



# CRUISING NEWS



APRIL 2015

## 2015 ANNUAL BASS STRAIT CRUISE

BY NONA HURRELL



Aquacadabra 's route.



The group of cruisers at Apollo Bay.

7 boats went on the 2015 Bass Strait Cruise. *Andalucia*, crewed by Will, Pam & Brian, *Y-knot*, two-handed with Craig and Steve, *Sun Kiss*, David and Sally with a strong British contingent in Roger, *Enya*, with John and Heather, Maurie and Reama (in matching crew shirts of course), *Mirrabooka* with an all boy crew of David, Tony (recently retired and can't stop smiling), Ray and Ian, *It's a Privilege*, with Peter, Susie, Norman and Chris & *Aquacadabra*, Rob, Nona, Lloyd and Shanna. In total there were 24 cruisers, including 7 women; the latter represented quality not quantity!

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb saw all 7 boats make their way to Queenscliff where a superb, balmy evening was spent at QCYC barbecuing, catching up with friends and making plans for the next couple of days.

On Sunday, the cruise really began with 2 main shifts heading for Apollo Bay. The 6-7am shift consisted of *Andalucia*, *Y-knot*, *Sun Kiss* and *Enya*. *Mirrabooka* and *It's a Privilege* head-

ed off around midday followed up in the rear by the cruise leader Rob and *Aquacadabra*. Nona confessed to being a Port Phillip Heads virgin, but the conditions were so benign the Rp was hardly noticed.

Conditions were light south easterly winds and flat seas so motoring and sailing were both the order of the day. *It's a Privilege* and *Enya* reported some excitement as they went through thunder and lightning storms while others observed them from more of a distance.

The morning of day 3 enabled us to find each other spread out in the Apollo Bay marina. *Mirrabooka* seemed to be jogging around at the end of a floating jetty while others were less exposed



Nona and Rob exiting Pt Phillip heads.

### CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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*It's a Privilege* and *Aquacadabra* tied up at Apollo Bay.

and *Aquacadabra* became a challenge. 4 extension cords were found and joined together, and after about ½ hour of toing and froing they had their caffeine 'lift off'. Peter and Lloyd seemed particularly happy.

Heather (*Enya*) struggled with the smell of garlic sausages pervading everything in their frig. Having decided to eat dinner at the Apollo Bay pub that evening she couldn't get rid of the sausages fast enough. Barbequing them for lunch on the Apollo Bay foreshore was the best solution. This eventuated in an interesting cultural experience as the *Enya* crew shared stories and food with some Chinese tourists. The sliced cold sausages also turned up presented as hors d'oeuvres at happy hour that evening!

### Local fish

While at Port Fairy some hobby fisherman came in with a big catch which caught our attention. They'd caught a 2 metre Mako shark and were cleaning it, tossing the scraps into the river where the local very fat seal and 2 huge sting rays were hovering to glean their dinner. Our enthusiasm caused them to offer some fish if we brought over a plastic bag. When I took over a large zip lock bag they laughed at me...was I appearing greedy? Evidently they were so generous they'd expected to give us heaps more than one bag full, but still having a well-stocked frig, I was only thinking one meal. Great eating it was too, lightly baked on a bed of herb potatoes, onion, carrot and cherry tomatoes.

### Sporting events

The **2015 Bocce championships** were held on Monday evening on the very uneven grass surface outside the Apollo Bay Sailing Club. Pam, ably assisted by Roger, calculated using a method called 'triangular numbers', that there needed to be

Winners of Bocce competition, *Sun Kiss*, accepting the trophy.



to the surges, or rafted together along-side the main jetty.

### Degustation tales

The logistics of running coffee machines on *It's a Privilege*

faulting. Sally (*Sun Kiss*) seems to have been having secret lessons as she led her team to winning the trophy, closely followed by *Y-knot* and *It's a Privilege*. Rob & Lloyd played some really good shots, so in spite of winning the wooden spoon for *Aquacadabra*, were not shamed.

