

Book Reviews

Bundey's Boats: An account of William Henry Bundey and his yachts, with a note on Sir William Milne's Hygiea. Peter Last. Available in the TM Hardy Library.

Reviewed by JH Cowell

Most Squadron Members will have heard of Justice William Bundey and have at least vague notions of his association with the South Australian Yacht Club, as the Squadron then was. Those who stand at the bar or peruse the Rogues Gallery (past Commodore's board) will know that he was the Club's first Vice Commodore and that he was Commodore from 1873 to 1882. Fewer will know much of his yachts or have read his book *Yachting in Australia* published in Adelaide in 1888. ('Bundey's Boats' rolls off the tongue nicely but I wonder if the conservative Judge would ever have referred to his yachts as 'boats'!) Whilst there is a copy of Bundey's book in the Squadron library, it is not otherwise readily available, and although there is a great deal in it of interest, much of it makes rather tedious reading.

Bundey built four yachts: *White Cloud*, *Zephyr*, *Wanderer* and *Pastime*. *Zephyr*, built in 1873, was and is the best known. As a fishing vessel she operated out of Kingscote for a period in the early 1980s and we saw her quite frequently. She was last heard of being restored in Tasmania. A painting of *Wanderer* (the biggest at 64 feet) hangs half way up the stairs at the Squadron.

As part of his extensive gathering and collation of material for the history of the Squadron, Dr Last has transcribed much of Bundey's description of his yachts and of his cruises in waters so familiar to many of us. In his own painstaking and inimitable style he has researched many of the characters referred to in the book, cut out some of the more tedious passages and added many footnotes explaining words or passages that need it, together with his own opinions and experiences. It makes fascinating reading. At a time when there were very few navigational aids, Bundey cruised extensively the waters of St Vincent and Spencer Gulfs. He had no engine, no radio, no electronic instruments. He cooked on a wood stove, had no refrigeration and was

entirely self-sufficient. He clearly would have had it no other way. As was common practice in those times, he did mostly have a hired crew as well as his friends with him. I have some empathy with Bundey, as Anthea and I cruised for several years with no engine. There is more satisfaction in cruising that way. I am saddened when I hear of yachts, perfectly capable of sailing, being towed home because the engine broke down; or of not participating in a cruise because the instruments or the fridge aren't working. (One of our older Members used to speak of the 'refrigeration line'. That was the line a few miles south of the Squadron where the fridge broke down at the beginning of a cruise and the boat had to return for repairs!) We have a lot to learn from the Judge Bundeys of this world. I feel sure that those who read this book will be inspired by it. It is available in the Squadron Library.

This publication is just one very small part of the work Dr Last is doing in collecting together the history of the Squadron. There are eight other publications lodged at the Squadron, some much larger and some smaller than this one. They represent hundreds (or maybe thousands, who am I to judge?) of hours of painstaking work. We and future generations of yachtsmen and women, not only of the Squadron, will be forever in his debt.

★ ★ ★

Oceans of Experience. Yvonne Tromp. Griffin Press 2000. [Number of pages, price and ISBN not provided.]

Reviewed by Simon Thiele, Commodore Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club

Fancy a quick sail? Then steer clear of Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club member Jack Tromp and his family, because when they cast off the trip could take a littler longer. You might find yourself iced into the French canals in the middle of the European winter or arguing a matter of principle in court with a New Caledonian customs officer. Worse still you might not get back to port for six years or so.

In December 1987, Jack, Yvonne and Michael Tromp set off to visit Jack's native Holland,

which he left thirty years earlier. Rather than booking the trip with Malaysia Airlines, they chose to realise Jack's boyhood dream of sailing round the world.

Oceans of Experience is a comprehensive log of the ensuing adventure in the 40ft ferroement ketch *Jus Lookin II*, the people they met, the places they visited and the ocean and inland water conditions they encountered over the six years and six days which followed.

Yvonne has brought the trip back to life with this work, in which readers relive the voyage with the family. I found myself being taken on

an amazing sail from Australia, via Sri Lanka, India, the Red Sea, the Greek Islands to Italy and ultimately through the canals of France, Belgium and Holland amid snow and ice, then home again via the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, the Galapagos Islands and many exotic ports of call.

This novel *[sic]* is the most interesting 'ocean passage' saga I have read and I found it hard to put down.

Oceans of Experience is available for sale at the Squadron, other yacht clubs and at marine outlets. I thoroughly recommend it.

Opening Day Postscript

The sail past was supported by 120 vessels sailing in a fresh 18 to 20 knot S/W breeze. The Governor and the Commodore took the salutes from the stern of the *Yelta*, while Lady Neal graciously accepted the job of picking the vessel handled in the most seamanlike manner. The Flag Officers' wives, on the other hand, accepted the task of nominating the best dressed vessel.

The coxswain of *Miss Robyn* is to be congratulated in getting all vessels through the sailpast with ten minutes to spare before MV *Accolade II* swept into the river on her scheduled run. After leaving station, the official guests aboard *Yelta* enjoyed a short run to the river entrance, back to the container wharf before docking at No 2 wharf to disembark all guests.

While *Yelta* berthed, we were intrigued to see that at least one of 'our' Nankeen night herons (rufous night heron — *Nycticorax caledonicus*), that we see regularly in our basin fishing at night off vessels' mooring lines, was ensconced on a structural member beneath the wharf. That solves the question of where they go during the day.

The official party returned to the Squadron via double decker bus and enjoyed afternoon tea on the lawns, mingling with other guests and

Members. At 1700 hrs, the Commodore gave his welcoming speech and the Governor formally opened the Sailing season.

The vessel handled in the most seamanlike manner was nominated as *Morning Hustler*, and Jamie Cowell received a very worthwhile prize from Port River Marine Services.

The Best Dressed Ship Prize was awarded to *Crusader*, with all her crew, including children, made up as sword-wielding crusaders of ancient times. Commendations were given to several other vessels making a big effort to win this event.

With idyllic evening conditions, Members and guests enjoyed themselves at barbecues, or the more formal sit down dinner, where the Tom, Jenny and their team served a beautiful dinner.

The new format of giving the Quarterdeck over as a dance floor, complete with live band, saw dancing continue into the small hours.

All in all a most enjoyable Opening Day was had by all.

Jack Gamlin has donated the photographs he took of some vessels. One set has been given to Peter Last and another to the Office. — Ed. 