

Cruising Preparation from Ocean Racing with Sean Langman

By Sarah Goddard-Jones

On Wednesday 25 January, Sean Langman enthralled a packed house of cruising members with his story of *Maluka of Kermandie*. Sean started by talking about his love of both cruising and racing, going to sea and being on the boat you love.

The first image of the night's fascinating slide show was of *Vagrant*, which originally belonged to Sean's family and which he later purchased and restored. *Vagrant* was used extensively by Sean and his growing family and was the yacht in which he learned his love of cruising.

Then Sean began the enthralling story of *Maluka*, built from a single cedar tree and lovingly restored using as much as possible of the original wood. Fortunately Bill Gale who had built her for the Clark brothers, was the recipient of her logs and pictorial records, and left these to the Sydney Heritage Fleet, so were available to ensure restoration was true to the original build and purpose.



Whilst the fit out is original, Sean had to make some modifications to allow her to rate for IRC and to meet Category 1 safety requirements. So the draft of the full keel is around 6 inches deeper than originally, and Sean has had *Maluka* sheathed in fibreglass (per Royal Yacht *Britannia* of King George, in the 30's!)

Sean talked of his philosophy of maintaining a dry interior and always making sure the crew is well fed to enable them to win races! This clearly worked perfectly in the 2016 Rolex Sydney Hobart Race, despite the need for three blokes to steer, as far aft as possible with the cockpit under water! He was particularly delighted with their record of a 240 nautical mile day leading to his win in Division 4.

The cruising audience was fascinated and could have listened to Sean and asked questions for the rest of the night.