The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW)

Sunday 28 December 1952

Front Page

The link below is to the complete front page the yacht featured is:

**Hobart Bound**
This picture of the 44ft yawl Landfall was taken yesterday afternoon from a "Sunday Herald" plane 30 miles off Bateman's Bay. Landfall was then running third in the Hobart race.

**N.S.W. Yawl Ruthean's 30-mile Lead In Hobart Yacht Race**

Late last night the 54-foot Port Macquarie yawl Ruthean was leading* the Hobart yacht race fleet by more than 30 miles. She was then 18 miles south of Montagu Island, and 193 miles south of Sydney. In second place was the 44ft Victorian yawl Landfall, which was lying 17 miles north-east of Montagu Island. White Cloud (48ft N.S.W. cutter) was third, 25 miles north-east of Montagu Island, and Solveig (34ft N.S.W. sloop) was fourth, 10 miles east of Broulee Island, which is about 28 miles north of Montagu Island. When reports of the fleet were received by Sydney radio station 2SM from the "mother ship," Lauriana, the seas were smooth, there was a light southerly wind, and the yachts were moving at about two knots. The fleet of 17 rode out Friday night's heavy blow without casualties or serious damage. According to Lauriana, wind forces of up to 55 knots were registered in some gusts.

**Fears Allayed**
Nocturne failed to report her position for the early morning call and fears were held for her safety. However, she later reported well out to sea. She had suffered no damage in the overnight blow. After the four leaders, other yachts reported last night were:

- **FORTUNA** (37ft cutter), east of Brush Island, 120 miles south of Sydney;
- **KURREWA III** (58ft ketch), nine miles east of Black Head;
- **INGRID** (38ft ketch), 15 miles south-east of Brush Island.

Frank Barlow, who was skipper of last year's winner, Margaret Rintoul, said the leading yachts were not likely to reach Bass Strait until late to-night.

**Day Of Changing Fortunes**
It was a day of changing fortunes in the light going. Ruthean was always close up with the leaders. In the morning White Cloud was reported in front. At dusk Landfall was seen by a Trans Oceanic flying-boat to have taken the lead from Ruthean and Nocturne.

The report from the air-craft put Solveig and Terra Nova close together east of Bateman's Bay and about 10 miles off the coast. Then followed Wraith of Odin (10 miles east of Point Upright), Kurrewa III about three miles astern and Nirvana four miles east of Brush Island. In the late afternoon White Cloud was in the van of the fleet with Ruthean, Wraith of Odin, Kurrewa 111 and Landfall following in that order. At 10 a.m. Wraith of Odin was just east of Bateman's Bay. The big ketch had made a mighty spurt to get into third place.

**Storm Lasted All Night**
Qantas radio operator, Jack Amos, on board Lauriana, reported: "The comparative calm of to-day is in sharp contrast with last night when we were tossed around like corks. "The storm lasted all night and the wind at times reached 55 knots. "The gale abated early this morning and at daybreak we were running into a stiff southerly breeze."Yesterday, Amos reported, Kurrewa 111 lost half of its fresh water when a faulty tap siphoned the water into the bilge. Kurrewa had stated that a huge shark inspected the yacht during the day. It was the biggest ever seen by anyone on board.

**Calm Forecast**
The Weather Bureau issued the following for-cast for the Jervis Bay Gabo Island area, for 12 hours from 6 pm. yesterday: 'Light SE to S wind at first becoming calm overnight cloudy and misty, moderate seas, becoming slight "

Amos also reported that Russel Price, one of the crew of Kurrewa III who was struck on the nose by a spar lust after the craft cleared the Heads on Friday, was now well and going about his duties
The blow stunned Price and caused his nose to bleed profusely Launana's owner-skipper Vic Meyer, was feeling better yesterday morning after Dr F Bellingham injected penicillin for his poisoned arm

**UNDER FULL CANVAS**
A "Sunday Herald" re-porter located part of the fleet in a special air reconnaissance yesterday and found the craft making steady progress south-wards in calm conditions. There was a slight swell. The yachts were under full canvas, sailing into a five-knot southerly after the heavy going overnight. They were widely scattered. A thick haze hung around them, reducing air visibility to 10 miles at 1,000 feet. On Hard Tack Seawards Several of the yachts which had been keeping to the coast were on a hard tack seawards to reach southern currents further out. The 44ft yawl Landfall, which was the early leader, was located 30 miles out south-cast of Bateman's Bay, 128 miles from Sydney, and sailing due south.

Closer inshore but 10 miles back was Nocturne, on a sea-ward tack, with Solveig two miles behind. The big ketch Kurrewa III was trailing three miles back, and Wraith of Odin nine miles south-east of Ulladulla, and some three miles' inshore of Kurrewa, was forging ahead of her Far behind Kurrewa came the 38ft ketch Ingrid.
The schooner Wanderer was sighted out from Ulladulla on a northerly course, which suggested she was making back to Sydney, but the crew signalled all was well.
None of the yachts showed any ill effects from the buffeting they received the previous night.