



NEWS EVENTS ABOUT ARCHIVE



DONATE

FLIGHT OF FANCY

RESTORATION
12 Jul



Thanks to our regular contributor **Malcolm Lambe** for this boat report from Pittwater. And look out for his upcoming comprehensive story on his own craft the 1956 Laurent Giles EOS

CLASSIC CRUISER 47 FT MV FLIGHT WAS BUILT EARLY WORLD WAR II YEARS BY C.D. SAUNDERS AT NORFOLK TASMANIA OUT OF HUON PINE-INCLUDING THE RIBS. SHE IS NOW BEING REBUILT BY MACKENZIE MARINE AT GONSALVES BOATSHED, PALM BEACH NSW

This vessel has sunk several times. At the last sinking she must have been on the bottom quite a while as teredo worms have eaten into the deck and other places on the boat.

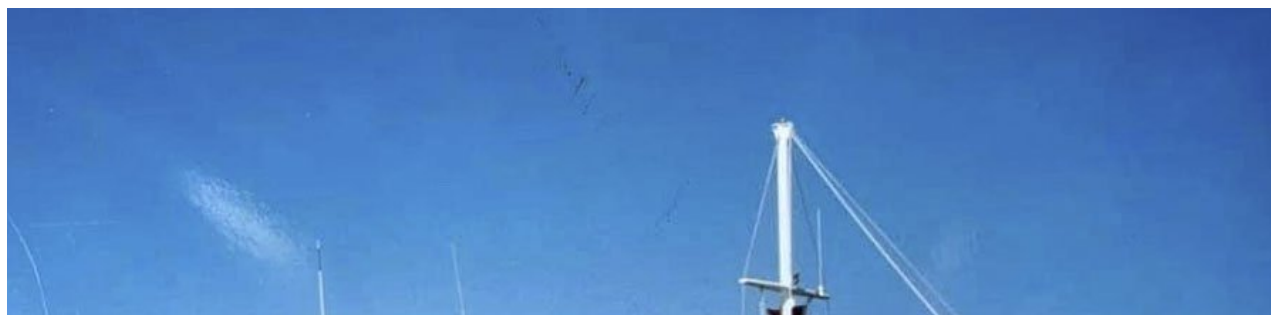


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She was re-floated a couple of years back, patched and caulked in places and towed by a small trawler from Middle Harbour to Pittwater where a custom slip was built so she could be moved on to the hard- quite a tricky operation.

Ian Begg and his team have gutted her, rebuilt the keel and replaced the Huon Pine ribs with 140 new steam bent laminated hardwood timbers. The bottom Huon planks are also being replaced up to the waterline with hardwood.





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FLIGHT was used as a Patrol Boat on the Tamar River in the last years of the War. Thereafter , she was used as a pleasure craft, the Flag Vessel for the Derwent Sailing Squadron and hosted the Queen and Prince Phillip during the Royal Tour of 1954





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She crossed Bass Strait many times and circumnavigated Tasmania twice. In about 1998 she steamed to Sydney where she remained. Flight is listed on the register of Tasmania's 100 most important Vessels.

THOSE THAT SURVIVE

Flight

Type: Motor Yacht.
 Tonnage: 27 gross, 22 net register.
 Dimensions: 42.9 x 13.4 x 5.9ft.
 Built: Tasmania 1943 by F. C. D. Saunders.

Little appears to be known about the early history of this superb example of the 1940s gentleman's launch, which is first noted being for sale by S. C. Leverton



