

MODERN LAUNCH IN CAIRNS

LEFT MELBOURNE
IN JULY

ON HOLIDAY CRUISE

A 66-foot launch, the *Walgania*, which has been cruising along the Eastern Australian coast since the beginning of July, arrived in Cairns on Thursday night. It is one of the most modern launches seen in these waters.

Flying the blue ensign, it is berthed at the Fairmile jetty. Its personnel of nine sleep aboard the vessel. The launch is owned by Mr. R. Barr-Smith, owner of the Mount William sheep and cattle station, near Ararat, Victoria.

On board the vessel are the owner and his wife, his son Mr. R. E. Barr-Smith, Captain S. Richards, formerly of the Adelaide Steamship Company Adelaide; Misses Doris and Margy White, of the Mount William Station, and Messrs. R. Anderson, Chris Kristensen and N. J. Madsen. Mr. Bob Hayles joined them in Townsville.

The launch left Melbourne on the holiday cruise on July 3. In their voyage to Cairns they have called at most ports and islands on the way. Mr. Barr-Smith said yesterday that he had been very interested in Magnetic and Dunk Islands.

For all except Mr. Anderson, it is their first visit to Cairns. Mr. Barr-Smith said that they would visit tobacco and cane growing areas to-day, and would leave again for the south to-morrow morning. They will call in at islands on the return voyage.

He added that they had experienced a few rough days on the voyage, but in the luxury of sailing it was soon overlooked. The launch is navigated by Captain Richards, while the men take turns at the wheel.

Mr. Barr-Smith has owned the launch for 18 months. It was built in 1932 and during the war years was used by the navy as a survey and rescue vessel in the Philippines.

He has already completed a tour of Tasmania in the launch and next year hopes to sail to Noumea. He is also planning a voyage to New Zealand.

Zealand.

The launch, which has mostly British fittings, is beautifully appointed, with oak panelling throughout. Cupboards, cabins, galley and shower room are very compact.

The vessel carries everything to make life at sea as comfortable as possible.