

# **PAUL WICKHAM**

*Specialty sets and props for film and exhibition  
Traditional Woodworker / Craftsman  
Furniture / Cabinet Maker  
Boatbuilder / Trainee Pilot / Sailor*

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[https://m.imdb.com/name/nm3862997/filmotype/  
special\\_effects](https://m.imdb.com/name/nm3862997/filmotype/special_effects)



## Specialty sets and props for film & exhibition

Since 2006, Paul Wickham has been working in the arena of set and prop making for stand out companies such as Weta Workshop and Propeller Studios.

He has worked on a comprehensive range of film and set work, large scale to miniatures, wooden, fibreglass and metal work. His scope runs from Sci-Fi to Pioneer sets, WWI and WWII replicas, to special effects, fantasy castles, to shop fit outs. Attention to detail and historical and period authenticity is paramount to what he offers. Paul can build sets and props in a wide range of materials, from wood to fibre glass, polystyrene to pre-fabricated materials, and can work to any brief and any budget.

This can range from building replicas, set dressing, custom made props, etc.

For over the last six years, Paul worked as the Team Leader of the Wood Working Department at Weta Workshop. Weta Workshop is situated in Wellington, New Zealand, and is a comprehensive film and

television effects facility that houses a large and varied skill base of creative technicians. Best known for their work on the film Avatar, Weta Workshop is a four time Academy Award winning company that offers services to all aspects of the creative industry including design, special make-up effects and prosthetics, creatures, armour, weapons, miniatures, prop building, large scale sculpture, display work and costuming. The Workshop team is an artistic engine that has worked with some of the most creative minds in the film industry, including Peter Jackson (Lord of the Rings Trilogy, King Kong) and Andrew Adamson (The Chronicles of Narnia), James Cameron (Avatar), Steven Spielberg (The Adventures of Tintin) and Neill Blomkamp (District 9, Elysium).

During His time at Weta Workshop, Paul worked on a wide range of projects, ranging from film sets and props, to museum and exhibition displays, some of which is outlined below.

### Panzer Tank, 2011

A full size wooden model of the WWII Panzer Tank featured. This was then moulded into a fibreglass reproduction with engines fitted for World War reenactments for Peter Jackson. The workshop pictures following depict the early stages of the build.

A 1/3 scale Big Bertha Howitzer Canon, WWI Rail Guns, and WWI Air Field Tents were also made.





### King Kong, New York Set, 2004

In 2004, Shed 14 boatbuilding was asked to help build the New York Set for Peter Jackson's remake of King Kong. The 1930s New York street scenes in the movie were filmed on a set built in nearby Seaview, and for months, we built the shop fronts to help create the set.



### The Water Horse, Patrol Boats, 2005-2006

For the 2006 film, The Water Horse, directed by Jay Russell, Shed 14 boatbuilding company built from scratch two WWII 1940 Patrol Boats which featured heavily in the film. These were built to Marine Safety Certificate standards.

### Halo 3 Warthog, 2007

In 2007, Paul built a fully-functioning, four-wheel steering, powerful, off-road vehicle with a machine gun on the back called the Warthog for the trailer for the game Halo 3.

Paul was responsible for building the body work on this vehicle which is made of epoxy and aluminum.

It is complete with raised suspension and is able to support an armored marine manning the chain gun in back.



### Cricket Pavilion, 2015

Paul, in conjunction with Propeller Studios, helped build the cricket pavilion commissioned to celebrate the cricket World cup in 2015.



