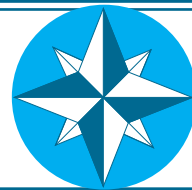




CRUISING NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2012

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD FOR AUSTRALIA! THE 1ST RBYC CRUISING OLYMPICS

BY ROBINA AND BRENTON SMITH

The excitement was almost palpable as the cruisers assembled for the 1st RBYC Cruising Olympics in the aptly named Olympic Room. Strains of Norman May exclaiming Gold! Gold! Gold for Australia! could be heard amongst the hubbub of competitors lining up for hot competition for the Gold Medals (and also drinks at the bar) available for those still supple in body and wily in mind – which by definition of Cruisers includes us all. Our August Cruising Forum took a different slant this month with a topical theme; the recent sailing results in the summer Olympics showing what could be achieved with persistence and training. What was missing in the training amongst Cruisers was amply compensated in enthusiasm!

The night started with a warm up of the minds as trivia questions on RBYC and the Olympics were pondered over by each table as our meal was eaten. Would you know when Brighton Yacht Club was instituted, who was the first commodore of Brighton Yacht Club, in what year Brighton Yacht Club added 'Royal' to its name, which is the longest running sailing class at the Olympics or who is the sailor with the most gold medals? You don't - then go to Members News for the answers. Sustained training in many years of committees had an advantage over youth here with Team BMW (Bingham,



Best dressed couple, Alan & Kathy, Hugh, Grant, Jenny and Brenton

Merritt and Walker) taking out team gold for the Club knowledge trivia event. The Cruise Missiles led by Rod Watson, recently retired so time to swat up on recent events, were the champions of Olympic trivia.

The competition moved onto individual and team events for gold medals that were hotly contested. A fun game of Heads and Tails started the activities with Jo of The 69ers being the last one standing and winning the first individual gold. This was followed by quoits where The 4 Players and The 49ers came out on equal points winning gold for both teams. Pin the Burgee on the Yacht found out a few people who need instruction on correct flag



Lyn and David Bingham

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David and Sally with Bow Line



Hoopla - Ross and Bryn



Rod Watson interviews David Bingham



Lloyd pinning the Burgee on the Yacht



Beach Volleyball - Hugh and Alison



Runners-up Lykra Lizards

etiquette (remember we are a 'Royal' club). Brenton was closest to the centre of the upper starboard spreader and took out gold for the Ozzie All Stars. Beach volleyball was fiercely contested with teams contesting a best of 5 series. No bikinis or budgie smugglers evident – which is probably just as well.

Fluids replenishment occurred while Rod Watson interviewed our very own Olympian, David Bingham about his experiences at the 1960 Rome Olympics, where he represented Australia in the 5.5m class as a crewman for Jock Sturrock. They came a very credible 10th of 19 boats with the highlight being a 2nd in one race when the wind was 15knots and much more to their liking. Apparently the Bay of Naples is known for its light winds. The 1960 Opening Ceremony did not have all the hoopla that goes with Opening Ceremonies these days. David wore the tracksuit that was his uniform at the Olympics and it seemed to fit as well as it did then!

Knot tying ability was a pairs event with each pair vying for the title of quickest bowline. Considerable pride was at stake in this nautical environment – however the bowline had to be tied one-handed by the two people! If you need a bowline tied quickly with one hand then gold medallist David

Spencer is your man. All completed in 15secs with Sally also winning gold holding one end. The Hookey gold medal with a total of 70 points was won by The Lykra Lizards who were making a late charge up the rankings. However, with the two gold medals being awarded for One Leg Standing to Marion of Lykra Lizards and Allan of 69ers, the Lizards were unable to overtake the 69ers who were team gold medallists for the nonathlon (you are right – this is not in the Macquarie Dictionary, but it should be). Doc Tom 'Sawbones' Hinton had to perform emergency surgery on Marion's right knee following severe cramp.

Prior to closing Chairman Will awarded the prizes for the best dressed. Our Olympian David Bingham and his Grecian maiden Lyn were awarded the prize for the best dressed representatives of the Olympic Spirit (faster, higher, stronger, best looking). With their matching Australian team themed outfits Kathy De Garis & Allan Richardson were the best dressed couple.

With evidence aplenty of gold medals at the Closing Ceremony it was agreed that being such a fun filled evening we should meet again in the same place for the 2nd RBYC Cruising Olympics in 2016 if not before. May the suppleness and guile continue!



The 69ers receiving Gold for winning team.

