

R.T. SEARLES & SONS BOATBUILDERS
1913 - 1977

The 35ft motor launch '**Clare**' for Mr. Keith Raphael still in use at Coffin Bay.



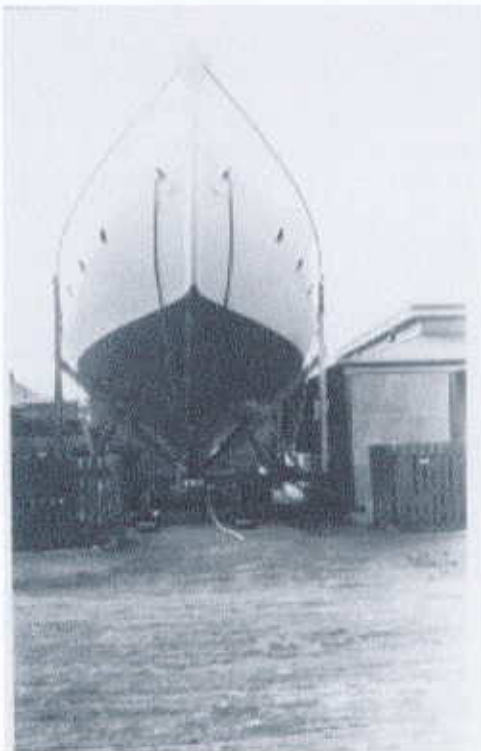
A 20ft motor launch unnamed for Mr. A Allison of Glenelg River, Victoria.

The 40ft motor launch '**Beth**' for Mr. Thomas A Webb (RSAYS) grain merchant. He moved to New Zealand and shipped the "Beth" there. Later, alterations were made and the "Beth" steamed back to Port Adelaide by Mr. Webb and his three sons still with the original engine which was a 6 cylinder Ailsa Craig 28h.p. (Petrol).

R W & E G joined the business in 1927 (late). Most work was by hand machinery that consisted of circular saws, buzzer and electric drills.

In 1928, the 56ft '**Nautilus**' was built for Mr. Frank Verco (RSAYS) (Milling Co). Designed by John Alden of USA on the lines of the Gloucester fishing boats, she was built of 1½ inch jarrah planking with New Zealand kauri topsides and deck. The boat was moved to the Central Slip where the lead keel was fastened on before launching. The "**Nautilus**" was used by Mr. Verco for several years before being sold to the Livingston Brothers of the South East and renamed **Kurrewa III**. The "**Kurrewa III**" sailed in several Sydney - Hobart races.

The rig was changed from gaff ketch to cutter rig.



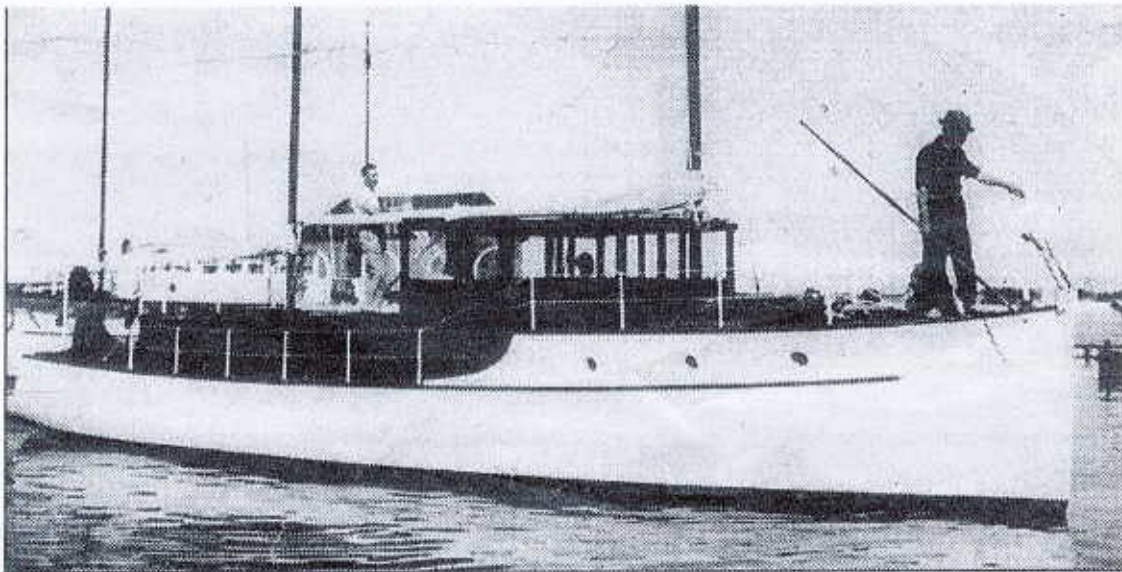
Left: The biggest boat built at 3 Waverley St Largs was the "**Nautilus**", a 56footer
Right: Richard T Searles 1916

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The **"Kurrewa III"** sailed in the San Francisco to Honolulu Race (2 weeks on the one tack).

The yacht was taken over by the RAAF during the war and served in the Darwin area. The **"Nautilus"** is back in Sydney under its original name and rig. (Gaff rig ketch).

The 45ft motor launch **'Para'** for Mr. S R Delmont of Unley, launched in 1929, was also built of 1½ inch jarrah planking with New Zealand kauri topsides and deck. The **'Para'** was used by the Navy Auxiliary Patrol during World War II, leading to some criticism. She was stationed at Birkenhead. The **'Para'** was the last large vessel built at Largs Bay.



The **'Para'** at the Royal SA Yacht Squadron at Port Adelaide

The workshop was moved to Jenkins Street in 1929 (next to the RAN boatshed) and a partnership was formed by RT, RW, EG & LG trading as R T Searles & Sons. A slipway was constructed.



The first boat to be built was the 66ft Motor Launch **"Martindale"** for Mr. J T Mortlock.