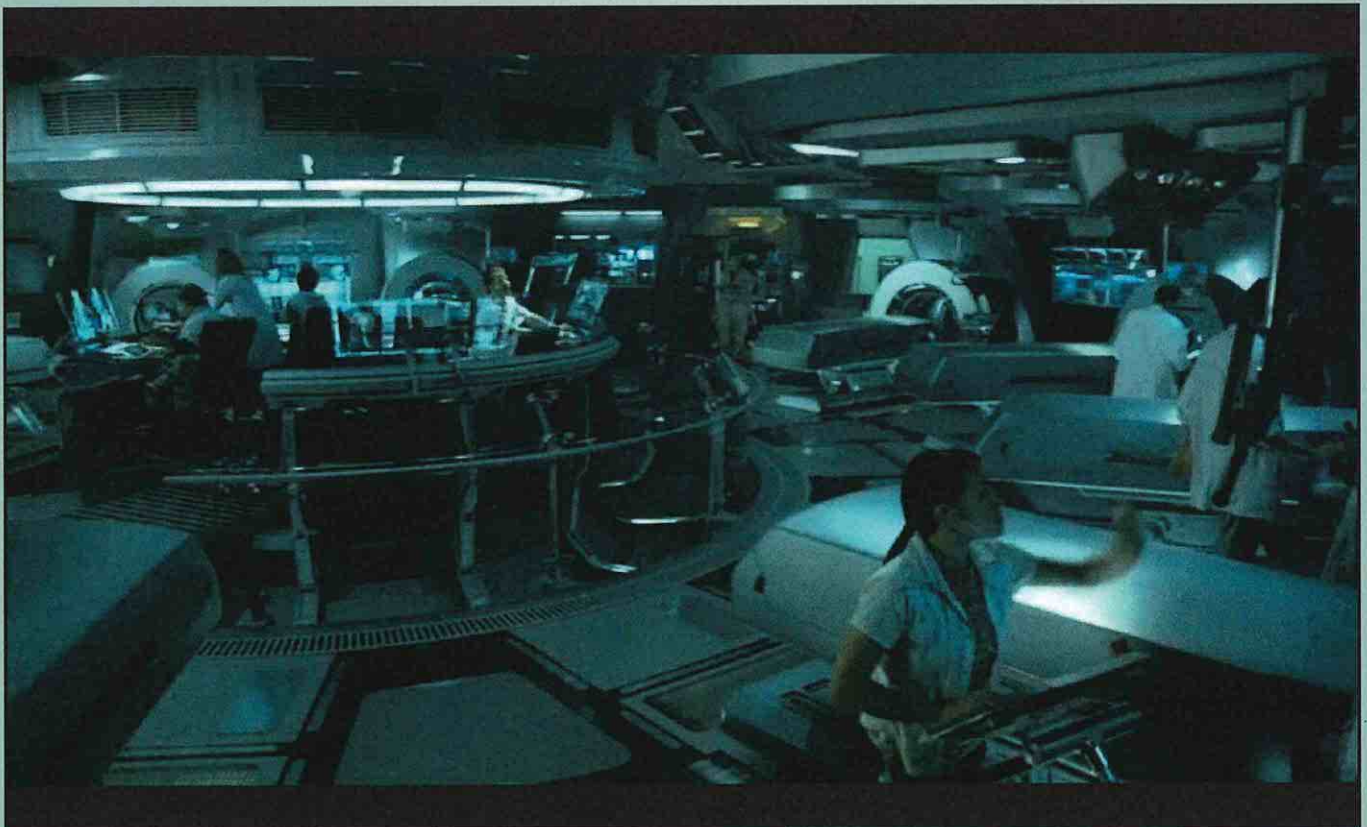


## District 9, 2007–2008

For District 9, Paul helped build the world of District 9 which became a blockbuster hit.

Movie-goers, bloggers, and critics could not stop talking about Neill Blomkamp's District 9, the alien movie that raised the bar for science fiction thrillers in the new century.

Here, Paul helped create the physical characteristics, alien weaponry, props, armour, custom vehicles and spaceships that were all stylized in a foreign, yet familiar, graphic language that defined the film's distinctive alien aesthetic. This is the Jet Pack, one of many items we built, all out of wood.



