



CRUISING NEWS



FEBRUARY 2018

COMBINED CLUBS BAY CRUISE AND BARBEQUE

BY BRENTON SMITH

For many years we, the RBYC Cruising Group, have enjoyed the company of other yacht clubs around the bay and, in particular, their barbeque facilities ashore. Following the completion of our new deck and restaurant, our Cruising Group committee decided to extend the welcome mat to other cruising groups in the bay to showcase the new facilities and the inaugural 'Combined Bay Cruise' was launched.

Five boats and crews, including the commodore of RGYC - John Klint, accepted our invitation and joined the five boats from Brighton. The plan was to rendezvous at the Fawkner Beacon at 4pm on Saturday 3rd March, sail to the RBYC marina, and after tying up to move to the clubhouse for an evening of swapping cruising yarns over a barbeque with a beverage or three. The plan was executed flawlessly, assisted by the very pleasant 12-15kt afternoon sea breeze and flat seas.



It's a Privilege and Maatsuyker meeting at the Fawkner Beacon.

The plan was executed flawlessly, assisted by the very pleasant 12-15kt afternoon sea breeze and flat seas.

Chakana left her pen at 2.30pm, followed shortly afterwards by *Haidii Gwai*, *Manali*, *It's a Privilege* and *Sans Souci*, and



Imogen and Boomaroo.



Magic and Maatsuyker



Bundaberg

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tacked out to the Fawknar. Other RBYC boats were racing and met up with us in the bar. Even close-hauled sailing is pleasant in these conditions and we arrived shortly before 4pm to find *Maatsuyker* (RGYC) and *Boomaroo* (PLQYC) already there, before being joined shortly by *Imogen* (HBYC) and *Magic* (RGYC). *Bundaberg* (RGYC) was a late arrival after John Klint completed his day of racing at Geelong. Her long waterline length and tall rig made for some rapid sailing in ideal conditions.

Drinks and nibbles on the upstairs balcony followed and continued until the lowering sun prompted a move indoors to the Members Bar. The barbeque from the Jock Sturrock centre was moved closer to the action, fired up with about half of the crews electing to cook there, while the others ordered meals from the restaurant.

Committee members provided a rich variety of salads in copious quantities to ensure that we all had the all-important bal-

anced diet that night while the yarns were swapped along with news and views from the other clubs. Captain Bully (see p8) welcomed the skippers and crews, and presented the concept of having this event rotate around the bay hosted by various clubs.

Later, many of those that stayed on board in the marina gathered for a nightcap or three on *Magic*. Coffees ashore in the morning provided the necessary kick start for the visitors before they headed home to their respective clubs. Following the success of the inaugural 'Combined Bay Cruise', can we look forward to another?

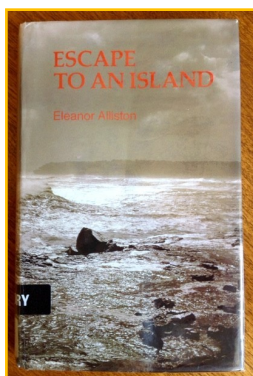
Many thanks to the RBYC staff who enabled the smooth running of this event.



ESCAPE TO AN ISLAND

Author - Eleanor Alliston

BOOK REVIEW



I've just finished reading 'Escape to an Island' - the 'island' being Three Hummock Island, a 70 square kilometre granite island in the Hunter Group about 30 nm's off Tassie's NW coast. We've cruised to the Hunters several times and love the area, especially Three Hummock.

John and Eleanor Alliston were residents and caretakers of Three Hummock Island for 33 years from 1951 to 1984, an island of 23,000 acres

which was, at that time, leased from the Tasmanian Government. Cattle and sheep were grazed on the island from the mid 1800's to the mid 1970's.

To say their existence was 'spartan' would be an understatement. They survived in the early years with no refrigeration, no power and no radio or other means of communication with the outside world apart from the odd visiting boat. When one of their four children was dangerously ill at 7 months old and needed urgent medical attention they lit a fire on a high point to attempt to attract the attention of fishermen on nearby Hunter Island. It worked - and mum and baby were evacuated to the mainland for a week or so where baby Warwick eventually made a full recovery.

Soon after that they were provided with a brand new radio.

John, a Commander in the Royal Navy, had dreamt of 'going to a deserted island to get away from it all' following WW2. So in 1949 Eleanor and John, with three small children, Venetia, Robert and Warwick, emigrated to Australia in search of 'their island'. Their fourth baby, Ingrid, arrived while they were living on Three Hummock.

