

Sealegs 9.0m Hydrasol



LAND AND SEAWORTHY

Aussies and Kiwis do like to be beside the seaside and, as **Jeni Bone** discovers, with a Sealegs amphibious RIB, bayside living is truly a breeze at one sublime coastal crib.

It's not every boat that has its own shed tailor-made to house it. And shed is surely as much an understatement as boat is in this case, because *KarlaLeigh* – named for the owners' daughter – is a customised Sealegs 9.0m Hydrasol amphibious super RIB and her home is waterfront at Redcliffe, on Moreton Bay.

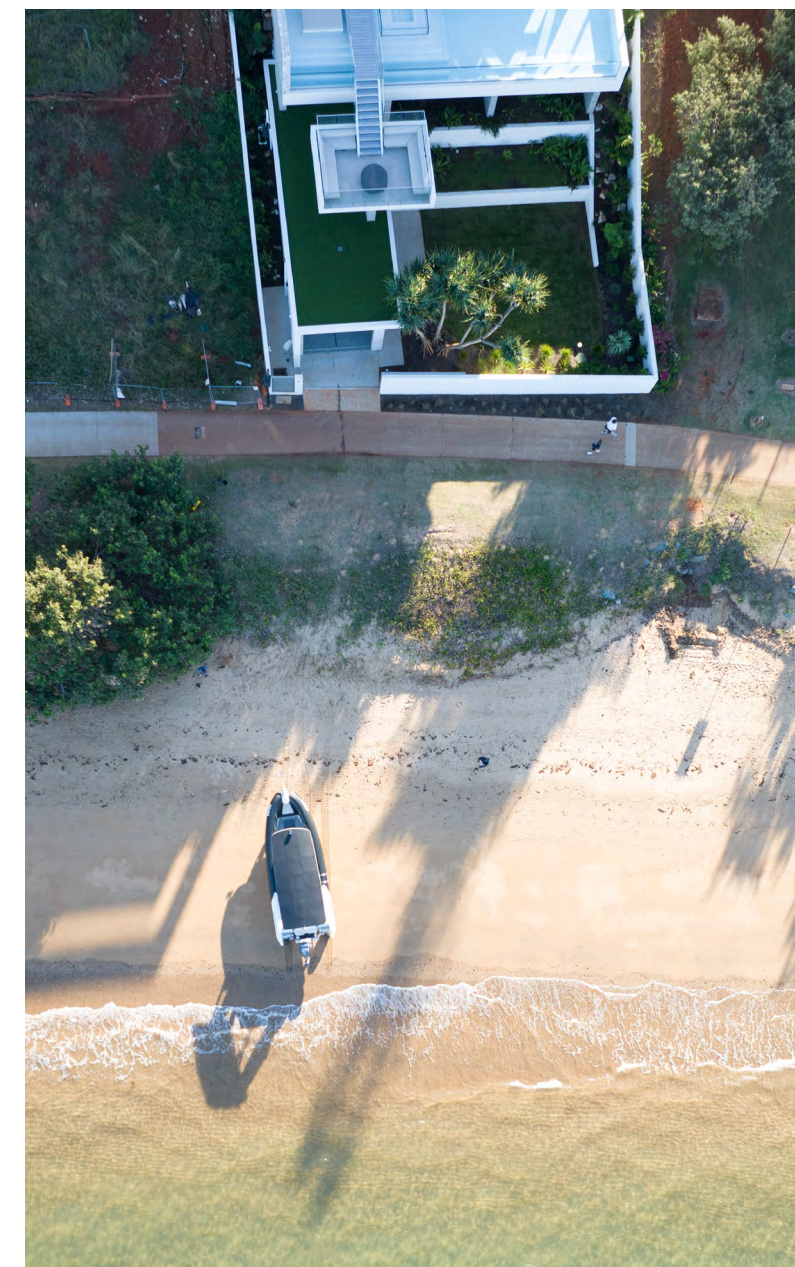
Known as the home of the Bee Gees – for this is where the brothers Barry, Maurice and Robin launched their career in 1958 with a regular gig at Redcliffe Speedway – this peninsula paradise by the bay is, to use the hackneyed, a hidden gem.

It's a mix of modest post-war bungalows, iconic Queenslanders and imperious palatial piles taking advantage of views to the shimmering sandhills of Moreton Island, known as Koorngal. And it's here, after a career in logistics spanning Asia, Africa and America, that Lindsay and Karen have built their dream beach house.

Originally from Owaka, New Zealand, Lindsay says it's refreshing to enjoy Queensland's year-round sunshine. "I spent many holidays and weekends at Purakaunui Bay at our crib [southern South Island vernacular for holiday home]," he offers. "It was freezing!" he says. "We wanted somewhere warm to enjoy semi-retirement. When you travel a lot, you want to come home to the sun, sea and outdoor lifestyle that Australia's famous for. Sealegs is a turnkey operation, so when we want to go boating, we reverse out of the boat shed, straight onto the sand, into the water and we're off."

