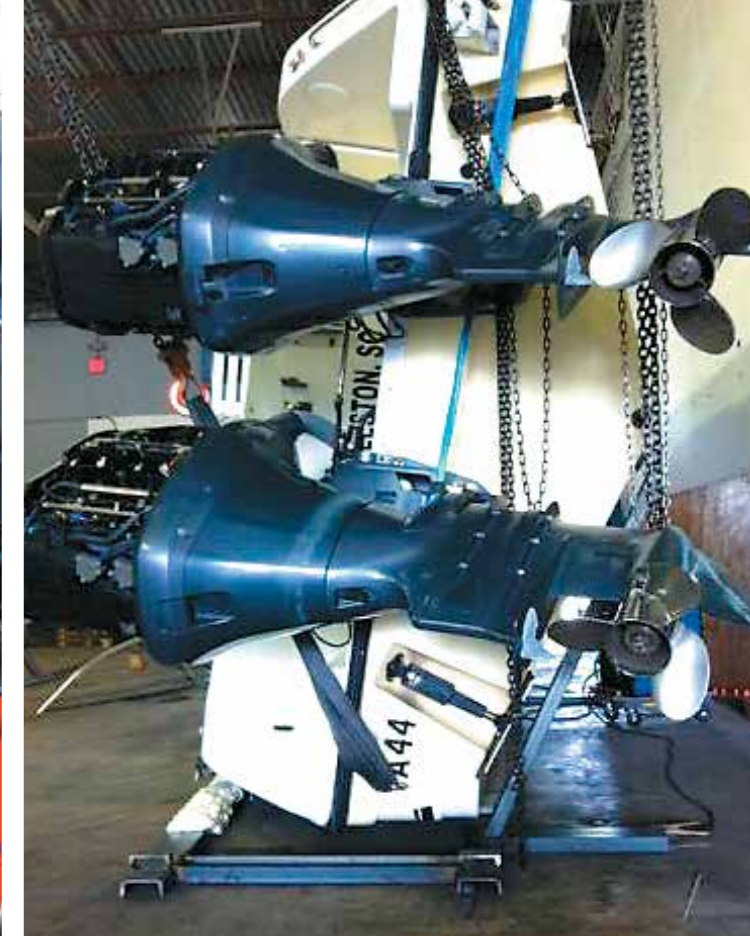




Mother and Son

THERE ARE BIG EVENTS IN ALL OUR LIVES THAT WE REMEMBER FOREVER. I JUST HAD ONE



LEFT My mum Betty McIntyre at the helm of *Spirit of Sydney* in 1996, the day I returned from living a year 'together alone' with Margie in Antarctica. If you have young kids, please fight hard to program their young brains, rather than let TV or social media do it for you!

ABOVE LEFT At last! Our new Explorer magnetometer is onboard *ICE*. Jane and new Divemaster 'Brownie' (Paul Brown) are full of anticipation and keen to get away from Fiji and head to Tonga! Follow us on bluetreasure.me

ABOVE RIGHT On its special cradle and slide rack, ready to push in. OceanTrek Marine has been very busy with this system.

"My mum continued to demand 'When are you going to get a proper job?'"

It began about 59 years ago when my mum started doing things to encourage my spirit of adventure. There was always a Sunday afternoon drive, often along the beach to Port Adelaide, simply to look at ships.

She would encourage me to go talk to the sailor on the gangway - that always got me onboard to explore the decks and dream. She would get me out doing things ... anything.

She signed me up for Cubs, took me yabbing in the creek, fishing and

always on beach holidays in a rented shack.

Just like a computer, she was programming my brain - my father was down the pub! We were a very middle class family in suburban Adelaide, but it was the good old days when, as long as you were home before the street lights came on, it was okay. I often had no skin left on my knees. I signed up to Scouts all on my own. So began my life...

A REAL JOB

The rest is history. In 2012, the Australian Geographic

Society presented me with a gold medal for a Lifetime of Adventure Award, only the 12th time ever that this has been awarded. Strangely, I was so proud of my mum that night. She was 86 then and newly diagnosed with early signs of dementia, which she laughed about a lot. My life was full and I had enjoyed every minute of it. More importantly I was seriously excited about the treasure hunting years ahead.

My mum continued to demand "When are you going to get a proper job?" or

once again question "How can you afford to do that?" or confirm that "I wish I had drowned you at birth!" We had a special relationship.

I was on my boat *ICE* in Fiji when I took the call. Two days before, Mum had fallen again, fractured her pelvis. She was okay, but that night she'd had a stroke. Ninety minutes later I was on a plane bound for Adelaide. I sat beside my mum for her last 60 hours, not wanting to leave. While holding her hand, Betty passed into another world, completing her grand adventure in life.



