



CRUISING NEWS



MAY 2013

NOOKS AND CRANNIES AROUND SYDNEY HARBOUR

BY JOHN AND JO WALKER



South Head, Port Jackson



Coffee made to order, Bantry Bay

Entering Port Jackson on our cruise up the east coast, our recollections from previous visits were that sailing on Sydney Harbour was not much fun. Prior sailing seemed to be spent dodging slow and fast ferries, motor cruisers, yachts and the odd ocean liner. Our recent experience was that yes, compared to sailing on wide open Pt. Phillip Bay, it is busy and often times crowded, but after cruising there for about 2 weeks in excellent April weather, we discovered it does have its own charm and some little gems, which we thought worth sharing. There are some stunning bushland walks within a short sail of the Sydney CBD!

The positives of sailing around Sydney Harbour:

- Seeing Sydney from the water is from our experience the best way to view the major sites and get a handle on the city and suburbs layout.
- Exploring by boat provides unique and otherwise

unobtainable views of seaside ‘burbs and mansions, including the PMs’ place Kirribilli House, Opera House, and the coat-hanger bridge.

- Places of interest around the harbour are within an hour or so sail.
- Many anchorages enable shore access by dinghy—even close to the city.

The minuses:

- No impromptu swimming off the back of the yacht—bull sharks are known to lurk, which is why the many popular swimming beaches in the harbour are netted.
- The litter—being in the middle of Australia’s largest city is not surprisingly marked by lots of mainly plastic junk in the water. In fact we saw a sign that warned not to eat any fish caught west of the Harbour Bridge—due to dioxins! Perhaps that explains a lot about Sydney-ites.

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Bantry Bay



Mooring pontoon, Sydney Fish Market

- Some of the nicer places are overlooked by lots of houses—no real surprise there.

While there are plenty of well positioned marinas at which to have a casual stay – for a generous casual tariff, there are also plenty of places in which to drop anchor overnight. The ones we liked were: Spring Cove and associated beaches near North Head – especially Store Beach, Rose Bay which has plenty of swinging room, Rozelle and Black Wattle Bays and Lane Cove River. Others we didn't try but were recommended are, off the zoo and alongside Manly Ferry terminal. Of course watch the wind direction when choosing an anchorage for the night and we try to stay away from ferry routes as they are noisy, make a lot of waves and run until about midnight.

The places we would suggest worth a visit:

1. North Head – just around the northern head of Port Jackson are a number of snug beach coves that make excellent overnight anchorages and day visits. Surge is usually absent - but may be apparent in a strong SE swell. Anchor holding is good in sand in 5-7 metres in Spring Cove, and in 3 metres closer to shore at Quarantine and Store beaches. Like the rest of Sydney harbour, these are very popular on sunny weekends, but quiet during the week. Quarantine Beach is good for a walk around its historic quarantine station and rock carvings. Store Beach is only accessible from the water and is surrounded by dense bush. If you like good coffee, then dinghy over to Little Manly Cove to an excellent beach kiosk that also has great food and go for a swim in the shark proof area.
2. Middle Harbour – up through the Spit Bridge to Middle harbour with the best places to visit at the end of the northern arms in bushland settings. Once through Spit Bridge (so called because the young lads used to spit on those passing through – a practice still upheld to this day) many boats on moorings line the house crowded shores. The northern arms – Bantry Bay and Sugar Loaf – are both very sheltered in all weathers and each have about 4-6 public moorings, although anchoring is good. You can feel the tranquillity at Bantry Bay, an idyllic place surrounded by National Park, which is deserted during the week but busy on weekends and holidays. There is a small public jetty on the east side of Bantry Bay with several excellent walking trails to get the mariners legs working. On the western side of Bantry Bay are solid buildings that once

served as government explosives storage. Coffee and food delivery during peak periods comes to you via water vendors. The coffee is excellent. While Bantry Bay took our fancy, Sugar Loaf Bay is bushy and quiet although is overlooked by some houses.

