

Letters to the Editor

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What a great time we have been having in Vanuatu! We have anchored at eight different islands, experienced first hand village life in its present form and ancient cultures that are still active but reach back over hundreds of thousands of years. We have seen active volcanoes, caught the biggest fish we have ever caught in our lives and most important of all we have met some wonderful people.

We spent three weeks in Port Vila, where we were able to experience the second Melanesian arts festival, with dancing, singing, visual arts, wood carving, etc. We then sailed to Havana Harbour and on the way caught a Spanish mackerel 1.6 metres long. It was so heavy we had to use a small grapnel to pull it aboard. It fed two villages and three yachts.

We visited a new village on Moso Island, then sailed overnight to Malakula Island, where we met the schooner *Soren Larsen* and another magnificent schooner called *Astor*, as well as Marlene and Phil on another SA sloop called *Crusader*. We sailed in company with *Crusader* for over a week.

Since then we have visited Pentecost Island, Maewo, Ambae and Santo. We have met some wonderful people, including a number of members of Churches of Christ. It has been a great thrill for us to meet people with a common faith and worship practice and to share with them in worship. We were invited to stay longer in a number of places and may return one day as voluntary workers.

The local food is great..but the *kava* — ugh! The *kava* at Asinvari (Maewo island) was so strong Bruce was weak in the legs and almost asleep after one coconut shell.

At Lolawai on Ambae island we anchored in the crater of a volcano after just scraping over the rim at its lowest point. On our way here we caught a huge yellow-fin tuna, but before we could land it our line broke. We now have a big gaff to avoid such future losses.

More stories later when internet costs are less. We plan to leave in about two weeks time to sail direct from Luganville to Bundaberg, a distance of 1,100 nautical miles. May you all take the wings of the morning and experience new and exciting things! Life is never boring.

Love from Bonnie and Bruce Marriott

Yacht *Eliza*

Fri 27-09 saw me sufficiently recovered from having a benign tumor removed at Mackay Hospital and heading south towards Yeppoon, roughly 150 nm. This was an uneventful sail ,staying at Digby Island overnight and then on to Yeppoon. We checked on our stored possessions, which we had not sighted for two years and offloaded surplus bits from the boat into the store. We now sail a little faster.

Sun 13-10 saw us underway again, this time bound for Bundaberg. Arrived at the entrance to the Burnett river 24 hrs later and then proceeded upstream to the city and Midtown Marina.

We plan to leave around Tue 22-10 and spend some time in the Great Sandy Straight and Fraser Island. Will send the next update from Mooloolaba early next month.

Regards to all,

Barry and Ann Lee (Yacht *Eliza*)

Pasadena

30 October 2002

Following the binding of the available copies of the *Newsletter* and *Squadron Quarterly*, I would like to express my thanks to those Members who have provided past issues in kind or copy — the Flint family, nonagenarian Jack Gamlin, Alan Sinclair, Blyth Lindsay, past Commodore Wilbur Tedmanson, Peter Last and several anonymous donors.

The eight volumes are now housed in the Rymill display cabinet at the turn of the stairs leading to the Dining Room. The index of contents from 1984 to the present time is available in the Office, and the Editor of *Squadron Quarterly* has a duplicate.

The Management Committee agreed to continue binding the *Quarterly* on a regular basis to provide a social, physical and historical record of the Squadron's current activities.

My thanks again to those involved.

Max Holbrook



The big crew of Alan Cotton's Cabaret gave a resounding cheer on Opening Day. Life Member Patrick Hill is beside the mizzen mast.

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