

# This much fun has to be immoral

HANGING ON the tiller of Jim Voyzey's mobile maiden, the Sonata 6 trailer yacht, I kept scanning Sydney Harbour for wowsers.

I was sure one would pop up because having this much fun with a lady has to be immoral.

I'm not the only one to be seduced by the simple charms of Voyzey's creation.

Many Sonatas have been snapped up by eager sailors in the past few years.

And this latest model, three months out of the moulds, can only enhance the Sonata's reputation.

Major change in this latest version of the finely-balanced swing keel yacht is a glossier finish to its fibreglass skin.

The occasional blemishes that may have marred some of Sonata's earlier sisters are gone, leaving a boat that looks as sweet as she sails.

Even in the fitful airs that plagued our test sail with Richard Power of Manta Marine Sailboats, the Sonata was unruffled.

Power was worried enough by the light winds to make a last-minute decision to clamp an ugly outboard to the yacht's optional hinge-down mounting bracket.

He could have left it at home. Even running goose-winged in the uncertain breeze, the Sonata's tiller had a biting, nimble feel.

The Sonata 6 is a forgiving boat, as befits a yacht aimed at the family man moving up from skiff sailing.

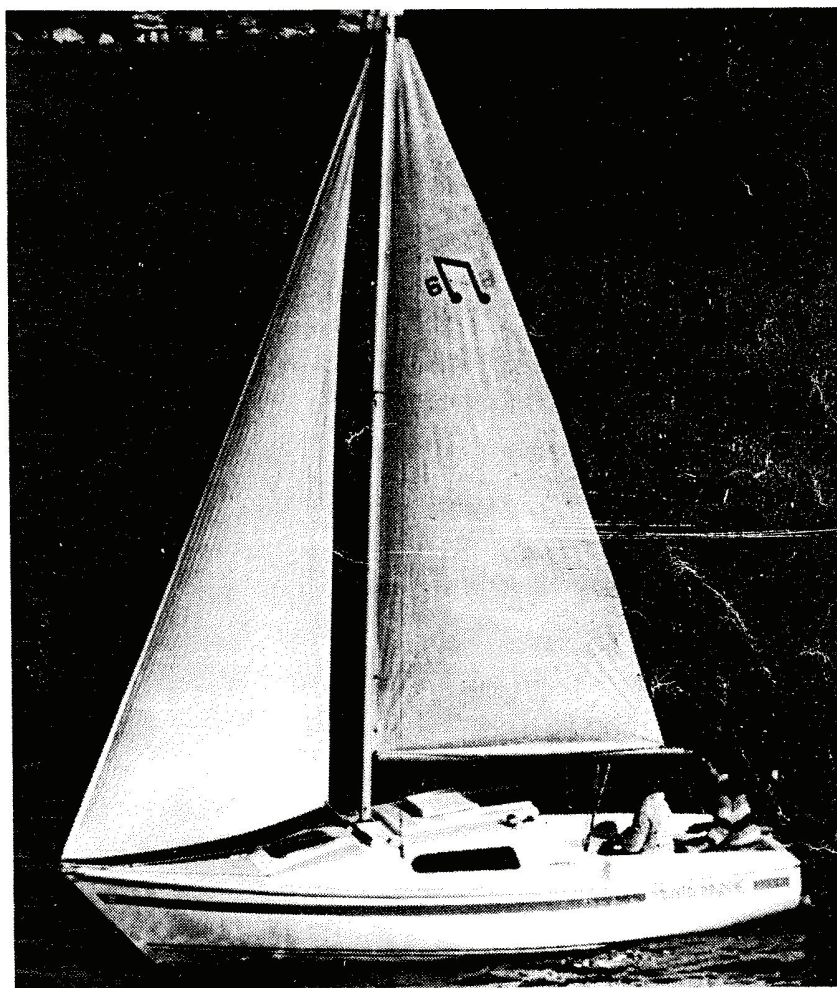
She proved it early in our test sail by tracking smoothly away from the launching ramp with Power half-way up the mast freeing a mainsail halyard that had become snarled during our rushed pre-launch rigging.

In or out of the water, Sonata 6 shows harmony of line.

The narrow, fine entry bow starts to flow into a matronly U-section bulge amidships, but the Sonata catches herself in time to tuck back into a trim stern.

Above deck, the wedge-shaped cabin driving down toward the bow accentuates the boat's lean good looks.

Looks aside, the basic concept of the Sonata 6 is a boat simple enough for dad to sail by himself while providing space for mum and the kids to sun themselves, says Power.



*The Sonata 6, a delightful lady, glides along sweetly in just the lightest of breezes.*

"Usually, dad wants to go sailing all day and the rest of the family just want to go for a sail.

"So the rig is made to be handled by one person."

The design includes a roller-furling jib with lines running back portside to the cockpit's edge.

The jib is self-tacking and the single jib-sheet goes back to a jam-cleat on the starboard side of the cockpit cover.

It means a stretch to handle the lines while keeping a comfortable hold on the

tiller unless you care to invest in an optional tiller extension.

To make amends, this version of the Sonata 6 incorporates a few touches to make life easier for those on board.

Among these is a repositioned anchor locker. Rather than being set squarely in the centre of the slightly domed fore-deck, it has been shifted to a long, rectangular pocket along the starboard side.

Instead of trying to tug the anchor hatch open while kneeling on it, the new



## Sonata 6 TY

position gives pleasant ease of access.

Further, the below decks bulk of the locker is now a smooth bulge in the hull side instead of intruding on the living space over the vee-bunk that fits into the bow.

