

# "Pleasant—But Not Racing"

## YACHTS DAWDLE IN LIGHT AIRS

Yacht LEDA (at Sea), Thursday  
Rangi, Leda and Solveig are still sailing in arrowhead formation at sundown this evening, 310 miles out into the Tasman, in the race to Sydney. Rangi is moving away further to the north, but Solveig is close behind Leda.

Solveig almost came on board Leda for lunch when she picked up a light breeze at last. Leda got it in time to avoid being passed and slowly drew ahead again. Several times Solveig has been slightly ahead of Leda during light patches of wind.

Tara and Southern Maid appear to have caught up today. Southern Maid gave a position 50 miles astern and 50 to the south of us. There is some doubt about Tara's position, which yesterday was well to the south of Leda, but as given today it is 40 miles to the north, and 15 miles behind. No other yachts have been sighted.

A Tasman Airways flying-boat again dropped the morning papers today. It made a good "bombing run" and the container landed only about 50 yards ahead. The pilot reported that Southern Maid is only 20 miles from Leda, so the former's position is also doubtful.

The wind has been somewhat better since noon today, blowing at about seven knots from the port quarter, though it is still patchy. Several schools of blackfish, numerous porpoises and one small turtle were sighted. Terry Hammond caught a small petrel, one of many paddling astern.

The crews of the three big boats are taking the almost complete absence of wind philosophically, but it seems now that only a fluke will give them a chance of a win, unless the wind comes fresh ahead. Today Rangi had accumulated 9½ hours' handicap on Leda, and Solveig nearly as much. White Squall and Ghost have even more time up their sleeves.

Seven hundred miles of the 1240 are left to sail. Under present conditions it is all we can do to hold our own with the little boats. The crew of Leda have grown weary of whistling for wind and have taken to feeding albatrosses with scraps of bread, as the nearest possible opposite to shooting them. Sometimes we have a dozen big fellows paddling along a few yards from the stern. The crew also sunbathes, listens to the radio, sleeps and drinks iced beer. It is very pleasant, but hardly racing.

### FRESHENING BREEZE

#### LEADERS CLOSE TOGETHER

When Leda reported to the Cape Reinga lighthouse at 9.30 last night, the breeze had then freshened to about eight to ten knots, said the lighthouse-keeper, Mr S. Schofield, in a telephone conversation with the Herald last night. Rangi and Solveig were still closely behind Leda and still in sight of one another. Leda had communicated with the lighthouse on the amateur band. The Australian competitors, Solveig and Southern Maid, were communicating with Sydney.

"There is a great deal of interest being taken in this race," said Mr Schofield. "A grocer at Kaitia has been in touch with me to get reports, as his customers have been beseeching him with

# TASMAN RACE

## Nine Yachts Start This Morning

### 1240-MILE VOYAGE

Seven New Zealand and two Australian yachts will cross the starting line off Orakei Wharf this morning at 10.30 on the first stage of the 1240-mile Tasman ocean yacht race, which finishes in Sydney. The contest, which was first held in 1931, is one of the stiffest tests of ocean yachting in the world.

This year's contest, the seventh, has drawn the largest number of starters. They are:—Southern Maid, 54ft cutter, owner, Mr W. Trautwein, representing Queensland Cruising Yacht Club, CY 25 on sail; Solveig, 36ft Sydney sloop, Messrs T. and M. Halvorsen, Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, CYC 54; Tara, 59ft cutter, Mr C. Wild, Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, A 10; Leda, 54ft cutter, Messrs C. G. and W. A. Wilson, Tauranga Yacht and Power Boat Club, A 26; Ghost, 28ft sloop, Mr K. Brown, Royal Akarana Yacht Club, C 39; Rangi, 38ft cutter, Mr M. Anthony, Royal Akarana Yacht Club, B 16; Hope, 30ft sloop, Mr F. J. Norris, Devonport Yacht Club, F 29; White Squall, 33ft sloop, Mr R. N. Norgrove, Pine Island Boating Club, B 2; Sea Wolf II, 30ft ketch, Messrs Pope and Brierly, Whangarei Cruising Club, no number on sail.

