



CRUISING NEWS



FEBRUARY 2016

CRUISERS CELEBRATE 25th BIRTHDAY IN STYLE



WRITTEN BY ROBINA SMITH

After some moments of panic before Christmas that the cruisers were not going to warm to the idea of a Dinner Dance to celebrate their 25th Birthday the event was overflowing and we had to turn the late bookers away.

On the night 168 cruisers, their friends and Bayside Mayor James Long dressed to impress, ate in style and danced the night away showing that even though the average age might have been a tad over 60 we are never too old to kick up our heels. The silver 25's, anchors and sailing boats that adorned the black curtains, code flags spelling out 25th birthday and numerous balloons set up the party atmosphere. The fabulous boat table decorations made by Grant Collins floated on a mirror sea with chocolates for crew.

The Harris Tweed Band led the frivolity with upbeat music that had the whole room on their feet, many songs remembered from times gone by and some new ones. The dance floor was full to overflowing with cruisers and their friends enjoying the festivities.

The food on the night was superb and a credit to the catering department as they were feeding 150 hungry Etchell sailors in the members bar at the same time. The pumpkin and ricotta ravioli or beetroot cured salmon were a perfect start followed by mains of herb crusted barramundi or lemon and thyme marinated chicken. Our birthday cake became the dessert.

It was our birthday so there did have to be some serious parts to the evening. Our Most Improved Cruiser of the year trophy was finally presented to Allan Haddow as he was in Melbourne over Christmas before returning to *Ophelia* to continue his adventure around Australia.

The RBYC Cruising Group history booklet was launched by Pam Merritt. More on this later in the newsletter but after some anxious moments getting the final copy to the printers in time it was available for purchase on the night and is a credit to Pam and her research assistant Lyn Bingham.

David James as the most senior (in chronology rather than age!) previous Chairman of Cruising attending gave a speech outlining the activities and growth of the Cruising Group over the years. Lyn Bingham, who took on the leadership of Cruising Group from David, cut the cake.

We were also honoured to have Peter Metherall, Fergus McPherson and David Pollard (who is still on the cruising committee after 25 years service) from the first committee formed in 1992-93 in attendance plus Bill Westerbeeck who joined the committee in 1995.

A wonderful evening enjoyed by all ready to kickstart the next 25 years.

CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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CRUISING NEWS FEBRUARY 2016



Most Improved Cruiser of the Year - Allan Haddow.



Past Chairman David James



Past Chairman Lyn Bingham cutting the birthday cake.



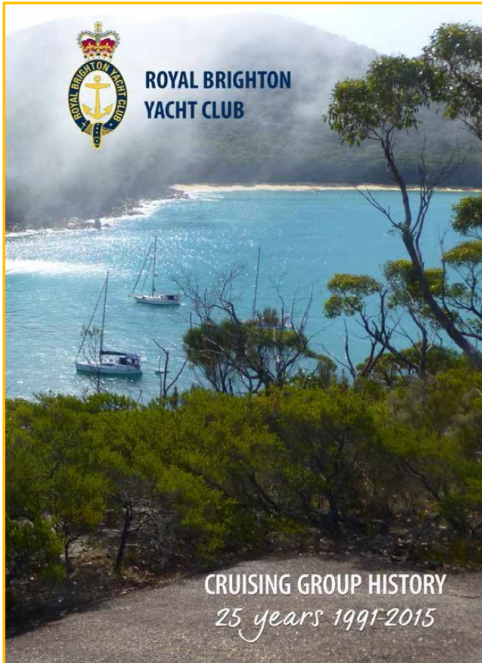
Some of the early days committee members: David Pollard, Peter Metherall, Fergus McPherson & Bill Westerbeek.

Cruisers at the 25th Birthday Dinner Dance.



CRUISING GROUP HISTORY BOOK LAUNCH

WRITTEN BY ROBINA SMITH



The 25th Birthday of the Cruising Group was the impetus we needed to have the Cruising Group History written. Members of the committee had been talking for a few years that it was something we should do while our current mem-

bership includes some of the original participants.

John Mowson, the founding Chairman, attended the 24th birthday cruise and over lunch last year I chatted to him and David Pollard as to the origins of the Cruising Group.