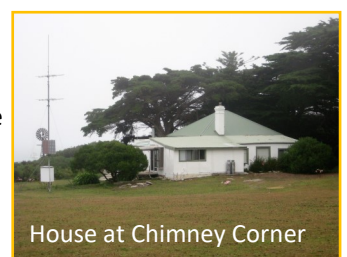
All children were home-schooled on the island until secondary school age when they were sent off to boarding school. What an extraordinary childhood they had - their experiences and learning far exceeding any classroom education.

The Allistons enjoyed the isolation of being sole occupants, although from time to time they had others assisting with the work that large numbers of sheep and cattle entailed. After a time they purchased a boat, the 44ft Straitsman, which took the pressure off relying on others for the transportation of cattle and sheep to (and from) the mainland. Many adventures ensued for the family in the Straitsman.

'Escape to an Island' is written with humour and is a wonderful insight into the trials, tribulations and absolute joys of life on an island at that time.

There is quite possibly a copy in our Club library.

Pam Merritt



House at Chimney Corner

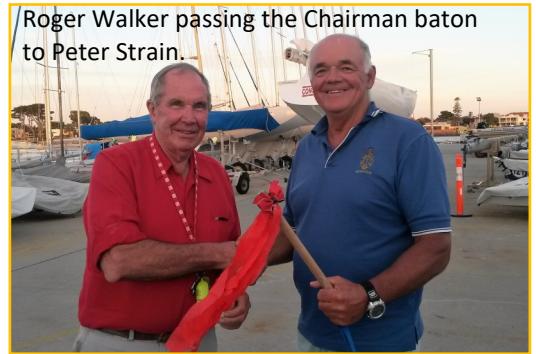
2017 HARDSTAND CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY ROBINA SMITH



Jo, Sue, Rod and John

A warm and balmy evening greeted the 60 cruisers who assembled on the hardstand for the Annual Hardstand Christmas Party with their barrows full of BYO everything to celebrate another wonderful year of cruising.



Roger Walker passing the Chairman baton to Peter Strain.

Wearing an assortment of Christmas hats and initially keeping to the shade of the shipping containers, the cruisers shared sundowners and swapped yarns of cruising past, present and future. The barbeques were lit and meals cooked as the sun set over the marina.



The evening also saw the passing of the baton from Chairman Roger Walker to incoming Cruising Chairman Peter Strain. We thanked Roger for ably leading us for 3 years and welcomed Peter with a baptism of fire...leading the cruisers in the carol singing.



Robina, Pam, Susie, Ronda, Barbara and Maree

Now corralling 60 cruisers to sing the same carol at the same time to the same tune is quite a difficult proposition by this time of the evening but with the now proven leadership of Peter, supported by a group of very melodious cruisers, we managed to celebrate the joy of Christmas in combined voice.



Paul, Geoff, Peter and Jane

Light became an issue as the sun disappeared over the horizon as we hadn't rigged up any additional lights, thinking the hardstand would be well lit. Paul and Jane saved the day with their inflatable solar lights. These would be a great addition to our boat lighting - but were reluctantly returned at the end of the evening.

After the sharing of the traditional Lions Christmas Cake and with a bit of chill creeping into the air the cruisers packed up the barrows and headed home - or to their boats - or even to carry on the party on other peoples' boats!



The Pizazz crew.

Thanks to the committee members and others who helped to set up and clear the hardstand. Also thanks to the RBYC staff who always support us with the delivery of the BBQ's, tables and chairs to the hardstand.



Joining in the Carols.



Sundowners as the sun goes down,



David and Rod.



Our leading Choristers.; Rod, Lyn, Rob, Peter and Paul.

BIRUBI - SOUTH AUSTRALIA BOUND

BY SUE DRUMMOND

Birubi has been pen bound for 7 months, since her anti fouling in May 2017. The weather was appalling so her shakedown was the actual voyage to South Australia. Our trusty crew were Maureen, my cycling buddy and novice sailor, and Lou and Marnie from *Cavarlo*. Step one was a motor to Queenscliff and a fuel up. Step 2 was an early departure out the heads and a quick overnighter to Portland. Maureen showed great sailing promise by not getting seasick. The marina is easily booked and has plenty of space for casual berthing along the north side of the walkway. The sailing club offers showers and toilets a short walk away and toilets are in the Tourist Information Centre. While we were there, *Ingenue* arrived. Tom and Leanne had brought her back from Tassie after 3 years. *Enchantress*, a 36ft wooden yacht, arrived too, fresh from the Sydney Hobart. It's owner, John Willoughby, was returning her to Adelaide and was able to give us some information on Kangaroo Island anchorages. He advocated the Bay of Shoals where he has a winery. Yachties get a 50% discount! A good friend of Bryan's lent us a car for a day so we were able to check out Cape Bridgewater; a stunning beach with a very nice cafe. Rain prevented a walk to the seal colony.