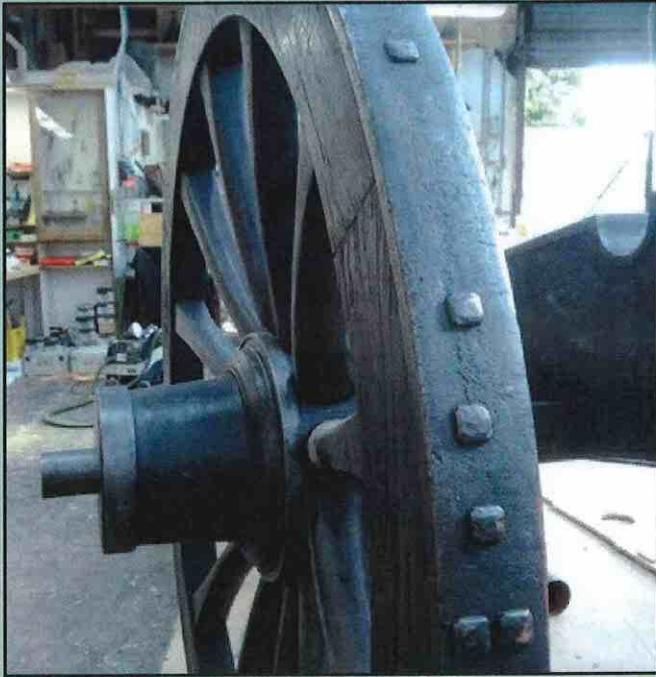
## Avatar, 2006–2007

Paul headed the department that was responsible for building the link unit in the film Avatar, the highest grossing movie of all time, directed by James Cameron.



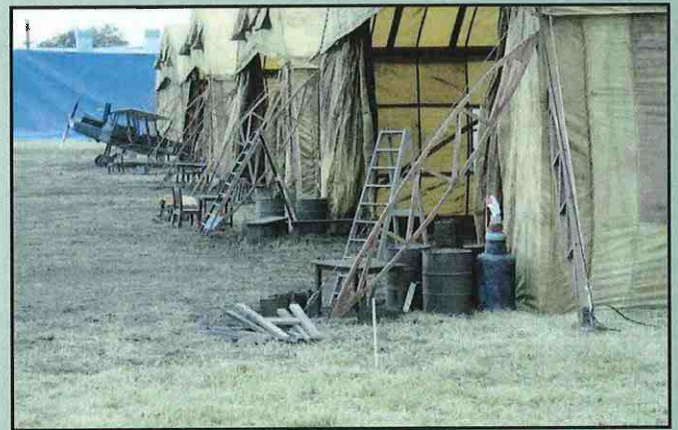
### Napoleonic Canon, 2011

A Napoleon Canon for reenactment purposes.



