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# SQUADRON CLASSIC: *PHOEBE*

BY PAUL THACKRAY

*Phoebe* is design number 132 drawn in 1983 by the late Ed Dubois after he had designed a series of successful IOR boats in the late '70s and early '80s including *Police Car*, *Once More Dear Friends* and the Half Tonner *Highway Patrol* for a variety of Australian owners. Since that period, they were at the forefront of superyacht design until his sudden death a few years ago.

*Phoebe* is 14.95m long, with cold moulded construction of four skins of King Billy Pine on Queensland maple frames and then sheathed in fibreglass. She was built by the late Ian Perdriau in an old chook shed in Terry Hills in Sydney and completed in 1987. *Phoebe* was given her name by her second owner, RSYS Member Mal Edwards, who has called all his successive boats *Phoebe*. We recall he was slightly disappointed that the youngest of our three daughters shared the same name as the boat which eliminated any chance of a name change.

Jacquie and I have owned the boat since 2007 and have enjoyed fabulous times with our family and friends on the Harbour and on Pittwater and Cowan Creek. The boat is usually in Yeomans Bay at Christmas and Easter rafted up with friends. When we purchased her all those years ago, we had no idea how many great lifelong friends we would make from our boating adventures and summer holidays. *Phoebe* has no television, internet reception was always really poor in Yeomans which meant reading, card games and board games were the norm when the weather was bad, and paddling, rowing and swimming when the weather was good.

*Phoebe* underwent a big refit in 2016 when we trucked her to a yard behind the old Rozelle timber yard for a complete refit, stripping and repainting of the hull and modernisation of winches and some of the systems which will keep the boat looking good and going well for years to come. It's always nice when somebody cruises by and gives you a nod and says 'Nice boat mate'.

We really enjoy sailing *Phoebe* in the occasional regatta on the harbour and in the Squadron Annual Cruise each year as she is an easy boat to sail shorthanded. Last summer we enjoyed a great cruise in company with fellow Members to Newcastle for a few nights at the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club followed by four nights in Port Stephens.



The new season is about to commence, and we are looking forward to the Opening Day Parade of Sail and the raft-up in the Pond which will herald another great year of yachting.

