

turbulent sea, trailing the rope with it. Don grabbed the bolt-cutters and we went back into the cabin, leaving Ken and Peter to throw the buoy overboard. The rope became tangled in the anchor cradle, where we hadn't untied the knot with the loop. Ken then had to lie down on the pitching deck with waves still coming over the top and by now feeling utterly rooted (his own words) he had to release the knotted rope from its entanglement. This happened after a minute, and we were free at last!

All this happened over a period of 45 minutes, but it seemed like an eternity with all of the confusion and drama that we went through. To be able to reach an outcome where nobody was badly hurt and no distress calls were made is a tribute to the fortitude and strength of the old men of the start boat.

#### Footnote

John dropped in on Sunday morning to see me

while I was writing this report. He told me that he had removed the winch and it had a blown an oil seal. It was to be sent away for repairs. Some voluntary work had been done to the winch a couple of weeks ago with an oil top up, and it had been used a few times since with no bother. This type of device is taken for granted until trouble strikes. I think we should all be aware of problems that are starting to show, such as the very slow recovery and slipping clutch.

I just hope I am not on the boat if it goes again. I am recovering from a triple bypass and feel quite useless in situations like this!

On reflection, it seems quite absurd that we hoisted a Y flag to advise sailors to wear life jackets, but we were more at risk and never thought about putting on any type of buoyancy aid or life jacket.

See also the *Quarterdeck* column for the Volunteers of the Year. SD



Nyroca racing in the Port River c1895.

## New Vessels on the Squadron Register

|            |                        |         |                |
|------------|------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Chassam    | Terence Boyce          | Unnamed | Andrew Cross   |
| Chikupi    | Kevin Cooks            | Unnamed | Colin Ehman    |
| Isaleirua  | Bob and Jacque Donovan | Unnamed | John Grima     |
| Koriellea  | Kaz Eaton              | Unnamed | Peter Rann     |
| Paradox    | Petar Mirk             | Unnamed | Stephen Taylor |
| Scramble   | Brad Pink              | Unnamed | Tim Williams   |
| Sur La Mer | Gary Owens             | Unnamed | Gavin Wilson   |

For exhibitor information

Tel: (08) 83418600 or contact :  
general.manager@squadron.asn.au

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