"Most people downsize, but we did the opposite," adds Karen. "We wanted a home where all the family could spend the holidays. Our kids live in Sydney, and we have a grandchild now, so when we all get together, it's a place for us all to enjoy."

The Sealegs fits in perfectly with this plan. "The boat house had to be factored into the design," says Lindsay. "It's built using New Zealand timber that is thermally modified – kiln-dried and cured for that real beach-house look."



This page: With its own purpose-designed boathouse, Lindsay's Sealegs 9.0m Hydrasol RIB is the perfect in-and-out boat for family days on the water, or for exploring Moreton Bay's Koorngal sandhills.



Lindsay says they've always been a boating family, enjoying larger motor yachts when they lived in Fort Lauderdale. "Our boat was moored in front of our house, which made for very easy boating, and we'd go out two or three times a week," he says. "But when we moved here, we didn't want the commitment of owning a motor yacht."

He originally envisaged a sport fisher, but the family needed something more comfortable and safe, suitable for day trips, fishing, visiting the Tangalooma wrecks and enjoying beach picnics and whale watching – and something with grunt as well.

Their Sealegs 9.0m Hydrasol represents a series of firsts. "This our first RIB and first amphibious boat," states Lindsay. "It's also the first Sealegs with the new Yamaha 425 hp outboard, and the first with Jolt Rider suspension seats."

He originally ordered the standard 9-metre model, but when he visited the factory and met with co-founder and company CEO David McKee Wright, he was impressed with the luxurious fit-out and finish of the 7.5-metre model. "So, we built a 9-metre with all the luxuries of the 7.5 and a larger engine," says Michael Rigby, Sealegs Australian Sales Manager, adding that the 9-metre model can be highly configured to suit owner requirements.

“**He originally envisaged a sport fisher, but the family needed something more comfortable and safe for day trips, fishing, visiting the Tangalooma wrecks, picnics on the beach, and whale watching.**”

LINDSAY
SEALEGS 9.0M
HYDRASOL RIB OWNER

The 9-metre aluminium Hydrasol is pitched as the perfect platform for diving, fishing, surfing, family excursions or as a workhorse for resorts or superyachts. It uses the latest in amphibious Hydrasol technology, an integrated unit housing the inboard (land) engine, mounted within the centre console that optimises its centre of gravity, maximising deck space and improving on-water performance.

"The Hydrasol has been developed from experience of the 1,700-plus systems Sealegs has delivered," explains McKee Wright, adding that the Hydrapak system complements the existing Hydrapak option, which is a stern mounted platform for the AES kit. "It gives up to 28 percent more deck space. It also comes with the new Amphibious Exhaust Labyrinth, enabling the exhaust to be discharged under the hull. This reduces heat, noise and eliminates deck fumes."

KarlaLeigh boasts numerous custom features including a large black t-top, which was designed and constructed by Paul Selby at Black Marlin Towers. His creative flair means it incorporates the same lines as the targa arches on the boat. "It fits like a glove. It looks like it was made for it, which it was," says Lindsay.

While the 8.5-metre Sealegs has a cabin, this 9-metre model doesn't. Rated for 12 passengers including driver and with a 3.13-metre beam, it makes best use of deck space with plenty of room for gear and eskies. Life jacket storage is built into the t-top. Lindsay specified additional rear seating for four featuring European upholstery with diamond stitching, integrated sink, fridge and storage with Corian benchtop. There are two helm seats plus two behind, all Jolt Rider shock-mitigation marine seats.



Forward is another seat, plus a bow seat hiding the windlass.

The helm is equipped with Simrad navigation gear, and for tunes there's a Fusion Apollo Marine Entertainment System with built-in wi-fi. Another practical addition is the RailBlaza mounting system that can be used for fish finders and other equipment, rods, kayaks, paddleboards, lights, cameras, drinks, phones and, depending on the vessel, biminis.

While on land – powered by a 35 hp inboard petrol engine – the top speed is a sedate 7.5 kilometres per hour, but it's on the water that the Sealegs 9.0m comes to life. The Yamaha XF425 V8 XTO outboard features a big bore, 5.6-litre engine that fires the boat onto the plane quickly for a top speed of 50 knots. With the outboard up, draft is just 40 centimetres.

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DAVID MCKEE WRIGHT
CEO
SEALEGS



Top left: The Sealegs 9.0m can be highly configured – this version features a custom hardtop designed and built by Paul Selby at Black Marlin Towers.

Left: Jolt Rider suspension seats, a first for Sealegs,

add comfort for helm and passengers.

Above: The three wheels feature wide grippy tyres and independent motors for maximum traction on land; this version also has diff locks.

According to Rigby, there's a shared characteristic of all Sealegs owners. "They're family-oriented people and Sealegs is the sort of craft that brings them together," he says. "Owners tell us they love the ease of getting on water, and they're blown away that it performs as well as any other craft – there are no compromises. Being amphibious is a bonus. You can cruise along, take it up to 30 knots then put the hammer down for 50 knots," he adds. "And they're exceptionally seaworthy."

