

## *Australia Yachts* Secret Harbour 46



**WORLD DEBUT**  
AT THE SANCTUARY COVE BOAT SHOW

# The Realisation of a *Dream*

Australia Yachts has created its dream yacht – could it be yours too?

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*Trevor Curtis – interior*







The Secret Harbour 46 turns on a dime with the throttle wide open.

Whether it's found battling the ferocity of a merciless storm in fierce swell, or resting in the tranquil beauty of a sheltered coastal refuge, the sea in all its many guises has been a constant source of inspiration for men and women down through the ages.

The minds of innumerable artists, poets and musicians have been held captive to her allure and by her indomitable power. Some have left the shore only to return changed in their outlook and perspective.

Such was the case with Mike Antalec, the founder of Australia Yachts, although his inspired work of art takes the form of a classic 46-foot motor yacht called the Secret Harbour.

Antalec can recall the very moment 12 years ago when a sublime experience of the sea's transforming power crystallised the idea in his mind for the perfect cruising yacht.

While cruising in the remote Exumas Islands in the West Indies, Antalec, a former superyacht captain with over 400,000 miles under his belt, navigated a course through several shallow reefs into what he describes as a 'secret harbour' of matchless beauty.

"I dropped the anchor in the turquoise blue water so clear and calm that sand dollars can be seen scattered about the white sandy bottom. When I shut the engines down there was a beautiful silence; all that can be heard is the sound of the ocean breaking gently on the windward side of the island," recalls Antalec.

He dived into the crystal water and swam ashore. By the time he stepped back onto the boat a plan had been forged which would change the course of his life – to create the perfect cruising motor

yacht for exploring the many secret harbours that must exist in the many far flung destinations. It would combine range, performance and seaworthiness in a luxurious package for long stints aboard.

Over a decade later, the enduring memory of this moment continues to inspire Antalec and with the launch of the AY46 Secret Harbour motor yacht at this year's Sanctuary Cove Boat Show, others too will soon be able to share his passion.

While meticulously formed as a sophisticated luxury motor yacht up above, below the waterline the Secret Harbour's hull shares a great deal in common with the working-class crayfisher boats which operate in the wild waters off Western Australia's isolated coastline.

Antalec teamed up with Mark Ellis of Mark Ellis Marine Design in Fremantle, for the development of the Secret Harbour 46 and created the perfect hull. Ellis has years of experience designing vessels in the crayfish industry in Western Australia which served as the inspiration behind the hull. These hardy boats are built to go out in all conditions and work in and around the heavily reefed areas off Australia's expansive western coastline. Crayfish boats have a reputation for being quick, safe, reliable and relatively economical to run for their purpose.

Time was taken to select the optimum equipment for the yacht as it was intended for an experienced boater who can appreciate the well laid out systems and simple operation. The boat is user friendly, comfortable, with a high quality finish and includes all the latest in navigation and operation equipment. The vacuum infused composite hull provides the optimum



The aft cockpit is a synthesis of a modern entertaining space with classic style.

“The fishing deck has a unique drop-down transom which makes diving, fishing and swimming far easier and the water more accessible. A boarding ladder can be fitted to the hull right beside the transom or a foldaway ladder can be fitted to the transom itself.”

amount of strength in a lightweight hull.

The design and engineering was built and inspected by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure during all stages of construction to Marine Survey IIB. The IIB survey encompasses strength, safety, and stability, “Our boats are a best of the best product, produced by a team of world class boat builders for the most discerning and knowledgeable of clients. We’re building something special – a luxury cruiser based on the famous qualities of the West Australian cray boat. A boat that is safe, spacious and seaworthy,” says Antalec.

The selection of the propulsion package is an important feature of the boat. Australia Yachts is the first boat builder in Australia to implement the latest in drive technology. Cummins-Mercury has a package which suited the power requirements, was best in its class for torque and top end power, excellent power to weight ratio and low noise. The QSB480 could be coupled to Zeus drives fitted to hull tunnels and this combination had a number of advantages.

