

SBBC website: springbayboatclub.com.au

September 2021

Bay Spray

NEWSLETTER OF THE SPRING
BAY BOAT CLUB



The Triabunna-built fishing vessel, “*Corinna*”, in Darlington, in about 2005. She fished out of Spring Bay for years and was a former Spring Bay Boat Club regular, attending many Opening Days and East Coast Classics.

Read about her history in this edition of Bay Spray.

Your new Executive Committee

At the recent SBBC AGM, all positions were filled, as per the list below. It's great to see some new members putting up their hands for key roles in the Club and to note that there has been a quantum shift to gender parity among Flag Officers.

The Committee wishes to thank outgoing officers and retiring committee members most sincerely for the time and effort they have put into the Club over many years.

Flag Officers:

Commodore	Tim Geard
Vice Commodore (Power)	Chris Chapman
Vice Commodore (Sail)	Deborah West
Rear Commodore	Leanne O'Brien

Committee:

Secretary	Nicholas Magers	
Treasurer	Peter Smith	
Communications Officer	Greg Maddox	
Public Officer	Ben West	
General Committee Members	Malcolm Fergusson	Michael Lovett
	Ray Coope	Alistair King
	Geoff Davidson	Nathan Hardy
	John Hall	Vonda Hall

Notices

- ◆ A reminder that all members and their guests, when visiting the Club, must record their presence via the **Check– In TAS** app and the Club's QR Code (or by using the sign-in book if you do not have the app). Posters are displayed around the Club, in the wash-rooms and on the front window for this purpose.
- ◆ Keep your eye on the “**Bosun's Locker**” on the Club website for goods and services wanted and for sale.
- ◆ The **Calendar of Events** for the coming season is now uploaded to the website. Check it out and add key dates to your personal diary. First and foremost will be **OPENING DAY** on Sunday, October 3rd.
- ◆ Don't forget.... if you want to know what's going on at the Club, the **Minutes of Committee Meetings** are always displayed on the Club noticeboard and the front door is always open; you can also talk to one of the above Committee Members, come along to any of the many advertised social events on offer, volunteer as boat crew or at a working bee. We also have a **Facebook** page where most goings-on are shared.
- ◆ **AFL Grand Final**—come and watch the final at the Boat Club. Saturday, September 25th from 6:30 pm. Footy food, frolics and fraternity. RSVP to John Hall 0418 135623

Member Profile: John Hall

John grew up in and around Springfield, near Scottsdale in North Eastern Tasmania. On finding himself settling down with Vonda in Triabunna in the mid '70s, John's interest in sailing germinated while watching the yachts out on the bay. At this time the Spring Bay Boat Club (SBBC) was in its infancy.



John and Vonda bought a 12' Cadet Dinghy which they nicknamed "The Pirate Ship" and John sailed her with Ian Simons and Ray Coope.

A year or two later Heron dinghies were becoming popular and so the Halls bought "Rani" and John and Vonda competed in Tasmanian Heron State Championships, and John with Dave Clements in an Australian National Championship.

Seeking a little more excitement in the early '80s John and Vonda purchased a Maricat 4.3 catamaran. At this time there was a significant fleet of various off-the-beach cats and they competed in many east coast races.

After a boat-owning hiatus in the mid '80s, (during which John crewed on the "Wandella"), the Halls bought a Cole 23 named "Acacia II" which at the time was moored on the Tamar River. Acacia II satisfied their boating desires for ten years until they took another break from boat ownership in the late '90s.



In 2001 they bought "Sagittarius" in Sydney and sailed her home to Triabunna.

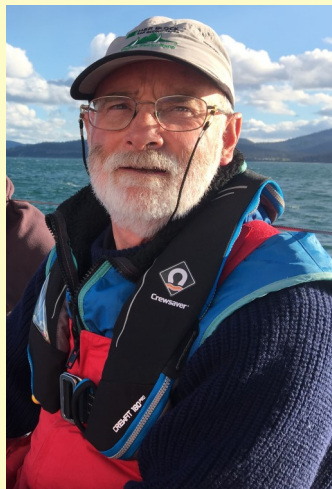
John has taken part in several Tasmanian Three Peaks Races including crewing on Farr 40 "Roperunner", skippering "Chaos" in a few races, and campaigning Sagittarius in three.

He has entered Sagittarius in several Crown Series regattas (Hobart), two Launceston to Hobart races, and many regattas and long distance races around Southern Tasmania.

John crewed on yachts in two Sydney to Hobart races including the devastating 1998 race. He also sailed one year in the Melbourne to King Island two-handed race.

In amongst all the racing John and Vonda have cruised extensively in the waters from Flinders Island to Port Davey. Further afield, John has assisted with yacht delivery voyages to Tasmania from Sydney, Southport and Fremantle, and the delivery of a Folk Boat from Triabunna to Eden.

