



# Tintagel – Profile - Colin Bishop.

## The early years

In the last month of 1957, my address changed from Melbourne to Queenscliff.

My father was headmaster of the new Queenscliff High School.

I was introduced at the Swan Bay Boat Club and taken for my first ever sail, in the club junior dinghy - the last water-logged survivor of the club's fleet of Pup Class dinghies.

What marvellous sensations! The power of the wind; reaching up and down the first channel in front of the club house; running past the Black And White Stick on the way up to McDonald's Jetty. My father then bought a 16 foot VS.

In the remainder of the 1957-1958 season we capsized in every race (open cockpit, twin manual bilge pumps, but centre case under water when cockpit full), but after that, only once again near Swan Spit, in what was then the Around Swan Island Race. Naturally I left Christina on the beach, half full of sand for my father to rescue.

My brothers, friends and I had a wonderful two years in that boat.... we sailed in the club races; cruised here and there.... established the Republic of Rabbit Island.... had an enormous shark scratch itself on the centre-plate off Swan Island Bight.... and frequently sailed on summer evenings to McDonald's Jetty where Mrs. McDonald sold the most delicious pies from the camping ground kiosk.



I think that's the 16 year old me holding Christina's stern down while she performs in front of the club house.

Only sixteen years later, I came back to Queenscliff with a wife, three children, and a Hartley sailing dinghy that I had built in my parents' garage in Moe.

I joined what had now become the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club.

Cec Anderson and Jack Golightly were still members, but other names had disappeared.

World exploration was resumed on Swan Bay with our children and the elder Reynolds boys as

occasional crew. (Some will remember Bill (and Lynda) Reynolds and family who now live in Hobart)

## Tintagel.

My wife (Barbara) and my father kindly bought Tintagel in 1976. It's a Walker design. Six and half metres in length and draws one metre. The hull was professionally built in Moolap, the deck, accommodation, et cetera were amateur built. Until 2006 she was engineless.

At first we had a mooring at McDonald's Jetty and sailed round to the front beach for races. We towed a dinghy so we could get ashore for briefing. Late in the day, we picked up the anchored dinghy and sailed back. This arrangement meant that the whole day could be devoted to sailing, even though we didn't always get to the start.

Chris Dyer (Dragon sailor and then Commodore) suggested accepting Melbourne Port's offer of free parking in the new extension to the former harbour.

Shaking with terror, in we went. It was actually surprisingly easy in the usual late afternoon breeze - jib down, head to wind, grab a pile, drop the main, warp into the right place. Getting out against wind and tide was very character-building.

The next year, free moorings were found for us local keel boats up past the Cruising Yacht Club.

This photo from 2001 shows the reconstructed Tintagel on the way to winning the Coles Cup.

We took a tenuous gamble in sailing under the lee of the Pope's Eye annulus!

After my undiplomatically ascribing victory to the incompetence of the other competitors (it was really due to one of those strokes of luck that mock the handicapping system) the motorless Tintagel was banned from club competition!!





Jumping back a bit, Tintagel was looking pretty shabby by the late eighties. She sat in Westcoast Marine's yard until 1997 while I wondered what to do and how not to do it.

Ultimately I retired from work and went to work on her.

A lot of the deck and cockpit was replaced, and a considerable part of the hull was rebuilt. Here you can see Tintagel enjoying a bit of orthodontic work in the former boat-owners' maintenance area (now water) next to Melbourne Port's buoy yard.

I think of this repair every time she falls off a wave and slams into the next one.

Gratitude to everyone who has crewed with me during more than thirty five years - especially in the occasional moments of extreme excitement - amongst the many, I think of my wife (Barbara) holding the tiller and screaming, "Get the spinnaker down. Get the spinnaker down." The boat hurtling towards the town pier as Tim Green and I struggled on the fore deck to contain the monster writhing at the full extent of sheet and guy.

And in particular Mike Sager who got me started again.

A great little yacht with a big history at QLYC, contributing so much whilst achieving some outstanding results over the years.

## **Achievements:**

Amongst Colin's accolades are:

2001 winner of the Cole Cup to Portsea,  
Aggregate Club Champion winner in 1986,  
And, Club Captain in 1981/2, 1983/4, 1985/6, 1986/7

A few lovely shots taken over the years of Tintagel and her skipper & crew!

