

Letters to the Editor

30 November 1998

On a weekend in November my family and I flew to Sydney to enjoy a short holiday on one of the Ausail charter yachts. It was a Catalina 32.

This gave us quite a different experience from our own Spencer 30. Even though the Catalina was only two feet longer, it had so much more room. It was a really beautiful yacht and was quite easy to sail, having the best of equipment on board such as jib furlers and self-tailing winches.

We spent three days of luxury cruising in Pittwater. We were blessed with perfect weather. The rain stopped as soon as we got off the plane and started once again as we boarded the plane to go home. Both nights were spent moored at The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club. We could have moored somewhere else if we wished, but due to friends coming and going it was easier just to sleep in the one spot. The Club was very nice. One night we ate at the Club's restaurant, which was very satisfying.

Our first day was spent familiarising ourselves with the boat and generally getting a feel for Pittwater. On our second day of cruising we found a lovely cove, picked up a mooring, went swimming and just lazed around on the decks. We even went for a row to the shore and did a little bush walking.

The final day we picked up a mooring at Palm Beach, just near the boat shed where my father proposed to my Mum many years ago. We swam in from the boat to the beach and enjoyed the sun.

When we handed the boat back to Ausail I knew that this weekend had been one of fun and total relaxation, which is what my family really needed. As winners of the 1997/98 *Twilight* series at the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron, I thank Ausail, VicSail and Ansett for the prize that they so generously donated.

Mary Power

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20 February 1999

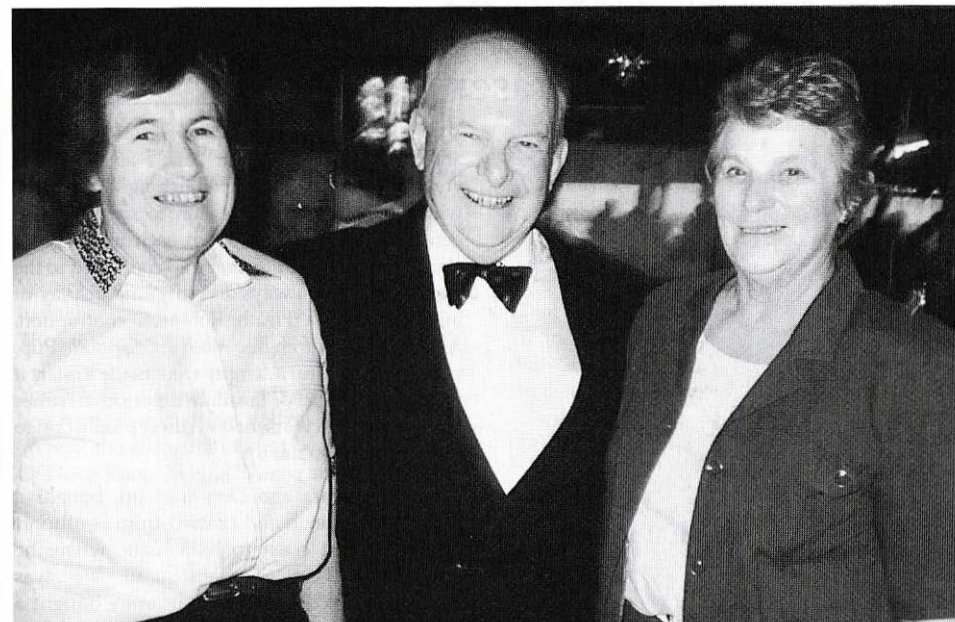
I congratulate Lex Marshall and others who have conceived the idea of a **Lighted Boat Parade**. I am concerned at the proposed date, however, currently set as 18 December 1999.

I assume that the intention is to concentrate attention on the Squadron and its vessels. If so, is it wise to choose virtually the shortest night of the year, at a time when the community and our Members will be concentrating on both the impending New Year (millennial or otherwise) and many will be caught up in celebrations for Christmas? Boatowners wanting to hire lights for the Parade will probably find them to be scarce and expensive. Traditionally, Christmas is often a windy season, and it will be more of a spectacle on a calm night.

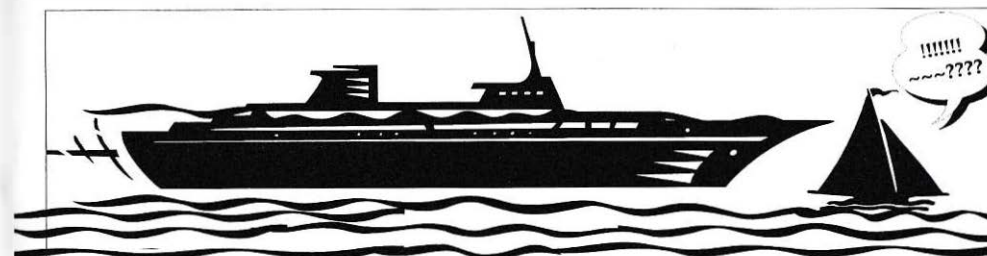
I seriously suggest holding the event on the first Saturday after the conclusion of daylight saving in 2000. At that time, winds are usually calm, as the racing fleet knows only too well. Darkness will come earlier. There will be less competition for public attention and more potential participation. Hiring lights will be easier.

I agree with John Smith that the procession should start at Port Adelaide and conclude at the Squadron. That will help to focus attention on us, which I gather is a significant part of the reason for doing it. Boatowners wanting an early night will be back at the Squadron at the conclusion of the Lighted Parade and won't have to face the return trip to their moorings.

Peter Last



Jenny and Peter Last, with Anthea Cowell at the Christmas Luncheon. Peter was the speaker, and told the curious story of FE Bucknall, who convened the first meeting of what became RSAYS. (Jack Gamlin).



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