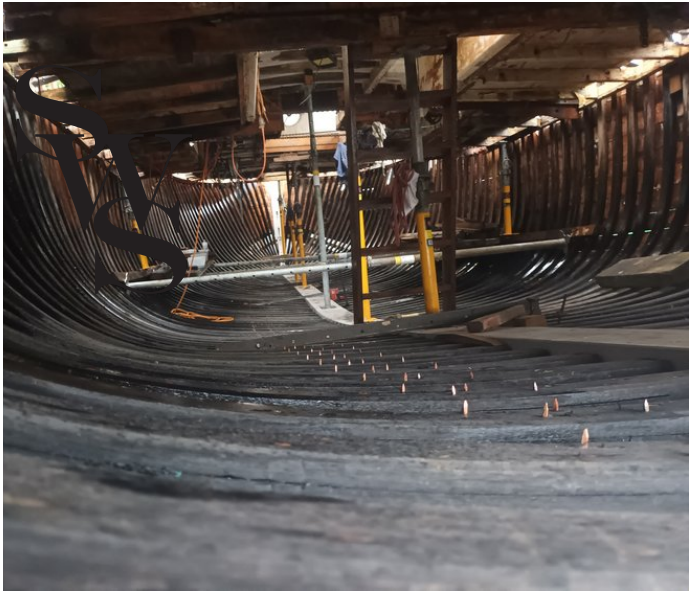


of New Norfolk in July 1946. She was first registered at Port Adelaide in 1975, when owned by Lars Stenhall, and her register was closed in 1987. By that time she was in Tasmanian waters, this photograph being taken in Storm Bay during the start of the Tall Ships Race to Sydney in January 1988. Her current owner is M. W. Grimwood.

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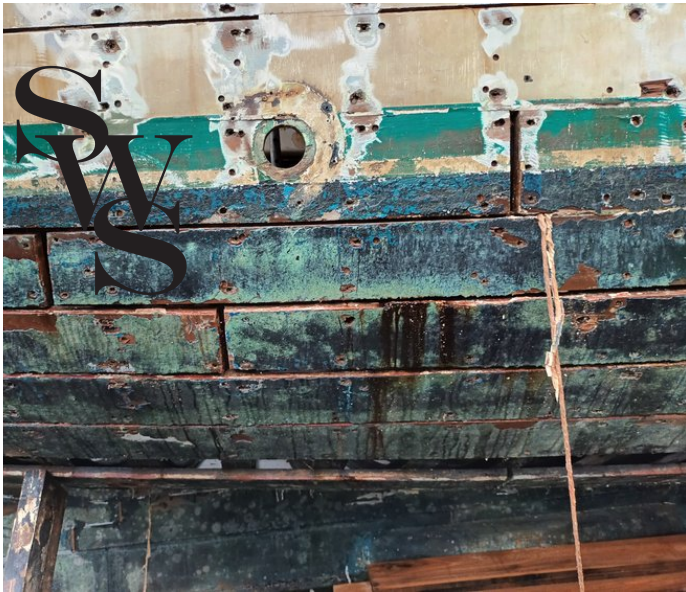




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Quite a project this one...Current custodian Andrew Sefton is to be applauded for his vision- and bravery!





COMMENTS (1)

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Mark Chew A week ago · 0 Likes

I received your newsletter this morning and was delighted to see an article on the plight and renovation of the vessel 'Flight'. At RSAYS we have a History Group digitising a lot of records and thought the following excerpt might help fill in some of the earlier history of 'Flight' here in South Australia.

FLIGHT written by Squadron History Group

'Flight' is a very large power boat built by Saunders. She has 48ft LOA; 14ft beam; a 4ft 6 inch draft, with a Perkins diesel engine. During WWII 'Flight' was part of the Naval Auxiliary Patrol. She was owned by Sir Arthur Barrett (known as Bob) and served as Committee Boat for the Prince Philip Cup for Dragons in Dec 1963, whilst owned by him. 'Flight' also served as the RSAYS Committee Boat during 1976 including for the Port Lincoln Race which began under atrocious conditions: heavy rain, strong wind, a cross sea and poor visibility - resulting in the slowest Port Lincoln Race in history. 'Flight' has done extensive fishing and cruising beyond local waters. When sold by Bob Barrett, she was delivered to Launceston by Trevor Manoel for Ollie Stenhall. 'Flight' now resides in Hobart with Michael Grimwood.

If you log on to rsays.com.au

Choose About and from the drop down box Digital History Archive

Choose Vessel notes and Photos and under the folder 'F' - Flight - there are a few images which might be of interest.

Kind regards

Chris Henshall



DOUBLE-DECKERS, WITH PROPELLERS-

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“WE THE NAVIGATORS” AT F

DONATE

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