



LAKE MACQUARIE CLASSIC BOAT ASSOCIATION INC.

*Building/ restoring & rowing in
wonderful wood*

May News



All Hands on Deck for the rowers annual overhaul of our St Ayles Skiff

Presidents report May 2026

This month has seen more progress on many fronts, Pauls TS16 has been righted so it's now on to the fit out stage. The Catalina is going into WS2 for some overdue maintenance including a full repaint inside and out, to make room for Catalina the Petite Breeze will take up temporary residence in WS1.

The Guillemot has officially taken up residence in her permanent home at the stern of William the 4th with a little ceremony attended by several members and she looks absolutely perfect hanging there.

The Council has also done maintenance work on the roof of WS2, in particular the mezzanine crew should be very happy to no longer need the plastic bucket hanging over their heads.

We had a visit from Jeff Young on Thursday 30th April to talk about the Making Waves Foundation, in short they help kids build boats to sail and are looking for people able to give some time to this endeavour which takes place adjacent to the Teralba Sailing Club so not far for most of us to travel. I will forward the info to Graeme to include in the newsletter.

Steve

For the diary

AGM In August at a date to be advised (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 Morning tea and lunch at the Pub . Leave boatshed about 8.30 with stop for morning tea. Thanks to John O'Neal.

Making Waves info -<https://makingwaves.au/wright-of-passage/>

Making Waves Foundation's **Wright of Passage** program is for young people between the ages of 15 to 18 who are looking for learning options outside of the classroom. operating two days per week during school terms, we currently run our program locally at Lake Macquarie high and intend to expand in the area. Participants work with our **volunteer mentors** in an encouraging workshop environment to construct sailing dinghies. This process builds confidence and consistency and develops the positive attitudes and skills needed for their journey through education, training, and employment. **Mentors are needed**

For more information see above web

More info is coming on their building progress building rainbow sailing skiffs

Rowing - The Australian 5

The Australian 5 is an annual time trial for St Ayles Skiffs in Australia.

It comprises rowing 2.5 km, a turn and return to the start point against the clock (total 5 km), as validated by Strava, Runkeeper or equivalent which record the path/course and time. The course is determined by the crew, but the return nature is designed to minimise any potential advantage of wind or tide or current. It can be rowed at any time during a defined week in April.

It provides an opportunity for isolated clubs, like **Lake Macquarie Classic Boat Association**, to compete against similar boats around the country, currently we have the only active St Ayles Skiff in NSW.

Catalina first competed in this event in 2022, with a crew of Phil Lloyd, Mario Macchia, Peter Currie, Scott Bevan and Paul Hamilton, christened "**Ratpack**" by Phil. In the absence of any other competitor from NSW, their time of 35 minutes 36 seconds was considered to represent a State Record. By the following year Phil had sadly passed and Keith Howard replaced him in the boat. That crew rowed an almost identical time, within the statistical error of the technology, but we could not claim a new record. By then there was enough interest in the club to raise three crews.

Ratpack was divided into the original crew, "ancient" and some younger and more recent members, "Modern". A third crew was dubbed "**Skiffy All Stars**" aka SAS.

Since 2024 we have had four crews, joined by the "Cranky Veterans", comprising mostly Thursday rowers. This year's Australian 5 was raced in the week of April 11-17, again with the above four crews albeit that some inevitably had changes in individual crew members. We mostly rowed early to avoid the wind but still some navigational ingenuity was required.

Across the country 20 crews competed, from 9 clubs around every State apart from South Australia, but we were the only club to raise more than three crews.

This year's times were

Ratpack Ancient 36 m 24s, 10th overall

Ratpack Modern 36m 38s, 12th

Cranky Veterans 35m 49s, 8th

Skiffy All Stars 34m 09s, 4th

All crews except Ratpack Ancient improved on their times from last year. **Skiffy All Stars**, Mario, Peter Currie, Terry Coggles, Neil Easson and Keith, beat the previous best time in practice and again in the event.

The organising body St Ayles Skiff Community Rowing Association of Australia recognises that **participation is more important than being fastest** and gives a highly prestigious "Midfielder Award" to the crew whose time is closest to the mean between the fastest time, 31m 11s and the slowest, 55m 50s. We won this in 2023 and 2024 and missed out by being 2s too fast last year.