HOW WE STARTED SAILING

MIRIAM CHERRY

Although we had both been brought up on Arthur Ransome we didn't start sailing until we had our first child, and then it was a case of "What can we do and take along the baby?" In the event the vicar's wife volunteered to look after him.

Living in Cambridge at the time, it was in 1967, we found a yacht charter in Maldon at the head of the Blackwater River on the east coast. We had zero experience, but we had a book, full of advice on anchoring when tide and wind were in opposite directions etc. The charter people obligingly stocked the boat for our week's adventure, and off we set at high tide under motor in a dead calm.

The boat, Matilda Mary, about 20ft in length had been a cutter, but the bowsprit had wreaked such havoc in the hands of unskilled sailors that it had been sawn off and she became a sloop with a Stuart Turner crank start inboard motor and paraffin lamps. Down below there were two bunks on either side and just inside the companion way on the starboard side there was a plate rack, so that when we heeled over on the beat, all the plates fell out. That's what I chiefly remember! It must have had a stove and a head, and I think we washed up in salt water in a bucket dipped over the side.

Our aim the first night was to anchor in Goldhangers Creek. We had a jolly dinner and settled down for the night, but sometime in the small hours the boat ceased to rock and tipped over onto Brian's side. I ended up on the cabin sole. This happened every night with me on the floor. Nothing daunted as Force 5 was forecast for the next day, we decided to move over to Stony Point where there was a yacht club and we could go ashore. Here we met another young couple who had their baby with them in the forecabin – it must have been a 24 foot boat, and we were very impressed. They were waiting for a weather window to sail to Holland!

The following day we hoisted the sails for the first time, and Brian being the gentleman, did all the hard work while I manned the tiller (and so it has remained). I'm not sure if

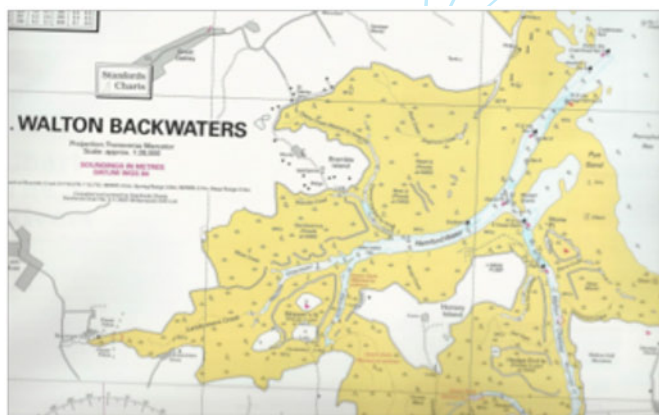


we made it to the mouth of the river, but we did spend a lot of time aground! They have a system of withies which are sticks arranged in one line. Locals know which side to go, but we kept getting caught out, and learnt about kedging off.

Next year we arranged to go again, and this time the charter people told us that the previous hirers had gone to Harwich and had been unable to bring the boat back. Would we mind taking it from there? Wow! We picked the boat up at Pin Mill, sailed up the River Stour and then went round to Hamford Water (Arthur Ransome's "Secret Water") with a following wind and tried to pick up a mooring which of course we missed and found ourselves once again aground. We could do nothing but wait till the following morning (I was getting good at cooking at an angle), and this is when Brian claims there was a cow looking in at the window, as we found ourselves in the middle of a field.

We did get off and then began the great adventure of getting the boat back to the Blackwater. Our first ocean voyage! We set out from Harwich, and I remember looking over my shoulder at the huge following waves and deciding that I wouldn't look that way again! Once outside in the North Sea the wind was of course on the nose so we beat to and fro. The problem was we had to get back before the tide turned against us as Matilda Mary wouldn't go against the tide, even with help from the motor, but we finally made it in to Brightlingsea, where friendly natives assisted us to a mooring. The next day was our last day so we had to get all the way up the river with the tide, and the engine wouldn't start. Poor Brian cranked and cranked until we finally gave up and sailed away all the way up the river and into the berth.

On arrival in Australia we found an Endeavour 24 on Lake Burley Griffin, towed it to Hastings and went sailing on Westernport with another baby. But that's a different story.





Changing the guard at Government House, Athens



In the Corinth Canal

CRUISING THE MEDITERRANEAN 2012 – PART 2

BY DAVID BROWN 'BUENA VISTA'

After our side trips to the Cotswolds in the UK and the Island of Santorini in Greece, it was time to continue our cruise to the Ionian coast of Greece, across the Greek Island chains of the Cyclades and Dodecanese and on to Turkey, where we have a long term berth booked in Marmaris and have a number of visitors organised.

