

UPDATED NEWS ON THE KIT OK DINGHY FROM DAMIEN SMITH DESIGN PTY LTD-

I've attached a few photos of the now finished Kit OK Dinghy. Back in 2006 Andre Blasse, then Chairman of the OKDIA Promotions Committee and now OKDIA President said, as only those who know Andre well would understand; "I believe the only way to check the design is to build a boat!" This is what we set out to do and with the help of many people we have now achieved this objective.

Col Lynch has done a great job with building the boat and congratulations are due to both Damien and Col for a job well done. For any home builder willing to put in the time and effort required to build their own boat, worthwhile cost savings can be achieved. The boat measures correctly so we now need to finalise the registration and then see if it sails OK. It has been donated to the NSW Association and will be used in conjunction with our Junior Development programme. I'm sure OKDIA will be interested in the end result.

As you can see we have endeavoured to make it look pretty special so have spent over budget on the paint job. All up cost for the hull excluding some donated fittings was approx. AUD4,500, a little less than 1/2 the cost of a professionally built boat. Anyone wishing to build their own boat needs to understand the actual un-costed time involved. It certainly is a labour of love as Col spent many hours of his time working out the construction details with Damien as well as building the boat. Our very special thanks go to both of these talented OK enthusiasts for their outstanding contributions in this regard.

Thanks too to a family friend, Stuart Corfield of Luxon Pty Ltd, importers of Okoume marine plywood, who kindly donated the top quality gaboony ply used in the construction of the boat. John Corby also assisted us in getting the project off the ground. John organised the router cutting of the plywood and the transportation necessary to and from Laser Wizard Pty Ltd at Penrith and then delivered all of the pre-cut components to Col's house in the Lake Macquarie area. I'm sure that John didn't recover all of his costs for his contributions to the project so a special thank you to him also for all of his help.

We hoped to have the boat in Melbourne for the Interdominion Championship but circumstances changed and this did not happen. Some of the NSW Association members donated fittings for the boat and Eddie O'Donnell organised a beach trolley. Col and Peter Lynch gave us a whole week-end just before Easter to fit out the boat in time for the event but unfortunately we had to pull the plug on that plan so thanks for this special last minute effort.

This has now given us a little more time to sort out a rig for the boat before our now scheduled launching on the Queen's Birthday week-end regatta at Wangi. I'll update this website article again with some more photos when we go sailing in the new boat.

Bill Tyler

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