This year all our crews were well ahead of the winning crew's time of 39m 36s. Now we can return to our usual priorities of good company and conversation with a little moderate exercise on our beautiful Lake Macquarie. Thank you and congratulations to all who took part.'



SKIFFY all Stars NSW Fastest 34m 09s



Rat pack modern



Cranky Veterans



Rat pack Ancient



Hard workers pack

Catalina is now getting a well-deserved overhaul to remove little dings and wear spots and minor upgrades .. Lots of sanding ,painting and varnishing needed.

OUR Rowing is all about a balance of **exercise, rapport and connection**. The last row before maintenance showed just that, with a glorious morning row to the sand islands including a swim and refreshments .



Great tactful photo by Terry.

gotta keep your hat on!

Workshop 1 Pauls boat TS 16

Ahh early in our history on we had “Slow and Slower” as they look their time in an immaculate restoration of an historic skiff ..

Now we have “Soon and Sometime” and the perfect TS 16 Hartley Sailer.



But it is now safely turned over with help of members led by resident rigger Mario

Now a lot of work sanding and finishing the hull internally.

Paul and Mike welcome your assistance .

The special Dinghy



A very old and well-built dinghy being restored and now a perfect finish on hull and now the interior. A great job by Mike and Luke . soon available

Over in Workshop 2

Wemyss

Great progress

Be needing the Whisky soon

*An aside ...*Wemyss family has historical links with Scotch whisky dating back to the early 19th century, when John Haig leased land from **Captain Wemyss** to build Cameronbridge distillery, their first hands-on experience with Scotch came many years later. the family also owns two vineyards in Australia ?? wonder where ??



Kayaks upstairs The two well sanded. Noel hard at work getting ready to glass



Then a couple of days later and the 10 ft in background is glassed and turned .

No 2 days a week on the Mezzanine

3 The Cadet 12 Ft Dinghy

But Wal has finished a model of it



the 1922

designed Cadet 12. Is ready to start .



Another Mirror Waiting for a plan . It looks solid but needs some rubbing back



6 Selway-Fisher Petite Brise

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

The Gaff yoke repaired , Centreboard removed and planned down and epoxy coated , and tiller extension made . Needs a good paddle , some rigging tidy up to stop tangles . and some changes to the halyard cleating arrangement of the belaying pins .

Need to get it sailing regularly .

Please put your hand up for Tuesday wed or Thursday sail..



Joes motors



Bill and Joe working on one of the classic collection of outboards a Seagull

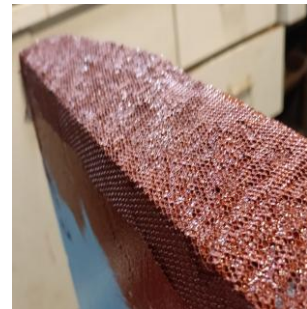
Joe also has a Chainsaw available for members use at ???\$

A Nutty Nutshell update . Sold to a member (edit.) and it was turtled just to see how it floated well it **didn't float** with any freeboard. So Foam flotation was fitted based on USA boat builder comments . He advised fitting foam glued in strips and painted with water base paint ,and edges to be reinforced with muslin gauze and over painted a few coats of paint.

Foam was fitted to bow and under the thwarts beside the centreboard and it worked well in balancing the weight of the mast . *blue foam under the restraining cedar temp. & clamped to the C'board case. So it now floats with free board but a lot of water to bail out .*

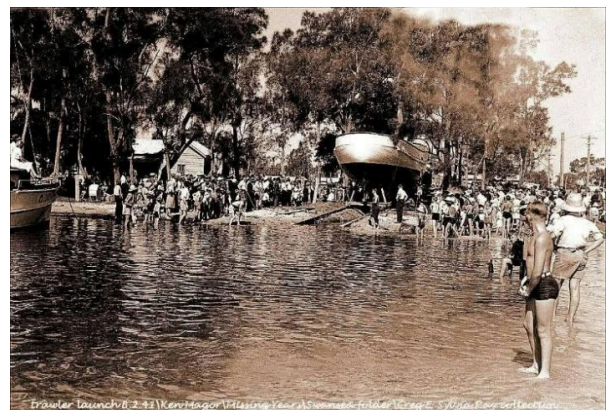


So it now needs a bit more along the sides to give a bit more freeboard but its close



