



LAKE MACQUARIE CLASSIC BOAT ASSOCIATION INC.

*Building/ restoring & rowing
And admiring in wonderful woo*

July News



Bucket list --- to sail in one

Presidents report June 2026

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The AGM is to be held on Thursday the 30th at the Catalina Club where we will have lunch as well. Please give some consideration to nominations for committee members.

The Wemyss build has achieved the “whisky plank” milestone and been righted. Scott Bevan was here to cover the occasion for his radio program which was much appreciated. The work to clean up the interior is well under way and fit out will doubtless commence soon. I approached council a few weeks ago seeking assurance that they would not charge us for the use of the park during boatfest because the amount of work required to get approval to run it is huge and not worth it if we can't get the park for free. As yet there has been no response. I am doubting boatfest will occur next year at this rate. We won't give up though.

Council have erected chains across the vehicle access points to the park in an attempt to discourage illegal access including the damage created to the foreshore by antisocial 4wd owners. As a result of this I have asked for a key to the padlocks to allow us to get boats and supplies in and out, we will get one but in the interim we need to make sure we set the example by not driving over the gutters to get cars in

Steve

For the diary

AGM August (its proposed to be held at the Catalina Club followed by lunch at the club)

Please give consideration to any nominations you'd like to make and remember we are still 2 members short on the current committee so we'd like to see a few more nominations.

Hunter Valley annual Car Rally - 24th July 8.30 at boatshed .

Morning tea and lunch at the Pub . Leave boatshed about 8.30 with stop for morning tea. Thanks to *John O'Neill*

5th of August Visit to **NSW state parliament Wednesday** .Thanks to Local Member , Speaker and club member **Greg Piper**. The first visit was greatly enjoyed by all. **Malcolm Dale** is the organiser for this round so please contact Mal .

Thursday 23 Morning tea /lunch BBQ after safety demo

Safety News

Last month included Mens safety week – and the Shed Theme was simple . We get our cars checked each year .. **What about our bodies** which are more important **GET a Check up**

Safety demos are back with Tony

We are planning another Tool Time Session for **Thursday 23 July**. Those of you who attended last time will recall we looked at developing our table saw and portable circular saw techniques.

This time we are looking at the use of the **drop saw and some router techniques focusing on hand held machines.**

In order to extend the “hands on” aspect of our sessions we will format the session as a “workshop” where participants will be developing their skills to produce some workshop accessories for their own or the sheds use. To give us enough time to get the work done we plan to start at 9 o’clock at Shed 2. We will pause for morning tea and continue after for as long as there is interest. Numbers are limited to 10 participants so please **register (at any smoko)** prior to the day. Cheers Tony Woolnoug

Rowing - Rowing is great exercise but also very social with many tales . We also explore our lake with rubbish clean ups visits to special areas . Recent crew went to **Boydies hole** . yes over on Swansea side . It was created to allow the larger boats built at the Boyds boat shed, to be launched .



Boydies Hole c 1946. L to R 20ft launch belonging to Claude Boyd, built 1936, William Searle's 22ft launch, built 1935, and the 21ft cruiser "Twenty-one", built 1946. - Photograph



45ft tug, one of nine built 1943-1945, for the American Army in World War II

Copy of further extract on Boyds at end of news letter

And another recent row took us to Arcadia Vale Point

where the boat on the slip caused one crew great excitement .

Identified as an Alerion up from Bruny isl after showing at last wooden boat festival in Hobart .

Built by specialist wooden boat builder and past member Dennis Gilbert in his shed on Bruny Is. It roots back to Nathanael Herreshoff's personal 26-foot sloop built in 1912. The original vessel below is currently housed at the [Mystic Seaport Museum](#).



Our Facebook Page is very widely read an example was a recent post showing Fred with his perfect oars .. over 1,000 views in 1st week



You earned the Rising Post achievement!
Your post in Lake Macquarie Classic Boatshed reached 1,000 views in the first week.

Lake Macquarie Classic Boatshed



Workshop 1 Pauls boat TS 16

Very interesting progress on the internal hull fitting now on the TS16



The special Dinghy



Now available with great little motor



Over in Workshop 2

Wemyss “weemz,”



Kayaks upstairs

3 boats 2 new in construction



and

David's kayak back to fit a keel



Mirror but sold to the Admiral

Its sound with sails ,rigging ,and bits ready to go sailing . few jobs to do



Selway-Fisher Petite Brise is for sale

Successfully sailed . A few items identified and a few suggestions on improvement..

Model Makers



Wal has been busy with his latest model on the left of a rowing boat length equivalent to the Guillemot on the RHS

And From Glenn sellers in WS2 .he has a stack of firewood on offer



BOAT BUILDERS OF LAKE MACQUARIE

Boyd's Hole (often called 'Boydies Hole') is a popular local swimming spot and boating area located on Lake Road in Swansea.

Historically dredged in 1929 to launch large vessels from the local shipyards, it now features a 2-lane concrete boat ramp and is surrounded by **the James L Boyd Reserve**, Swansea - ***Lake Mac History.***]

Generations of the Boyd Family worked at the Lake Rd shipyard - 1920 to 1953 – James, Claude and George. James after attending Galgabba School, became a dredge master in Sydney, then Ballina. After marrying he returned to Swansea with his family in 1900 and began building boats at Black Ned's Bay and the Channel.

He also operated the Swansea General Store with his wife, Mary, for a number of years until she died. He then established his last ship building yard at the lakeside site.

Over a 50-year span, more than 200 boats were built in Swansea. The busiest time was during WW2 when 150 men were employed to fulfil the contract to supply 24 boats up to 85 ft long, for the American Army's small ship fleet. They felled timber, milled logs, constructed the ships and dredged a channel for the vessels to reach the deeper parts of the lake.

In recognition of his contribution, sketches of James and his shipbuilding are displayed at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. In the early days, the wooden hulled ships were all crafted with hand tools – pit saws, broad axes, adzes, hand planes. To make life easier, in the 1930s James created a circular saw driven by an old car engine. (It wasn't until the 1940s that electrical tools became available.) When it came time to launch the first large vessel to be built at Lake Rd in 1929– the ferry, "Jocelyn", a grab bucket on a punt had to be used to create a channel of Swansea Flats.



The Grab invented by JL Boyds and used extensively to transfer coal from barges to ships to head for Sydney

This exercise had to be repeated several times for the launching of large ships and the spot became known as “Boydies Hole”, a name still used today.

1943 saw the shipyard become J L Boyd & Son when Claude, the youngest son, became a full partner in the business. Many more boats of varying sizes, including surf boats, were built until 1951, when James passed away as the “Red Fish” was being fashioned out of ironbark and blue gum. This construction was completed by his grandsons, Peter Wilson and George Boyd. In 1953 Claude closed the shipyard and moved to Caloundra. It signalled the passing of an era. Author and local historian, George Lawrence Boyd, was born in 1935 and assisted his grandfather at the shipyard after leaving school. Work soon began on the trawler “Red Fish”, and George continued working on the project until it was completed after James had passed.



Sketch of Boyd's Lake Road Ship Building Yard, Swansea, NSW, by Robert Emerson Curtis, official war artist for the Australian War Memorial.



Boyd, James Lewis, boatbuilder of Swansea, NSW - Photograph