

***Redback II* (1984 - 2019)**

Redback II has seen three generations of the same family racing and cruising her over a period of 35 years: Brian and Jan Snowden, their children and grandchildren – all recorded in Brian's Log Books.

Brian launched his 'Farr 11.6' *Redback II* – a Bruce Farr designed 11.6m fibreglass cruiser/racer, built by Binks Yachts, with a teak interior fitout constructed by Brian - at RSAYS on 15 May 1984.

Farr – a NZ yacht designer – had designed the Farr 11.6 for both fast racing and comfortable cruising; with easy handling and without reference to any handicap rule. The fibreglass hull was thin/light but designed with closely spaced fibreglass stringers formed over 12.5cm wide bevelled strips of polyurethane foam, which made the hull very strong – Lloyds of London approved the design as complying with commercial standards (suitable for charter).

Redback II competed in Division 1 in both Inshore and Offshore races during her first decade, and she was often placed in the top three on handicap.

Unfortunately *Redback II* (and crew!) experienced two dismastings whilst racing in St Vincent Gulf, both due to failure of stainless steel rigging, and causing *Redback II* to be out of action for some time - in February 1992 she lost her mast in the Island Cup offshore race and in January 2013 she was dismasted in the Kaesler Cup sternchaser race.

After her first dismasting *Redback II* settled back to racing successfully in the summer season Inshore Series of races, and occasional Trophy and Cup Races.

Redback II was moved from her RSAYS chain mooring in April 2002, to Brian and Jan's North Haven marina berth below their new over-the-water apartment (designed by architect Brian).

In 2003 *Redback II* had a second wind when Brian's daughter Amanda Wilksch, and her three children Tom, Sam and Sophie, returned from 13 years' living (and sailing) in the UK, and joined the crew. Brian's grandchildren had obviously inherited the competitive racing bug because they continued to do well in the Farr 11.6, now in her twenties.

After racing *Redback II* for some 30 years, 'Old Salt' Brian finally hung up his oilskins and handed over the rudder to his grandson Sam Wilksch, who raced her in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 Kaesler Series (in Division 2 with a smaller mainsail), doing his grandfather proud.

Over 35 years *Redback II* did many cruises with various family members, in particular to Kangaroo Island. She made her final 'Snowden Family' cruise to the Island on the 2019 Australia Day long weekend.

In September 2019 *Redback II* was sold and is now berthed at Port Adelaide Sailing Club.

Written by Amanda Wilksch (nee Snowden), August 2020