Lake Macquarie Boat Builders

The trawler MOA built by J L Boyd and launched at Swansea on 08.02 1941



Photograph; Photographer - Ken Mago

Making Affordable Custom Boat Hardware

Using fiberglass, carbon-fibre, and epoxy to make small parts for small boats Written originally by **MICHAEL JONES SMAAL BOATS**

MAGAZINE From Issue **MARCH 2026**

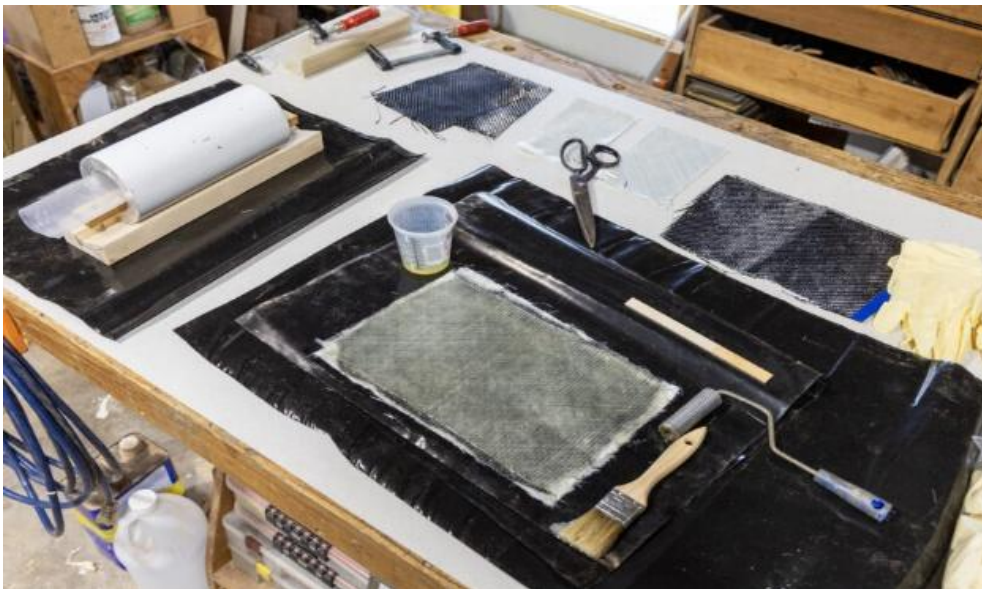
Much of boat building and repair involves problem solving, and when dealing with small one-of-a-kind boats, solutions must be creative. For several years, I have been using epoxy and scrap fiberglass to make panels for backing plates. The advantages are numerous: they are inexpensive, robust, can be made of any size and thickness, and do not corrode.

The epoxy used has a pot life of 20 minutes, a working time of 100 minutes, and a cure-to-solid of 10–12 hours (**leather hardness would be around 4 hours**). It's good practice to stick to one manufacturer .

Determine the size and shape of the plate you are creating and find a flat work surface large enough to accommodate it and the materials and tools you'll need.

