



At eight-tonne displacement the Tradewind 35 ticks all the boxes as a solid ocean voyager. With about six currently for sale around the world, this was one of the best on the market and at half the real market value. Problem was, when I came to insure it, I could only get cover for the \$58,000 bargain price paid...

### quick specs

#### Tradewind 35

MATERIAL GRP  
 TYPE Keelboat  
 LENGTH 10.67m LOA; 7.87m waterline  
 BEAM 3.2m  
 DRAFT 1.68m  
 WEIGHT 8819kg; 3759kg ballast  
 BALLAST RATIO 43%  
 MAST HEIGHT 13.2m  
 WATER 340lt  
 FUEL 182lt  
 ENGINE 24hp Bukh



LEFT Look for the Voyage of Imagination logo.

ABOVE The Tradewind 35 has a deep, secure cockpit designed for sailing not marina parties! But hey, you can still turn the music up anytime.

# Voyage of Imagination

THE PLAN, THE BOAT AND THE LOGISTICS ARE IN PLACE. ALL DON NEEDS NOW IS CREW TO FULFIL HIS NEXT SAILING ADVENTURE. IS THAT YOU?

**W**ell it's all happening! The Voyage of Imagination is go! We have the boat, Jessica Watson will mentor the crew, Margie McIntyre (master of logistics) is project manager, the website is up and now all we need are applicants. Is that you?

I am on a quest to send some young sailors around

the world and I have until the end of this year to find them. Please spread the word to every sailor under 21 you know. Thanks.

### BARGAIN BOATS

Ever wondered how projects like this happen? Well it started in Tonga when our towed magnetometer – used to locate old shipwrecks, anchors and cannons – broke down. We had to send

it back to Canada for service and wait a few weeks in Nuku'alofa. And now we had internet!

I then stumbled on a bargain, basic Walker H28 yacht covered in pelican poo in Port Stephens, NSW. Drastically reduced to \$20,000 the broker said I would get it for \$17,000, so I immediately made the offer as my last H28 sold 10 years before for \$38,000 and was

not much better! But if I got it, what would I do with it? I had absolutely no idea... but, hey, it was a bargain, so not buying it was not an option.

I already own ICE, my steel 15.25m expedition trawler and dive-support vessel currently in Tonga. I had also just bought a 7.6m Bayliner Trophy 2359 pilothouse boat in America and shipped it to Tonga to help with our hunt for Spanish galleons. Did I

*"I mentioned it to Jessica. Unbeknown to me she had fallen in love with the design when originally considering a boat for her own solo challenge"*

really need to be a three-boat owner? Probably not, but such a bargain cannot be passed up lightly, right?

In the next 48 hours, while sweating on my offer, I hatched a little plan to use it if I got it. I would fix it up and let some young crew sail it around the world, with the boat budget of about \$45,000 to \$50,000. Cool! Why not?

As it turned out the broker only wanted me as a counter offer to lift another buyer's price, so I missed it. I probably should have stopped everything at that point and got back to treasure hunting but I was all excited about the "young

ones" voyage plan. Now the voyage itself took control. I could not stop. I loved the idea, so I had to find another boat. Three days later I did. I looked at some S&S 34s but settled on another H28. It was more money but ready to go with nearly all the gear, a great motor, new rig and sails. At just under \$36,000 it was actually cheaper than the \$17,000 buy when you added up the extras. Less refit and work gave a total budget of \$42,000 to sail around the world.

Why that design? Because Walker H28s are really capable, solid and affordable world cruisers. I also liked the idea of showing others

that you do not need to have a million dollars for a circumnavigation adventure. You could do this trip and get most of your capital back two years later when you sold the boat. While negotiating for this boat, I stumbled across another bargain. Oops!

This time it was the ultimate little ocean cruiser, a Tradewind 35. They are handbuilt in the UK to serious standards and I have always been impressed by them. This 1993 model had been for sale 11 months before in New Zealand for \$US123,000. Originally built and fitted out by the designer-builder for his own

use, it was sold then sailed across the Atlantic and Pacific to NZ. In excellent condition she soon sold to an Australian who sailed her to Sydney late last year. Duty and GST were paid but his plans changed, so it was up for sale again with David Bray Yachts shortly after for \$95,000. Later it dropped to \$75,000 then all of a sudden, just days before I saw it, to \$68,000. Current new-build price is \$500,000!

