

OFF TO ADELAIDE.

LONG TRIP BY LAUNCH.

GOOD SEND-OFF TO BETH

At 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon the 40-foot ketch-rigged motor cruiser Beth cast off from the Central wharf and started on her voyage of approximately 4000 miles to her home port of Adelaide, South Australia, via Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands and Sydney.

As the launch backed out clear of the wharf, farewells were waved and "Kia Oras" shouted from a big gathering of friends of the owner and crew, and a number of them accompanied the boat down channel in the launch Olivene. The ensign of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron flying on the clubhouse at the top of Endean's Buildings was dipped in salute as the Beth left the wharf, and acknowledged by Beth dipping the squadron's pennant at her masthead. The big yacht Hearts-ease, which is scheduled to sail next Saturday on her adventurous voyage to England, got under way a few minutes before Beth and stood down the harbour in company.

The Beth, with her 40 h.p. engine going full speed, soon drew clear of the yacht, and off Devonport the burgee was dipped on the Heartsease and promptly acknowledged by Beth as a farewell signal.

The motor boat with her three sails staysail, leg-o'-mutton mainsail and mizzen all drawing, and her engine running, beat down harbour at a fast pace in a fresh easterly. Two tacks saw her clear of North Head, which she rounded at 3.30 p.m. Shortly after this the following launch picked up Mrs. Webb and other friends of the crew, and final farewells were given as the Beth headed straight out to Tiri on her way to Whangaroa, her first port of call.

The Beth is owned by Mr. T. H. Webb, of Adelaide, who has been a resident of Northcote for the past two years. As crew he has his two sons, Reginald and Sydney, also Mr. Chas. Bowman, a well-known Auckland yachtsman, and Mr. Basil Stallard, of Wel-

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lington.

The cruiser is 40ft 6in overall, 10ft beam and normally draws 4ft 6in, but with her extra 400 gallons of petrol and 200 gallons of water, stores, etc., she is drawing 6ft. She has been carefully prepared for the long journey, and everything possible done to ensure her safety. A big sea anchor was put aboard on Saturday, and she carries a complete wireless equipment both for sending and receiving. In good weather this has a radius of over 1000 miles. Mr. Webb and his two sons are experienced in the art of navigation, and Mr. Webb reckons that from Whangaroa he will reach Norfolk Island in three days with reasonably fine weather. A stay will be made here, and the next leg of the journey will be to Lord Howe Island, which should be reached in $3\frac{1}{2}$ days. From here a course will be set for the Australian coast, a landfall being made to the north of Sydney. Sydney will be visited and the journey continued down the New South Wales coast as the weather permits, calling at Jervis Bay, Eden and Newhaven, near the entrance to Port Phillip. It is not proposed to take the launch up to Melbourne. Favourable weather will be awaited at Newhaven before setting out on the last and longest leg of the voyage, round to Adelaide, which it is expected to reach about the middle of November.