History of 1969 McLaren trawler
(formerly the "Allan-G")

46' McLaren built by Robert [Bob] McLaren in Ballina NSW
--- at the time [1968/1972] McLaren had so many boats under construction that several trawlers were built in factory yards and even in private backyards under the direction of Bob McLaren and his team. We are reasonably confident that "Allan-G" was outsourced and built in this way at Barlows yard, in western Ballina.

Powered by 6LX Gardner of 104.4KW. The Gardner engine was supplied by Knox-Schlapp of Sydney and invoiced to McLaren's Boatyard. Propeller supplied by Porter Prop's of Sydney, and also invoiced to McLaren.

Hull design was by renowned Navel Architect Cecil E Boden, of Sydney. She was first registered in NSW waters in late 1969.

ALL the above facts were supplied to us by the third owner Mr Tony Hull who purchased her as the renamed "Sea Rover" in 1972 when she was less than 3 years old.

Built for use as a fishing charter/party vessel she was originally built and registered to be used out of Tweed Heads. She was fitted with single trawl gear and large rear cargo/fish hold with lifting gear/boom.

The above facts were able to be further authenticated when we were able to gain copies of the original line drawings and computations for the first survey reports, done by the designers, at the Tweed Heads slipway and in the possession of NSW maritime.
HUGE thanks to Paul Nash of NSW Maritime and his team!

Original NSW survey report:
Line drawings were taken by Mr A Pollard [from Bodens office]and Mr R. Kingham [original owner]for the registered owner Mr R. Kingham of 61 Ballimah Ave Burliegh Heads on the Tweed Heads Slipway on the 16/10/1969 and stability report was confirmed and checked on the 24/11/1969. The consultant was Mr Cecil E. Boden, a well known Sydney working boat designer and boat plan book author. General plans of the vessel were included in the report, along with construction details and dimensions.

Mathematical arrangements were also prepared and presented to the maritime board for commercial registration dated on the 27/04/1970.

Owner Mr R. Kingham had the boat set up as single line prawn trawler/party boat. She was registered for 17 persons for "limited trade coast service" She operated out of Tweed heads as a fishing/party boat and registered as the "ALLAN-G"

Please note:

As she was not "under finance" when constructed [most unusual] she did not have to be British Registered, as was a requirement of the then banks in Australia. This involved the ships registration details be carved into a major bulkhead [usually in the fish hold next to entrance hatch] for identification purposes. Because she has never been Lloyds registered "Allan-G's" history has been most difficult to obtain.

She was sold by Mr Kingham after only approx 12 months to Mr Jack Law.

2nd owner: Jack Law
Jack operated her with the single trawl gear she was built and designed with and also used her for passenger charter. She was still called the "Allan-G" and her home port was still Tweed Heads. [Business cards were found in the boat in 1972 when the next owner purchased her verify this] Jack was not a young man at this time around 55 to 60YO. We have not been able to find any history about Jack but he would now be around 95+ y/old.
She carried large Alvey hand reels mounted to railings around the bulk-walks for reef fishing trips. Foc'sle had five bunks fitted for overnight charter customers and crew.

By this time she was fitted with a large rear deck refrigeration box and fold down bench seating along the rear gunnels. She was still fitted with small mast and boom for lifting cargo on board, mounted behind the wheel house and doubling with the single haul gear.

Although Jack operated her as the Allan-G her name was changed before the next owner purchased her, perhaps the charter party hire business was sold off separately including the "Allan-G" business name.

3rd owner: Tony Hull
Tony purchased her from Jack Law, from Tweed Heads in 1972. She had now had three owners in less than three years, was now registered as the "SEA ROVER" and still registered in NSW. Tony Hull and his family owned her from 1972 and operated her until 1988; she was used as a trawler with trawl gear upgraded from single to twin gear by Tony in 1972.

Tony transferred her to Qld registration in 1972 /73 shortly after purchase, her new details were:
QLD FISHING LISC # FQVN
QLD REG # 5089 QC
SHIPS ID. 5089
Sea Rover was listed in Qld reg as 14mts long, breadth 4.57mts, and depth 2mts. Her last Qld registered home port [2002] was Gladstone.

Tony lived in Bundaberg and operated Sea Rover out of Bowen, Townsville and Bundaberg. She was at sea for 250 days a year.
Tony commented: other fishermen always said she had a "small" rudder but Tony is insistent she was always well behaved in following seas, and never "gave him a worry"

4th owner: Alan Hanson

In 1988 she was sold to Alan Hanson [a friend of Tony's] who lived in Bundaberg. Alan only fished the boat for 18 months, before selling her.
She was again sold in 1990.

Alan now lives in Lucinda and a single remaining photo of when Alan owned her shows fishing license numbers 65T or G6T???? --- these numbers do not correspond with later info supplied by Qld maritime associations.

5th owners:

Alan sold her to Robbie Good[e] and Donny Kelly from Bundaberg? [He thinks]
She was again being used as a reef fishing boat.
Robbie Goode was believed to operate an aluminum boat business in Burnett Heads. (Have not yet been able to verify anything further yet.)

6th owners?

Whilst on holidays Tony Hull [third owner] sighted Sea Rover in Port Douglas on the slipway in 2000/2001 and spoke to the deckhand on board who said that the current owners were from the Gold Coast and she was still operating as a commercial fishing boat out of Port Douglas.

7th owners?

Last known registered owners;
Russell Marriage and Cherie Mann of Gladstone were the last licensed fishing registered owners; she was deregistered on 21 Nov 2002. She was fishing trawler registered to Class 2C for 6 crew and 50 Naut miles from the coast. I have not been able to trace either Russell or Cherie.

8th owner: Ian Douglas

In 2003 Ian Douglas, a NSW boatbuilder, purchased her at Coomera, Gold Coast, as a stripped, almost bare hulk. She had no trawl gear and was in real distress. Ian had her transported by low-loader to his home at Oyster Cove, intending to rebuild her as a liveaboard.

Part time restoration work had been taking place for a couple of years before the shine wore off and she was again advertised for sale in 2006. At this stage the hull and coach house had been partially rebuilt and or repaired and some cabinetry bones fitted to the foc'sle. There were no electrical or engine works in the hull at all, she was bare-bones.

9th owners (and current custodians): Lindsay & Peta Tomlinson

Lindsay first sighted Sea Rover on a trip to Newcastle to look at another boat to purchase, but considered she 'was just too much work'- besides he thought he was over owning another timber trawler, he was going to buy steel. (Ha! That's what he thought......)