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Executive Style

Life of luxury and adventure but now it's time for yacht's crew to trim sails

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Bound for Thailand ... clockwise from left, Garrett Canning, Charles Dwyer, Brian Taylor, Ketut Oka and Salisha Ali. *Photo: Jon Reid*

FROM Bermuda to Broken Bay, the Yanneke Too sails a path most of us only follow in our dreams.

It has skimmed the sides of almost every tropical island in the Pacific, spent Christmases in New Zealand and Alaska and, for the past four months, basked in the sun at a Pymont wharf.

Its owner, a wealthy Swiss-American and experienced offshore yachtsman whose identity is kept a mystery, died last year on the way to Tahiti, and his family has let the \$7 million pleasure cruiser dock in Sydney while it decides what to do with it, its captain, Charles Dwyer, said.

Its owner, a wealthy Swiss-



The Yanneke Too at a Pymont wharf. *Photo: Jon Reid*

Last week one of the owner's adult sons flew in from the US for a five-day sojourn to Pittwater's Broken Bay and Jerusalem Bay, which Mr Dwyer said was "absolutely stunning".

Today the dazzling "gentleman's yacht" will set off to Bali, Singapore and Thailand, where it will dock for one month for another family visit and compete in a friendly super-yacht competition.

For the yacht's multicultural crew of six, it is a life of luxury and labour.

Mr Dwyer, a sailor from Rhode Island, is helped by a Scottish first mate, an Irish engineer, a Kiwi stewardess, a Trinidadian chef and a Balinese deckhand.

"In many ways it is the dream lifestyle that people think," said the first mate, Brian Taylor, who gave up a corporate career in London four years ago and has since sailed to Valencia, the Caribbean, Asia and Australia. "But it's a lot of hard work. It's not quite so glamorous when your head is under a toilet for two days, fixing a leak."

Salisha Ali owned a restaurant on a Trinidadian marina when she was asked to work on a boat. Ten years later, she has been able to put her three children through school and university using the money she earned at sea.

"I get to adventure, which I love, and the money is very good," she said.

The 36 metre yacht keeps the crew busy year-round, Mr Dwyer said. He also engages two or three different contractors a day in each city he docks in.

In the past year, 55 super yachts have visited Sydney, each spending several thousands of dollars a day on tourism and maintenance.

The high Australian dollar, however, has made it uneconomical for many international vessels to linger.

When the Yanneke Too docks in Thailand next month it will save up to 30 per cent of its annual \$1 million to \$1.2 million running costs.