



Robert Burton selected the PowerTech 6.8L engine because it offered the right combination of dimensions and power.



First Lady turns heads wherever she goes.

40 is the NEW 20!

Revamped 40-year-old yacht looks and feels like a million dollars

Robert Burton has always admired Grand Banks Yachts for their unique combination of unquenchable spirit, meticulous craftsmanship, and superior construction techniques. So when he and his wife, Julie, purchased the 40-year-old *First Lady* from the Grand Banks Heritage series, Burton made it his mission to restore the vessel into a lady fair: spirited, elegant, and avant-garde. For *First Lady*, 40 is definitely the new 20!

When she initially caught Robert's eye, the 10-meter-long (32-foot) fiberglass cruiser was in pretty good condition. "*First Lady* is a fine example of Grand Banks' boat building craftsmanship that has survived the test of time in terms of construction and design," Robert says. "She only had two previous owners and both had treated her well, taking her out mainly in Sydney waters, then out of Manly in Brisbane on Moreton Bay. But her original engine was worn out, and she was showing her age. I was convinced that a major makeover would restore her youthful spirit. Unlike the makeovers you see on TV, we worked on both the outside and the inside. I can proudly say that the transformed *First Lady* is now in a league of her own!"

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A major undertaking, refurbishment started in July 2013. Robert called on many different specialists to help, including Grand Banks Yachts, Russell's Marine Maintenance, both at The Boat Works Gold Coast and John Deere marine engine distributor Marine Diesel Pty Ltd. On the outside, the hull and cabin were repainted with a high-gloss finish and full boat covers were fitted. Inside, the transformation was more radical, including the installation of new fuel and water tanks, a new bonding and anti-corrosion system, and a major electrical systems upgrade.

Haute couture: New, contemporary engine keeps *First Lady* agile.

To enhance sailing, navigation, and docking, Burton also had a new Lewmar bow thruster put in, along with a complete Garmin navigation system including dual chart plotters, radar, and autopilot. While the original, 40-year-old engine had certainly seen a full life, it was time for a more contemporary power source, a new propeller shaft, and a Borg Warner transmission upgrade.

"To avoid changing the original power source design, I wanted something that closely matched the original engine's size, weight, and characteristics," says Burton. "Steve Shale from Marine Diesel Pty Ltd convinced me that the PowerTech 6.8L engine met these qualities and offered great performance and fuel efficiency. Shale gave me excellent and detailed advice before our purchase, and then ensured the installation was professional and timely, with modifications such as new engine beds, electrical rewiring, water-intake, and fuel-filter systems. I'm pleased with the 9 knots top speed and the fuel consumption averaging about 9 liters (2.4 gallons) per hour. Any boat owner contemplating a repower should certainly speak with Shale at Marine Diesel. He perfectly understood our requirements and delivered on them."

Combining grace and technology, *First Lady* is a real head-turner.

First Lady is moored at Hope Island Marina on the Coomera River on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. From there, she regularly explores the Gold Coast Broadwater and Moreton Bay. Longer term, Robert and Julie plan to head south into New South Wales and the expansive waters of the Clarence River, as well as Lake Macquarie near Newcastle. But wherever she goes, *First Lady* is bound to impress boat lovers around the world with her unique combination of grace and technology.

Engine distributor: Marine Diesel Pty Ltd in Capalaba, Queensland, Australia, www.marinediesel.net.au