



CRUISING NEWS



JULY 2017

2017 ANNUAL CLASSICAL MUSIC NIGHT

BAYSIDE CHAMBER PLAYERS

BACH TO BERNSTEIN BY THE BAY



WRITTEN BY ALAN SHERRATT *Folie a Deux*



Claire Nicholson, Carolyn Morris, Aiden Filshie & Oscar Woinarski.

Having now seen Brenton's brilliant articles on the previous two Cruising Group 'Black Tie' concerts this duty is approached with some trepidation as to whether the high standard can be maintained.

The task, however, is made easier by the very well chosen

programme and by the competence of the performers. Any one who has had children learning the flute and piccolo will know what diabolical instruments these are in the hands of beginners. What a contrast we have tonight in Claire Nicholson who showed us that the flute is not after all an instrument of torture but one which can produce the most beautiful sounds. Much the same can be said of the cello and violin in the competent hands of Oscar Woinarski and Aiden Filshi. (Do string players have to have unpronounceable names?). Lastly but by no means least we have in Carolyn Morris not only a competent performer but also a successful composer.

We were treated to a selection of approachable music stretching over four centuries divided roughly into musical periods and played in chronological order.

When Baroque is mentioned the eyes of many glaze over with visions of droning string and wind instruments playing inter-

CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Roger Walker.....0407 844 992

Secretary Jenny Collins.....9585 1154

Editor Robina Smith.....0403 791 347
Email.....robina_smith@hotmail.com

Rob Hurrell..... 0409 781 477

Paul Jenkins.....0400 946 658

Will Merritt..... 9598 8626

Pam Merritt..... 9598 8626

David Pollard..... 9592 6554

Peter Strain..... 0418 530 385

CRUISING NEWS JULY 2017

minable repeats. How wrong! Handel in my view was the first truly commercial composer. He was not in the pay of a nobleman or bishop though he was a good mate of King George II and he could certainly write a good tune. So the opening number was rousing, The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba from the oratorio Solomon. Unlike Handel, Bach was employed and was one of the most prolific composers of all time. Brandenburg Concerto No.3 was the second piece. Then instead of Telemann we had Pachelbel's Canon, well known and a wedding favourite, followed by Bach's Badinerie from Suite No.2. and a Bach cello solo beautifully played by Oscar, I missed exactly what it was. The finale was the much loved Boccherini Minuet in E, but as an encore we were treated to another Brandenburg Concerto, No.2, to conclude the bracket.

The second bracket after the main course was labelled 'Classics' which included both classical and romantic works. Haydn's serenade was played melliflously with perfect balance as a trio with flute and strings. Then 'A Little Night Music' written by Mozart in 1787 but never performed in his lifetime. The next piece, Borodin's Nocturne from String Quartet No.2., I class as one of the most beautiful in the whole repertoire. It was also used in the musical Kismet. Dvorak's Humoresque, originally written for piano was beautifully played by our quartet and the bracket was finished with Faure's Pavanne conjuring a haunting Belle Époque elegance.

When we were nicely sweetened after our apple crumble the quartet returned for the third and final bracket with Modern Masterpieces and a touch of Jazz. Sir Edward Elgar was one of England's foremost composers. I wonder why he gave Chanson de Matin and several other works French titles, but we enjoyed this opening work. The next piece

was billed as Debussy but there was no flaxen hair. I couldn't hear the announcement but I think the work was Rustic Dance by the American Elliot Del Borgo. Next was Gershwin's 'Summertime' from Porgy and Bess. Gershwin made several raids into more serious music including Rhapsody in Blue and a Piano Concerto but this was his only venture into opera. After a brief draining of water from the flute they continued with Scott Joplin. These pieces are ragtime not Jazz and have no syncopation. Joplin was by far the major proponent of this charming and easy music. Solace was beautifully played by Carolyn Morris on the piano and the quartet made a good job of The Entertainer but for me it is a piano piece and at its best played as such.

