

# BACK FROM THE ISLANDS

**L**IVING native-style with Polynesians, the rescue of a castaway crew, and a return passage to New Zealand in a 48-foot ketch have all come within the experience of Bruce Broadhead, formerly Rural Broadcasts Officer at IYA, in the past few months. It was the first spell of a year's leave of absence from the NZBS, but a conscientious broadcaster, of course, can never keep completely off duty, and on his way around the South Pacific islands he was able to record several programmes which listeners will be hearing soon.

After flying from Auckland to Fiji, Bruce spent a fortnight in and around Suva where, using a battery-operated portable tape-recorder lent by the NZBS, he spent much of the time in the villages recording native songs and dances. Then he heard that H.M.N.Z.S. Lachlan was going to Samoa to do survey work, and, with the help of the Island Territories Department, he was allowed to travel with her.

"A few hours out of Suva," said Bruce, "the Lachlan received a call to rescue the crew of the inter-island trading vessel Vasu (150 tons), which lay sinking on our course a day's steaming away. Through the messages received I was able to observe and record how the Search and Rescue Organisation came into action. The castaways were sighted by a Sunderland flying-boat of the Royal New Zealand Air Force station at Lauthala Bay. Their position was relayed to the Lachlan. Meanwhile the Vasu had sunk, but the Captain (whom

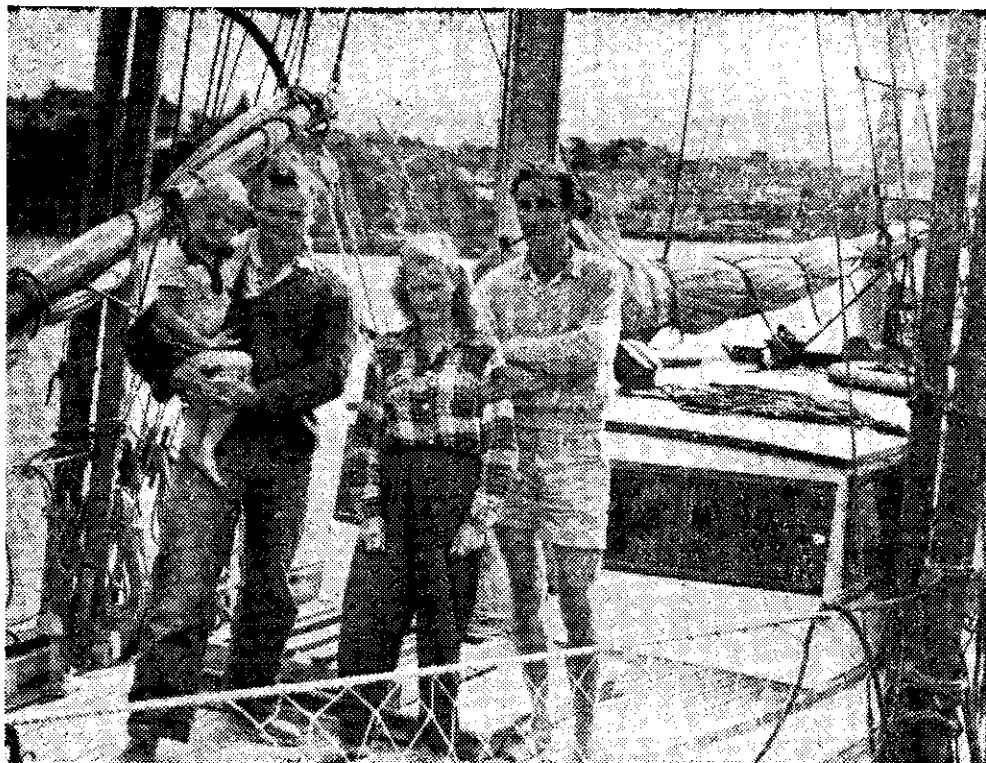
I interviewed later) and the crew were picked up by the Lachlan from their three lifeboats."

In the two months he spent in the Samoa group Bruce was able to visit many of the islands. Some he visited with H.M.N.Z.S. Lachlan, others by Island schooner. At Savaii he lived for three weeks with a Samoan family, observing the customs of the Islanders and recording their songs.

"The Samoans are about the last of the true Polynesians left, as far as their customs and way of life goes," said Bruce. "Their hospitality is fantastic, and they go to great lengths to provide the visitor with those European comforts they imagine he wants—for me they carted in a bedstead from two miles away. Nevertheless, I lived on their own type of food—taro, yams, breadfruit, fish, bananas, and so on."

One programme which Bruce recorded in the Samoan group deals with the development of Western Samoa under the administration of the New Zealand Gov-

ernment. (It is a United Nations Trust Territory.) Another programme deals with copra—the islands' main product for export. There is also a programme for children about the boys and girls of Samoa.