This was the beginning point for Pam Merritt to take it further as a project for the year. With Lyn Bingham researching Annual Reports and early newsletters being dug out of the RBYC archives the history began to unfold. Old pictures were scanned to turn them into something useable in the digital age. Thought was put into how best to put all this information together.

Trish Jefferies, cruising group member and skilled graphic designer turned this information into a professional, readable and entertaining booklet. The annual festive season put some stress on the deadline as printers stop working over the Christmas /New Year but working long hours some days and even taking it on an Avanning holiday (where the fellow Avanners said to just 'make it up'!) enabled the history to



Pam Merritt launching the history book.

be completed and printed just in time for the 25th Birthday Dinner Dance where it was launched. Some took the oppor-

tunity at this time to have their copy personally signed!

It is great to read of the evolution and changes to Cruising Group over the years. Assembling 100 guests to the Classical Music Evening in recent years has been a challenge yet in 1997 they had 180 guests. I was amazed that the early cruises had destinations like Lord Howe Island and Port Lincoln. Did they have cruisers with more time in those days? I wished I had known about Cruising Group's original member who circum-navigated the world, Peter Metherall, as there would surely have been some stories to tell when I met him at the 25th Birthday Dinner Dance.

The history is a credit to Pam Merritt and her crew of researchers and we are indebted to the time and diligence they put in to enable the publication.

If you have not bought yours yet, they are available from Mandy at the front office for the bargain price of \$5. This project has been heavily subsidised by the Cruising Group funds so that the first 25 years of this wonderful group has been documented for all to read.

Pams disclaimer: If there is anything wrong she doesn't want to know about it as she did the best she could with the information available.



Chairman Roger Walker thanking Pam.



Our celebrity author signing copies!

What a **bargain!** Three course dinner, live music from Harris Tweed Band and \$5 publications all for \$30. No wonder the room was full to overflowing at the Dinner Dance and history book launch. But don't expect this to be the norm!

The celebration of the 25th Birthday of Cruising Group and publication of the history booklet was subsidised by Cruising Group Funds as our project for the year.

25TH BIRTHDAY CRUISE TO ROYALS

BY BRENTON SMITH



Welcomed by Past Commodore Colin Johnston.



Lena and CharlieBird rafted up.



Scott & Mandy Cumming, Roger Walker and Allan Haddow.



Chairman Roger with Lyn Bingham cutting the 25th birthday cake.



Neil & Pam, Geoff, Miriam, James & Brian Cherry, Barbara, Ted and Maree.



Sandy, Ronda, Jenny and Pam.



It's a Privilege crew preparing to clamber over Ulu to head home.

The final part of the 25th Birthday celebrations by RBYC Cruising Group members was to participate in the annual birthday cruise to Royals on the third Sunday of January – this being the 25th anniversary of the first recorded on-water activity of the Cruising Group.

The weather gods concurred and provided a splendid warm day and Royals provided their traditional fine hospitality. A fleet of 17 boats participated: *Andalucia, Aquacadabra, Cavarlo, Chakana, CharlieBird, Corazon, Currawong, Dreamweaver, Haidi Gwaii, It's a Privilege, Kathleen B, Lena, Pizazz, Sophistiqué, Thula Mama, Wild Child* and *Ulu* with the crews of *Catwalk, Emma Kate, Kirra Kirra, Mirrabooka* and *Ophelia* hitching a ride or driving across. A total of 85 members and friends enjoyed the conversations, cooking and general bonhomie that is so much part of our group and also this day each year.

Officer of the Day, Past Commodore Colin Johnston, welcomed us and after a brief speech by Chairman Roger, Lyn Bingham cut the second 25th Birthday cake to a resounding rendition of 'Happy Birthday'.

A gentle sail/motor home against a fading sea breeze was a perfect way to end a weekend of celebrations.



Brian Cherry, Jane Cooper, Paul Jenkins, David Bingham, Richard Johnson, Jenny Stone, Marion Johnston and Lyn Bingham.



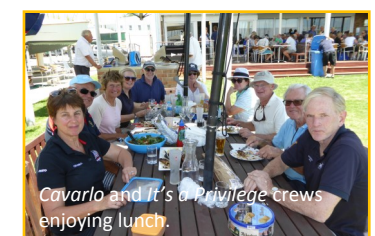
Dreamweaver tying up at Royals.



