



CRUISING NEWS



JULY 2014



2014 ANNUAL CLASSICAL MUSIC NIGHT BAGATELLES, FANTASIES AND RE-IMAGININGS

BY KATHY DE GARIS

What a delightful night this was. I have attended some great functions at our lovely club but I really think that this was the very best one ever.

It is fun to occasionally really dress up and everyone looked wonderful in black tie and elegant evening outfits.

Why, well EVERYTHING about it was wonderful!

Our Bay-view room looked breathtaking with the elegant and dramatic black and white musical piano note themed décor. The tables looked fantastic.

The food was the best that I have had at our club. One of my guests is an extremely good cook and she told me that she could not fault the quality and the presentation of our meal. We started with a very generous fresh seafood selection, followed by a perfect fillet of beef or duck. Dessert was a delightful apple pastry.



Stefan Cassonenos

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David Bingham and Stefan Cassonenos



Jo and Hugh Jones, Jenny and Grant Collins, Margaret and Adrian Bode.

However the highlight of the evening was the absolutely outstanding musicianship of our pianist, STEFAN CASSONENOS.

He had just flown in from Germany where he had been performing and he played 3 brackets of music that he likened to an Entree, Main, and Dessert of musical fare.

The first bracket of Bagatelles started with the most beautiful rendition of the very well known Beethoven 'Für Elise'. Many of us will have played this in our earlier piano lesson days but NOT LIKE THIS! This was followed by Beethoven's Seven Bagatelles, a much more technically demanding offering and was just wonderful.

The next main course bracket started gently with the hauntingly beautiful Beethoven Moonlight Sonata and then the phenomenally demanding and virtuoso work of Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy.

I had the privilege of sitting really close to the stage and watching Stefan play. His level of talent, skill, accuracy and emotionality is inspiring. I was blown away by the whole experience of watching a musician of world class standard performing for us in our own beautiful club room.

His final bracket was a delightful collection of beautiful Debussy, Chopin and a very famous Rachmaninoff Polichinelle. He then performed a variation of the Polichinelle that he had composed himself. Such a multi talented musician!!

Stefan introduced each bracket with a delightfully natural and fascinating brief description of the works and some history of each composer.

The evening finished with some lovely raffle prizes being won by 8 lucky attendees.

Absolutely everyone present felt that the ticket cost was excellent value as the concert was outstanding, the food was great and the general atmosphere was delightful.

If you didn't come well there is always next year.



Delicious seafood entrée.



Kathy De Garis and Alan Richardson



David James, Mavis Sheedy, Rod Watson



David Pollard

ISLAND HEAD CREEK—A CRUISING GEM OF THE CORAL COAST

BY JO AND JOHN WALKER, *KIRRA KIRRA*
(Currently cruising the Queensland coast)



Island Head Creek

Where the heck is Island Head Creek you ask? Think Australian - American military manoeuvres about 70 nm north of

Rockhampton in the Shoalwater Bay Military Training area and you'll be close. The coast of this very large military zone of over 4500 square kilometres is off-limits to cruisers when any manoeuvres are on, but in the quiet times yachties and fishermen are able to enter these remote waters, with access only possible by boat. Times for access can be determined via Notice to Mariners, or by VHF radio to Thirsty Sound VMR 424 (Ch 16, 81) or by phone on 07 4937 3155. Now many cruisers of the Queensland mid-coast will have visited the better known safe haven overnight anchorages in this military zone, such as Pearl Bay and Port Clinton, but there is another excellent anchorage nearby, that has to us on our catamaran *Kirra Kirra*, far more to offer.

The first time we stopped at Island Head Creek in August 2013, was after we had enjoyed a couple of very peaceful days in Pearl Bay as it was to be an overnight stop on the way to the Duke Islands. It's an estuary only 8 nm north of Pearl Bay that is not a creek at all but more a typical broad tropical river, and it's a gem in more ways than one.

