

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.

December 2025



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Editor's Note

In December 2017 I published my first edition of Scuttlebutt. This followed the retirement of the previous editor, with Bob Evans filling in to keep the newsletter alive until I volunteered to take it over. This is my 39th edition (it would have been good to make the round 40, but at least I have ended up where I started with the end of year issue). I have enjoyed every minute and would like to thank all of you who have helped me along the way. I emphasise that I edited the newsletter and rarely wrote an article; they were provided by many who contributed regularly and others who wrote occasionally. To all of you thanks; without writers and photographers there would be nothing to publish. The good news is that Elizabeth Hodsdon is taking over the editorship of Scuttlebutt. We are in the process of handing over and she already has plans for the March edition. Long live Scuttlebutt.

Brian Voce

From the Incoming Editor

Brian has asked for a few lines from me as incoming editor. Here they are, Brian:

What more can I say except thank you Brian for a fantastically well done job over all those years. I will be doing my best, but you are a hard act to follow.

I have done a club newsletter with a very cranky old Gestetner. Used to do it in the middle of the night, like 2am, when Robert was on night shift and the kids asleep. Electronic version so much easier.

Elizabeth Hodsdon
December 2025.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024-25

President: Neville Miller.
Vice-President: Grant Dale.
Treasurer: Peter Hateley.
Secretary: Peter Gaisford.
Assistant Secretary: Bill Atkinson.

Committee Members: Tony Merriott, Robert Hodsdon.

Public Officer: Ray Osmotherly

Liaison Officer: Max Fitton.

Editor: Position Vacant

Web Master: Steve Batcheldor.

Gatherings

The Society meets at the Men's Shed, Melba, on the third Tuesday of each month (except December).

CMSS Web-page

<https://canberramodelshipwrights.org.au>

Instructions for using this website are on the site itself where members will need to register. The webmaster will help you in any way possible. We seek content for the website - everything from photographs of your models through interesting web-links and chat.

CMSS Facebook Page

The Society has a Facebook group to promote the society and to attract new members. So please feel free to post items on the page and share it with your Friends.

FaceBook Public Group site that allows people to add content and comment -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/871717459629290>

FaceBook Page that details what we do, and content can only be added by the site administrators. - <https://www.facebook.com/canberramodelshipwrights>

Annual Membership

Canberra Area single \$35, Couple, \$50. Country/interstate single \$20, couple \$25.

Payment Details:

By Cash to Treasurer

Post by Money Order to: c/- 5 Stretton Crescent, Latham ACT, 2615, or

Bank Deposit to: Beyond Bank - BSB 325185

Acct.Name - Canberra Model Shipwrights Society (or CMSS) Acct. No. 03452396.

At meetings, payments may be made using an EFTPOS terminal held by the Treasurer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

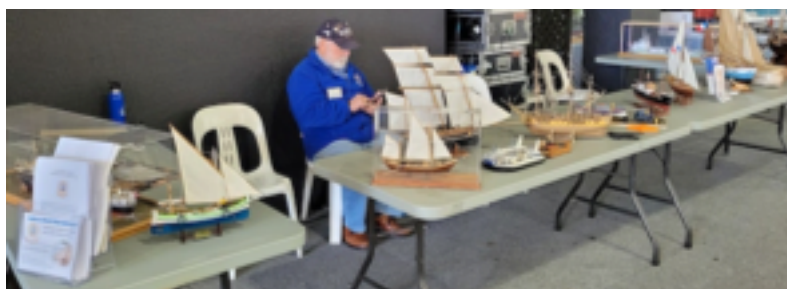
I hope everyone is well and busy working on their models so they will be ready for EXPO 26.

It has been a busy couple of months. The 2025 EXPO was a huge success with over 100 models on display, which could only have happened with the help of all those that exhibited and attended, and the generosity of the Mt Rogers Primary School Melba. We had entries from Task Force 72, the Sydney Model Shipbuilders Club and some very nice models from Orange. The People's Choice and Best of Show went to Grant with his fantastic model of the HMS Victory. We also had a display of models at the ACTSMC 25th annual show which can only be described as an awesome event. For those who haven't been to one, I strongly recommend it and a big thankyou to all those that helped man our display.

Christmas is fast approaching so I would like to conclude with wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hopefully we will see you all at our first meeting of the New Year which will be January 20, 2026.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Brian for the fantastic work he has done for the Club and the Magazine. and a big welcome to Elizabeth Hodsdon who is taking over as editor. Thank you!

