



FAR LEFT Me and my "other" boat in Pittwater, Sydney, bought sight-unseen on the internet from Tonga for the Voyage of Imagination. I finally got aboard and I'm impressed!

LEFT Pandora's Box direct from Florida to Tonga. Packed in a tall 9.5ft high 40ft container and on its side, is our 2006 Bayliner 2359 Trophy. It's my first look, as I bought it sight-unseen on eBay USA. If you are prepared to have a go, you can save heaps too!

BELOW Three hours, 10 people, a huge forklift, broken ropes and strops, and we finally managed to dismantle Ocean Trek Marine's packaging and lashings to drag the hull on its cradle out into the open. The trailer is lashed to the hull, the cabin and rails all dismantled and all engine fluids drained.



Should I or shouldn't I?

THAT IS THE QUESTION. IF YOU'RE PROCRASTINATING FOR THE CHANCE TO CIRCLE THE GLOBE IN MY VOYAGE OF IMAGINATION GRAND ADVENTURE, HERE'S SOME ADVICE...

It is a healthy thing to question yourself and look deep inside before deciding on a major life event or new activity. It may involve money, family or a new direction in life, and no one wants to get any of those wrong. Often we talk with

friends and soul mates about the options, but sometimes it is so important or so personal that it's impossible. Nonetheless a decision is required and you need to make it!

This countdown for some could take months or even

years, while for others it just takes hours. It can be all-consuming and absorb your life with strong emotions, visualising the options and potential outcomes of each possible scenario, while not really being able to guarantee any definite outcome.

My definition of adventure is any activity with an unknown outcome which, if you can relate to the previous scenario about making decisions, suggests life itself is an adventure. We may each do it differently but we are all adventurers in one form

"Well what if I told you that if you can sail around the harbour, have plenty of common sense, a desire to learn and really want to do it, then you could be ready to sail around the world in just a few months"

or another. If your life is so well organised that you know exactly what is shaping it and exactly what you are doing every day or are unable to make those bold decisions, life would be dull.

Well, here's the hook! You make that decision. You breathe a quick sigh of relief and get excited about a new horizon. You visualise the future, but all of a sudden you start to wonder...hmm? Have I done the right thing? Should I

change my mind and just not do it at all, returning instead to the perceived security of inaction and no change. Tempting, hey...

Well if you can relate to all that, then you're not alone. I'm facing that dilemma right now with another big project. This entire process is called "being human". I'm no different than anyone else I suppose and I've been doing it all my life. It would be so easy to not do it, yet when I look

back on previous decisions it reinforces another simple, overriding belief I have: "In the end, all we have are memories." We need to make them good ones!

Just sometimes, when you know you should do it, even in the face of big reasons not to, you really should! For me, 2018 will be a big year.

THE VOYAGE

If you are following this column, you will know

all about our Voyage of Imagination; an opportunity for two young Australians to set sail, skipping their own yacht around the world. I provide just about everything other than food and personal kit, while Musto provides the wet-weather gear. It's a simple idea that is creating a bit of interest. The media are following it, with some calling it a hunt for the next Jessica Watson. It's not, but Jessica will mentor the crew.



ABOVE Rolling *Tog-O-War* (the American name) now *Iki*, back onto the trailer. The end of a six-month road, delivering a bargain! Now to put the pieces back together, clean, polish and service before sea trials.

RIGHT The first light truck we used to launch *Iki* started sliding backwards down the ramp with brakes on! With 330lt of fuel she weighs nearly three-tonne. We found a troopie at the local pub and the owner agreed to help.



ABOVE LEFT I fitted a Yamaha 9.9hp high-thrust auxiliary direct to the duckboard with an extra strut below. It pushes us at 6.5kts in good weather.

ABOVE RIGHT Finally in the water and alongside mother ship *Ice*, ready to start magnetometer operations in the hunt for Spanish galleons in Tonga. All the details are online at Bluetreasure.me. We are looking for crew to assist in 2015.

RIGHT Local Tongan 12yo Dua christened *Iki* with a coconut a week after it was pulled from the container.



Sailors are talking about it and I have had contact with a few potential applicants but so far, just the one impressive application.

