



Lake Macquarie Classic Boat Association inc.

The Adoration of Wooden Boats

January 2025 (limited edition)



Happy New



Year



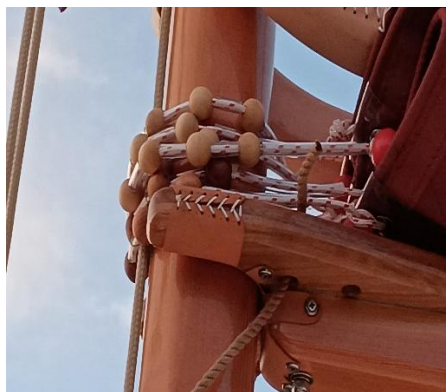
Halvorsens 100 years of boat building

"Iolanthe" 36' Bridge Deck Motor Cruiser designed and built by L. Halvorsen for Mr. A.G Wilson and completed in June 1933. Photo taken in Macquarie Street on her way to the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

President _ Steve Price

**Very Busy getting his
selway fisher**

***ptarmigan* ready
for its Big Launch ..**



Presidents report for December 2024

Well, the year has drawn to a close and my boat still hasn't hit the water, but it is getting close!

We've had a productive year with a lot of boats coming and going and the interest in rowing seems to be growing, especially with the Tuesday crew.

The year end was saddened by the loss of a keen member due to complications from an accident so please keep safe and take care in the new year!

My program of thinning out unwanted tools and better arranging what we have is ongoing but making a big improvement in WS1, I'm waiting to see what else we can get rid of at Boat Bitz before finalising the new setup.

A similar program is to be undertaken in WS2 so there will be more room and tools etc will be easier to find.

We can look forward to new cordless tools in the new year as we are changing over to Makita once the fixed deposit matures so give some consideration to whether or not you'd like to purchase any of the old Ryobi tools. Those not sold to members will be donated to Pacific Island charity groups.

I hope we all have a happy 2025

Steve



BOATFEST – BOAT BIT BONANZA 2025

Boatfest on Lake Macquarie at Rathmines Park is on again Sunday 16th February 2025. This year the Classic Boatshed people will host RAID boats from far and wide.

The Boatshed now has its own sailing division sporting two Sabot Dinghy's, a Heron, a 16ft Petite Brise from Selay Fisher and a Nutshell pram sailing dinghy (To be launched on the day)

Member boats will include a Catspaw dinghy, a Shearwater and a St Ayles Skiff. There will be the Viking Boat and the magic ski boat Rhythm II will be on the water.

If you would like to bring along your favorite boat or if you have boat bits to sell (site cost \$10), come along. If you simply want to check out the treasures on sale at Boat Bits Bonanza don't forget the trailer.

More information call Bill on 0428 59 9953 or email info@classicboatassociation.org.au

First Aid training; 14th January There is room for more members to attend this training . Training was postponed due to Xmas and some members unavailable on dates selected. About 7 hrs at the RSL and lunch and another good meaningful but social day .

Safety Issues from Terry Parko..



Housekeeping and PPE
Five S's of good housekeeping involves the principle of waste elimination through workplace organisation. 5s was derived from the Japanese words seiri, seiton, seiso, seiketsu, and shitsuke. In English, they can be roughly translated as sort, set in order, clean, standardise, and sustain.



Planning , PPE , and they cleaned up after

The Rowing group – Australia day adventure

Rowers will have a great day on Australia day when LMCBA rowers **row the length of the lake** Leaving from Speers point early and with a planned stops to change crews at wangi point about 10.30-11am they then head to Chain Valley along with many Kayaks doing the same that day ..then on Trailer to return

Projects progress

There was lots of progress but a short month with Christmas and new year and etc getting in the way of our many projects and fun ...



First paddle of the upstairs Canoe

However below is a good read on the famous Halvorsen family . But first our local involvement and comments

One of the famous Halvorsen Yachts built and raced was **ANITA V** referred to in the following story. Discussing this and my long held dream to sail on her when Wal pipes up *Paraphrased*

" I was there at the launching in 1956??. I had displeased my employer who banned us from using the dinghy to cross over the river to the Ryde Halvorsen sheds so we grabbed a large plank and used that so we could paddle across to the major launching of the yacht ." *Ignore the sharks*

Our venerable Wal always has an interesting story to tell from his many years of boating involvement.



