

Classified Advertisements

FOR SALE

CANOPUS, Buchanan Vast I. Built by George Butcher 1964. 38'x9'6"x6'. Jarrah keel, huon pine (topsides splined and glued) teak coach house, teak laid deck. Brand new aluminium mast, boom, Hood Seafurl, stainless steel rigging, and halyards. Headsail, main, spinnaker and storm jib. 22 hp Faryman diesel completely overhauled Feb 92. Nilsson VR1000 electric winch, 40lb admiralty anchor 30 m 3/8" chain, 11 cf S/S fridge, toilet, dodger, 6 fenders, life jackets, echo sounder, Brookes and Gatehouse instruments, 5 winches, barometer and clock, cockpit cushions, plus heaps more. Price \$55,000 ono.

Contact Gifford Chapman (0848) 36204 for more information.

NARA, SA25S, Blythe Spirit 9.5 m (31') overall timber cruising yacht designed by Len Randell. Sound condition and including dinghy and mooring tackle if required. Complete history and log. Survey report available at the Office. Inspection invited.

For further information please contact Mrs Kinneer phone (08) 278 2961.

MAINSAIL (EX PION) Luff 9860, foot 2920. Good Condition. Price \$250 ono.

Contact Ian Moncrieff (08) 278 2373.

CODAN HF RADIOS ex operational Royal SA Sea Rescue Squadron. 5 Mk 1 sets @ \$600 each, and 1 Mk 2 set @ \$800. All prices include antennae.

If interested contact Paul Vivian on 293 592 or enquiries may be made at Rescue Squadron HQ on any Monday evening after 7pm.

MISSING

Spinnaker pole for Spencer 30 from the top of the dinghy rack near northern door of eastern shed. Would the person who has removed same please replace as owners would like to have the use of it sometimes.

Anyone knowing it's whereabouts could they please contact either A G Evans or PH Partridge (AMATUANA).

LOAN WANTED

RUBBER DINGHY to go to Pt Vincent.

If you can help, please contact Geoff Baird phone 381 1918.

"Squadron Quarterly's" Classified Advertisements service is offered free of charge to financial members of the Squadron for their private ads. Forms for lodging these ads are available from the Office. Closing date for the next edition of the magazine will be the second week in May 92.

ORIENT's SW Pacific Cruise

In the last edition of "SQ" we began the story of ORIENT's cruise through the SW Pacific as far as her arrival at the Vava'u Group of the Tongan islands. In this edition we continue the story as told to Dave Hurford by ORIENT's owner Grant Telfer.

By the time ORIENT reached Neiafu on Vava'u Is on Thursday, 20th June 91 they had been cruising the islands of the Kingdom of Tonga for 2 1/2 weeks. The Tongan Beach Resort on Vava'u became the HQ for the regatta whilst they were in the group, and they spent just over another fortnight here before heading off to The Nuias, the most northerly group of the kingdom.

On Saturday after a sail of about 20 minutes they arrived at Mariner's Cave on the western side of Nuapapu Is. Some of the crew decided to dive down to the cave whilst ORIENT hove to as the water here was too deep to anchor. They entered the cave through an opening about 3 m wide and 3 m long about 1 m under the water. Once inside, the cave opened up to about 6 m in diameter and about the same ceiling height. There was just enough light to be able to see the log form and then dissipate as the swell compressed the air within the cave.

From Mariner's Cave ORIENT moved to Hunga Is sailing close along the most interesting western coastline. There was one navigable entrance into the lagoon between high cliffs similar to a false entrance about 1/2 m further north. The entrance was about 46 m across with a 2 m diameter rock about 3 m high just inside. Although dynamite had been used to improve the opening, it still remained tricky and hazardous. It was recommended that the passage should be made within 1 hour either side of high tide and should not be attempted in a large running sea, at low water, with a strong current or without adequate sunlight. Once inside though, they found a magnificent lake like anchorage with a beautiful beach and a colourful bottom.

Shortly after their arrival, 2 men paddled out to the cat in a small outrigger canoe. The vessel was so

low in the water that one of them had to bale continuously. Later a small wooden boat pulled up alongside and invited the travellers to church at the small community of Hunga on the following day. Three of the crew whilst ashore also accepted an invitation to a Kava party that night. The next morning after the worshippers returned, and the revellers of the previous night had arisen, Grant weighed anchor and they motored out through the narrow but impressive entrance, along the rugged coastline and then across to Swallows Cave at the NW end of Kapa Is. Again it was too deep to anchor so they made two trips in the dinghy to the vast and beautiful cave. The entrance was about 6 m wide and about 12 m high with a rock formation shaped like an elephant's head overhanging at one side. Inside the water was very deep and the walls rose vertically 15 to 18 m to the ceiling.

The intense blue of the cave's deep water is said to rival Italy's Blue Grotto and the bright sunlight lit up the coral formations far below the surface. A pulpit shaped rock that rose up on the left side of the cave when struck with an oar emitted a deep bell like sound. The ceiling was covered with the mud nests of starlings who on occasions filled the cave with their staccato calls. The entrance and walls were covered in graffiti and whilst it detracted from the cave's beauty some of the older scrawlings made by whalers were of historic interest.

At the back of the cave they followed a shaft of light to where they found a rocky path. This led to a dry cave shaped like a giant kiln, with a circular opening at the top through which they saw a blue sky and green trees. At the turn of the century VIP's were entertained there with entire feasts being lowered through the opening by pulley like arrangements.