

# MY BOAT - KOORINGAL

Veronica and John Wickham are proud owners of a relatively new yacht originally launched in January 2007. A year ago Veronica and John thought to sell *Raraku*, an Adams 12, having owned it for 10 years. It is a very fine cruising yacht, now situated at Kangaroo Island.

The result was *Kooringal*, a 42 foot Catalina Mark 2. *Kooringal* is an aboriginal word for 'home near water'. This is the 3rd yacht the Wickam's have owned in the Squadron The first was *Shalamar* from 1983.

Some *Kooringal* statistics include:

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Length of Hull:      | 41' 10"                    |
| Beam:                | 13' 10"                    |
| Draft:               | 4' 10"                     |
| Ballast:             | 9.3 tonne                  |
| Sail Area:           | 362 sq ft                  |
| Fuel tank capacity:  | 174 litres                 |
| Water tank capacity: | 420 litres                 |
| Engine Model:        | 56 HP 4 cylinder<br>Yanmar |

*Kooringal* features include twin bow rollers, an electric anchor winch, a bow thruster, a hot water system provided by 240 volts or off the motor and two 80 watt solar panels. In the galley there is a 3 burner gas stove and oven, a 12 volt electric fridge and freezer, a food pantry and good locker storage aft. The interior has two substantial cabins with en suites including showers. The main cabin has an island bed which is more convenient. The Mark 2 comes with several layouts but this one suits Veronica and John quite well. The saloon can accommodate further visitors as required.

On deck there is a jib furler forward, with single line slab reefing on the main and a sail flaking system. All lines lead back to



the cockpit. It is fitted with a large dodger, bimini and side curtains making a very comfortable cockpit. There are davits aft on which are mounted the solar panels

## 'Green Flash' on Delivery.

With offers from good friends and world sailors Marion and Roger Holden and long time sailing friend Rick Cluse they made plans to bring *Kooringal* home from Pittwater, NSW leaving after Easter 2012. Veronica and John spent some time preparing *Kooringal* for the 1000 nm journey. John planned to leave in the middle of a high pressure system, as it gives NE/NW through west to SW & SE winds. Wednesday 11th April, they had a good weather window to Eden so they left on Friday the 13th. With all on board that morning they left Veronica ashore to drive their campervan back to Adelaide. With NW winds at 8-10 knots they cleared Barrenjoey Heads. The wind increased to 18/22 knots off Jervis Bay during the night. Saturday night saw them tied up at Eden's fuel wharf.

Sunday morning they left with light SSW winds, for the next two days that took them to Wilson's Promontory. Passing Gabo Island there was no wind and flat seas. Approaching Wilson's Promontory on Monday evening

John witnessed the 'Green Flash', a rare meteorological phenomenon. They rounded Wilson's Promontory after midnight with freshening SE winds of 18/23 knots.

They set their course for Apollo Bay. Tuesday night the wind increased to 20/25 knots and at times they were sailing up to 12 knots. The wind slowed and they motored to Portland by midday Wednesday.

By Friday morning Kangaroo island was on the horizon and *Kooringal* passed Cape Jervis by 8:00 arriving at the Squadron at 5:30 pm. The motor had been off for only one hour from Portland. They had taken 7 days 10 ½ hours and used approximately 284 litres of fuel and averaged 6 knots at 2 litres an hour.

*Kooringal* is an accomplished yacht. When I quizzed John he indicated there was not a lot to do in terms of improvements. He had some plans for the interior but not much to fix, just some cosmetic changes. The interior is spacious, airy and light. All of the instruments, depth, speed, wind, compass and GPS are available in the cockpit.

Veronica and John have no great plans for the near future, but look forward to many gulf trips. I suspect these plans will grow. Things look good for the future.

Phil Moody



Veronica and John Wickham