We had dropped sail and quietly motored through the entrance for the first time last year, past the island standing guard at the entrance, where a mother humpback with her new calf were snoozing near the entrance and we gazed at her enjoying a rest with her young, just a few metres from our boat. She also carefully watched our progress. It is a magical experience when you come up close to such a huge animal in the wild. When cruising we tend to take each place as we find it and not as its described by others and of course first impressions stick, so the wonderful whale encounter set the scene for our stays. We were so impressed with this place last year that we visited it again this year (2014) sailing through the entrance.

Navigation: The bar to the "creek" is minor, well sheltered and deep at 4-5 metres, with only a large easterly swell likely to cause any issues with crossing and on our visits the bar at the broad entrance was not apparent. On our visit this year

we sailed through the entrance as there are at least several square nm in which to drop sails. The main channel of Island Head Creek is about 4-5 miles long, up to a mile broad and from 4 to 20+ metres deep and has several side branches hence anchoring is not a problem for any yacht, no matter what its draft. The hydrographic and electronic charts are a little sketchy if not downright useless when it comes to this remote area and better, very accurate mud-maps are to be had in the cruisers gold-standard for this area 'Cruising the Coral Coast' by Alan Lucas. Of course sandbanks are transient, just like cruisers, and so vigilance is required when entering any waterway, but in general depths are not a concern. There are many inlets which give good protection and privacy, if that's what you're after. Worth noting is the deep channel on the southerly side of the entrance that makes a handy overnight anchorage if a quick departure is needed in the morning. Again Mr Lucas's guide has proved entirely accurate.

Anchorage in this vast waterway are very secure from winds of most directions, especially the prevalent SE and NE blows even near the entrance. Further reading has revealed that a storm could be ridden out in relative comfort and security down the creek in the smaller arms.

Things to do: The absolute isolation, natural beauty and peace and quiet are second to none. So chill and soak up the tranquillity. There is no habitation or development possible in this area, and due to the fringing peaks, even with an aerial up the mast we could not get mobile phone signal or internet. Other boats are few, especially compared to areas like the Whitsundays and as this water way is so large, there is plenty of space to get away. On entering the so called creek the starboard side reveals long sandy beaches that make for excellent and very long walks, with no other foot prints likely. At low tide, sand flats are extensive and can reveal some surprises such as an abandoned yacht! Walking into the hinterland is neither recommended nor allowed due to unexploded ordnance.



Watch out for a lee shore!



John with a huge mudcrab.



Watch out for the powerful pincers!

One can travel up the creek about 4 nm to remote anchorages and fishing spots. The tidal range of around 2 metres can be made use of to leisurely sail up into the estuary on a flood tide, drop anchor for lunch or an overnight stop, and with the ebb tide then coast along back towards the entrance. The waterways are fringed with sheer rocky cliffs, surrounded with forested hills, isolated lovely sandy beaches and mangroves. There are deep fishing holes and great mud crabbing spots. In the large area during our visits there were only 3 to 4 yachts anchored, with a couple of powerboats day-visiting from Rosslyn Bay for fishing.

While we didn't manage to snag any fish of significance, others we know have. However, on both visits we have had a lot of success trapping many truly huge mudcrabs from which we made various delicious meals. Our bait of choice is chicken necks, frozen in packs of 4 for baiting each pot. Tip: before catching mud crabs, learn how to pick them up and preferably tie them, as their powerful pincers are dangerous. This area is one of the most important dugong habitats in Australia and their sighting is not uncommon. Whales in season do stop by and on our first visit we were delighted to be serenaded to sleep by the whale at the entrance. Magical indeed.

Things not to do: This is croc territory so swimming is not recommended. As with most places where there are mangroves and sand flats, bitey insects abound. Don't forget the insect repellent as in the season, sand flies and midges can ruin a nice evening stroll. And do check that the military zone is open; wayward boats caused the dropping of practice bombs off target which had to be latter retrieved. And it's best not to have any boat issues, as help is a long way away.