Neville Miller President CMSS.



Our stand at the ACTSMC 25th annual show.
Below - Grant Dale's Victory which won the People's Choice and Best of Show at CMSS's Expo 25.





Great Turnout of Exhibits and Visitors at Expo 2025

CMSS Expo 2025 - Despite competing with nature on a glorious weather weekend, as well as other functions such as Floriade, we had an excellent turnout of some 250 visitors. Our display of models exceeded the count of the previous year - some 115 models. Costs were up, as is to be expected, but we still made a modest profit of \$ 351.34, after deduction of printing and advertising fees. Task Force 72 once again brought a great contribution of excellent builds and is to be complimented for their support. Steve Batcheldor and Geoff Eastwood also brought 17+ exhibits from TF Wagga.

A new provisional date has been set for Expo 2026 - the weekend of 19 – 20 September 2026. This is a week later than our traditional date, to try to clear the Floriade scramble. Time will tell if this produces better attendance. The Mount Rogers Primary School has extended our invitation for next year. Without their

generous offer we would be in dire straits, or the narrows (not sure which is worst). The winner of Best Build Public, and also Member Best Build was Grant Dale with his magnificent HMS Victory full-rigged model. It was a close tie between Warwick Riddle and his amazing Bismarck, Robert Le Lievre and his HMS Greyhound, and Bob Evans and his perennial Chindwara. This justly demonstrates the high standard of build amongst members. There were few negatives from Expo. Catering in the staff room versus the previous use of the adjacent kitchen was unavoidable. Members were excellent in their hands-on for set up and clearing up, and the school had no complaints. Peter Hateley is to be thanked for 3-D printing key tags for all entrants. Elizabeth and Robert Hodsdon carry our appreciation for struggling on with their travel, to render their assistance at the entrance table. - *Extracted from Minutes of General Meeting October 21, 2025*

Photos on following pages



All photos of Expo 25 - Neville Miller.

Visit our Facebook page to see Neville's complete coverage of exhibits at Expo 25.







Sydney Festival of Model Shipbuilding

The Sydney Model Shipbuilders Club Expo 25 was well attended by our own Society and despite the organisers' fears of a lack of exhibits, this did not materialise and overall this was a good display.

Much to my surprise, my model of "Jylland" was awarded the "Peoples Choice" - **Bob Evans**



Dark humor on display at the SMSC Expo

The CMSS contingent with SMSC President Harry



Sydney Expo 25

Notes and photos Bob Evans



And photos from our small display at North Belconnen
Uniting Church, Melba ,on Saturday November 22.



With Expo out of the way NEVILLE MILLER jumped into his next project

The Sultan, an Arab Dhow



I started my next project immediately after the CMSS Expo in September - The Sultan, an Arab Dhow.

The kit is produced by Artesania Latina and I believe that this would be a very good kit for a beginner to intermediate kit builder.

The framework goes together very easily and not a lot of sanding is required to get it true.

I prepared the decking by edging with a 6B graphite pencil and then stained the timber strips with Honey Oak stain.

The centre decking went down to prepare for the bow deck to be placed before I started with the first layer of planking. I finished off with wood putty to fill gaps and when that dried I sanded the hull to prepare for the second layer of planking.

After the keel was secured I glued the second layer of planking to the hull.

The stanchions were then fitted followed by the rubbing fenders and rudder.

I then started fitting the deck furniture and gunwhales and that is where I am currently. Hopefully I will be completing the rest of the deck furniture by Christmas.

I will be doing the mast, rigging and sails in the New Year and hopefully have it completed for the next issue of Scuttlebutt.

Build by Neville Miller.



Sailing in the James Craig

Eden Whale Festival voyage September 29 - to October 8, 2025

It was great to see Maritime traditions upheld as I was picked up from Merimbula Airport by Eden Seafarers Mission and driven to Port of Eden to join the James Craig which was just arriving greeted with bagpipes after a three and a half day voyage from Sydney with an overnight stay in Jervis Bay

I was joining the ship as an Able Deckhand to participate at the Eden Whale Festival activities and crew on the return voyage to Sydney. An "Able Deckhand" is a deck seamanship rating who is involved in a range of tasks, including setting and trimming of sails, helming, lookout, berthing, docking, anchoring, emergency and safety stations and other special sea duties: under the direct control of his respective "Watch Leader".

