

# Basic Detail Report

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## Boarding Boat No 3

### Vessel number

HV000581

### Description

Boarding Boat Number 3 is 5.85m long, clinker built, painted white throughout, and fitted with four thwarts supported by double knees. There are chaffing battens fitted through the middle of the hull to protect the edge of the topside strakes where the hull wears against the side of the ship or pilot vessel while the crew and pilot are boarding the tender. It has lifting eyes forward and aft. Life lines are fitted forward each side and it has a rope fender on stem. Chiselled into the starboard stringer near the stem is the inscription "No 3". The pilot steamer BIRUBI was built at the Walsh Island Government Dockyard in Newcastle and was launched on 19 August 1927. It carried boarding boats including this craft No 3, and therefore BIRUBI may have been built at the same dockyard at the same time. However it is also possible the construction is more recent as the craft were operated in a rough environment, and rotated for use with reserve tenders stored ashore. They were occasionally replaced during the pilot vessel's lifetime, and this vessel may have been built at Garden Island later than 1927. The boarding boats were used to transfer pilots to waiting vessels at sea. The open boats were lowered over the side and a crew of two or three rowed the pilot to or from the waiting vessel. BIRUBI was based in Newcastle but was also used as the relieving pilot steamer on Sydney Harbour whenever the Pilot Boat CAPTAIN COOK III was having a refit. BIRUBI was broken up at Sydney in 1965. Boarding Boat Number 3 was saved from the vessel possibly by the Maritime Services Board of NSW, and its subsequent use or disposal is not recorded. The boat was donated by the Scout Movement of Australia to the Newcastle Maritime Museum in 1973. It is understood to have come from around Kempsey. It was accessioned in 1975 and given the number 1975/121.

### Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 5.85 m x 1.92 m (19.19 ft x 6.3 ft)