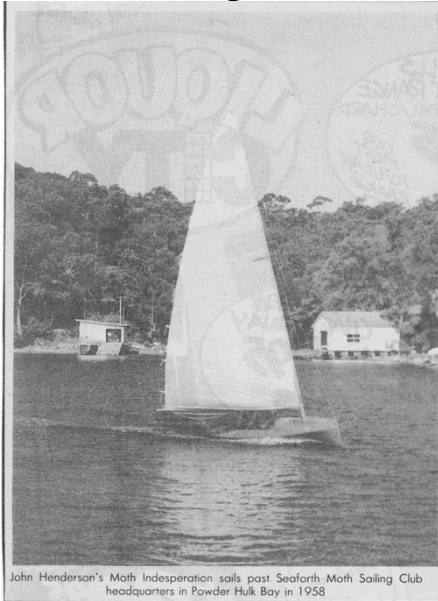


Extracted from 2008 website archive

Past Champion John Henderson sails away.



John Henderson was born in 1936 and won the 1958/59 Australian championship on Sydney Harbour run by Woollahra Sailing Club. He built 3 moths when he was younger and won the title in his skiff `NIL DESPERANDUM`.

John was always amazed that both his sons David and Pete became interested in sailing and even more amazed that they wanted to sail the same class of boat he did.

As such (and in the spirit of the Class) John then was obligated to build both of David and Peter, Tomaree (a scow to the McFrawd Design) for David in 1984/85 and Holiday in Cambodia (a skiff to a McDougal / French design) for Peter in 1985/86.

John had always keep an eye on the class and was truly amazed to see what that once home built ply boat, evolve into the high tech foiling skiff of today.

Recently his eldest son David decided to build his own plywood scow while John was still around to let me know the tricks of the trade. He over-saw the design and building of Davids modern narrow scow Invader launched late 2010. He was proud and happy that he has passed on his vast knowledge and skills of building wood boats to his sons.

John was seen a few years back twice on his yacht `UPSANDOWNS` (a 27 foot double chine ply yacht which he built in the early 1980s and remains in excellent condition) in the winter series at Northbridge Sailing Club which he enjoyed but the final years was just reading about sailing which was in this vein to the end.

John was very active with Seaforth from the early 1950s to the 1960s and later with his sons in the 80s. John was still designing and building Moths over 50 years after he built his championship winning boats. Nil Desperandum and In Desperation.

John was a great Mothie and father to David and Peter.

John McAteer