Finding the James Craig (JC) already docked on arrival at Port of Eden Friday October 3, it was straight to work. On the voyage from Sydney the James Craig carried its first load of cargo in one hundred years and an important cargo at that; kegs of Eden Brewery "James Craig" Porter beer. This cargo was unloaded traditionally using capstan, handy billies and blocks on to a vintage truck to be delivered to the Hotel Australasia. Accompanied with bagpipes.

The rest of the day included a visit to the Eden Whale Museum. The wind was up and Twofold Bay resembled Storm Bay which excited the whales and a fantastic display of breaching and trail slapping was observed while female whales were teaching the juveniles the ropes. The downside of the wind was the James Craig broke several mooring lines which could have been disastrous. The day concluded with a coastal walk to the showgrounds for the festival opening, food, drinkies, entertainment and more bagpipes.

Saturday commenced with Seafarers breakfast, festival parade through the main Street of Eden and yes, bagpipes. The bagpipes were at the showgrounds where the parade concluded and festivities continued. The James Craig was open

Able Deckhand TONY MERRIOTT reports





to the public with ship tours, Jibboom climbing, handy Billy tug of war and not to be left out bagpipes on the quarterdeck. Crew swapout took place for those joining and leaving the ship in Eden. The evening concluded with shore leave for the James Craig Crew to paint the town red and find a venue screening the Bledisloe Cup, bagpipes free.

Sunday started with a 4 am dash for the public showers and off to town for coffee, then a service was held at the Seafarers Memorial. The service was opened with a welcome to country with an interesting teaching of the local totems, bagpipes, a dedication to lost seaman of Eden, not to be out done by more bagpipes.

On return, the ship was prepared for departure, battening down the main hatches, securing the ship for sea and everyone to special sea duty stations, pilot on-board. A large contingent of visitors and locals lined the wharf to see us off with hopefully the final bl#@dy bagpipe appearance.

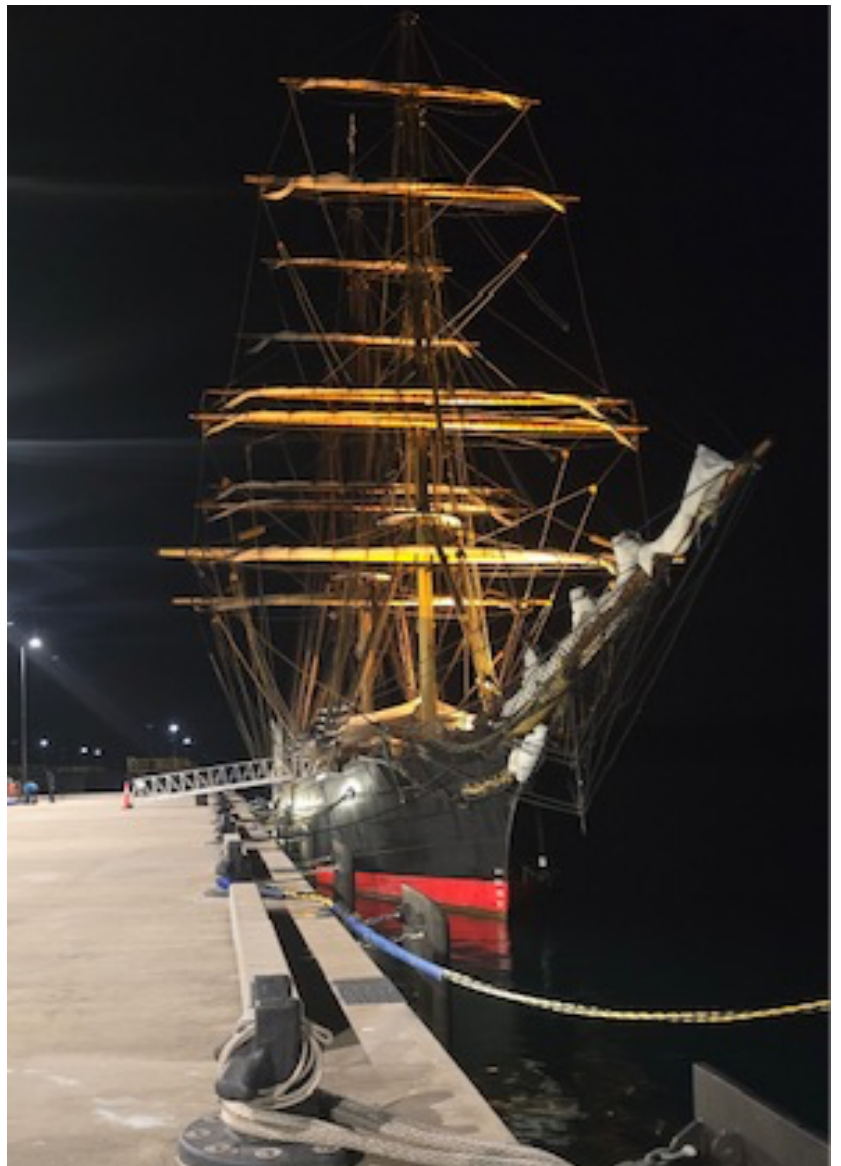
Due to a northerly wind the trip to Sydney was mainly motor sailing with more motor than sail so night watches consisted of special sea duties and playing spot the lighthouse. The crew of three watches operate under a full four-hour rotating watch system. Unfavourable winds gave the crew more time for special sea duty and emergency procedure exercises, training and task book sign-offs. When we were off Wollongong the Master John Dikkenberg ordered "all sails" having decided it was time to do some sailing. We steered off the wind heading south, setting plenty of sail and went through the evolutions of wearing ship, tacking, weathering, bracing and trimming sails. The



