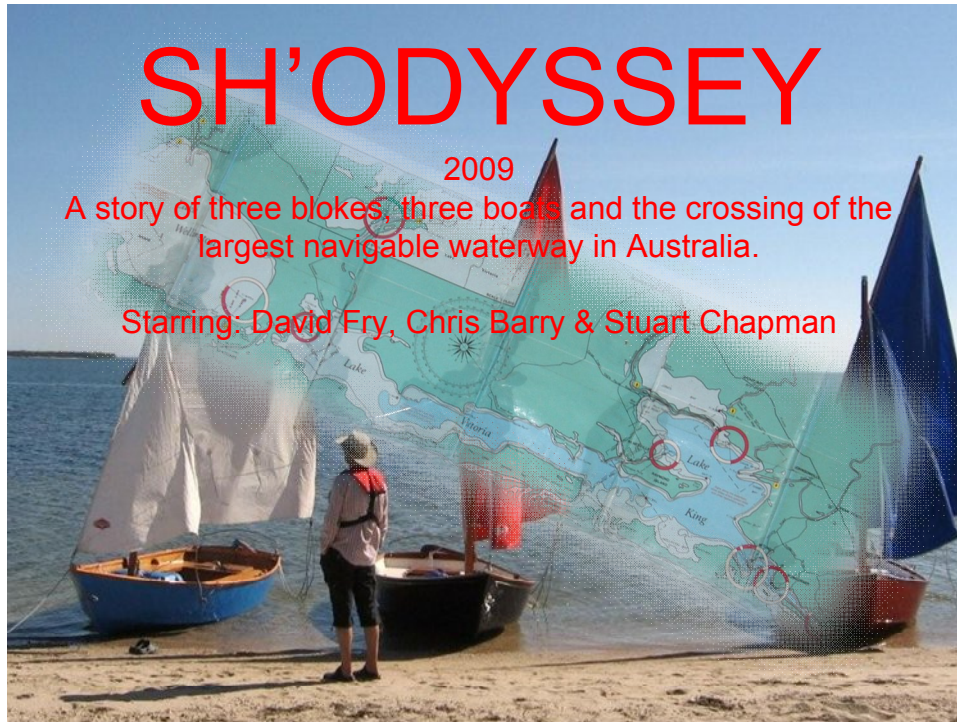


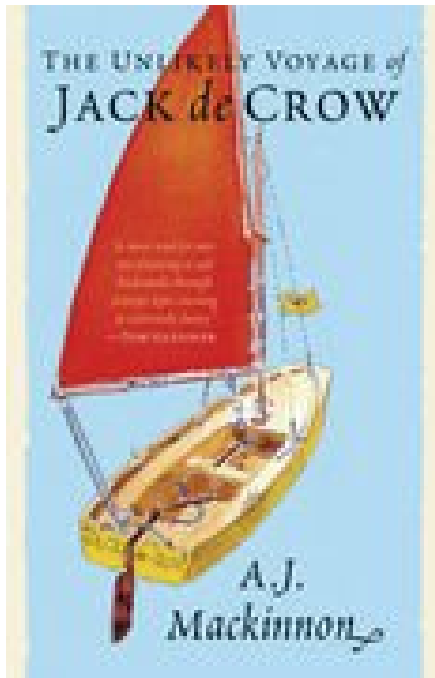
SH'ODYSSEY

2009

A story of three blokes, three boats and the crossing of the
largest navigable waterway in Australia.

Starring: David Fry, Chris Barry & Stuart Chapman





Chris had raised the question of sailing the Shimmies down the Murray River having been inspired by his reading of "The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow". He passed the book to David who was also inspired but David suggested sailing the Gippsland Lakes from end to end.

By this time, Chappie had purchased a Derek Ellard Shimmy kit and the building was well advanced. Chappie was equally inspired and some serious planning was underway.

I've been
ambushed!

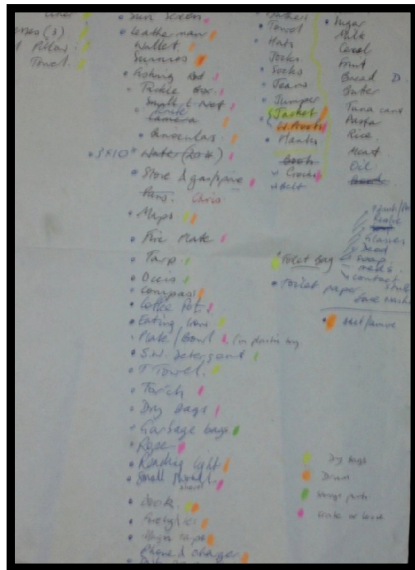


Chris can be
President, Secretary,
Treasurer, Publicity
Officer and Minute
Taker!!

