

Basic Detail Report



Matilda

Vessel number

HV000360

Date

1961

Primary Maker

Dorset Boat Co.

Description

MATILDA's design, specifications and tooling were imported from the Dorsett Boat Company in Santa Clara, California USA, where the boat was designed by Dick Dorsett in the late 1950s. Dorsett's lines for the hull shape were taken and styled by Raymond Loewy including the layout and fitout. Loewy was an American industrial designer who had a significant impact on advancing product design during the 1950s and 60s. His work covered a very wide range of items including cars, buses, household appliances and graphic work. The imported craft was manufactured under licence and marketed as a Belmont Caribbean. Using this proven and up-to-date design, International Plastics set up a production line at their factory in Scoresby, Victoria. The boat was widely advertised and became one of a small range of fibreglass craft built by the firm. The 4.6 metre long craft is a double chine, solid fibreglass and polyester resin hull and deck with moulded in stringers. The flared bow and concave hull sections that flatten out at the stern were typical of the era and have since been superseded by convex, deep-vee hull forms. Australian Water Sportsman published a boat test in April 1961 commenting: "quick onto the plane, soft entry through a choppy sea and nimble handling had us convinced in a very short time that HERE was an acquisition to the runabout market." Powerboats like MATILDA were used mostly for waterskiing, a favourite pastime on rivers and lakes and enclosed coastal waters around the country. MATILDA was bought by Charlie Parnis of Botany Bay NSW in 1961 from the NSW agents for the Caribbean range, Waugh and Josephson. Its serial number is 2101. Parnis used the boat until 1987 before selling it to Advance Marine of Botany Bay. The vessel was acquired from Advance Marine in 1988 by the Australian National Maritime Museum and is now part of the National Maritime Collection. MATILDA is in original condition apart from a replacement windscreen which was installed in 1987. It is complete with its original 60 kW (75 hp) Johnson Seahorse outboard, installed by Waugh and Josephson in 1961.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 4.57 m x 1.83 m, 0.46 tonnes (15 ft x 6 ft, 0.45 tons)