

Horizon FD103 Custom

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES DUMERGUE



LONE WARRIOR

Askari is the culmination of a lifetime devoted to the pinnacle of design – and a commitment to many more years and nautical miles of unfettered global roaming, writes **Jeni Bone**.

The Horizon FD103 *Askari* is a testament to her experienced owners' aesthetic. Designed as a go-anywhere floating apartment, *Askari* is the first of Horizon's FD100 models, in this instance stretched to 103 feet so as to accommodate an extended transom, sunlounges, an arsenal of water toys and two much-loved miniature schnauzers, Rudy and Heidi.

Rudy and Heidi's owners are Peter Kerr and his husband Malcolm Watkins, who have built a formidable reputation selling their avant-garde mansions in hometown Melbourne. "Boats are much easier," begins Kerr. "It's fun. *Askari* is identical to how we envisaged her; there's not one thing I'm unhappy with."

Askari is the product of two decades of boat ownership and, in Watkins's case, a lifetime of messing about in boats. *Askari* means warrior or guard in Swahili – a tribute to Watkins's upbringing in Kenya. "We've never named a boat before, so we decided to honour Ma's family background," Kerr explains.

"We've owned several boats, including *Elettra*, which was built in 1987 for Fabio Perini [founder of Perini Navi]. We sailed the Mediterranean for six years, spending one month there, one month back in Australia," he continues.

"We got that out of our system then bought an Ocean Alexander 78 and explored the Bahamas. We loved Miami and the boating culture."

The couple spotted a Horizon FD87 tri-deck at the Palm Beach boat show in March 2020 and contacted Mark Western, Director at Horizon Yachts Australia, to discuss their vision. Next, Horizon co-founder and CEO John Lu became involved and conceptualised a stretched 87 that would accommodate every wish and whim, including a tri-bridge deck, spa pool, an expanded galley, floor-to-ceiling glazing in the saloon and the hundreds of intricate details that make a house a home. In December 2020 they committed and, a year later, took delivery.

"Clients can specify a concept and, within 24 to 48 hours, have the plans back in their hands – not just a design, but general arrangement drawings (GAs) developed for structural integrity and engineering," says Western.

And that's what sealed the deal for Kerr and Watkins. Director of PLK Design, Kerr has been responsible for the interiors of the couple's properties that regularly feature in architecture and design magazines.

From the outset, *Askari* was destined to break the mould. The model's 220 gross tonnage volume means a generous profile, but the silhouette is cleverly broken up using geometric glazing. *Askari* also benefits from the elongated transom, which helps balance her lines further.

The massive swim platform serves more than just an aesthetic purpose, though. It offers extra deck space and gives access to the garage, crew quarters and engine room.



The garage houses two Sea-doo SPARKs, Fliteboards, bikes, Segways, inflatable stinger-proof pool, five compressor and gear, plus a fuel pump for refuelling the tender from the main tank, as well as additional refrigeration and storage lockers.

Crew accommodation comprises a generous king and separate bunk cabins, both with ensuite, plus a galley/teece. The vessel is served by two tenders, a Castoldi diesel Jet Tender 15 and a Saxdor 320 GTO. The foredeck houses the oversize Castoldi tender, while the Saxdor will be towed.

Up on the main deck, the aft entertaining space can be completely enclosed. "When you're under way in 7-metre swells in Tasmania, you want protection from the wind and water," says Kerr.

This elegant space comprises a built-in seat and three custom lounges, a high-low teak table, an LED-lit bar, a 32-inch flip-down television and a practical shoe locker. Wide, walkaround decks lead to the foredeck, which has additional lockers for gear.

Entered via push-button, stainless-steel doors, the saloon is bursting with colour, contemporary furniture and intriguing statement pieces; it's uncluttered and inviting.

"The real show is outside," Kerr states, indicating the floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the exterior views.

