

## She was lost ... now, she's found – *Lisa Marie* home after 20 years.

**Cameron Gough** shares the story about his hunt for the family's long lost boat.

Last August I posted an ad in *Afloat* to assist in my search for *Lisa Marie*, a 26ft Sterling motor cruiser that was once a part of my family many years ago. The last time I was on board was in 2000.

I was delighted to hear from Paul Williams who in fact as it turns out, had his yacht moored next to *Lisa Marie* in Gore Creek Sydney, for many years. He warned me that *Lisa Marie* was in a very tired state. Needless to say I was very happy to know her location, after searching for many months and not knowing her whereabouts since 2003.

Sydney Harbour Slipways (SHS) in Kirribilli knew of *Lisa Marie* and were, coincidentally, about to begin the first stages of a tidy up in preparation for a sale. The timing was incredibly serendipitous.

Over the last few months the staff of SHS have been an invaluable asset as the sale would certainly not have happened without their help and I certainly would not be writing this article now, being the proud owner of *Lisa Marie*.

In October she made her voyage to her new home port of Brisbane Water safely without any issues whatsoever, despite being neglected for almost eight years. With a southerly swell and seas less than a metre, she was riding the waves as beautifully as the day I remember when I was a 7-year-old.

Inside the cabin, everything is exactly the same – a true time capsule. My grandfather refitted her many years ago and



Above: Me at the helm then in 1992. And me at the helm now (2017).



Right: *Lisa Marie* on at Sydney Harbour Slipways (staff and I).

everything from the carpet and cedar roof beading, to the labels on the wiring is still intact to this day.

Thank you to Pete, Joe and Will of SHS for your help in starting my own boating journey on board *Lisa Marie*. She's a lovely vessel and will give me many (more) years of joy.

And thank you *Afloat* and all those who called me in the month of August – I had run into many dead ends until I received those invaluable phone calls. To those readers looking for a past love, don't give up – it can happen!



*Lisa Marie* about 1997 when owned by my family.



*Lisa Marie* today, on Brisbane Water.

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