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'Pacific Peacemaker'— a family protests

AN ENGLISH immigrant couple have given up their home and possessions to set sail across the Pacific and take on the might of America.

They are to join an international protest against America's Trident missile system in Seattle, Washington, in mid 1982. As well, they're undertaking a lecture tour of the US west coast.

And their biggest weapons against the devastating power of the Trident subs — each one said to be capable of destroying every city and large town in Russia — are their four small children and a swag of printed propaganda.

Bill and Lorraine Ethell, both 32, bought a 16.5 metre ketch and, despite being "up to our eyeballs in debt", intend spending a year making their voices heard in the anti-nuclear arms lobby.

Bill has given up his job as a project officer with a community support scheme and Lorraine has given up studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree by correspondence.

What, then, was it that changed this seemingly content suburban family into ardent demonstrators? On their ketch "Pacific Peacemaker", now being prepared in Sydney Harbour for her six-month protest cruise, the Ethells told their story.

"Australia was everything we dreamed it would be and more when we arrived here seven years ago," said Bill. "Suddenly we saw it all disappearing in a nuclear cloud. We were horrified to find ourselves in the front line in the event of a nuclear war."

The Ethells are not the rabid flag-wavers you might expect would take on Uncle Sam. They talk quietly, evenly, about the two superpowers' nuclear war game, and Australia's role as a pawn. Their warnings are chilling.

"The North West Cape communications base, which could be used to send firing orders to Tridents, would in such an event become a potential target," says Bill.

He adds: "A Trident submarine carries 24 missiles with a total of 408 nuclear warheads.

"Each warhead is five times more powerful than the atomic bomb which devastated Hiroshima and is accurate to 100 metres over a range of 6000

Fearing their "dream land" threatened by missiles, they launched their own crusade. By BEN MITCHELL

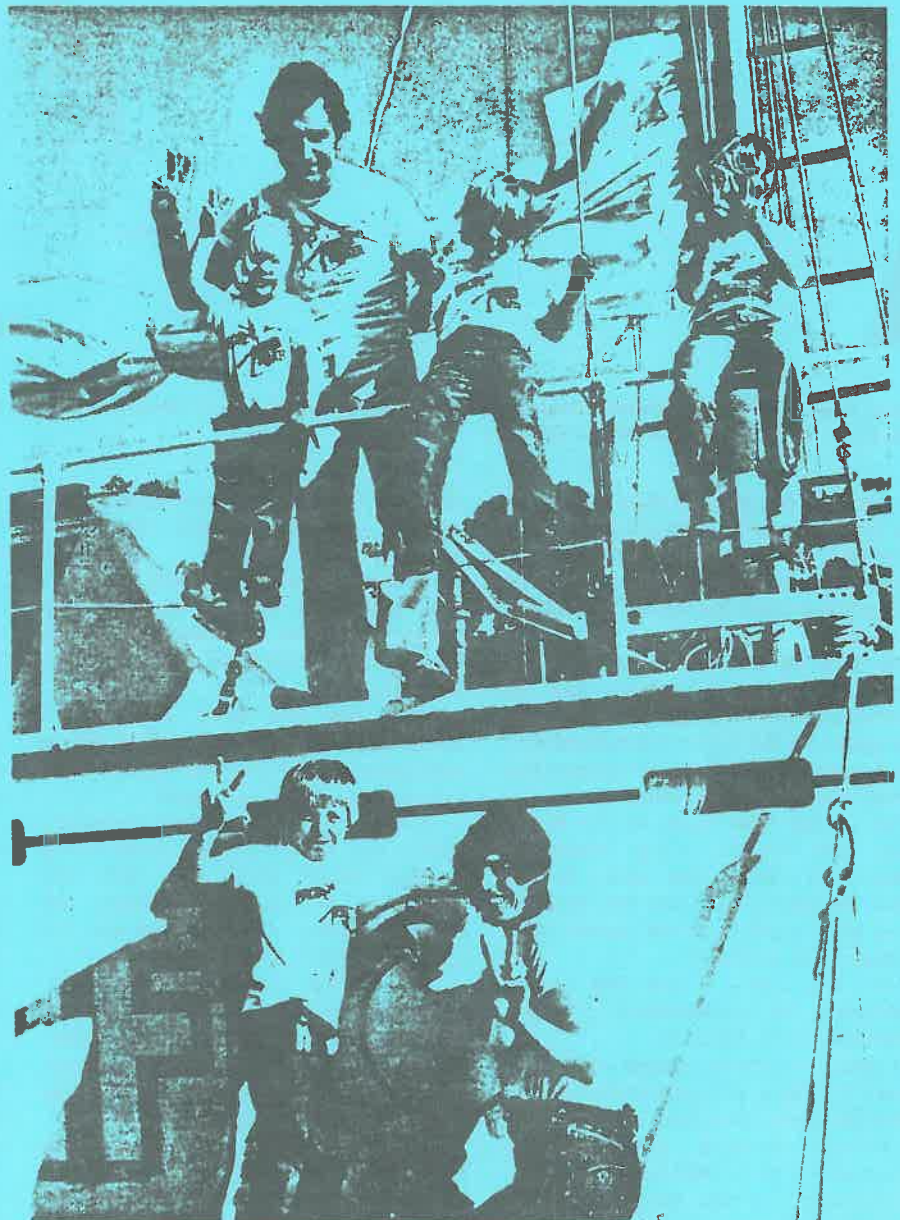
nautical miles. Each Trident of the 13 planned to be operational in the Pacific by 1985 has more destructive force than the combined fire power of Italy, Spain, Argentina, West Germany, Brazil, India, and Pakistan."