We arrived back in Marina di Ragusa on the 28th May and made immediate plans to leave as we had a rare bit of settled weather. We provisioned the boat on the 29th and left on the 30th with a stopover in Siracusa where we anchored for the night and set off the next day at 6am for the Ionian island of Keffalonia in Greece, 260 odd nautical miles to the east.

We arrived in Argostoli, Keffalonia at 2pm on the 1st June after a magnificent trip with flat seas and about a 3/4 moon, so the night watches were a treat. Feeling a bit tired and probably a bit lazy, we used an agent across the road from the harbour wall to clear us into Greece and organise our Trip Log with the Port Police while we went off to a harbourside taverna for some fresh grilled fish and a bottle (or two) of well deserved wine.

As we still had a way to go to reach Turkey, the weather was still great and we had a deadline to meet our visitors, we set off the next day into the Gulf of Patras for a night at anchor at Navpaktos and then set off again early the next morning into the Gulf of Corinth to go through the Corinth Canal and into the Saronic Gulf and the Aegean Sea. Navpaktos is a beautiful little village with a Venetian Castle overlooking a Venetian harbour.

After some indecision on where we would anchor for the night, we actually arrived at Corinth at the western end of the Corinth Canal and after a brief chat with the Canal Control, we found we could go through in about 45 minutes at 5.30pm.

What a blast, once we had the order in which we went

through (there were four of us), we got the go ahead and off we went in a hurry. At each end of the canal there are submersible road bridges that disappear to let boats through and reappear again to let cars across and all very quickly.

The canal was opened in 1893 and is not very long, only about 3.2 nm and joins the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf. It is also the most expensive canal in the World to use based on miles travelled, e.g. for Buena Vista it was €31 (about A\$540). However, it does prevent having a long haul south around capes of Peloponnosisos, known as the Cape Horn of the Mediterranean.

Anyway, back to the canal trip, we had heard Canal Control, tell another boat coming the other way, to proceed at 6 to 7 knots but we all followed a tourist catamaran doing canal trips and he took us though at 9.5 knots, with 2 knots of current with us, and there didn't seem much room at that speed, the canal seemed no more than a metre wider than Buena Vista to me (it's actually 25m ... they say!)

To add to the tension about 2/3'rds of the way through we lost the GPS due to steep sided walls and rail and road bridges above us. This doesn't present any technical difficulties but alarms going off all around you when white knuckles are welded to the helm, eyes as big as saucers are focussed firmly on the boat in front of you and your crew (Trish) is on the foredeck taking photos!!

However all went well and soon we were out the other side, paid our dues and were anchored for the night in a small bay, Ormos Kalamaki, just outside the eastern end of the canal.

Trish was very poorly at this stage with what seemed like a lung infection that had got progressively worse since England. So we left the anchorage early and went to Piraeus, the commercial area of Athens to moor for a few days and seek some medical attention.



Temple of Zeus with the Acropolis in the background

We stopped at Zea Marina and were pleasantly surprised when we received a berth in the inner harbour, right in the middle of town. This area is usually reserved for local boats and visitors are placed in the outer harbour. This is a pleasant bustling area, lots of restaurants and bars and general activity.

We went off to a private hospital and received excellent attention with a doctor that spoke good English. After a couple of days rest and cortisone, attended to by nurse Brown, she was up to a trip on the hop on/hop off bus. There is of course much to see in Athens, the so called cradle of democracy.

Piraeus to Athens is an urban sprawl of white marble apartments with very little parkland. It is busy, congested and hot but in general, not as bad as we had been lead to believe. There was also very little sign of 'crisis', things looked very

busy with an odd bank window boarded up and some minor evidence of paint bombs on bank walls.

Our real target though, was not the urban sprawl but the sites of the Acropolis, Parthenon, Temple of Zeus etc which are all amazing. Due to limited time, we missed out on the many museums and art galleries so will call in again maybe next year on our way back.

Panathinaikon Stadium, the home of the first modern Olympics, was still in terrific condition. Funny story that we weren't aware of, the Olympic marathon was originally run over 34.5kms but was changed in the 1908 Olympics in the UK by the English Royal Family, to 42.195kms because they wanted the race to start at Windsor Castle and end at the Royal Box at the Olympic Stadium. That distance has stuck ever since.

The changing of the guard at Parliament House, was a bizarre affair, with rather effeminately dressed guards, performing a reasonable rendition of the Monty Python sketch about the Minister for funny walks!! Even more bizarre is another guard, in full battle fatigues, who then puts his hands up their skirts to adjust their woolly tights to make sure they don't have baggy knees before they start their watch. Whoever thought this whole production up has some serious issues!!

