

# Yacht drama off lighthouse

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Story and picture:  
Jeanine Lötter  
Yachtsman Bush  
Greeff and his  
family's dream to  
sail around the world  
almost turned into a

nightmare when they  
had to be rescued in  
strong winds off the  
Richards Bay  
lighthouse last  
weekend.

The family of four

aboard Yetogan, a  
boat re-built by Mr  
Greeff, had to be  
towed into Richards  
Bay by the NSRI after  
being caught on a lee  
shore with engine

problems on  
Saturday morning.  
They had left last  
month for  
Mozambique on the  
first leg of a two-year  
world cruise.

However, between  
Maputo and  
Inhambane, Yetogan  
ran into trouble when  
the engine's oil seal  
broke and it seized.

Followed by  
companions aboard  
another Richards  
Bay-registered boat,  
Alcrest, they sailed  
back to Maputo for  
repairs but lack of  
facilities forced them  
to return to Richards  
Bay.

Just off Richards  
Bay lighthouse the  
wind suddenly  
switched to a south  
westerly, rapidly  
blowing Yetogan  
towards the shore.

'Bush was very  
tired at this stage as  
we had been sailing  
for three days  
without sleep. I

decided that we  
should call Port  
Control,' said Ronell  
Greeff.

'After calling eight  
times without an  
answer I was starting  
to get nervous. But  
luckily a fishing  
trawler close by  
picked up the radio  
signal.'

Mrs Greeff ask for  
assistance and the  
NSRI rescue team  
was alerted.

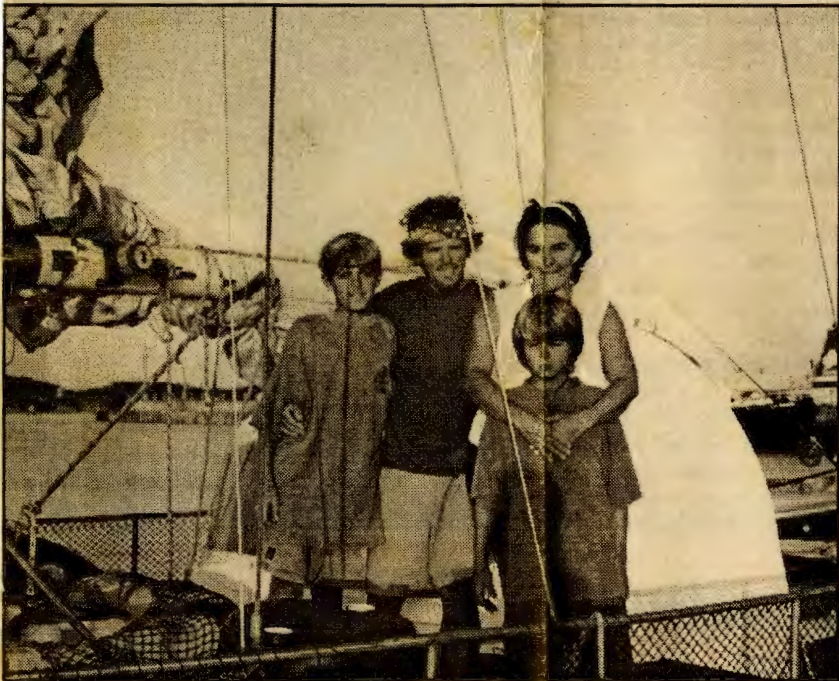
'It was about 2pm  
Saturday morning  
when the call came  
through,' said Mike  
Patterson, head of  
Richards Bay NSRI.

When they reached  
Yetogan, the vessel  
was only a quarter of  
a mile offshore. A  
tow line was secured  
and the yacht towed  
to port.

'Safely ashore, Mr  
Greeff said he was  
very proud of his  
crew and thankful for  
the professional  
assistance of the

NSRI. 'I also would  
like to thank the

fishing trawler for its  
assistance.'



Bush Greeff, wife Ronell and Micus (left) and Rian (front) say they will sail again