

In a land that constantly challenges one's everyday assumptions, we were surprised and indeed delighted to exchange greetings with a magnificent specimen of young manhood we recognised He was soberly dressed in T shirt and shorts, playing with his small child on the beach. Only the day before he had been the highly athletic lead dancer in the custom dancing show, dressed only in a pandanus leaf penis sheath and seed pod castanets.

It was a little disconcerting to meet Jake's father, Chief Sidal, who was Ian's age. The two shared thumbnail sketches of their lives and found enough common ground to enjoy a good chat. His teeth, into their seventh decade were in better condition than Ian's, (we saw no sugar cane in Vanuatu) but given his age, we wondered if in his younger years he had munched on a human limb or two. We were too shy to ask.

Port Vincent Sounding Plan

Peter Dermott has given us a sounding plan of Port Vincent, compiled in 1950. All soundings are in feet and bearings are true. He wrote —

As stated on the full version of the attached plan, I can confirm that 'Mr Rynmill and his crew' compiled the drawing. Henry gave the crew the task with the view that the finished product would be of assistance to Squadron Members when 'working' the Port Vincent area: ie to stop them from going aground.

The crew of *Sea Hawk* at that time consisted of Warwick Guy, Ian McBryde and myself, all Senior Members of the Squadron. All of us had been in the Scouts at school, and that training, particularly mapping, was now to be put to the test.

The old commercial wharf alignment was used as the base line, and all bearings were taken by a handbearing compass. Soundings were taken with a hand leadline, at low water when possible, and checked with the tide board on the wharf.

The exercise was undertaken during the Christmas-New Year period of 1949-50, in between being official boat for various yacht races. At the time Warwick was working in the CM-Holden drawing office at Woodville, so it fell to him to produce the plan, a copy of which was

A church leader in LitsLits village further up the coast of Malekula, however, volunteered that he was very sorry that his villagers had eaten missionaries in the past. What can one say? Let bygones be bygones?

We look forward to returning to Vanuatu this season and continuing our cruising to the more remote Banks and Torres Island groups in the north. From Vila, we will effortlessly fill our time with day sailing as we island hop north, having fun with cruisers from all over the world, and enjoying the Ni-vanuatu as we try to understand a little more of their world.

We will leave our summer list of 'should do's' at home and enjoy the freedom of cruising one of the most wonderful places imaginable.

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eventually placed on the notice board in the bar of the Ventnor Hotel bar, with drinks all round — ??

To some extent the plan may have reduced yachts grounding. Henry bought *Beth* in the following year, and in her and in *Nyroca* many yachts were refloated over the years. An occasional 'Thanks, Henry!' was received. If considered appropriate, a copy of our plan was passed to the embarrassed skipper.

A copy of the plan reduced to A4 paper can be obtained from the Editor.



Racing at Port Vincent before the War
(G.S. Hargrave)

