

**R.T. SEARLES & SONS BOATBUILDERS
1913 - 1977**

Richard Tuson (DICK) SEARLES
20 APRIL 1878 to 16 FEBRUARY 1974 (96 YEARS)

Richard William (BILL) SEARLES
3 JANUARY 1906 to 11 JULY 1970 (64 YEARS)

Edward George (TED) SEARLES
14 NOVEMBER 1907 to 3 JULY 1998 (90 YEARS)

Leslie Gordon (LES) SEARLES
13 JANUARY 1910 to 16 OCTOBER 1985 (75 YEARS)

Richard Tuson Searles was the founder of the business, born at Milang in South Australia on 20 April 1878. He was a member of the committee that built the first clubhouse of the Port Adelaide Sailing Club, in Victoria Road, Birkenhead opposite General Motors Holden's where a horse stable is now situated (now since removed).

He served as a trooper in the Boer War in South Africa with the Fifth (South Australian Imperial Bushmen's) Contingent. The contingent left Australia on 9 February 1901 and returned April 27 1902.

He worked with Ben Weir in building the 60 ft motor launch '**Avocet**' for Arthur & Ernest Rymill which was launched in 1912. The first "Avocet" was destroyed by fire before it was completed (rats and wax matches).

Ben Weir's shed was next to Fletcher's Slipway, close to the Mundy Street ferry steps. He also worked with Alf Pickhaver whose shed was next door to the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron. Alf Pickhaver's shed and slipway are now occupied by Mac Lawrie's Diving and Marine.



R T Searles commenced in business about 1913 in premises where Central Slipping Co is now situated in Jenkins Street, Birkenhead.

Motor Launch 'Helen' 1915

In August 1914 he launched the 32ft motor launch '**Prowler**' built for Messrs Ellery & Loutit. This was followed by the 32ft motor launch