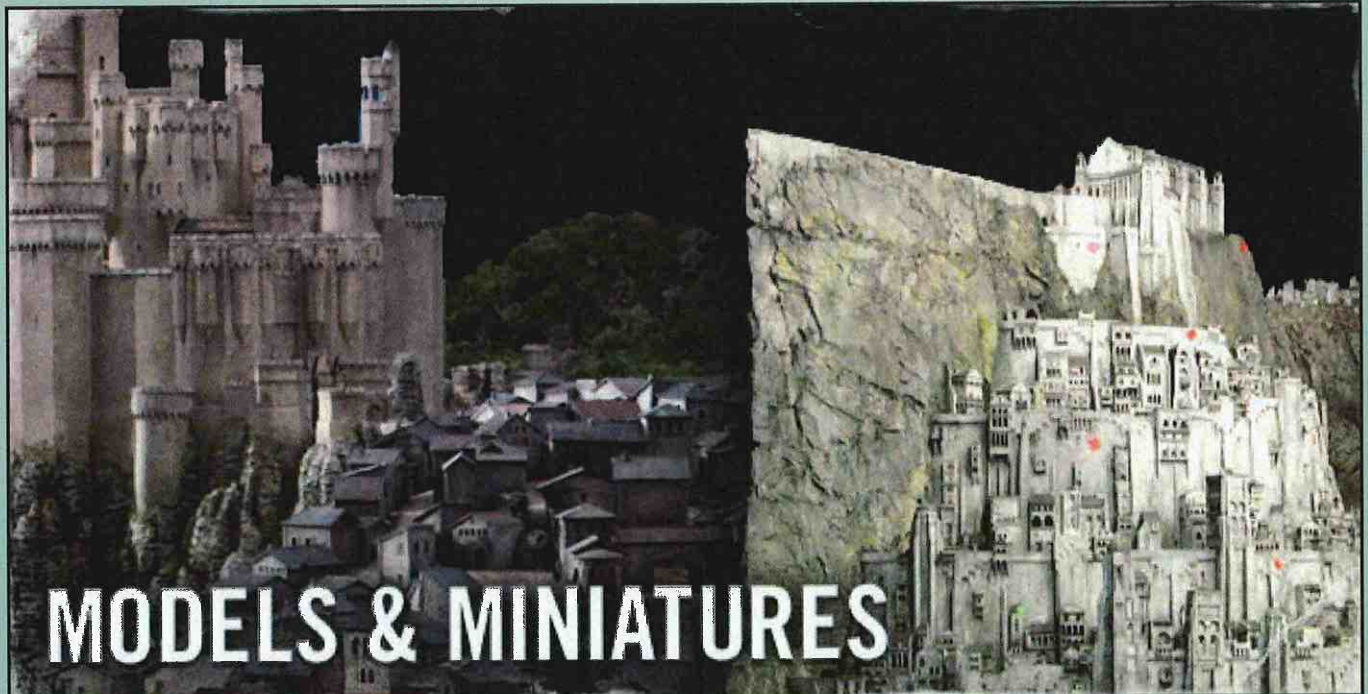
### Museum WWI Set, 2008

In 2008, I worked on the development of a set for a historical film for Canberra's War Museum. This involved re-creating a typical outdoor WWI airfield scene. Notice the water spritzers left in the shot to show the scale.



### Chronicles of Narnia, 2005

One of the first jobs Paul worked on at Weta Workshop was helping to craft the castles in the Disney movies *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*, and *Prince Caspian*.

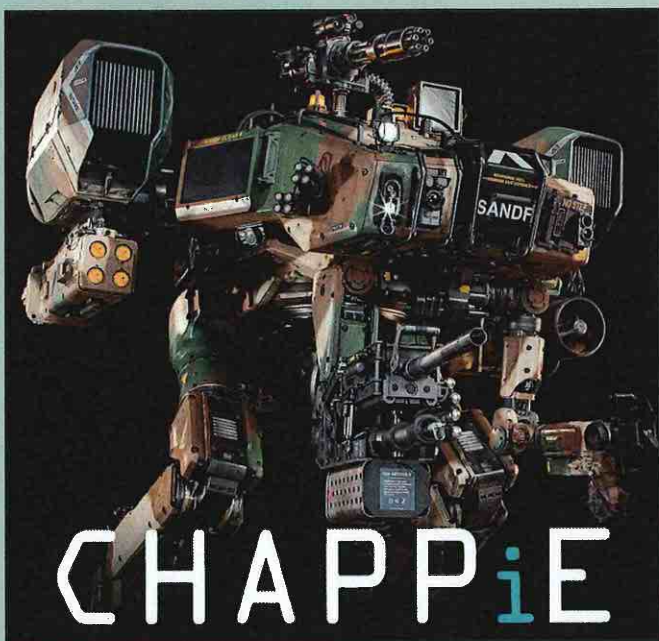
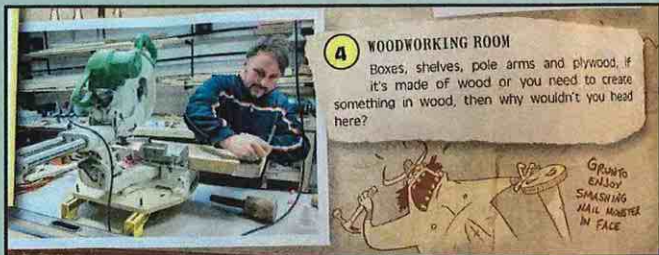


