

## **Barranjoey with Bill Solomons – ready to float after 36 years out of the water.**

Some 13 entries from overseas including Norway, Finland, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and The Bahamas will compete along with a local fleet of 13 keen 5.5 enthusiasts. Although the Worlds have been held here five times previously, they have always been held on the Palm Beach circle, this will be the first time on Sydney Harbour.

Designed by Luders and built by Jeff Clist, Barranjoey was originally built for Olympic keelboat sailor, Bill Northam in 1964, the same year he represented Australia with his crew Peter O'Donnell and Dick Sargeant at the Tokyo Olympic Games and won the Gold medal – the only Australian entry to win a medal at those Games and the only Australian 5.5 to win a medal in the history of the Games.

5.5s competing in the Scandinavian Gold Cup held in Hanko, Norway.

Leading up to the 1968 Games in Mexico, it was Bill Solomons and Michael York who campaigned the wooden boat for her second berth to an Olympics, winning Australian selection.

Like a number of others in those earlier years, York was unable to get away from work to go to Mexico and was subsequently replaced by Sir James Hardy on sheet with Scott Kaufmann, son of boat designer, Ted, making up the threesome – they finished seventh.

Barranjoey has not been in the water since 1968; she was on the hard out in the open, then moved to better surroundings at Wharf No. 7 at the Sydney Maritime Museum where she has been gracefully aging.

“We haven't decided who our third crew member will be at this stage, it may be a veteran like Bill or myself, or we might find a young bloke who'll put up with us,” York laughed.

The veteran Sydney yachtsman recently competed against some other formidable Aussies, including Gordon Ingate, with crew Tony Hearder and Mark Downer in Hanko, Norway in the 5.5 Metre Scandinavian Gold Cup and the European Championships, along with the Australian President, Colin Ryan.

Ingate won the right to represent in Norway after winning the 5.5 Metre Gold Cup on Sydney Harbour, hosted by Vaucluse Yacht Club.

Gordon Ingate, Michael York, Bill Northam, Dick Sargeant and Peter O'Donnell were team mates aboard Sir Frank Packer's Gretel, challenging for the America's Cup in 1962.

Di Pearson