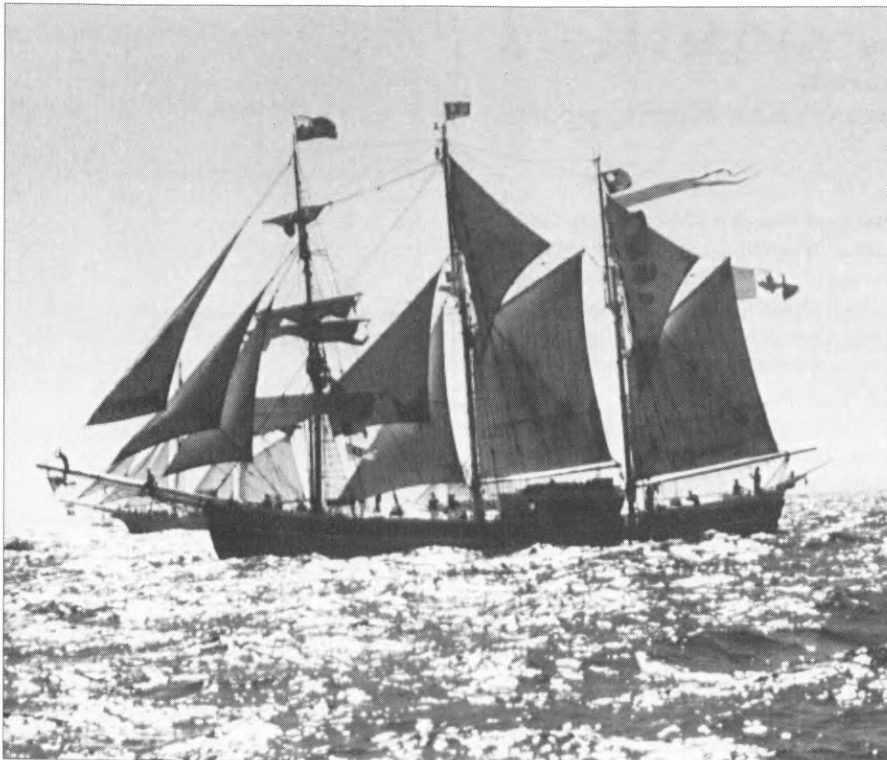


AFP AFLOAT



The Canadian barquentine, 'Our Svanen' entering Jarvis Bay.

HOW do you organise a major crowd control operation in six weeks?

Senior Sergeant Peter Lindsay (OIC Jarvis Bay) explains 'Operation Doily' — the plan for the visit to Canberra's coastal territory by the Re-enactment First Fleet.

On 3 December 1987, confirmation was received that the Re-enactment First Fleet would visit Jarvis Bay between January 15–17.

Other organisations involved in the planning were the New South Wales Police, Maritime Services Board, New South Wales Ambulance, Royal Australian Navy, Shoalhaven City Council, Jarvis Bay Nature Reserve Rangers, Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, Volunteer Rescue Association and various local business organisations.

The AFP's long standing high standard of liaison and co-operation with all these bodies contributed greatly to the overall success of the operation.

The fact that most of the events were occurring in New South Wales meant that the NSW Police committed a total of 170 men and six police launches to the operation.

The normal Australian Federal Police Jarvis Bay presence of three was increased with Sergeant Bob Clarkson, eight motor cyclists and two Search and

Rescue members, travelling from Canberra.

Our situation at Jarvis Bay is unique in that as well as the Jarvis Bay Territory, we are responsible for policing Beecroft Peninsula on the eastern side of the Bay, some 45 minutes drive from Jarvis Bay Police Station. Given this remote location and the expected heavy concentration of traffic in the local area, it was decided that the Search and Rescue members and one motor cyclist would camp at Beecroft Peninsula for the entire operation. This move paid off when two vessels ran onto rocks at the Beecroft Peninsula at night. Three crew members from one of the yachts went overboard and were unaccounted for. The members at Beecroft were called out at about 5am and were on location in a very short time to begin the search for the missing sailors who were quickly located when they swam ashore.

The Australian Federal Police Operation Command Post for the fleet's visit was set up at the Jarvis Bay Station and manned by myself and Clerical Assistant Helen Ardler.

In the week prior to the visit, AFP radio technicians put the finishing touches to our radio network with the installation of our marine HF radio. This radio was invaluable during several marine rescues and at times provided the only reliable link with ships of the fleet and the NSW and AFP command posts.

Due to favourable weather conditions, the fleet arrived at Jarvis Bay 24 hours early and anchored south of Jarvis Bay in Wreck Bay, near the local aboriginal settlement.

The residents sailed out to welcome the ships and provided boat trips around the fleet when other local residents converged on Wreck Bay for a sneak preview.

Later in the evening, members of the aboriginal community were invited on board several of the ships and several members of ships' crews went ashore to find their land legs and formed a team to play volleyball on the beach against the aborigines.

There were no adverse incidents either locally or in NSW. It would seem that the liaison between the ships' crews and people at Wreck Bay may have been, in part, responsible for the overall feeling of goodwill.

Early in the morning of the 15th, crowds began to gather along the cliff-tops to witness the spectacle of the fleet of nine ships enter the Bay under sail escorted by about 300 spectator craft of all shapes and sizes. Once inside the Bay, the fleet anchored between Huskisson and Vincentia where the many thousands of spectators could view the ships from either the shore, or from one of the many charter vessels operating during the visit.

Many of the spectator craft were visiting Jarvis Bay for the first time and as would be expected, a flotilla of this size carries its fair share of inexperienced boatmen, resulting in police attending to ten vessels in distress during the arrival of the fleet.

Weather conditions deteriorated considerably over the weekend and launch crews worked long hours assisting those in distress. At about 3.30am on the 17th, a southerly change swept across the Bay and two yachts that had not sought shelter at the southern end of the Bay were swept onto rocks on Beecroft Peninsula. Although all crew members from these yachts were rescued safely, there was about \$500,000.00 worth of damage to the vessels.

Although crowds were not as large as anticipated, there were a total of 30,872 visitors to the Jarvis Bay Territory during the three days and from a police point of view, the entire exercise proved to be a success.