A beautiful isolated unspoilt place, and in the words of Arnie - we'll be back!



Hello fans of the 3 W's. I am writing this epistle (epistle of William to the Brightonites) just after the worst winter storm in Brighton harbour for hundreds of years. (Well, for the last few years anyway!)

Not to worry, I am managing to cope with this onerous task in spite of all this threatening danger to life and limb.

Of course not actually being in Melbourne is a big help. Here I am reclining on a comfortable bunk aboard the beautiful yacht *GYPSEA ROVER*, in FNQ. I really would love to be in Melbourne with all of you heroic members, but somebody has to fly the RBYC- CG flag up here in the sunshine and I must ruefully admit that I reluctantly agreed

to undertake the task. I'm not looking for sympathy mind you, but if anyone down there feels sorry for us then they could organise some emergency supplies in the form of a food parcel (caviar, chocolate, coffee pods etc). This would be of enormous help to our survival.

In the meantime I want you all to keep a stiff upper lip until the worst of the Melbourne winter is over. We will return about then.

Will Merritt

**Will's
Wise Words**



Cruising Food with Karen Parker Cook Ahead!

The cold weather is upon us and with it the need for warm comfort food. It isn't always easy to come up with delicious hot meals in a hurry on board so this month Lyn Bingham shares some of the home baked meals which have kept the racing and cruising crews on Mirrabooka sustained. Both meals can be made at home then reheated on board quickly.

Lyn prebakes then freezes the meals so they only require a quick reheat before serving.

The meatloaf is made in disposable foil trays which eliminate the need to cart empty baking tins or casseroles home.

Sausage Rolls

Quantity of beef mince

About half or a little less of above quantity of sausage mince

6 sheets of frozen puff pastry

2 Brown onions, chopped finely and fried

2 cups stale breadcrumbs

1/4 cup tomato paste

1/4 cup Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon cumin

1 teaspoon turmeric

1 teaspoon salt

Egg wash for brushing prior to baking: 1 beaten egg and 1 tablespoon of water.

Sesame seeds (optional)

Line trays with baking paper.

Preheat oven to 200 degrees.

Place all ingredients except pastry and egg wash mix into a large bowl, mix well by hand. Lay pastry sheets on workbench and cut each sheet in half.

Place mixture along length of pastry and roll into a log, sealing the join with water.

Cut each roll into four and place sealed side down on baking trays.

Brush with egg wash and sprinkle over sesame seeds.

Bake for 20 minutes until puffed and golden. Suitable to freeze.

Lyn recently made a Moroccan version with Lamb mince, garlic, chopped mint and spices including cumin, coriander, allspice, nutmeg, ginger, turmeric and cinnamon. A nice accompaniment is hummus, yoghurt and mint or homemade spicy tomato sauce.

Meat Loaf

Quantity of beef mince

About half of the above quantity of sausage mince

1 finely chopped onion

4 rashers of bacon finely chopped

1/2 cup rolled oats

Tomato paste and or tomato sauce

2 Tablespoons of water

Freshly chopped parsley or mixed herbs

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

1 egg

Salt and pepper

Mix ingredients together well and form into two loaves. Place in foil trays and cook in a moderate oven for about one hour.

This freezes well for cruising meals- simply reheat in the oven and serve with vegetables, tinned tomatoes and mashed potato. The mixture can also be used for hamburgers.

Thanks Lyn for sharing two delicious cruising meals, I'm sure they will pop up on many RBYC cruising boats in the next few months! Remember if you have a favourite cruising meal, or time/ energy or boat friendly cooking method to share, please email it to Karen at sailfling@gmail.com

2014 FROSTBITE CRUISE

BY ROBINA SMITH

Is the Cruising Group going soft I wondered as I **DROVE** down to the Club for the 2014 Frostbite Cruise on Sunday. The skies were clearing, the sun was trying to peep out from the clouds and there were few whitecaps out on the Bay. The weather forecast had not been great for the day but we have soldiered on in worse!