# MODELS & MINIATURES



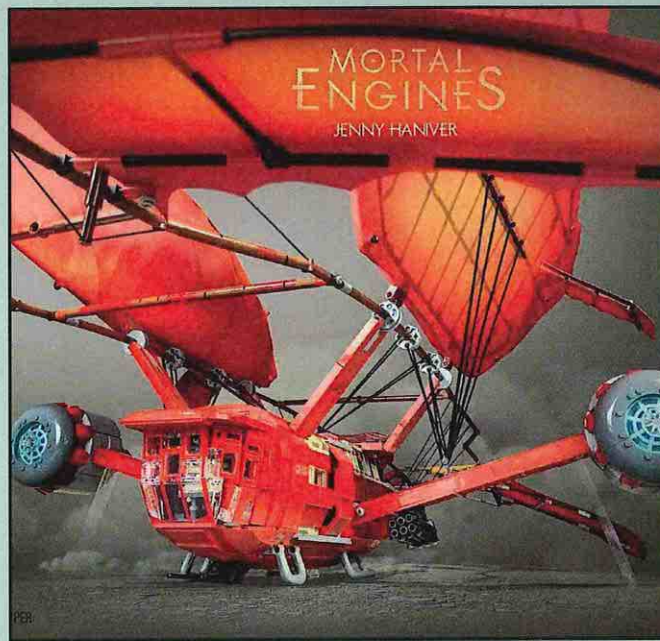
### Chappie (2014-2015)

For CHAPPIE (Columbia Pictures) I got the chance to team up once again with acclaimed director Neill Blomkamp (District 9, Elysium) to help build the real scale model of The Moose Robot and the Drone Killer Bot. I also assisted Weta Workshop to generate props for the film, including weapons, armour, and robot props.



### Mortal Engines (2016-2018)

For Peter Jackson's Mortal Engines (2018) I was based at the Avalon site, and was the leading hand on the hero aircraft; The Jenny Haniver. I also helped build several of the fighter jet style aircraft such as the Flying Ferrets. I also worked on several furniture pieces including the London Museum display cases.



### Avatar 2 (2018-2019)

I was asked to help reassemble the Valkyrie SSTO transport ship as it was heavily disassembled and cut up after the first Avatar film. They then asked if I could restore the Samson, the transport helicopter and then to also build a full-size copy to a high build standard. Art Director Neil Kirkland said 'he couldn't tell the difference between the two!'

I completed all the woodwork on this build. I also built the laboratory set and the sky mining tower as well as the set build. This included being on set during the scene shooting and transporting the set to the Seaview site.





## Weta Cave Fit Out, 2011

The fitting out the mini Weta museum, theatrette, and shop of the Weta Cave. This involved picture framing, cabinet making and special effects so that visitors come face to face with some of the characters, props and displays from the movies.

The mini museum was designed to give you a first-ever behind-the-scenes look at Weta and an exclusive insight into the creativity and imagination that goes into crafting the art of Weta.



## Traditional woodworker/ craftsman

If you want something made with a traditional look and feel, then Paul can create it. Ranging from wooden turned pieces to large scale items, traditional wooden boats, restoration and period pieces, Paul's craftsmanship will be classic. Here are some examples:



## Dr Grordborts, 2009–2011

Dr Grordbort's is series of steam punk guns created by Greg Broadmore, an artist and concept designer at Peter Jackson's Weta Workshop. Paul built the master of the one featured here. Fantastically detailed, covered in copper coils, and radio antennae, the guns have become very popular as a line of limited collectibles, some life-sized and some in miniature.

They proved so popular that there is now touring exhibits of Dr Grorbort's which Paul helped build, and which has toured to Asia and Europe. This gun has sold out as a collectible item and was one of Weta's most exclusive items ever produced.





