

SCUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER OF THE CANBERRA MODEL SHIPWRIGHTS SOCIETY

Established 21 April 1988. Incorporated 16 January 1991

OBJECTIVES: To foster and maintain interest in building model ships, boats, associated fittings, gear, equipment, armaments and relevant items and structures and the pursuit of excellence in this field.

March 2025

SPECIAL EDITION

**AUSTRALIAN
WOODEN BOAT
FESTIVAL**

**HOBART
FEBRUARY
7-10, 2025**



Neville Miller, despite some setbacks, finally made it to the Wooden Boat Festival a few weeks ago. Here is his story.

I finally achieved another Bucket List goal, and went to Hobart for the Australian Wooden Boat Festival 2025 with my wife from February 7-10.

My wife took a fall the week before we left, and injured her left foot and right knee, making mobility for her difficult.

On arriving at Hobart Airport, we went to pick up our hire car from Alamo Car Hire, only to find out that our car was not available. We were told that we might be able to have one if we were prepared to wait a couple of hours, with no guarantee of getting a car, or we could have a refund. We took the refund - a great start to the week-end.

We caught an Uber to the Allurity Hotel, and set about finding another car rental, and two hours later, success!, but we could not pick it up until the next day. So what to do with no transport and a crippled wife? We went across the road to the New Sydney Hotel and had a few drinks and met a very colourful character who had some amazing stories he was dying to share with a couple of complete strangers. We went back to the New Sydney Hotel for dinner that night as well. I highly recommend it. The day finally ended on a high.

Friday the 7th, first day of the Festival. After picking up the hire car we headed off to find a good vantage point to watch the Parade of Sails. We settled on the Convention Centre at Wrest Point. The day was very windy, so the tall ships were not in full sail, but it was still amazing to watch. After a coffee and a snack I took my wife back to the hotel to rest and then she let me loose to go to the AWBF on my own. On arriving down at the dock, I found that I had left my camera back at the hotel, so I had to rely on my phone for taking memories.

I set about exploring the festival, but there was so much to see and do that I drained the battery in my phone pretty quickly, as I was mainly shooting videos. The tall ships looked amazing, and the entertainment was fantastic. There was a small display of model ships and



Australian Wooden Boat Festival 2025

Hobart February 7-10

a huge turnout of small timber craft. The main theme of the festival was the Pacific Islands, but it was hard to get good footage of the Islanders performing as the marquette was packed. There were also seafood cooking demonstrations going on throughout the festival. After checking out the steam engine display, I decided to call it a day. In an effort to see as much as possible I had

managed to clock up 13,000 steps; my legs were killing me. Saturday the 8th. We caught an Uber to the festival due to the shortage of parking. We started our day at the Salamanca Markets, but there were so many people there we could hardly move. We gave up on the markets and moved over to Princes Wharf where the tall ships were docked. There were HMB Endeavour, the James Craig, the One & All, the Young Endeavour and the Soren Larsen. We then entered the pavilion where we were greeted with a mix of trade stalls and wooden dinghies. Needing a rest, we stopped for a coffee and pancakes and listened to Billy Whitton sing.

Rested up, we went to the diving demonstration (above), with



the old Bell helmet. From there we watched the rope-making demonstration and the noisy Boatyard Workshops, then on to the Irish Band and another rest and scallops on a stick for lunch.

Getting good photos was hard as the crowd was thick and not very obliging.

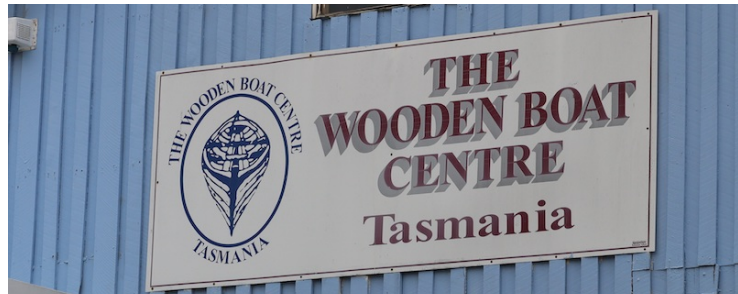
We headed to the Pacific Island displays and watched the Islanders perform, before heading off to enjoy a cooking demonstration on how to cook Tasmanian Sea Trout. We then found the model ship displays before seaking out a cool beverage and some hot chips, After that we sat down and listened to Jess Clennets and Sean Hall for two hours; they were amazing. We finished the day there and went back to the hotel.

Sunday the 9th. As we had hired a car we decided to go to Franklin for a drive and visit The Wooden Boat Shed, but when we entered the building, we were told that most of the exhibits where at the AWBF. Nevertheless, we were given a very interesting tour of what was left on display.

After returning to Hobart, we headed back to the AWBF where I paid tthe Maritime Museum a visit and then went down to the Wharf to check out the Lady Nelson, the Enterprise, the Windward Bound, Julie Burgess, Rhonda H and Kerrawyn. After consuming some cool beverages, we waited for the Roulettes to show up to put on an amazing display of aerobatics.

That night we went on a dinner and fireworks cruise aboard the Soren Larsen and had a beautiful sunset over Mount Wellington to top the night off.

Monday the 10th. We returned the car and flew home, it was an amazing week-end and I can't wait until I can do it all over again. There is an enormous amount of activity and I highly recommend comfortable footwear.



More photos following pages.









OR THE BRIGANTINE
SØREN LARSEN
SPECIFICATIONS

Length	142ft overall	Beam	25ft 6ins
Draft	TWt 6ins	Sail Area	7,000sq ft
Hull	Oak	Rig	7-masted, 14
Displacement	330 tonnes	Flag	Repatriated
Port of Registry	Sydney	Mast Height	Australia
Auxiliary Engine	R & W Alpha	Rebuilt by	96th
Crew	2400sq Diesel	Survey	Captain Anthony Davies 1978
	T1 Professional	Build	Aust coastal 18
	24 Voyage		1948 Denmark as a
			sailing cargo ship

- * Søren Larsen rounded Cape Horn on the 9th of December 1991, and became the first British Tallship to do so since 1936, during the square rig sailing and scientific project 'Homeward round the Horn'.
- * 1992. Columbus Tallship Race - First in Class. Completion of 5 year Circumnavigation.
- * 1987-88 Flagship First Fleet Re-enactment Voyage Britain to Australia.
- * 1982-85 Pioneering sailing for the disabled for Jubilee Sailing Trust Southampton
- * 1978-82 Star of BBC's "The Oedin Line" series and "Shackleton" French Lieutenant's Woman.

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SOREN LARSON



JAMES CRAIG

ABOARD THE JAMES CRAIG



POSTSCRIPT - Tony Merrriot was in Hobart for the Festival. 'Crewing on James Craig, we got smashed in Bass Strait, so spending the evening in Bega to get some sleep,' Tony reported after leaving for the trip home. Photo left shows Tony at the helm in quieter waters.

**Australian Wooden
Boat Festival 2025**

Hobart February 7-10