



**MRS. KIT WILSON** and **MRS. ERICA WILSON** arrived as cooks on board the yacht *Leda* which was first over the line yesterday in the Trans-Tasman Yacht race. Their husbands are joint owners of the yacht. They are holding the tin openers which were dropped to them by flying boat during the race. It was the first long sea trip for both women.



**MRS. ERICA WILSON** (left) and **Mrs. Kit Wilson** (right), who are members of the crew of the New Zealand yacht *Leda*, have been repairing torn sails for 10 hours a day since the Trans-Tasman yacht race started last Saturday. The girls broke their last machine-needle on Monday and now have to sew sails by hand. *Leda* is leading the field.

## First Women To Sail Trans-Tasman Race

**N**OT only did two women compete in the Auckland-Sydney yacht race for the first time, but they were also members of the crew of the 54-ft. New Zealand yacht, *Leda*, which was first to cross the finishing line yesterday afternoon.

They are Mrs. Erica Wilson that was carried out was tea and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Kit towels in salt water. Wilson, who raced with their husbands in the 1,240-mile yacht race and made up the crew of nine.

The two Mrs. Wilsons spent the 12 days at sea supplying the hungry crew members with hot meals; they kept to the normal breakfast, lunch, and dinner timetable, and also included suppers several times during the night.

They were on duty 24 hours a day, averaged about five hours sleep a night, and experienced such trials as when:—

- The refrigerator, run on methylated spirits, broke down two days out of port.

- The needle of the portable sewing machine snapped and they mended all sails by hand.

- The can-opener was lost—but the position was saved when an overhead plane dropped them two more.

- They became a mass of bruises and bumps, even though they strapped themselves to the sink while down in the galley.

- Limited supplies of fresh water caused all the crew to be careful and neither of the Mrs. Wilsons could wash their hair or their clothes; the only washing

However, on the whole, they said, conditions were very good and according to Mrs. Erica Wilson, "It is hard to realise that we have crossed the Tasman and have actually arrived in Sydney."

Polo-necked sweaters, slacks and shorts were worn by both women during the trip, but they have included several short frocks, evening frocks, and high-heeled shoes in their "racing wardrobe" and plan to have a gay time during their 10 days in Sydney.

"We might even do a bit of night-clubbing if we can persuade our husbands," Mrs. Erica Wilson said.