



CRUISING NEWS



FEBRUARY 2015

NEW CHAIRPERSON AT THE HELM OF CRUISING GROUP



At the Cruising Group Hardstand Christmas Party in December Chairman Rod officiated at his last function as he has handed over the helm to incoming Chairman of Cruising Group, Roger Walker.

Roger has been a member of Cruising Group for several years and has been a member of the committee for nearly two years. Roger along with Ronda have been active participants in Cruising Group activities both off the water and on in their boat *Catwalk*.

Roger has been involved with the CFA for many years and so is no stranger at organising a disparate group of people with a common interest.

Good luck Chairman Roger!

FABULOUS WEATHER FOR HARDSTAND CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY ROBINA SMITH

Although the early arrivals went searching for the little shade provided by the shipping containers we were soon grateful for the warm, balmy evening that followed to celebrate the end of another successful year for the Cruising Group.

As the sun set over the horizon and the majority of people arrived, the sun hats were replaced with an assortment of fancy Christmas headwear signalling the start of the festivities.

CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson	Roger Walker.....0407 844 992	Will Merritt.....9598 8626
		Pam Merritt.....9598 8626
Secretary	Jenny Collins.....9585 1154	David Pollard.....9596 5633
		Richard Johnson.....0419 361 285
		Sandy Watson.....0418 906 417
		Rod Watson.....0409 507 480
Editor	Robina Smith.....0403 791 347	Kathy De Garis.....0417 392 811
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The BBQ's were fired up and everyone cooked their BYO everything meal while lubricating their throats ready for the traditional carol singing.

We started with some traditional carols ably led by Kathy De Garis (soprano) and her team of choral singers (Vanessa Twig - the General Committee's liaison person with Cruising Group, Jacqui Lucas, Cath Hurley and James Heywood - current RBYC Club Captain). This was followed by a harmonious rendition of 'The Silver Stars in the Sky' by the choris-

ters.

More traditional carols followed before the Christmas cake was shared amongst the cruisers. Wheelbarrows were re-packed as the Cruisers wished each other Merry Christmas and went their respective ways, some to continue to party on their boats and others to homes.

A wonderful wrap up to the cruising year once again!



Brenton, Rob, David B and David S.



Ronda, Jenny and Marion.



Seeking the shade!



Ted, Lyn, Pam and Maree.



Kathy De Garis



Vanessa, Jacqui, Cath, James and Kathy.



Don R , Don M and Grant.



Rob, David S and Sally.



As the sun goes down!



24th BIRTHDAY CRUISE TO ROYALS

BY ROBINA SMITH

With a forecast of 15-20 knot south westerly winds turning southerly 15-20 knots, ten boats sailed across to Royals on the 18th January for the Cruising Groups 24th birthday. With a brisk sail in store some elected to drive.

Frances, (see below) sailed by Past Commodore Peter Johns and his crew cruised about in Hobsons Bay welcoming the cruisers as they sailed across before joining us at Royals.

After tying up the boats to various walkways the 88 cruisers in attendance settled in on the verandah to enjoy catching up and swapping stories about their various cruising activities and enjoying some great food.

John Lute and Jenny Stone, *Corazon*, had travelled the most nautical miles in the past month with a fabulous sail back from Manly, Brisbane to RBYC taking 10 days with two overnight stops at Pittwater and Eden. They had the most amazing weather window!

After a warm welcome from Commodore David Seaman of Royals, John Mowson, our Founding Chairman, cut the birthday cake. John and his wife Jill were visiting from Perth. John was one of the original members of the group who were instrumental in the formation of the Cruising Group at RBYC. Their ketch, *Greenouch*, a Walker H28 ketch is now based at the Royal Perth Yacht Club. If they want to go to sea from the Swan River they need to lower her masts so they restrict their sailing to the smoother waters of the Swan River these days. According to Jill they 'no longer spill the champagne'!