Aquacadabra crew enjoying the sun and shine.



Margie with her crew from Wild Child.



Cavarlo and It's a Privilege crews enjoying lunch.



It's a Privilege heading home.

MONITORING THE GAS BOTTLE WITH A TIGER TAIL



For those of us who do not have an electrically-operated gas-bottle solenoid, sometimes there is a tendency to forget to turn off the gas at the bottle immediately after use. Possibly this is because it means getting into the cockpit, where it may be wet, cold, raining and/or dark. (Maybe it is a bit like remembering a dental appointment. My dentist now sends an SMS text message as a reminder).

Of course, the gas should be switched on at the bottle only immediately prior to use, and most importantly switched off at the gas bottle immediately after use. Being so disciplined can save a very Big Bang! I think that a reminder that the gas is still switched on at the bottle is a very useful asset on any boat. It is an obvious idea, but I have not seen the following tell-tail reminder used on any boat except my own.

The "equipment" simply consists of a yellow fabric tape (in my case obtained from a florist) which is attached to the gas bottle, and pulled out of the gas-bottle locker before switching on the gas. After switching off the gas, the tape is hidden away out of sight by replacing it in the gas locker. The yellow tape is very visible by day, but I have added black stripes to increase the contrast, necessary for better visibility in poor lighting conditions. The yellow colour has faded with time.

Incidentally, a couple of half turns is all that is required to turn the gas on. Tell your crew "If you are turning off the gas and it takes more than a couple of half turns, then ask



yourself 'Am I turning it the right way?' ". (Unfortunately I have discovered a few crews who do not know the difference between clockwise and anticlockwise!)

You might also remind the crew that, when turning off the gas, slight pressure is all that is required. Excessive pressure

will brutalised the rubber seal, which will then cease to function and leak gas - which is what we were trying to avoid.

This 'Skippers Tip' contributed by **Roger Lloyd**. Roger lives in the UK cruising the northern hemisphere summer in his ... and spends the southern hemisphere summer in Melbourne finding as many crewing opportunities as he can.

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Editors Note: On *Chakana* we have our own Tiger Tail to tell us if the sail tie used to prevent the reefing line tapping on the boom has been removed. It is important to be removed before unfurling the mainsail.

UPDATE ON WYNDHAM HARBOUR

Dear fellow cruisers,

A couple of weeks ago we took our bikes over to 'the dark side' to do a ride on the Bayside West Trail, Point Cook to Altona (a great ride - getting in training for Europe) and had a look at Wyndham Harbour. Grand opening weekend of Stage 1 only is on 27th February - no boats allowed in until then. This will be accompanied by free berthing for the weekend and associated hoopla including BBQ trucks and DJ!



It's looking great although still very much a work in progress. Has a great cafe and more apartments than you can poke a stick at!

It is located only 14.3 nm's and almost due west from RBYC so a fantastic destination, reaching both ways on a southerly, for 'end of month' cruises or Sunday picnics. \$50 a night casual berthing.

Pam and Will Merritt

HARDSTAND CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY ROBINA SMITH



Tables set up on the hardstand.



Enjoying nibbles with Ronda and Roger.



Rod, Brenton and Robina.



Lyn, Peter, Suzie & Geoff

The weather was fine for the Annual Hardstand Christmas Party so numerous barrows were loaded with BYO everything and trundled out along the pier ready for the 48 revellers, complete with their collection of weird hats, to commence the festivities.



Jenny, Grant, Brenton, Brian, Miriam & David.

As the evening cooled off various sailing jackets were retrieved from boats which maintained the high spirits of those attending.

After the sharing of nibbles and cooking of an assortment of food, cruisers settled to the real business of the evening - the singing of the Christmas Carols.

This year Chairman Roger led the singing - he did say that even the cows usually run when he starts singing but with him being ably supported by a group of musically gifted (?) cruisers the carol singing was in fine voice.

The biggest challenge was organising the unruly bunch into rounds for each day of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Five gold rings was sung with heartfelt gusto by Sandy Watson and Jo Walker making one wonder if there was a not too subtle hint for their spouses.

