**5c Page 63 READING TEXT**

Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

A boat made of bottles

**A boat with a difference**

The *Plastiki* looks similar to many other boats or yachts in Sydney harbour. It’s eighteen metres long, six metres wide and it weighs about twelve thousand kilogrammes. It carries a crew of six people and has an average speed of ﬁve knots. However, once you get near to the *Plastiki* you realise there’s a big difference. It’s made of twelve thousand ﬁve hundred reclaimed plastic bottles.

**How did the *Plastiki* begin?**

One day, the environmentalist David De Rothschild was reading some information about all the plastic in the seas and oceans. He couldn’t believe what he was reading. For example, humans throw away four out of every ﬁve plastic bottles they use and plastic rubbish causes about eighty per cent of the pollution in the sea. Soon afterwards, Rothschild decided he wanted to help the ﬁght against pollution in the sea. To create publicity for the problem, he started building a boat made of plastic bottles.

**Designing the *Plastiki***

As well as building the boat with recycled plastic, it was important for him to make the boat environmentally-friendly and user-friendly. The boat uses renewable energy sources including wind power and solar energy. The crew can make meals with vegetables from the small garden at the back of the boat. They can take a break from work and get some exercise by using the special exercise bicycle. The energy from the bike provides power for the boat’s computers. And if anyone needs to take a shower, the boat’s shower uses saltwater from the sea.

**The journey**

De Rothschild sailed the *Plastiki* across the Paciﬁc Ocean from San Francisco to Sydney. That’s ﬁfteen thousand three hundred and seventy two nautical kilometres. On the way, De Rothschild took the special boat through the ‘Great Garbage Patch’. It is a huge area in the Paciﬁc with 3.5 billion kilogrammes of rubbish. You can see every kind of human rubbish here: shoes, toys, bags, toothbrushes, but the worst problem is the plastic. It kills birds and sea life.

**How well did the *Plastiki* survive the journey?**

The journey wasn’t always easy and De Rothschild and his crew had to take care during storms. There were giant ocean waves and winds of over one hundred kilometres per hour. The whole journey took one hundred and twenty nine days. Originally, De Rothschild thought the boat could only travel once but it survived so well that he is planning to sail it again one day.

knot (n) /nɒt/ measurement of speed at sea (1 knot = 1.8 km/hr)

garbage (n) /ˈga:bɪdʒ/ (US Eng) rubbish (UK Eng)

patch (n) /paetʃ/ area

Life