

KEITH FLINT - Sailing Yacht **AQUILLA** - SA993S



Approaching 87 years of age, Keith Flint would be South Australia's distinguished statesman of yachting.

That he was born in 1921 on Boxing Day (26th December), the very day they start the renowned Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, was almost an omen in his life with Keith and his brother Tom having both developed a love for sailing and the sea commencing from an early age with the model yachts their father bought from England for them in the 1930's.

Keith's sailing progressed from a 12 foot cadet sailing dinghy purchased for then a princely sum of 25 pounds, was interrupted by service in World War II before he acquired a basic 25 foot wooden boat "Osprey" which had no amenities but enabled him to continue to pursue his love of sailing.

Since these humble beginnings, Keith has owned over 20 yachts, his competitive spirit for yacht racing had led to him acquiring longer, faster and definitely more comfortable yachts.

The most outstanding and publicly recognised of these being Helsal II, which featured in the television footage for the infamous 1998 Sydney to Hobart that many may recall seeing as the large dark blue yacht bashing through furious windswept seas in what tragically proved to be a fatal storm. Despite these conditions Helsal was able to successfully complete the race making it Keith's 6th Sydney to Hobart race at an age of 77.

Keith purchased Aquilla early in 2007 in Mooloolaba, having since sailed well in excess of 2,000 miles including the voyage back to Adelaide from Mooloolaba and also several cruises to Port Lincoln, where he is the patron of the Yacht club. Keith now permanently lives onboard Aquilla.

Keith's ambition is to still be able to be at sea enjoying sailing at the age of 100.

Aquilla is a **Davidson 60 Ketch** of **Ferro-cement construction**.

Boasting 4 double bedrooms and bunks for another 4, 2 toilets and showers, onboard power generation, an expansive fully equipped kitchen and dining area, Aquilla would arguably be the most comfortable and impressive yacht in the state.

- * Hull professionally laid up in New Zealand in 1974,
- * Purchased as an unfinished project and not completed until 1996, ending up in the USA with the previous owner Gene, having been registered in ALASKA.
- * Gene spent over 2 years cruising across the Pacific with only himself, wife and daughter onboard (*only a baby when they started their voyage, the first few years of her life were spent growing up at sea.*)
- * Length: 19m
- * Beam: 5m
- * Main mast: 22m (*above deck*)
- * Mizzen mast: 15m (*above deck*)
- * Weight: 40 tons (*approx*)