ABOVE The World Odyssey round-the-world race for production boats 40 to 60ft and Corinthian crews sets sail in July 2016. Now, at last, ordinary sailors have the chance of competing in what used to be considered the ultimate challenge but has since become an elite sport! For details, see cornellsailing.com

BELOW LEFT About to 'roll' a 24ft Century offshore boat to slip inside a 40ft container for shipping from the USA to New Caledonia.

BELOW RIGHT Could this power cord kill me? Could a certified marine electrician make this? Yes and yes! Life is full of challenges!



We were together alone for that special moment.

In that instant, for one last time, she rebooted my computer. She made me even stronger in my beliefs about life, our own mortality and that it is a treasure for us to go out and live it, in the best, most meaningful way we can. It is okay to be an individual, even better to be a big kid, laugh and have fun. But the most important thing of all is to believe in yourself and follow your dreams.

Thanks Bet! I'll miss you...

IMPORTING IKI

If you ever thought about importing your own trailerboat from the USA, you are not alone. The company I am using to ship *IKI* (a Bayliner Trophy 2359 pilothouse) to Tonga, has containerised and shipped nearly 300 trailerboats in the last two years, mostly delivered to commercial boat sellers. It has a very special system of removing the top gear, rolling the boat sideways onto a custom cradle, then pushing it into

a 9ft-high, 40ft container. This means anything with a beam up to 8.5ft has a good chance of fitting.

Unfortunately our boat has a lot of glass fitted, so it will take a bit of work to pack and rebuild at the other end but we are about to give it a try. If we succeed, and it actually fits, it will save us nearly \$10,000 in shipping costs compared to a ro-ro ship. So if you plan to buy, make sure the beam is manageable.



CHECK, CHECK AGAIN!

Some years ago, I read about a guy in America who killed his wife by fitting two male plugs to the end of a 240V power extension cord. When his wife picked up the live end, she was electrocuted.

He was found guilty. So you can imagine my surprise when I returned to my boat in Fiji and found the very same thing done to one of my cords, by a certified marine electrician!

It was a strange set of



ABOVE Betty and me in the late 1950s when life was fun and my simple brain was being programmed for future challenges with great love and care.

circumstances leading up to this "mistake" but ... WOW! Once again, it proves the theory that if it *can* be done, one day it *will*. I have "nearly" been electrocuted a few times in my life. Some people I knew have been. Life is an adventure, so take care.

REAL WORLD RACE

Jimmy Cornell is at it again and I take my hat off to him. He has just launched a new World Odyssey round-the-world yacht race for 2016-17, but with a huge difference - it is for 40 to 60ft production sailing monohulls with no performance enhancements and, basically, for amateurs. There is a fully crewed class and a two-handed class.

This offers an opportunity for any bunch of guys or gals to get out there and have some fun challenging

themselves, sailing all the oceans and battling Cape Horn. You do not need to be a sailing guru, or spend a million dollars. If I had nothing to do right now I would definitely sign on and I would have trouble deciding which class would be the more fun - two-up, or with a bunch of friends.

If you have ever wanted the adventure of sailing/ racing around the world, have a good look at this. Anyone can do it, provided they really want to. I am still thinking and wondering if I can work something out in between my treasure hunting and Antarctic expeditions ...

Some years ago I spent a few days with Jimmy in China, at the Seahorse Marine factory, when he was considering the Diesel Duck 462 motorsailers (similar to *ICE*). I have total respect for

the guy and his life. With our combined adventures, we had some fun conversations!

When I did the BOC Challenge solo around-the-world yacht race in 1990, it was the last of the great adventure races. After that, all future events became 'grands prix' for elite athletes, with big budgets. But even *you* could do this one!

Here is what Jimmy thinks: "In recent years, I have spoken to many owners of production boats who are keen to race around the world in a competitive event but see themselves excluded by the dominance of all current offshore races by sponsored high-tech yachts sailed by professional crews. The World Odyssey will answer this demand by bringing back the Corinthian spirit of earlier round the world races."

It will start in France on July 23, 2016 and finish nearly nine months later in April 2017. Thinking, thinking, thinking?

I sailed solo around-the-world because it was just one of my dreams. I also vividly remember the first Whitbread around-the-world yacht races, mostly sailed in production boats, with great teams having real adventures.

Buy a boat in Europe for \$300,000, refit for \$100,000, race port costs of \$50,000. All you need then is food and entry fees. You can sell the boat after the event for about \$280,000. Spread those expenses over six or eight crew and it all stacks up as a cheap adventure.

If you are serious and need advice or encouragement, I am happy to chat. Good luck! ■