Bill and Lorraine are protesting, they say, "because our generation has an influence on world events. What kind of

a world are we leaving our children?"

Fortunately, the Ethell children, Scott, eight, Kate, six, Lee, five, and Nina, three, see their parents' mission more as an adventure, although Scott thinks he understands.

Both former communications officers in the Royal Navy, Bill and Lorraine are well qualified for the Pacific crossing.





Above: The Ethel family plots their course . . . (left to right) Scott, 8; Lee, 5; Nina, 3, and Kate, 6, with their parents Bill and Lorraine Ethell. Left: H's V for victory as the Ethells set sail.

"We met on duty in Mauritius when the island became independent," said Lorraine. "Both of us had been to Northern Ireland and at that time were disenchanted with the role of the military in general."

As long as Bill can remember, his family have been fishing folk in Fleetwood, on the Lancashire coast. At the age of 13 Bill fished in a hurricane in the Arctic — and enjoyed it, despite the ashen faces all around him.

He served nine years in the Royal Navy, and became a top coxswain, sailing nine-metre open boats in the Baltic, Mediterranean, and the Atlantic. He is also qualified to sail cutters and whalers in all weathers.

After five years at sea, Bill began questioning his government's policies, particularly on evacuation.

"I was particularly against having to move inhabitants of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean to Mauritius," he recalled.

"Those people were given compensation of \$1000 each for being dispossessed of their land and being dumped in the slums of Port Louis. Now Diego Garcia is being developed as a Trident submarine base."

—The crewing in Australia

that the Ethells grew concerned about nuclear missiles patrolling the world's oceans.

"When we arrived in Perth in 1974 I was interested only in sunshine and booze," he said. "Lorraine and I were happily settled and we had two more children.

"One day we went along to a Hiroshima Day rally, and started talking with people. Most of them weren't even into politics. They just cared.

"It became clear to us that Australia's role in the Trident system made her a nuclear target. Both Pine Gap and Nurrungar in Central Australia are satellite control stations and can be used to target Trident missiles.

"The TRANET base at Smithfield, SA, is used as a global positioning system which could help Trident missiles make in-course corrections. And the Omega base in Victoria could be used for final positioning of nuclear bombs."

Reception committees are preparing to meet the Ethells as they island-hop across the Pacific. In New Zealand, Dr George Armstrong will lead his Peace Squadron of small boats out to meet the Ethells on Auckland Harbour.

In Tahiti and Micronesia they hope to

pick up fellow protesters to join them in their lecture tour.

"Naturally we don't expect plain sailing once we get to America," said Bill. "There are bound to be some people who will question our right, as foreigners, to protest in America against nuclear proliferation.