3. Visit the Sydney fish market on Black Wattle Bay by water. So where the heck is that? Head into Darling Harbour but stay to starboard. Go through the disused swing bridge under the Anzac bridge and veer to port into Black Wattle Bay. Turning to starboard you enter Rozelle Bay. Anchoring is possible along the periphery of either bay, or moor at the fish market itself at their large floating pontoon—a small mooring fee is payable for a short stay. It was empty the day we went, except for dinghies. So perhaps it is easier and cheaper to anchor nearby in either bay and dinghy into the pontoon. Excellent very fresh fish and shellfish is sold at fair prices, and/or take a bottle of wine and enjoy a feed of freshly cooked seafood selected from a variety of fish, mud crab, lobster or Balmain bugs – thankfully no longer from the Balmain waters.

Should you need to have your yacht lifted, then perhaps try the very historical Woolwich Dock on the north shore which is set in lovely parkland. Good facilities for yachties, and you can DIY and stay on your boat while on the hard stand. It is the home of Wild Oats and some other very smart large yachts. Travel into the CBD / Circular Quay by ferry is easy following a 10 minute walk to Valentia St Woolwich stop.

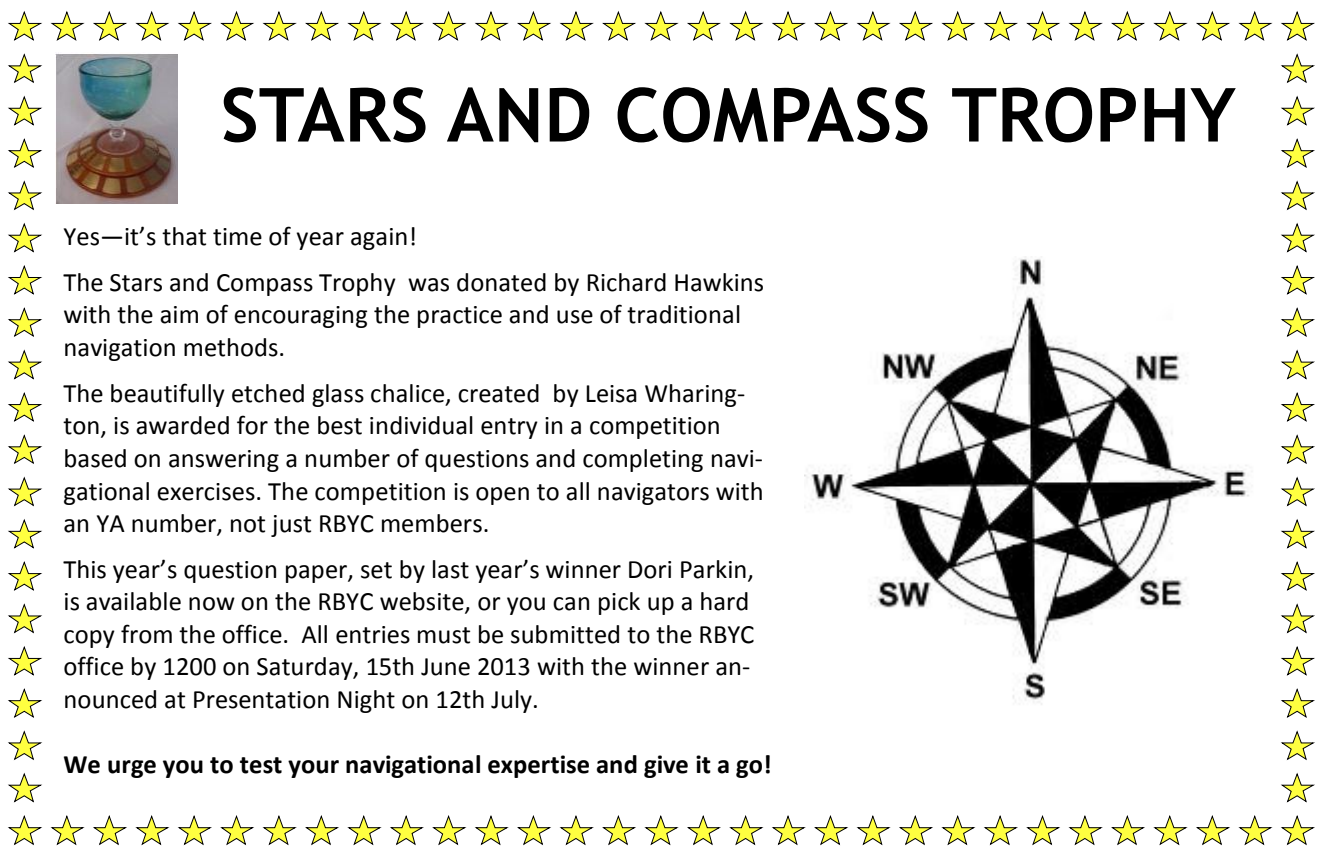
There are many more places worth visiting by boat around Sydney Harbour, the above are just several that we would revisit and feel worth sharing.