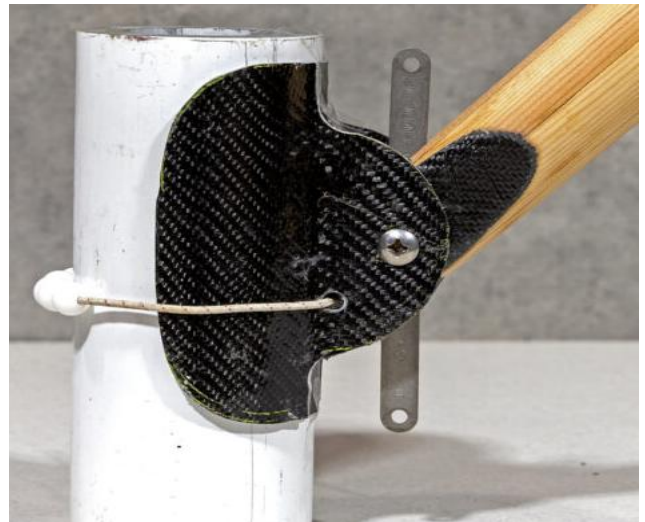
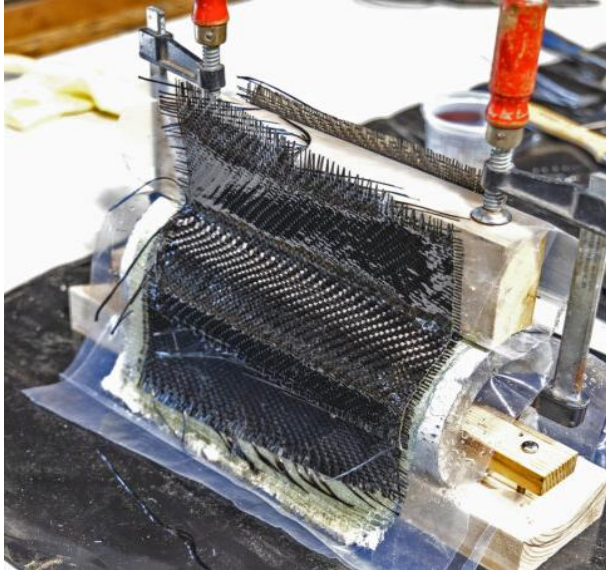
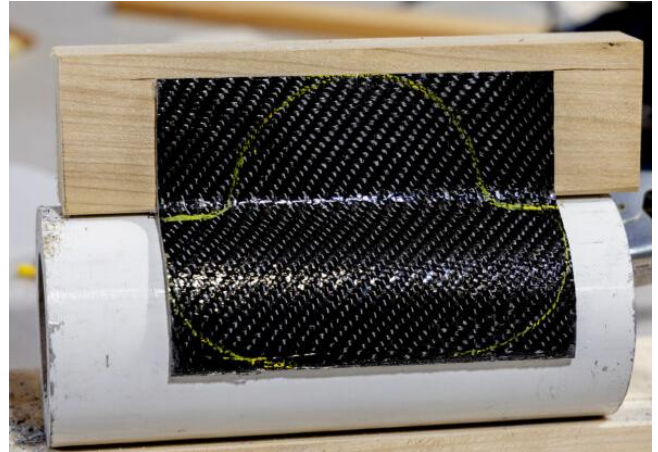
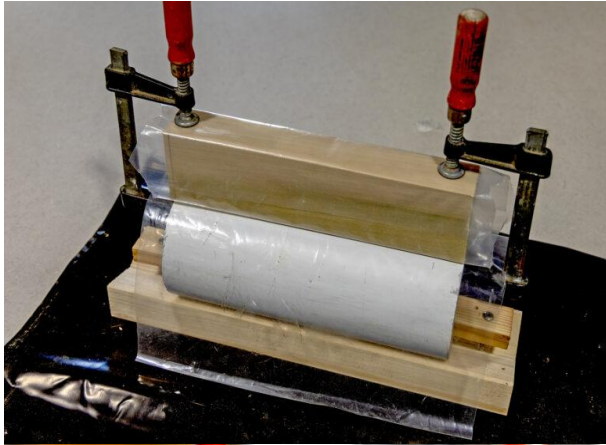
If the plate needs to fit a gentle curve of the hull or deck, lay it up flat.

Then, while the panel is leather hard and still flexible, you can press it into the curve until it has fully cured. le use the boat where the backing or hull will become the a cast or mould.



Cut the finished layup to shape and drill for fastenings. Trimming is most easily done before the epoxy is fully cured and the panel **is leather hard**. At that stage you can use a standard utility knife to trim the edges and cut the panel to a desired shape. If you wait till the layup is fully cured, you will need a more aggressive tool. I use an oscillating saw with a carbide blade.

More complex shapes using a mould and carbon fibre to make a gaff connection



After removing the fully cured saddle from the forms, I drilled holes for the gaff pivot bolt and the parallel-bead bungee; I had previously made the carbon-fiber composite pads to go on either side of the gaff to protect the wood of the spar from being chafed by the saddle. This can be painted or varnished for UV protection.

Above is brief summary of article from [Small Boats Magazine](#)

*"Content is at the core of **Small Boats**. The online platform delivers in-depth articles that inform, educate, and entertain every person interested in exploring small boats and the adventures that come with them."*

A great inexpensive always interesting magazine .

I have learned to seek my happiness by **limiting** my desires, rather than in attempting to satisfy them.
John Stuart Mill