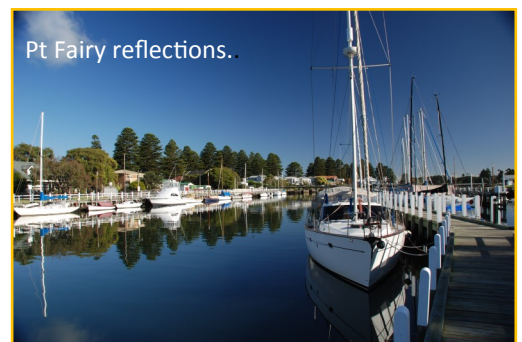
### Klop (Scandinavian Skittles)

The next evening the same patch of uneven grass became the stage for a game of Klop. A new game to most people but ably explained by Will and scored by the 'Events Manager' Pam. Most of us were taken quite by surprise at the bounciness of a rolling pin! When the women were taunted about possibly being skilled at tossing a rolling pin, Shanna said that she finds a fry pan much more convenient. Does that explain the flat bit on the top of Lloyd's head? Maurie from *Enya* won the tournament. Most of us were struggling to stay in the game but Maurie had carefully calculated his total score and suddenly reached the exact total of 50 points – quite the tactician!

### Exiting Apollo Bay Harbour.

On day 4 a trimaran exit from Apollo Bay was made by *It's a Privilege* after Lloyd had made his coffee and was prepared to unplug the extension cords. Still rafted to *It's a Privilege*, *Aquacadabra* put its new, powerful, very noisy bow-thruster into gear and steered both boats away from the jetty. Still joined, they turned around in the harbour then like the birthing of a whale, the ropes were released and mama whale went on her way back to Port Phillip. Farewell to Peter, Susie, Chris, and Norman.

Wednesday morning there was another parting of the ways. *Aquacadabra* left first at about 6.15 am and 'gave it the gun' coming out of the Apollo Bay harbour. Next was *Y-knot* about an hour later who said it was great fun but as 'rough as it gets'. *Mirrabooka* left with *Sun Kiss* in the early evening because the harbour exit had silted up and they needed all the depth they could muster. *Sun Kiss* produced the most drama, catching a 2 metre breaking wave that laid them to 45 degrees with a load of water coming into the cockpit. It seemed they re-grouped and had a pleasant relatively relaxing motor to Port Fairy.



Pt Fairy reflections.

Some took the coastal route, while others passed close to Lady Julia Percy Island. This flat topped island which juts out of the ocean seems to be an idyllic habitat for seals which could be seen and clearly heard barking.

*Andalucia* with Will, Pam and Brian on board, and *Enya* with John, Heather, Maurie and Reama (still beautifully attired in their matching red jumpers) decided not to move on to Port Fairy.



## Portland to New Year Island

Day 7 saw another parting of the ways with tour guide Sally (*Sun Kiss*) having gathered enough tourist information to keep herself, Roger and David occupied for the next few days in Portland. *Mirrabooka*, *Aquacadabra* and *Y-knot* had King Island in view so when the south westerly change came through mid-afternoon they headed off with a consistent 15-20kt breeze throughout the night.

### The race was on:



Relaxing on the voyage.

During the night Craig was on watch on *Y-knot* when *Mirrabooka* cut in front of him. Could Craig see the whites of their eyes? All we know is that he 'felt luffed' and it helped

keep him awake and alert when he was getting a bit weary.

Race results: Line honours -*Mirrabooka*

Two-handed division, 1<sup>st</sup> place -*Y-knot*

Mixed crew division 1<sup>st</sup> place -*Aquacadabra*

By the time the 3 boats reached New Year and Christmas Islands on the NW tip of King Island they had spent 16 – 18 hours at sea. The seas had also picked up with approx. a 3-4m swell. Anchored between the islands, breakfast was well earned. Rob, always keen to keep the crew happy and cooperative, decided a more calm anchorage was required. Crew consensus was to head for Grassy for a few days. Meanwhile

team *Mirrabooka* planned to disembark on one of the islands to check out the rabbits, snakes and cabbages! Not sure what else they found.

### The cruise winds up a bit early.

On the Wednesday to Friday of the second week, the weather forecast for Bass Strait included winds of up to 40 kts. Time to hot sail it back to Port Phillip. *Aquacadabra* arrived at QCYC at midnight on Tues, and heard that *Y-knot* arrived at RBYC about the same time after Craig had worked on a blocked fuel line for many hours in Bass Strait. *Mirrabooka* made it back in plenty of time for David's dinner engagement on Thursday evening. *Enya* and *Andalucia* had spent a few days more in Apollo Bay, Queenscliff and Port Arlington – they'll have to tell their own stories. *Sun-Kiss* went from Portland back to Apollo Bay making a less dramatic exit from the harbour on their return to Queenscliff at the end of the second week.