Lane Cove



STARS AND COMPASS TROPHY



Yes—it's that time of year again!

The Stars and Compass Trophy was donated by Richard Hawkins with the aim of encouraging the practice and use of traditional navigation methods.

The beautifully etched glass chalice, created by Leisa Wharington, is awarded for the best individual entry in a competition based on answering a number of questions and completing navigational exercises. The competition is open to all navigators with an YA number, not just RBYC members.

This year's question paper, set by last year's winner Dori Parkin, is available now on the RBYC website, or you can pick up a hard copy from the office. All entries must be submitted to the RBYC office by 1200 on Saturday, 15th June 2013 with the winner announced at Presentation Night on 12th July.

We urge you to test your navigational expertise and give it a go!



So here I am, back again. I've checked with the editor of this magnificent epistle and there wasn't a single complaint about the absence of my contribution to last month's newsletter - not one. I can only assume that the shock to my adoring fans left them lost for words. I was thinking of asking for a pay rise but, given the lack of complaints, I'm thinking I should postpone the request. (In any event, how much is 10% of nothing?)

I realise that you can hardly wait to hear what led to this hiatus so I'll put you out of your misery. We (the missus and I) have been doing a bit of independent cruising. I realise that all of you would have come along if you had known, but there are times when two is company and eighty is a crowd. Besides, we were in our little 'A Van' and there is at best only sufficient accommodation for two people.

Before the purists start whinging about 'vanning' not really being cruising I should hasten to add that *'Minnie'* (being the 'house of the mouse' of that name) crossed Bass

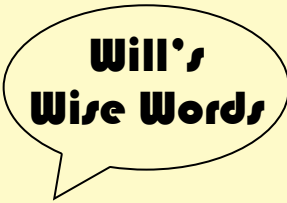
Strait in about ten hours, and this is a pretty good effort by any standard.

Now don't be pedantic. It's true that *'Minnie'* sailed in company with the Spirit of Tasmania, but 'sail' she did. We had a pleasant couple of weeks visiting bits of Tasmania's top end to see the parts one misses when confined to the coastline.

There are, in vanning, lots of parallels to cruising in a boat, except that one doesn't have to watch the weather nearly so closely. Oh yes, the other difference is that one gets invited for 'drinks' rather than 'sundowners'.

To finish, I'm suggesting that you all write to the editor demanding that I get a pay increase so that your monthly dose of 'wise words' is fully maintained.

Will Merritt
(In)famous Land and Sea Explorer



7TH ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

BY ROBINA AND BRENTON SMITH

What is with progressive dinners—yet again we were blessed with a fine calm evening, both of which were important contributors to another successful evening—and guaranteeing an even bigger event next year!

Only the day before, passage along the pier required adept timing to dodge the breaking waves and cabin prep on Chakana was a roly affair—fiddles on the saloon table were going to be essential.

To begin the evening Cruisers livened up the bar for nibbles and pre-dinner imbibing but even with this through there were no winners in the Friday night draw. At about 7.15 main course hosts slipped out to their boats to welcome their guests with tempting aromas from their galleys. Arm 1 was a popular spot for this course with three boats grouped together. Shortly after, the guests arrived laden with wines and other drinks and much convivial chatter could be heard.

Just as we were settling in to open another bottle, it was time to move to the next host and their boat for dessert. The dishes were quickly stacked in the cockpit of



Brenton, Howard, Martin & David

Chakana so that Jenny and John could host dessert while Brenton and Robina moved on.

