

## **The Valhalla Story.**

**The 41ft.cutter Valhalla was designed by E.B.Schock of New York for Commodore Percy Hedges of the Brighton Yacht Club 1908-1910**

**She was built in 1909 in a shed on the banks of the Yarra River approximately where the Batman Avenue Army Barracks stand today,by Commodore Hedges assisted by Messrs Stubbs,Armstrong and Horace Petley, all amateur boat builders and members of B.Y.C. She was launched from there and towed to Brighton.**

**Originally a Yawl Rig she competed successfully for many years on Port Phillip Bay for several owners,Percy Hedges was an Englishman and returned to the UK.She was later wrecked at Brighton during a fierce storm,but was rebuilt and sailed to Sydney before the First World War and was renamed "Eunamara 11"**

**Sailing on Sydney Harbour for several years she had a collision with a Ferry which did not recognise right of way for Yachts under sail. Repaired once more she was taken to Pittwater where her then owner Dr Stevens Orthopedic Surgeon,sailed her to victory on numerous occasions.She won the coveted "Basin Cup"several times.**

**1950 David Petley and Bruce Macgregor found her looking a little worse for weather and transported her by road back to Melbourne, refitted her as a Cutter and like a true lady she repaid them by winning many races.In the 1960,s they sold her to a group of RBYC members which formed a syndicate known from then on as the "Valhalla Syndicate"comprising E.S(Ted).Lawrence Fred Moylan, Bruce (Fatty)Harding Evan Macgregor, Ken McBriar, Malcolm McEacharn, Geoff (Squizzy) Taylor,Ray(Harpo) Marks , Jack(Hoppy) Olver and Ted Gyngell.**

**Despite her notorious reputation as a floating Restaurant and Gin Palace she produced four Commodores of RBYC, Percy Hedges the original owner, Fred Moylan,Evan Macgregor and Ken McBriar. She could still perform with the best on her day; In 1969 she raced in the Blairgowrie to Geelong Event,ANA weekend,starting at 8AM and regardless of a slightly late start due to late arrival of some members! she completed the course in less than five hours,a record .She was the first Keel boat into Geelong ahead of all entrants and secured to the wharf by 1PM.**

**1972 The Syndicate decided to buy MarieLouise 111 from Dick White at RYC Vic. Except for Bruce Harding Who wanted the Syndicate to keep "the Old Girl".Bruce bought her on his own account rerigged herto her original Yawl Rig and for the first time in her sailing career installed a motor. Bruce continued to sail her at Brighton before taking her to Metung. Bruce died in 1997 and she was again sold to a Brendon Pudney a wooden boat enthusiast who despite her 100 years,plans to restore her once again.**

**Who know's she may continue to sail for another 100 years.**