BRUCE BROADHEAD (right), Mr. and Mrs. Tony Reeves, and their three-year-old son Michael photographed aboard the 48-foot ketch White Hart at Freeman's Bay, Auckland. The White Hart is refitting at Auckland after a 9000-mile trans-Pacific cruise from British Columbia

## The Melbourne Cup, 1956

**(O**N Tuesday, November 6, the 1956 Melbourne Cup will be run at Flemington. Listeners will be able to hear a preview of the race at 9.32 p.m. on Monday, November 5, from the ZBs, 1XH, 2ZA and 4ZA, and the broadcasting of the race by the Commercial stations on the actual day will be at 5.0 p.m. approximately. The previewer race commentator will be the same as last year—Bill Collins, of the Mel-

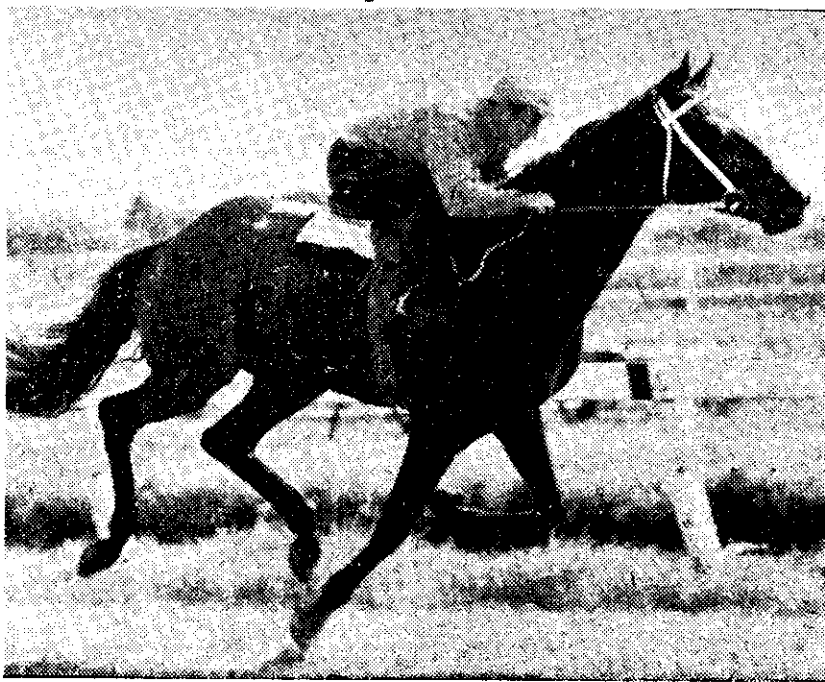
bourne station 3DB. Radio Australia's commentary on the race will be broadcast in a link of YA and YZ stations at 6.50 p.m. the same day, the commentator in this broadcast being the ABC commentator Joe Brown.

Earlier in the afternoon of Tuesday, November 6, the 1956 New Zealand Trotting Cup will be broadcast by YA and YZ stations in link from Addington.

Race time last year was 2.22 p.m., and listeners could take this time as an approximate guide. The Cup will be re-broadcast, however, in the Main National Stations link at 6.50 p.m.

Apart from racing, another important sporting event taking place in the coming programme week is the New Zealand Women's Cricket Tournament. Summaries giving details of play in this tournament will be broadcast from YAs and YZs at 6.50 p.m. on Friday, November 9, and 7.0 p.m. on Saturday, November 10.

**BILL COLLINS, 3DB commentator whose description of the big race will be heard direct through the seven Commercial stations. RIGHT: Rising Fast, who may figure prominently**



After visiting Niue Bruce went to Aitutaki in the Cook Group, and stayed five weeks at Rarotonga. Wherever he went he recorded the traditional music and drum dances of the people, and observed their customs. He paid a visit to Mangaia, but on his return to Rarotonga saw his opportunity for a little adventure strictly to his liking.

Inside the coral reef at Avatiu lay the 48-foot ketch White Hart. Bruce met the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Reeves, and they readily agreed that he join their three-year-old son Michael as crew. Bruce had sailed eighteen-footers and Idle Alongs at Christchurch and Auckland since he was a child, so although he had had no previous ocean sailing he was not without experience in the handling of small boats.

Designed by Alden for salmon fishing on the coast of British Columbia, the White Hart had already brought the Reeves family about 8000 miles across the Pacific from Victoria. Although she is equipped with an echo sounder, automatic pilot and a powerful auxiliary engine, she was under sail for most of the passage to New Zealand. With Bruce assisting as watch-keeper and deck-hand, the White Hart visited Pago Pago and Apia, and cruised through the islands of the Lau group. During the passage they spoke to two other vessels—a 10,000-ton Japanese mother ship with its fleet of tuna boats; and a fellow Canadian, Brigadier Miles Smeeton's 40-foot yawl Tzu Hanga. Both the White Hart and Tzu Hanga hove to and celebrated this mid-ocean meeting of two yachts that had left Canada within a fortnight of one another twelve months before.

Bruce Broadhead spent only a week in Auckland editing his recordings and compiling his programmes. Then he left for the Olympic Games at Melbourne, Bruce was a little vague about his travel itinerary, ~~over~~ Melbourne. But briefly it will take in other parts of Australia, and later North America and Europe.