

NZ Search & Rescue
12.01.98

Message

Dear Wayne (STRINGER)

Have searched our current 10 minute forms regarding yachts leaving NZ without result. I have a request in with the Maritime Safety Authority (MAS) for a search of old records in case they throw up something on a previous voyage, perhaps. The man responsible in the MAS for this, Capt Alex GIBB, is not due back until tomorrow.

Have obtained the attached data from the Ministry of Commerce, Communications Division. They are responsible for recording the registration of all radio equipment on vessels. They have done a computer search through their records on all the combinations of the letters MAE and supplied the attached data. They are very twitchy about confidentiality and ask that you treat this information in confidence which I'm sure you will. If anything matches and you are able to identify the ketch there is a possibility that checks with the Maritime Operations Centre (Radio Taupo) may show they have communicated with it over the Xmas-New Year period.

Some personal thoughts on the ketch. If it's still afloat and I guess that's a possibility with the sighting of it leaving Charlotte Sound on the 2 Jan and is still in NZ waters; Fiordland has many areas deep in the Fjords that a vessel could lay up and hide for some time if it managed to get in unsighted. Although there are many fishing boats in that area they tend to lay up in good anchorages near the entrances to the Fjords. With the public and boating population awareness of vessel's distinctive description, I can't think of anywhere else.

Capt Derek BOYES has rung me with some ideas and will fax directly through to you.

J A McLean