It is quite a decision to jump on board a two-year project like this. If you are between 16 and 21 years and wondering, it will certainly be daunting as an aspiring circumnavigator trying to comprehend the magnitude of it. That in itself will stop most sailors in their tracks. Some will just not believe they could do something so great, so may not apply.

Well, what if I told you that if you can sail around the harbour, have plenty of common sense, a desire to learn and really want to do it, then you could be ready to sail around the world in just

a few months.

A circumnavigation is like a long walk. It needs preparation and planning but it starts with the first step. Then it is one foot in front of the other. It is just a series of daysails all joined together and not anchoring every night. Sounds corny I know but that is the essence of it. Cruising north through the Great Barrier Reef to Darwin will set you up for the exciting ocean legs ahead, so don't underestimate your ability to undertake this challenge. If little voices are talking to you about doing this, listen to them and believe in yourself. I won't let you go unless I believe you can do it! The details are online at McIntyreAdventure.com

VALUE USA TRAILERBOATS

If you ever wanted a campervan, don't look at eBay USA! You will weep. The land of the free is also the land of the "trailer home" and like everything USA, the capitalist, commercial and competitive market generates crazy prices. Try 30 to 40 per cent off what they sell for here! The only challenge importing your own is the issue of left-hand drive and roadworthy compliance. Trailerboats, however, don't have that issue, so importing your dream is not out of the question and prices are... Well, you check it out!

Now before I get into this, if you are the type that likes to have someone else look after your toys or need a warranty,

have the belief that everyone in the world is out to rip you off or you are in a hurry to hit the water or can't navigate the internet, please turn the page. This is not for you! If you are hands-on however and handy tinkering with a boat, are prepared for a bit of running around, then you could be on the way to a bargain. Read on.

I just imported a 2006 Bayliner 2359 Trophy pilothouse boat with 300 hours on the engine into the Kingdom of Tonga and saved a lot of \$\$\$.

There are so many trailerboats for sale in America you will find exactly what you are after. Just pick the design, engine, colour and accessories to suit your budget.

From my experience, here are some things to consider.

Shop in Florida, there is huge choice and you can ship in a container direct to Australia or NZ. If you are buying over 19ft6in long, for a 40ft container your beam must not be over 8ft5in. Remember, anything with more than an 8ft2½in (2.5m) beam will require special permits to move in Australia.

Buying without a trailer is a good thing because you can then buy a new Australian-approved trailer in America with all the right paperwork. If you buy the American trailer you will have to get it modified by an "approved USA workshop" to meet Australian specs. If you don't do this, you basically throw your trailer away when you get it to Australia and buy another

one locally. Otherwise you have to get the boat off the dock without a trailer - nightmare!

There are plenty of American companies ready to help deliver your purchase from the current owner in USA to the dock in Australia or NZ. Google and do your research. Their websites are full of useful information and advice.

If you are prepared to pay more you can get detailed surveys on hull and engine before you buy, or those same shipping companies will find your type boat for you and give you a selection to choose from. You will pay about 20 per cent more for this service. Exporting used trailerboats from the USA is a big industry.

I bought my boat on eBay sight unseen. Never spoke to the owner, never travelled to America, everything was by phone and email. Quotes for roll-on-roll-off shipping to Tonga were about \$US26,000. A tall container with the boat on its side, on a cradle cost \$US14,000, including all handling, dismantling etc. I used OceanTrekMarine.com to pick up the boat and take it to its loading facility. I sent extra parts from West Marine and an outboard to load with the boat and they reconditioned the trailer. It was that simple.

The boat arrived with quite a few little nicks, bumps and scuffs, but that was all short change and she polished up really well.

It took four of us six days to reassemble and launch. Yes, I am very happy.

Landed in Tonga I saved about 35 per cent on the cost of importing the same \$A65,000 boat from Australia. If I had shipped the same basic boat from Florida to Australia, my cost landed, (including GST), in Sydney with a brand-new "approved" aluminium trailer would have been around \$US40,000. I'll let you do the numbers for yourself.

Yes, there were delays, a few frustrations and we have no guarantees on the engine, but having been in a position where I had to import a boat to Tonga - as there are none to buy here - I would now not hesitate to do it again in Australia and save a quid! ■