The consensus amongst those who gathered on **Looking Good** was that the hosts excelled themselves yet again with fine food being served all round with little room remaining for chocolates. The port slipped down well though!

Once again, thanks to the hosts for presenting such fine cuisine in the confines of their galleys - and carting it out on the pier.



Roger, Ronda & Ross *Cat Walk*



Gary, Jenny, John & Mel *Chakana*



Will, Anne, Brenton, Roger & Pam *Andalucia*

Huge thanks go to our
Main Course boats

Rob & Nona *Aquacadabra*
Alan & Kathy *Allegresse*
Brenton & Robina *Chakana*
Grant & Jenny *Currawaong*
Rod & Sandy *Emma Kate*
Andrew & Karen *Highland Fling*
David & Lyn *Mirrabooka*
David & Sally *Sun Kiss*
Marg & Andrew *Wild Child*
John & Jan *Wise of Time*

and dessert course boats.....

James & Bronwyn *Alegria*
Pam & Will *Andalucia*
Roger and Ronda *Cat Walk*
Jenny & John *Chakana*
Wendy & David *Charliebird*
Sally and Murray *Emma Kate*
Heather & John *Enya*
Jo & Hugh *Polly Jane*
Richard & Marion *Sophistique*
Ted & Maree *Y Knot*

A special thankyou to those who hosted dessert on other peoples boats when we didn't have enough boats to accommodate the numbers booked. Being able to gather together on **Looking Good** at the end of the evening is always a highlight and we thank **Lindy and Howard Meltzer** for their generosity. Another wonderful evening where socialising with fellow cruisers, meeting new members and having a good time make it one of the unmissable events on our cruising calendar.



Alan, Kathy, Bronwyn, Tom & Alison on the move.



On **Looking Good!**

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

BY ROBINA SMITH

A day with the Sabot group proved that junior sailing is an exciting and enthusiastic group in our club ably led by Simon Tedstone.

On Sunday 28th April the Cruising Group joined with the Sabot children and parents to give the young sailors a taste of big boat sailing for their end of season activity.

At 10am there was a buzz in the Members Bar as 51 Sabot parents and children assembled for the allocation of their boat for the day. With lifejackets, food and drinks on board the excited children then helped to ready their boats to cruise across to Royals for lunch.

After tying up at Royals the youngsters compared notes as to how many showers, bunks, cabins were on each boat, ate lunches and used excess energy on the marvellous lawns while the adults bonded over the bbq or ate packed or bought lunches.

The young sailors were keen to continue their learning experience on the big boats on the sail to RBYC, letting go the mooring lines as we ventured back out to sea. Fore-deck training to hoist the heady then took place (Ian, we have started your succession plan!) before the young skippers took over the helm with cries of 'I'm going 8

knots' heard on Mirrabooka. Racing strategy was discussed by making sure Andaluca was passed on the windward side to take their wind.

The youngest sailor on Mirrabooka decided to follow the path of many a skipper after a good lunch and hard day's sail by finding a bunk for an afternoon kip leaving her lifejacket on in case she was needed up on deck in a hurry.

All too soon we were back at RBYC where further training took place in tidying the sheets and packing the sails away. The young sailors were keen to join their friends to debrief and to rub it in that their boat was faster. I'm not sure that the host skippers realised that it was a race!

The consensus was that it was a great day out and opened many eyes and minds to the wider club that is RBYC. We all agreed it should be repeated again next year!

Many thanks to the skippers and crew of **Allegresse, Andaluca, Aquacadabra, Currawong, Emma Kate and Mirrabooka** for volunteering to take the Sabot parents and junior sailors on this outing. Also thanks to **Get Smart** and **Trybooking.com** who have some involvement with the Sabots and supplemented the boats needed.



Ready to leave Marina



Barbie bonding



Lunchtime socialising



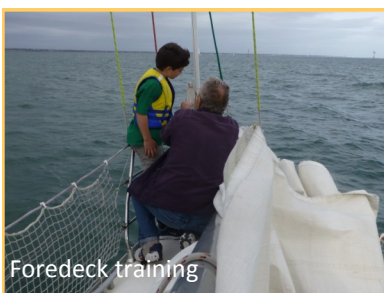
Trybooking.com



Back on board



Let go the mooring lines



Foredeck training



8 Knots!



Pass to windward!