It was commented by Roger Lloyd, newly arrived from the home of the Choristers of Kings Chapel, that he had not heard carols sung quite this way before - not sure if that was a compliment or not.

As usual the evening finished with the sharing of the Lions Christmas cake before the wheelbarrows were repacked and trundled back to the boats of the cruisers wisely sleeping on board or back to the clubhouse.

Once again the cruisers celebrated the festive season and end of the year with gusto fit for a King, or at least his choristers. Keep the date for next year!!



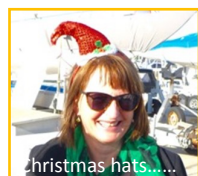
Richard, Marion & Sally.



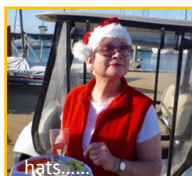
Suzie, Jenny, Lyn, John & Jo.



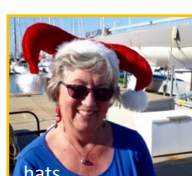
Our Cruising Group choristers.



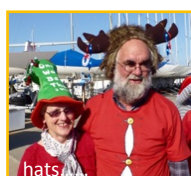
Christmas hats.....



hats.....



hats.....



hats.....



and more hats.



Those wheelbarrows!

THE NAMING OF A BOAT

LENA

BY BRIAN CHERRY

The names of all the Cherry boats have had Wagnerian origins (except “Billabong” which had acquired such a splendid reputation under her previous owner/designer Peter Joubert that one couldn’t dream of changing her name) so that when we bought another Joubert designed yacht, a Cape Barren Goose, (and hence the Goose on her bow) we followed our tradition.

Magdalena is the nursemaid in Wagner’s *Mastersingers of Nuremberg* and she first made her appearance in Munich in 1868, she was known by the apprentices in the opera as “Lena”. She is of uncertain age, of uncertain morals, very broad in the beam, and very kind to the young apprentices – so what could be more appropriate.

She is the large lady in the centre of the picture, not the young and beautiful Eva who is on the right with the hero Walther.



Act I scene 1 of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at its premiere at the Court Theatre, Munich, on 21 June 1868, designed by Angelo Quaglio; engraving by Theodor Pixis (Royal Opera House Archives)

MEMBER NEWS



Nona & Rob Hurrell, *Aquacadabra*, are the proud grandparents of Levi David Saward born 11/12/2015. Amy, their daughter first sailed when she was three months old. Levi has already signed up as crew on around Tasmania rally in 2017.

The holiday season saw a few cruising boats out and about enjoying the bay. With perfect weather between Christmas and New Year seven RBYC boats (***Andalucia, Chakana, Corazon, Emma Kate, Haida Gwaii, It’s a Privilege & Sophistiqué***) anchored off Pt Arlington and enjoyed sundowners on ***It’s a Privilege***. Some then headed to Sorrento where they met up with ***Aquacadabra*** who was also cruising the bay spending nights at Pt Arlington, QCYC and Martha Cove, some home and others moved to Sandridge Beach, Pt Melbourne where sundowners complete with welcoming leis were on board ***Andalucia***.



Karen & Andrew Parker, *Highland Fling*, have moved to a home on the waterfront at Mooloolaba. ***Highland Fling*** will be trucked up and they will be able to enjoy the cruising grounds of Hervey Bay only a day away

plus easier access to all Queensland cruising areas. Karen and Andrew have been long time members of cruising with their first mention in the history book in 1998. They were awarded Cruising Yachtsman of the Year in 2012.

New Years Eve was a balmy evening and a number of cruising members enjoyed dinner on their boats or arm 4 walkway before heading to the attenuator for what must be one of the best views of the midnight fireworks around the bay. A fabulous way to welcome in the New Year.



The Bass Strait Cruise in Company has interest from 13 boats so we will be hoping for fair winds as we venture out into Bass St. 7 of these boats have not participated in one of these cruises before. Hopefully there will be lots of great stories to tell!