Another window of easterly wind opened and we set off for another overnight sail to Robe in SA. It was a little boisterous and the outhaul gave way which lead to the necessity for a reef which proved to be a good thing. It was a swift passage and by the time we entered the notorious Backstairs Passage between Cape Jervis and Kangaroo Island, though the tide was adverse, the wind died out and we had a smooth motor through. We chose American River, advised by fellow catamaran sailors we met in Robe. As the tide rushes through American River it is advised to ring Carol and arrange a mooring. She put us on a heavy duty mooring of a fishing boat which was at sea. Lou and Marnie, keen for a swim, used the swift tidal stream and a rope. It was like a natural endless spa and very refreshing.

The following morning, the outflowing tide took the mooring about and *Birubi* with it. Lou and Bryan had gone ashore to head off and pick up a hire car but Bryan raced back, we re-



leased the buoy (probably not attached to the mooring at this point) and we found a spot to anchor. Lou and Marnie did a road trip round the Island, whilst Bryan and I guarded the boat. I informed Carol of this development. She informed me that it's was likely the mooring has been weakened by someone putting several boats on it whilst she was away at Christmas. She informed me that no one swam there due to the current but also the white pointer who takes up residence in the river in the summer. Lucky break, not getting eaten whilst swimming. This would not do. There is a tiny marina, first come, first served at Christmas Cove near the town of Penneshaw on the Dudley Peninsula east of American River. We upped anchor and headed there finding a spot on the T piece where we could secure *Birubi* and go exploring by hire car.

Lou and Marnie headed home and we were able to hire a car and check the sea lion colony, Vivonne Bay and the main town of Kingscote. Close to it is the Bay of Shoals. And yes, the winery did offer 50% discount to yachties so we were able to get some very nice vino. We're off to Wirrina Cove marina en-route to Adelaide to fix the few things that busted and pick up our friends from Tassie.

Update from Skiprnet: Have been in CYCSA, North Haven, Adelaide and now back at KI.

THANKS ROGER!

The Cruising Group Committee held a dinner on Friday 2nd February to thank outgoing chairman **Roger Walker** for his leadership of our group over the past 3 years. Thanks also to **Ronda** for providing support.



CRUISE PROVISIONING



We all know that a yacht is only as good as the food that is on board to sustain the skipper and the crew. Scurvy is a rare affliction these days, but threats of mutiny are not when inappropriate provisioning, spoilage of food due to inadequate storage or insufficient supplies upset the crew. Unhappy crews were a common occurrence in the 1800's but can be easily avoided on our boats with their much improved facilities in the galley plus a variety of easily obtainable foodstuffs that have been preserved via canning, dehydration, freezing etc. These all enable easy provisioning of a boat for a cruise.

The choice of provisions is largely dictated by the means of refrigeration, which can range from an icebox to limited refrigeration to a combination of fridge/freezer. I was reminded of this recently when Jenny Collins *Currawong*/icebox and Pam Merritt *Andalucia*/limited refrigeration and ice box were comparing notes about meeting at the freezers in Queenscliff Yacht Club at the dead of night, due to the timing of slack water, to retrieve their pre-prepared meals and ice for the Bass Strait Cruise. Delaying the retrieval enabled the meals to stay frozen for as long as possible during the cruise. *Chakana* has even had this experience when our fridge/freezer died on the way to Queenscliff so the rest of the two week Bass Strait cruise was spent procuring ice wherever possible, including King Island and Stanley, to keep our food edible for as long as possible. I have always provisioned with an emergency fall back plan of cans and dehydrated foods and thus maintained the morale of *Chakana's* crew.