I mentioned it to Jessica. Unbeknown to me she had fallen in love with the design when originally considering a boat for her own solo challenge. I made a move on it at \$58,000 sight unseen,



## quick specs

## Walker H28 ketch

**MATERIAL** Fibreglass  
**TYPE** Keelboat  
**LENGTH** 8.99m  
**BEAM** 3.35m  
**DRAFT** 1.36m  
**WEIGHT** 4.5 tonnes  
**BERTHS** 4  
**WATER** 200lt  
**FUEL** 90lt  
**ENGINE** 28hp Volvo Penta

## CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE

Only the best deck fittings, with four Gaiot hatches on the Tradewind's wide decks and bulwarks give a sense of security; The view from the next 25,000 miles – not bad, but in reality the windvane will do

the work; The Tradewind is a big-little boat with an inviting interior loaded with solid teak and a timber sole. Behind the covers you find nothing but traditional UK shipwright skills, which explains the \$500,000 new price today.

with no survey or slipping done but with excellent service from the DBY broker, who I trusted. It took one phone call from Tonga and about six emails. I got it. Oops?

Just seven days had passed since I first saw that \$17,000 bargain. Now the budgets are around \$80,000 and we need crew. We renamed her *Betty* after my mum.

Why so much more than the original \$45,000 budget? Well that is another story for later, but she is solid at 8.5-tonne displacement, (against 4.5-tonne for the H28 and 5-tonne for S&S 34), and has an impressive ocean pedigree being built to cross oceans. Our young

crew will be in good hands. Makes me laugh when I think of what may have been if the magnetometer had just kept working, or bargain boats did not exist. Fate is a strange thing but for me, that is how life happens! It had been a frantic few days and four weeks later I still have a huge grin. Bring it on!

We are currently building a team of people interested in supporting this Voyage of Imagination and the young sailing adventurers themselves. Come join the team! Details are at [McIntyreAdventure.com](http://McIntyreAdventure.com)

## GO NOW!

Okay, so I blew the original \$50,000 budget, but how

much money do you really need to circumnavigate? It is an objective question of course because it depends on what you want from the boat re comfort, speed and gadgets etc. Can I suggest to you that there is a line that also needs to be crossed first before answering that question. After that, once the decision is made, how much money do you need to support that two-year voyage around the world?

It's pretty simple and it starts with the issue of "work to live, not live to work". You see, when you start "sailing the world" you do not need all the "stuff" and "extras" that surround your life onshore. Your life becomes very simple.

No car, no fancy clothes, expensive work lunches and restaurants, city rents, the latest gadgets, nor expensive socialising. No, just fires on the beach and traveling to amazing places in your boat which is your home, transport and fun all in one. You are in your own little world, sailing the globe. Once you set the boat up you just need to maintain it and find food.

One of the common questions I get asked is: "How do I get the time to do all these things?" Simple really, I just plan my life, usually five years ahead. Strangely, many cannot comprehend that planning idea. Don't get me wrong I am still very spontaneous,

but I always have a plan. Those asking the question are usually working flat out to make ends meet. But ask yourself.. how much money do you need? How many things do you need? I am not the best example because my adventures have involved major logistics, all borne out of following dreams.. but let's consider the average person.

Maybe the first "shock" is to try to comprehend that your life is bigger than just four weeks holiday. Yes, you control your own destiny and if you do not want to work 40 hours a week, with careful planning you do not have to. Next move is to actually set a plan and make some real decisions on direction in your

life. Yes you control your life, if you don't someone else will! So, okay, you want that two-year sailing circumnavigation. Well, sell (or don't buy) that fancy car for \$50,000 and there is your boat budget, and if you have another \$30,000 cash in the bank you are now set for two years of "real life" to exotic destinations on the ocean waves!

Yes it is that simple and yes that is a lot of money, but I have friends who will spend \$30,000 on a four-week holiday in Europe. I also have friends that will spend \$200,000 on a boat and \$50,000 sailing around the world for a couple of years, all great fun! You could spend \$500,000 on a boat

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP** The 1972 Walker H28 with Vicsail Western Port, Victoria. A bargain at \$36,000 and still available; With four berths and a functional interior, it is all

about "go simple, go now". This H28 is pampered and spotless; The H28 is a big 30-footer, modified from the original Herreshoff design, making the Walker version very special.

too, but I just want to show that you don't have to if you don't have it. Sailing an H28 around the world for a few years sounds good to me! Remember, you can sell the boat when you get back. The money you get may even be more than that car would have been worth after two years.

In just a few days I found plenty of good boats online and in *Trade-a-Boat* that would fit the budget for a couple looking for some "real living". If you are real young,

smart and in a gap year maybe you could do it in a \$20,000 boat no problem, with \$12,000 for food! Just don't get "over-boated" or "over-gadged" and let the adventure begin! You just need the right attitude, a strong hull, rig, rudder, keel, sails, safety gear and wind vane. You don't need refrigeration, a desalinator or fancy electronics. With a sense of adventure anyone can explore new horizons. So go simple, go now! Life, hey! Wo-wow! ■