Grassy Harbour.



Crew at Grassy, King Island. Shanna, Lloyd and Nona.

## A CRUISEY CRUISE

BY PAM MERRITT



Andalucia and Enyans living it up at Apollo Bay Sailing Club.

This years cruise was notable for several reasons:

- \*Cool, windy weather.
- \*Male to female ratio ( girls- where are you? 17 men and 7 women)
- \*Early fragmentation of the group - mainly due to weather.

\*A group of fabulous people with the usual cruising camaraderie and willingness to help others.

It was the 'Andalucians' 15th consecutive Bass Strait cruise with our group. In this time we've visited and revisited many great Bass Strait anchorages so this year, with some less than ordinary weather forecasts, we opted for a 'Cruisy Cruise' in company with Enya. It's easy to spend leisurely time at Apollo Bay with abundant coffee shops, V-line bus trip to Lorne and the (not so leisurely) walk up to Mariners Lookout for fabulous views of the area.

When it finally came time to leave we contemplated heading to Flinders and spending a few nights in Westernport, but with 40 knots forecast the following day opted instead for the safe haven of QCYC. Good timing as we were able to participate in their Sunday morning working bee! On the way home we stopped at Portarlington for the night, an anchorage we hadn't visited for several years. We took a minor diversion past the new, but not yet completed, Wyndham Marina at Werribee to find that the entrance is currently blocked off with work inside the marina under-way. A promising sign we thought.



Girl power!

# SUN KISS SAILS TO PORTLAND

BY SALLY SPENCER

The recent RBYC cruise saw Sun Kiss venture out through the heads for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. Previously we had sailed east and south so we were happy when the winds favoured a sail to Apollo Bay. With very able seaman Roger Lloyd we set off in compa-

Apollo Bay entrance in established easterly.



ny with *Andalu-cia*, *Mirrabooka*, *Aquacadabra*, *Y-Knot* and *Enya*. Then on the tail of an easterly wind we followed *Acquacadabra*, *Y-Knot* and *Mirrabooka* westward after some conflict with a wave

which tested *Sun Kiss's* righting reflex at the entrance to the harbour.

It was good to visit Port Fairy again but after a 24 hour stay to

Portland Harbour.



recover from the overnighter we were able to sail most of the 30 miles to Portland. The harbour is large and we realised that we could have taken our sails down inside. We enjoyed the new marina but are hoping that a couple of showers could be provided closer by.

After 24 hours our bigger companions decided to head off to Christmas and New Year Islands on the NW corner of King Island but because of an impending strong SW change the Sun Kiss crew decided to stay longer in Portland. There was plenty to do – visiting History House, walking through the pleasant Botanic Gardens and riding on the tram which plies the foreshore. Nearly every local person

Sunset in Portland Harbour.

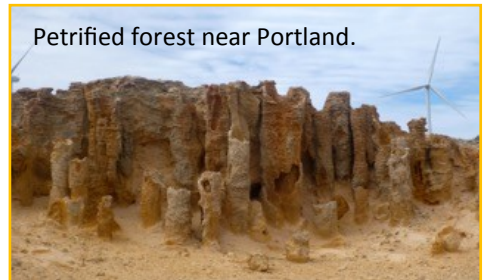


told us of the 2 cruise ships which had visited during the week. We met up with members of the Portland Yacht Club as they were preparing for their afternoon races. Roger's help on the flag and rescue boat was welcomed and David crewed on another 34ft keelboat. They were a friendly lot.

The next day we enjoyed visiting the Discovery Centre which is located close to the marina and which has good displays of Portland's sealing and whaling and also the life boat history which had assisted at many of the shipwrecks in the vicinity. After that we visited the war services museum which is located in an old water tower, also very interesting, with a spectacular view of the town and the harbour. Having had a good look around, two

members of the yacht club took us for a drive past the aluminium smelter to Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater where we saw a "petrified forest" which looks like trees but isn't.