On the day we were due to leave Zea Marina, we had a visit from another RBYC member, Brian Pattinson, who also arrived that day on a cruise ship.

After a chat and a drink with Brian, it was time to head off for the Cyclades islands as we now only had three weeks to get to Turkey, which is not that far, but an area notorious for strong wind at this time of the year so we could expect delays. To be continued next month.

POSTCARD FROM *TILTING AT WINDMILLS*

THORRY GUNNERSEN

We sailed from Brisbane in June participating in Sail Noumea 2012. We find New Caledonia to be a jewel of France in the Pacific! It is surrounded by coral lagoons formed and framed by reefs, beautiful but dangerous.

Entry to New Caledonia was a roller-coaster ride in 8m swells that make landfall in a leisurely approach before flinging themselves on to the reef in curling breakers, in their final moment of awesome surf, smashing themselves to pieces. From the yacht one can see far into the perfectly formed tunnel, close by, to port and starboard as it comes in through the narrow entrance.

Windmills has been doing mini-cruises of 2 weeks duration. Piloting our way around Le Lagoon, discovering anchorages and sheltered bays has been a delight.

Our next challenge is the 600nm race around Longeterra, billed as the longest windward/leeward race in the world, run by CNC (Cirque Nautique Caledonie), The Groupama Race.



Dusk at Canal Woodin



Baie de Kuto, Isles des Pins



END OF MONTH CRUISE - DOCKLANDS FIREWORKS

BY ROBINA SMITH

After the fantastic display of 3 weeks earlier the Cruising Group made another foray to Docklands for the fireworks display as their End of Month Cruise. There was some hesitation to participate as the weather forecast was not brilliant but 5 intrepid boats ventured up the Yarra on Friday afternoon with Rob and Elaine joining us by train.

After delightful pre-dinner drinks and company, this time with our hosts Rod and Sandy Watson on Emma Kate, we huddled under the bimini and watched the fireworks through persistent rain. Despite the dampness we witnessed another amazing pyrotechnic display.

The group of 12 were forced to have another round of drinks while waiting for a table at the Medici restaurant. Finally, we ventured out in high nautical fashion for a quick sprint through the rain and another great meal before adjoining to Chakana for port, coffee and some of Lyn's yummy carrot cake.

Next morning Andalucia and Mirrabooka returned to Brighton, followed later in the day by Chakana while Emma Kate and That's Amore made a weekend of it at Docklands.



Lyn, Rob, Rod, Pam, Will, Sue and Ian



Nautical style for Dinner Rod, Brenton, Sandy, Pam, David and Lyn

QCYC CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCH

BY ALAN RICHARDSON AND KATHY DE GARIS



RBYC members enjoying lunch

What to do over those blustery wintery months? Celebrate Christmas of course!

On Sunday the 15th July, 100 or so intrepid cruising Yachties (including 10 or so from RBYC) had a terrific day at QCYC (Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club), enjoying their annual Christmas in July Lunch.



Kathy receiving her prize

This year amazingly there was not one boat tied up to the QCYC jetty. It was totally empty! Everyone had come down the warm and dry way, yes by car. Surely a testament as to how cold and unpleasant this winter has been.

Inside the club house the fire was on and it was very warm and merry. We all laughed ourselves sore with the fantastic jokes and banter provided by Bill Stubbs, who must be one of the best and funniest MC's about. We were kept busy and entertained with a Trivia Quiz and some raffles. Our own Kathy De Garis was lucky enough to win a fantastic Spinlock PFD, donated by Jeff Dusting from Adventuresafety.com.au. Due to a slight organizational mix-up (ie selling tickets from two identical raffle books) there were two excited people standing up waving the same "winning ticket". Oh what to do? A simple coin toss luckily went Kathy's way and the prize went to RBYC.

The food was simple and delicious with a self-serve spit roast followed by Xmas pudding. As is usual down at QCYC, at the end everyone pitched in together to wash and clean up in no time at all. (Many hands make light work!)

QCYC sits on an island in a quiet and most beautiful spot. For those cruisers amongst you who have not yet sampled the delights and charm of this very special place you are always welcome. Have a look at their website (QCYC .org.au) to check out their upcoming events.

MEMBER NEWS

Murray Hine tendered his resignation from the cruising committee last month. He and **Sally** are relocating to Auckland for work. He hopes to return one day – will see where the wind blows.

