

Can you fix it ?

"Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats".

When Ratty expressed that view, he clearly referred to all boating activities, whether afloat or ashore. Indeed, for many of us, our hobby includes tinkering. We enjoy working on our boats, whether making tweaks and improvements, or just doing repairs and maintenance.

Problems come when we don't have the tools and equipment, the know-how and expertise, or simply the confidence, to tackle the work on our own.

The following describes an opportunity that may interest you.

I am a member of a club with the motto "members helping members", which has a range of tools and equipment that are available to its members. The club has a number of groups, some more formal than others, spanning 3D-printing, metal-working, sewing (useful for boat-covers!), electronics, pod-casting, In fact, there aren't many "making" activities where the club doesn't have a member with relevant interest or expertise.

My intention is to promote a "sailing and boating" group within a club – Moorabbin MakerSpace – is well-established, with its own premises (on Warrigal Road) and extensive infrastructure, and a very reasonable cost structure. Membership is currently \$115 per annum, plus materials such as filaments used in 3D printing.

The equipment that our group would have available might include:

3D design and printing – all sorts of materials, including ABS, PETG, Nylon, and potentially bronze and other metals

Welding equipment – MIG welding of stainless steel, mild steel

Sewing machine – capable of making /repairing boat covers etc

Ropework bits and pieces – fids, d-splicer, ...

Smaller tools and equipment such as a rivet gun.

Some of the above exist already, others will be additions.

At this time, I am contacting local sailing clubs to gauge interest and seek input (eg do you also want to be able to work with carbon fibre?).

To register your potential interest, or if you have any questions, please contact me.

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