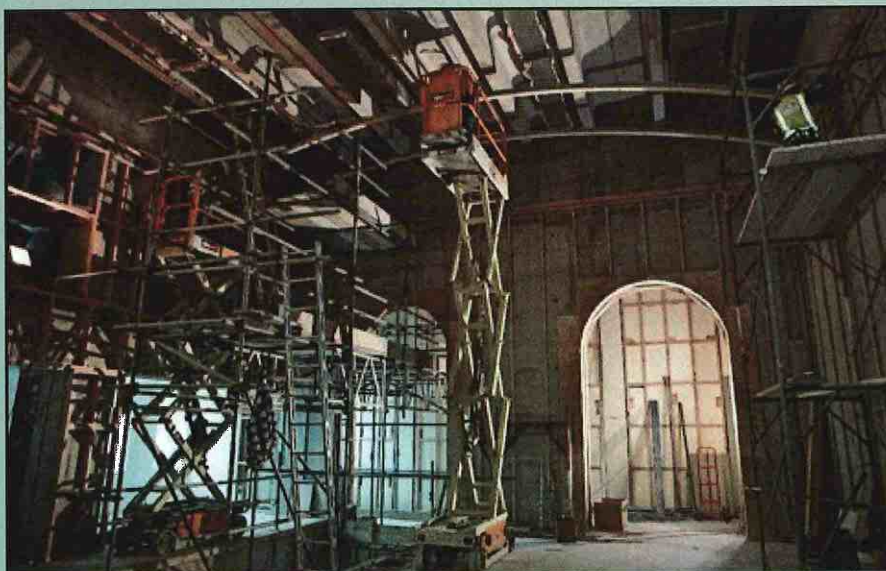
## ***Furniture/cabinet maker***

Paul is an experience cabinet maker with a background in antique restoration, furniture finishing, and the formation and fitting of wooden units, picture framing and museum/shop display techniques. Woodturning is his specialty, as is staining, grain filling, polishing and waxing to high finish. From renovating your home, building cases for your museum or creating a specialty wooden piece, his skill as a woodworker is top class.



## **The Roxy Cinema, 2010–2011**

During 2010–2011, Paul was commissioned to build the grand arches and other interior wooden features of luxurious, state-of-the-art Roxy Cinema in Miramar. This was a solid timber job designed to re-create the glamour of the 1930s, where the importance of period authenticity was important as well as aesthetic appeal.