Rod Watson, Emma Kate has recently retired - at least from paid work. He has been co-opted to the Maintenance Committee at the club and with his extra cruising group duties there will be no time for boredom.

Sue and Martin Stevens, Mandolin Wind are rumoured to be on their way back this year. They have begun the journey home, sailing from Borneo across the top of Salawesi then heading south before leaving Indonesia from Tual.

Brenton and Robina Smith, Chakana attended the Boat Show in Sydney. Well worth it (for the stall holders) as they picked up some useful ideas and bits and pieces. Also managed to win the quiz on the RYA stand.

It is worth coming to Cruising Group functions. We have had 2 winners of the Friday night draw attending one of our activities at the club at the time!

Answers to the trivia questions

The first commodore of Brighton Yacht Club was **F.G. Moule**.

Brighton Yacht Club was instituted in the year **1875**.

'Royal' was added to Brighton Yacht Club in **1924**.

Longest running yacht class at the Olympics: **Star**

The most sailing medals won at Olympics are 4 golds and a tie between **Paul Elvstrom**, Firefly 1948 and Finn 52,56 & 60, and **Ben Ainslee**, Laser 2000 and Finn 04,08 &12.

After having **Roger's** doctor skills called upon in Vanuatu, **Dreamweaver** set sail for Noumea, New Caledonia, via the Loyalty islands. Motor sailing against the SE trades they had a pleasant cruise down to the Isle of Pines. **Anne and Roger** are now back in Noumea studying the weather to find the all important weather window for the passage to Bundaberg.

Congratulations to **Sue and Bryan Drummond, Gypsea Rover**, on the birth of their first grandchild Esther Rose.

Andalucia has spent time in the boat yard and her former beauty has been restored, particularly her stern and bottom.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21st FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speakers: **JENNY STONE AND JOHN LUTE
CORAZON VIAJE**

Jenny and John spent 6 months of 2011 cruising the East Coast. Leaving their boat Corazon Viaje in Manly, Moreton Bay, for the summer they returned in 2012 to sail to Southern Lagoon, New Caledonia – their first blue water cruising.

Jenny and John will tell us about their experience of blue water passage making and their activities ashore in both areas.

As usual, gather at the Club about 6.30pm, meal at 7pm, followed by the talk at about 8pm.

Please book with the office (95923092) no later than Wednesday September 19th.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6TH OPEN DAY

The end of month on water activity has been put forward a week as we are expecting that the cruising group will be participating in the Open Day sail past. Check the program for the day and join the sail past the Commodore's vessel.

Dig out your cruising group flag and dress your ship ready to give three cheers to the Commodore.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 19TH FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: **Colin Miller**

New Developments in Marine Communication

Colin Miller is the Principal of Offshore Marine Electronics. He will enlighten us as to new Developments in Marine communication especially relating to yachts and cruising.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15th FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: **Sue Drummond**

Her 'Young Endeavour' experience

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH ANNUAL HARDSTAND CHRISTMAS PARTY

ANNUAL CRUISE IN COMPANY 2013

Suggested dates are for 2 weeks from Saturday 23rd February.



Herewith my final Chair Chat.

I trust that wasn't a sigh of relief emanating from the peanut gallery. Silly me, of course it was a sigh of despair. You can cheer up since there is a rumour that I may be allowed space to berate slackers encourage members to continue as cruising acolytes. (Go on, look it up.) Our 'Chairman Elect' is that well known cruising identity, Rod Watson of 'Emma Kate' fame. Yes folks, I am handing over the keys to the dungeon along with instructions for keeping the oil vat boiling and how to adjust the rack to cause maximum pain. Unfortunately we seem to have run out of handmaidens to burn at the stake.

I must say that I have enjoyed being at the 'Cruising helm' for the past few years. I am grateful for the help and support I have received from fellow cruisers in general and from Lady Pamela and members of Cruising Committee in particular. Now we need to rally around Rod and give him all possible support to keep our Cruising Group going as a significant element in our Club

While I am at my keyboard I should again remind everyone about the forthcoming elections. Nominations have closed and in the Members' Bar you can read up on the background of each of the members standing for office. In the best traditions of democracy you can then decide who will best support your own preferences for the future of your Club.

Chairman Will



Captain Coxswain's Corner

Baboon Watch

Those of us who have made overnight passages will be familiar with the concept of watch keeping but have you ever been on 'baboon' watch. It is of course an old sailing term applied to the need to have someone mind the ship while in port, while everyone else went ashore. Not surprisingly, the baboon watch was generally given to a very junior newcomer on the crew.