



CRUISING NEWS



MAY 2017

2017 VAN DIEMENS LAND CIRCUMNAVIGATION CRUISE

BY ROBINA SMITH

During February, March and April three RBYC boats participated in the Choices Flooring 2017 Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation Cruise. This cruise was the 13th VDL-C cruise staged by the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and the 7th run in conjunction with the Royal Geelong Yacht Club. There is a limit of 45 boats able to sign up but with last minute drop outs we saw a fleet of 41 participating.

Aquacadabra sailed to Hobart in November via the Tamar and *Chakana* sailed over in late December to early January via the Furneaux Group. Both used the time before the cruise to explore around Hobart and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

It's a Privilege joined the Geelong Fleet, leaving Queenscliff and heading towards the Tamar and Hunter Group. Here they combined with the main fleet to continue their anticlockwise circumnavigation of Tasmania.

We were blessed with fabulous weather, stunning scenery and wonderful company. The west coast of Tasmania was a highlight with its rugged mountains, temperate rainforest and exploration of bays that can only be accessed by boat. The history of these areas is amazing with the early penal settlements, boat building enterprises, fishermen and miners all leaving their mark on the land. Nowadays these have been preserved within National Parks with friends and volunteers keeping them maintained.

The crews of these three boats will give a presentation of their cruise with plenty of photos at the July Friday night Forum Dinner.

As part of the cruise it is expected that a logbook will be completed and handed in to verify that the boat has completed the circumnavigation. From this the most creative logbook and the most authentic logbook are awarded trophies at the Presentation Dinner.

Chakana was awarded The Admiral Sir Guy Wyatt trophy for the most authentic logbook. This included passage plans, weather forecasts and our two hourly (give or take an hour or two sometimes!) records of position, sea state, wind speed and direction, SOG, log reading and barometer among other things.



Robina & Brenton, *Chakana*, with Admiral Sir Guy Wyatt trophy.

Thanks to Gordo and our Yachtmaster courses we were obviously on the right track. We always maintain a logbook and it was a matter of transferring our log entries into their logbook.

Both *Aquacadabra* and *Chakana* kept blogs during the cruise. It is not possible to make these hyperlinks as the newsletter is in PDF format but you can find them at:

aquacadabra48.wordpress.com

chakanacaliber40.wordpress.com



Susie and Peter, *It's a Privilege*; Robina, *Chakana*; Rob & Tony, *Aquacadabra*; Brenton, *Chakana*.

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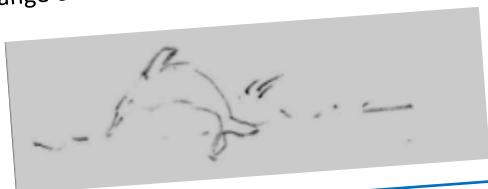
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EXCERPTS FROM *AQUACADABRA'S* VDL-C LOG BOOK

Sally Spencer and Jill Van Den Bosch, crewing on *Aquacadabra*, used their creative talents to vie for Most Creative Log-book. Jill drew sketches of some of the scenes and events along the way and both of them shared doing the alliterations. Rob Hurrell and David Spencer enjoyed the wit of their results. The relieving crew in the Tamar of Ross Fisher and Tony Garvey were more interested in sailing and gastronomical delights so the creative offerings didn't continue. The following is a sample of Sally and Jill's talents.

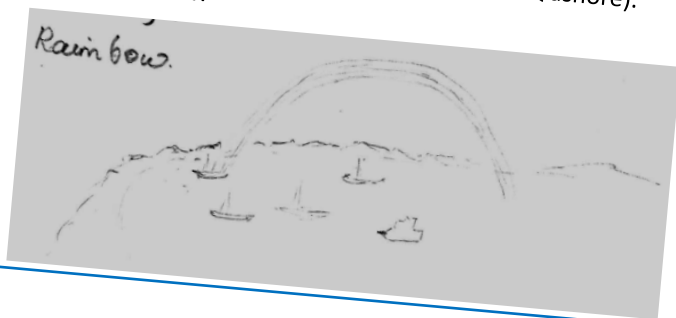
Cutting between Wedge Island and Low Point.
Coastal cliffs - become higher.
Cape Raul - Countless colossal columns.
Confronted with 30kt northerly at West Arthurs Head.
Carnarvon Bay convict ruins.
Craft... cruise ship, tall ships, cutters.
Change of wind south like a cannon ball.