"But the fact is that we believe no country has the right to risk sacrificing humanity, not to mention all forms of life, because of its policies and beliefs.

"Nor is the Trident a defence system. It is a first-strike weapon."

The Ethells have had a special T-shirt printed, carrying a message along with the name of their boat — "Protest and Survive".

They make no secret of the fact that their children are an integral part of their protest.

They tell you: "At \$3 billion, one Trident is equal to all the federal funds spent in one year on education in the United States."

Meanwhile, the children move around on board like seasoned deck hands, enjoying their new "playground". Not that they'll be playing all the time. Lorraine will teach the children while they're away from school. ■

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Appeal Form

Pacific Peacemaker, NZ Committee
 P.O. Box 6736, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1
 Telephone 34-410

Name of person(s) or group:
 Address:
 Phone: Date:
 I/we enclose \$ towards the support of the
 Pacific Peacemaker and/or promise \$ per
 month for months, starting in the month of

A sponsorship certificate will be issued with each
 donation over \$10.00

Sponsors to date

Sir Dove-Myer Robinson
 Peter Hillary
 Paul Reeves, Arch-Bishop of N.Z.
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 Sally Vinson, Potter
 Rev. Dr George Armstrong
 Dr Patricia Burns
 Tim Shadbolt
 Miri Szasz, Past Pres. N.Z. Maori Womens Welfare League
 Titchener Family of Devonport



Pacific Peacemaker is sponsored in New Zealand by the
 Home Base Pacific Pilgrimage Project

ITINERARY

Jan 10 Arrive N.Z. (Whangarei)
 Jan 10-26 Activities in Whangarei, Auckland,
 Hamilton, Tauranga, Coromandel
 Jan 28 Bastion Pt Sail Past in support of
 Waitangi activities
 Feb 4 Sail for Bay of Islands
 Feb 6 Waitangi Day
 Feb 8 Return to Auckland
 Feb 10 Public meeting, Ellen Melville Hall
 Feb 12 Peace march Queen St, farewell in
 Auckland
 Feb 17/18 Arrive Wellington
 Feb 21 Sail for Christchurch
 Feb 22/23 Christchurch. Activities Nelson,
 Dunedin

Feb 27 Final provisioning for voyage to Tahiti
 This itinerary is subject to change without notice

Send your contributions or enquiries to:

"PACIFIC PEACEMAKER"

P.O. Box 6736,
 Wellesley Street,
 AUCKLAND.

Telephone 34-410



Supporting groups include: 1981 N.Z. Peace Workshop,
 Christchurch Peace Collective, Pacific People's Anti-
 Nuclear Action Committee, Society of Friends, Peace
 Squadron, Greenpeace, Campaign for Nuclear Disarm-
 ament, United Nations Association, National Council of
 Churches, N.Z. Council for World Peace, Peace Action
 Tauranga, Nelson International Affairs Action Commit-
 tee, Women's International League for Peace and Free-
 dom, Neighbourhood Peace Groups throughout New
 Zealand and others.

Special thanks to West Plaza Copy Centre.

