

# Basic Detail Report

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## RAN 27 Ft Motor Whaler 2717

### Vessel number

HV000213

### Date

1964

### Primary Maker

Royal Australian Navy

### Description

The motor whaler hull is just over 9.0 metres long and about 2.20 metres wide. It is clinker or lapstrake construction, and has three rubbing strips around the gunwales. It was built at the Navy's Garden Island Dockyard where the RAN apprentices learnt their trade. It was a typical project for the apprentices, working with an experienced shipwright. The apprentices learnt practical skills and teamwork by building the vessel. This hull is fitted with thwarts for rowing and a small 10 kW diesel engine. The number 2717 is engraved on the stem, along with the year it was built, 1964. The RAN motor whalers were the same design as the Royal Navy craft. In 1956 the RN had decided to modernise its seaboats with a motorised craft, and redesigned their sailing and rowing version to include a motor. It was officially designated a 27 foot Motor Whaler and unofficially known as a three-in-one whaler. They did not sail or pull very well as they were too heavy, and the RN then changed them to a version designated a 27 foot Motor Whaler Mod 1, which abandoned the sailing rig. The RAN built 13 three-in-ones, numbered 2701 - 2713 from 1961 to 63, and then four Mod 1's numbered 2714 - 2717 from 1963 to 64. This example 2717 was allocated to HMAS MORESBY. The duties of these seaboats were quite varied. At sea they performed man overboard rescues, transfer of stores and personnel between ships, transferring an armed boarding party, recovering practice torpedoes and passing towing lines. In harbour they would assist in securing a ship to a mooring buoy or laying out a kedge anchor, transferring mail, stores and personnel, or laying buoys for survey or salvage operations. They also had a recreational purpose as a pulling boat for naval regattas and if fitted with sail, for sailing races. This whaler has been restored at the Queensland Maritime Museum where it is on display aboard HMAS DIAMANTINA. Before 1961 HMAS DIAMANTINA carried two clinker whalers. Prepared from research provided by the Naval Historical Society of Australia and the Queensland Maritime Museum

### Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 9.03 m x 8.99 m x 2.19 m (29.62 ft x 29.5 ft x 7.2 ft)