



CRUISING NEWS



JULY 2018

**To Copacabana and Back**  
**By**  
**Rob Hurrell**

Copacabana is a bairro (neighbourhood) located in the South Zone of the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is known for its 4 km (2.5 miles) balneario beach, which is one of the most famous in the world.

Well, that was not the Copacabana where we ended up on our last cruise out of Pittwater a couple of weeks ago.

Aquacadabra was setting sail on her next adventure up the East coast, having had a year of R&R on Sydney Harbour. In recent weeks we had moved her to Pittwater for some major goodies to be added eg. Watermaker, lithium batteries, ice-maker, bigger TV, just to name a few. All items of course to make the floating holiday house even more enjoyable.

Tony Garvey and Mark Nicoll had joined me, to cruise up the NSW coast to Mooloolaba. We had a deadline of 2 weeks away in Mooloolaba to have some major works involving removing all windows in the saloon and re-caulking them. The planned trip allowed us time to day sail and visit many of the beautiful rivers and bays scattered along the coastline.

We left Coasters Retreat at the entrance to the Hawkesbury river at 7.00am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May for a good day sail to Newcastle.

We were 10 nm. out of Coasters when we heard an almighty banging noise coming from the engine room area and on closer hearing realized it may be where the prop shaft entered the yacht. I had been having a few issues with the tradies in

Pittwater doing the various works. My first reaction was to be on the phone to them with orders to get a rescue boat out to us immediately together with the engineer who had been doing a lot of maintenance work on the yacht.

I have always tried to have the yacht maintained to a high standard, as it is a little hard to call the RACV when you break down out in the ocean.

Since the new batteries and electrical systems were installed in February, despite vigorous testing by BME, an Electromaax 270 amp alternator seems to have overheated. This has left BME perplexed as to the reason why. A second lower capacity temporary alternator had a similar fate and BME are now keeping the amperage output control reduced to lower the temperature of the new third temporary alternator. They are also monitoring the regulator that goes with the system.

Part of the service done this year was a new cutlass bearing fitted to the skeg where the propeller shaft is held just below the hull.

They arrived about 2 hours later and fortunately it was calm seas. While waiting for them, I took a quick dive underneath to check that we hadn't caught a rope or some other item around the prop and confirmed that the prop was still there and intact, given that they had just fitted a new prop.

On their arrival the mechanic checked a few things in the engine room and listened to the awful noise whilst in gear .. **Continued next page.**

**CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairperson	Peter Strain..... 0418 530 385	Jenny Collins .....	95851154
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## To Copacabana and Back

Rob Hurrell

He dived under the yacht and found that the new cutlass bearing he had fitted a month ago had slid up the prop shaft and this allowed the prop to rotate freely in the skeg creating all the noise. He did a number of short dives (not having any breathing apparatus) and pushed the bearing half way back into the skeg so that we could gingerly motor and also be towed back to Pittwater. I say towed as during the return trip it was evident that the replacement second alternator was also overheating.

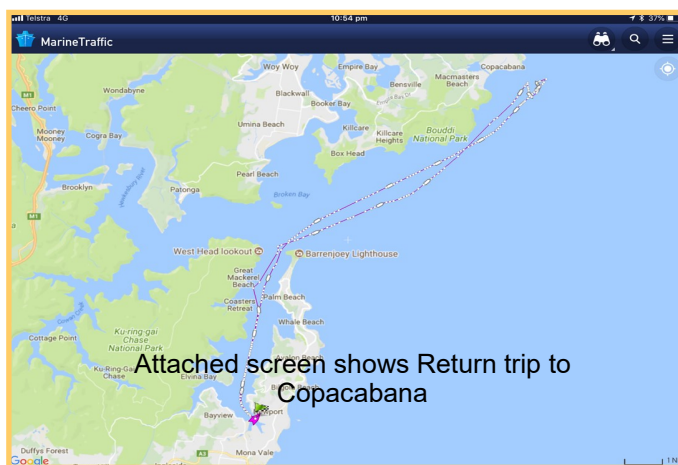
During the haulout of Aquacadabra 2 days later, the inspections clearly showed that the skeg cutlass bearing was not correctly installed. Firstly, the epoxy resin failed to hold the bearing (compared to all previous skeg bearing(s) over 23 years being successfully held with resin only), and secondly the 2 security locking screws added by the engineers, were not long enough to engage with the recessed holes in the bearing outer shell. Both deficiencies were evidence of poor workmanship. It has all been resolved now (we think). We lost 5 days of cruising and then had to spend a few days in the Hawkesbury river area while a 3 day heavy wind and weather cycle moved through.