YES

I WANT a

Nuclear Free Pacific

Pacific Peacemaker

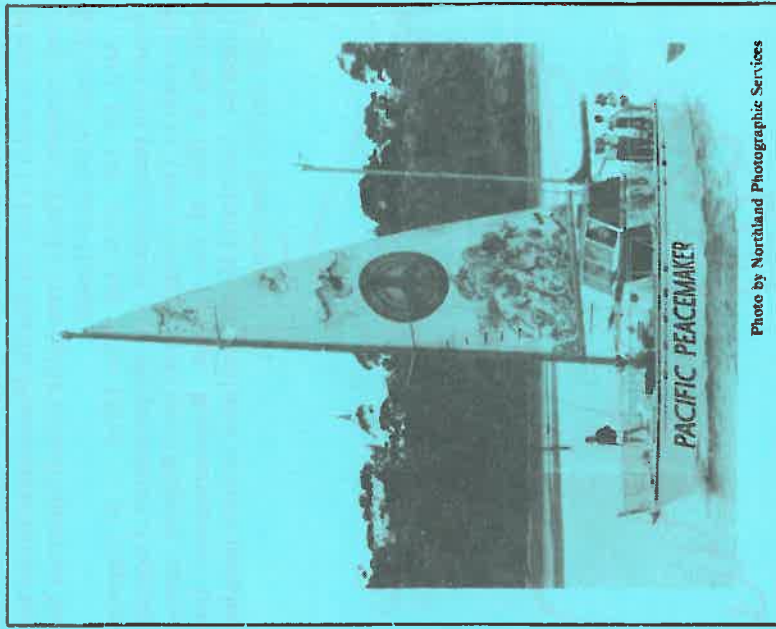


Photo by Northland Photographic Services

The voyage of the Pacific Peacemaker is the next major
 step towards securing a Nuclear Free Pacific.

THE PACIFIC PEACEMAKER

The *Pacific Peacemaker* is part of an international armada converging on the American submarine base of Bangor, Seattle, to protest the imminent deployment of the Trident submarine, the *Ohio*, in the Pacific Ocean.

The voyage of the *Pacific Peacemaker* will help unite the Pacific Peoples to express their opposition to this nuclear madness and help secure a nuclear free Pacific, a major step towards a Nuclear Free World.

The boat is a 54 foot long steel-hulled yacht, costing Aust\$ 85,000 and was named at the Sydney Opera House Steps by the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Mr Cliff Dolan, on 23rd August 1981.

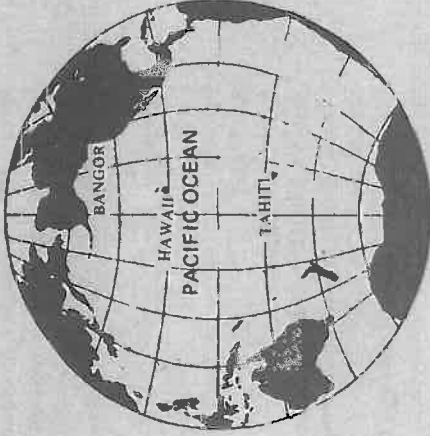
The crew comprises Lorraine and Bill Ethell (both ex-Royal Navy) and their four children — Nina (3 years), Lee (6 years), Kate (7 years) and Scott (8½ years).

Lorraine and Bill are from Perth and mortgaged their home in order to buy the *Pacific Peacemaker* to sail with a representative Pacific crew to the United States via New Zealand, Tahiti and Hawaii.

Also on the crew are Win Olive — a long-time Australian peace activist, and the prominent Australian film-makers, David Huggett and David Roberts, who are making a film of the voyage. Representatives from Aotearoa, Tahiti and Hawaii will also be crew members of the *Pacific Peacemaker*.



The Peoples of the Pacific have a profound desire for life, but the growing nuclearisation of the Pacific is a threat to us all.



AIMS OF THE PACIFIC PEACEMAKER

1. To establish the Pacific Ocean as a Nuclear Free Zone.
2. To halt the imminent entry into the Pacific Ocean of the "Trident" nuclear submarine system.
3. To confirm the New Zealand tradition of sending vessels to affirm opposition to the use of the Pacific Ocean for nuclear weaponry purposes.
4. To bring the people of the Pacific together with the United States and other segments of the International Peace Movement to halt the deployment of the *Ohio*, the first Trident at its home base port of Bangor about August 1982.
5. To organise support from all segments of the New Zealand community for the voyage of the *Pacific Peacemaker* through Tahiti and Honolulu to the United States West Coast, to the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament and to Bangor.
6. As an approved project of the Third Nuclear Free Pacific Conference (Hawaii 1980), to further the desires of all Pacific Peoples:-
 - for a nuclear free Pacific
 - for self determination
 - for the redress of past injustices especially those related to land rights of aboriginal and indigenous peoples
 - for the preservation of Pacific cultures and environment.
 - for forms of future development chosen by Pacific Peoples themselves.

7. To heighten awareness of all the nuclear related problems of the Pacific including "visits" of nuclear powered or armed vessels of any nation, the experimental detonation of nuclear devices and the proposed dumping of radioactive wastes.