Morning sail to Darlington.
MAST buoy.
Maria Island's diverse history,
-Penal, resort, cement.
Marvellous sail to mainland,
-Prosser Bay
Munchies with *Chakana* and *Rosebud*.
Marauding skies hurried departure of visitors.



Delightful sail to Bryan's Corner.
Debated meaning 'phoques' passing Ile des Phoques.
Dolphins ducked and dived around the bow.
Dropped anchor Bryan's Corner.
Drenched by thunderstorm after VDL dining (BBQ ashore).
Dramatic rainbow.



Bright sunshine on leaving Binalong Bay behind.
Bold edifices, Eddystone lighthouse, wind turbines.
Beaches long and white line Bay of Fires.
Boulders form rocky outcrops onshore,
Sloop Rock, Boulder Point,
And in the water George Rocks.
Beyond - the outline of Furneaux Group.
Bucking in the tidal wash of Banks Strait.
Bouncy anchorage at Fosters Inlet.



Rugged cliffs along Freycinet.
Rain and cloud obscures land.
Right wind for *Aquacadabra* to romp along.
Riotous actions of shearwaters taking flight.
Rendezvous with playful dolphins for 30 minutes.
Repose in Binalong Bay.



Weighing anchor at Fosters Inlet.
Wind turbines turning in the sunrise.
Waterhouse Island.
Waiting for the wind.
Waiting and waiting for the wind.
Waving to Jill's friends in Bridport and beyond.
Watching for Low Head Lighthouse.
Waltzing down the Tamar.
Welcomed Ron's help with mooring.



MUST PACK MY THERMALS

BY ROBINA SMITH

(Who had plenty of time to write this while heading back from Tasmania on *Chakana*.....motoring!)

Packing *Chakana*, getting ready
For the biennial Van Diemen's Land Cruise.
Premade meals, fresh fruit and veges.
Spare parts, engine service, dinghy.
Fleeces, shorts, what clothes to choose?
It's Tassie, I must pack my thermals!



Spinnaker run
crossing Bass St!

Sailed across Bass Strait,
Down the Tassie east coast,
Shorts still the clothes of choice.
Through Schouten Passage, Denison Canal
With white beaches, fair winds, fine weather.
But not cold enough for thermals!

Start of the cruise,
Forty five boats,
All kitted out to circle Tasmania,
Up the coast, shorts still de rigueur,
All following Cruise Commodore Dave.
And no need for my thermals.



Round the top,
Through Hunter Passage,
Past Bird Island, dodged the rocks,
Heading south in the Roaring Forties.
Motoring, motoring all the way.
Magnificent sunsets, glassy seas
Storms and winds have stayed away.
Locker still holds my thermals.



Sunset down the west coast of Tasmania.

Macquarie Harbour,
Gordon and Franklin Rivers.
Hells Gates usually show their fury,
Where tidal streams build monster waves.
But motoring, motoring, in light winds,
Blue skies, flat seas,
Plenty of socialising,
In shorts, but not the thermals.

Early morning reflections on the Gordon River.



Further south,
Port Davey.
Furious gales, wild storms and tempests.
I have heard about them all.
But.. motoring, motoring, motoring
Huey has other thoughts this year,
Maybe a fleece or longer trousers,
But much too warm for thermals.

Last chance,
Maatsuyker Island.
South West, South East, South Capes.
The roaring forties can bare their teeth,
We're ready for Huey's worst.
But...motoring, motoring, motoring
Flat seas, bright sunshine, idle sails.
Still don't need my thermals!

