



Spring has sprung and the schools are back in force! Winter has been a good opportunity for the staff and volunteers to maintain the boats and grounds, and to prepare project kits for the students. The *Abel Tasman*, our latest longboat, is already a valued addition to the fleet!

The staff and WFTD team is presently working on the ex-*HMAS Curlew*, preparing her for inspection by relevant government authorities as we look at using her to provide a 'hands-on' nautical experience for young people.

About thirty tonnes of topsoil fill have been provided to the Montgomery Park site, and have been spread by our WFTD team into a large flat area around our BBQ. This makes for a much more usable space for guests to enjoy at lunch times. Meanwhile, twenty Norfolk Island pines have been planted around the oval and grounds to provide an attractive backdrop and shade in the summer.

Recently, we were visited by the Christian Men's Choir, who spent the day with us

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and enjoyed Mission Afloat's facilities and catering. They took advantage of the acoustics in our chapel and delighted us with a concert of hymns, beautifully sung! Thanks to Henry Nugteren for organising the day.

Last month we arranged a get-together at Poatina Village for representatives of all CCI camps in Tasmania. About twenty people from all parts of the state attended this informative day, and were addressed by the National CEO for CCI, Ken Pullen. Each camp also had an opportunity to share its issues and concerns and found this a valuable process.

Next Easter, April 2008, marks the Bicentenary of the exploration of the Derwent Valley, by boat up the Derwent River. Arrangements are being made for a Bridge to Bridge flotilla of rowing craft to set out from the Esplanade at New Norfolk and row down river to the Tasman Bridge. Sounds exciting? More details later.

Kind regards,

*Allister*