



site structure

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AJ Woodall Shipwright

Wooden boat restoration

[Aaron Woodall](#) blends traditional boat building techniques with fine craftsmanship to restore vintage wooden pleasure craft.

Aaron is a well-qualified and experienced shipwright with a passion for quality. His [current project](#) is a comprehensive restoration of Pollyanna, an original Halvorsen launched in 1946 under the name Sylph.

AJ Woodall Shipwright attracts international and interstate clients to its [ideal location](#) in the Australian Maritime Complex, south of Fremantle, Western Australia.

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2. Capabilities

Aaron John Woodall is an experienced, qualified shipwright with a passion for traditional wooden boats.

Even as a boy, Aaron was intensely interested in boats and spent every spare hour sailing on the Swan River. At thirteen, he built his first wooden boat in the backyard of his home.

In 1986, Aaron won the last shipwright apprenticeship offered by the Fremantle Port Authority, competing against 75 other applicants.

During his apprenticeship, Aaron gained extensive work experience with traditional wooden vessels as well as boats of steel, fibreglass and aluminium construction. Under the guidance of Nick Shroy, Fremantle Port Authority Shipmaster, he assisted with construction and maintenance of all Port Authority Survey and Pilot vessels.

When Aaron qualified as a shipwright in 1991, he went into business for himself, servicing the commercial fishing fleet. His business thrived and he now has over 10 years experience supervising work on craft of various sizes and types, including [ocean-going yachts](#), [private vessels](#) and [surveyed passenger vessels](#).

These days, Aaron pursues his passion by specializing wooden boat construction and the repair and re-fitting of luxury vessels.

He combines his flair for project management with his training, experience, knowledge and trade contacts to ensure that work completed on his client's vessel is of the highest quality, achieved in a cost effective manner, within an agreed timeframe.

His present project is the total re-fit of the [60ft Halvorsen "Pollyanna"](#).

3. Philosophy (blurbs)

One boat at a time

For Aaron and his team, restoring a beautiful boat is an all-consuming passion. There can only be one such intense involvement at a time . . . [\[more\]](#)

Working within a tradition

Aaron uses traditional methods wherever possible, including techniques few other shipwrights can offer . . . [\[more\]](#)

Better than ever

Every boat has a story. Some have a proud history spanning generations. After restoration, a new story begins. Restored to their former glory, wooden boats from a bygone era face new challenges today. . . . [\[more\]](#)

Always a step ahead

Aaron blends fine craftsmanship with a business-like approach. As an owner, you can be confident that your boat and your restoration project are in good hands . . . [\[more\]](#)

Passionate owners: a vital element

Nothing is more rewarding than working for a client who has a passion for wooden boats . . . [\[more\]](#)

Staying small

Aaron's restoration team believes that staying small is the best way to keep a tight rein on quality . . . [\[more\]](#)

3. Philosophy (details)

One boat at a time

For Aaron and his team, restoring a beautiful boat is an all-consuming passion. There can only be one such intense involvement at a time.

Aaron develops an intimate, detailed knowledge of every boat he restores. Understanding her past, her current stage of renovation and the future for which she is headed, he carefully weighs the consequences of every restoration decision.

Each wooden boat is wonderfully unique and deserves unique attention.

Working within a tradition

Aaron uses traditional methods wherever possible, including techniques few other shipwrights can offer.

He is proud to carry on a heritage of traditional boat building and fine craftsmanship. Many of the traditional techniques Aaron now practises have been passed down by master shipwrights whose experience stretches back for over a hundred years.

Better than ever

Every boat has a story. Some have a proud history spanning generations. After restoration, a new story begins.

Restored to their former glory, wooden boats from a bygone era face new challenges today. Perhaps onetime river or harbour cruisers now need to be capable of sea crossings. Perhaps additional interior joinery and amenities necessitate structural strengthening.

AJ Woodall Shipwright restores boats to meet your required performance characteristics and stringent safety standards. Aaron is qualified to build boats to conform to all requirements up to the highest international codes for commercial craft.

Always a step ahead

Aaron blends fine craftsmanship with a business-like approach. As an owner, you can be confident that your boat and your restoration project are in good hands.

Meticulous planning allows Aaron to be flexible whilst keeping on schedule. Dependencies between the myriad tasks required for a restoration project are tracked through the administration office.

Rework and wastage are avoided by undertaking tasks in the right order. If parts or services are not available when expected, tasks are rescheduled in an organised way. There is never any question of cutting corners or holding up the project.

Passionate owners: a vital element

Nothing is more rewarding than working for a client who has a passion for wooden boats.

Clients are always welcome to view the progress of their restoration. Interested owners who love to get involved make a project more satisfying and successful all round. If you can't visit as often as you would like, Aaron will send you photos at every stage and keep in regular contact.

