



CRUISING NEWS

APRIL 2018



Bass Strait in Company 2018 Forward by Robina Smith

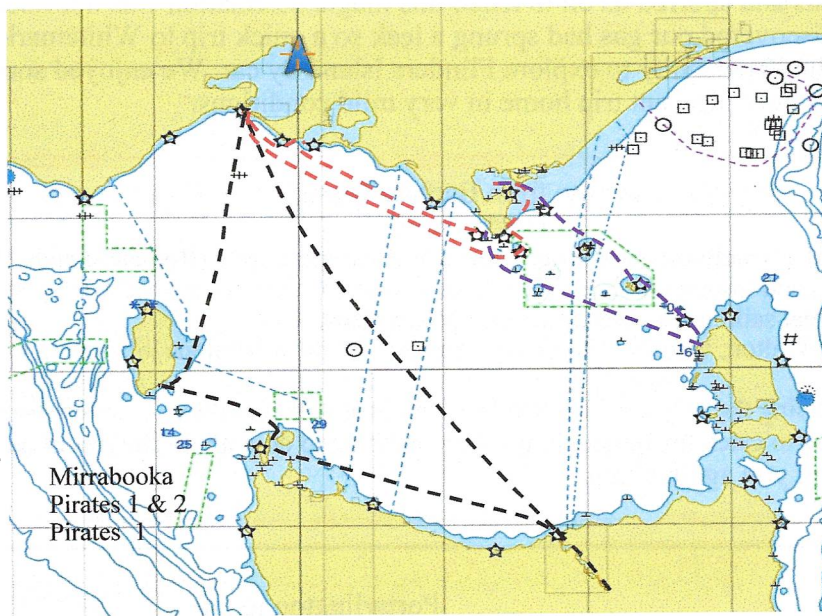
The Cruisers have returned from the Bass Strait Cruise in Company with stories to tell of pirates landing in bays, shared sun-downers and barbeques, sailing to exotic places (anywhere different becomes exotic!) and most importantly the camaraderie that is shared amongst our cruising folk. When examining the various weather models while

waiting in Queenscliff it was not obvious as to where to go and when. Should we go early to King Island and get there before the forecast gales arrived, should we leave on Tuesday morning for Refuge and take refuge there before the gales arrived or should we stay in the bay for a bit longer and wait for the gale to pass through before venturing through the heads. These questions confronted every skipper as they made their decision as to when to go.

Thus we had three cruises in company and a couple of individual cruises.

Mirrabooka made a dash for King Island on the Monday morning slack water. After a fast trip they were anchored at Grassy to see out the strong winds before heading on to Three Hummocks, the Tamar, Launceston and home. No company but great sailing!

Tuesday morning, 6 boats (Pirates 1 – that was the 2018 dress



up theme!) left the bay on the 5:20am slack water to head for Refuge Cove. With the strong winds forecast after lunch the following day, building to gale force by 5pm five boats were all anchored in Refuge Cove by midnight to have a good night's sleep before the winds arrived. *It's a Privilege* was first in followed by *Yknot*, *Mynooka*, *Chakana* and *Haida Gwaii*. These boats went on to explore Corner Inlet, Port Welshpool, Deal and Erith Islands in the Kent Group and Killiecrankie on Flinders Island, stopping in at Oberon Bay and Cat Bay (Phillip Island – new to us!)

on the return trip. *Allana* had always planned on taking day hops to Refuge Cove so stopped at Cleland Bight. Circumstances and weather meant they did not catch up with the group again but did share Oberon Bay with Pirates 2 for a night.

Some boats decided to wait for the gale to pass through before heading out of the bay. *Andalucia*, *Sun Kiss*, *Foxy Lady* and *Reliance* headed to Wyndham Harbour to wait out the gale as QCYC is not the best place to be in a strong westerly. The following day *Foxy Lady*, *Reliance* and *Sun Kiss* (Pirates 2) headed to Oberon Bay, where there was too much swell from the SW, so immediately continued on to Refuge Cove, where Pirates 1 were in the process of weighing anchor to move on. Pirates 2 went on to explore Corner Inlet, Oberon Bay, Cat Bay and enjoyed an end of cruise dinner at QCYC (which *Andalucia* was able to join) before heading home.

CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson	Peter Strain..... 0418 530 385	Rob Hurrell	0409 781 477
		Paul Jenkins	0400 946 658
Secretary	Jenny Collins.....9585 1154	Will Merritt	9598 8626
		Pam Merritt	9598 8626
Editor	Robina Smith.....0403 791 347	David Pollard	9592 6554
	Email.....robina_smith@hotmail.com	Roger Walker	0407 844 992

Catherine Clarke

Mynooka

On Mynooka as part of the Pirates 1 cruise, our crew were first timers at Refuge Cove, (well Steve had been there 20 years ago) Port Welshpool, Corner Inlet, Deal Island and Killiecrankie, so we felt like intrepid sea faring explorers more than pirates. The walks to Sealers Cove and the Lighthouse on Deal Island exercised our land lubbing legs and the scenery was fantastic. At Refuge Cove, sun-downers on the beach were interrupted by frantic efforts to save the school of bait fish from certain death at the hands of the skipjack salmon, but to no avail. Many of the tiny fish were either devoured or beached with the same deadly outcome. Revenge was taken by the quick thinking fisherman on Ynot who caught about 10 of the salmon for a tasty meal.

When we arrived at our final destination in Killiecrankie, the promise of large and juicy crayfish that stimulated our taste buds and spurred us on to reach this magic destination was not fulfilled alas.

Then to cap it off, we discovered our gas had sprung a leak so a quick trip to Whitemark restored our reserves and we took the opportunity to explore Flinders Island by car. We enjoyed some great sailing along the way and a very pleasant trip home in very mild conditions.

A note from Barbara Burns

Haida Gwaii

This year Geoff and I had a wonderful Bass Strait Cruise, We had great crew (Rod and Sandy Watson), and the conditions were very good throughout the time we were away. After a somewhat wobbly start the weather god gathered itself and great sailing was had by all who participated.

A special thanks to Craig Walton, who was the group organiser, he did a fabulous job, and ran a very smooth ship (excuse the pun).

I even forgave him for having the only crayfish that was caught at Killiecrankie.....of course the fact that he and his crew got up at 6am to catch the beast might have something to do with it. The rest of us were too lazy and stayed in bed. Thank you again Craig.

WILL'S WAYWARD WANDERINGS

So for various unforeseen reasons we didn't quite make Bass Strait for our eighteenth consecutive 'cruise in company'. I must say we were quite disappointed. However we made the most of our two weeks of Bay cruising instead. I did find it interesting that the fleet broke into three groups, each of which may be viewed as representing a different aspect of cruising. The 'Adventurers' jumped the gun and were first away. They appeared to be working on the principal that the further you go the more you'll see while successfully enjoying the adrenalin rush of playing dodgem with various weather windows and making a significant dent in the fossil fuel reserves.

The 'Settlers' waited for some severe weather to pass and made it to Wilson's Prom while making a smaller dent in the Planet's fuel reserves. They appeared to be happy to smell the roses and enjoy the offerings of 'Mother Nature' around the Prom.

The 'Tail Enders' appeared to be operating on no plan at all. After a brief time together at

Portarlington to enjoy a pub meal and decide the winner of the Division 3 bocce championship they took off in different directions to

enjoy some independent cruising in the Bay. We on Andalucia enjoyed a night or two at various destinations such as QCYC, Wyndham, Portarlington, RGYC, Portarlington, RBYC (to drop off crew), QCYC and home.

So, what to make of it all? My own preference for cruising in company is for smaller groups, but maybe a group of one is overdoing things. Unless of course you are a 'Mirrabookan' and enjoy the loneliness of the long-distance runner. Seems to me that we all generally enjoyed being out on the water and doing our own 'thing', whatever it was, and that really is what cruising should be all about.

**Will's
Wise Words**

Suzie's Poem

Bass Strait Cruise

Eleven sailing boats went out one day
Over the waves and down the Bay
Lots of food and drinks did pack
Eleven sailing boats went out one day
Over the waves and down the Bay
Lots of food and drinks did pack
When will those sailing boats come back?

