

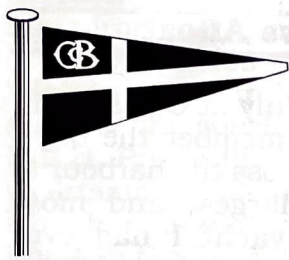


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NEWSLETTER OF THE COUTA BOAT CLUB.

MARCH 1988

President's Message



Committee Members 87-88

President	Marcus Burke
Vice President	John Ross
Secretary	Brian Wales
Treasurer	Tim Ryan
Membership Officer	Peter Burke
Safety Officer	Tim Phillips
Chairman, Handycap Com.	Bill Davis
Social Secretary	Jill Hartley
Assistant Social Secretary	Clive Beckingsale
Committee Members	Will Baillieu
	Denis Wilkins
	Ric Lansell

One of the most exciting milestones of the Couta Boat Clubs 15 year History was the recent presence in Sydney of 8 boats, and the various activities surrounding the Bicentennial Gaffers Day Regatta Sailpast on Sunday the 14th February which was conducted by the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club and sponsored by Television Station Channel 7.

The Club is indebted to the Skippers who went to the trouble and considerable expense of transporting Boats, Spars, Masts, Ballast and equipment and on behalf of your Club I would like to thank:

Bill Davis
 Tim Phillips
 Milton Greene
 Ric Lansell
 Will Baillieu
 Jill Hartley
 Richard Burke

Ian Sturzaker and those who assisted and crewed for their generous efforts.

The Sailing and Racing on Sydney Harbour was excellent, and although the weather bad, the wind was there making the racing particularly exhilarating. Congratulutions to Milton Greene (Jessie) and Bill Davis (Kate) and Tim Phillips (Muriel) for achieving good racing results.

The bottom line in Sydney was that not only did we "blow the opposition out of the water", but that the recognition for the Couta Boat and its capacities was vastly expanded and recognized beyond our most ambitious expectations. As a result the acceptance and interest in our unique craft in Sailing Boat conscious Sydney has been indelibly cemented by this great effort.

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All of the many members who attended will verify the extremely hospitable nature of the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club, its Executive and its Members, leading up to the great success of the Bicentennial National Gaffers day.

A Half Model of a Classic Couta Boat was officially presented to the 'Amateurs' (together with our Burgee) and no doubt will shortly be seen amongst the many other excellent trophies and memorabilia in position in their uniquely characteristic Club House that sits out over the water in its charming setting in Mosman Bay.

During our visit to Sydney, your Vice President, John Ross, Safety Officer, Tim Phillips and myself formally met with Representatives of the National Maritime Museum which OPENS in Darling Harbour in October. Subsequently this organisation has re-confirmed their intention of purchasing a restored Couta Boat as representative of the Early Victorian Fishing Boat Industry and its role in the History and Development of our Nation.

We met with the Representative of the British "Old Gaffers Association" who attended

the Bicentennial Regatta and have arranged to forge a formal link with that very active Association. Similarly the Representative of the equivalent French organisation, based in Brittany, with connections to Paris.

Any Couta Boat Club Member intending visits to the Continent in the near future would be welcome to make contact with them - details available via myself or the Secretary.

We look forward to seeing many of the Members again at Queenscliff on the 5th of March and later at Easter.

MARCUS BURKE

Social Events

All Members that attended the Annual Southerly Buster Party and Presentation on Saturday, 9th January, I am sure will agree that it was a most successful evening, enjoyment and entertainment to be had by all. Many thanks to Tim Phillips for once again allowing his boat factory facilities to be used as the venue, also Jill Hartly and Clive Beckingsale and all those who assisted them in

organising the party.

Congratulations to Bill Davis and crew on "Kate" for taking out 1st place in Portsea Cup.

A reminder to all Members that the next Couta Boat Club social event is the Camerons Bight Sternchaser Party and Presentation on Easter Sunday, April 3rd.

News Afloat

Early in July at Cowes I will always remember the day I looked across the harbour to see the largest and most glorious yacht I had ever seen, the 125 foot J Boat classic "Valsheda" and at that point I knew I had to sail her.

