

Basic Detail Report



00030935

Title

Beer Can Boat

Date

2000

Primary Maker

Lutz Frankenfeld

Medium

Beer cans, aluminium, wire netting mesh, bamboo, calico, plastic straps, tape

Dimensions

Display dimensions: 3200 x 4070 x 3300 mm Overall:
1430 x 3610 x 1390 mm

Name

Boat

History

Darwin's Beer Can Regatta is a major tourist attraction in the Northern Territory. Each year crowds gather to cheer as the most outrageous and ingenious boats made from aluminium cans sink or swim in Darwin Harbour. Lutz Frankenfeld started the Beer Can Regatta in 1974. The regatta was first held on the June Queens Birthday weekend and its aim was 'to put Darwin on the tourist map' and to help clean up the litter of cans through the city. To Darwin's surprise the novelty event attracted worldwide attention in the 1970s and '80s. But in the sober 1990s civic leaders, keen to reinvent Darwin's image from a hard-drinking tourist haven, renamed the regatta 'On the Beach'. All vessels are made and raced according to strict rules. The event is promoted and sponsored by local business and community groups, from Apex to the armed forces, and from schools to supermarkets.