D' Entrecasteaux Channel,
Recherche Bay.
Barbecues at Dover and Cygnet.
Plenty of sunshine, warm balmy nights,
Cruisers under the stars celebrating,
Our successful circumnavigation of Tasmania,
With neither a storm nor tempest.
What useless things did I pack... my thermals!

BIRUBI SUMMERS IN TASMANIA

BY SUE DRUMMOND



We purchased a Leopard 42 Catamaran, *Birubi* in September 2016. With only one shakedown cruise (Portarlinton) to ensure that the new anchor worked, we set off across Bass Strait in mid January.

The aim was fun and exploration. The more intrepid would do the VDL Circumnavigation but ours was a simple trip to the Tamar, down the east coast, muck-

ing about in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel then back home.

The highlights for me were:

Getting into a berth at the Peppers Marina, Launceston.

Getting the tide right is crucial so judging high /slack tide then popping into a shallow berth was a challenge. The fenders and those wielding them came into their own. It's right in the middle of the town, near the Art Gallery, a bit of a walk from Woolworths and on a bike track along the levy. Just a note about the Peppers Resort Marina at Georgetown. It has been poorly maintained, had no cleats on the berth we were supposed to use and we ended up aground...temporarily. We used the public pontoon in the end.

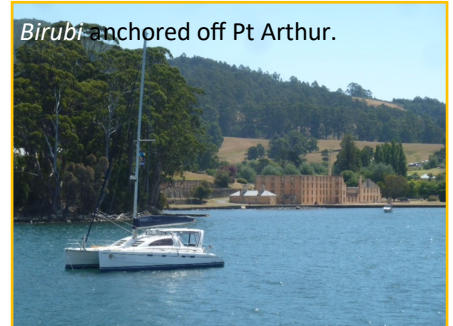
Spending 2 beautiful days at Wineglass Bay and meeting up with friends on Tasmanian yacht, *Aurielle*. No swell!

Canoe Bay in Fortesque Bay and walking out to the magnificent Cape Hauy. This is a lovely sheltered spot on the west coast of the Tasman Peninsula.

Sitting in Port Arthur, anchored next to the *Enterprize* and *Young Endeavour*. The *Enterprize* gave us a hell of a fright when she fired up her cannon. The Wooden Boat Festival. It gets better every year. Mooching about in the Channel and Norfolk Bay. Sundowners with various new friends.

Meeting up with the yachts *It's A Privilege*, *Chakana*, *Maatsuyker*, *Pattern Maker*, *Crispian* and *Bundaberg* at Schouten Island. They were completing the Circumnavigation. The day spent on Flinders Island on the way back. We must go back and spend a lot more time there.

Birubi performed well when the wind was up and was extremely comfortable at anchor. Thanks to all the crew who joined us.



Birubi anchored off Pt Arthur.



Wine Glass Bay. Crew Tamar to Hobart: Alan, Kathy, Jo & John.

I know you won't believe this but I'm beginning to worry about the ageing process. Recently Lady Pamela (well, she's always a lady to me!) bought me a new coffee mug. You know the ones: World's Best Grandfather, or Skipper, or Lover etc. I bet you're wondering which superlative description was on my little present. Can you imagine my chagrin on reading: 'Grumpy Old Man'.

You all know that I have reached the years of wisdom and maturity. Believe it or not, I have extensive positive feedback from many readers of this column. Ok, there was one reader who wanted to know where on earth my ideas came from. I've no doubt that the discerning reader was astounded at the intellectual depth of my prose. However I digress.

The point is that I've noticed that the big boats

in our boat yard have been replaced by little boats in such prolific numbers that the yard looks busier than ever.

Sometimes as I sit on the members' balcony wondering why the bar won't serve me a meal and the juniors aren't as quiet as our well-behaved grandchildren (who I can say without bias are perfect in every way!) I marvel at my own tolerance and forbearance.

I smile a little, confident that nobody would seriously consider me to be a 'grumpy old man'.