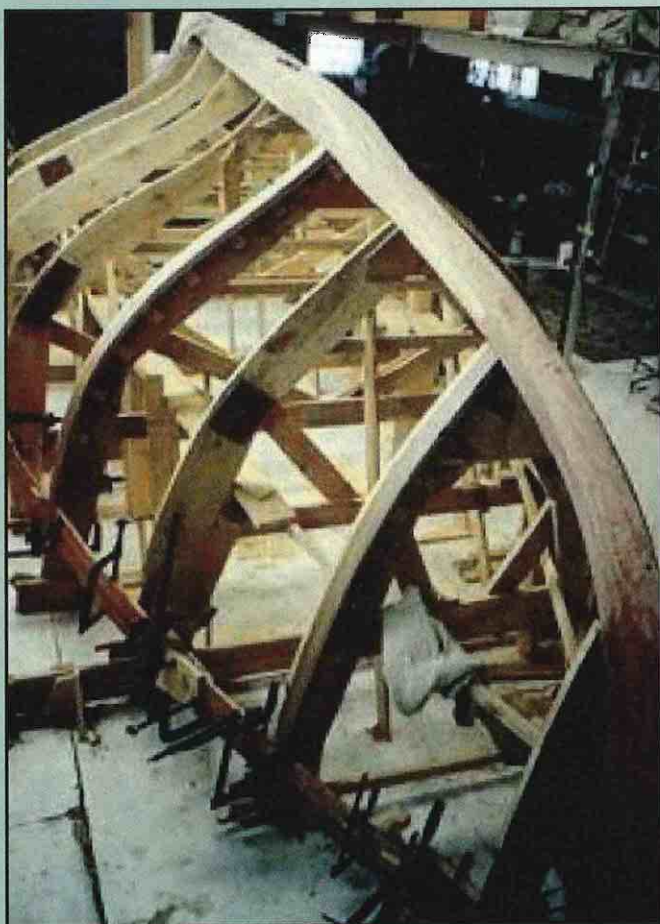




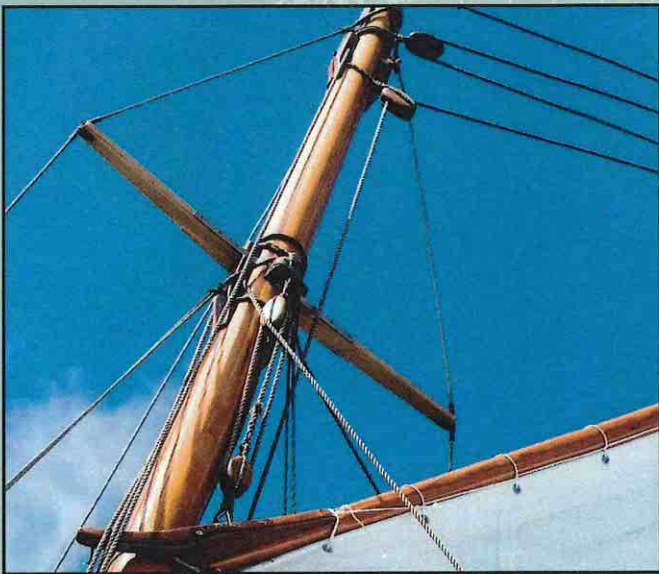
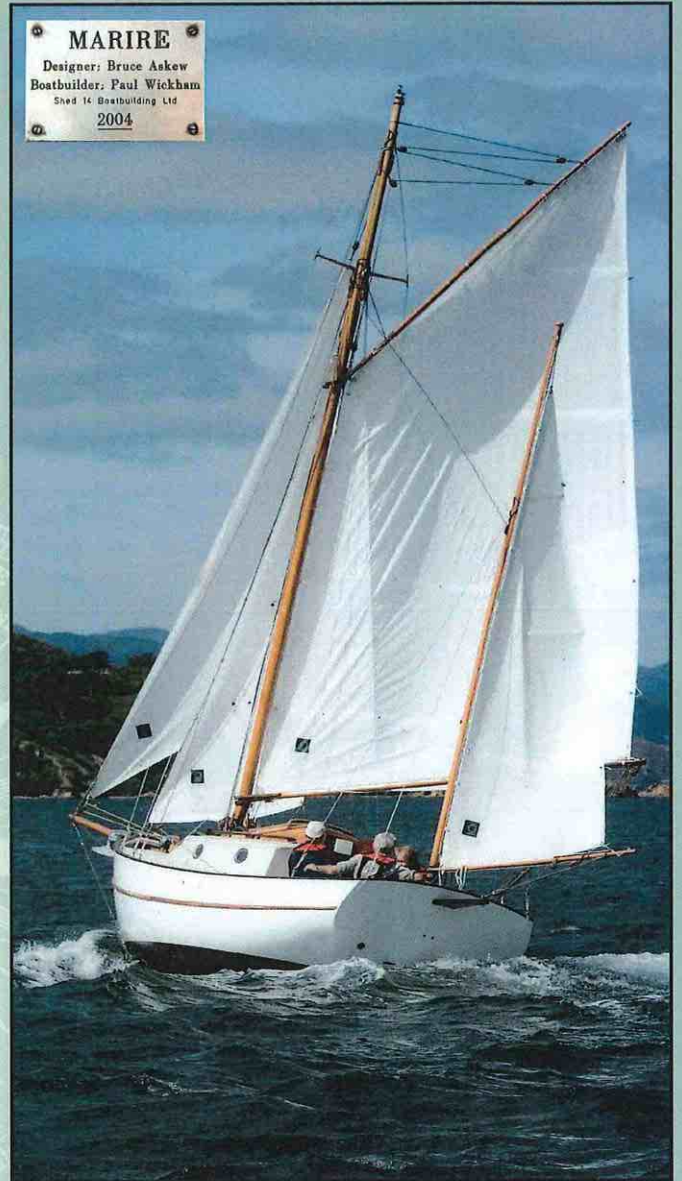
## ***Traditional Wooden Boatbuilding***

