

Yacht Pagan

I'm writing because I recently discovered a reference to my great-uncle, Bill Weld, and his boat *Pagan* in an online archive of your magazine. I



am compiling research materials about Uncle Bill prior to beginning work on his biography.

The letter in question 'Legless in Sydney' was written by S.E. Bradfield of Kelso, Qld in August 2006, and references a photo of *Pagan* that appeared in the June 2006 issue of *Afloat*.

We have always wondered what became of *Pagan* after Bill's untimely death in Hobart. The news that she was still sailing as late as 2006 is extraordinary!

Erin Cole Roth,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

Boat thieves on the Parramatta River

A quick run down regarding boat thieves on the Parramatta River and a small cry for help if anyone can enlighten me.

On returning from fishing the other day I discovered my Zodiac Tender and 2Hp Honda engine had been stolen from my Belts Bay mooring. The mooring is in front of my house and it was broad daylight when the goods were stolen so the thief was quite brazen to say the least.

In future I can bolt the engine to the Zodiac but how do you lock the Zodiac to a buoy to prevent a reoccurrence?

Do any readers have a solution?

Jim Ellis,

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Huntleys Point.

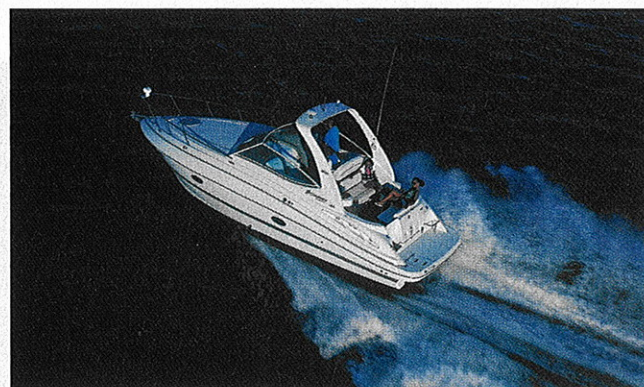
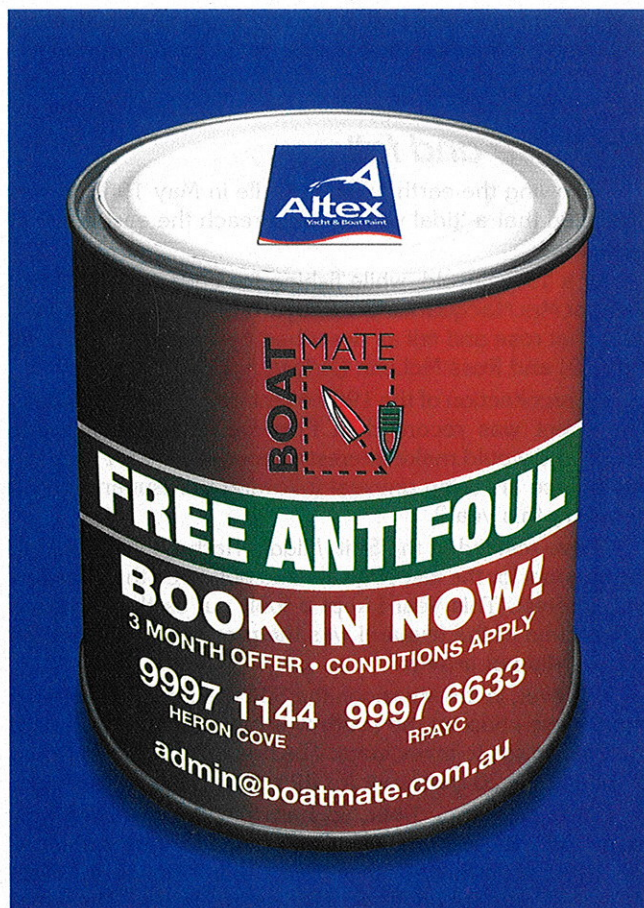
Harbour Waves

Thanks to Ross McLean for his observations of water sloshing about at Birkenhead Point in Sydney Harbour on 28 February 2010 (*Afloat*, Apr'10). The time was in the afternoon, some nine hours after the predicted first arrival of the tsunami at Sydney at 8:30am.