Leonard Bernstein was a very successful classical conductor who also wrote a number of classical works. His greatest claim to fame however was West Side Story. For me this has the best music of any musical. He captures the mood of the story so well and gives his music a depth of emotion to which few could aspire. The quartet gave a sensitive performance doing justice to the music and intentions of the composer. Loved it!

I approach modern music with some caution that it may be atonal or at least have weird and dissonant chords. Not so with Carolyn's music which is entirely approachable but still modern in its concept. She played for us The Fairies Playground and Across the Skies (that babies might dream about), or was it called Dressups? All in all it was a superb evening. What more could one ask? Good food, good wine, great company and fine music.



HANGING ABOUT DARWIN

BY ALLAN HADDOW *OPHELIA*

What does one do while working from his marine office in Darwin ?

Tie up to a hot marina berth with no wind but easy access to the many restaurants = spend money

Watch the sun setting from Mindil Beach or Cullen Bay Marina beach with a frothy, fish & chips

Have an Asian dinner on a Sunday or Thursday night at Mindil Beach – B.Y.O. frothy

Dive with a live croc – in a cage

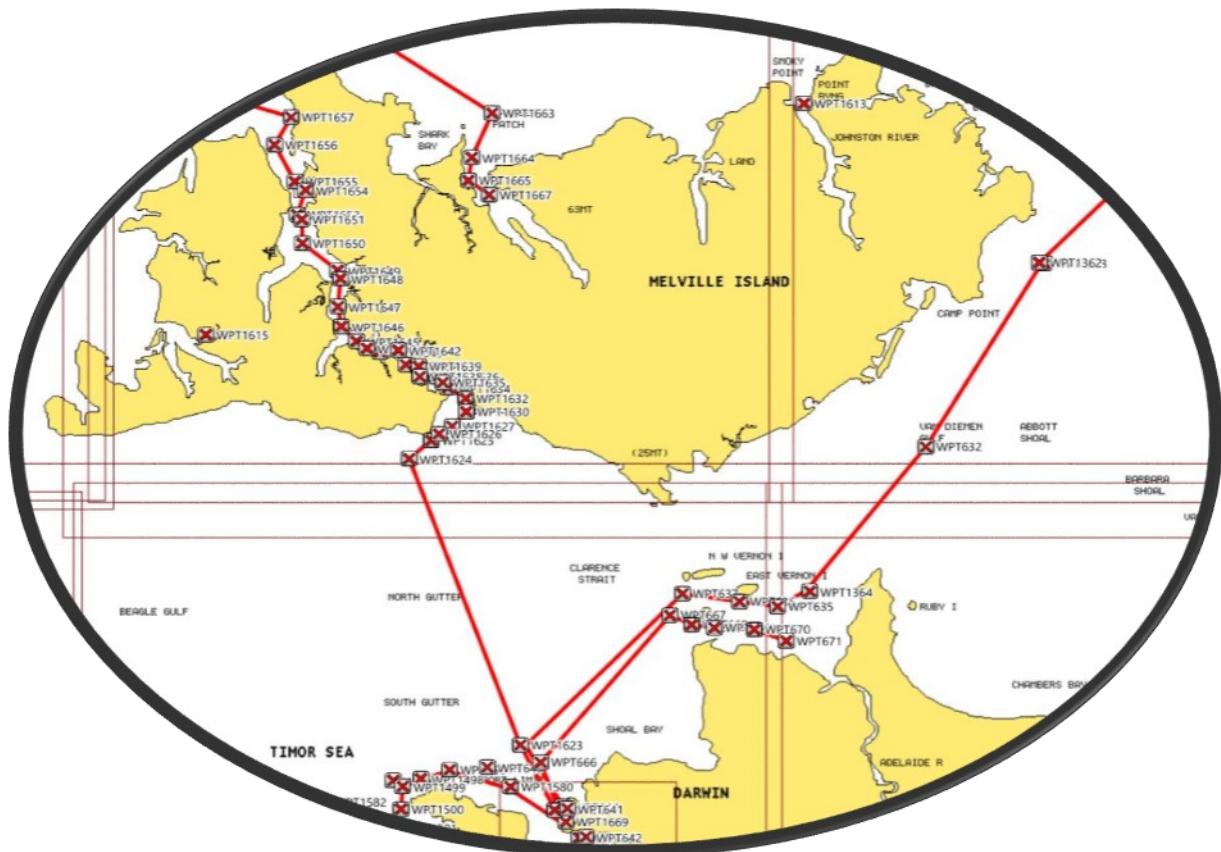
Have a ‘happy hour’ beer in one of the many hotels