With the Bass Strait Cruise preparations underway many crews are working out their provisioning plan for the two weeks away. I thought it would be appropriate to present some handy tips from three providores with very different storage facilities on their boats. The basis of the provisioning is to have at least one bbq meal as we try to have a communal bbq on shore somewhere, pre-prepared meals for easy preparation at sea or after an extended sundowners, a supply of nibbles for sundowners and other food according to what the crew likes to eat.

Over several cruises I have become aware of some notable provisioning. *Foxy Lady* dehydrates their own home-made meals, if you are interested talk to them about it. Lyn Bingham is famous for her sausage rolls among the crew on *Mirrabooka*, that recipe was in a past newsletter, Sally on *Sun Kiss* for her fruit cake and Craig Walton for bringing fabulous plum puddings to share made by Michelle.

Provisioning on *Chakana* - bbq on rails in cockpit, refrigerator/freezer- hopefully reliable, oven

- Several pre-prepared frozen meals kept in the freezer
- Several packs of bbq meat vacuum packed and stored in the freezer to have with salad/potatoes
- Pasta options using tins, jars and dehydrated ingredients
- Curry using frozen meat, dried spices and sachets of sauce
- Small roast, in the freezer, with fresh vegetables
- Frozen loaf of bread/ bread mix to bake when required
- Wraps for lunches filled with cheese and salad. Small tins tuna to supplement
- Muesli and Easiyo yoghurt that can be made on board as required
- Muesli bars, fruit cake, fruit, nibbles for sundowners - biscuits, dips, cheese, nuts, chips, olives etc

This Skipper's Tip was compiled by Robina Smith with contributions from Pam Merritt and Jenny Collins..... These are the ones who know that they really make the most important decisions on board!

Pam Merritt - Andalucia

Provisioning for 3 or 4 crew for two weeks with limited refrigeration (40 litre Waeco) plus ice-box has some challenges but we never go hungry. We start with about three pre-cooked frozen meals and three or four frozen vacuum packed packs of BBQ meat. These stay frozen in the fridge for about three days and are mostly used in the first week as they thaw out. After that it's pastas, risottos and left-over fry ups, with hopefully a meal or two out if possible.

Vacuum packed corned beef keeps really well and is great for lunches. Wraps and dry biscuits replace bread for lunches after the first couple of days.

Veggies are stored in the ice-box while we have ice - which isn't for too long if we go Refuge Cove way. Our winners for keeping in the veggie stakes are sweet potatoes, potatoes, cherry tomatoes, snow peas, onions, garlic and zucchini - supplemented by canned chick peas, corn, beetroot, cannelloni beans etc.

If all else fails there's always a good supply of cans at the bottom of our very deep food locker.

A well fed crew is a happy crew!!

Jenny Collins – Currawong Here are a few hints that come to mind for no refrigeration or oven.

We had salami hanging from the grab rails in the cabin. Very useful as no refrigeration needed. Use the salami chopped up in risotto, sliced in sandwiches, sliced for nibbles etc. Small butternut pumpkins keep very well uncut. (Grant has a great recipe for fish curry with pumpkin). Onions and potatoes don't need refrigeration but we stored them in a cloth bag. Also used rice noodles as they only need to soak in hot water for 10 minutes. Fully dried tomatoes and mushrooms were also a staple. Pour boiling water on them to soften, then use the water to cook the rice for your risotto. Gives it lots of flavour. Fried scones were a favourite - no oven needed. Make scone recipe without the butter. Melt butter in frypan/saucepan and cook in frypan, turning when brown on underside. May put a lid on it to hasten cooking.

27th BIRTHDAY CRUISE TO ROYALS

BY ROBINA SMITH



Kirra Kirra, Reliance, Sun Kiss and Haida Gwaii at Royals.



Sun Kiss and Haida Gwaii rafted up.



Kathleen B



The Sun Kiss crew!



Enjoying nibbles and a catchup.



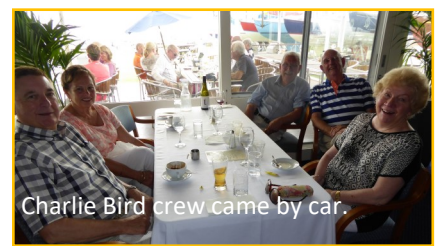
Skippers meeting: John, Will, Paul and Terry.



Making good use of Royals deck!



Enjoying nibbles and a catchup.



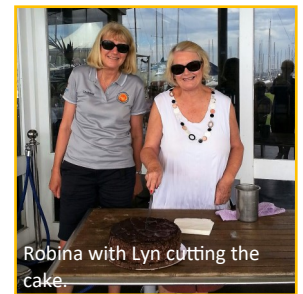
Charlie Bird crew came by car.