Will Merritt

World's Worst Wit

11th ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER BACK ON THE BOATS!

BY ROBINA SMITH



Meeting in the Members Bar.

The 11th Annual Cruising Group Progressive Dinner was held on April 21st on a fine, calm evening - such a change from last years storms when we couldn't even get out to the boats!

Fifty cruisers met in the Members Bar for pre dinner drinks and nibbles and to collect the all important running sheet to find out which boats to turn up to for main course and dessert and what the timings were.

After a welcome by Chairman Roger the crowd dispersed out to the marina to join their main course boat. There a selection of curries, casseroles and other delicious meals were served to the six or so guests on each boat. The aromas wafting around the marina were amazing.

Convivial conversation filled the saloon of each boat as we caught up on latest cruising exploits before we all wandered off to our allotted dessert boat. This walk is always good to help make room for another wonderful delicacy and before long the cruisers were settled into another round of meeting up with a new group of cruisers... and eating!

This was followed by port and chocolates on *It's a Privilege* when most of the cruisers gathered back together for more socialising. As it was almost a balmy evening the cruisers could spill out of the saloon into the cockpit.

A huge thankyou to our main course and dessert boats and a special thankyou to Peter Strain for his organisation of the evening and offer to use *It's a Privilege* as a meeting place for port and chocolates. Also thanks to Pam Merritt for organising the nibbles. We appreciate the many volunteers who make this evening so successful!



Katja, Brenton and Sarah on *Chakana*.



David, James, Vanessa, Sarah, Roger and Lyn on *Mirrabooka*.



Sandy, Steve, Rod, Barbara, Don and Kathy on *Mynooka*.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Sue & Bryan <i>Birubi</i> | Pam & Will <i>Andalucia</i> |
| Jenny & Grant (borrowing) <i>Cavarlo</i> | Lloyd & Shana <i>Aquarius</i> |
| Robina & Brenton <i>Chakana</i> | Ronda & Roger <i>Catwalk</i> |
| Sue & Rod <i>Foxy Lady</i> | Wendy & David <i>Charliebird</i> |
| Barbara & Geoff <i>Haida Gwaii</i> | Lyn & David <i>Mirrabooka</i> |
| Roger & Anne <i>It's a Privilege</i> | Kathy & Steve <i>Mynooka</i> |
| Marion & Richard <i>Sophistique</i> | Paul (with Ange Wharton) <i>Summer Wind</i> |
| Sally & David <i>Sun Kiss</i> | Tony & Rob Hurrell <i>Thunder</i> |



Roger, Barbara, Geoff, Lloyd, Shana and Barbara on *It's a Privilege*.



Jenny, Rod, Sandy, Anne and Roger on *It's a Privilege*.



Robina, Betty, Barrie, David and Wendy on *Charliebird*.

'BIG BOATS' FAMILY DAY FOR THE JUNIORS

BY ROBINA SMITH

White Swan and Reverie on a course to RYCV.



Sun Kiss and Andalucia.



White Swan.



Doug and Steve.



With a fine day forecast and the promise of a gentle breeze in the afternoon 40 young sailors, parents and siblings assembled on the lawns of the club to be allocated one of the 7 volunteer 'Big Boats' for their sail to Royals at Williamstown.

The junior crews were put to work bringing in fenders, manning winches and hoisting sails but with very light winds and a glassy sea the boats struggled to make headway towards RYCV so the iron sails were necessary. Juniors navigated around the channel markers and made lines ready for tying up on arrival. Wish I could still jump off the boat with such dexterity.



Families and cruisers were welcomed to Royals by Rear Commodore Doug and settled on the verandah to enjoy their picnic/ bbq /counter meal in the sunshine before the promised freshening breeze enticed us back to the boats for the sail back to RBYC.



A gentle southerly filled the sails meaning the engine could be turned off. Our juniors, Reuben and Joel, found that tacking is not as straightforward on a cutter rig as the genoa needs to be eased around the furled staysail! The junior helmsmen steered *Chakana* on a very steady course with the skipper not taking the helm back until almost entering the pen.