Anchor in Fannie Bay with dinghy access to Darwin Sailing Club & world famous Mindil Beach – a long walk with the dinghy & outboard to the water at low tide

Sail north with the tide to Tiwi Islands 42NM Bathurst Is. & Melville Is. – 8hr to south end + 3hr to nearest town – land access problems – private land

Sail around to Bynoe Harbour 30NM – 6 to 8hr – land access problems - mangroves

Sail up Darwin Harbour to a few large tidal creeks – land access problems - mangroves & insects



So after good friends Mike & Tessa on a Seawind 1250 catamaran *Sunny Girl* left Darwin on Friday 16-06-17 for better sailing grounds around Banda Islands, Indonesia, I left on Saturday 17-06 0430hr (to catch the ebb tide in Aspley Strait) and sailed up to Tiwi Is., hopefully motoring through the Aspley Strait – about 28NM long – for a week. I arrived at the

first village, un-pronounceable name of Wurrumiyanga which is 14NM up the strait, at 1530hr and anchored in 11m of water on a hard bedrock. I timed a leaf to pass Ophelia – 7 seconds for 10m – that is 2.7kn of current. About 7NM up the strait I noticed a Telstra type tower – always a good sign for internet access. At Wurr..... I had strong 3G 4 bars on the mast head aerial. Aspley Strait floods south which is strange, so it would seem the large volume of water in Beagle Gulf (feeding Darwin Harbour) must suck the water south through the strait rather than push it along the straight from each end meeting half way, as what happens in The Narrows north of Gladstone.



Wurrumiyanga

Buoyage is generally set going north up the strait. Next day I motored the 3NM up stream with the current to a place I thought would be out of the current. I was wrong. After doing a few 40m circles I had to set the anchor in 18m on mud. The sea bed seemed to go from 20m to 4m depth in about 3



Anchored at Wurrumiyanga

boat length's, so I had no choice but to anchor deep – 40m chain and 20m rope.

There was absolutely no sound when there was no current, but when the current flowed it seemed

to resonate with the chain so I couldn't sleep in the forward berth.

Lucky, I 'borrowed' a manual anchor winch from a wrecked yacht in Gove as I passed through last year.



However, I had some trouble getting to this anchorage as when I tried to pass a red buoy to port in 10m water I noticed the depth sounder going from 15m to 3m in a boat length – I quickly reversed against the current and after the depth sounder showed 2.1m I managed to get out. I tried 3 more times and eventually passed it very slowly to starboard in 12m water – dark blue on chart. Beats me. I did see a barge later follow my route.

About midday, Sunday, a roaring fire appeared 500m to the north of me with the wind blowing from the east – I was OK

in that condition so went fishing at low tide along the mud banks in my light weight dinghy. I noticed a large croc sunning him/her self on a mud bank 50m away, but when I saw it gently sliding in the water, I gave fishing away. No fish was caught.



Looking up Aspley Strait about 1500hr

About 2000hr that night the thick smoke (the fire had died down by this time as there was no red glow) encroached onto me. I had no choice but to weigh anchor at 2300hr in the strong flood current and pitch black and head back down the strait (14NM and 3hr) with tide – high tide at 0200hr. The ¼ moon did show up very red through the smoke about 0100hr. The next low tide was 0800hr so I was in perfect timing half way across Beagle Gulf to use the flood tide into Darwin. The wind dropped out about 1.5hr from Darwin.