CRUISING INSIGHTS

Cruisers keeping clean !

BY ROBINA SMITH

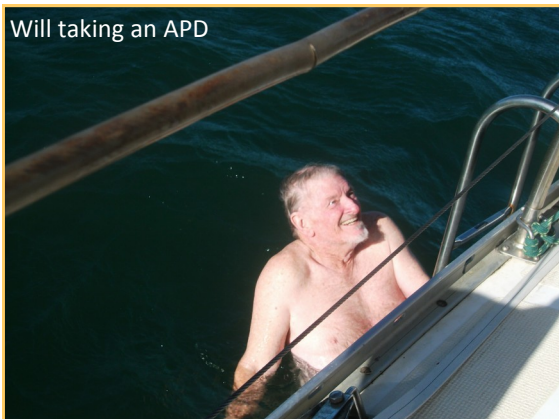
Cruisers are an innovative lot and are always looking for ways to save water while anchoring in locations where facilities like taps are nonexistent. The objective is to keep clean with the minimum of fresh water and increasing its temperature without using electricity or gas—both also in limited availability.

On our recent Bass Strait Cruise there was only one opportunity to top up the water tanks—on the Port Welshpool pier!

Therefore we witnessed some novel approaches to maintaining the friendships in the close confines of the cabins.

First option is to go for an APD (All Purpose Dip). Okay in good weather but leaves the hair unmanageable—not a problem for some.

Will taking an APD



Second option is to take the dip followed by a shower on the stern. Solves the hair problem and especially good after steaming in to anchor – the water is hot!

Jenny washing hair on the stern.



Alternatively, after the dip find a freshwater stream, an icecream container and a friend.

Sandy giving Pam the fresh water rinse.



Hair still a problem? Use the fire hose at the Port Welshpool pier.

Doug using the fire hose to rinse Heather's hair.



No hot water system or skipper too mean to burn the diesel? Hang the solar shower up in the morning and by anchoring time it is the perfect temperature.

Will controls flow of hot water from the solar shower for Theresa.



POSTCARD FROM TERRY MCMULLAN, *MACANUDO*

Macanudo is at Port Stephens in New South Wales at present - a gorgeous spot. We wanted to head north to the Whitsundays for winter and commute to her from Melbourne but haven't been able to get available time and weather conditions to align. So we'll stay put for now and try again next year. When I read in the newsletter about the summer cruises around Bass Strait the temptation to head back south is strong, and I'm sure we'll be back at Brighton one day if Jim can find us a space for our 7.6-metre beam.

In the meantime there are worse places to keep a boat than Port Stephens. The bay is huge, the anchorages and beaches are delightful and uncrowded, and you can't go anywhere without meeting dolphins. And in the quite mild winters there are always whales hanging around the entrance. Add to that the most amazing marina at Soldiers Point - free newspapers and coffee delivered to the boat each morning in the summer, and cocktails in the evening, for example. The direct flight from Melbourne to Newcastle (Jetstar or Virgin) is easy and the marina offers a pick-up service in its new Mercedes. Cruising Brightonians heading north or south will also find Port Stephens is a convenient distance from the bedlam of Sydney, there are several marinas and good repair facilities.

My only complaint is the number of sandbars. We grounded on an uncharted one in the middle of the main channel last summer - a test of rig and heart. I'm considering lifting the boat and having wheels installed.

Regards,
Terry McMullan

Editors note: Terry sent this email after we thanked him in our last edition for volunteering the services of his graphic designer to do the layout of the newsletter in past years.

As yet we have had no offers to help with the layout of the current newsletter so you will have to bear with yours truly as I go on a huge learning curve with the assistance of my children. All offers would be gratefully received!

MEMBER NEWS

The cruising group welcomes new member **Ross Fisher, *Aventura***. A new face for us but not the club. Another recruit from the Bass Strait Cruise.

Immediate Past CW's bionic knee replacement was on 8th May at Cabrini Brighton - should be seen galloping round the club a couple of weeks later!!! (or hobbling). Lady Pamela is looking forward to CW being able to get down on bended knees.