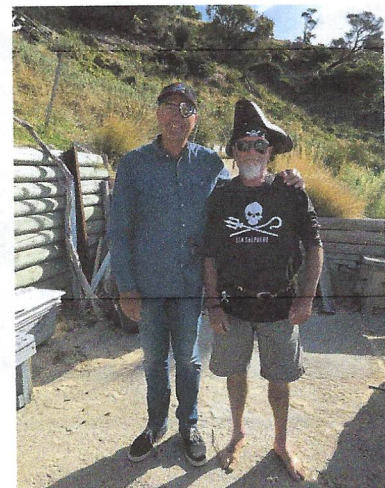
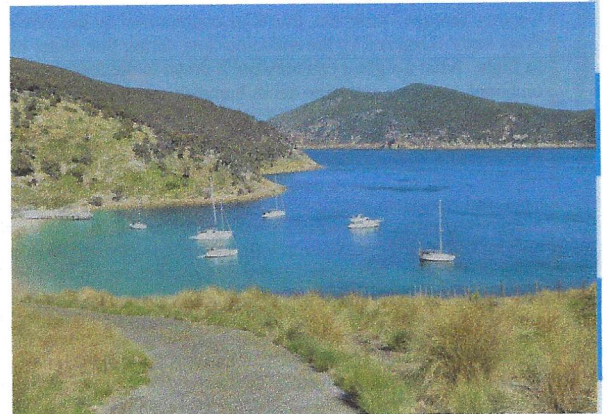
Six yacht crews got out of bed
At 5:00am went through the heads
One boat stopped at Cleeland Bight
A better spot to spend the night

Five boats sailed on
that day
In Refuge Cove they
had a stay
Corner Inlet for a
night
Privilege drinks were
a delight

Five sailing boats set
out next day
For Deal Island come
what may
Pirates had a beach
barbeque
Bocce comp won by
Chakana's crew

Five sailing boats left Deal one day
Four went on the Killiecrankie way
Privilege took the westerly tack
It was time for them to be heading back

Eleven boats on the Bass Strait cruise
Many destinations to choose
On the AIS, boats went both east and west
Weather settled, the tide was slack.
All the Brighton boats came back



CRUISING NEWS APRIL 2018

The Port Phillip Pirates Re-Take Refuge

(An extract from the log book of Leading Seaman Slater, March 2018)

We glided in at dawn, taking advantage of the poor light in Refuge to gain the upper hand against a much larger fleet. Once we were amongst them, shiver me timbers if they didn't just run for it.

