

# Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

A.C.N. 000 116 423

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*ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

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Mr Tony Mooney  
AYF National Technical Manager  
Locked Bag 806  
Milsons Point 2061

11/6/99

Dear Tony,

The report by the Sydney-Hobart Review Committee on the 1998 Sydney-Hobart Race has highlighted the need for further investigation of some Safety Equipment by the AYF and ORC Technical Committees.

Would you please advise the relevant Committees of the request by the Review Committee as per the Report Recommendations:

**B 3.**

- Yachts Safety Equipment - Liferafts
- Other Safety Equipment - Review size of Storm Jibs and Trisails
- The AYF & AMSA to develop a protocol for use of EPIRBS

**B 6 Construction**

- The design of Hatches, Decks and Windows be referred to the ORC Technical Committee.

I have enclosed an additional copy of the report and look forward to the Committees considerations on these matters.

Yours faithfully,

Phil Thompson  
Sailing Manager.



**RFD (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.** A.C.N. 050 242 601

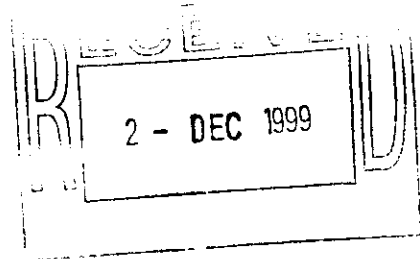
**Setting the Standards in Safety and Survival.**

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2 December, 1999

Mr Phil Thompson  
Sailing Manager  
C Y C A  
New Beach Road  
RUSHCUTTERS BAY NSW 2011



Dear Phil,

In answer to your query re "yachtsman's" liferaft ballast pockets, drogues and lines, etc., I can confirm that larger SOLAS – style water pockets were first included on RFD liferafts manufactured in Australia from July 1985. Prior to that date our locally-made ME/Petrel range included 3-only, relatively small pockets.

All Australian-made Beaufort "D" and "DA" liferafts incorporated small pockets but Beaufort discontinued local manufacture in 1985.

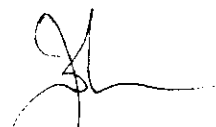
I cannot provide similar information for other brands such a Zodiac, Lifeguard, Avon but doubt that any would have used SOLAS style pockets on early "yachtie" liferafts.

This means that liferafts still in service with small pockets are 15 years or more in age.

For various reasons, not the least being cost involved, we would not agree to retro-fitting SOLAS water pockets to these early models. Other reasons include the possibility of extra strains imposed by larger pockets being too much for the older design of liferaft. For basically the same reasons we would not agree to fitting SOLAS drogues and lines to liferafts not designed and made to take the additional loads which could be imposed. Again, I can't speak for other brands.

Liferafts which are 15 and more years old will have a limited remaining lifespan. Owners would be better advised to consider upgrading with the latest designs, fabrics, etc., than to consider modifying their old equipment.

Yours sincerely,



JOHN FERRIS  
Manager - NSW