The J Boat Class was one of the greatest eras of America's Cup history with people like famous tea barron Sir Thomas Lipton, Harold Vanderbilt and T. Sopwith racing on the Waters of Newport Rhode Island... these yachts of Marconi configuration were of enormous proportion equivalent in height to a 10 storey building with a boom itself 15 foot larger than the 12 metre yacht Australia II.

Ian Murray, a prominent Sydney Skipper told me about a young man going to the top of the world (mast) on a J Boat back in the 1930's, he said that the weight of the hallyard took



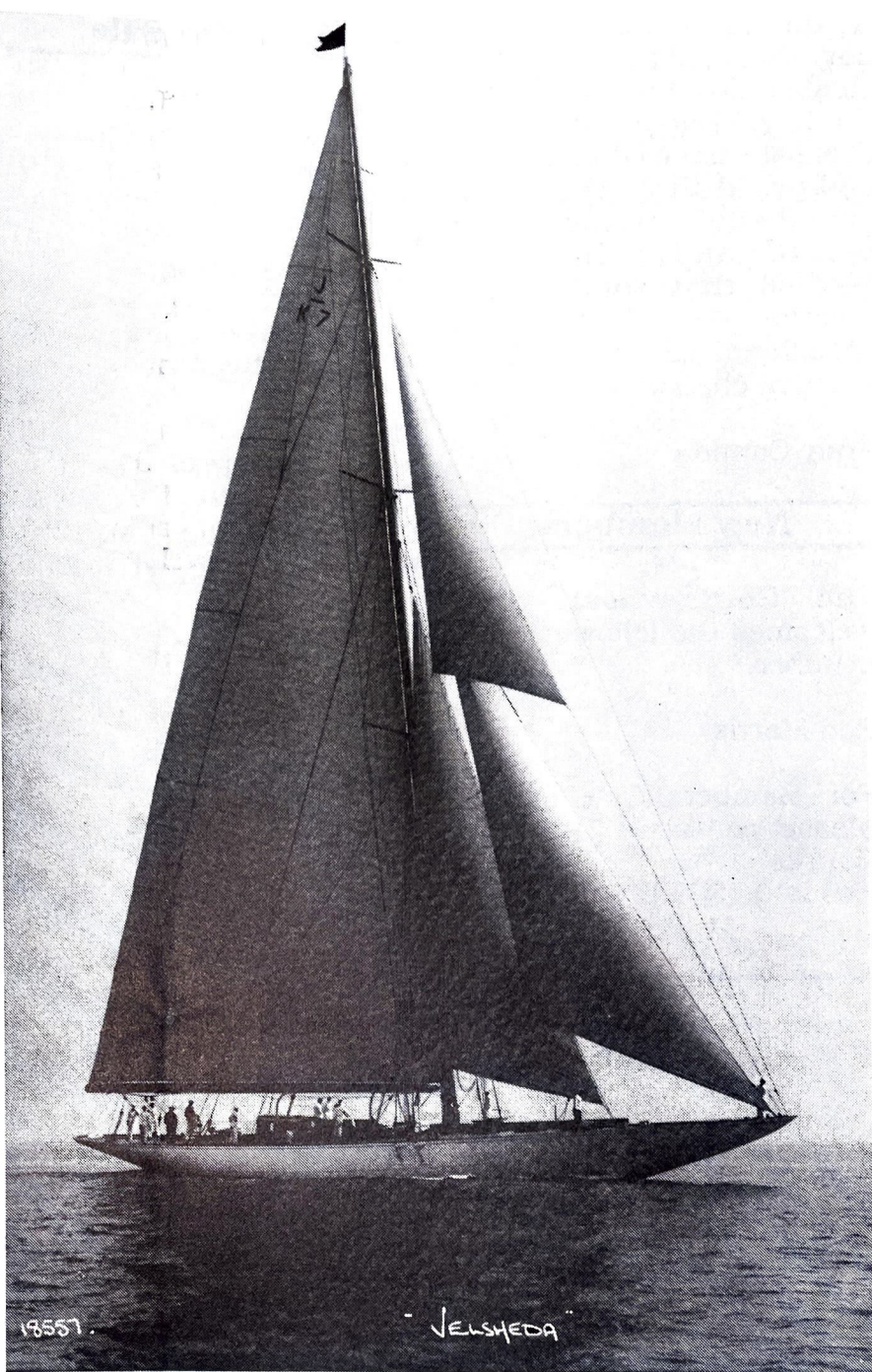
over from his weight, propelling the man upwards and the halyard downwards, the man was eventually driven into the mast-head with such force that he was killed.

