

Basic Detail Report



Rio-Rita

Vessel number

HV000175

Date

1936

Description

RIO-RITA is a carvel planked, canoe-sterned launch about 9.75 m long. Axel used it as his own private launch and also made it available for charter at Port Lincoln. It

remains in the same configuration as it was when launched, with an open cockpit aft of the low cabin house and saloon. A diesel engine was installed in the late 1960s to replace the original petrol motor. All of the original structure has been retained, and the vessel is on display out of the water and under cover at the Axel Stenross Maritime Museum in Port Lincoln. Axel Stenross was born in Finland around the turn of the century and left home for a life on the high seas. He sailed on the last of the square-rigged ships, and some of his voyages took him to Boston Bay and Port Lincoln in South Australia, where he eventually settled in 1927. He and a partner Frank Laakso set up a boatbuilding business in Port Lincoln constructing fishing craft, launches and dinghies. Axel passed away aged 84, still making boats at his yard, and this yard has been kept intact just as it was to form the foundation of the Axel Stenross Maritime Museum. The workshop and slipway are still in use as a maintenance and repair facility for local vessels. Update August 2023: RIO-RITA is maintained in good condition by volunteers at the Axel Stenross Maritime Museum in Port Lincoln.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 9.75 m x 9.75 m x 2.7 m x 0.8 m, 6 tonnes (31.99 ft x 31.99 ft x 8.86 ft x 2.62 ft, 6.1 tons)