

A Brief Description of the Wooden Boat Association of Queensland Inc.

The main objectives of The Wooden Boat Association of Queensland Inc. (WBAQ) as stated in the rules of the association are:

- To foster and promote an active interest in all matters relating to the history, development and future, the building, restoration and preservation of wooden boats in Queensland.
- To encourage and promote contact with inter-state and overseas organisations with similar interests.

The Association was formed in 1990 by a small group of wooden boat enthusiasts. Meetings were held at the Queensland Maritime Museum (QMM) for a number of years, before shifting to the Brisbane Skiff Squadron at Quay Street, Bulimba, then later returning to the Queensland Maritime Museum. The WBAQ was incorporated in 1996.

General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month (except January), and generally take the format of brief formal proceedings, an exchange of information and ideas in a "show, tell and ask" segment, and a guest speaker or practical demonstration, followed by coffee and a chat.

There is considerable depth of knowledge in the membership of things pertaining to wooden boats, be it design availability, materials and material sources, rigging, engines, or repairs and restoration. The general meetings are an ideal time to gain from or contribute to the knowledge base.

The Annual General Meeting is usually held as part of the February general meeting, at which office bearers and management committee for the coming year are elected. Current management committee members are listed in the WBAQ's newsletter, the "Log".

The "Log" is produced monthly, and keeps members up to date on the forthcoming program of events.

The WBAQ also holds a workshop day on the first Sunday of the month. Members are currently engaged in restoration work on the Queensland Maritime Museum Association's (QMMA) fleet of small wooden boats, with a view to getting them out of storage and back on the water. Work is performed in the wooden boat workshop, the museum's historic wooden shed adjacent to the dock, originally part of the dry dock facility. There are some restrictions on the use of QMMA equipment that is largely overcome by a number of WBAQ members also holding membership of the QMMA.

The WBAQ has a close working relationship with the QMMA, but remains a separate entity.

A program of boating days (called "messabouts") are held during the year. This is an opportunity for members to get out in their boats in the company of like-minded enthusiasts. They are an ideal opportunity for members, boat-owners or not, to inspect and try various boats. Members who do not own boats can benefit from attending messabouts by seeing various types and designs of wooden boats in action.

The WBAQ also attends and supports boating events organised by others. These include the Caloundra Coast Guard Classic Boat Regatta, the Bribie Island Classic Boat Regatta, Tweed River Classic Boat Regatta. We have regularly had representation at the South Australian Wooden Boat Festival at Goolwa, and the Australian Wooden Boat Festival held in Hobart and Sydney in alternate years.

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