



After sailing all the way from Australia, Steve Theodore's family — wife Pauline, daughter Alethea, 14, and son Ben, five — will be on the road between Durban and Pietermaritzburg on May 31 to help him finish the Comrades.

Picture by TERRY HAYWOOD

# Comrades first for yachtsman

By Bart Marinovich

IT'S a long way to sail from Australia to South Africa, but for Aussie yachtsman Steve Theodore the hardest bit of his round-the-world journey has yet to come.

A veteran of the Vietnam war, Steve intends completing his first Comrades Marathon on May 31.

'I have been bitten by the running bug. I never ran competitively in my home country, but since arriving in Durban I've been hit by Comrades fever,' he said.

## Visited

Steve — accompanied by his wife Pauline, daughter Alethea, 14, and his five-year-old son Ben — arrived in South Africa in November last year.

The family left Australia in August, 1985, and have been in some of the world's most exotic places, travelling aboard their 15 m yacht 'The Bungee', which means 'friend' in Aborigine.

Before arriving in South Africa the Theodores visited Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Seychelles, Mombasa, Zanzibar and Dar-es-Salaam.

On arriving in Durban Steve became interested in

running the Comrades.

'I used to run around the park to keep fit and then someone told me about the Comrades.

'I've had a lot of help from a good many people in Durban. Noel Shiells, Andre Oberholzer, Geoff and Jill Foster and Mark Conrad — all have helped me prepare for the race,' he said.

Steve qualified for Comrades with just one minute to spare when he crossed the line in the Savages Marathon with the clock on 4:29:00 — 60 seconds from the cutoff time.

His children have been going to school in Durban as well as following Australian correspondence courses.

They plan to leave South Africa sometime next year.