While chatting to John Mowson and David Pollard the question as to how the Cruising Group started came up. I have written this conversation up in the newsletter with some added research by Lyn Bingham. Maybe this is the start of the Cruising Group written history ready for the silver anniversary next year!

Past members, Sue and Peter Pritchard, *Dansear*, also attended. They have sold their boat and are now land-cruising in their caravan.

With the fresh wind on the nose it was a lumpy motor cruise back to RBYC after a very enjoyable day out.

Boats attending were: **Andalucia, Aquacadabra, Charlie-bird, Corazon, Frances, Lena, Mirrabooka, Summer Wind, Sunkiss, Wild Child, Wise of Time**. Represented boats where the crew drove were: **Amelia, Cat Walk, Emma Kate, Pizazz**. Apologies to anyone I have omitted.

Editors Note: John and Jill wished to thank everyone from RBYC in attendance for their hospitality. They were made to feel very welcome and are missing us already.



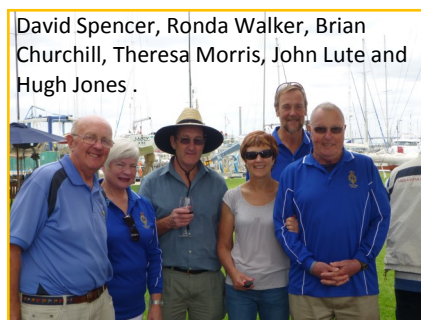
John Mowson cutting the birthday cake overseen by Roger Walker.



Lyn Bingham, Wendy and David Pollard, Barb Richmond, Jill and John Mowson.



A full verandah at Royals.



David Spencer, Ronda Walker, Brian Churchill, Theresa Morris, John Lute and Hugh Jones.

Frances is an International 8 metre, built by Ernie Digby in Williamstown and launched in 1948. From 1961- 1968 she was owned by RBYC member Bruce Macgregor and David Petley, carried the sail number B1 and was known as Brigitte. She competed in 7 Sayonara Regattas from 1951 to 1962 and won 3 times. Today's owners are Peter and Karen Johns who race her every second Sunday in the classic yacht series aided by a very capable crew of RBYC skip-pers.



Frances

HOW CRUISING GROUP BEGAN

BY ROBINA SMITH - AFTER DISCUSSION WITH JOHN MOWSON AND DAVID POLLARD, RESEARCH BY LYN BINGHAM AND INPUT FROM MIRIAM AND BRIAN CHERRY.



It seems that the birth of the Cruising Group came about when likeminded people came together with their ideas and common interest.

In 1990 David Pollard was a member of the sailing committee representing the 2nd Division. He did a survey of the yachts in the marina to form a yachting register classifying the yachts into 3 Divisions. However, while conducting the survey he found a group of yachts that couldn't be placed in any of these Divisions as they were cruising boats and would have been placed into a Cruising Division.

Meanwhile, John Mowson had been reading about Cruising Groups in yachting magazines and this sowed the seed in his mind that RBYC could have a Cruising Group.

Ian Twentyman, the Commodore of RBYC at the time, was in favour of the idea and supported the formation of the Cruising Division as part of the Sailing Committee. He, John Mowson and Jim Patton used to have morning tea out at the marina on John's boat 'Greenouch' with David Pollard joining in after a time. This was when the discussion started about forming the Cruising Division and the activities they could organise.

Miriam and Brian Cherry were racing at the time in third division and cruising occasionally along the northern Bass Strait coast. They had just bought Peter Joubert's Billa-bong and were keen to extend their cruising further off shore - so they joined in.

John Mowson became the Founding Chairman of this group with a common interest called 'Cruising Division' and they had a number of successful trips. John recalls that he spent 18 months on the committee before moving to Perth and used to ring people to make things happen. John and Jill both played instruments in the Melbourne

Symphony Orchestra for years – leading double bass and bassoon. He had the idea of a Classical Music Night but the first one was after they moved to Perth. David Mattiske, who was also in this core group in the Cruising Division, also had an interest in the MSO (his boat was named *Allegro ma non troppo*) and was responsible for the first few Classical Music Nights.

