

Basic Detail Report



Port Fairy Lifeboat

Vessel number

HV000045

Date

1857

Primary Maker

James Peake

Description

PORT FAIRY is a 9.2 metre long open boat that was manned by ten oarsmen, steered by rudder and tiller and also controlled with two sweep oars. There was a dipping-lug rig for sailing. It was built in Williamstown and uses the double diagonal planked method common to English lifeboat construction. This keeps the hull watertight despite it being out of the water for long periods. The design came from the builder, William White who built the craft with improvements over the standard design it was based on. These plans were prepared by James Peake, and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The improvements such as more sheer, a slight rocker to the keel profile and more robust construction made PORT FAIRY a better hull to survive in the Southern Ocean and Bass Strait waters off the Victorian coastline. The craft was self righting and self draining. PORT FAIRY remained in service for a long period, from 1857 until 1941. From 1956 until 1975 it served as a dredge for the Moyne River in Port Fairy. It was restored to operating condition in 1996, and in 2006 it remains housed in its original shed and slipway. These structures are heritage listed in Victoria.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 9.22 m x 2.36 m x 0.46 m, 3.94 tonnes (30.25 ft x 7.75 ft x 1.5 ft, 4 tons)