HALVORSEN

A close link with our wooden boat building and with Rathmines with the WW2 Airforce base being home to a very large number of Halvorsen's iconic boats .

Australian Wartime Achievement: Over 200 Service Craft from 22 ft. to 112 ft. in Length Constructed at the Halvorsen Yard',

Among them them the fast crash rescue boats the boat below is as original and on display at Point Cook in Vic



. Karrawa to right is modified with superstructure added as a cruising boat Built in 1943 Karrawa began life as No 08-41. She was one of **147 38' launches built** by Lars Halvorsen, as part of a wartime contract for the Department of Munitions.. Karrawa served the nation as RAAF crash boat 08-41, a speedy coastal rescue craft and seaplane tender. She was stationed at **Rathmines on Lake Macquarie**. She had twin Chrysler Royal straight 8 petrol engines and was capable of 28 knots. She has a double diagonal oregon plank planing hull.

The History

Kindly provided to LMCBA by Philip Brown current owner of the classic yacht Anitra V

Lars Halvorsen Sons Pty Ltd Ryde 1954



Lars Halvorsen and his family came to Sydney in 1924–25 from Arendal in Norway following a stay of two years in South Africa. Lars, at the age of 35, travelled alone to Capetown to investigate establishing a boat building business.

Due to the uninsured total loss of a trading sailing vessel he had built, and of which he was a part owner, Lars had lost all his money and his reputation in Norway had been damaged. He was thus seeking a new life for his family away from Norway. His skills were in boat building and his aim was to establish a new business building boats.

Lars set up in Capetown as a boat builder and later entered a boatbuilding business partnership. He designed and built several yachts, based on Norwegian design principles, which were much acclaimed by the local yachting fraternity in the Royal Capetown Yacht Club.

However, despite early success and making enough money to purchase a cottage to accommodate his wife and seven children who had followed him to Capetown, neither Lars nor his wife Bergithe found the life in Capetown really suited them, nor had prospects to develop a big enough boat-building business in which their five sons might participate.

In late 1924, with introductions to contacts in Sydney, Lars sold his share of the boat-building partnership and their house, leaving his wife and children in Capetown to live in a shed and a tent at a seaside village over summer. He travelled by ship to Sydney to investigate opportunities to establish a boat building business, arriving in early December 1924. His eldest son Harald, aged only 14, also arrived in December having travelled as crew on a sailing ship which landed him in Adelaide, followed by a train trip to meet his father in Sydney on Christmas Day.

Lars quickly obtained a contract to build his first Australian yacht, Sirius, and rented a boatshed in Drummoyne. Lars designed the yacht on which he and his young son Harald immediately started work. Having established a source of income, Lars sent for Bergithe and the remaining six children who arrived by ship in Sydney on 16 February 1925.

The rest of the Halvorsen family story has become an Australian legend of boat-building success. The business survived the Depression and by the mid-1930s four sons, Harald, Carl, Bjarne and Magnus, were working in the family boat-building business with their father. The youngest son Trygve, born in 1920, was still at school. All was going well post-Depression and the business had an increasing order book to construct work boats and cruisers of varying sizes.



"Iolanthe" 36' Bridge Deck Motor Cruiser designed and built by L. Halvorsen for Mr. A.G Wilson and completed in June 1933. Photo taken in Macquarie Street on her way to the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

A major setback for the family occurred when Lars contracted osteomyelitis and died at the young age of only 49 in 1936. By this time all his sons were working in the boat building business. The five sons carried on the business in what became the famous brand name of "Lars Halvorsen Sons".

During the second World War the Halvorsen boatyard, then operating five slipways at Ryde on the Parramatta River, built over 250 vessels for the American and Australian military forces, including tenders and barges plus the fast 38 foot air-sea rescue boats, the 62 foot supply boats and the famous 112 foot Fairmile rescue boats.



