimate of 70,000 people) witnessed the unforgettable sight of her sliding into the water on that December day in 1993. After having been fitted out, her eventual departure for her round the world voyage on 2nd October 1994 from Fremantle was to me, an even more dramatic occasion. We had brought Oriel down to the Inner Harbour well in time to wish Endeavour 'bon voyage', as had hundreds of other craft of every conceivable shape, size and description.



Oriel confronting some of the 'bon voyage' fleet.

Bureaucracy dictated that we were not permitted to make fast to the North Wharf, although the harbour had been closed to commercial shipping for the event. Consequently all this large fleet had to juggle around in the very limited water space for an hour or so waiting for Endeavour to actually set sail. It was all very exciting but we called it a day when we found ourselves locked in a close embrace with a surf boat – one of her oars resting across our foredeck and thus eliminating any remaining vestige of control we had so far enjoyed in this hectic situation. We eventually drifted down onto a police boat and after apologising profusely for the damage caused by our contact, disentangled ourselves and headed back up river.

All this leads to a please come down and welcome Endeavour's return on Saturday 15th December at Victoria Quay. She is due to berth between 9 and 10 o'clock but of course a sailing escort in from the Outer Harbour would be great. No drama for this event!

NEXT MEETING Wednesday 14th November at 'C.Shed', Victoria Quay at 7.30pm

EDITORIAL

The suggestion has been made by Mr David Bamford, president of the Wooden Boat Association Inc. Victoria, to try to get all clubs interested in traditional or wooden boat building throughout Australia to take Watercraft as a supplement to their own newsletter and to distribute it to members as part of the benefits of membership. The cost is approximately \$1.50 per quarterly issue, ie. \$6.00 per year. Dave Bamford further explains 'We would like it to be accepted as an Australian not a Victorian magazine. To this end we solicit articles from all parts of the country in order to get a really representative picture of the whole of the Australian traditional Wooden Boat movement.'

Your comments please at the next meeting on Wednesday 14th November at 'C' Shed.
It is a good 20 page journal.

Our immediate past President, Pat Reid, has sent out an appeal for

- (i) 'Shipkeepers', to keep watch on the Endeavour from 1900 hours to 0800 hours anytime between 15th December and 5th February. You get a good cooked breakfast!
- (ii) Volunteers to take members of the public for a tour of the ship.
- (iii) Volunteers required for Endeavour's refit - between 7th January and 6th February 2002.

Ring Fran Taylor on 9367 7180 or 0417 175 329.

PRESIDENT' REPORT

Well the sailing season is here at long last (although it seems like winter just doesn't want to leave us), and so I am sure that anti-foul and varnish are being properly applied to traditional gaff rigged vessels all around the Perth area; that sails are being repaired, rigging renewed, spars scraped, and engines overhauled. All of this in anticipation of those first warm summer breezes, and remembering that that first brilliant twilight sail makes all the hard work well worth it.

Speaking of rigging, I hope as many members as possible can attend our next meeting, when Igor Bjorksen has kindly offered to present a "hands on" demonstration of traditional rigging techniques, from serving to splicing. Everyone will be encouraged to participate and get involved, so I hope we have a good turnout. The date is Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30pm at the workshop of Traditional Marine Services, "C" Shed, Victoria Quay, Fremantle.

The OGA Regatta Committee held its first meeting the other night, and so planning for this season's regatta is now under way. A lot of interest is being shown already for this annual event, this year being held for the first time at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club, so hopefully the OGA will put on a good show. Many members of the club have mentioned to me how nice it will be to see all the traditional boats back in the bay once again. The date is Saturday, April 27.

Finally I think we all need to give first of all Shirley Cook, and now Mike Igglesden a big thank you for keeping this newsletter not only going, but informative and interesting. It is a lot of work, and without it... well I shudder to think. Anyhow, I hope to see you all on the 15th of November.

Chris Bowman
President

SECRETARY'S DESK

Correspondence received from Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club (Inc) -
An Invitation to participate at their Opening Day 2001/2002 Sailing Season -
Members wishing to participate with their gaffers (race) contact S.Cook on
9525 5275 or M.Igglesden 9386 4128 for particulars. Opening Day Sat Nov 2001.

New members Ric Roach Ph 041 890 5126 also Fiona Hook and Bruce Veitch on
9331 4600 have indicated their interest sailing/crewing on other members gaffers.
Fiona and Bruce are in the process of looking for a 'gaffer' to purchase. Help!

MOMENTS IN OGA HISTORY



Australia Day 1996. We were all caught by the falling tide!



'Karina' at Pinjarra in 1999.



'Corinthia' and 'Delta' at Applecross Jetty February 1995

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Sat 3rd November 2001 | Perth Flying Squadron Opening Day (see Secretary's Desk) |
| Wed. 14 th November 2001 | 7.30pm. General Meeting at 'C' Shed Victoria Quay at Chris Bowman's boatbuilding shed. Igo Bjorksten will give us a demonstration of wire splicing. We are welcome to give it a go. |
| Sat. 24 th November 2001-10-27 | 1100hours. Raft up at Cicerello's. Combined event with Couta boats. |
| Sat. 15 th December | Welcome home to 'Endeavour' (see page 1) |
| Sat. 26 th January 2002 | Rockingham weekend. Apparently this is a long weekend since Monday is to be made a holiday. Sail from Fremantle or trail down any of the three days to T.C.Y.C. hardstanding at Pt. Peron. Cooking facilities, toilets, hot showers, B.B.Q's, fridge, tea and coffee available. B.Y.O. everything else. Moorings available to borrow. Camping area. Great weekend. If interested in participating let Shirley or Mike know by the 20 th January. |
| Early in the New Year. | There will be a sail to Rottneest on a date to be arranged. |
| Sat. 27 th April 2002 | Regatta 2002. Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. The regatta committee has met and started things rolling. We will be calling for volunteers to help out closer to the time. |
| April or May 2002 | Ladies of Variety/ Old Gaffers Kids Day. As many boats as possible to turn up to take out some special children for a sail. |