There is probably no need to consider earthquake aftershocks causing later tsunamis. Books on physical oceanography advise that after the first arrival of a tsunami there will generally be subsequent peaks and troughs arriving at intervals of something like half an hour for many hours (indeed perhaps days, for instruments sufficiently sensitive).

Within Sydney Harbour itself all sorts of effects are possible and likely to have occurred, with minor rises and falls of water-level resonating around different parts of the harbour, and the complications of the background of the regular tides. The name tsunami means 'harbour wave' in Japanese, and it is likely that Ross McLean saw the tsunami doing exactly what it is named for.

A benefit of his report is to emphasize how relevant tsunami warnings are, and should be taken seriously by anyone close to the water, even when what arrives at (say) Bondi Beach is rather mild.



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I wonder how many other readers saw unusual effects in bays and harbours along the east coast on 28 February?

Ted Lilley,
Canberra.

Tidal rise and fall

Following the earthquake in Chile in May 1960, it was predicted that a 'tidal wave' would reach the east coast of Australia.

As a 15-year-old, while fishing for Luderick (blackfish then) at Mrs Macquaries Chair, Sydney Harbour, there were tides that rose and fell as described by John Burch (*Afloat* May'10) and Ross McLean (*Afloat*, Apr'10).

My recollection of the 1960 event was 30 minute 'tides'. The event was recorded at Fort Denison on their tide gauge and would make interesting study. Did Fort Denison experience anything unusual following the tsunami on 28 February this year?

I have resided at the Spit, Middle Harbour, overlooking the channel for the last 10 years and observed the tidal flow with interest. This year I kept a look out as the expected arrival time of the tsunami was the morning of Sunday 28 Feb – it did not arrive.

However, in the afternoon the Spit Channel developed a short wave chop on the south western side so I went onto the Spit Bridge to investigate. The tide was observed to run in for approx 20 mins, out for 20 mins and in for 20 mins.

I only stayed an hour, so I am unable to advise how many 'tides/times' this occurred but it was very similar to the 1960 occurrence, other than I didn't notice a height increase/decrease on the shoreline at the bridge. The water

is not that deep at the bridge but increases to 93ft a short distance west. The shoreline levels may have changed further upstream in shallows but then again it may not have.

Angus Gordon (coastal scientist retired) did not admit to seeing either event (*Afloat*, May'10) but suggested that it was a seiche rather than a later tsunami wave. As a person who fishes with a float, I know what I saw happen on each occasion.

I was surprised that there was not one scientist/ TV camera crew/ university ocean/ harbour study group on a spot like the Spit Bridge to record the event.

Rob Grant (not retired luderick fisherman),
Seaforth.

[Also see p59 *Unusual tidal movements in Sydney Harbour* by Malcolm Riley.]

Broken Bay and the Aussie Bush

Regarding Phil Foster's letter bagging the Broken Bay area (*Afloat* May'10). My family and I have spent every available weekend boating/exploring in the area this summer (based from Careel Bay, Pittwater) and loved it.

If he finds towering sandstone bluffs "ugly", and eucalypts "monotonous", what is he doing there?

The area is full of spectacularly beautiful, iconic Australian bush, (deafening cicadas included) which a lot of people obviously enjoy – hence the large numbers of boaters.

The jellyfish won't hurt you, and just because you can't see the bottom doesn't mean you can't enjoy a swim.

We would all like a protected anchorage with sandy beach to ourselves, but on Australia Day weekend? Please!



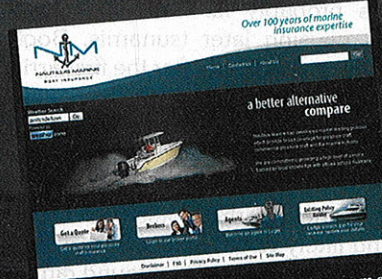
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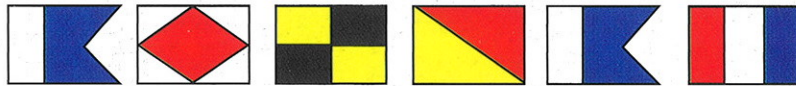
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PRICELESS



Your Boat

Nadia ... A pretty little thing

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