Stormbird was designed and built by Pop Jorgensen at Waikawa Bay, Picton and launched on Boxing Day 1981. Designed along traditional Danish lines, Stormbird is the most ‘Danish’ of all his boats.

She was built over seven years during Pop's retirement, with the view to coastal and Pacific cruising for he and his wife Phyllis. His love of boat building is clearly evident in the boat’s mature lines and details.

She has a Danish Kroner under the mast. As told by family members the date of that Kroner was the year that Pop bought the land for the Jorgensen Waikawa boat yard and the coin was put aside for his “dreamboat”. The originals plans are drawn on linen and dated 1974.

I purchased *Stormbird* from Finn's widow, Natalie in 1999. She is unmodified from her original plans. A cutter rigged bermudian sloop, she carries her original timber mast and wooden spars. Her hull is framed in Karri and planked with edge glued New Zealand kauri. She is well setup for shorthanded sailing, well balanced and is a joy to sail under all conditions.

During the 20 + years I have owned her I have done two circumnavigations of New Zealand's North Island and countless miles in the Marlborough Sounds and the North Island's north east coast.

She has had continual upgrades and has been maintained to the highest standards. In 2015 I fitted a new Beta 38 engine to replace the Volvo MD3B. She is berthed at Westhaven Marina, Auckland.

LOA: 36' 0" / 11.90m
Beam: 10' 8" / 3.25m
Draught: 5' 9" /1.75m

Rick Allender December 2023

“Stormbird was designed using the principles of Harrison Butler’s Metacentric Analysis. I did the calculations for Pop. A model was made and we towed it heeled and it behaved as expected without rounding up. We used that principle on all the sailboats we designed. Including the three big boats I designed for Thackwray yachts *“– Harry Jorgensen August 2021*

Harrison Butler was "a strong believer in the 'metacentric shelf formula' to achieve good balance and handling under sail. The theory held that as a yacht heels under sail, its balance will depend on the immersed form of the hull, with different sections exerting varying degrees of buoyancy and aft sections possibly being more buoyant than forward sections. Metacentric shelf analysis plots the shifts in the varying buoyancies as a net value to windward or leeward and serves as a guide to achieving equal buoyancy in the dissimilar ends of a design. The work can now be done by computer, but when it was applied by the brain, hand and eye of Dr. Harrison Butler it produced famously sweet-handling boats, in the age of heavy weather helm.” - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Harrison_Butler