The reason for the change of venue to the Club, however, was not the days weather but the storms that had wreaked havoc on the pier a couple of weeks earlier. With the pier deemed unsafe and out of action the only way to get to the boats at the marina was via a tender service. This meant wet feet getting to the tender, a time limit to return to the club and all the difficulties that would follow trying to get all that was required for a BBQ everything out to the boats.

Hence the cruisers settled in to the warmth of RBYC which opened up the option of having the Sunday roast cooked by the fantastic catering staff. It also meant that the frostbite cruise had the upstairs and downstairs crew.

About 15 booked for the Sunday roast and had white table cloth service upstairs to partake of their excellent rack of lamb. Another 10 ate downstairs, with 5 hardy souls cooking on the verandah BBQ's and the other 5 electing to have the Sunday roast.

The upstairs joined the downstairs for coffee in a most convivial atmosphere and some of the downstairs went upstairs to sit in front of the fire for their coffee.

Being an inside venue our winter woollies were not needed so there were only two 'silly winter hats' with the prize going to 'yours truly'. Having come from sunny Brisbane for the weekend I think I was feeling the cold more than most and had remembered to dig out my woollen hat bought from a market in Punta Arenas, Patagonia,

which is guaranteed to keep your head warm and make you stand out from the crowd!

Thanks to Jenny Collins and Roger Walker for organising the day. A great way to catch up with fellow cruisers!



Jenny Collins and Robina Smith wearing 'silly winter hats'



Andrew and Karen Parker with Rob and Nona Hurrell enjoying the Sunday roast.



Ray Tyshing, David Bingham, Chris Tyshing and Lyn Bingham enjoying their BBQ.



Stout hearts of the Cruising Group cooking their BBQ.



After lunch coffee.

MY FAVOURITE ANCHORAGE 'HOLE IN THE WALL', JERVIS BAY

BY ROBINA SMITH



The RYA navigation course teaches that when looking for a good anchorage we are looking for a place that is sheltered from the wind, stream and swell, has a reasonably flat bottom and 'good holding'. You should also choose a place where you will stay afloat when the tide goes out but where it won't be too deep when the tide comes in. Room to swing, clear of rocks and other boats and out of the way of any heavy traffic movements should be taken into consideration. There are many good anchorages to fit this criteria and anchorages that are good until the wind changes direction!

However some anchorages stand out as being our **favourite anchorage**. What is it about a certain anchorage that makes it your favourite? I would love to hear from you and have set the ball rolling with my favourite anchorage.....so far....this year!

My favourite anchorage is the 'Hole in the Wall' anchorage in Jervis Bay. We had just completed a 24 hour sail in trying conditions with 30+kn winds from behind for 18 hours. The wind just didn't ease all night and the seas made life on board uncomfortable.

At first light the sight of Point Perpendicular was a relief and we entered Jervis Bay on a big swell but were soon able to turn to port and the refuge of the 'Hole in the Wall' anchorage.

One welcome mooring buoy was vacant . We were quickly attached and able to restore order to the boat, have a good breakfast and a nap in calm, peaceful conditions.

Over the next few days we were able to explore further. Dinghy access was good with no dumping waves, the scenery was fantastic with great walks along the beach and we had good company for sundowners with another couple who had also sailed up on the same night. When we had a critical need for ice (the fridge was having a meltdown—literally!) we were able to head across the bay and find a shop open on Good Friday. This meant we gave up our mooring buoy but with good holding we weathered the forecast south westerly change on the anchor with ease. Lots of great memories!

Where is your favourite anchorage? Please send contributions to robina_smith@hotmail.com 300 - 400 words and a photo or two.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **Chairman Rod and Sandy Watson, Emma Kate**, on the birth of their grandson, **Oscar James**. He was a gorgeous 3.58kg, 52cm early birthday present for Sandy. They are spending time in Brisbane with the family and granddaughter Audrey has them on the run.