Robina and Officer of the Day Noel Williams.

With fine weather and enough wind to warrant putting the sails up, 5 boats, *Haida Gwaii*, *Kathleen B*, *Kirra Kirra*, *Reliance* and *Sun Kiss* ventured up to Royal Yacht Club of Victoria for the Annual Birthday Cruise with crews of *Andalucia*, *Chakana*, *Emma Kate* and *Mirrabooka* hitching a ride. *Charlie Bird* and *Catwalk* crews elected to drive across.

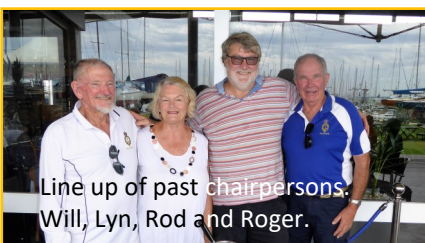
We were warmly welcomed by the Officer of the Day, Honorary Secretary Noel Williams, and proceeded to make good use of the bbq's and deck area to cook up a feast.



Robina with Lyn cutting the cake.

Our new Chairman, Peter Strain, was unable to attend as he was busy walking his daughter down the aisle that weekend. Robina stepped into his place, or rather all the past Chairpersons stepped back, to thank RYCV for their hospitality once again. The birthday cake was cut by Lyn Bingham who happens to be the earliest in time of the past Chairpersons in attendance.

A steady breeze enabled a great sail home. Another wonderful day!



Line up of past chairpersons: Will, Lyn, Rod and Roger.



Will and David letting go lines.



Sailing back on Kirra Kirra.



Calm seas home.

GEELONG FESTIVAL OF SAILS

BY PAUL JENKINS

RBYC was well represented at the Geelong Festival of Sails with some 30 entries across 9 divisions. After a slow start to the passage race from Melbourne to Geelong on the Friday conditions picked up in Corio Bay with the forecast afternoon sea breeze. RGYC put on a great weekend although they could have asked the gods for less heat with Sunday in particular being a scorcher.

A morning race on Saturday followed with some courses shortened due to lack of breeze, two yachts running aground at the neck trying to tack up the laid course via the Hopetoun Channel and saw boats struggle to make it back to the start line for the original start time of the twilight races. The start was then delayed just over 1.5 hours with the sea breeze once again coming in between 20-25kts. This meant some frustration as some 260 yachts hunted up and down patiently waiting for a start. This race was exciting with one yacht suffering rig failure and dismasted and a few others having gear failure.



It's a Privilege crew cooling off with synchronised swimming.

The heat also reminded us all of how important it is to keep reapplying sun block and keep well hydrated.

Sunday morning's race was a great one with good winds from 10 to 15 knots and most of the Brighton boats heading straight home after finishing.

The RBYC winning places were as follows:

- Matchless - 1st in Cruising AMS Division 2 (EHC)
- Nimrod II - 2nd Cruising Spinnaker Division 2
- Instant Karma - 3rd Cruising Spinnaker Division 2
- It's a Privilege - 3rd Multihull Division
- Avventura - 2nd Cruising Non-Spinnaker

The 175th anniversary of this regatta evidently was officially rated as the largest in the southern Hemisphere this year with some 300 entries.



Nimrod rounding a mark.



Nimrod crew.



It's a Privilege.



It's a Privilege crew.

MEMBER NEWS

Cruising Group is pleased to welcome the following new members; **Peter Gebhardt** owner of *Nimrod II* and **Emmanuel and Larissa Christophidis**. We hope to see them at cruising functions and activities and get to know them.

Vale David Goodwin

Cruising Group received this message from David's daughter Leonie.

"Can you please pass this message on to anyone in the RBYC you think may have known David: Sadly, my father **David Goodwin**, a long-standing member of the yacht club, passed away on 30th December 2017 after a long battle with leukaemia. Dad greatly enjoyed being a member of the Cruising Group and had many wonderful times, good friends and happy memories. Thank you to everyone!"

David most recently sailed *Selkie* and participated in many cruising events over the years.

