

Odd Story Sailing at Sea on 'Lauriana'

In the late 70s, the boat was travelling at night, some kilometres off the coast of NSW, when the crew observed on the radar, a vessel heading towards them. They observed it for a while and noted it had changed its direction to still head towards the yacht. Concerned, we changed our course, noting the vessel approaching did the same. To ensure we were seen, we shone lights on the sails, and still the vessel bore down on us. By this stage we noted that the usual port and starboard lights were not visible. All crew were called on deck, the axe to cut the rope for the life-raft was in hand.

Lance, now steering from the stern and looking behind him in the darkness, found himself looking up at the bow of a large vessel bearing down on 'Lauriana'. He decided he would turn last minute either port or starboard, and hope for the best. Just as he was about to do this, the vessel suddenly veered away and disappeared back into the night.

Two days later, we heard about police catching a boat with drugs off of the coast of NSW. We never knew whether it was the police behind us, who realised last minute they had the incorrect vessel, or whether the drug boat thought we were the drop off. Either way, it was certainly a night we would not forget.