After a great sail at 180 deg. with a 10kn SE breeze I arrived outside Cullen Bay Marina on anchor at 1215hr – a 13hr journey. I slept about 1hr on the hour during darkness once clear of Aspley Strait. I don't think I was meant to go along Aspley Strait somehow.

Tiwi Islands are privately owned by the Tiwi Islanders and the only way one can get landing access is to be invited by a local resident. I was not allowed to go ashore. I was allowed to fish from my dinghy though.

Next day, Wednesday 21-06, I enjoyed the walking around Cullen Bay – the temperature these days is a very nice 30 deg. with cooling light breezes from all quarters at various times of the day – SE in the morning to N between 1500 and 2000hr. Humidity is very low, whatever it is.

I flew back to Melbourne on 28-06 and return to Darwin 4 weeks later to prepare for the journey west, bypassing the Kimberley's except for perhaps Berkeley River and Truscott Air Base, to be in Perth about mid December.



While walking, I came across this rather unique bicycle with single banger engine.

DELIVERY CRUISE FROM GOLD COAST TO AIRLIE BEACH

BY PETER STRAIN *IT'S A PRIVILEGE*



Dufour 560 Grand Large at Mooloolaba.

The boat is a 56 foot Dufour Grand Large. It is the first to be delivered to Australia and is commissioned for charter with Dream Yacht Charters in the Whitsunday Islands. Being such a spectacular new large cruising yacht the company asked the owner David, brother to the past rear commodore Andrew, if the boat could go into the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show. Our mission was to deliver the boat from the boat show to Airlie Beach to begin its role as a skippered charter boat.

Monday morning after the show, Captain Perkins and sail maker Colin Anderson from Doyle Sails accompanied by a couple of partners set sail and motored out through the Gold Coast Seaway, hoisting the new sails including a large code zero in 8 to 10 knots of west to north westerly breeze. The boat responded, romping along at 8 to 9 knots. After a few hours the wind dropped out and we motored to our destination, Mooloolaba, where the skipper has a house on the canals. Here we planned our provisioning.

Strong wind warnings the next day up to Double Island Point, meant no hurry as we were keen to not try to cross the Wide Bay Bar in anything but conservative conditions. Another day later, after sorting out a few little teething issues on the boat, we set sail around 0900 hours from Mooloolaba in 20 knot southerly winds and cruised up the coast making the Wide Bay Bar by 1500 hours, the end of the flood tide in rolling seas but perfectly safe following the Tin Can Bay Coast Guards waypoint advice. Into the Great Sandy Straits we set the sails again and gently sailed up and over the shallows at Boonbye Point just after that high tide to anchor along the South White Cliffs on Fraser Island.

Lady Elliot Island was the next planned destination but when we awoke the strong wind warning was still in place, so we opted for conservatism and sailed in 15 to 20 knots to the Bundaberg Port Marina.

Winds settled a little, so we sailed out to Lady Musgrave Island the next day hoping for a snorkel in the lagoon. A broad reach again in 20 to 25 knots, we reached Lady Musgrave at 1600 hours and anchored for sundowners. With low tide in the middle of the night she was a very calm peaceful anchorage.

Still blowing in the morning we skipped the snorkel and set sail for Cape Capricorn. It was still blowing 20 knots or so. Another broad reach, we covered the 70 nautical miles in under 8 hours averaging well over 8 knots, this boat can really perform. The next morning the wind had dropped out and with destination for the day Keppel Bay Marina we motored up to Great Keppel Island. With eleven powder soft, pristine, spectacular, white sandy beaches and some beautiful surrounding reefs, GKI is certainly one of my favourite Queensland islands. We swam ashore and walked the main beaches pondering the sad situation of so many of Australia's great resorts now closed and no likelihood of reopening soon. Finally late afternoon saw us motoring across the bay to the marina to enjoy an excellent seafood dinner at Beaches restaurant in the harbour.

