

Basic Detail Report



Spray

Vessel number

HV000483

Description

SPRAY is 2.44m long (8 feet) by 710mm wide (28 inches), single chine, and planked up in Australian cedar. It has a true double-ended hull shape about its midsection, and is varnished with a green bottom and the name at the stem.

The topsides and vee bottom panels are a single plank

each, but the deck is in four planks at each end. The small frames are very accurately spaced along the hull and every second frame supports the topsides, joined to its bottom section with a metal bracket acting as a knee. Five planks over the frames form a floorboard or seat throughout the cockpit bottom. It is a very strong structure for such a small craft. The foredeck and aft deck have a coaming or splashboard, and the ends are made into buoyant compartments with bulkheads just under the coamings. The mast has a set of partners with a post and tenon mast step at the keel. It supports a small lug-rigged loose-foot cotton mainsail. There is a bollard cleat on the foredeck and two open cleats aft for sheeting the main, each one delicately cast in brass. A double bladed paddle just over the length of the hull completes the whole arrangement. It is not known if it was made as a single commission, or whether the little canoe was part of a small production run retailed in a more exclusive shop in Sydney or perhaps the eastern suburbs. The canoe has stayed in the same family all its life and now lives with the daughter of its first paddler who was Coleen Hall (1935 -2004). It was given to her and her elder brother John probably in the late 1930s by their grandmother "Granny Waley" who was Lady Waley, wife of businessman and strong charity supporter Sir Frederick Waley. The Halls lived in Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay in Sydney, and they launched the craft from their neighbour's waterfront. Sadly her brother John died quite young, aged only 10, but SPRAY stayed with Coleen as she grew up and then married. When she had a family, SPRAY was still there waiting to be used by the next generation and it went from Sydney on the family holidays to Mt Martha in Victoria. Tied to the family car's roof racks SPRAY was offloaded when they got to the beach and paddled in the shallows. In the late 1990s Coleen's husband did some work on SPRAY so it could be re-launched for his granddaughter Harriet in Rose Bay - the third generation to begin their boating adventures in SPRAY. Grandfather passed away in 2010, and soon after SPRAY left his Darling Point garage to go and live north of the harbour with his children's family.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 2.44 m x 2.44 m x 0.71 m (8 ft x 8 ft x 2.33 ft)