A great day out! Many thanks to our volunteer boats; *Andalucia, Caledonia, Chakana, Haida Gwaii, Reverie, Sun Kiss and White Swan*. Our thanks to Jenny Collins and Steve Ingram for coordinating the day.



STARS AND COMPASS TROPHY

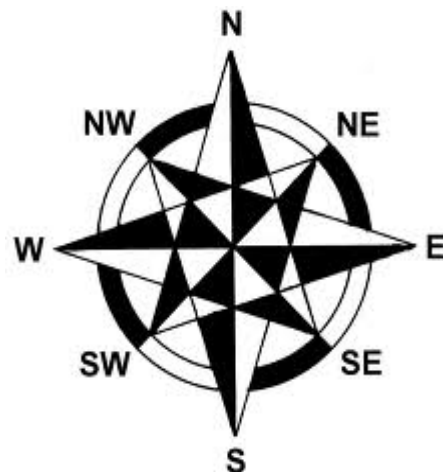
Yes—it's that time of year again!

The Stars and Compass Trophy was donated by Richard Hawkins with the aim of encouraging the practice and use of traditional navigation methods. No answers are to include the use of modern computer based devices such as GPS.

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

This year's question paper will be set by last year's winner and will be available from the RBYC office later this month, email reception@rbyc.org.au, or contact Mandy on (03) 9592 3092. All entries must be submitted to the RBYC office by close of business on Friday, 16th June 2017 with the winner presented with the trophy at Presentation Night on 7th July.

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



MEMBER NEWS

UPDATE FROM OPHELIA



Allan Hadow is currently circumnavigating Australia in Ophelia, his Compass 29. In 2015 he sailed singlehanded from RBYC up the east coast of Australia. In 2016 Allan continued sailing single handed from Mackay to Darwin.

For this effort he was given 'The Pumpkin Award' 2016-17 from the Compass Association for the 'Longest Voyage by a Compass Yacht'. The trophy was presented by last year's winners. His voyage was 2160nm.



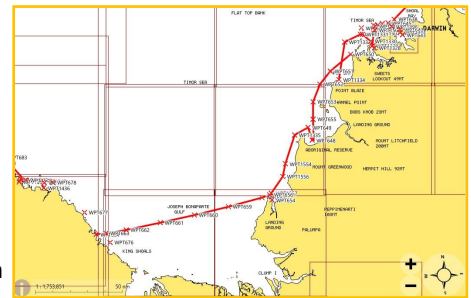
The latest update! We left Darwin on Wednesday 03-05-17 heading west. First stop Bynoe Harbour 30nm from Darwin with no internet – half sail & half motor. Then onto Fog Bay, 48nm, for the next night with limited internet, anchoring about 1nm offshore in 4m low tide, so moved 12nm north (back tracking) to Dundee beach Saturday morning, about 300 meters off the shore in 4m low tide. Good internet here. I received a job so have to stay around the internet to complete it this weekend. There is a ladies fishing competition this weekend so lots of runabouts around. We caught a 600mm long shark & one hour later a 800mm long Spanish Mackerel so have dinner for 5 nights.

We, because John Macdonald, who crews on Ted's yacht is coming with me for 6 weeks to Broome or Port Hedland.

We went to use the dinghy yesterday but the two screws holding the outboard have seized so looking at ways to un-seize.

We will leave Dundee Beach Monday morning, sailing to Anson Bay (58nm) for the night then 60nm to Wadeye (for the last internet). From there we will cross the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, 105nm, to the Berkely River in the Kimberley's. Then our real adventure starts. You can follow Ophelia on Marine traffic or

<http://share.findmespot.com/shared/faces/viewspots.jsp?glld=0osFz5xWeMqqn1x60QggaVL86DsJ2tYqA>



POSTCARD FROM EMMA KATE



Greetings from Sandy, Rod, Will and Pam at Lake Macquarie - a beautiful area 4 1/2 times the size of Sydney Harbour. In the right weather the bar's tame , the channel beyond the lifting bridge is well marked but shallow before the 'drop off' to deep water - just managed to cope with our 2 metre draft!! Now on a mooring at Murray's Beach, Crangan bay.