A reminder that registration with RYCT is now open for any boats intending to participate in the **2019 VDL Circumnavigation**. https://www.ryct.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/CPlan19_v08.pdf

Bass Strait Cruise update: 18 boats expressed interest in the RBYC Cruising Group Cruise in Company. At this time it is possible that there will be 15 starters. A barbeque and final get together for planning purposes will be on Friday evening, 9th Feb. Those who have expressed interest need to watch their emails for up-

dates regarding catering.

On New Years Eve a few cruisers gathered on arm 4 in the marina to celebrate the New Year. Once again we had a spectacular view of the fireworks from the attenuator.



Barbara Burns and Geoff Brewster, Haida Gwaii, have kindly offered to take over the newsletter while Robina Smith goes on an extended holiday this year without her laptop.

I am sure all the Bass Strait Cruisers will provide plenty of articles to fill the April and May newsletters. I always find it amazing that I start working on the newsletter wondering what I have to put in it and then contributions come rolling into my inbox. I thank everyone for keeping me supplied with articles and sharing their stories and knowledge.

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY

Pre Bass Strait Cruise meeting and barbeque. Cruise participants check emails for details.

FRIDAY 16th FEBRUARY

FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: Rob Hurrell
Cruising the Med

Ever considered hiring a yacht in either Croatia or Greece, or perhaps a boat for the French Canals? Rob Hurrell will be talking about his experiences in recent years to all 3 areas within the Med. From the scenic waterways throughout these areas to the costs involved, Rob will cover it all with spectacular photos and drone footage of course!

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

Please book with the office (95923092) no later than **Wednesday February 14th at noon**. Bookings essential.

24th FEBRUARY TO 12th MARCH
ANNUAL BASS STRAIT CRUISE IN COMPANY

Boats will gather at QCYC on Saturday 24th February and finalise plans as to their destination according to the latest weather forecasts. Whether to go east, west or south and departure day will be decided after much examination of various forecast models. **Craig Walton, Yknot** is the coordinator.

FRIDAY 16th MARCH
ANNUAL BOAT PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Gather at the Members Bar for pre-dinner drinks followed by main course on first allocated boat, dessert and coffee on second allocated boat then gather back for port and chocolates. Cost TBC 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.

Jenny Collins would love to hear from all boats who are willing to host a course.
jacngrant@gmail.com

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

This is an excellent evening to get to know other members of cruising as dinner is in small groups. We therefore encourage any new members to attend.

30th MARCH to 2nd APRIL - EASTER
END OF MONTH ON WATER ACTIVITY

A cruise in company to a destination in the bay. Details to be finalised and published in the next newsletter.



Captain Bully's Blog

As the new person in the chair of the illustrious Cruising Group it would seem appropriate to explain a little about who you have entrusted to this exulted position. I am well aware of the honourable ladies and gentlemen who have preceded me and the various monikers they have earned through their rich and decorated histories. Being conscious of contributions such as Wills Wise Words I began to think about the nickname that I have inherited since my youth. Back in university days, or should that be daze, I had a long history in various swimming pools and my student contemporaries described my physique after the 50's ballad Big John "kind of broad at the shoulder and narrow at the hip". Sadly gravity and age have rather changed things but somehow this led to the nickname of 'Bulldog'. Well that is how I remember it, some may suggest more in relation to a less than flattering countenance. I am a strong believer in the older I get the better I was, but getting a little off the track here.

Our first boat at RBYC was a Ross 780 trailerable, which we purchased and raced in partnership with Marnie and Lou Irving with some small success and great enjoyment. Lou was keen to go further afield with more serious ocean racing so they upgraded to *Cavalo* and have acquitted themselves with great distinction through many of the ORCV classics. I think Lou has now completed three Sydney Hobart's. With less courage than Marnie and Lou, I used all my persuasive powers to convince my environmental, gardening life partner Susie to agree to a bigger boat, which she stipulated should have at least two hulls so that it didn't lean over. Through a fortuitous set of circumstances and before Susie could change her mind, we flew to the Gold Coast to become the proud owners of the mighty 'It's a Privilege'. After a significant amount of cruising on the east coast and as grandchildren began to arrive, various family discussions about grandparents names were had and our eldest daughter thought it appropriate these latest additions to the family should address yours truly as 'Captain'. What now seems to have stuck amongst *Privilege* crew and family is a rough combination of university days and today in that 'Captain Bully' is the current nickname. So dear Editor and Cruising Group in general I was wondering if it would be acceptable for my monthly contribution to this fine publication could be relabelled from Chair Chat to 'Captain Bully's Blog'?

Peter Strain

Editor: Done!!!