The neutral tones are buoyed by a vibrant, marine-based lounge and draped rug. Soft furnishings and décor are resplendent



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in African-inspired prints, alpaca rugs and textured wall coverings. Kerr chose interior fabrics from Warwick Fabrics and outdoor ones from Westbury Textiles. Many accessories were sourced from Grant Dormann Interior Products, Prahran. Leather door handles and handrails and drawers with leather pull tabs are some of the little gems.

The dining room features an impressive Liebherr 198-bottle wine fridge within arm's reach of the mid-century-style dining table. Consistent with the mantra of low-maintenance but high durability, Kerr chose vinyl, linen-look wallpaper from Baresque to break up the timber panelling.

The galley, which was stretched to add a central island, is an oasis of Cambria quartzite. With plenty of prep space, appliances include a Sub-Zero dishwasher, integrated Sub-Zero double fridge, Miele induction combination oven, Zip HydroTop coffee machine, InSinkErator, rubbish compactor and double bins for recycling. Blum drawer dividers are just one of the discreet details that affirm the finesse of this designing duo. On both sides of the galley, doors give access to slide decks, and there's a screen that closes off the heart of this floating home from the saloon.

The master stateroom forward is another meticulously designed space that embodies Kerr's aesthetic. This tranquil space features corrugated wall treatments, ephemeral sheers, Samsung The Frame television and his-and-his ensuite with marble benchtops, dual-access shower and Rogerseller gold tapware. The panel windows in the ensuite are just as impactful as the art made on the televisions. Three custom-designed hatches open up on the foredeck for fresh air and sunshine. Kerr designed the leather-look, vinyl-topped drawers with compartments specifically for his shoes, sunglasses and accessories. Hand-blown glass sconces by Sokitas at Currumbin and Ross Gardam lamps serve as bedside lighting. Watkins can check on Askari's systems any time on the bedside screen linked to the OctoPlex system.

The guest accommodation on the lower deck comprises three queen VIPs and a twin plus pullman, each with its own ensuite. At the foot of the stairs – which have been built with risers so the fur babies don't slip through – is a bar fridge, bench and storeroom.

Compared to the saloon and guest accommodation, the flybridge and tri-bridge levels are spartan, though no less stylish.

"Most boats this size are too formal. We wanted this boat to be relaxed, laid-back. More Hayman Island beach house, especially with the dogs and guests coming up from the water or spa pool. We hand-picked every fabric, every piece of furniture, the flooring, every detail," he continues.

"Everything had to be all-weather and low maintenance. We sent container loads of furniture and accessories to the factory and they took care of it."

Opposite: Bolt splashes of colour punctuate the warm neutral palette on the main deck.

Right (above): The large custom galley

Unique to Askari is the full-beam flybridge the couple specified for the space and a sleeker profile. The skyounge houses the main helm decked out with six Furuno screens and two helm chairs, a table and seating for guests, plus a door on each side leading to wing stations.

Beyond the skyounge's sliding doors is an expansive undercover lounge area with a C-shaped sofa, twin high-low tables, a large bar, Fisher & Paykel DishDrawers, a barbecue and another Samsung television. Each side features custom-made, three-piece sliding windows to allow both open and enclosed flybridge options. At the rear, clears ensure protection for all-weather use.

Further aft, the deck is shaded by a sun awning over the ten-seater table, sunlounges and spa pool with bar ledge and three stools, with a grill, fridges and day head.

AT A GLANCE

31.55 m
Overall length

7.11 m
Beam

138.9 t
Displacement (fully laden)

22 kn
Maximum speed



Right (below): Details abound in owner-specified accessories and finishes.



Left: Kerr's design touches are everywhere, including in the generous main deck master.

Below left: Stairs to the guest accommodation have risers for the safety of the couple's dogs.

throughout, from lighting to custom-designed and built furniture."

For their shutdown voyage, Askari and her owners will head north to spend winter in the Whitsundays. Afterwards, they plan to head over the Tasman before cruising to Melbourne in January and Sydney in February and March.

In mid-2023, the Kimberley coast is on their agenda. "We'll have six crew and eight guests," Kerr enthuses.