He has also been lucky enough to twice travel to Antarctica on the "Astrolabe".



John has stepped down from the role of Commodore of the SBBC after 13 years at the "helm". During that time Vonda has supported him and taken on many club duties herself.

The club has gone through significant development during John's stewardship including the construction of the floating marina, the addition of the "West Wing" to the club-house, development of the hardstand, etc.

While he insists virtually all the projects undertaken at the club during his tenure have been team efforts, John's desire to see plans executed and his ability to act as the "glue" holding projects together have resulted in the ongoing development of the terrific club we have today.

Cheers John !!

Article by Greg Maddox.

From your (outgoing) Commodore:

After about 14 years at the helm (even he is unsure about the exact number!), John Hall has decided to take a lighter load and hand the Commodore's post over to someone else. We all thank him sincerely for everything he has contributed to the Club and wish him well as he continues to enjoy his sailing and his Club affiliation. Hopefully, he will be on the Committee for many years still to come. Excerpts from his final report as Commodore follow:



“Once again, our club has had a very successful year with strong membership, plenty of club activities and a number of working bees, where there has been strong support with a good roll-up of helpers.

Landscaping and beautification to our premises has been a focus in the past year and our grounds are looking very good. Removal of the large gum tree, which was deemed unsafe, was a very big project and was completed successfully and safely with a large team of helpers. Thank-you.

Our club should be very proud of the appearance of the club site.

With our ever-improving clubhouse, there has been a number of well attended and successful social events and functions. The clubhouse has also been utilized by other organisations which is good to see. It is very pleasing to see that the social side of the club is growing stronger and stronger.

Competition amongst the sailing fleet is still very strong. Well done to all competitors and congratulations to the trophy winners.

A big thank-you must go to the Sail Training crew who have worked tirelessly with the Pacer Fleet in conjunction with Triabunna District School, conducting sail training for the students. It is surprising how many Old Sailors we get helming these lively craft. Thanks must also go to the support craft who ensure the safety of all crews.

Spring Bay Boat Club hosted the Tasmanian Sharpie State Titles. Considering we had some wild weather, it was a great event and the Sharpie fraternity appreciated our club's support. Once again, thank you to all the helpers.

As I've been commodore for quite some time, I believe it's time for a change, so I've decided not to stand for the position this year. It has been an absolute privilege to lead this club over the recent years. The achievements that this club has made are truly outstanding. The team effort of Spring Bay Boat Club to build the facilities, manage and maintain them, to manage our considerable membership, host and run functions and competitions is nothing short of brilliant. So, thank-you again for the opportunity to be part of it.

I will not be going away and will support the club in any way I can. To the past committee, I cannot express my appreciation enough for the outstanding effort that you have made.

To the new committee, I wish you every success as we look forward to another great year at Spring Bay Boat Club. “



Port Davey - a regular port of call and sheltering spot for *Corinna* while fishing on the south and west coasts. This picture was taken in Melaleuca Inlet on a family holiday.

CORINNA: The sad tale of a great little local boat.

Corinna (RDF) was a lovely little canoe-stern fishing vessel built in the early '80s in Triabunna by shipwright and fisherman, Malcolm Fergusson. She was 35 feet (10.5 m) long and had a beam of 13.5 feet (4.4 m). Malcolm was doing the final year of his shipwright's apprenticeship with Bernard Wilson after spending the three previous years at Jock Muir's yard in Battery Point. Having shaped a little half-model and drawn a lovely set of lines based on it, he decided to put his skills to good use in the pursuit of his other career choice - cray-fishing. So, in his every spare minute (when he wasn't earning a living) and by day and by night, forsaking all other pursuits, he toiled away and created a sturdy, sea-worthy and very pretty traditional Tasmanian fishing boat. It took the best part of three years and was a feature of Bernard's backyard in Ada St and then our driveway in Melbourne St for that time. Part-way through her construction, she was transported from up on the hill down to the flat-land, across the rickety old single-lane bridge, on a trailer towed by Mick Drake's tractor. Quite a nerve-wracking journey!

Her keel was stringy bark and the rest of her backbone celery-top pine. Her ribs were blue gum. Her planking was Huon pine. Her stringers and her deck were celery-top. She was all copper-fastened and her hull was splined. Every piece of timber that went into her was carefully selected, painstakingly shaped, meticulously painted and fitted with precision and an eye to both strength and aesthetic perfection. You never saw a tidier nor more well-crafted job.