crew then had to go climbing to "sea furl" the square sails in rolling seas with a spectacular sunset back drop, then we steered a course north for Sydney Town.

Entered Port Jackson on the morning of Wednesday October 8 with a spectacular Sydney spring welcome. Proceeding to anchor in Rose Bay the crew then cleaned, carried out necessary maintenance in preparation for berthing at wharf 7 Pyrmont Bay. Tasks included scrubbing the decks, harbour furling all sails, setting awnings, bring all the gash (trash) from the hull and sign the secret voyage wall. Then proceeded to Wharf 7 around lunchtime, secured the ship then proceeded to a tavern for some well earned indulgence.

This was a crew voyage but the James Craig is the “Museum that goes to sea”, crewed 100% by volunteers, with regular day sails, charters, special holiday events and harbour cruises available to the public. If you are interested in any day sails, cruise or even volunteering, visit www.shf.org.au



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MY FINAL ISSUE OF SCUTTLEBUTT



The Canberra Model Shipwrights Society Quarterly Newsletter

Brian Voce

The Society's newsletter Scuttlebutt first appeared in the very early days of the CMSS being formed. It was then distributed my mail to members, multiple copies being produced using the Gestetner system. Anyone who has had experience with Gestetner copying knows it is a messy business, but it did the job. Later, in Max Fitton's time as editor, Scuttlebutt was distributed by email.

I am not sure when the first electronic version appeared; the first issue on our website is the issue dated April 2012, but it is very likely that this was not the first digital version. Joe Allen was the editor then and he did the job for 10 years, handing over to Bob Evans in 2017. Around this time I volunteered for the job and my first issue appeared in December 2017. Eight years later I am editing my last issue. The new editor is Elizabeth Hodsdon who is planning her first issue in March 2026.

After taking over Scuttlebutt, I tried to match the appearance of Joe's previous editions. Contributors for my first issue included Bruce George, Rod Carter, Bob Evans, Max Fitton, Ray Holder and myself. It is noteworthy that Bob has been particularly supportive of Scuttlebutt and in my eight years, he has provided at least one and often two or more articles for all but a few editions. Also of immense help, Steve Batchelor has not only taken the finished quarterly issues and placed them online, but has helped me with much technical and other support over the years.

As I settled in, I explored various publishing programs and over time developed the editorial style of the present. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and give heartfelt thanks to the many who have contributed to these pages over my time in the job.



Scuttlebutt : 1. A drinking fountain on a ship. 2. A cask on a ship that contains the day's supply of drinking water. 3. Gossip; rumour.

I always thought that choosing the name Scuttlebutt for a newsletter for model shipmakers was an inspired choice. The society has stuck with the name since the early days.

The mastheads above have developed over the years and may reflect the mores of the time, or maybe the caprices of an editor. But what has remained constant is the title Scuttlebutt.