

They Prepare Larder For 21 Days, Not 3

While most Auckland women were stocking up the larder today for the holiday week-end, two housewives were helping stow away sufficient stores to last three weeks!

The first women taking part in a trans-tasman yacht race, they are Mrs Erica Wilson and Mrs Kit Wilson, wives of the co-owners of Leda.

They were hard at work this morning making sure their domain, the galley, is ship-shape for the voyage starting tomorrow. Their main duties will be domestic, but as crew members, both are qualified to lend a hand on deck when required.

"The accent will be on soups and stews," said Mrs Erica Wilson, "and we'll work on four-hour shifts."

But puddings will also feature on the Leda's menus. Besides prodigious supplies of vegetables, meat, liquid and dried milk and fresh fruit, preserved peaches and plums are being taken. They will be served with custard.

10 Days in Sydney

Two pressure cookers will solve the time problem, and the cooks expect to sit down to a meal together perhaps every other day. With seven men to look after the girls don't expect to have any spare time, and are looking forward to about 10 days' stay in Sydney before sailing back to Auckland. They have not visited Sydney before.

They are hoping that the day before they reach Sydney they will be able to wash and set each other's hair in preparation for their arrival. And both are taking plenty of oil and face cream to combat Tasman gales and sea spray.

Not Nervous, But . . .

Neither of them is nervous about the crossing, but they hope they won't be seasick. Mrs Kit Wilson's longest trip so far was to Russell and back at Christmas, and she has made several voyages to Tauranga. Mrs Erica Wilson has also made the Russell trip.

Ollskins, heavy jerseys and slacks will be worn during the race, but each girl has packed evening and day frocks for the round of entertainment which will be given race contestants in Sydney.

"Yachtsmen are treating us with a little scepticism," Mrs Kit Wilson said with a laugh. "But we are both keen on the sport and as crew members hope we'll be able to do our part to help win the race."



CREW MEMBERS OF THE LEDA who will be taking part in tomorrow's trans-tasman yacht race include Mrs Erica Wilson (left) and Mrs Kit Wilson.