She was launched from Melbourne St., down the road to the waterfront on a home-made trailer towed by a log truck and pushed into the bay at high tide just near Spencer's Slipway. This was in the Spring of 1982. She was our first-born little girl (two human ones were to follow in 1983 and 1985) and her naming was a difficult and drawn-out process. We wanted a name that would be classic and stand the test of time (after all she was going to be around for at least 100 years) but also personal and meaningful. We finally settled on "CORINNA". We were both Bob Dylan fans and loved his version of "Corinna, Corinna"; we were paying homage to the little timber/prospecting town on the Pieman River where Huon pines were abundant and can still be seen at all stages of growth; and we rather thought that making reference to a Greek poetess imbued her with something classy and timeless.

Her launch-day was full of tension and nerves were jangling. Malcolm was still putting anti-fouling on her as she was being towed down the street and her motor, while installed, was not yet fully connected. Seeing her float off the trailer and glide gently across to the nearby jetty with just a slight bit of coaxing was an experience of great relief, pride and joy.

Corinna went on to fish around much of the Tasmanian coast and into Victorian waters and was owned by several fishing families over the next 40 years.



Her beginnings: a slab of wood (the keel) and a stack of timber (her planking) In the paddock on the hill, Ada St. Triabunna, 1979.

Some time later, a hull has taken shape. Many steps have taken place in between times - laying the keel and fitting the stem and stern timbers, erecting frames and battens, bending and fastening ribs, cutting, shaping, steaming and fitting the planks.



PHOTO GALLERY



Just before she left Ada St—she looked a lot like a Viking ship. A basic but seaworthy shape, with plenty of work still to do.

Right: the day she was launched. Her lovely blue colour was later changed to white as the blue drew the heat too much.

Below: an early trip to Hobart not long after she was launched. Note lack of mast.



Deck beams, decking, bulwarks, engine, well, ice-room and fit-out were all done in our back yard.



Her owners:

1982—1987 Malcolm Fergusson (TAS)

1987— 2002 Rodney Clark (TAS) It was during the latter part of this time that Malcolm built the *Rachel Christine* for Rodney.

2002—2009 Malcolm Fergusson (TAS)

2009—2013 Sam Walter (TAS)

2013 —2018 Kelleher Family (TAS)

2018—2021 Steve Parsons (VIC)

Present time— Unknown



Sadly, after she moved to the port of Flinders on the eastern side of the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria, “*Corinna*” remained totally neglected on the mooring for several years and was washed ashore in the storm of June 2021 due to her mooring gear going unserved for years (a lesson to those with boats on a swing mooring!) Just look at the filthy state of the poor thing!!

Then, her hull was badly damaged when an excavator dragged her across rocks.

We had word that the insurance company had written her off and she was to be cut up and scrapped. You can imagine the devastation we felt. Tim Philips (Wooden Boat Shop, Sorrento) phoned to say that he, too, felt utterly sickened by the prospect of such a classic, well-built little boat being destroyed, but when he enquired about taking her on, she was being rescued by someone else, loaded up and taken to a local yard, hopefully for eventual preservation. Current owner and exact location a bit of a mystery. Further sleuthing and (fingers crossed) good news to come!



Article by Leanne O'Brien.

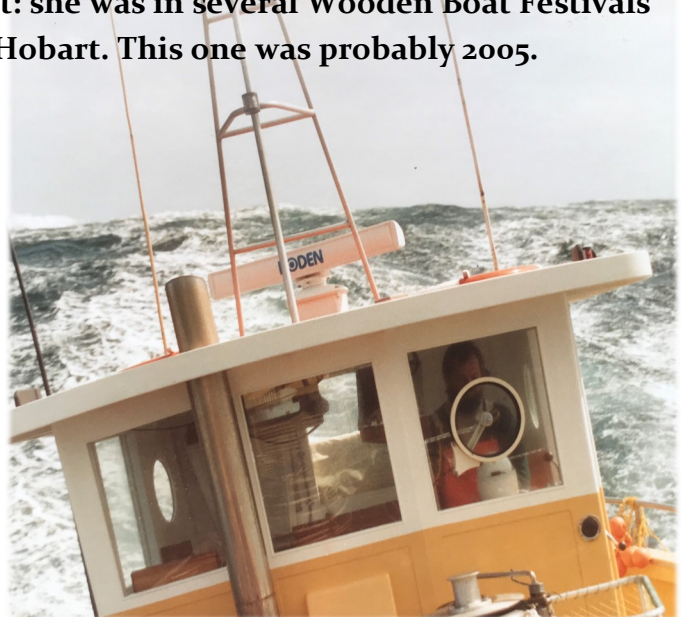
“Corinna” Gallery cont.



Above: after she left the East Coast, still a well cared-for and valued working boat.



Left: she was in several Wooden Boat Festivals in Hobart. This one was probably 2005.



Above: Coming home from the West Coast with a full load and a following sea after one of Malcolm’s fishing trips.



Left: Fishing around Maria Is.