Their first sail after the Cruising Division formed was to Royals in January 1991. Hence the 24th Birthday Cruise this year. With the Silver Anniversary next year, put the third Sunday of January 2016 in your diary now.

In the 117th Annual Report for the Season 1991-1992 under **COMMODORE'S ANNUAL REPORT** one paragraph reads:

'This year saw a further interest in cruising and the group had a number of successful trips. Our founding Chairman moved to Perth during the year, however, from a sound start the Division, now led by Rear Commodore Clive Hearne and member Jim Patton, has continued to assist members not so keen on racing to sail together and enjoy their boats.

Ian Twentyman
Commodore'

At this time the Cruising Division came under the auspices of the sailing committee.

By the following year the Cruising Division formed its own subcommittee with Vice Commodore Clive Hearn as the Chairman of the Cruising Division presenting the **Inaugural Report of the Cruising Division**. The Annual Report also lists the Cruising Division Sub-Committee for 1992/1993 as: Vice Commodore Clive Hearne (Chairman), Ken Brown, Peter Metherall, Fergus McPherson, Jim Patton and David Pollard.

In the RBYC 118th Annual Report for Season 1992-1993, page 8 reads:

'CRUISING DIVISION REPORT

I am pleased to present this inaugural report on behalf of all RBYC Cruising Yachtsmen.

Early this season it was agreed to form a Sub-Committee to cater for the needs and to further the aims of Members who wish to pursue yachting in the broader sense, complementing our Sailing Committee's task of administering the racing program.

Although our Club's Charter refers to "racing be-

tween yachts in particular" it is obvious that most boats go to sea at times other-than and as-well-as racing. We have at present 73 yachts and more than 160 members registered as "Cruising Members" of RBYC.

Our program has become an integral part of "on water" and ashore events at the Club.

Regular meetings to share special interests and information are held monthly. Our thanks to those Members and guests who have shared their experiences with us. Information is also published in our 'Cruising Newsletter'. Congratulations to our editor Peter Metherall for his effort this year. Kindred Clubs who also have active Cruising fleets have formed a 'Combined' Committee to co-ordinate voyages and day trips this season. A highlight will be a 'Cruise in Company' to Lord

Howe Island during February 1994.

Many RBYC yachts have cruised to distant parts over recent years but none more successfully than 'Gumblossom'. Congratulations to Thorry Gunnerson winner of our first 'Cruiser of the Year' award. Finally thanks to my committee, especially Jim Patton and David Pollard and members Di Patton, Judy Hodgkins and Joan Hearne for their contribution to our social activities.

CLIVE HEARN

Vice Commodore

In October 1998, with Clive Hearn driving the decision, it was decided that they didn't want to continue calling it the Cruising Division as they felt they didn't want to alienate those in other divisions from joining and making it divisive. Hence, the name was changed to Cruising Group.



Left: Past and present chairpersons at Royals Birthday Cruise, 2015. Roger Walker, Will Merritt, Lyn Bingham, John Mowson and Rod Watson.



Right: Past and present newsletter editors at Royals Birthday Cruise, 2015. Pam Merritt, Bill Westerbeeck, Lyn Bingham and Robina Smith.

During 2015 it is our intention to write the history of Cruising Group as next year will be the 25th anniversary. Pam Merritt is coordinating this. If you have any photos that would be relevant to add to our history please scan and send to Pam.

wilm@hotkey.net.au Write up any stories or memories of Cruising Group activities and send to either Pam or Robina. It would be good to put some in the newsletter. If you need help with scanning contact Robina. robina_smith@hotmail.com

Now I'm not one to diminish the achievements of famous people but even I can reach the limits of my tolerance. I'm confident that all of our readers are totally familiar with the works of Sir Francis Beaufort. There is of course no need for me to remind you that he achieved the rank of Rear Admiral and served with great distinction in the Royal Navy as the Admiralty Hydrographer for 26 years, making him the holder of that office longer than any other officer before or since.