THE PACIFIC TRIDENT NUCLEAR WAR SYSTEM

Ohio at Bangor. *Ohio*, the first of at least ten Trident-Class Submarines for Pacific deployment, will "home-port" about June 1982 in the upgraded submarine base of Bangor. Bangor, in Puget Sound and 10 miles west of the city of Seattle in the U.S. State of Washington, is near the west coast Canadian - U.S. border and the Canadian city of Vancouver.

Ohio weighs 18,000 tons, is four storeys high and 540 feet long, the length of 2 football fields. It is an underwater pocket battleship.

Once equipped with weapons, 24 missiles each with 17 separate warheads, the single Trident submarine will be capable of striking 408 separate targets up to 6,000 miles away with pinpoint accuracy and with a blast in each case equal to 5 times that which killed 100,000 people in Hiroshima.

The Trident will be stationed in the Pacific thereby making the people of this region the likely victims of a nuclear confrontation between the super powers — Tridents are targets.

The people of the Pacific oppose the deployment of the Trident in their area, including any use of N.Z. waters, ports or services.

PROTEST

AND

SURVIVE





- * farewell the Pacific Peacemaker on its anti-nuclear voyage...
- * bring your mutant mask
- * street theatre
- * support the nuclear free Pacific ph 34410
- * help slay the Trident and Typhoon...
- * music !!

and...
PUBLIC MEETING
 Feb. 10th 7.30pm
 Ellen Melville Hall
 * films * free
 * meet Pacific Peacemakers

Come to the

PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday February 10th

Ellen Melville Hall (High St)

7.30 pm

HEAR: the crew of Pacific Peacemaker describe their anti-nuclear voyage through the Pacific to Seattle

SEE : two Australian films rarely available in New Zealand -
"The Land My Mother" - lyrical film exploring Aboriginal relationships with the land,
and a dramatic film following the amazing forest occupation and tree-sitting protest in the Terania Creek forest, NSW.

- Admission free - tell your friends

Pacific Peacemaker



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 Wellesley Street
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 Bondi Junction
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 Telephone (02) 264 5036
 Cables ACFICODIS SYDNEY

John Doom,
 Secretary,
 Eglise Evangelique BP
 Papeete, Tahiti

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre
 Box 27692
 Honolulu
 Hawaii 96827

January 27, 1982

Dear Friends,

PACIFIC PEACEMAKER APPEAL

The voyage of the *Peacemaker* is a voyage to confront the most expensive and destructive weapons system in history — the Trident submarine. It is a voyage designed to draw attention to the nuclear madness that has grown like a cancer throughout the world.

It is a voyage in support of a nuclear-free Pacific; a voyage in support of world peace; a voyage to mobilise people for their very survival.

The idea of such a voyage was initiated at the Nuclear-free Pacific Conference in Hawaii held in May 1980, and it is planned to end at Bangor (near Seattle) in the American state of Washington, where the first Trident for Pacific deployment will 'homeport' about August 1982.

The capital cost and many other expenses of this epic voyage have been raised in Australia where a vast cross-section of the community, including churches, trade unions, peace and environmental groups, and individuals, raised over \$85,000.

An organisation has been set up in each port of call to draw attention to the questions of peace, a nuclear-free Pacific, etc. and to raise funds for running costs, including diesel, sails, etc. (\$5000 per month), repairs (motors, anti-fouling, etc.) and other equipment. The need for funds will remain until the vessel returns to Australia.

Our appeal to you is for money and/or materials. All donations will be recorded and a Sponsorship Certificate issued, declaring your support for the *Peacemaker*.

If you are a national organisation we have enclosed further copies of this Appeal and ask that you pass them on to other sections or centres of your organisation.

Please give generously!

Skipper *Bill Elliott*

NZ Coordinator *George Armstrong*

APPEAL FORM

Pacific Peacemaker, NZ Committee
 PO Box 6736, Wellesley St, Auckland 1

Name of person(s) or group.....
 Address.....
 Phone.....Date.....
 I/we enclose \$..... towards the support of the Pacific Peacemaker and/or promise \$..... per month
 for..... months, starting in the month of.....



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 Sally Vinson, Potter
 Rev. Dr George Armstrong
 Dr Patricia Burns
 Tim Shadbolt
 Miri Szaazy, Past Pres. N.Z. Maori Womens Welfare League
 Titchener Family of Devonport