Petrified forest near Portland.



On our return we had planned to visit Port Fairy again but with a strong SW change forecast we decided to go straight to Apollo Bay. From Lady Julia Percy Island we had a good sail and enjoyed seeing the red cliffs of the Shipwreck Coast glowing in the sunset. My mind did turn to those early sailors as the wind came up in the early hours of the morning as we were rounding Cape Otway and we half furled the jib and put 2 reefs in the

main. David and Roger had to steer as the swell with the wind behind us was too much for our auto helm. However once in the lee of Cape Otway we were able to use

Sailing along the Shipwreck Coast.



it again and we moored at 7.30 am after a 21 hour sail.

Being stormbound in Apollo Bay for 3 days we took the local bus to Lorne for a day. Then carefully choosing our time of exit (4.30am) we made our way to Queenscliff arriving 2 weeks after we had left and had a break there before heading back to RBYC.



# 9TH ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

BY ROBINA SMITH

On the 27th March the Royal Brighton Cruising Group held their 9th Annual Progressive Dinner in blustery conditions but thankfully no rain.

Organising our borrowed boat, *Thunder*, in the afternoon (actually nothing to do as it had been left spotless by Tony, even putting the dodger up!) we wondered about seasickness as she danced around in the pen. Luckily all was calm by the time we sat down for dessert.

The Cruisers met in the Members Bar for pre-dinner drinks and delicious nibbles organised by Kathy and Allan and waited expectantly for the member draw that has jackpotted to the highest it has ever been - more than a BOAT unit. We could all use one of these! However we were left to drown our disappointment for the rest of the evening and ponder the possibility of next week.

The main course boat hosts made haste out to the marina to put on the last minute touches to their meals before the guests arrived. Peter Strain had a magnificent green curry and rice bubbling away on the stove of *It's a Privilege* when we arrived, with only Susie missing for a bit as she was being sociable at the bar. Good food, good company, a perfect start to the evening. Other boats had curries, pasta and other menus that are easy to rustle up in a limited galley.

The convivial dinner had to come to an end when it was time to move on to our dessert boats where another selection of scrumptious food was presented on a new set of boats with another group of guests. Lucky we have the walk from one boat to another to make room!

Just when we had all relaxed with a sense of fulfilment it was time to all get together on *Looking Good* for port and chocolates to swap stories of the evening and catch up with friends we had not seen during the evening.



Don, Susie, Will, Sally and Barbara on *Looking Good*.

Another fabulous progressive dinner!

A huge thankyou to our main course and dessert boats and a special thankyou to Howard Meltzer for allowing us to use *Looking Good* for port and chocolates at the end of the evening. We appreciate so many volunteers who make this night so successful!

Bronwyn and James *Alegria*  
 Sally and Murray *Amelia*  
 Pam and Will *Andalucia*  
 Ronda and Roger *Catwalk*  
 Wendy and David *Charliebird*  
 Jenny and John *Corazon Viaje*  
 Sandy and Rod *Emma Kate*  
 Sue and Rod *Emma Kate*

John *Happy J*  
 Susie and Peter *It's a Privilege*  
 Miriam and Brian *Lena*  
 Marie and Ted *Pizazz*  
 Marion and Richard *Sophistique*  
 Sally and David *Sun Kiss*  
 Robina and Brenton *Thunder* (borrowed from Tony)  
 Jan and John *Wise of Time*



John Lute, Jenny Stone and Brenton Smith on *Corazon Viaje*.



Barbara, Geoff, Wendy, David, Robina, Susie and Peter on *It's a Privilege*.



Enjoying the hospitality on *Looking Good*.



Jenny, Grant and Geoff.



Bryan, Sue, Jan, Brian and Miriam.

# JUNIORS SAIL TO ROYALS

BY ROBINA SMITH

In perfect weather the annual Cruising Group outing to Royal Yacht Club of Victoria at Williamstown took place on 29th March. Assembled in the Members Bar, Simon Tedstone allocated the 21 juniors and their parents to the boats *Andalucia*, *Cat Walk*, *It's a Privilege*, *Reverie* and *Thunder*.

With crew organised and no wind we motored across to Royals where we enjoyed our picnic/bbq/counter meal on the verandah. With plenty of lawn area the juniors amused themselves with various impromptu games and also explored the marina. In other words the adults had a relaxing time chatting among themselves.