Staying small

Aaron's restoration team believes that staying small is the best way to keep a tight rein on quality.

The team is a small group of dedicated, talented people who share Aaron's philosophy and enthusiasm for doing things the right way. Aaron hand picks suppliers of other expert services, and supervises their work himself.

Projects

Thumbnail image another previous project, click to enlarge		Pollyanna - restoration A classic, 60ft Halvorsen cruiser, Pollyanna has graced the waterways of Perth and Sydney for almost sixty years. When her restoration is complete, she will be more than fit to begin her next sixty years. ... [read Pollyanna's story]	
Thumbnail image another previous project, click to enlarge		Hydroflite - internal joinery	<i>"testimonials from clients"</i>
Thumbnail image another previous project, click to enlarge		Tengarra - restoration	
Thumbnail image another previous project, click to enlarge		The Ritz - teak decks	<i>"quotes from media"</i>
Thumbnail image another previous project, click to enlarge		Blue Riband - restoration	

4a. Pollyanna's Story

Pollyanna has graced the waterways of Perth and Sydney for almost sixty years. When her restoration is complete, she will be more than fit to begin her next sixty years.

An Australian classic

Designed and built by the renowned Halvorsen family, Pollyanna is one of only three 60ft luxury cruisers of her model ever made. She is a classic icon of Australian design.

She was launched in Sydney in 1946 as Sylph. When Perth boating enthusiast Roland Smith bought her in 1958, he renamed her Pollyanna.

Roland owned two previous boats named Pollyanna, the first of which was originally built for the Strelitz family of Sydney in 1926. Actor and family friend, Mary Pickford, named the original Pollyanna after the popular silent movie in which she starred.

A presence on the Swan River

When the third Pollyanna arrived on the docks at Fremantle in 1958, she created quite a stir. She was so long and so wide-hulled that the almost-retired steam crane "Pelican" was needed to lift her off the ship.

For many years, Pollyanna was a well-loved, dignified presence on the Swan River at the head of the Freshwater Bay Yacht Club cruiser fleet.

Pollyanna was one of the largest pleasure craft on the river, and one of the most luxurious. A local newspaper once ran a light-hearted report comparing the luxury value of a small piano in Pollyanna's sister ship, Sea Mist, against Pollyanna's fully stocked cocktail bar.

A perfect hostess

Many visiting dignitaries have enjoyed Pollyanna's hospitality.

The Duke of Edinburgh took lunch on board Pollyanna in 1962, before he fired a starting gun on the bow for a yacht race during the Commonwealth Games.

Visiting artists and entertainers from the annual Festival of Perth have been wined and dined on board, as have Rotary Exchange students from around the world. Pollyanna has hosted all kinds of social events, including a wedding and a party entertained by a rock group.

Sir Douglas Kendrew, a former Governor of Western Australia, was once a regular crewman on Pollyanna.

An island connection

For many years, Roland Smith worked tirelessly to conserve and protect Rottnest Island, off the coast of Fremantle. Pollyanna was put to work transporting equipment and plants from the mainland to help reafforest the island.

Today, a memorial to Roland Smith at Rottnest's Narrow Neck commemorates his work as an honorary member of the Rottnest Island Board. A relief picture of Pollyanna appears on the memorial's brass plaque.

When Roland Smith passed away in 1972, ownership passed to his son, Tony Smith. Like his father, Tony has a strong affection for Rottnest Island. He has spent many pleasurable days on Pollyanna cruising and fishing Rottnest waters.

A meticulous restoration

A complete restoration and refit by AJ Woodall Shipwright is now in progress. Aaron and his team have painstakingly stripped Pollyanna. Her structures will be strengthened, she will be recaulked using traditional methods, and her interior joinery will be redesigned and refitted.

Restoring such a beautiful boat is a passion. Aaron ruefully admits that his girlfriend has been more than patient with him since he started this project. Pollyanna is undoubtedly the other lady in his life, absorbing his time and his thoughts.

5. Location

A fortunate location

AJ Woodall Shipwright occupies well-equipped, modern premises in the prestigious Australian Marine Complex at Henderson, south of Fremantle, Western Australia.

Fremantle and its environs is an ideal location for shipbuilding; close to sources of fine marine timber and surrounded by world class facilities and suppliers of specialist equipment and services.

Thanks to our location, we are able to offer the highest quality work at a significantly lower price than shipwrights in other parts of the world. Even after transport costs, this is a financially attractive alternative for owners on the eastern seaboard of Australia and overseas.

Map

(suggest show Fremantle in Australian context, then zoom to show AJ Woodall Shipwright premises within Australian Marine Complex)

6. Contact

Contact details to be supplied