After an extravagant cocktail party at the Royal Squadron at which I took the liberty of consuming vast quantities of the local beverage. I had at that point loosened my tongue and now I spoke with great fluency of great yachting conquests which I had heard of, but felt more comfortable including myself as the centre piece in acts of bravery and winning manoeuvres. This verbalisation gave me an invitation to join the Squadron and a barge load of dignitaries to sail "Valsheda", and to my surprise the guests included H.R.H. Prince Phillip a keen yachtsman and some men who had actually raced J Boats in the Thirties. Prince Phillip made the comment that the previous "Brittainia" was a J Boat and his friend Commander Barton stated that she was the most beautiful of all the J's.

The Royal Barge was at our disposal on the day and we were ferried from the Squadron past "Brittainia" to "Valsheda".

A large tug towed "Valsheda" of her moorings into the waters off the Solent, the tug battled against the strong currents while the crew of 40 worked the mainsail up the mast some 190 feet pulling hand over hand on the halyard.

We were soon to be powering up the Solent in fresh winds of 30 knots gusting up to 40 knots, other yachts large by



modern standards were soon passed and shot out the back door some broaching with the larger gusts and one actually left wallowing without its rig, waiting for help.

"Valsheda" was a credit to her owner, as to restore and maintain a yacht of this size is a massive project. Elizabeth Meyer owner of the J Boat Endeavour one of the four in existence, told me she took a construction team off one of her building



sites for the restoration of her yacht and 10 million US dollars out of the bank.

At the end of this historic day the senior gentleman climbed down a ladder onto the Royal Barge to the tune of whistles, doffed their caps and yelled three cheers for "Valsheda" across the Solent, and I had now learned that some major position came out of the occasional heavy drinking session, cheers

Andy Cannon

New Members

The Couta Boat Club welcomes the following new member.-

Rod Morris

For Membership enquiries please contact.- Mr. Peter Bourke -
(03) 240 1282.

PROSALE

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BUS: (03) 267 8233
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Boats For Sale

'Lisa E'

24' Laco, built in 1930's
Kauri hull (clinker), 8Hp
Yanmar Diesel (1980), Gaff
rigged, currently at
Hastings. \$ 17,000

Contact:-

Dawn Lipman
(03) 529 0930.

'Kallara'

30' X 9'9" Blunts built in
1939

Kauri hull with cabin, 22Hp
Morris Commander marine
engine,

Marconi rig, one owner.

Contact:-

Clive Wallace-Smith
(059) 84 29 76
or Tim Phillips
(059) 84 2664.

27' Laco

Motor Boat with cabin, 4
Cylinder Volvo Diesel motor,
presently in Tim's yard for
repainting.

Contact:-

Tim Phillips for further
details.

'Dawn'

23' Gipsland Lake Fishing
Boat. 8' Beam. 18" Draft.

Built from N.Z. Kauri, Huon
Pine, Spotted Gum.

Recently restored from top
to bottom, in as new
condition. Full Dipping Lug
sailing rig. Fully
reconditioned Holden Fresh
Water Cooled engine.

Brand new Storm Hood.

\$ 12,000

Contact:-

Robert Young
(051) 44 6654

Wanted

26' Couta Boat
Call Peter Bunn
PH. (03) 658 9255

NOTICE OF RACE

Camerons Bight Sternchaser

Sunday April 3, 1988

Race Briefing will commence
at 11.00 AM on the
Foreshore opposite
Parkinson's Fish Shop.

Please Note that cars should
only be parked on the
Foreshore side of the
highway.