Dave had extra crew arriving in Rockhampton the next day so I decided to jump ship and visit our son in Gladstone so that was the end of the passage for me.

Dufour 560 Grand Large is a state of the art fast cruising yacht which lives up to the designers expectations. She is well equipped with a very large main and self tacking jib, to which has added a code zero and overlapping jib. With a bowsprit to accommodate asymmetrical sails the boat is fast and responsive. The boat is 56 foot in length, beam of 5.3 meters, draft of 2.5 meters and with a blade keel with feathered bulb somewhat reminiscent of Australia 2.

She handles easily in rolling seas and sits up very comfortably. Cruising creature comforts are exceptional. Three large cabins each with head and shower/ensuite and the main cabin all lined in American Oak with amazing LED lighting and a galley with microwave, espresso coffee maker and heaps of room.

It was certainly fast luxury sailing in extraordinary comfort (almost to catamaran standards!).

FROSTBITE CRUISE 2017

BY ROBINA SMITH *CHAKANA*



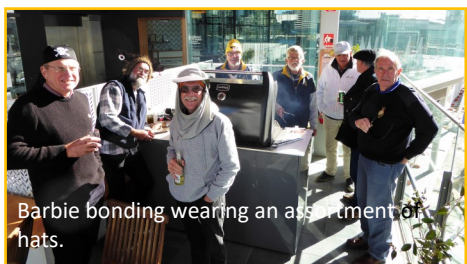
Angela, Paul and Jane organising dinner.



Settled in to sundowners.



Saturday evening potluck meal.



Barbie bonding wearing an assortment of hats.



Geoff Brewster's silly hat among many silly hats.



Salad making in the marina kitchen.

Traditionally the Annual Frostbite Cruise has been a day cruise up the Yarra River with a BBQ lunch but this year the majority of the attendees decided to make a weekend of it and head up the Yarra on Saturday. A forecast of strong northerlies on Sunday morning helped the decision along with the promise of the Docklands Firelight Display on Saturday evening able to be viewed amongst great company from the wonderful Melbourne City Marina lounge.

An excellent potluck meal shared by the cruisers saw them settle into the marina lounge and not venture out into the cold to see the land based displays. However we were treated to a burning phoenix in the river followed by a short fireworks display all viewed from the comfort of the lounge.

It had been advertised that the Frostbite BBQ would be held this year at Water Plaza but due to so many boats staying at MCM we were allowed to have our day visitors join us there. *Boomaroo* and *Andalucia* had commitments to get back to so left early on Sunday, the coldest morning of the year with a touch of ice on the marina walkways. Needless to say no one was up to see them off!

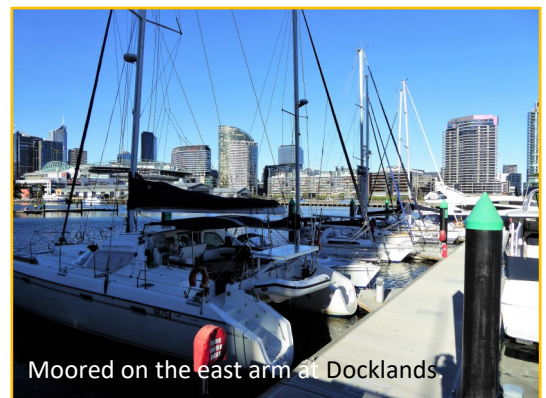
The crews of *Chakana*, *Haida Gwaii*, *It's a Privilege*, and *Summer Wind* ventured out later for coffee with *Kathleen B* crew electing to make use of the lounge facilities.

Foxy Lady with Sue at the helm and a motley crew of Jude Harris and Rob Hurrell soon arrived with Rod arriving by car. Roger and Ronda also drove. When Alan Sherratt and Maree Cox, on their maiden voyage on *Folie a Deux* and with Jenny and Grant Collins hitching a ride, arrived we had our full complement of 22 cruisers enjoying a BBQ lunch cooked on the balcony and eaten in the warmth of the lounge area.