It has joystick operation which is both simple to use and



The unique fold-down transom is a great feature for maximising the use of space.



Looking aft from the galley, stairs lead to the master saloon on the main deck and down a step to the second double stateroom.

“Very few yachts of this size offer so much accommodation and if they do, they are not nearly as generous or as accessible.”

very effective. Switching between wheel or joystick options is automated. This adds a huge safety factor and it has a number of other safety features built in for operating in shallow waters and around reefs. Coupled to the latest satellite navigation and sounding equipment, the Cummins package helped make the boat a simple push-button outfit, capable of making the inexperienced boat owner feel like a pro.

The package provides a top speed fully laden of 31 knots (up to 34 knots with a lighter load) and a very comfortable cruise speed of 26 knots. The 3,000 litre fuel tanks provide a range of 570 nautical miles at 26 knots and a maximum of 1,300 miles at 8 knots. Other notable safety features are breakaway skegs and a break away leg in the worst case of hitting submerged objects which reduces the chance of hull damage and sinking and if the hydraulics or electrics fail, the legs automatically lock into central position which can then be operated by the sticks as a normal propeller driven boat.

Apart from the main engines the equipment list includes an electronic adjustable helm seat, an Onan Cummins Extra Quiet 11.5 kW generator, ducted air-conditioning, a generous fridge and freezer, Miele barbeque, Miele cook top, Whirlpool convection microwave oven, provision for a dishwasher and clothes washer/dryer combination and a fantastic hydraulically operated drop down transom. These features just add to the already comfortable accommodation.

Consisting of two doubles and a twin, the accommodation is very generous. The forward cabin or owner’s suite has a full-sized ensuite complete with marble floors and vanity, spacious

A few steps up from the galley is the saloon which offers excellent panoramic views.



A simple helmstation with a logical layout.



glass screened shower and electronic toilet. The large bathrooms are certainly a feature on this yacht and will please the discerning woman. Another bathroom with similar fitout serves the two other bedrooms. One, also off the main companionway is a double bunk setup, and the third a very comfortable double under the main saloon with full headroom right down the side of the bed and a settee outside against the hull. This has been made possible by



Plenty of windows let the sunlight stream into the forward master stateroom.



Marble floors adorn the fully-featured master bathroom.



Bunks complete the picture for family cruising.

“In its short time on the water, tests with a number of experienced boat owners, unsolicited comments have included: ‘this yacht is in a league of it’s own’ and ‘it’s the best riding yacht of its size amongst the other main production boats available on the Australasian market today.’”

the use of the Cummins package and Mike calls this the “bonus” cabin. Very few yachts of this size offer so much accommodation and if they do, they are not as generous or as accessible.

The galley is well set up and has provision for a dishwasher and opposite, there is a space for a combination washer/dryer unit, completing the overall comfort of staying aboard for extended periods.

A few steps up and the steering console is on the starboard side and this is mounted on high gloss burl with upholstery surrounds. The equipment is integrated and well laid out for ease of operation. The benefit here is the electric helm seat which can be raised 250mm giving shorter people excellent vision through the curved forward screens.

Immediately behind this is the main saloon. The starboard side is adorned with a bench settee which has a 22-inch Grundig TV in the centre. Opposite on the port side is a comfortable U-shaped settee with an adjustable table. Both floor areas for the settees are raised providing excellent vision from the large panoramic windows and gives the head room below in the double cabin.

The Secret Harbour also has plenty of stowage. All accommodation areas have an abundance of drawer and hanging space and on deck there are two large lockers for fenders and gear on the foredeck either



Confident performance and handling comes courtesy of the Australian-designed hull.

side of the Muir anchor windlass and lockers in the alfresco area aft. The alfresco area can be built as shown or the barbeque, sink and fridge can be housed in the aft bulkhead accessible from the fishing deck, allowing for more seating and outdoor dining for up to 10 people.