#### View from the Shore

The start will be between a buoy and a flag on the tower on the Orakei wharf. The finish will be in Sydney Harbour off Watson's Bay. Boats which arrive during the night will be assisted by a spotlight, which will shine across the finishing line.

The 112ft motor-launch Ngaroma, other launches and fast patrol boats will be used to keep the starting line clear and to prevent interference to the competitors after the race has started. This will enable the crowd on the shore to obtain a good view of the race. Cars will not be permitted on the Orakei wharf.

Each entrant is handicapped under the complicated rating system, and the first across the line will not necessarily be the winner. The winner on handicap will receive the Tasman Cup and a miniature and another trophy, which will be retained by the owner. A trophy will also be awarded to the first yacht to finish, irrespective of her placing on corrected times. The second and third yachts on handicap will receive two engraved serving trays given by the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club. Trophies in the nature of souvenirs will be awarded to all the nine starters.

#### Cup Holders Competing

The Tasman Cup is at present held by the Halvorsen brothers, who won the last two races with the cutter Peer Gynt. They are expected to provide good competition with the Solveig in this contest. Her time correction factor has been altered from .7148 to .6933.

Before the start of the race, skippers will be handed a copy of last night's weather chart. They will also receive blank charts of the Tasman Sea on which will be marked five zones. After the normal 9 p.m. weather forecast, a special Tasman forecast will be broadcast for the benefit of the competitors from the national stations. The cutter Leda will report her position every six hours, so that a forecast for that zone in which she is situated can be given. Forecasts for more than one zone will be given to cover all the competitors.

# Little Change In Positions In Tasman Yacht Race

Yachts in the Tasman race spent most of last night running before the best wind since they left Auckland for Sydney last Saturday. Crews were elated and looking forward to the first real racing in almost a week of dawdling along. But, this morning, the wind dropped again and the yachts are once again whistling for a good breeze.

A 12-knot wind was blowing last night, according to a Press Association message received this morning from W. A. Wilson, aboard the Leda. He said the Leda was still in front and the positions of the nearest yachts had changed little.

"Solveig is in sight eight miles astern, but Rangi is now out of sight. She's probably gone further north," he added.

Last night's wind whipped up some fair rollers and boats bucked about considerably during lulls between puffs. The barometer this morning was still high but falling steadily, and black clouds were starting to gather.

"These dark concentrations should bring wind and some yachts are probably striking it lucky now," said Mr Wilson.

Leda's position at 6 o'clock this morning was 350 miles south-west of Cape Reinga. There is still some doubt about the Tara's position. Yesterday, it was given as 15 miles behind the Leda and 40 miles to the north.

#### "Keeping Fairly Quiet"

Mr Sid Schofield, Cape Reinga lighthouse-keeper, was in touch with Tara this morning. "All they would say was that they had covered 40 miles during the night. They seem to be keeping fairly quiet about their position."

Tara's radio operator told Mr Schofield they were sailing this morning in fine weather before a light breeze. There was a fair easterly swell which seemed to hint at approaching higher winds.

Weather forecasts for the yachts have not been encouraging either. They predict clear weather, light winds and an easterly swell.

There was no word this morning of the position of the Southern Maid. Last report was from the pilot of a Tasman Empire Airways Solent who sighted the Australian cutter 20 miles behind Leda. Southern Maid had earlier given a position 50 miles astern and 50 miles to the south of Leda.

Nothing has been seen of the other four yachts in the race, the White Squall, Hope, Ghost and Sea Wolf.

Big yachts in the race will be in a bad position if they don't get a strong breeze soon. While they are struggling along slowly, the small boats are accumulating handicaps and stand a good chance of winning on handicap.

While they wait for the wind, crews are having a pleasant, if unexciting time. Aboard the Leda, the men sunbathe, listen to the radio, sleep and drink iced beer. Yesterday, Terry Hammond rigged up a pick-up to the radio and the crew now has the added luxury of record-playing. "But the only thing that would really keep us occupied is a good wind," said Mr Wilson.