The Shimmy Club was formed!

Two official meetings and many unofficial meetings followed until finally everything was resolved.

Rules were simple – If you had a Shimmy or were building a Shimmy - you were in.



Preparations for the trip commenced.
The lists were made!
The 'gear' purchased or found.
The excitement built!



*But first Chappie needed to finish building his
boat and...*

He did it!

Shimmy finished Thursday 26th March 2009.

*Rigged and one quick sailing lesson on Friday
the 27th.*

Sunday March 29th he sails into the unknown.



Early Sunday morning and the Shimmies are gathering.





Rigging and packing at Lakes Entrance Sunday March 29.



Receiving advice from locals and how they should be doing it!

A quick champagne and some good luck!





And they're off into the wide blue yonder!



*First stop!
1/2 hour into the journey to
celebrate...*

- *The breeze has arrived – so no more rowing!*
- *More importantly - they got the tide right and weren't swept out into Bass Strait!*





Metung for lunch. Chappie furious – wants any huge cruisers that send up big bow waves, sent to the bottom!

Day 1

Lakes Entrance to Purran Corner – 20 Km.

From the Ships log:

Departed Lakes Entrance under oar power at 10:15 AM.

Crossed the Reeve Channel uneventfully. Beautiful sail down Hopetoun Channel to Metung.

Lunch around 2:30 PM.

Two hour sail to Purran Corner. Shallow for anchorage and camping and dense vegetation to shore. Two boom tents and one land tent rigged before dark.

BBQ dinner with lots of “MEAT!”





*Night falls on Day 1.
Tired and happy.*



Day 2

Early rise at Purran Corner. No wind so leisurely breakfast of snags, toast and freshly brewed coffee. Broke camp and packed boats but still no wind. Finally a faint sea breeze sprang up so they drifted into Wollaston Bay (after Chappie got off the sand bar).

Breeze built beautifully and they skimmed over Point Jones sandspit on a broad reach to Point Wilson, Sperm Whale Head.

Arrival at campsite on Sperm Whale Head at 4 pm. A very hazy day (smoke from Cann River fires) and beautiful evening. Chris and David went for a swim and ALL decided to pitch tents on land.

Pasta and much red wine for dinner.

11 Km travelled.

Tired and happy!





Day 3

Early rise on Tuesday to a good 10 to 15 knot North Easterly. Quick breakfast and breaking of camp. On water before 10 am. Wind building and some gusts over-powering mains, so pulled in around Green Hill Point and dropped main sails. Off on jib only with plenty of speed. Phoned Pauline going past Wattle Point – she could see them but they couldn't see her. Arrived Loch Sport around 1 pm for counter lunch, beers and ice-cream.



Set off from Loch Sport around 2:30 after discussion with Melbourne Grammar sailing group who were attempting to sail from West to East. They had, and would, be towed the whole way.

Who says the Sh'odyssey was going the wrong way now?!?!

Still under jib only in 20 knot strong sea breeze and 1.5 m following waves. Chris's surfing nearly wipes out Chappie. Into McLennan Straits and main sails raised again for swift sail to Plover Point. 35 Km covered for the day. Set up camp, rolls for dinner. Tired and happy!



Day 4

*An early rise after strong overnight winds. Wind had dropped but still 15 knots or so from the east. Perfect for Lake Wellington crossing! Reef in mains and set off. **Some** had difficulty getting out of the Straits but then a superb run across Lake Wellington to around Swell Point, when finally Marley Point Yacht Club building became visible. Adjusted course more to the South West and sailed onto a tiny beach opposite a picnic shelter at Marley Point.*

They have done it!

17 Km sailed for the day – 83 Km in all.



Full afternoon for eating, drinking, backslapping and unpacking before families arrive with trailers to take the intrepid sailors home.





*Tired
and
happy!*



The Shimmy

The Shimmy is a great all round boat, but is superb for extended cruising, such as our recent (March,2009) four day end-to-end sail on the Gippsland Lakes.

The following characteristics place it in a class of its own for this purpose:

- Safe, stable and easy to sail and rig.
- Takes a huge volume of camping, fishing, cooking gear etc., with plenty of room left to sail in comfort.
- The absence of a centre board case makes packing so much easier.
- The lug rig means that there's no boom to catch on the dry bag you accidentally left on top of everything.
- Shallow draft allows you to go where others can't, opening up all sorts of exploration and short-cut possibilities.
- If the wind fails, you can row it, leaving the sails up or dropping them and just pushing the main out of the way. It rows beautifully.
- It tracks like a dream, even in big, following seas.



Marley Point

Lakes Entrance

Gippsland Lakes – Largest Navigable Inland Waterway in Australia.