The 1952 Hobart Race

**Yachts in Bass Strait**
The 35-foot Sydney cutter Nocturne was early this morning leading in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race from the 48-foot Sydney cutter White Cloud. Nocturne was then averaging about four knots and nearing the middle of Bass Strait. White Cloud was less than five miles away.

**Sloop Solveig Fifth**
Closely bunched behind the leaders were the 54ft Lake Macquarie yawl Ruthean, doing about five knots, the 44ft Victorian yawl Landfall (two knots), and the 34ft Sydney sloop Solveig (three knots). The yachts sailed most of yesterday under light north-easterly winds in calm seas. The sun was hot and most of the crews are sunburnt. The "mother ship" Lauriana radioed Sydney radio station 2SM at 10 o'clock last night and reported that the winds were still very light N.E. It appeared that the yachts would have a very slow crossing of Bass Strait. Went Well Out To Sea The Lauriana was just south of the leaders and was cruising at seven knots, using her motors. Bob Bull, skipper of Nocturne, has used tactics similar to those used by Rani, winner of the 1946 race. He took Nocturne well out to sea when the race started to get the favourable north-easterly winds. Yesterday's mild north-east winds helped Nocturne more than the others because of her lighter displacement. However, yachting experts favour the heavier yachts Landfall and Ruthean to over-haul Nocturne with the westerly winds expected later today.

The positions of the other yachts late last night were as follows:
- **MOONBI** (35ft Sydney yawl), four miles behind Solveig.
- **KINTAIL** (40ft Tasmanian cutter) and **INGRID** (38ft South Australian ketch), six miles south of Gabo Island.
- **KURREWA III** (58ft Victorian ketch) four miles south of Gabo Island.
- **NIRVANA** (64ft Lake Macquarie cutter), 10 miles north-east of Gabo.
WRAITH OF ODIN (57ft Sydney ketch), one mile east of Nirvana.
FORTUNA (37ft Sydney cutter), three miles south-east of Green Cape.
PAVANA (52ft South Australian schooner), 15 miles south-east of Tathra Heads.

**No Word From Three**
There was no word late last night from the Kurura (35ft Sydney sloop), Wanderer (47ft Tasmanian schooner), and Ripple (35ft Sydney sloop).
They are believed to be out to sea, close up with the leading yachts.

**SLIGHT SEAS FORECAST**
The Sydney Weather Bureau has forecast slight seas - Bass Strait for the 12 hours from 8 p.m. yesterday. It said winds will be N.E. to N., blowing from five to 10 knots, and tending to N.W. and W. off Tasmania. Qantas radio operator, Jack Amos, on the "mother ship" Lauriana reported at 6.30 last night that seas were flat and the light N.E. had dropped until it was practically calm. "Lauriana's crew can hardly believe we are crossing Bass Strait, because the seas are so calm and flat with small winds," he said. "Usually at this time of the year we can expect very heavy seas and a knocking about."

**Deck "Almost Too Hot For Feet"**
Earlier, Qantas radio operator, Max Waite, on Kurrowa 111, reported: "The sun is glaring down on a brilliant sea. The deck is almost too hot for bare feet." Joe Palmer is combating conditions at the helm wearing a woman's huge cartwheel straw hat given to him for luck before leaving. -It is green and yellow striped. "These light conditions do not suit Kurrewa." Yesterday afternoon, Lauriana drew alongside Nocturne south of Gabo Island. Amos said Nocturne was riding very easily under a very light N.E. breeze doing about three to four knots. Moonbi's crew are reported to be enjoying the quick frozen food they took with them. Their fare includes frozen stews, fricasses, roasts, and chicken.