

# The great adventure — the book

Not many people realise their dreams. Fewer still would choose this one — a three-year circumnavigation of Antarctica in a wooden sailboat — a dream voyage that reads more like a nightmare.

But frozen seas, icebergs, sub-zero air temperatures, howling gales and near shipwreck are only the sub-theme in this saga of courage and endurance. Counterpointing the harshness of life at survival level is an almost lyrical account of a little-known part of the earth, an ice desert rich in sea and bird life.

What makes Gerry Clark's voyage rank with any of the epic journeys of exploration in modern history is the wealth of information on the bird life of the region which he and his crew brought back. Ornithologists everywhere will have cause to be grateful for this advance in their knowledge of the birds of the Southern Ocean.

Captain Clark, a master mariner, was 56 years old when he set off from his home port of Kerikeri in the Bay of Islands to roam the high latitudes. He had spent seven years building a vessel that would stand up to the rigours of a storm-ridden ocean. The result was *Totorore*, a 10-metre kauri cutter with twin ballast keels.

His aim, simply stated: "Go forth into the Southern Ocean, observe the birds and seek out new information about them to fill in the gaps in present knowledge."



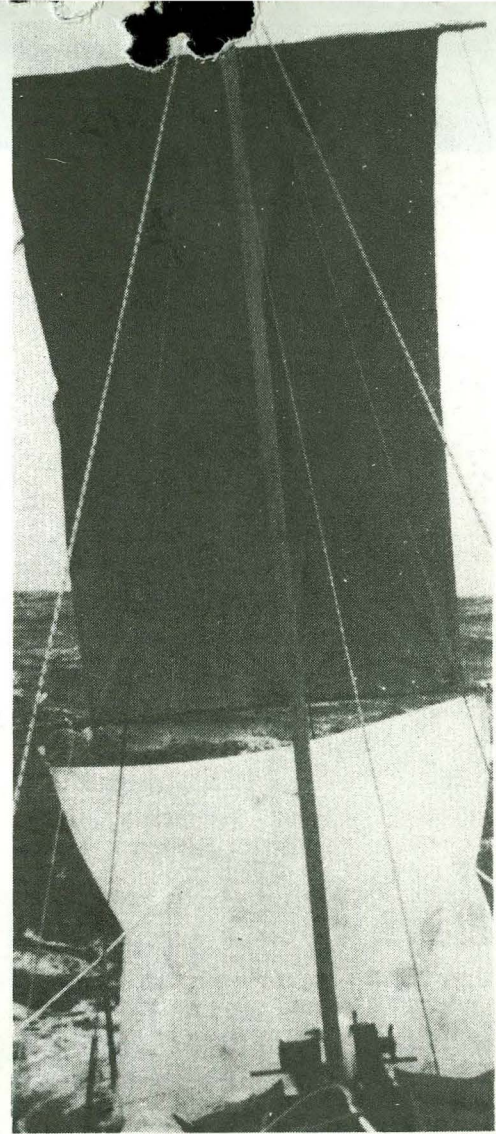
Sponsored by the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and a host of friends and acquaintances, the journey was to last three years and eight months and encircle the whole of the Antarctic.

In that time he had 26 changes of crew, was dismantled twice, had his vessel rolled full circle five times in icy seas and sailed several thousand miles under jury rig. Enroute he and a crew member were marooned overnight without equipment on an Antarctic coast in subzero conditions, suffered sundry duckings and capsizes, and battled the bureaucracy of several nations.

Written with charming self-effacement, this easy-read look at little known places of the earth is a delight for the armchair explorer. Yachties will find a feast of sailing lore invaluable for any weather condition. Ornithologists won't be able to put it down. And if all you want is a thundering good read, with plenty of cliffhangers, this is it.

Published by Century Hutchinson in hard cover with a stunning selection of full colour illustrations, it has enough maps and appendices to keep even the pundits happy. At \$35, a must for your bookshelf.

*Bob Molloy*



(ABOVE): For the first jury rig, on the way to Marion Island, a bed sheet was used as a lower sail. It lasted 700 miles before it blew out.

(ABOVE LEFT): Icing on board was a problem in Antarctic waters.

(INSET): Gerry holds the tiny spar from Heard Island which he used as a jury mast. 'It saved my life,' he says.

# TOTORORE BOOK LAUNCH

The international launch of Gerry Clark's long awaited book, **The Totorore Voyage An Antarctic Adventure** will take place in Kerikeri July 2.

It is 18 months since Gerry Clark sailed the Totorore up to Stone Store to an emotional welcome.

The book is based on 52 tapes Gerry sent home during the three and a half year voyage.

"I enjoyed reliving the experience and being able to

work on a project with Marjorie after being away from home for such a long time," Gerry said about writing it.

The Totorore Voyage will be launched by friend and conservationist Dick Ryan of Kerikeri on Saturday July 2 at the Stone Store Tea Rooms at 4pm. Wine and

fruit juice will be offered. All are welcome.

Gerry's selfbuilt yacht Totorore will be open to visitors all day at the Kerikeri wharf.

From 6pm there will be refreshments and a slide show in the St James Church Hall (\$5). (Review and pictures pages 6 and 7).