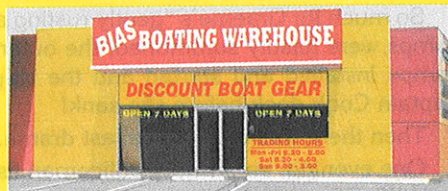


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Just before I left her in December that year I had the privilege of participating in HMAS *Platypus*'s Annual Cruise – from Watsons Bay to Garden Island for docking and a bottom scrape and paint.

Graeme, I am sorry I cannot tell you the origin of the word 'dolphins' but thanks for bringing back some happy memories.

Peter Poland,
Double Bay.

July front cover

I wonder if many readers were struck by the unusual nature of the hard chine in the boat on the front cover of July *Afloat*?

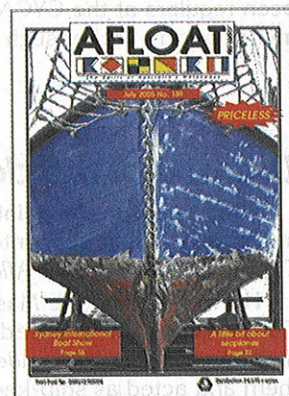
The bowsprit chain suggests the vessel had sailing origins, but until plywood came into use as a building material, such hard chines in sailing boats were rare.

Do we know the name and history of the vessel? A hard-chined planked yacht called *Unome* appears on the cover of Graeme Broxam's book "Those that Survive – Vintage and Veteran Boats of Tasmania", Navarine Publishing, 1996. Another possibility from Broxam's book is the trading ketch *Enterprise*, described as having very sharp chines aft and square bilges (following a modified New Zealand scow design).

It is a bit hard to tell how big the boat on your cover is.

The heavy duty chain and other fittings suggest a working, rather than a pleasure, origin.

Ted Lilley,
Canberra.



Dinosaurs vs Gazelles

Further to John Bartram's article 'Radio Control Yachting' in June *Afloat* and more particularly on the photograph of skipper and crew attending to a model skiff circa 1930.

The photograph was taken near Thompson Street wharf in Drummoyne as we prepared my 2ft model for our club race on Iron Cove. It was published in the *Women's Weekly* on the 30th July 1949.

I must admit the design and rig of these models had not altered all that much from the 1930s and were the last of the dinosaurs but great sport to race.

The models were beautifully built in planked cedar (I still have mine) and we raced rain, hail or shine during the winter with a double-decker ferry following with three bookmakers aboard.

Unfortunately, betting on the races led to the demise of the club. The photograph shows my intermediate rig



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The Spirit of Australia's Waterways

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