Well might you ask: What is there about the famous man that would exasperate 'Will the Wise One'? Allow me to explain. He stated that a near gale would blow at 34-40 knots and in open water would generate 18 foot waves forming crests with spindrift. Do you read anywhere in this description mention of the fact that a pair of thongs, placed flat on a concrete walkway, will blow away? I can tell you that that is what will happen, as I will explain.

I was recently visiting a friend's boat and, being

aware that the walkway was overly decorated with seagull droppings, decided to leave my expensive footwear (\$4 is not to be sneezed at!) ashore for the duration of my visit. You can guess the rest, can't you. While I was aboard, enjoying a quiet drink, a 40 knot squall passed over and I watched in dismay as my treasured thongs disappeared into the water. My bitter disappointment was confounded by the total lack of sympathy by those present or any attempt to help retrieve my prized possessions.

The lesson is to remember that, as Confucius said: 'Man who leave valuables out in storm must expect to get seagull shit on feet'. should drop back to be astern of 'Andalucia' and just follow her around the course.

Will Merritt

Will's Wise Words

MY WORST ANCHORAGE

BY PETER STRAIN

We sailed up from Pancake Creek, Central Queensland, heading north to the planned anchorage at The Yellow Patch just inside Cape Capricorn on Curtis Island. Rounding the Cape at 1230 hours into more exposed waters of Keppel Bay the wind was now steadily over 20 knots. Dropping the sails we were unable to identify the entrance to Yellow Patch, a huge sand dune behind Cape Capricorn but with seas rising, it was decided to find the next best option.

Having logged with Gladstone VMR we radioed and sought advice, which was to continue on to Pacific Creek the other side of Curtis Island at the start of the North entrance to the Narrows. As we got to Keppel rocks at the top of Curtis Island the predicted front, trough, squall, hit. Winds gusting to 40 knots. Not far from the lee shore the waves were small but the wind was ripping spray off the swell. 15 minutes later we were at the entrance to Pacific Creek but with the high windage of a big cat such as ours and the lack of knowledge of the entrance we decided to continue up the Narrows to seek an easier shelter.

Deception Creek seemed the solution. Gladstone VMR supported the decision but warned of difficulties in setting the anchor as the mud bottom was reported to be hard and not particularly conducive to anchoring. Sure enough, we had got some shelter from the wind which had moderated somewhat, but we could not get the anchor to hold. We rested for some time in the second branch off the creek.

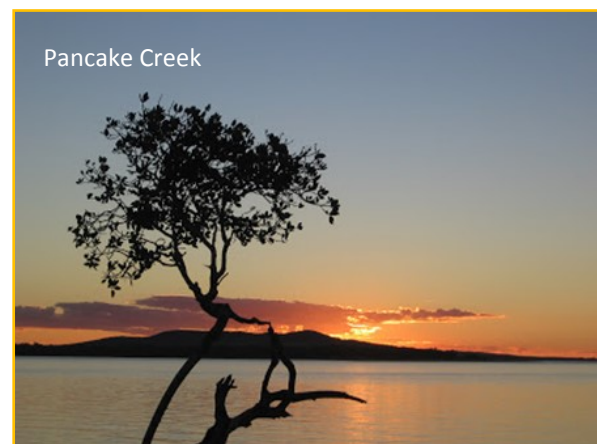
Our crew cooked up a storm in the galley and with the wind still up over 20 knots the boat started dragging again. In pitch dark the boat was careering in all directions but eventually the boat appeared to get a hold. On anchor watch till after 2:00am seeing out the change in the tide which swung the boat 180 degrees, we seemed to be staying put.