In 2000, I established my own company specialising in the construction and restoration of traditional boats. It was during this time that I also finished my wooden boat building apprenticeship, and qualified with a BITO Certificate in Traditional Wooden Boatbuilding.

Ranging from quality wooden cabinetry to the full construction of wooden vessels, my team of 2-6 people worked on a range of boats. Some of the wooden projects included the full construction of the 27ft Gaft yawl rigged yacht, the restoration of a Athol Burns clinker, the interior fit-out of a 1940's classic British fishing boat, and the restoration of a carvel constructed weekend sailor, among many others.

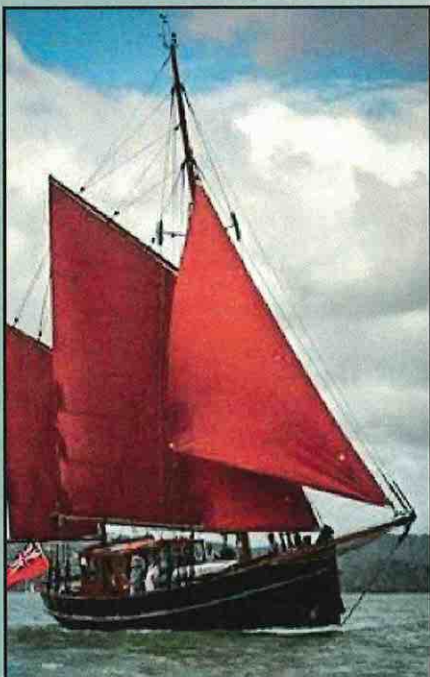






### Restoration of the renowned boat 'Breum'


Breum is a traditional 1925 Gaff ketch of wooden, built of oak in Denmark, and was originally a North Sea fishing vessel. She is 22.2m (74 feet including bowsprit) and at 50 tons, she is a strong, stable, and comfortable craft.





## Boatbuilding

Paul completed his National certificate in wooden boatbuilding (level 4) in 2006. Prior to this he worked on The Breum, on the Chaffers Marina, a famous 60ft Danish Fishing ketch which he helped restore along with a team of 13 other boatbuilders. Paul has worked on many other boat repairs and restorations in various Marinas around the Wellington area which has given him a wide understanding of marina operations including a period with Wellington Boatbuilders. He has also completed his day skippers license in the early 2000s and a kiwi host course in the 1994.




**Paul John Wickham**

I am a KiwiHost. I have successfully completed the KiwiHost training workshop and have made a personal commitment to ensuring that each visitor and customer I come in contact with receives a warm Kiwi welcome, friendly professional service, and a warm invitation to come back again.

*John Banks*  
Hon John Banks  
Minister of Tourism

**Taranaki Enterprise Trust**  
20-5-04

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NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MATURANGA O AOTIAROA

# National Certificate

## Boatbuilding (Wooden) Level 4

This is to certify that in April 2006

**Paul Wickham**

was awarded this qualification by the Boating Industry Training Organisation, accredited under the provisions of the New Zealand Education Act 1989.

**The Common Seal of the Boating Industry Training Organisation**

*Ken Sewell*  
Ken Sewell  
Acting Chief Executive  
NEW ZEALAND BOATING INDUSTRY TRAINING ORGANISATION  
PO BOX 10111, WELLINGTON 6142