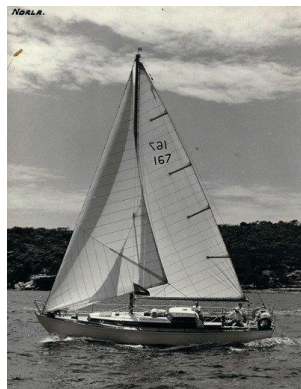
ML 819 was one of eleven Fairmile motor launches built by Halvorsens

With the end of the War in 1945 the government orders abruptly stopped and there was little money around for pleasure boats to be built to order. To maintain their business and keep their workforce of shipwrights intact the brothers decided on a new business model to build pleasure cruisers to operate in a hire fleet, and in late 1945 acquired the boatshed at Bobbin Head to be the hire-fleet base. This became the centre for the renowned Halvorsen hire fleet which at its largest included more than 60 cruisers for hire. The first cruiser built specifically for the hire fleet was a 25 footer launched in early 1946 and quickly followed by several others.

Holidays on Halvorsen cruisers on Broken Bay and the Hawksbury River became very popular in the 1950s through to the 1980s. Many more boats, and of larger size, were added as the business and so the fleet grew. The Ryde yard also continued to custom build cruisers to order for local owners, and several boats were exported to USA.

In the late 1940s and through to the 1960s, the Halvorsen yard built numerous sailing yachts, although mainly for the two youngest Halvorsen brothers Magnus and Trygve. **These yachts included Enterprise 1945, Peer Gynt 1947, Solveig 1950, Anitra V 1956, Norla 1960, and Freya 1962.**

Also in 1962 the Halvorsen yard built Gretel, the 12 metre class yacht designed by Alan Payne which was Australia's first challenger for the America Cup.



The Halvorsen brothers Magnus and Trygve competed in most of the **Sydney Hobart Races** from 1946 to 1965 in their own designed and built boats, and won the event on handicap five times with **Solveig, Anitra V and Freya**. They also competed in three TransPac races from Los Angeles to Hawaii with Solveig and Anitra V. Trygve and Magnus were part of Australia's first America Cup Challenge team with Gretel in Newport Rhode Island, USA and in Australia's first Admirals Cup challenge in 1965 with Freya as part of the Australian Team at Cowes, Isle of Wight, UK.

Halvorsen cruisers have become collectors' items and are much sought after pleasure cruisers today. Most have been restored, some magnificently, and are much admired timber boats. Some of the sailing yachts are also still in good condition and actively sailed. These include Solveig and Anitra V in Sydney and Norla in Hobart.

To commemorate the Halvorsen Family's arrival in Australia 100 years ago, and to celebrate the legendary Halvorsen boat building story, there are numerous special events arranged for this summer.

- The first occurred on 9 November with the addition of the Halvorsen Family to the Monument Wall at the ANMM in Darling Harbour
- The next event will be a display of yachts and cruisers in the Pond at CYCA Ruschcutters Bay as part of the Hobart Classic Regatta from 12 December. Public access is available to the Pond.
- Following on in January there will be a Halvorsen Flotilla Display at the ANMM in Darling Harbour, for 12 days from 10 to 22 January 2025. This event will be open to the public.
- In Hobart, during the AWBF, there will be a special gathering and boat display at RYCT for Halvorsen family members and friends on Saturday 8 February.
- Then, on Friday and Saturday 14 and 15 February, there will be a collection of Halvorsen cruisers assembled at Bobbin Head, followed by a procession of boats on Saturday back to Cottage Point for a BBQ lunch at KMYC in aid of Marine Rescue.
- On Sunday 16 February there will be a luncheon for family and friends at the RSYS Kirribilli, again with Halvorsen boats on display in the Squadron Pond.
- Finally, over the following weekend, 22 and 23 February, there will be another flotilla display of Halvorsen boats at the RMYC Marina in Newport. This too will be open to the public.

These multiple events demonstrate the widespread interest in Halvorsen boats and the Halvorsen Family history. Boating enthusiasts who wish to see these various and different examples of the diverse Halvorsen boat building legacy will have the opportunity to view a range of different vessels in these displays.

For further information please contact Philip Brown on 0418 214 8

From a wise old man

-"If you're not making a wake or waves – you're not moving."