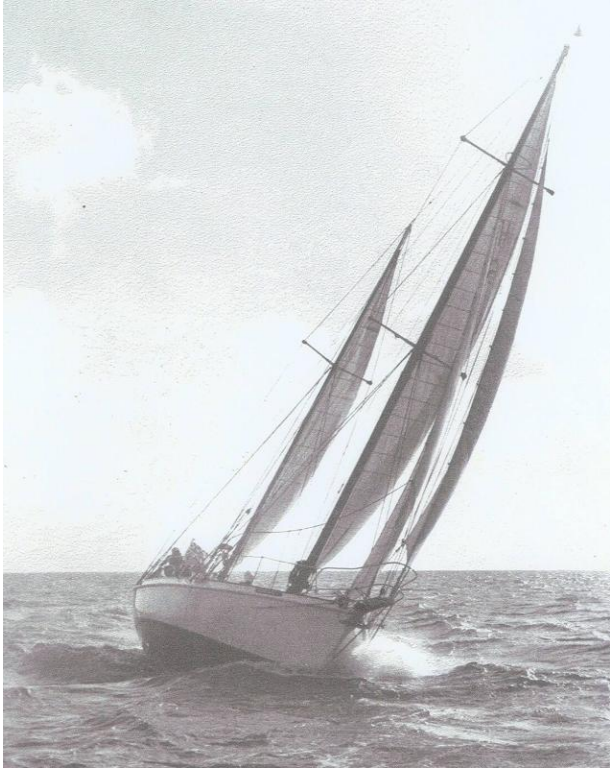


# Basic Detail Report

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## Larapinta

### Vessel number

HV000280

### Date

1945

### Primary Maker

William Gordon

### Description

LARAPINTA was completed in 1945 by professional shipwright William Gordon, but it is understood amateur builder Walter Fabbige had begun building the yacht for himself. At this time it was called SEAFAIRER. While the design is credited to AC Barber it is thought that Barber based the yacht on the style of a Colin Archer designed yacht, and the similar American Atkins' designs. Barber is

known to have adapted the design of PHALAROPE (HV000191) from an Archer lines plan. The canoe stern shape is a typical Barber feature, but the Archer and Atkins designs also had canoe sterns. Peter Mounsey notes that LARAPINTA's stern is probably finer than the more rounded Atkins style. The heavy displacement hull was typical of the sturdy and seaworthy ocean going yachts built post-World War II. Peter Mounsey was a master mariner working on coastal ships when he sailed as navigator aboard one of the entrants in the 1953 Sydney to Hobart race. The ocean racing experience started him thinking about a circumnavigation and the Mounsey's began to plan their voyage. LARAPINTA was purchased in 1954 for 3000 pounds and they set about repairing poor framing. Other changes were also made in preparation for the long voyage. During this four year period Peter and Lesley lived aboard the boat in Mosman Bay. They departed Sydney in late May 1958, sailing north to take the trade winds across the Indian Ocean to South Africa and then up the Atlantic Ocean to England. From there they sailed for home via the West Indies, Panama Canal and South Pacific Islands, returning in 1961. It was a leisurely and satisfying cruise with occasional rough passages. Along the way, the novelty of being a husband and wife cruising couple ensured they met with an inquisitive, and then friendly, reception at the ports they called at. This contrasts with voyages such as the all-male Jack Earl circumnavigation in 1947/48 aboard KATHLEEN GILLETT (HV000042). Although not as widely reported as Earl's famous voyage, the Mounsey's cruise was certainly well known amongst the Australian sailing fraternity. Their voyage on LARAPINTA encouraged other couples and women to undertake ocean cruising. It also gave Peter Mounsey a taste for short-handed sailing. In the 1960s and 70s he became one of the pioneers of short-handed and single-handed ocean racing in Australia. He was also associated with the AUSTRALIA II America's Cup challenge in 1983.

Reference: Bluewater Australians, Peter Fry, ABC 1987

## Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 11.28 m x 3.66 m x 1.83 m, 13.1 tonnes (37 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft, 13.31 tons)