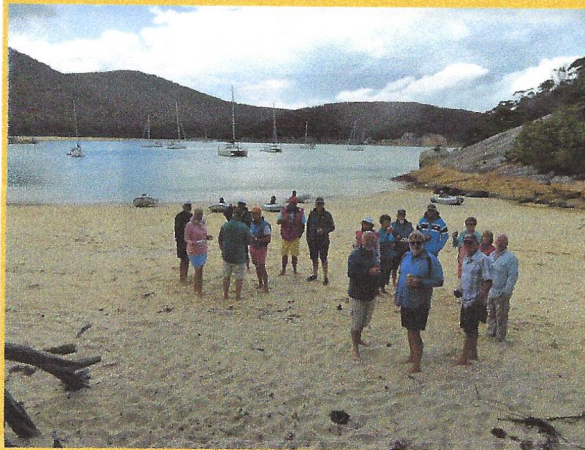
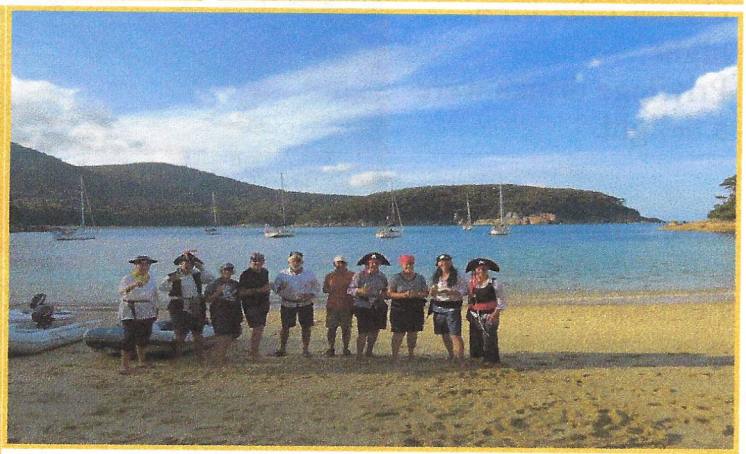
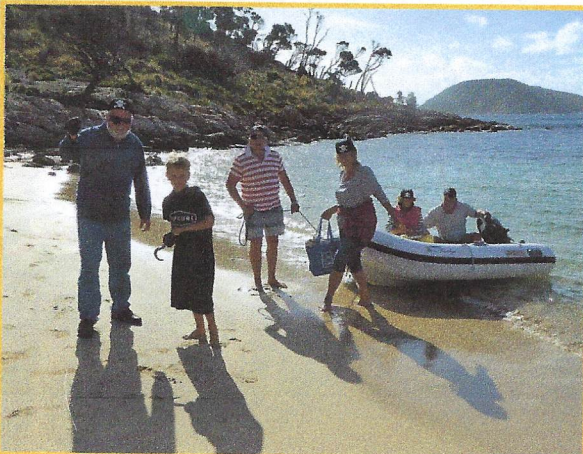
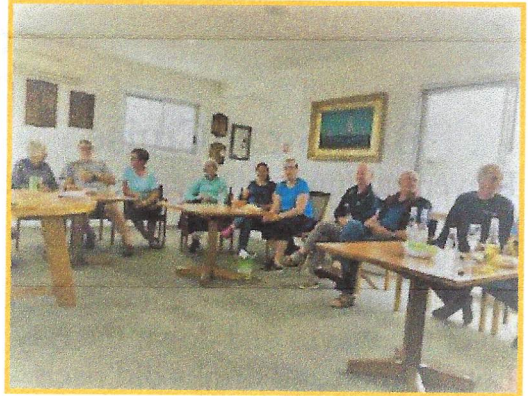
We were expecting something of a fight, so you can imagine our surprise when the larger fleet simply upped anchor and fled. A mere three boats, Reliance under the fearsome Captain Terence Frankham, Sun Kiss commanded by the indefatigable David Spencer and Foxy Lady skippered by the audacious and daring Sue Slater had put a fleet twice their size to flight. What a sight, I can only put it down to the fearsome crews of pirates that we had on board, standing along the decks brandishing cutlasses and yelling the age old cry of AARRGH, AARRGH, AARRGH!!!

Having established control of Refuge Cove, we dropped anchor and set about pressing the crew of a visiting boat from the lakes of far off Gippsland into our service. Very willing they were, to. Next, it was to go ashore in order to explore the surrounding hills and bays, and ensure no trouble from the locals camping in the scrub. Young people in the main, with no trouble in mind. They were clearly in awe of the fearsome Pirate Fleet, as they should have been. Willingly they agreed to participate in our victory celebrations. Particularly when they were fronted by Commander Spencer and his very frightening crew of Sally, Sandra and John.

