

# Flexible Working Hours (if only....) PART 1

By Cindie Jupp

Everyone should build their own boat! Well that is what I think now that my 4.85m Plate Alloy boat is nearly finished... At the beginning, looking at the CNC router cutting an outline out of 4mm plate alloy, I knew it would be an adventure...



And - being a female AND an accountant, I had no idea how a few flat pieces of aluminium were going to become a boat... So I enlisted in the Plate Alloy Boat Building Course and learnt to weld, grind, and sand and put together a boat!



The first step was to build the custom made jig out of MDF.



ON DECK – July/August 2012



Then cut out the pieces of the boat that had been engraved in the aluminium and sand the edges smooth.

The boat had been designed by Plate Alloy's Naval Architect using the latest 3-D modelling software to make the pieces 'mm' perfect. The kit is cut out on the CNC router with all the holes, joins and markings to put it together.



Then it is as easy as building a model – put A1 with A1 and tack it together, etc. Admittedly it is a little more physical than that, but welding technology has improved so much that, after a day's practice, everyone on the course was a confident welder and trying to get as much welding action in on the boat.



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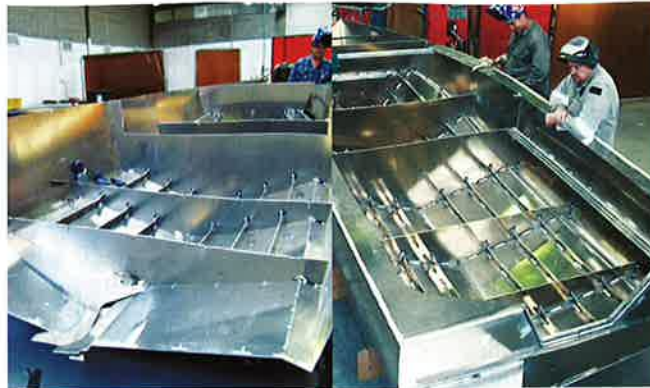


Luckily, there was plenty of welding to be done with the chines, stringers and anchor well to be welded together, and as all the participants in the course bonded together we managed an equitable sharing of the workload...



And underneath ....

So after a week of excellent tutorage, power-tool usage and shared expertise, there was a boat! All ready for the fit-out.



So I think everyone should build a boat – to go from no experience to a floating vessel in a week is a great achievement and one I highly recommend!

Plate Alloy Australia Pty Ltd is based in Cheltenham and sells aluminium kit boats. John Pontifex runs week-long boat building courses to teach how to put the kits together. Plate Alloy has a range of more than 60 boat kits. Boat building courses and kit details can be found at [www.platealloy.com](http://www.platealloy.com)

Cindie Jupp is an accountant with no prior welding experience, just a desire to build a boat.... She now runs her own accounting business and while building up clientele has nearly finished her boat to be named "Flexible Working Hours".

Both Cindie and John Pontifex are BMYS Club members and if anyone is interested in this concept and would like a factory tour and/or presentation night, contact the Boating Committee and we can organize one.

Cindie

## Western Port Cruise and Lunch

By Brian Willis

On Sunday 3 June our plans were for a cruise on Westernport commencing at the boat ramp at the old fishing village of Hastings, followed by lunch. Hastings is now the major access point for the fishing fraternity and other boating enthusiasts in Westernport.

Unfortunately, we were greeted on the day with a strong wind warning and rain and the boating part of the day was cancelled. We then made our way by road to our ultimate destination which was the Yaringa Marina Restaurant. The restaurant is nestled on the shores of Watson Inlet at the very northern end of Westernport and has a very picturesque outlook.

Our arrival at Yaringa was well timed as the bar was open and the fireplace nice and warm.

We enjoyed a great lunch at the restaurant. Prizes were on offer for those displaying good knowledge in a quiz about things Westernport. Old salts quickly came to the

fore and, unsurprisingly, the winners were Phil Goodier, Mel Carney and Roger Hartley.

It was good place to be on a cold and wet day and enjoy great company and a fun afternoon in warm surroundings.



Left: Phil Goodier Right: Brian Willis

# Flexible Working Hours (if only....) PART 2

By Cindie Jupp

As per Part 1 of this article – I attended a boat building course at Plate Alloy where we (8 of us) constructed a hull of a 4.85m open fishing boat in a great week of welding, grinding and sanding. The following week I was acutely aware that this half-finished boat was mine and it was up to me to do something with it.



First was to put in some ply boxes under the hatches in the casting deck for storage. So I cut the ply to fit, sealed it, and after putting buoyancy foam under and around the boxes I fitted them with pop-rivets and Sika-flex.



The boxes, side panels and hatch doors were then carpeted.



And the side panels Sika-flexed and pop-riveted down and the hatch doors hinged on, so the casting deck was finished!



Now, the real work – the main deck. I decided where to put the fuel tank, bilge pump, console and chairs. I then welded in the brackets and base plates for them, including cutting the threads in the holes on the chair plates to allow the chairs to be bolted down once the floor was on. The fuel tank was then fitted into the hull and the hoses clamped into place.



Next I worked on the bilge pump, joining the wiring, cutting holes for and installing the outlet pipes. At this stage it was very much a case of measure twice and cut once as I used various sized hole-saws to cut large holes into the almost finished boat.....



Once all the clamps and wiring connections were double-checked the hull was cleaned, the buoyancy foam went in and the floor went down with a lot of drilling, pop-riveting and Sika-flex, ensuring the screw holes for the seat mounts were marked and predrilled.



Then came the carpet and seats; the console was bolted in just in time to pick up the trailer and in an exciting move the boat moved off the jig and we were mobile!!



The engine (a Mercury 60hp 4 stroke) and hydraulic steering were chosen and installed.



The wiring was finished courtesy of my other half... thanks Andrew...



Then it was time for a test run with John.... Perfect! Just need a few fish now...





And finally the name - thanks Dave!

And the boat is finished!!



See you on the water, we'll be the ones weighed down with fish ...



Plate Alloy Australia Pty Ltd is based in Cheltenham: John Pontifex runs week-long intensive boat building courses five times per year. Students come from all over the world to be taught to weld aluminium and how to build their own boats.

Plate Alloy has a range of more than 60 boat kits. Boat building course dates and kit details can be found at Plate Alloy's website: [www.platealloy.com](http://www.platealloy.com)

Cindie Jupp is an accountant with no prior welding experience, just a desire to build a boat. Both Cindie and John Pontifex are BMYS Club members. If anyone is interested in this boat-building concept and would like to attend a factory tour and / or presentation night at Plate Alloy, please contact the Boating Committee and we can organize one.