

Quarterdeck

Jo Capel wrote on 30 September, 'We are now in Vanuatu, and will be heading towards New Caledonia at the end of October. From Tonga to Fiji was perfect trade wind sailing, and the same from Fiji to Vanuatu. We are lucky enough to have had the most marvellous experiences, including swimming with a dugong, watching him feed and stroking him. We have attended a pig killing ceremony on a remote island, when the village chief went up in rank. Tim did a scuba diving course in Port Vila, and today the three of us are going diving on a wreck.'

At the Youth Trophy Dinner (an excellent show!) John and Marilyn Morgan described taking their Duncanson 29 *Shearwater II* to New

Zealand, Tonga and Fiji, specialising in gales. We hope to publish an abbreviated version of their winning entry in our next issue. Like the Capels, they too dived and swam into the fabled Mariner's Cave on Vava'u. Mariner's account of this was used by Lord Byron in his poem *The Island*, published in 1823. We were inspired to copy and annotate this with 99 footnotes, together with an account of the fate of the *Bounty* and its crew after the Mutiny, including the massacres on Pitcairn Island. A copy has been placed in the Tom Hardy Library for the interest of Members.

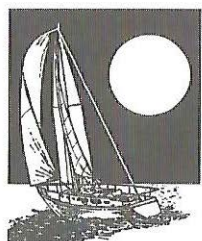
Several people have asked for an index of *Squadron Quarterly*. We have produced a brief document, which, to be frank, is really for our

own purposes. A copy has been given to the Office, covering December, 1992 to September, 1997. It will be updated *seriatim*.

A new and ongoing project is to copy and annotate some notable old yacht logs, of which copies have been given to us by Judith Judell (a daughter of Len Wigan) and Past Commodore Bill Harniman. There are fifteen of these, together with Colin Haselgrove's comments on the Sydney-Hobart race, which were copied *verbatim* in *Squadron Quarterly* March, 1994: 29-34. The eventual result will be quite a large publication, and we will publish extracts in *Squadron Quarterly* as space allows. That of the inaugural cruise of *Nerida* in 1934, written by Norman Ford, sometime Treasurer of the Squadron, is particularly fascinating. Others are a delivery voyage from Brisbane to Outer Harbor in 1933 of a very large schooner, *Stradbroke II*; the first race for the Orontes Cup in 1931; an Easter Gulf cruise to Black Point and Port Vincent in the motor boat *Wakeful*, accompanying *Nerana* (1933); several other

Nerida cruises; two cruises in *Seevogel*, one in the winter of 1947; and cruises in *Audrimae* in 1967 and 1968. We would welcome others to add to the collection, but we give no undertaking as to how long it will take to complete the project. It's a welcome change from peering at the small typeface in the Press Cuttings books. Talking of those, we are in sight of the accounts of the construction of the Glenelg breakwater and what happened to the unfortunate Governor-General of the day. That's a story for a future issue, as are a couple of thefts of vessels of interest to those who cruise South Australian waters.

We commend the article by Jim Ditchfield on marine corrosion, taken from our sister publication, *Off the Wind*. In the same issue there is a letter reporting a nasty experience with a yacht delivery to Lakes Entrance. The engine failed, and those aboard could not make radio contact, both on VHF and Seaphone. On the other hand, 27 MHz



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Vicsail will sponsor weekly prizes while Ausail Pittwater are presenting a weekend charter of a Catalina Yacht on the Pittwater. To get the combined series winner to & from Sydney, ANSETT AUSTRALIA* are flying two adults ex Adelaide.

**Join the fun and bring your guests also.
Squadron dining room is open after the races for dinner and prize giving.**

*Note: Special conditions apply in relation to air tickets. The tickets are subject to load & can only be confirmed on the day of flying. Squadron Office has the full terms and conditions.



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