

OUR BOAT: *ERICA*-‘THE FRENCH MISTRESS’

Phil and Peta Stump are proud owners of the 1992 Beneteau Oceanis 400, *Erica*, designed by Group Finot. They purchased *Erica* in April 2007 in Pittwater after selling their Farr 7500 *Quadrifoglio*.



Phil and Peta Stump

“With good seamanship, careful preparation and knowing your own capabilities and those of your boat, you can sail any boat almost anywhere in the world,” Phil maintains.

The Stumps basic criteria when they set out looking for a new boat were:

- Easy handling for two with controls in the cockpit
- Private accommodation in 3 cabins – 2 couples plus 1 (as many of their friends have children)
- Step through transom for easy dinghy access, swimming/snorkelling and landing fish
- Wheel steering and a cockpit suitable for entertaining
- Seaworthy and easily maintained

In addition at the time of purchase *Erica* had:

- HF Radio (unusual but welcome addition)
- VHF Radio
- Speed, Depth and Wind instruments
- 3 showers (1 on the transom)

“*Erica* met our basic criteria but didn’t have everything we needed for cruising and was in need of some extra loving attention,” Phil explains. “Before the trip to Brisbane, we replaced the compass which was unreadable and added a chart plotter to the helm, as well as replacing the standing rigging and keel bolts. But essentially she’s remained the Pittwater daysailer we first encountered.”

When they arrived back in Brisbane in late 2008 Phil and Peta developed a ‘wish list’ of enhancements gleaned from discussions with other cruisers during the previous seven months. Work undertaken in 2008/2009 included:

- Davits for Dinghy which incorporated:
 - 4 X 80watt BP Solar Panels
 - Raymarine Radar linked to Nav station and Helm Chart plotters
 - External 3G Phone Aerial 6.2 dBi (excellent)
 - TV aerial
 - Improved positioning of GPS aerial
 - Boarding/deck lights
 - Extension of bimini for rainwater collection
- 2 X 220AHr Deep Cycle Seamate Batteries
- 40 Amp, 240v fast battery charger
- 80 Amp Engine Alternator
- Larger and more efficient fridge cooling plates
- Xantrex Battery Monitor – Every boat should have something like this as it’s your electrical ‘fuel gauge’
- 70 metres of 10mm galv anchor chain (35m retained as spare with original 35lb anchor)
- 45lb (20kg) Manson Supreme Anchor (excellent for sand, coral and mud, but to be reviewed now cruising in SA and needing to accommodate sea grass)

Erica’s (Beneteau Oceanis 400) specifications are:

- LOA: 11.98m (39’9”), LWL: 10.80m (35’ 6”)
- Beam: 3.95m (12’11”), Draft: 1.65m (5’ 8”)
- Displacement: 7.500 kg, Ballast: 2.500 kg (Cast iron keel)
- 50hp Perkins Prima Diesel
- 150 litre diesel capacity (approx. 420nm range)
- 660 litre water capacity in 2 tanks
- Mainsail: 30 m², Genoa: 50 m²
- 6 Berths in 3 Cabins plus saloon settee

Read about bringing *Erica* to RSAYS on page 29.

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