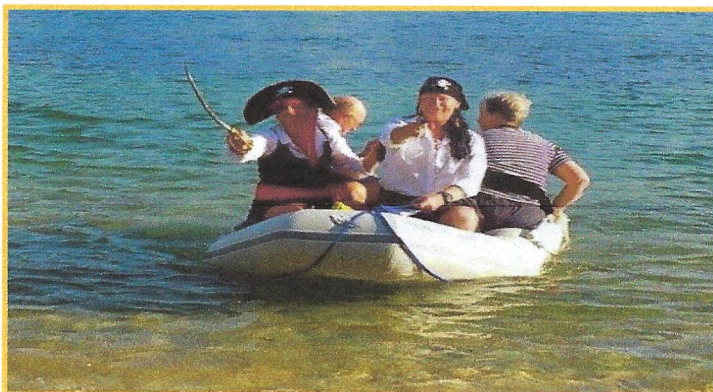
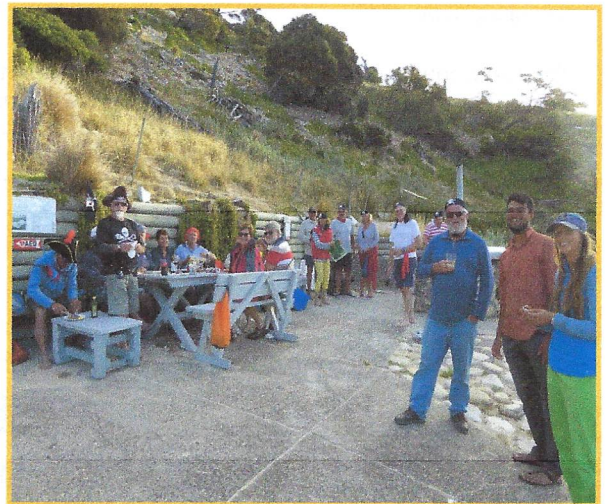
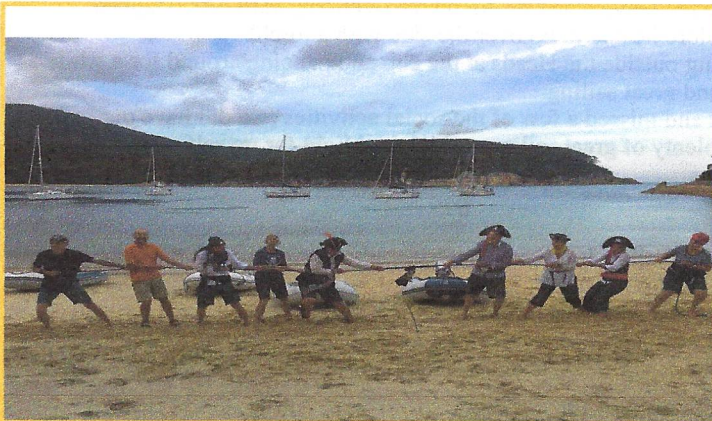
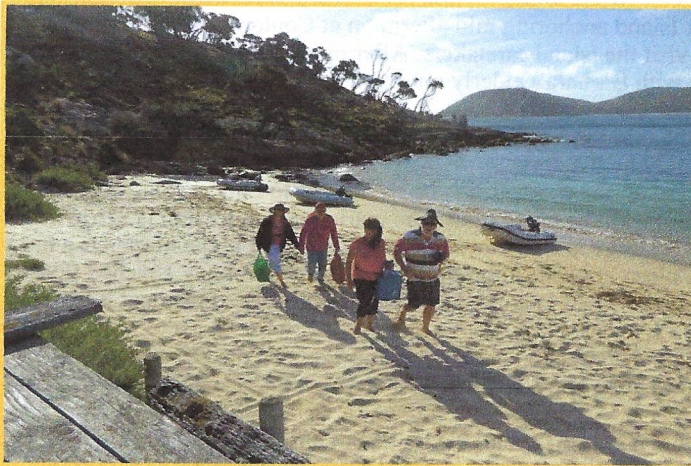
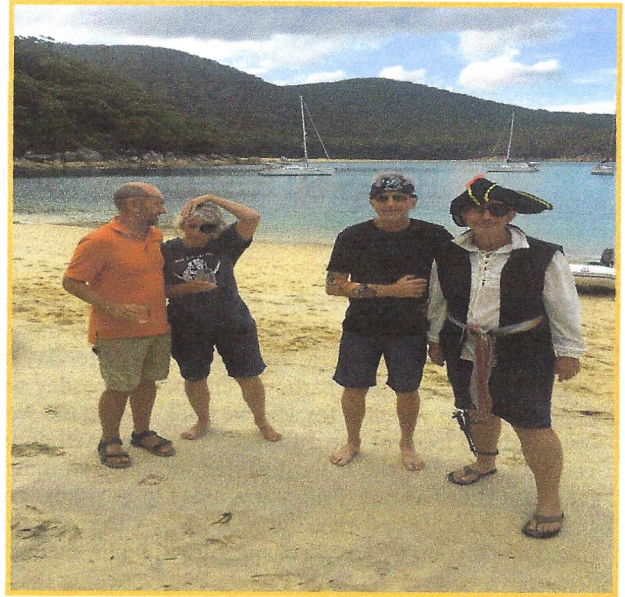
So, celebrate we did, with 3 days of rum, wine and song, not to mention a Devonshire Tea on Foxy Lady, an exciting Treasure Hunt on shore, won by Cap'n Terence Frankham and his crew of gourmands, Peter, Steve and Jude. Gold it was... the best Cadbury Gold. Then followed a test of strength, with a tug-o-war organised by Terence and the Gourmands. For this we enlisted the help of the locals, but there was cheating aplenty on the western end of the beach and we was beat, not fair and square I might add. Cutlasses were drawn but rum prevailed and we went back to drinking without a fight. It was a memorable night.

