



# SCOOP

Newsletter of the  
**Couta Boat Club**

Incorporated

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Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. VBH 6953

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Issued July 7 1986

## BOAT SHOW

THURSDAY JULY 10 TO WEDNESDAY JULY 16  
OPEN FROM 12 NOON - 10PM WEEKDAYS, 10AM-10PM SATURDAY  
10AM-7PM SUNDAY

### EXHIBITION BUILDINGS

On display the Couta Boat MURIEL magnificently restored by Tim Phillips. All Couta Boat Club members, families and friends are encouraged to come and enjoy the opportunity to see one of the most classical and spectacular Mitch Lacco boats ever built along with a huge array of other craft.

### MURIEL

The Muriel was built in Queenscliffe by Mitch Lacco and launched on March 5, 1917, the day Harold Lacco (Mitch's son) was born. Originally she was built for Gus Johnson and was named RUBY.

Soon after her launching she was purchased by Andy Johansen, Queenscliffe fisherman and Life Member of the Couta Boat Club. Andy had seen Mitch building the boat and while fishing for Crayfish in a "flatty" near Anglesea was visited by Gus Johnson and Mitch in the RUBY.

Andy who had given a deposit of about 50 Pounds to Mitch for a new boat decided he would rather buy RUBY. Andy subsequently paid a total of 110 Pounds for the now renamed MURIEL.

Andy Johansen, who was 90 this year fished with the MURIEL for about 60 years. She was originally fitted with a Halladay motor which Andy called a "Holliday" due to its unreliability. There are many stories of Andy "pulling" or rather "pushing" MURIEL back from the fishing grounds to Queenscliffe. The normal Summer fishing day for Andy and MURIEL involved sailing as far as Spit Point, working the pots and sailing home, a sailing distance of 60 Miles!

Several engines were fitted including a Ferro ,which proved as unreliable as the Halladay, followed by a number of Rugby car engines. These motors were fitted to most of the Couta Boats of the time. The last Rugby was a 1925 model and was still running reliably enough to assist with the passage from Flinders to Sorrento in March 1986 to enable slipping and restoration.

The MURIEL was purchase in 1986 by Tim Phillips from John Dungar , Andy Johansens' nephew.

### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

**BUILT BY:** MITCH LACCO , QUEENSCLIFFE  
**LAUNCHED:** MARCH 5 , 1917  
**LENGTH:** 26 FEET  
**BEAM:** 10 FEET  
**DRAFT:** 3 FEET 3 INCHES  
**CONSTRUCTION:** RIBS AND PLANKS - NZ KAURI  
STEM , STERN AND KEEL - JARRA  
**MAINSAILS:** A MAIN LASTED ABOUT 18 MONTHS. IT IS  
ESTIMATED BY ANDY THAT MURIEL HAS HAD 25  
TO 30 NEW MAINSAILS  
**SAILING:** IT HAS BEEN CALCULATED THAT THE MURIEL HAS  
SAILED OVER 500,000 MILES. THE CENTRE-PLATE  
SLOT HAD WORN UP TO HALF AN INCH IN PLACES  
BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF USEAGE. THIS HAS  
NOT BEEN SEEN BEFORE ON OTHER BOATS  
RESTORED.

### **COUTA BOAT CLUB STAND**

It is intended to man the stand at the Boat Show during the hours 6pm and 10 pm weekdays and allday over the weekend.  
If any members can assist please phone :

**CLIVE BECKINSALE 241-4786**