In all, the cabin can sleep four, split between the double vee-bunk forward and the two single bunks lining the Sonata 6 on each side of the cabin entrance.

Separating the two sets of bunks, which are all mounted on one-part moulding, is a galley running three-quarters of the width of the Sonata.

It contains a moulded sink and an interior storage space hidden behind a teak cabinet door.

Teak trimming is also standard for bunk edge boards, compression post (which grows out of the galley top) and cockpit locker trims.

Sides are carpet-lined, which both avoid condensation and gives the cabin a comfy feel.

Light floods the cabin through a square hatch of tinted plastic reinforced by aluminium stiffeners set in the sloping forward ceiling.

Violet-tinted plastic slits piercing the cabin sides provide more illumination.

Dividing the cabin floor is the casing of the swing-up keel, which doubles as a step between cabin and cockpit.

The hockey-stick keel winches both up and down and can be locked at any point along its travel.

The cockpit runs clearly back to the stern without interruption.

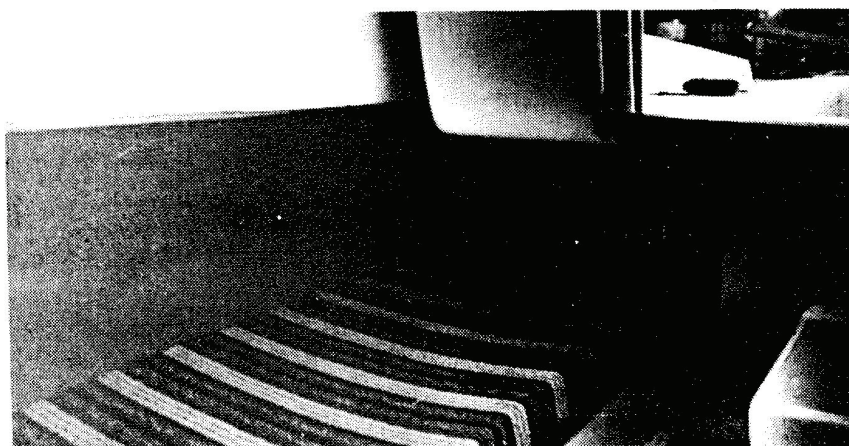
Hinged portions of the moulded seats that line the length of the cockpit conceal fully ventilated storage compartments for fuel cans.

Designers have also attempted to give more cabin headroom by lowering bunks about an inch.

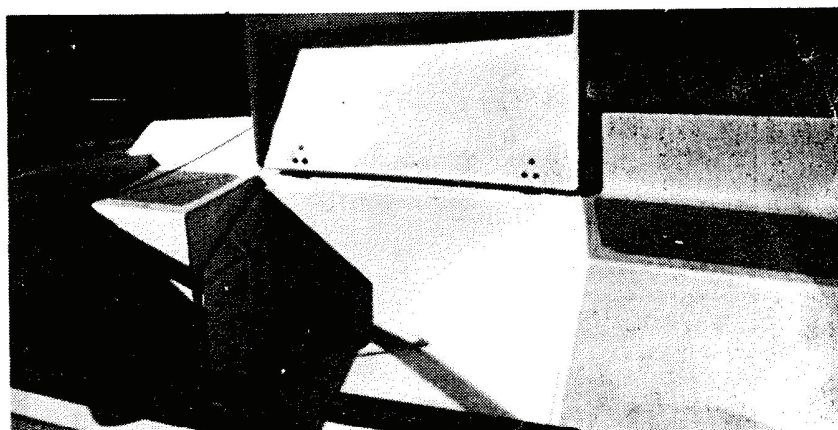
For a six-footer, the bunk drop is still not enough to prevent curvature of the spine in the sitting position.

But the pop-top cabin cover (which moved complainingly on metal runners in our test model) removes that discomfort when it's raised.

The Sonata's topside fibreglass moulding contains reassuring evidence of design foresight.



*Bunks, which have been lowered, are wide and comfortable.*



*Cockpit is a good size, with neatly-designed lockers.*

The slight toerail that encases the foredeck, for example, incorporates thickenings at intervals that can be used as platforms for mounting stanchions.

Similarly, the moulded arm and backrests of the cockpit contain wider surfaces on which winches can be mounted if an owner decides to go that route at a later date.

Self-draining cockpit and a plastic foothold mounted on the stern at the waterline for family swimmers complete the Sonata's equipment list.

Rigging consist of anodised alloy mast and boom, and stainless steel standing and running gear.

Sail plan depends on usage selected for the boat, but standard set includes an 85sq ft jib and 90sq ft main.

That's large enough to give the Sonata 6 zestful performance through a broad spectrum of wind strengths.

### SPECIFICATIONS

#### Sonata 6

<b>LOA</b> .....	<b>6.2m</b>
<b>LWL</b> .....	<b>5.2m</b>
<b>Beam</b> .....	<b>2.1m</b>
<b>Draft (keel down)</b> .....	<b>1.4m</b>
<b>Draft (keel up)</b> .....	<b>25.4cm</b>
<b>Displacement</b> .....	<b>589.7kg</b>
<b>Ballast</b> .....	<b>228.8kg</b>
<b>Sails:</b>	
<b>Main</b> .....	<b>8.4sq m</b>
<b>Jib</b> .....	<b>7.9sq m</b>
<b>Genoa</b> .....	<b>10.2sq m</b>
<b>Spinnaker</b> .....	<b>26.0sq m</b>