

HV000523

Monday, 26 August 2019



Photograph and Digital Image ANMM. Not for reproduction or publication.

Collection focus area: Australian Register of Historic Vessels
Primary title: Defender
Classification: Vessels and fittings-Cargo vessel
Builder: George Frost
Date Label: 1895
ARHV current location: Townsville / Queensland
Place Manufactured: Brisbane Water / New South Wales / Australia / Oceania
Description: DEFENDER's hull is planked from NSW hardwoods, ironbark below the waterline and red gum on the topsides. It is 25 m LOA and has 6.7m beam. DEFENDER was built by George Frost at Kincumber on the Central Coast. It sailed with a crew of six and in 1936 is known to have had a 30 to 40 hp petrol auxiliary engine, however the original engine installation was in 1924.

DEFENDER was first registered in Sydney in 1896, then Adelaide and Melbourne and finally Launceston in 1926. It earned a reputation for speed when DEFENDER first entered the history books in November 1923 after making a record breaking crossing of Bass Strait in less than 24 hours. In 1932 under Captain Legatt it set a record for the Bass Strait passage from Stanley to Williamstown of 18 hours, made entirely under sail. A report in 1939 indicating it had been sold referred to DEFENDER as the 'smartest sailer' and 'blue ribbon' holder.

The Australian Navy used DEFENDER during World War II to transport troops and supplies. After the war it returned to Tasmania where it was left idle and eventually abandoned. In the 1980's the current owner rescued DEFENDER and restored the ketch to sailing condition in time for the 1988 Bicentennial Hobart to Sydney Tall Ships Race. In 2012 it has recently been working on the

Whitsunday Islands sailing under the Australian Tall Ship Cruises banner.

George Frost was born at Kissing Point (now known as Ryde) in Sydney in 1842. He moved to Brisbane Water on the Central Coast NSW when he was about 19 years of age, with a younger brother William. They worked together as sawyers around Kincumber and were supplying timber to the shipwrights of the area. George eventually acquired a small property beside Kincumber Creek where he took up shipbuilding. Between 1884 and 1906, Frost built 19 ketches, schooners and steamships. The first vessel constructed was a 52-ton, 70-foot long ship which bore the name of his beloved wife Lizzie Frost. After an eventful career of only three years, the LIZZIE FROST was totally wrecked off Brunswick Heads in 1887. DEFENDER is the only one of George Frost's vessels known to survive today. George died on 1st September, 1906, and was buried in St. Paul's graveyard.

Attributes:

Prepared with assistance from the Register of Australian and New Zealand Ships and Boats -
www.boatregister.net

ARHV Nomination criteria: industry/commerce / People and Events

ARHV Nomination criteria: type/use / Rare or Significant

Condition details: partially modified gearbox / Engine/Gearbox

Condition details: partially restored rigging / Spars/Rigging

Condition details: substantially restored deck / Deck

Condition details: substantially restored hull / Hull

Condition details: substantially restored layout / Layout

Vessel details: auxiliary motor / Motor propulsion

Vessel details: carvel / Hull material and construction

Vessel details: diesel / Motor propulsion

Vessel details: displacement / Hull shape

Vessel details: floating / Current status

Vessel details: full decked / Deck layout

Vessel details: keel hung rudder /

Keel/centreboard/rudder type

Vessel details: ketch / Rig type

Vessel details: monohull / Hull shape

Vessel details: timber / Hull material and construction

Vessel details: timber / Spar material

Vessel details: wheel / Hand propulsion/steering mechanism

Vessel details: wheelhouse / ships / <watercraft by general type> / watercraft / vehicles / <transportation vehicles> / <Transportation Vehicles> / OBJECTS

FACET / Art & Architecture Thesaurus

Vessel types: coastal trader / Cargo vessel

Vessel types: ketch / Recreational vessel

<i>Dimensions:</i>	Vessel Dimensions: 24.99 m x 6.7 m (82 ft x 21.98 ft)
<i>Curatorial Remarks:</i>	Removed from ARHV list due to advice that salvaged vessel has been dismantled by authorities in north Qld.
<i>Image:</i>	HV000523
<i>Owner:</i>	Les Dick
<i>Vessel type:</i>	Coastal Trading Vessels
<i>Home Location:</i>	[HV000523], no home location recorded

HISTORY OF TALL SHIP DEFENDER

Built of Australian Timber in 1896, length of 115ft LOA and 22ft beam. Built by George Frost who built 22 vessels. Tall Ship Defender was built to do trading between the states and new growing colonies in Australia. Much of the time was spent sailing the waters of Southern Australia between Victoria and Tasmania.

She was first registered in Launceston, Tasmania where she earned a reputation for speed, being entered into the history books in November 1923 by making a record breaking crossing of Bass Strait in less than 24 hours.

The Australian navy used Tall Ship Defender during World War II to transport troops and supplies. After the war she returned to Tasmania where she was left to ruin.

In the 1980's Les Dick rescued Tall Ship Defender and restored her to her former glory, just in time for the 1988 Bicentennial Hobart to Sydney Tall Ships Race.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 May 2012 5:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Defender

[REDACTED]

My records indicate defender was fitted with her first auxiliary motor in 1924.

Defender was first registered in Sydney, then Adelaide, then Melbourne. Sydney No.2 of 1896. Sydney No.33 of 1897. Adelaide No.2 of 1899. Launceston was not a port of registry till 1922.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<http://www.boatregister.net>

The Register of Australian and New Zealand Ships and Boats:
<http://www.boatregister.net/RegisterMenu.htm>

Word Template to help organise information on a boat that you might like to contact me about:
<http://www.boatregister.net/ANZRegisterForm.doc>

Key to References used:
http://www.boatregister.net/RANZS_References.htm

Maritime History Downunder Group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maritime_history_downunder/

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Today, Tall Ship Defender has again been restored, and sails the Whitsunday Islands. Sailing under the Australian Tall Ship Cruises banner she sits nicely beside the famous Square Rigged Tall Ship Solway Lass built in Holland in 1902.

George Frost: Shipbuilder

George Frost was born at Kissing Point (now known as Ryde) in Sydney on 4th November 1842. He moved to Brisbane Water when he was about 19 years of age, with a younger brother, William.

They were working together as Sawyers around Kincumber, where all timber would have been pit-sawn at this time. Exposed to the work of the shipwrights of the area, shipbuilding may have seemed to George a more lucrative and satisfying career than timber getting. George eventually acquired a small property beside Kincumber Creek.

Here, between 1884 and 1906, Frost built 19 ketches, schooners and steamships. The first vessel constructed was a 52-ton, 70-foot long ship which bore the name of his beloved wife Lizzie Frost. After an eventful career of only three years, the Lizzie Frost was totally wrecked off Brunswick Heads in 1887.

Only one of the products of George Frost's shipyard is known to survive today. The ketch Defender was built in 1896, and was extensively rebuilt and refitted by a team of volunteers for Australia's Bicentennial celebrations in 1988.

The last vessel built at Kincumber Creek by George Frost was the Rock Lily launched in April, 1906. George died on 1st September, 1906, and was buried in St. Paul's graveyard.