The fishing deck has a unique drop-down transom which makes diving, fishing and swimming far easier and the water more accessible. A boarding ladder can be fitted to the hull right beside the transom or a foldaway ladder can be fitted to the transom itself. All decks are hand laid teak with internal drains, stainless steel fabricated fairleads, stainless steel retractable mooring cleats and high gloss varnished teak cap rails.

Australia Yachts customises each boat to the individual owners taste with options including varying timbers, soft furnishings and a different configuration in the main saloon and aft deck to either allow for more seating or a bar area.

In its short time on the water and after tests with a number of experienced boat owners, unsolicited comments have included: "this yacht is in a league of it's own" and "it's the best riding yacht of its size amongst the other main production boats available on

"He dived into the crystal water and swam ashore. By the time he stepped back onto the boat a plan had been forged which would change the course of Mike Antalec's life – to create the perfect cruising motor yacht for exploring the countless secret harbours that must exist in many far flung destinations."

the Australasian market today".

"The first thing some people have tried to do is compare the price of an SH46 to a production sport boat. However, with the IIB survey, marble showers, full teak fit out, fold down transom, Zeus drives and tonnes of hand-crafted joinery work we are not in that market, our extras add cost. We build limited production custom yachts that will hold their resale better," says Antalec.

Depending upon options, the Secret Harbour 46 will sell for between \$1.3 and \$1.6 million.

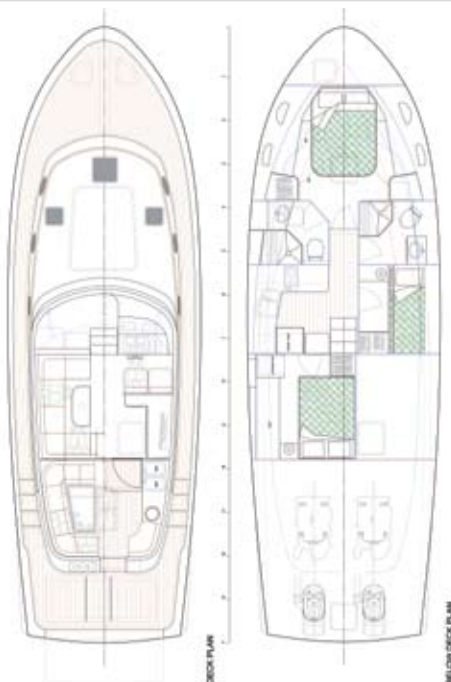
Antalec vividly recalls the beginning of the dream. "It became my destiny to build a boat that was as beautiful as the scenery and perfectly equipped to explore such locations without disturbing the tranquillity."

The dream is now realised with the debut of the Secret Harbour 46 at the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show, and Australia Yachts invites you to discover your very own Secret Harbour. ○



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## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



46.5 feet (14.2m)	<b>LOA</b>
14.5 feet (4.4m)	<b>BEAM</b>
3.3 feet (1.0M)	<b>DRAFT</b>
17°	<b>DEADRISE</b>
Cummins QSB480 X 2 with Zeus pod drives	<b>ENGINES</b>
Onan/Cummins 11.5 kW	<b>GENERATOR</b>
Marine Air 2 X 18,000 btu	<b>AIR CONDITIONING</b>
3000 litres (800 US Gallons)	<b>FUEL CAPACITY</b>
630 litres (165 US Gallons)	<b>FRESH WATER CAPACITY</b>
450 litres (165 US Gallons)	<b>BLACKWATER CAPACITY</b>
Furuno Navigation package with plotter, radar and sounder	<b>NAVIGATION ELECTRONICS</b>
Muir 30kg Bruce type anchor and bow roller Windlass combination	<b>ANCHOR SYSTEM</b>
Miele full size fridge/freezer with ice maker, Miele cook top and barbeque, Whirlpool microwave convection oven, Optional Miele dishwasher, Optional Miele washer/dryer combination	<b>GALLEY APPLIANCES</b>