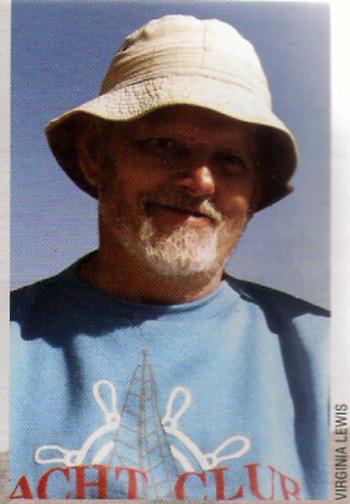


Charlie's Dream, a Bluewater 450 cruising boat, entered the Sydney to Hobart for the first time this year and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the cruising division. Barry Henson looks at the story behind Charlie's Dream.



VIRGINIA LEWIS

# Charlie's Dream

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Charlie Saunders, who inspired a generation of scouts with his dreams of adventure.

**BELOW:** Charlie's Dream, partial crew photo, Mike and Peter Lewis, Peter Beard and Ryan Pozzey at the CYC. Missing are Andrew Hoyle, Rhys Dallymore, Robert Dawson, Ray Sweeney and David Blackburn.

**SOME DREAMS** are too big for one person. Some dreams are so big they have to be shared with others. Charlie Saunders had one of these dreams.

Born into a merchant sailing family in the UK, 'Jock' as he was nicknamed, had lifelong dreams of adventure, of cruising and sailing the high seas. After he immigrated to Australia in 1952, Jock settled in Adelaide, married and started a family. As Jock's family grew, he soon had three young girls to look after. Jock tucked his own dream of sailing the world away while he raised his family, but his love for adventure burned brightly as ever.

Jock became involved with the scouting movement. As Scoutmaster for 1<sup>st</sup> Salisbury, he shared his love for adventure with hundreds of children. Two of the boys whom fell under his spell were two brothers, Mike and Peter Lewis. Mike would graduate school, build a ferro cement boat and spend the next 20 years roaming the

high seas. Peter sought adventure of a different sort – he married Jock's daughter, Virginia.

As the years past and Jock grew older he never lost his love for adventure and he never gave up on his dream of sailing the high seas. Peter

Saunders did what all inspirational people do and he passed his dream on to others. A lifelong sailor Peter retired and decided to build a cruising boat that would take him and Virginia to those far away destinations Charlie had dreamed of. Peter purchased

*"As we entered Storm Bay there were five boats with us. After four days at sea we were in a tacking duel all the way to the finish line. It was an exciting way to finish."*

and Virginia took Jock on numerous sailing holidays: to the Whitsundays, down the Clarence river, to the Bay of Islands. Jock loved the sea and through Peter and Virginia he was living the dream.

Jock passed away in 1997. Peter and Virginia spread his ashes at sea off Coffs Harbour. Some dreams are too big for one person, so Charlie

a semi-custom yacht, a Bluewater 450, and working with the builder, David Bradburn, he poured his heart and his soul into it.

As the yacht neared completion Peter and Virginia pondered what they should name it. 'Charlie's Dream' they agreed.

This year Peter entered Charlie's Dream in the Sydney to Hobart race. "It's something Charlie would have loved" Peter explained.

"The race was terrific. We had a great time" Peter exclaimed. Despite blowing out two spinnakers and having to do much of the race with a poled out headsail, Charlie's Dream finished well. "As we entered Storm Bay there were five boats with us. After four days at sea we were in a tacking duel all the way to the finish line. It was an exciting way to finish. We gave them three cheers and they did the same for us." According to Peter, the entire crew want to do the Sydney to Hobart again next year.

Charlie's Dream lives on and that's something we can all share in. **Y**



BARRY HENSON