

Basic Detail Report



Hoana

Vessel number

HV000508

Date

1925

Primary Maker

J Hayes & Sons

Description

HOANA was built to the order of Lex Buckle by James Hayes and Sons (Charlie and Frank) in 1925, to race with the SASC. Hayes' yard was in Careening Cove, North Sydney. The 1920s proved to be a strong period for Hayes and Sons, with a number of important racing and cruising yachts coming from their yard, and HOANA was one of the yachts that helped establish their reputation for high quality design and construction. The 9.14 m (30 ft.) long centreboard sloop was built for racing and cruising, planked in New Zealand kauri on spotted gum frames and keel. The plumb stem and stern was a common feature for the period, and Hayes added their trademark low profile, rounded-front cabin house. With a moderate length bowsprit and transom hung rudder, HOANA's hull and rig was a typical configuration that was developed from the Victorian cota boats. Mark Foy introduced the cota boat to Sydney Harbour as a racing yacht with success, and other owners followed his lead into the early 1900s, in particular Fred Lomar and Walter Dendy. The cota boat shape influenced builders such as Hayes, Golding, and CAM Fisher in the subsequent construction of small yachts for the harbour. This created a simple yacht built for racing and cruising on Sydney Harbour, a type called the auxiliary coach house cruiser. A similar but smaller yacht by Hayes called JUNE BIRD (HV000064) now with a modified keel and BETTY (HV000321) a Balmain skiff variant built by Golding, are two other examples of about five that are known to remain extant in Sydney. HOANA represents one of the largest yachts built along those lines, and it proved to be a success. Australian Motor Boat and Yachting Monthly, February 1, 1926 reported HOANA'S launching. "HOANA, the latest addition to the Sydney Amateur Club's register, is the type of cruiser that would make the eyes glisten of any genuine boat lover." The report continues with a description of its construction and fit out, and notes its third place in a race on Pittwater, north of Sydney. In April 1926 HOANA was driven ashore from its mooring in Sirius Cove, Mosman, severely damaged and written off. Australian Motor Boat and Yachting Monthly, May 1, 1926 reported the accident: "HOANA STRIKES TROUBLE" Mr Lex Buckle's beautiful Sydney Amateur cruiser HOANA, broke away from her moorings in Sirius Cove during the heavy weather experienced in April, and finished up almost a total wreck on the rocky shore of the Cove." It went on to report how Buckle climbed aboard and tried to motor the craft free after it grounded, but the yacht ended up jammed in a cave, and by morning HOANA was severely damaged throughout. Lex Buckle commissioned a new identical vessel from Hayes as noted in the article, but as part payment Hayes accepted the damaged yacht. Most of one side had to be rebuilt, a substantial task they managed to

complete for a relaunch in 1927. At the same time the new yacht built from the same moulds for Lex Buckle was launched. The moulds were respaced so that it was 600 mm longer, and it too was called HOANA. This has led to much confusion, as the new and longer HOANA then raced with SASC and remained on the Harbour until 1947. In the meantime the original HOANA was cruised by Frank Hayes and his family and it is understood HOANA may have been changed to a Bermudan cutter rig during this period. In 1947 John MacLurcan bought the yacht, and it re-joined SASC, just as its longer namesake headed to Queensland, where it is understood it was lost in the 1960s in an accident. Maclurcan was allocated the number A44, but later in 1947 he sold it to well-known Sydney Harbour sail maker Harry West, who changed it back to a short gaff mainsail and it was given A46 as a number. West won many races in HOANA. Its next owner in 1950 was sail maker Keith Brown, who later carried on the traditional sail making skills of Harry West and kept them alive in the modern era of synthetic cloths. He also carried on HOANA's winning ways with SASC. Over the period from 1947 to 1958 at SASC HOANA secured the Kelly Cup, two Gold medals, the FC Agar trophy and many individual race wins. In 1958 it left the club under owner HE Cooke, but came back to SASC in 1959 when Joe Adams and his wife Anne bought HOANA for cruising. In 1963 they sailed out of the heads for New Zealand, and returned a year later. In 1964 Joe took the centreboard out after it rattled in the case and kept them awake on the Tasman crossing. The couple then set off to cruise the Whitsunday Islands, and ended up doing a much more ambitious voyage, circumnavigating the world. They left in 1965, sailing north to the islands, and from there they decided to sail on to Europe. The cruise continued and eventually they were on the return voyage, crossing the Atlantic, passing through the Panama Canal, then finally sailing across the Pacific Ocean. In the Pacific, north of New Zealand they encountered a major cyclone but HOANA proved to be as capable in the ocean as it always had been on the Harbour. Their three year voyage ended back on Sydney Harbour in 1968, and they remained living aboard until HOANA while they built a house at Towlers Bay on Pittwater, NSW. Joe ran a telephone cable out to the boat while the house was under construction, and when they went sailing, the telephone was left in the dinghy at the mooring. The phone then rang on occasions to everyone's amusement. Once Joe had finished the house he then managed to return the yacht to its original gaff rig configuration. This improved its performance and it did well in fleet racing on Pittwater. HOANA was sold to Frank Bird in 1978, and he then sold it in 1979 to Hank Kaufmann another well known yacht designer. In 1986 HOANA was sold to William Chadwick in 1986, and then to the current owner in 1987. In 2009 he reinstated the centreboard and HOANA won its third Gold medal in the subsequent season. In 2012 HOANA is still used almost exclusively for what it was built for 92 years ago - racing both summer and winter series on Sydney Harbour with SASC and attending traditional yacht events and regattas, where it is appreciated for its original condition and configuration.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 9.14 m x 8.99 m x 3.05 m x 1.22 m, 6.61 tonnes (30 ft x 29.5 ft x 10 ft x 4 ft, 6.5 tons)