Roger Lloyd, who sails a Westerly Konsort 29’bilge keeler in the UK (look for his 2015 Cruising UK report in the March newsletter) has participated in our Cruise in Company as a crew member on Sun Kiss and Andante 1. He is looking for crew to sail from Barry, UK, to Ribadesella, N Spain, by 20th June 2016. Email roger@rnl.org.uk if interested.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 19th FEBRUARY FORUM DINNER MEETING

BBQ at the Ken King Centre, Sandringham YC

Sail down and test your night navigation skills on the way back or drive down and meet us there.

6.30pm arrival at Sandringham YC.

This will be a BYO food and drinks with BBQ's and tables provided at the Ken King Centre on the water's edge of the marina.

Please let Jenny Collins know if your boat is going by Wednesday Feb 17th so she knows the numbers for possible allocation of some pens.

jacngrant@gmail.com

SATURDAY 27th FEBRUARY ANNUAL BASS ST CRUISE IN COMPANY

Boats will gather at QCYC and start planning their destination according to the latest weather. Whether to go east, west or south and on which day will be decided after much examination of various weather forecasts and wind predictor programs. Brenton Smith is cruise coordinator (robina_smith@hotmail.com) and 13 boats have registered their interest.

FRIDAY 18th MARCH ANNUAL BOAT PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Gather at the club for predinner drinks and nibbles, main course on first allocated boat, dessert and coffee on second allocated boat then gather back for port and chocolates. Cost is \$25 per person. Sounds confusing but it works!

This evening is only possible because of the generosity of boat owners who provide main course or dessert on their boats for 6-8 people with costs reimbursed up to \$10/person for main course and \$6/person for dessert. Peter Strain would love to hear from all boats that are willing to host a course.

peter_strain@bigpond.com

Non-boat owners or currently boatless are always warmly welcomed and need to book through Peter. Numbers are limited to what can be accommodated on the volunteered boats.

SUNDAY 20th MARCH END OF MONTH ON WATER ACTIVITY JUNIORS CRUISE TO ROYALS

Cruise to Royals as a combined activity with Junior sailors and their families. The idea is to give the Juniors a 'Big Boat' experience. The juniors supply their own lifejackets. BYO everything for a BBQ lunch on the lawn. Buy drinks at the bar.

This has become a fabulous annual event but we are always short of boats. Coordinator is Jenny Collins. jacngrant@gmail.com Please mark this in your diary and email Jenny your intention to join the cruise and volunteer your boat by the week before ie 12th March.

FRIDAY 15th APRIL FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speakers: Robina and Brenton Smith
Cruising the East Coast and across to New Caledonia

Armchair Chat

Cruising Group has been more about socialising than sailing in recent months. Our Christmas party on the hardstand was great success on a balmy evening. The carol singing may have been a little less tuneful than in previous years, the lead singer did not quite have Kathy's skills, but a high level of enthusiasm got everyone involved. The small group version of 'The twelve Days of Christmas' was a highlight.

On New Year's Eve, cruisers in Arm 4 hosted a BYO walkway party prior to the fireworks display. This was clearly designed for the benefit of those assembled on the RBYC attenuator, which gave an unimpeded view of the city skyline.

On January 15th Cruising Group hosted a splendid Dinner Dance in the Clubhouse to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our formation. Over 160 members and guests enjoyed an excellent dinner, learnt about the history of Cruising Group and danced to the rocking music of 'Harris Tweed'. I extend thanks to the committee members who organised and promoted the event, decorated the room, and looked after all the small details that add up to a great night. On behalf of the Committee I also thank all those who attended this special event and made the night such a success.

A highlight of the evening was the official launch of the history of RBYC Cruising Group, written by Pam Merritt. I congratulate Pam on the publication of this comprehensive history of our first 25 years and thank her for the months of work involved.

Sunday morning saw a fleet of boats head to Williamstown for our 25th annual cruise to RYC. The Officer of the Day was thanked for the club's hospitality over the past 25 years and presented with a signed copy of our group's history. Here's to the next 25 years!

Roger Walker



Captain Coxswain's Corner

'WARM THE BELL'

Here's an unusual expression which I've only recently encountered and one of which all skippers should be aware. It was used in the British Navy to indicate that something was happening before the bell controlling the ship's activities should have been rung.

For instance, midshipmen on night watch would warm the hourglass so that the sand ran faster and the 'end of night watch' bell would be rung early.

Skippers on the forthcoming cruise might like to check the temperature of the hourglass during the night.