

On the front cover of this edition we have featured CHUM, a 13.7 metre, 6 berth motor vessel built in 1923 by Searles for the Squadron's then Rear Commodore, Mr E A Johnstone.

She eventually found her way to Morgan on the River Murray where she spent many years. Her owner at the time, Mr Tom Warnes, subsequently took her out through the mouth and across to Port Lincoln when he moved to the area in the early 60's. After a few years, she was bought by Mr Ken Welfare, and in 1978 she was sold to Mr Jim McDonald, who in the latter years of his ownership, moored her at Coffin Bay.

For many years she was the largest recreational vessel in the Port Lincoln area and she was capable of 8-9 knots. She performed many official functions for the Port Lincoln Yacht Club and the local Sea Cadets.

Just over 2 years ago, she was purchased by Mr and Mrs I Raggart and taken by low loader back to the River Murray. She has been extensively renovated and she now lies at the River Glen Marina south of Swanport (off Jervois Road).



CHUM photographed at River Glen Marina earlier this year.

We arrived in South Africa on 13th January, and decided that we could stay 5 weeks and still catch the end of summer for the southern ocean passage from Cape Town to Oz. Once tied up in Hout Bay to a floating pontoon, EXPEDITUS remained there and we chose to do our sight seeing on land. There was a 24 hour ferry service ashore from the pontoon which was great as we did not have to bother with the dinghy, and it gave greater security. Hout Bay itself is just south of Cape Town and a very pretty area surrounded by mountains and cliffs. We arrived at night and it felt quite a narrow entrance between the headlands as we crept in, but in reality it was about a mile wide.

We got to know the 15 miles into Cape Town very well, always managing to hitch a lift in and get a bus back. What a scenic ride it was too, with mountains, cliffs and wonderful views of coves and beaches. During our first week we had the usual spring clean that is necessary after a passage. We did the washing at the pontoon as there was no convenient laundrette, and we also did a few more maintenance chores on EXPEDITUS. There was always something to do.

We enjoyed our trips to Cape Town, visiting botanical gardens, museum, art gallery and various shops as well as collecting tourist information about Kruger Park and other areas. We donated a most unusual flying fish that we had found in the South Atlantic to the head of the marine biology section at the museum. The fish had a barbel on its lower jaw that extended the length of its body, and it appears to be an Indian Ocean species at first investigation. The world expert in flying fish is in Moscow and should have more to say about it. Needless to say we did much socialising with other yachties at Hout Bay, attending the sailpast on Opening Day for the yacht club (which entailed much water bombing!), barbecues (called braai in South Africa) and visiting some wineries in the Stellenbosch area.