

“THERE IS NOTHING – ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, HALF SO MUCH WORTH DOING AS SIMPLY MESSING ABOUT IN BOATS” – KENNETH GRAHAME

The Tale of *Rapunzel*

by Richard and Sandy Lawson

Rapunzel has been on both the Squadron Yacht Register and on a Squadron mooring for more than 25 years, initially for her previous owner, John Hearne, and then for us. We bought into the boat prior to the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Rapunzel was originally built by Ken Beashel at Elvina Bay, and launched in 1983 for his close friend Ron Powell. She is a 33ft (10m) triple-laminated timber, fibre-glassed sheaved hull topped with a teak timber deck and a varnished teak trunk cabin. The design was drawn in the late 1970s by the late and well-known Doug Petersen of California. Although *Rapunzel* is based on the now ‘infamous IOR rule’ of that period, she was not designed to rate under the rule but to be a more comfortable short-hand cruiser-racer which could be sailed easily, without downwind death rolls! The result is a very distinctive varnished stern-hung rudder, mounted behind a substantial skeg, which has given us a boat that is an absolute joy to steer downwind in a heavy breeze and big seas. The resulting extra wetted area that comes with this combination would not be tolerated in today’s design world!

The highly varnished trunk cabin and toe rails are all part of the ‘therapy’ required to keep one of the present-day owners partially on the straight and narrow...

For the past 20 years *Rapunzel* has provided great joy for us and many friends who regularly sail with us in the Ladies Twilights (since their inception 17 years ago), the Friday Twilights, Annual Squadron Cruises and countless trips to Pittwater. We believe one of our more significant achievements is the number of ladies who have come aboard from the Ladies Of The Sea training courses and sailed consistently with us. Invariably, they go on to join our Club and sail as regular crew on other yachts. This is a great outcome for all concerned and has added to the composition and camaraderie of our Club’s social life. ⚓