We had advertised the reinvigoration of 'The Silly Hat' competition thinking that we would be outside and hats would be needed. Many got into the spirit of this with Geoff Brewster winning the ultimate prize among many worthwhile contenders.

After a quick pack up/tidy up we were soon back on the boats enjoying a quick sail back to RBYC in a 10-15kt northerly.

A fabulous social weekend at a wonderful winter time venue, enjoyed by 9 boats and 27 cruisers overall.



Moored on the east arm at Docklands

THE CRUISING GROUP WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE/ORGANISATIONS FOR THE RAFFLE PRIZES AT THE ANNUAL CLASSICAL MUSIC NIGHT.

- Mandy Jackson - Nutrimerics**
- Phil Russell/Robstan - Boat scrubs**
- Wyndham Harbour/Brad Lakeman - Weekend and Free Night Vouchers**
- Richard Buxton - 'If Matthew Flinders Had Wings'**
- Vanessa Twigg - Handpainted Silk Scarf**
- House of Uniforms - Voucher**
- Grant Collins - Hamper**

Proceeds go towards the Cruising Group Project. 2016 project was the sponsorship of two disabled people on *Tenacious*, one a bay cruise and the other for a longer passage.



Also, **Graham Noel** who donated a model of **Cutty Sark** for the silent auction with the proceeds going to **Junior Sailing**.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER



The RBYC Cruising Group welcomes Paul Jenkins, *Kathleen B*, to the committee.

Paul's first sailing experience was 33 years ago on a bare boat charter in the Whitsunday's. Since then he has been hooked on sailing. He bought a Mirror dinghy and progressed through OTB boats. After selling the Mirror he rebuilt a Heron and spent time sailing Corsairs and Pacers and various other classes as a Volunteer Coxswain at the scouting and guiding sailing centre at Sandringham. He has owned trailable yachts, crewing and skippering in many trailable races, before purchasing the Traditional Keel Boat he now sails out of Brighton. At 30ft, *Kathleen B* is not a fast passage maker outside of the heads but she is very seaworthy and comfortable for two. Paul has participated in the last two Bass Strait Cruises with his partner Jane. They enjoy cruising together and hope to eventually move up to a larger boat and venture further afield.

Paul described his first committee meeting as a 'Baptism by Fire'....we put him to work immediately!

MEMBER NEWS



Happy Birthday agile foredeck!

Will Merritt, Andaluca has recently celebrated a big birthday. If you want to work out how big take his sail number, subtract the number of his combined grand-

children, divide by the number of sons, subtract his pen number, divide by the number of great grandchildren, and subtract the number of boats owned. Numbers needed in no particular order will be 2,5,9, 11, 435 and 1771.

Roger and Anne Claydon, Dreamweaver, have headed off for some blue water cruising over the next four months. They left RBYC on Tuesday 4th July and have arrived in Sydney after a brief stop at Eden. Their intention is to head across the Coral Sea when there is a weather window, passage making up the east coast until that window appears.

Sandy and Rod Watson, Emma Kate, have tied up at Keppel Bay Marina after a scenic trip from Bundaberg via Lady Mus-

grave, Pancake Creek and Great Keppel Island. They loved Lady Musgrave where the turtles, of which there were many, were beautiful! It was great to have the experience of wonderful crew **John and Jo (Kirra Kirra)** to help them get out there and back. The boat will stay at Keppel Bay Marina for two months while Rod and Sandy head home for babysitting.

Rob Hurrell has returned to Melbourne for a month, leaving **Aquacadabra** at Cammeray Marina on a swing mooring. He will return in time for the Sydney Boat Show and to continue exploring Sydney Harbour. Ross Fisher, Robina and Brenton Smith will join him for the Boat Show.

Steve Harnett, Beaujolais, is cruising around the Whitsundays. **Jude** is planning to join him there soon.

