

Basic Detail Report



RAAF 011-29

Vessel number

HV000427

Date

1943

Primary Maker

Botterill & Frazer

Description

RAAF 011-29 is a carvel planked launch about 8 metres long. It has a large cockpit space, with narrow side decks, a foredeck and short aft deck. The original engine is unknown, and it is now fitted with a 30 kW Thornycroft diesel engine. It was built as part of the massive war effort around the country which saw commercial and pleasure craft builders employed to build small to medium sized workboats and launches as support craft for enclosed water duties all around Australia and further north where action took place. RAAF 011-29 supported the Catalina and Sunderland flying boats that patrolled looking for Japanese submarines off the NSW coastline. They had a large base at Rose Bay on Sydney Harbour. The launch took crew, passengers and any freight between the aircraft and shore, and probably performed other general duties. After the war when the base was eventually closed to military operations, QANTAS Empire Airlines as they were then known operated the civilian Sandringham version of the four engine Short Sunderland for their international services from Rose Bay, and RAAF 011-29 was used as a tender to support these aircraft. One image shows it towing a single-engine plane, with a background that is not Sydney Harbour, so it is possible it was transferred to another base such as Lake Macquarie during or after the war. RAAF 011-29 retired from work in 1963, and has been a private recreational launch on Sydney Harbour since that time.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 7.92 m x 2.74 m x 0.84 m (26 ft x 9 ft x 2.75 ft)