



The Voyage of the "Toroa" Catalina 42 mkII Sailed by: Heinz Muehlberger

At the age of 63, retired BMW executive Heinz Muehlberger was able to fulfill his dream of sailing from one island paradise to another in the South Pacific by purchasing a new Catalina 42 in Los Angeles and sailing single-handed to Sydney, Australia. Not an all-weather sailor, Heinz's wife Angelika, agreed to his two year plan and planned to join him for day sails after he made landfall.

After two months of preparation for captain and vessel, Heinz left Marina Del Rey in Los Angeles on September 12, 1999. Sailing solo, Heinz soon learned he could depend on his Catalina as a trusted partner in successfully negotiating all sorts of extreme weather situations at sea. "Toroa" arrived at Huku Hiva in the French Marquesas after a twenty-three day passage. Sailing southwest, Heinz continued on to Papeete/Tahiti via Manihi Atoll. After two weeks of recovery, it was on to Moorea Island and eventually to Auckland, New Zealand, where Angelika joined him in time for the America's Cup. Leaving Auckland, Heinz then spend-



time in the Bay of Islands/NZ. "Toroa" then headed north to Fiji and the Vanatu Islands, and New Caledonia, back to New Zealand and eventually to Sydney, Australia. Arrival in Sydney on September 12, 2001 ended exactly two years of Heinz living his dream in the South Pacific.

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