

3rd Feb. 1957

# Rangi Takes Lead In Tasman Race

The veteran Auckland cutter Rangi went into the lead yesterday afternoon in the Tasman yacht race. At sundown she was five miles ahead of Leda, which led the fleet of nine boats all the week. The Sydney sloop Solveig was almost abreast of Leda.

This morning the bigger boats were favoured by a 10-knot nor'wester, and Leda reported she was leaving Solveig behind. But she had not yet sighted Rangi.

"For the first time in the race Leda has got a breeze to her liking and dropped Solveig astern," said W. A. Wilson, Press Association correspondent in Leda.

"We are making good progress close hauled on the starboard tack, and are just able to lay Sydney.

"The Southern Maid also reports she is making good time, but we have been unable to contact Tara, whose signals have been growing increasingly faint in the last few days."

## Marine Biology

Mr Wilson said Leda's skipper yesterday transferred his attention from racing to marine biology and spent much of the day dropping a bucket over the side to collect interesting plankton specimens. These he stored in a glass.

Unfortunately a crew member drank them by mistake. Today, ocean racing was definitely preferred to biology.

Mr Sid Schofield, lighthouse keeper at Cape Reinga, explained he had not been trying to "work" the boats because the frequency he used was being kept clear during the search for the yacht Argo.

"But I had a talk with Terry Hammond on Leda last night," he said. "They were then about 200 yards ahead of Solveig, and five miles behind Rangi.

"The wind had freshened, and was about 10 to 12 knots.

"They were going to keep a watch for the Wanganella, which was expected to pass them in the early hours of this morning."

The leading boats have now covered over 500 miles of their journey. If the present light winds continue, it will take them another 10 or 11 days to reach Sydney.

Rangi and Solveig, the lighter boats, are in a good position to win. They have been accumulating handicaps during the week's light winds.

## BOATS' PROGRESS IN FIRST WEEK

The nine contestants started their 1240-mile journey just a week ago, and it is therefore timely to review their progress. Here, in brief, is the story of the race up to today:—

**Saturday.**—Sloop Solveig is first over the starting line, but is quickly headed by the Tauranga cutter Leda. As the fleet passes Tiri, Leda is still in front, with Tara second.

**Sunday.**—Leda is first round North Cape, well ahead of Tara. But the lighter Rangi and Solveig pass Tara during the night and gain on Leda.

**Monday.**—Six yachts—still headed by Leda—sail slowly out into the Tasman at dawn. Smaller craft again make up leeway in a light easterly.

**Tuesday.**—Contestants are almost becalmed between Cape Reinga and the Three Kings Islands. Most of them are now almost abreast on a 30-mile line—virtually starting the race again.

**Wednesday.**—Leda still slightly ahead of Rangi. Tara, Hope and White Squall about 10 miles behind. Crews continue "whistling for wind."

**Thursday.**—Leda is now not far ahead of Rangi and Solveig. (The latter has gained steadily in the light winds.)

**Friday.**—This afternoon the gaff-rigger cutter Rangi takes the lead. At sundown she is five miles ahead of Leda and Solveig. Southern Maid is a few miles further back to the south. Tara is well north, about 20 miles behind the leaders. White Squall and Sea Wolf are about 40 miles behind, and furthest south. The other two entrants, Ghost and Hope, have no radios and have not been seen.

**Saturday.**—Today, with a fair breeze, Leda is leaving Solveig behind. She is probably overtaking Rangi, but had not sighted her this morning.

## N.W. Wind Helps Tasman Yachts; Rangi Still Ahead

Feb. 5th 1957

The Auckland cutter Rangi is still leading in the Tasman yacht race, according to the Cape Reinga lighthouse keeper, Mr S. Schofield, who was in radio communication with the Leda at 7 p.m. yesterday.

A fresh nor'-westerly wind which sprang up during the night brought fresh hope to the bigger yachts in the race.

The Press Association correspondent, Mr W. A. Wilson, in Leda, was unable to send a detailed message this morning, as the yacht was sailing at a steep angle of heel and petrol could not run up to the generator engine.

Though a lookout was kept for the yachts, none was sighted from the T.E.A.L. Solent which passed along the expected route early this morning.