Lyn and David Bingham, Mirrabooka, have headed north for some warm weather and to spend time with their grandchild.

Alan Sherratt and Maree Cox, new owners of **Folie a Deux**, have taken *Folie* on her first outing with the Cruising Group, participating in the Frostbite Cruise to Docklands. They have now gone from 20 feet to 26 feet to 39+ feet. We hope to see them at many more!

It was great to see **Rod Slater, Foxy Lady**, out and about at the Frostbite Cruise. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery and we hope he will soon be back sailing on *Foxy Lady*.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 21st JULY FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speakers: Rob Hurrell, *Aquacadabra*, Peter and Susie Strain, *It's a Privilege* and Robina Smith, *Chakana*.

2017 VDL-C Cruise. Circumnavigating Tasmania in a fleet of 45 boats.

Aquacadabra, *It's a Privilege* and *Chakana* participated in the 2017 Van Diemens Land Cruise in a fleet of 45 boats from all over Australia. Aquacadabra and *Chakana* cruised the local waters of Hobart for some time in summer before the cruise. *It's a Privilege* joined the Geelong fleet, meeting up with the main fleet on the northern coast of Tasmania.

Come to hear them relate their experiences and enjoy a fabulous photo display, which includes Rob's drone pictures from a perspective not normally seen. Should be a great night. (This editor is not biased!)

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

Please book with the office (95923092) no later than Wednesday July 19th. Bookings essential.

SATURDAY 29th JULY END OF MONTH CRUISE

A cruise to Yarra's Edge Marina for an overnight stop over. (Of course you are always welcome to extend your stay.) The facilities, although modern and clean, are not as grandiose as at Melbourne City Marina so we thought we would do something different and book a table at one of the restaurants along South Wharf, which is a short stroll from the Marina. Yarra's Edge is a secure private marina and a nice quiet spot way from the hustle of the waterfront precinct.

Each vessel will need to phone the marina office on **9681 8394** to make their own booking. Normal overnight fee is \$50.00 but if we get more than 10 boats it will be reduced to \$40.00. Make sure you tell them you are with RBYC Cruising Group when booking.

Cruise coordinator is Paul Jenkins (already put to work!) Please email expressions of interest to him paul.jenkins8@bigpond.com including numbers of POB asap so that a restaurant booking can be made as this area is very popular for dining.

SUNDAY 30th JULY QCYC Christmas in July

A short reminder. If you would like to attend Christmas in July at the QCYC clubhouse on Sunday 30th July and haven't yet booked, please book via [TryBooking](#) or call John Mooney (0403 065 590) as soon as possible.

FRIDAY 18th AUGUST FORUM DINNER MEETING

TBC

SATURDAY 26th AUGUST END OF MONTH CRUISE

Armchair Chat

Royal Brighton Yacht Club Presentation Night was held last Friday. During the evening I had the pleasure of presenting the Cruising Yachtsman of the Year Trophy to Allan Haddow. Allan is circumnavigating Australia, single handed. Thus far he has sailed *Ophelia* from Melbourne to Darwin, and will sail down the west coast shortly.

Paul Jenkins, who is relatively new to sailing keelboats, has participated in the last two Bass Strait Cruises, was awarded the Most Improved Cruiser of the Year. Congratulations to the recipients of these from the Cruising Group.

Without taking away from the achievements of Allan and Paul and all other trophy winners I must make comment about Presentation Night this year. It is my opinion that the night is for the recognition of sailing achievement - not for dancing.

Roger Walker,
Chairman Cruising Group.

Editors note: Photos from Presentation Night will be included in the next newsletter.



Captain Coxswain's Corner

'TOE THE LINE'

In the 19th century, sailors were expected to prepare themselves for group punishment by standing in formation on deck and 'toeing the line' between the boards - also called 'toeing the crack'. This usage is the earliest that has been found for 'toe the line' in print.

These days we use this expression to mean to conform to an established standard, to accept the authority, policies, or principles of a particular group.