

Basic Detail Report



Britannia

Vessel number

HV000131

Date

1898

Primary Maker

Richard Davy

Description

BRITANNIA is a 10 metre long seam-batten wooden cutter designed and built by Richard Davy in 1898, and built on Lady Barron Island off north-east Tasmania. It was commissioned by Charles Stephens who was the schoolmaster for the settlements amongst the islands in that area. He needed a vessel to run supplies and is said to have sailed BRITANNIA single-handed amongst the islands and mainland for many years. When it was purchased by the Davis family it became a fishing boat and worked in the D'Entrecasteux Channel off Bruny Island. It took a variety of roles fishing for couta, cray and scalloping as well as carrying occasional cargo and supply loads. The craft has only had three owners, and was with the Davis family from 1910 for almost 100 years. BRITANNIA has a diesel auxiliary motor and is in good condition with major restoration happening during 2006 - 2007. An interesting observation from well known author Garry Kerr is that BRITANNIA started out as a double ender in the style of the passage boats, and would have had its stern 'fanned out' and lengthened to take on the scallop and couta fishing tasks, perhaps as late as in the 1960s. Only a very small number of these craft from the late 1800s are now thought to exist.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 9.75 m x 9.14 m x 3.51 m x 1.07 m, 8.37 tonnes (32 ft x 30 ft x 11.5 ft x 3.5 ft, 8.5 tons)