.....
Alison Roberts-Wray and Tom Hinton, *Tales*, have joined the ranks of fleet owners with the purchase of an S&S 34 currently moored at Mooloolaba. They are intending to spend time on her in the next school holidays and assess their future plans.

.....
Jenny Stone has rejoined ***Corazon Viaje*** at RQYC to prepare her for another season of cruising ready for when **John Lute** can prise himself away from work to join them.

.....
Kathy DeGaris and Alan Richardson have recently returned from sailing the Bay of Islands, NZ on ***Gypsea Rover***. More of this cruise in next newsletter.

.....
Gypsea Rover has arrived at Minerva Reef from Opuia, NZ. **Margie (Wild Child) and Paul** have joined them for this passage.

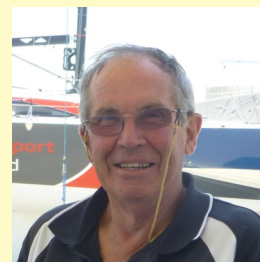
.....
Gentleman who wish to add a nautical touch to their formal attire for the Annual Classical Music Night will find lapel anchors for sale at the RBYC office.

CRUISING COMMITTEE

It is with pleasure that we welcome new Committee Member **Roger Walker, *Cat Walk***.

The organisational skills, dedication and commitment that the CFA has benefited from for many years will be of great use in our group.

Welcome Roger and we have lots of jobs planned for you!





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 17TH MAY FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: Dori Parkin
Sailing the Scottish West Coast and the Solent

Dori wished to sail in British waters so booked some RYA courses that came ready made with boat and skipper and the chance to improve her sailing skills while exploring the western coast of Scotland. Later she chartered a yacht in the Solent during Cowes Week.

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

Promises to be another great Cruising Dinner Meeting from one of our own members.

Please book with the office (95923092) no later than Wednesday May 15th.

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE END OF MONTH WATER ACTIVITY for May

Alan Robertson race to Queenscliff

Join the 9.30 start from the tower and follow the race instructions to the finish line at the West Channel marker. Continue to QCYC for an evening with fellow cruisers in front of the fire. Alternatively cruise down and meet the racers there.

FRIDAY 21ST JUNE ANNUAL CLASSICAL MUSIC NIGHT

Elyane Laussade on piano, violinist Edward Antonov-tenor and tenor Michael Petrucci will perform a variety of music including Rhapsody in Blue.

Enjoy an evening of fine wining, dining and entertainment—all for just \$100 a head.

Sumptuous meal and some wine included.
Starting at 7pm. Dress—black tie.

Don't miss this wonderful evening. Please book with Ticket Secretary Sandy Watson. Ph 0418 906 417 or email rodsandy@bigpond.net.au

SUNDAY 7TH JULY ANNUAL YARRA RIVER FROSTBITE CRUISE

Mark this date in your diary now—more details next month.

FRIDAY 19TH JULY FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: Gordon Syme
Quick fixes and emergencies at sea.

SABOTS GO TO ROYALS

from the **Chair**

The end of month cruise for April was a Sunday trip to Royals with the Sabot kids and their families. This was a great idea of Simon Tedstone and the Sabot Sub-committee. The weather was good, a little chilly, with a good breeze and a bit of sea to entertain the kids. Royals was, as usual, a great destination and cruisers, kids and parents all had a great time. We had seven guests on Emma-Kate including four children who entertained themselves and were thrilled to have a helm on the way back to Brighton.

This was a great club day with two RBYC groups socialising and understanding what we each do and enjoy through the club.

This is really what the club is about. We look forward to this becoming an ongoing event on the cruising calendar. Many thanks to Simon, the Sabot families and the boats that made the trip.



Captain Coxswain's Corner

'Derelict'

This month we have an intriguing fact rather than a word for your edification. A vessel, abandoned at sea, may be considered 'derelict' and may then be salvaged by another party with or without the owner's agreement. A court may then decide what recompense the 'salvor' is entitled to receive. However the owner's position is dramatically improved if any live animal (IE the owner's cat.) remained on board. Presumably this applies because the vessel may then be considered not to have been fully abandoned and is therefore not legally derelict. Salvage costs will still apply and must be paid within a year and a day if the owner wishes to retain ownership.