The next day we slipped anchors and headed up to Corner Inlet hunting for the yachts that had fled Refuge, but once again they had moved on before we arrived. AARRGH!!! Clearly not up for it.

Then we turned west and sailed for Cat Bay. Another beautiful spot, but home was calling and so we set sail for Port Phillip Bay the following morning. On making it through the Heads, despite the actions of a number of much larger vessels, great iron beasts with noisy, smokey engines, we anchored at the old sailing village of Queenscliff for a night of wine, rum and fine food with our old friends Cap'n Will and his crew from the Pirate ship Andalucia. It was a lovely Inn, and a good time was had by all.



Some photos of the BSC



Mirrabooka's

BASS STRAIT CRUISE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

By Tony Garvey

We arrived at QCYC on Friday afternoon. After two nights at QCYC and faced with a lot of dithering in discussions about where to go, Mirrabooka left on the early Monday morning slack water for King Island, with winds around 20 - 25 knots and a reach it was a fast trip. We arrived early Monday night and with gale force winds forecast for Wednesday, it was a couple of days in Grassy harbour. On the Wednesday we hired a car and toured the Island including the new golf course at Cape Wickham which is for sale we think. Spent the worst part of the day as the only diners in the pub watching the rain and wind and learning the difference between "well done" & "cooked well".

Thursday with fair winds we departed for Three Hummock Island anchoring mid afternoon at Coulomb Bay after a pleasant seven hour passage. Friday was a day to go ashore and visit the island caretakers. After nine years on the island Barbara and John are leaving for the burbs in Sydney to spend time with Barbara's elderly mum; on the way back to the boat we talked about what a lifestyle change it will be for them.

Friday was an overnigher to Beauty Point catching the rising tide for the passage upstream. A shower at the Tamar Yacht Club and a meal at the local restaurant was enjoyed immensely by the crew.

Next day Sunday on the flood tide with Tony helming and Ian on the charts it was up the Tamar to Launceston, what a fantastic trip, so much to see and kept on our toes a few times with the navigation. The marina at Launceston is in town and we found it so easy to get around and play tourists. Cataract Gorge is well worth the walk. Berthing at the marina is a bit haphazard with the manager/caretaker not seen or heard. A piece of welded aluminium structure with buoy attached floating past drew some attention from the marina residents and we helped to at least secure it to the stern of the boat it had run in to.

Tuesday morning early, on the ebb tide we left Launceston, this time with Ian helming and Tony on the charts and the trip down the Tamar was every bit as exciting and interesting as the trip up. Watching out for rowers in the dark an added hazard.

Tuesday was a day spent walking around Georgetown and the night was spent tied up to a mooring buoy just off the GTYC thanks to Sue Slater who had given us the number of a friend who is a member. Unfortunately we could not berth at the club jetty as it was full. The mooring was fine until we tried to leave when we found the overlong warp was wrapped around the keel. Fortunately for the skipper we got free before he had to go over the side with a torch!

Wednesday was another early start and overnigher, arriving outside the Heads at the ebb and hanging around for a while until the flow slackened. 10-15knot Easterly, on a reach and great sailing.

I know we missed catching up with the rest of the cruisers and missed a few of the social activities (we did have our own pirate night with eye patches and headscarfs) but we had plenty of great sailing and the highlight for myself and Ian was the Tamar River, it was a fantastic experience for both of us.

Thanks David

PS Just a couple of words from She Who Sits At Home and Waits who was bemused by phonecalls from King Island. The crew can enjoy a bought fruit cake with custard and bottled fruit for dessert. "We can't seem to find the fruit cake" was the plea. So I gave instructions as to where it was located. "We can't find the custard" was the next dilemma at which stage I figured there are only a few possibilities as to where the custard would be and left them to it. The custard was duly located! There was a printed itemised menu sticky taped in the galley which also contained the location of most items..... (Lyn)





Captain Bully's Blog

We welcome a great new member in Barbara Burns to the Cruising Committee and have put her straight to work doing this newsletter and coordinating those on the Easter cruise.