A huge thankyou to **Sally Spencer, Sun Kiss**, for being the editor of the April edition of the Cruising Newsletter. She did a great job and it allowed Robina a break while cruising out of internet range. Also thanks to Trish Jefferies of Kaleidoscope Design for doing the layout for that edition. The biggest problem with having time off is getting back into the swing of it again!!

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There are a number of name badges that can be collected from Mandy in the RBYC office. This would apply to any new members or if you have asked for an updated badge. If there is not one there for you please contact **David Pollard**.

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Rob Hurrell sailed *Aquacadabra* to Sydney after the VDL-C. He will spend 2017 exploring Sydney Harbour before heading further north.

.....
Fiona and Dean Cook, Time Flies had some interesting experiences in Airlie Beach during Cyclone Debbie. Luckily the boat sustained little damage and they have now headed further north.

.....
Steve Harnett, Beaujolais, has been busy getting ready for another season of sailing while in Mackay.

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Please keep your cruising stories and contributions rolling in. This newsletter relies on a flow of member contributions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 19th MAY

FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speakers: Participants in the Bass St Cruise Bass Strait and the Bay Revisited
For those who enjoy cruising - and those who plan to 'One Day'.

A range of topics will be covered: Power issues and solutions, Boat preparations and spares to carry, Safety issues, Provisioning, Two handed cruising, The Heads and Bass St initiation, Cruising camaraderie and a photographic display.

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

Please book with the office (95923092) no later than Wednesday May 17th. Bookings essential.

26th - 28th MAY

END OF MONTH CRUISE

A cruise in company with a bay destination as determined by the weather. Portarlington is the first choice.

Contact cruise coordinator Robina Smith, robina_smith@hotmail.com to express your interest in joining the cruise. Further information and updates can then be forwarded to you closer to the time.

SATURDAY 10th JUNE

Alan Robinson Trophy Race - RBYC to QCYC



FRIDAY 16th JUNE
ANNUAL CLASSICAL MUSIC NIGHT
Featuring
The Bayside Chamber Players

Come and experience the beautiful music with classical pieces performed by this ensemble of talented Bayside musicians.

Enjoy an evening of fine wining, dining and entertainment - all for just \$100 a head.
Pre dinner sherries, delicious three course dinner and some wine included.

6.30pm for a 7pm start in the Bayview room.
Dress: Black tie.

Bookings to made with Mandy in the RBYC office. (95923092)
Individual tickets or tables of 10.

Plan to attend now and organise friends and family to make up a table for this wonderful night.

Armchair Chat

At our home, at this time of the year, conversation centres around the dramatic change in the weather. Both the weather and the conversation seem to have taken a 180 degree turn in recent weeks.

Now how do I know this? Well two things happen, when I go out to hunt for the morning paper there is often a thick layer of frost on the ground, and secondly I am asked to turn up the heating by ever increasing degrees.

While doing this I think of those of you who live by and enjoy the moderating influence of the sea and those who have taken their boats further north. Hopefully the cyclone season has passed and members cruising in warmer waters will enjoy good sailing.

ROGER WALKER



Captain Coxswain's Corner

'SON OF A GUN'

Well I'll be a son of a gun! No you won't, not unless you were born on board a naval square rigged ship well-armed with a significant number of cannon. In particular, a ship of the Royal Navy in the days when wives were allowed to live on board a ship with their husband when the ship was expected to remain in port for some time. A child born in such circumstances was referred to as the 'son of a gun'. Not sure about daughters, but they were inclined to be somewhat sexist in the RN at that time. Perhaps they assumed that a mere female wouldn't dare to make an appearance.