

Basic Detail Report



Ambrosia

Vessel number

HV000640

Date

1937

Primary Maker

W D Bailey

Description

The construction of AMBROSIA began in a Sydney backyard in 1937. In 1939 or 1940 the owner and builder left the unfinished yacht to serve in the military during World War 2, but he passed away soon after his return from the war. The yacht then remained unfinished and standing outside for about 40 years. The designer, WD Bailey was one the early designers to concentrate on building a portfolio of stock designs, which he advertised

in Australian Motor Boat and Yachting Monthly. In the early 1980s the unfinished yacht was bought by Allan Le Couter who was a carpenter. He purchased the boat in late 1992 from Hilton Gardener a oyster farmer from Shell Point south of Captain Cook Bridge at Botany Bay. Gardener had lived next door to the boat in a small shed, and knew that the boat had never been in the water. It was launched as TE WAKA, Maori for war canoe, and moored in Double Bay on Sydney Harbour for many years. A subsequent owner kept the yacht at Oyster Bay on the Georges River to the south of Sydney. The hull has been built according to the original detailed plans, but the cabin has a wheelhouse added and the mainsail and rigging arrangement are also slightly different from the configuration drawn by Bailey. It is not uncommon for amateur builders to make changes of this nature to stock designs to suit their own requirements, and the ability to do this is one of the reasons home builders will take on their own project. The current owner has named the yacht AMBROSIA and cruises it along the Queensland coast. The yacht is in good condition and has had an extensive overhaul where the only significant changes were new sails and a new engine.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 8.5 m × 2.74 m × 1.07 m, 5.08 tonnes (27.89 ft × 9 ft × 3.5 ft, 5 tons)