"We'll keep the boat there for three months and fly in and out. Then, we hope to visit Tahiti, Fiji and the Cook Islands. Askari is our floating holiday home and we intend to travel. There's nothing better in life." [O horizonyachts.com](http://O.horizonyachts.com)



SPECIFICATIONS ◉

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Above, the tri-beer offers a sensational vantage point with an undercover lounge and three-person day bed for superb lounging. There are also forward-facing sun pads adjacent to the second helm.

Askari is in the competent hands of Captain Kyle Numa, who is ably assisted by deckhand Johnny Ashwin and a chef/stewardess.

Askari is Numa's first Horizon. "It's very good so far," he says. "We haven't had to navigate in any weather or take her offshore, but she's easy to handle. I'm impressed."

Twin Caterpillar engines give her a top speed of 22 knots and a 10-knot cruise, with her 18,170-litre fuel capacity offering a 3,500-nautical-mile range.



Upgraded ABT-TRAC stabilisers, 55 hp bow and stern thrusters, plus dual-band Yacht Controller means Askari is perfectly suited to serious cruises.

The Horizon FD Series – designed in collaboration with the Dutch designer Cor D Rover – spans 75 to 125 feet and has become one of the fastest-growing model series in the world, accounting for 95 percent of the brand's

enquiries in our region. In 2022, Horizon Yachts Australia will deliver 12 FDs – equal to the US. The opportunity for customisation only enhances the appeal.

"The level of customisation we've been able to achieve was far and away above any other yard," Kerr states.

"As a designer, that meant I could apply my vision and use Australian designers

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Horizon FD103 Custom



1

UPPER DECK

Large full-beam fly with spa pool, convertible seating for twenty, bar, dining table for ten, day head and access to the tri-bridge above.



2

MAIN DECK

Full-height saloon windows bring light and large views in, large galley is a centrepiece. Forward master with his-and-his ensuite.



3

LOWER DECK

Comfortable and luxurious guest cabins on the lower deck with crew cabins and mess aft finished to same spec as rest of yacht.



SPECIFICATIONS

Builder	Horizon Yacht	Speed (max)	22 knots
Model	Horizon FD103 Custom	Speed (cruise)	10-18 knots
Country of build	Taiwan	Fuel capacity	21339 litres
Designer	Horizon Yacht	Range	2,500 nm @ 10 knots
Naval architect	Cyr D Rover	Freshwater capacity	2,200 litres
Interior designer	PLK Design	Blackwater capacity	1,000 litres
Year of build	2022	Generators (main)	2 x Onan 40 kW, 1 x ONAN 19 kW
LOA (length overall)	31.55 metres	Bow thruster	ABT 55 hp
LWL (waterline length)	27.38 metres	Stern thruster	ABT 55 hp
Beam	7.11 metres	Winches	Triple Maxwell VC 2500, 24VDC
Draft	1.94 metres	Anchoring system	2 x 110 kg anchors, Maxwell VWCLP 3500
Displacement (fully laden)	138.9 tonnes	Navigation electronics	4 x Winmate W24L100-MRA1FP 24" display, 6 x Furuno Black Box TZ11
Hull construction	GRP	Tenders	Castoldi Jet 15 plus 2 x Sea Doo SPARKs
Superstructure	GRP	Owner	Full-beam master with his-and-hers ensuite
Engines	2 x CAT C-32A 1800 hp T3R	Guest berths	3 x double cabins, 1 x twin with pulman, all ensuite
Output	1,800 hp	Crew	King ensuite cabin and 2 x king single ensuite
Propellers Ni-Al-Bronze, ENDP Series 47.5" D x 40.70" P x 58 x 10 EAR		Maximum people on board	11 overnight guest plus four crew
Drive train	Shaft	Standard warranties	2-year limited manufacturer warranty
Stabilisation systems	ABT Star Trac 440, 20X (low profile)	Price (landed)	AUS\$17 million
Gearbox	ZF 3050A (3.0:1)		

22 knots

Speed (max)

10-18 knots

Speed (cruise)

18,170 litres

Fuel capacity

2,500 nm at 10 knots

Range

138.9 tonnes

Displacement

AUS\$17 m

Price