Sandy had a special milestone birthday 2 days after the birth and I believe Audrey was making the birthday cake - yum!!! Hope Rod had time to spoil Sandy on her big day as much as he is spoiling Audrey.

Gypsea Rover's Bryan and Sue, with the Townsville to Cairns crew **Will and Pam**, have arrived in Cairns where the Indonesian Rally boats are gathering before departure for Thursday Island mid July. Rally boats are mainly from Australia and NZ, but also include three Canadian, two English, one American and two German boats. Bryan and Sue have several maintenance jobs to attend to before leaving, including major repairs to Panda the Generator.

Lyn and David Bingham are heading to Central America after visiting their granddaughter in Brisbane. It sounds like their will be some cruising stories to look forward to from their trip.

Kirra Kirra's, John and Jo are cruising from Hamilton Island to Townsville with crew **Will and Pam**. Pam is enjoying flying along in the cat at 9.6 knots with no heeling. Being able to leave things 'unstowed' and stay where they are is a new experience. The latest is they are anchored next to Shag Island - in consistently sunny weather!



Robina and Brenton Smith, **Chakana**, will head off from RQYS next week on the next stage of their cruising journey. They are looking forward to getting back on the water and enjoying the warmer weather for swimming that the boats further north seem to be experiencing.

Please keep your cruising stories, 'Favourite Anchorage' and 'How I Started Sailing' contributions rolling in. This newsletter relies on a flow of member contributions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 18TH JULY FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: Chairman Rod Watson Borneo Cruise

Our very own Chairman Rod will give a presentation of his 2012 Orion Cruise to Borneo.

It will feature photos of the Orangutans of Camp Leakey and other wildlife. Come along for a very interesting evening.

As usual, gather at the Club about 6.30pm, member draw at 7pm, followed by the meal, with the talk at about 8.30pm.

Booking with the office is essential to have accurate numbers for the catering.

Please book with the office (95923092) no later than Wednesday July 16th.

FRIDAY 25th JULY END OF MONTH CRUISE

A cruise in company on Friday July 26th to Melbourne City Marina (ex Waterfront City) to see the Fireworks.

Arrive at about 6 pm, with a meal at a local restaurant following the fireworks. Contacts for this cruise are Will and Pam Merritt. Please email them with your intention to join the cruise at willm@hotkey.net.au

Hopefully there will be access to the marina via the pier by that time.

Book your own berth at the marina.

FRIDAY 15th AUGUST FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: TBC

Food for thought for mariners (and for life):

The pessimist complains about the wind.

The optimist expects it to change.

The realist adjusts the sails.

- William Arthur Ward

Thanks **John Kirra Kirra** for this contribution.

REFLECTIONS OF A GRANDPARENT

Chair Chat

I am coming up for two years since I retired (and became Cruising Chair) and I was contemplating what my achievements have been, contemplating is an honourable pastime when you are retired.

Apart from having a good time, travelling and sailing, my main achievement has been the production of two grandchildren. The second is arriving as I write this. Grand parenting is good, my daughter does all the hard painful work and I reap the rewards. I get to travel to warmer climes and teach my granddaughter bad habits, depart when I feel like it, and leave the resulting messy clean-up to my daughter and son in law.

So we are currently in Brisbane looking after Audrey and awaiting the arrival of a grandson, we are unsupervised and spoiling her rotten. I have not really achieved much in the last 2 years, good eh!

Don't forget the SGM on the 15th July or a proxy if you can't make it.

P.S. Healthy grandson has now arrived. Eh ha more fun!!



Captain Coxswain's Corner

'TO TURN A BLIND EYE'

The expression 'Turn a Blind Eye' is attributed to the belief that during the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801 Admiral Lord Nelson wilfully disobeyed a flag signal to withdraw from battle by putting the telescope to his blind eye.

Nowadays, of course, we use this term when choosing to ignore behaviour that we know is wrong.