

# Southern Exposure

**F&B Tasmanian contributor Mike Fry, takes a sailing and lobster fishing trip off the remote, far south coast of Tasmania with two pro crayfishermen – to see and visit parts of Australia very few people even know about, let alone visit. As it transpired, it was no walk in the park, even for the pros.**

## At the Kettering Marina . . .

**F**or Frank Bosworth this was not going to be just a sailing and fishing trip along the south coast of Tasmania. Unlike Chris Short and myself, who will doubtless be doing this trip again next year, Frank is suffering from emphysema and this trip was his last farewell to the coastline that he has worked and fished for so many years.

For Chris Short, it too was a bit of a memory trip, although he has been sailing this coast on occasions in recent years, following about twenty years as a cray fisherman. It was Frank who took a young Chris Short under his wing and showed him the ropes all those years ago. Frank is now 82, Chris is 55 and in those early days Chris, like most rookies, needed a guiding hand from someone who knew where the fish were and how to keep safe in these treacherous and unpredictable waters.

Our vessel for the trip was the *Aranjee*, a Roberts 45, ketch rigged and as sturdy a boat as would be needed if the going got rough and it did on a number of occasions. *Aranjee* was moored at Chris Short's South Haven Marina, adjacent to the Bruny Island ferry at Kettering; about 35 minutes drive south of Hobart in the



**The arrow indicates the region they visited and cray fished - you can't get much further south than this in Oz.**

d'Entrecasteaux Channel.

This has to be one of the prettiest little coves in the channel area. Well sheltered from most weather patterns, this quaint little boat haven caters for many hundreds of craft of varying shapes and sizes. Chris will tell you that when he moved to Kettering 27 years ago there were about a dozen boats moored in the cove. Today there are 2 marinas one of which is owned and operated by Chris and about 500 boats.

I ventured down from Strahan on the west coast on Monday, 10th November, anticipating a departure sometime the next day, however circumstances did not allow us to set sail until Friday 13th. Some would say ominous, if they were superstitious, however we were not.

Frank had some medical appointments to attend to before we proceeded so this was in fact a good opportunity for me to get acquainted with *Aranjee* at the dock. As it turned out, *Aranjee* had not done much work during the past 10 years, before Chris acquired it earlier this year, so this trip was really a shakedown cruise as well as providing Frank with his sail down memory lane.

Until you actually take part in the preparation of a vessel for an extended cruise you would not realise how much is required in terms of checking equipment and provedoring.

As I was berthed on the boat while at the marina for a few days, it was my task to check all stores on board and provide a list of vittles required for the trip. I quickly realised by the expiry date of most of the galley stock, that *Aranjee* had indeed done very little work in the past 10 years. So it was with much enthusiasm that I emptied the lockers in anticipation of some



**Above: Chris Short, ex-cray fisherman and owner/skipper of *Aranjee*.**

**Below: Heading down the beautiful d'Entrecasteaux Channel in Tassy, into a south westerly change on the horizon.**