With a 23-degree deadrise at the transom, the hull features longitudinal aluminium stringers for strength. The pontoons are six-chamber Hypalon tubes with grab rails.

"It's exhilarating!" Lindsay enthuses. "I'm still learning about the ins and outs of operation, but so far it's been all positive."



All Sealegs amphibious crafts come with All Wheel Drive (AWD) and Seastar power-assisted hydraulic steering with EPS. Both the front wheel and rear wheels have their own wheel motor that allows for maximum traction and terrain capability.

Lindsay specified the optional diff-lock, which allows drivers to force all wheels to turn in unison – a common feature on off-roading 4x4s.

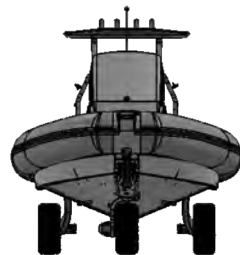
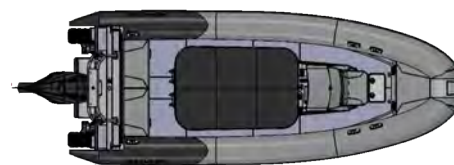
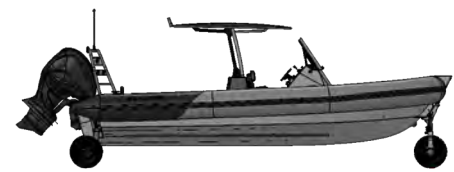
Since taking delivery of *KarlaLeigh* in January, Lindsay has been finessing his land manoeuvring skills and enjoying exploring the wonders of Moreton Bay, among them the Koorinal sandhills, the Champagne Pools to the north and the world-famous Gutter Bar, renowned for its locally sourced seafood.

He's not alone – there are around 20 Sealegs owners in this neck of the woods, and 260 Australia-wide. Since the brand's launch back in 2004, it has sold more than 1,700 vessels that have been delivered into 55 countries.

At the 2023 Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show, Sealegs enjoyed strong interest. "We sold a few and are now busy with demos," Rigby says. "We exhibited three Sealegs models, including the new Sealegs 8.5-metre Alloy Cabin painted in Bentley Silver Lake Blue with matching Yamaha Pearlescent White, which certainly turned heads.

"The other two were a 7.5-metre Hydrasol RIB bound for Noosa North Shore, and a 9-metre Hydrasol RIB bound for Port Lincoln, South Australia, where it will join a twin sister," he continues.

"Next up, we have our Sealegs Rendezvous and Moreton Island Fishing Classic in September, raising funds for the Moreton Island Rural Fire Service. It's certainly a niche product," he admits, "but for waterfront homeowners or people who own beach houses, it's a fantastic lifestyle accessory. It really is the icing on the cake." [O sealegs.com](https://www.sealegs.com)



Above: Powered by a separate 35 hp motor, the Sealegs 9.0m is capable of 7.5 kilometres per hour on land or, with the 425 hp Yamaha outboard option, 50 knots at sea.

SPECIFICATIONS

Builder	Sealegs International Ltd	Speed (cruise)	30 knots
Model	Sealegs 9.0m Hydrasol RIB	Fuel capacity	250 litres or 2 x 360 litres
Country of build	New Zealand	Freshwater capacity	25 litres
Year of build	2023	Max payload	500 kilograms, including passengers
LOA (wheels up)	9.65 metres (hull length not incl wheels 8 metres)	Height on wheel (no t-top)	2.9 metres
Beam	3.1	Height on wheel (with custom t-top)	3.1 metres
Draft	0.4	Anchoring systems	Savwinch SSS Drum Anchor Winch
Displacement	2,240 kg single outboard; 2,400 kg twin outboards (no fuel)	Navigation electronics	Simrad NSS16 EV03 chartplotter
Gross tonnage	2,925 kg single outboard; 3,165 kg twin outboards (no fuel)	Entertainment systems	Fusion Apollo, six speakers, amp + subwoofer
Classification	CE Certification Class	Galley appliances	49-litre compressor fridge, plumbed-in s/s basin + pressure water, engineered stone counter and draws and glasses
Hull construction	5-millimetre marine-grade aluminium (5083)	Custom t-top	Custom t-top made by Black Marlin Towers
Rib tube material	Orca® 866 Hypalon	Maximum people on board	12, including driver
Hull type	Planing hull deadrise at transom 23 degrees	Standard warranties	12 months
Engines	1 x Yamaha 425 hp or 2 x Yamaha 200 hp outboard(s)	Price (landed)	from AU\$480,000
Speed (max)	50 knots (1 x 425 hp); 42 knots (2 x 200 hp)		

50 knots

Speed (max)

30 knots

Speed (cruise)

250 litres

Fuel capacity

AU\$480,000

Price