All too soon the skippers were rounding up their crew with the freshening sea breeze promising more sailing action on the return trip.

Ellen and Robbie McNeill helmed *Thunder* all the way back after hoisting the sails under Tony's guidance and were first into the marina leaving *Andalucia* and *It's a Privilege* in their wake. Not sure they realised it was a race when they threw in another tack!

Another great day out was shared by two groups of our club giving the juniors a 'Big Boat' experience.



*Reverie* with a full complement.



Robbie, Lyn, Tony Brenton and Ellen on *Thunder*.



*Catwalk* steaming out of the marina.



*It's A Privilege* with plenty of crew.

That was a day that was. Cruisers sailing to Royals for lunch with crews / passengers comprised of sabot/opti kids and parents. We on '*Andalucia*' had three boys and two adults. I must say that the boys were extremely well behaved. I must also totally refute any suggestion that when they had a turn on the helm they proved to be better sailors than yours truly. Oh OK would you believe they were only a little bit better. Now look here, I will admit that I was having a bad day on the water so let's leave it at that.



Lewis, Ethan and Reuben on *Andalucia*.

Once again, I was envious of the RYCV deck / lawn / BBQ area. Why, I wondered wisely, can we not have something similar to tempt visitors from other clubs to spend money in our bar? I believe roof top gardens are becoming common in our city, so why not us? No, no, not atop the Club-house. I'm sug-

gesting a garden on a roof over the upper carpark. There could well be objections to another level of cars, but who would object to a garden area with a walkway bridge from the members' balcony? I'm even aware of a precedent. I recall from my time at Melb. Uni. (Now, now it's not that long ago!) that they installed an extensive garden / lawn area on a roof over an underground car park. By way of a straw poll I would welcome some readers' feedback with views for or against such a proposal. ([email-- --willm@hotkey.net.au](mailto:--willm@hotkey.net.au))

## Wiley Will's Wrap Up

I wonder if they'd let me take sailing lessons in a Sabot?

Will Merritt



# MY BEST ANCHORAGE TO DATE

BLACKWATTLE BAY, SYDNEY HARBOUR  
BY ALLAN HADDOW



This has got to be the best anchorage so far from Melbourne to Sydney – anchored within 200m of the Sydney Fish Market in a quiet anchor zone in 5m of rather murky water.

One can row – for arm exercise – to the markets at 0630hr missing the many rowers & use the toilets, have a cappuccino, buy a 1l of milk for \$6.20, wander the fish markets to decide what fish (whole or filleted), many types of shellfish, squid, live abalone, very large live lobster at &125/kg, live crab, oyster, sushi – prawn, tuna, octopus, salmon, abalone & sea egg row with prices up to \$100/kg, to buy for that night’s dinner. Beats spending all day trying to catch a common type of fish, when there are ‘no fish in the sea’. At that hour of the morning one has to keep a very good eye on the many trucks & men with their trolleys zooming around in the carpark. There is even a very good meat market. On the way back fill up three 5l fresh water containers to keep the water bladder full.

One can row 100m the other way to a newly built floating jetty (not mentioned in Alan Lucas’s book) & walk/run about 2k up Glebe Pt. Rd. to the Broadway Shopping Centre passing many restaurants along the way.

On a Saturday walk to the Glebe Markets at Broadway to fill up the pantry, then a 1k walk down Bay St. back to the dinghy.

One can walk 20 minutes to Darling Harbour to the many restaurants if you want to spend more money or just have a beer there & cook your own food on your yacht.

Or one can row about 300m to view Ophelia Super Yacht.



Ophelia Super Yacht!

## MEMBER NEWS

Correction- Last month we welcomed a new member to the Cruising Group and I misheard the name. We should have welcomed Col Barling and Netta Griffin off *Morning Magic*. Although he says he will answer to anything we will try to name him correctly in future.

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**Allan Haddow *Ophelia***, is enjoying cruising around Sydney Harbour. He has spent time at CYCA in Rushcutters Bay, Rozelle Bay (see left), Bantry Bay and Sugarloaf Bay.

.....  
Guess who raided a Malacoota Op Shop for green pants on St Patricks Day? Think they quite fancied themselves in them too!