There has been plenty of action at our Club. We have just had a sub-committee conference, which actually turned out to be a workshop for all the sub-committees together with the general committee to facilitate ways we can all work harmoniously together for the future benefit of the Club as a whole. It highlighted the complexity of the operations of the Club in that there are a number of groups within the Club operating their own events and agendas.

The workshop highlighted a lot of positives and enthusiasm in varying groups. The off the beach is booming and I think the Cruising Group was well respected, as very active and one of the Club's great attributes. While there was acknowledgment of difficulties that had been experienced, the seminar very much concentrated on the positive achievements and the suggestions from around the room on what could be done better for the future. All in all a very positive move to improve communication, understanding between the groups within the Club and goals for improvement. Paul Jenkins suggested regular return meeting to ensure this progress continues. There will be a report from the meeting which will be circulated.

The half yearly meeting went smoothly apart from for voting on the proposed rule changes which was defeated so the existing rules remain. There was a strong feeling that the rules in total need to be completely revised rather than just the four rules that were voted on so General Committee plan to go back to the drawing board. There was discussion about more transparency of General Committee's and sub-committee information which is planned to be added to the member's web site.

BBQ "GATE", the GC and the GM are just as frustrated with the BBQ not being used and I am assured by the GM that he will battle to the finish, the change in the regulations so the BBQ can be used for all purposes including cooking our own produce. There are also plans to upgrade the men's change rooms when funds permit. I personally have a much more positive feeling that the Club is trying hard to work for the members and Clubs best interests not personal agendas.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Cruising Group Forthcoming Events March/April/ May

Have you seen the new 'RBYC Cruising Group' Facebook page. Please like it and join the group! We hope to keep it updated with photos of our Cruising Events and a calendar of our future events. Thanks to Paul Jenkins who is getting this up and running. 30th MARCH to 2nd APRIL

FRIDAY 20th APRIL: FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: Graeme Hubbert Oceanographic models

Graeme is both a Physicist and a keen sailor who developed the first operational marine models (Waves, storm surge and coastal currents) for BOM. His modelling has also included marine modelling for environmental issues and the first localised atmospheric modelling for events such as America's cup challenges. He has completed several Sydney Hobart Yacht races.

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

Please book with Mandy in the office (95923092) no later than Wednesday April 18th at 12 noon. Bookings essential.

SUNDAY 22nd APRIL

Big Boat sail with Junior Sailing.

Give our Junior Sailors the opportunity to experience sailing on a big boat by volunteering your Yacht to take some across to Royals for BBQ lunch and return back to Brighton. It's always nice to cruise across the top end and back enjoying the Hospitality of our friends at Williamstown whilst watching our juniors enjoy the experience. We need as many as we can to help out with this event. So let me know if you are able to assist.

Contact Paul Jenkins Kathleen B paul.jenkins8@bigpond.com to offer your assistance. We need lots of boats!

FRIDAY 18th MAY: FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speaker: Allan Haddow Circumnavigating Australia

Come along on 18th May to watch videos on the big screen with music (U2, The Lumineers, Andrea Bocelli, Led Zeppelin & more) on Allan's journey on Ophelia (29' Compass) from Melbourne to Mackay & onto Darwin over a two year period. Please book with Mandy in the office (95923092) by Wednesday 16th May. Bookings essential.

Members news

Robina and Brenton Smith are off to the USA to spend time in the West, taking in the sights of the Grand Canyon and Yosemite, then heading East to Chicago to visit their son and his Wife before driving to Niagara Falls and enjoying the East Coast of the US .(Lucky Ducks)

Geoff Brewster is the very Proud Grandfather of a gorgeous grandson called Frank Brewster Ramag. The parents are doing well and adjusting to not having a lot of sleep.

Roger and are also proud grandparents of a grandson called Marlon Walker.

Please keep member news flowing!!



Captain Coxswain's Corner

"Mother Careys Chickens"

Is a seafarers name for "seabirds", The storm petrels (family Hydrobatidae). The name is a corruption Of Mater Cara, darling mother. Sailors believed they came to warn them Of approaching storms, and since each bird contained the Soul of a drowned seaman it was most unlucky to kill one. M.V. Angel