After a restless night as we rose at dawn and the boat started to drag again. After the traumas of the day before and up for an early breakfast we had more discussions with VMR Gladstone and finally reached a unanimous decision to head back to Pacific Creek. An hour later we were anchored in Club Mangrove. We had heard a boat *Sedona* the day before giving advice on the radio about the creek and so we also consulted. They were very helpful and friendly and a great support. After setting the anchor with great ease we went up to thank them only to be invited back for drinks in the evening. They had invited all the 5 boats in the creek. *Sedona* is a beautiful 43 foot serious all weather sloop but not built for cocktails for 12 people on deck, unlike *It's a Privilege*.

The *Privilege* had a very large CQR anchor and while walk-

ing around marinas up and down the coast we noted they were by far the most common. The experience made me concerned and aware of the importance of anchors. Out along the Queensland islands in warm water my son and I would regularly snorkel down and look to see the set of the anchor and would more often than not see the CQR just lying on its side not really dug in at all. This may be attributable to my lack of skill at setting the anchor.

I started to look around underwater at other boats anchors and look at how they were set. On a trip cruising the Greek Islands where the usual procedure is to drop anchor and back up to a jetty or wharf I made it a practice to swim along with goggles and look at how all the anchors had set. Almost without fail the CQR's were lying on their side not really dug in. After more research I came across an anchor test of 14 different anchors. The CQR's rated very poorly. The new New Zealand anchors by contrast were rated very well. The *Privilege* now has a Manson Supreme which has been fantastic and given us great peace of mind. (Have a PDF copy of the anchor test if anyone would like a copy)



Editors note: Please send in more stories as to your best or worst anchorages either in the bay or further afield. Or even a marina that you have enjoyed your stay at (or not.....!) I am always looking for contributions.

THANKYOU DINNER FOR PAST CHAIRMAN ROD

The Cruising Group committee and their partners held a dinner to thank Immediate Past Chairman Rod for his leadership of the Cruising Group over the past 2 years. A presentation was made by Chairman Roger. Cheryl and her team catered for our lovely meal and a great evening was had by all.



David and Wendy Pollard, Kathy De Garis, Alan Richardson, Jenny Collins, Roger and Ronda Walker.



Brenton Smith, Rod and Sandy Watson, Will and Pam Merritt.

NEW YEARS EVE ON THE HARDSTAND

As has become the custom in previous years some of our cruisers welcomed in 2015 with a gathering in the marina on Row 4. As midnight approached the group headed to the wave attenuator to watch the fireworks in what must be the best vantage point to see the overall skyline with the fireworks bursting from the tops of the city buildings.



As can be seen by the fleeces and beanies it was a chilly evening.

MEMBER NEWS

Several boats from the Cruising Group have been out and about on the bay over summer. **Andalucia** had a short trip to Geelong after the forecast westerly made **Will and Pam** change their plans from Queenscliff as a destination.

Sophistique made her usual journey to Flinders where she has a mooring for the summer. **Richard and Marion** brought forward their plans of when to go through The Heads to miss some forecast strong winds. Several boats participated in the Festival of Sails to Geelong.

Jenny Stone and John Lute, Corazon, had a quick sail back from Manly, Brisbane with an amazing weather window. It took them 10 days with two nights at Pittwater and one at Eden to refresh and reprovision. **Tony Garvey** joined them as crew to help with the watches.

Kirra Kirra sailed into Sydney Harbour this week after spending time over Christmas on the hard at Southport having some work done. **John and Jo** spent Christmas in Pt Macquarie on a land trip. They have an extra crew member on their way south - their dog **Tasha**. With light NE winds forecast all week they will keep heading south.

Tom Hinton and Alison Roberts Wray, Boomooroo, are heading south from Mooloolaba. They had a slow start as they both had Ciguatera from eating fish at a live aboards bbq. They have left **Boomooroo** at Yamba after 10 days in the Clarence River as the weather was not cooperative. They will head back to Yamba in March to continue their trip.

