

"LIKE A DUCK."

BETH'S LONG VOYAGE. CROSSING OF THE TASMAN.

MEMBER OF CREW RETURNS.

"We felt much safer out on the high seas riding the storms than when we were skirting the unknown coast of Australia. We had the boat and the gear and when it was necessary to be hove-to the launch rode the seas like a duck." So stated Mr. Cyril Bowman, of Northcote, on his return from Australia this morning after his adventurous trip in the 40-foot launch Beth, which crossed the Tasman from Auckland and then proceeded to Adelaide to the home of her owner, Mr. T. H. Webb.

The Beth came across to Auckland by cargo steamer, and in September last she left for her home port, her crew comprising her owner and his two sons, together with Mr. Bowman and Mr. Stallard, of Wellington. The crossing was by way of Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island, and the small craft made history in that she is the only launch to have crossed the Tasman.

Early in her cruise the Beth was subjected to the worst buffeting of the whole voyage, and before Norfolk Island was reached she was hove-to for 80 hours. All hands had an arduous experience and suffered from seasickness, but their craft rode out the storm without any serious consequences under storm mizzen and staysail.

Lord Howe Island, the next stage of the trip after Norfolk, was described by Mr. Bowman as resembling a beautiful botanical garden.

"LIKE A DUCK."

AUCKLAND STAR, VOLUME LXIV,
ISSUE 12, 16 JANUARY 1933

Using This Item

Fairfax Media is the copyright owner for the Auckland Star. You can reproduce in-copyright material from this newspaper for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons New Zealand BY-NC-SA licence](#). This newspaper is not available for commercial use without the consent of Fairfax Media. For advice on reproduction of out-of-copyright material from this newspaper, please refer to the [Copyright guide](#).

Acknowledgements

This newspaper was digitised in partnership with Auckland Libraries.

Australian Landfall Made.

Lord Howe was left in the evening, and three mornings later a landfall was made. It proved to be the Myall Hills, north of Port Stephen, and the Beth was then headed down the coast to Sydney. A stay of ten days was made at the New South Wales capital, and the voyagers were hospitably entertained by the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. The final stage of the trip, Sydney to Adelaide, was made by easy stages around the coast, and Mr. Bowman described this as the most trying part of the long trip. As they were in unknown waters and good harbours were lacking, the trip was made by stages as the weather suited. There was always the possibility of having to beat out to sea to seek refuge by heaving-to rather than making for shelter on an unknown shore. They put into over a dozen ports, but the only safe harbour touched at was Refuge Cove.

No Vessels Sighted.

The Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron gave the voyagers a great welcome on reaching Adelaide, the home port of the Beth. Until the Australian coast was reached the Beth had a lonely trip, as not a vessel of any description was sighted. Mr. Bowman corrected the report that their craft was sighted off the North Cape by the Morinda on October 6. The Morinda sighted a small craft 25 miles north-west of the cape, and it was presumed to be the Beth. However, at that time she was 175 miles north-west of the cape, and the vessel sighted, Mr. Bowman said, was the yacht Heartsease, bound for Suva.

The Beth carried a receiving and transmitting set, and while she was at Lord Howe Island communication was established with an Auckland amateur. Frequently throughout the trip the launch was in touch with Adelaide. Arrangements were made for the fuel tanks to be replenished at Norfolk and Lord Howe, and about 1000 gallons were consumed on the whole trip. The Beth, cruising at about seven knots, burnt 2½ gallons an hour. Sail was carried whenever the wind suited.

Mr. Bowman is an experienced yachtsman and made the trip to Norfolk in the Auckland-owned yacht Victory during Christmas, 1928-29. He made a trip to Port Victoria, South Australia, after leaving the Beth and was impressed with the wheat-loading operations there. Seven windjammers were loading the season's harvest, and the tremendous stacks of grain were a spectacular sight.

"Next to this the heat and flies will remain long in the memory of a great experience," commented Mr. Bowman, as he set foot again on New Zealand shores from the Marama's gangway.