

Anyone hungry?

WE'RE told about the group of Wauchope bowlers who recently went on a trip north.

Lunch at the local drinking establishment went well. All of the visitors received their numbered tickets and their meals were delivered in a timely fashion.

All started to eat except one. "What's your number Lester?" asked a concerned travelling companion.

"Number 99," came the reply.

The bistro had been calling number 66 for half an hour!

Songs out of time

SO much for the bridge over troubled water ...

Singer and songwriter Paul Simon is reported to have sued a Japanese clock-maker for \$5 million, claiming his songs were used on their clocks without his permission.

Simon's lawyers accused clock company Rhythm Watch Co Ltd, and a US subsidiary, of using Simon's mega-hit Bridge Over Troubled Water on 40,000 of its clocks in the last three years without his permission.

The copyright infringement, the songman's lawyers have claimed, has earned the clockmaker more than \$5 million.

Dirty money diaper

A PACKAGE of baby diapers yielded an unlikely load in Mexico on Friday, according to the defense ministry: nearly half a million dollars in cash.

Soldiers conducting a routine check "found in a tractor-trailer a packet of diapers containing \$490,300," the ministry said in a statement.

It said that the cash was likely a stash of drug dollars destined for money-laundering, as the truck had a region well known for trafficking by major drug cartels.

The truck driver was arrested.

Toad bites back

IT is a case of cane toad bites back.

A FrogWatch member in the Northern Territory was shocked when he discovered a cane toad consuming a snake.

The cane toad had half-swallowed a keelback snake, the only snake that can eat cane toads and survive.

About 10-60cm of the snake was down the toad's throat.

The snake was still alive when it was removed from the toad's mouth, and was released into nearby bushland.

The 12cm toad is also alive and well.

Life and love on a high-sea adventure

By TERRI VAN DIJK

IN the name of love Jacky Sarno has endured months of sea sickness, the mafia and gale-force winds.

Meeting Englishman Alan Furnifer in Spain was enough to coax the Port Macquarie chef onto a yacht for the adventure of a lifetime.

While the 28-year-old was eager for new experiences, it was almost a cruel joke that someone who would get sea sick on the Hastings River was setting sail for days on end.

But as the saying goes "love can make you do crazy things".

After years overseas Jacky arrived back in Port Macquarie this month and hopes to keep her feet on dry land for a while.

Her partner, Alan, 60, sailed their yacht Jackal into town last week.

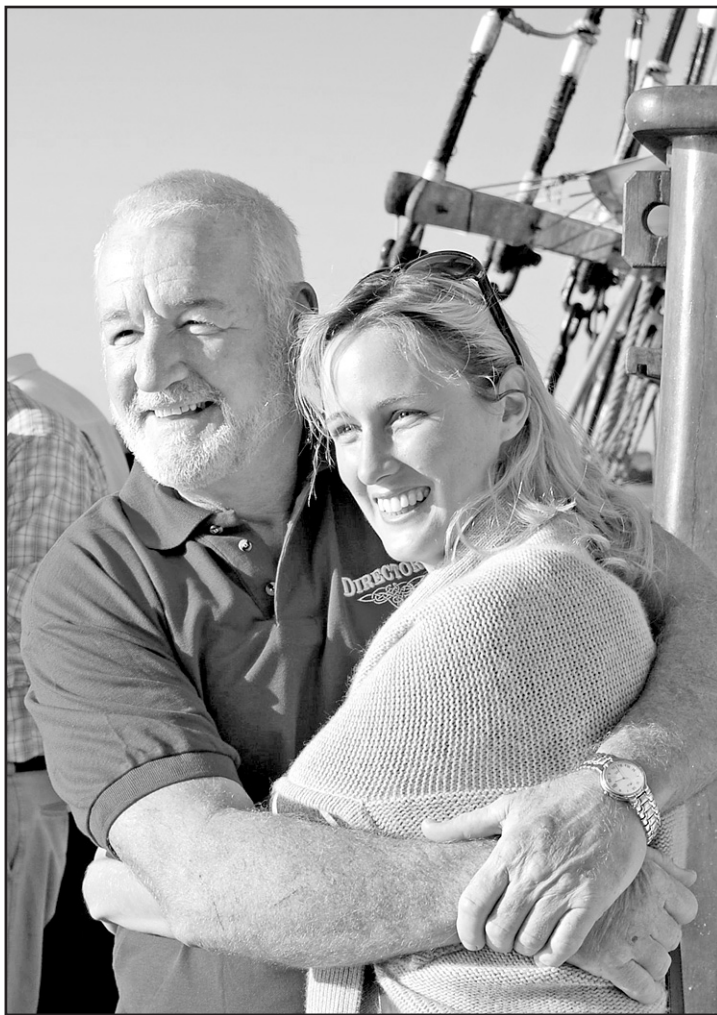
While the pair are excited about being back in the Hastings it will take some time to adapt to life on land.

"It has been quite an amazing trip, all the more for myself as I never got over the sea sickness, yet it was a life I found hard to give up," she said.

"This (being back in Port Macquarie) is a momentous occasion and it was with great excitement that the families of the crew greeted Jackal after she had sailed more than half the world."

After realising their relationship ran deeper than friendship the couple decided to buy the boat and set sail from Majorca, Spain, in 2005.

Jacky's first voyage was a 10-hour trip to Ibiza island in the



❑ All aboard: Jacky Sarno and Alan Furnifer on board the Jackal, which arrived in Port Macquarie last week.

Mediterranean Sea.

"The first day when we were boarding the boat it was parked at the end of a floating

jetty and I was sick just from standing on that," the Little Fish Cafe chef laughed.

"When we were sailing, Alan

"It has been quite an amazing trip.

All the more for myself as I never got over the sea sickness, yet it was a life I found hard to give up"

– Jacky Sarno

would only get me up on deck if it was really calm or really wild seas so that I could help him.

"If it was rough I would do what was needed, throw-up and then go back downstairs."

Jacky and Alan's adventure took them thousands of kilometres through rough seas, which sank other boats, and to the edge of volcanoes.

Jacky was unable to do all of the trips and is thankful to Englishman Tom Griffins and Australian Christian Power who helped Alan bring the boat back to Australia.

"I'm so grateful to Tom and Christian because without them Alan would not have been able to do the crossing," she said.

"Christian had never sailed a day in his life and yet boarded at the Galapagos Islands to complete the longest leg of the trip – a 28-day sail – as his maiden voyage."

Now in Port Macquarie the couple are planning to buy and renovate a home and enjoy beautiful Port Macquarie.



❑ Perfect sailing: Jacky Sarno aboard the Jackal on one of her many adventures.



❑ Pope Benedict XVI

Quote of the day

"He went by really fast in a limo, I'm very disappointed."

A German pilgrim expresses her disappointment after realising they had all missed the Pope as he sped by in a sedan rather than the Popemobile.