Allan Haddow, Ophelia, has arrived in Port Welshpool after spending two weeks at Cleeland Bight and New Haven Yacht Club waiting for a weather window to continue his single handed sail across the paddock to Eden and up the east coast. **Scott Cumming** joined him on the first leg from RBYC to San Remo.

Robina and Brenton Smith, **Chakana**, are proud first time grandparents to Hazel Olivia who arrived on 10/2/15.

Sandy and Rod Watson, Emma Kate, are enjoying cruising of a different kind. Inspired by Forum talks on the Beagle Channel and the Antarctic in recent years they are spending time there themselves. Hope they packed the thermals!

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speakers: Jenny Stone and Hugh Jones
Norway Cruising

In 2014, Jenny Stone with her partner John Lute and Hugh with his wife Jo cruised the fiords of Norway on different boats. They will be giving us an overview of their cruises with a wonderful slideshow of the magnificent scenery.

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

Please book with the office (95923092) no later than Wednesday February 18th. Bookings essential.

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY ANNUAL BASS STRAIT CRUISE IN COMPANY

Boats will gather at QCYC and start planning their destination according to the latest weather. Whether to go east, south or west and on which day will be decided after much examination of the various weather forecasts and wind predictor programs. If you haven't contacted cruise coordinator Rob Hurrell then do so now! robnona@bigpond.net.au

FRIDAY 27th MARCH ANNUAL BOAT PROGRESSIVE DINNER

****Please note this is the 4th Friday due to the PIF Charity Sailing Challenge clashing on 3rd Friday****

Gather at the club for predinner drinks, main course on first allocated boat, dessert on second allocated boat then all gather back for port and chocolates. Sounds confusing but it works!

This evening is only possible because of the generosity of boat owners who provide main course or dessert for 6-8 people (all costs reimbursed) on their boats. Pam Merritt would love to hear from all boats who would like to host a course. willm@hotkey.net.au
Non-boat owners are always warmly welcomed and need to also book through Pam. Cost is \$20 per person.

SUNDAY 29th MARCH END OF MONTH ON WATER ACTIVITY SABOT CRUISE TO ROYALS

Cruise to Royals as a combined activity with Sabot sailors and their families. The idea is to give the Sabot kids and their parents a 'Big Boat' experience. BYO everything for a BBQ lunch on the lawn. Buy drinks at the bar.

This has become a fabulous annual event. Please email Jenny Collins to let her know your intention to join the cruise and volunteer your boat.
jacngrant@gmail.com

WANTED URGENTLY

Relief newsletter layout person required for four months from May to August. A proficiency in Publisher or other graphics program needed. Please see Robina Smith or contact her robina_smith@hotmail.com
Editor is cruising offshore in these months and will not have the internet to work on the layout.

Armchair Chat

WHO IS THIS FELLOW?

A number of RBYC Cruisers may be wondering: who is this fellow who has taken command of the good ship 'RBYC Cruising Group'? Some will be aware that the transition from Chairman Rod to Chairman Roger was fairly painless for Rod.

So, a little bit of history. During WW2 my father spent four and a half years as a POW. As you would expect, letters home from prison camp were rare and subject to censorship. One that I still have simply suggests that I must learn to swim, so that when he arrives home he can teach me to sail. My love of sailing started when I sailed on a Sandridge Sharpie with my father at Sandringham.

Farming stalled my progress, although for a couple of years I crewed with a friend on Lake Eppalock, near Bendigo, on a Gwen 12. In 1980 Ronda and I bought a trailer sailer, which was replaced by a Duncanson 35. We now sail *Catwalk*, a Catalina 309.

Chairman Roger



Captain Coxswain's Corner

'BLAZER'

In the early 1800's a captain Washington decided that the crew rowing the ship's tender would look better if they were uniformly dressed. He decided on short jackets with blue and white stripes. This was a radical departure from the haphazard dress of the day. The idea caught on and was adopted by other ships and then by schools and sports teams. Washington's ship was HMS Blazer.