
Wednesday 9th May *Quarterly Meeting* 8.15 p.m.
 Dining Room Open

Friday 10th August *Annual Dinner Dance* 7. p.m. to
 Hotel Australia *Midnight*

Boatowners anchoring at American River are asked to keep well clear of the wharf, to enable incoming cargo vessels, which need space to turn, to berth properly.

VISITORS' BOOK

Members are again asked to make sure that their guests are signed in properly.

Members are advised not to leave valuables in the Changing Rooms. All instances of thieving to be reported to the Secretary. The dress of some members and the conduct of children leave much to be desired. Will members please dress properly when using the lounge area. Parents of children are wholly responsible for their children in the lounge area and main building and as such are expected to control them.

BOATOWNERS

Are advised to check their moorings before winter sets in and give a written report to the Secretary on the condition of their equipment.

LAURIANA'S WARLIKE HISTORY

The Lauriana became the first patrol vessel to go to Milne Bay, New Guinea and had the honour of taking General Douglas MacArthur on a tour of inspection of Milne Bay when the General visited New Guinea from Australia.

The Lauriana also arrived at Wewak and Aitape when occupational landings were being made at the ports.

In August 1944 Mr. Brian Verco of Port Lincoln, then an Australian Air Force Officer, travelled on the vessel from Goodenough Island to Madang via such ports as Tufi and Buna.

He recalled that the vessel then had no masts, but had an Oerlikan gun mounted where the foremast had been. The vessel had a speed of 10½ knots.

After the war the Lauriana returned to her intended role, that of a yacht, and between 1955 and 1964 acted as the mother ship for the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race on seven occasions.

Built in 1939 by Frank Hays of Sydney, the vessel had four owners before 1964 when she was stripped to her hull and completely refitted to a plan prepared by Warick Hood, the designer of the America's Cup contender, Dame Pattie.

Externally the Lauriana's appearance is much the same as it was when she was launched, but below she is a very modern, compact ship with accommodation for nine, showers, toilets, a bath, deep freeze units and ample locker space. She even has a washing machine.

For the past three years the Lauriana has been owned by Mr. Lance Le Cornu of Adelaide, who regularly visits Port Lincoln to fish and relax.

During this cruise Mr. Le Cornu is accompanied by his wife, their three younger children and their eldest son and his wife and some friends.

Mr. Le Cornu said this week there had been talk of the Lauriana shooting down a Jap Zero, but that this had never been confirmed.

DOLPHINS

"The Incredibly Intelligent Aquatic Mammals"

Akin to the whale, pranksters of the sea, 8 to 12 foot in length, a gunmetal coloured hide, weight up to 300 lb, the dolphins have been around for more than 170 million years, evolving to their present shape 60 million years ago. Friendly, and engaging, they are known as the only creatures, who love man for his own sake - friendship for no advantage. These fascinating mammals eat seaweed, squid, kelp, and algae, but their main diet is fish. They consume about 20 lb a day, never sleep but have cat naps, and can dive to 920 feet and surface in 6 minutes. They utilise 80% oxygen, while man utilises 25% and have a 30 year life span.

They have small bones in their shoulder blade flippers, can leap out of the water a distance 5 times their length and swim extremely fast - up to 30 miles per hour. They herd fish in schools or packs, and are known as "cowboys of the sea". With a large brain of 3.7 pounds, (man 3.1 pounds) and no sense of smell, (though they may have taste buds) they have excellent sight (their eyes have a thin protective membrane to guard against

impurities in water) and like humans, their eyes are capable of "ranging." They have a remarkable sonar system, with the keenest auditory sense of any animal - extremely acute hearing of up to 140 kilohertz compared with the average man's 15 kilohertz.

On several cruises, sailing aboard a yacht to Pt. Vincent and Kangaroo Island, we have been accompanied much to our enjoyment by schools of 10 and more dolphins for several miles. In March this year, I sighted a larger school than usual about 3/4 of a mile from the yacht, thinking they were tuna. With the aid of binoculars I saw, a mass of dolphins, who having picked up our propellor's vibration, (we were motor sailing as the wind was very light) raced to the ship, leaping out of the water in rows of three, squeaking, whistling and grunting, darting under the bow amidship and stern. We had an entertaining hour or two filming these fabulous mammals - about 20 in all.

Dolphins are sexually mature at 6 to 7 years, have a gestation period of 11 months. Their 3 foot babies appear tail first - a position in which they cannot drown - and without hesitation swim to the surface for air and then back to their mothers who squirt milk into their mouths from two teats located near the back fin. The mother is accompanied by another female dolphin during labour, to fend off any attackers. They have a four stomach department similar to a cow, have no sweat glands, and would die if left out of water for long periods.

Over the centuries - there have been remarkable stories told, of their help to seamen in shipwrecks, and to air crews who had crashed in the ocean during World War II - reputedly they have guided survivors to land.