.....  
**Robina and Brenton Smith, *Chakana***, have spent a few boat units in Manly getting ready for cruising in 2015. They intend to head east across the Coral Sea in early May. New rigging, antifouling and servicing the liferaft were top of the list.

.....  
**Sue and Bryan Drummond** are heading to Malaysia for some time with *Gypsea Rover* in April.

.....  
Several RBYC boats have circumnavigated Tasmania this year as part of the Van Diemens Land Rally. **Anne and Roger Claydon, *Dreamweaver***, also circumnavigated Tasmania but set their own agenda. We hope to read more about these cruises in future editions. (Editor... Hint! Hint!)

.....  
**Sue Drummond** has kindly offered to coordinate the June, July and August editions of the newsletter while Robina is away cruising. Please keep her inbox full. ....Of course no coercion was necessary! **Trish Jeffery** has kindly agreed to do the layout.

.....  
Please keep your cruising stories and ‘How I Started Sailing’ contributions rolling in. Don’t forget our new feature ‘Worst or Best Anchorage’. We all have one of these stories. This newsletter relies on a flow of member contributions.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### ORCV - BEYOND THE BAY

Training program designed to give bay racers, cruising sailors and boat owners the knowledge, skills and confidence to make the transition from day sailing on the bay to extended passages beyond Pt Phillip Heads. Includes a Rip Tour and Latitude Race.

Highly recommended by Rod and Sue Slater *Foxy Lady* in the December 2014 RBYC Cruising Newsletter.

Commences in early May 2015.

Contact ORCV or [sally.williams@orcv.org.au](mailto:sally.williams@orcv.org.au) for more details.

### FRIDAY 17TH APRIL FORUM DINNER MEETING

**Guest Speakers: Jo and John Walker  
To Lizard and Back**

Jo and John Walker spent 2013 sailing up the eastern coast of Australia in *Kirra Kirra*, their Seawind 1160, from RBYC to Hobart and on to the Whitsunday's. After a short break over the cyclone season when *Kirra Kirra* was moored at Manly, Brisbane, they continued further north to Lizard Island in 2014.

Now that *Kirra Kirra* has returned to Victorian waters, (she is moored in the Gippsland lakes), Jo and John will entertain us with their cruising stories.

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 April 15th**. Bookings essential.

### SATURDAY 25th APRIL (ANZAC DAY) END OF MONTH ON WATER ACTIVITY

Cruise to Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron marina at St Kilda. Be there before dusk to watch the Penguin Parade.

Contact Pam Merritt for details or enquiries. **0408 361208** or email [willm@hotkey.net.au](mailto:willm@hotkey.net.au)

### FRIDAY 15th MAY FORUM DINNER MEETING

**Guest Speakers: James Heywood and Peter Clark  
Batteries**

Care and maintenance of batteries on boats/Lithium batteries.

### FRIDAY 19th JUNE ANNUAL CLASSICAL MUSIC NIGHT

Not to be missed. Put this date in your diary now!

## Armchair Chat

Easter has gone! Wet weather gear will be somewhere on the boat, I must check it out to make sure the zip will work. Don't you just love it when you need it and the zip is all gummed up.

Last winter the heater was a bit strange, it worked sometimes, better bring a new one down. I must check the contents of the gas bottle or there will be no hot chocolate and that is serious! Ah! The joys of sailing.

On a much more serious note. Thanks to all who helped with the progressive dinner, boats, food and fun. I must say thank you to Pam Merritt and Sandy Watson for organising the night and Howard Meltzer (*Looking Good*) for his hospitality at the end of the night.

Right on the heels of the PD five boats and crew hosted some of the junior sailors and parents on a trip to Royals. The weather was kind and a great time was had by all.



### Captain Coxswain's Corner

#### 'SHOW A LEG'

Believe it or not, there was a period when wives were permitted to visit British warships that were in port but not allowing shore leave for the crew.

The wives (?) were even allowed to sleep overnight. This created a problem for the boatswain's mate calling the men out of their hammocks in the morning. Were the still occupied hammocks occupied by crewmen or wives?

The problem was resolved by giving the call to 'show a leg' so that the gender of the occupant could be established. The British Navy had banned these visits by about 1840.