We finally departed Pittwater again on Tues 15<sup>th</sup> and needed to be in Mooloolaba by the following weekend ready for the window tradies!

We enjoyed a 2 day and 1 night sail to Trial Bay and stayed there overnight. Well protected from the southerly wind and swell.

On Thursday morning we agreed to do a 2 day and 2 night sail for the remainder journey, straight through to Mooloolaba.

We made good miles on the first day and night, enough to hug the coast line more and enjoy various parts, including Coffs Harbour, Cape Byron, Gold Coast, etc.



Attached screen shows Return trip to Copacabana



### THANKS ROBINA - EDITOR EXTRAORDINAIRE..... Pam Merritt

The year was 2012. I'd just spent six years editing this newsletter - and it was time to pass the baton. But who to? I needed a gullible cruiser with excellent writing skills, good spelling and punctuation, imaginative ideas, advanced computer skills, a keen eye for editing and loads of spare time. Hmmm ..... that wasn't going to be easy!

I had a shortlist of about four people in my head, in no particular order.

One Saturday we went up to the Members' Bar for a drink after a race and there, at a nearby table, sat one of my 'four' innocently enjoying a glass of wine. It was time for me to spring! I downed my drink and sidled over for a friendly chat. Then "Have you ever thought of editing a newsletter?" A shocked stare replaced our friendly chatter, followed by a barrage of questions. "Well she hasn't said no!" I thought. "Leave it with me", she mumbled, "I'll think about it".

She called a couple of days later and agreed to give it a go - and so began a new era! Robina Smith became Editor and continued for another six years. She did a fantastic job and even managed the newsletter layout as well for the last few years. A massive commitment every month which Robina fitted in around holidays, babysitting, cruising etc.

Robina has now handed over to Barbara Burns, but I think she and I would agree that despite the work it's a rewarding job made easier by the willing contributions of many cruising members - most months!

I thank you Robina for being such a well chosen, dedicated and enthusiastic successor.

## POSTCARD FROM 'EMMA KATE' By Sandy Watson

It's very pleasant here at anchor in delightful Pioneer Bay, Orpheus Island; clear and sunny with a slight breeze. We are five weeks into a seven week spell on 'Emma-Kate'.

Whilst waiting for the boat to go back in the water in Mackay, we decided to visit Eungella National Park, (pronounced 'Yungulla'), about an hour and a half drive West of Mackay.

There, in the Broken River, several families of platypus are easily seen during the day, but more so at dawn and dusk, feeding and foraging. There are some friendly and inquisitive tortoises there too, who could well do with a good back scrub!

Just to divert momentarily, we had a visit at Stonehaven anchorage in the Whitsundays from 'Terry the Turtle', who came right up to our boat and just floated there, watching us. I found out later that he likes a back scrub! The Broken River Mountain Retreat was pleasant accommodation, and we did an organised bird watching walk. Also, two eight km rainforest walks gave us some exercise (and leeches)! There is a lovely looking bush camping area on the river there as well. (Take note prospective LandCruisers!) We have a few new star rated anchorages for the list: Woodwark Bay, near Airlie Beach, Cape Gloucester moorings at resort, (chains, so very hard for admirals to pick up!), Upstart Bay and of course, Horseshoe Bay!



## 2018 Black Tie Music Night by Alan Sherratt



It is nearly midwinter. Sailing still takes place but it is curtailed by the cold, the wind and the rain. In contrast, as we walked into the cruising group Music night Maree and I were faced with an array of people smartly dressed with black bow ties for the men and formal dresses for the ladies. There were some drinks to loosen tongues and social warmth which completely shut out the winter.

As far as journalism is concerned, having written the article for the Music Night last year and having not been asked again to do it this year I had assumed that the change in secretary or perhaps my incompetence last year had saved me, but that turned out not to be so. We were about to start the second bracket when Barbara leaned over and very politely asked me if I could again write an article about the concert for the newsletter. Last year, I can now confess that having the programme in advance and with a little research on the Internet and the knowledge of who the players were going to be I was able to write at least half of the article in before the night. I knew the programme was good, I knew the performers were going to perform well, and I knew it was going to be well-received so why wait for the event? Let's get writing now. Well, of course, I accepted Barbara's invitation but without prior knowledge I have not been able to draft an article in advance. What's more, with quaffing wine liberally and a general lack of attention to the first bracket I was now in an embarrassing situation. What could I remember of the first bracket? Well at least I had a copy of the program so let's battle on and with a borrowed pen write a few notes on the menu.

This year there was just one performer, Gordon McKenzie who proved to be not only a competent vocalist but able to play the piano and the organ at the same time. He also proved himself to be a good verbal entertainer and something of a master of the bad pun. Whilst the electric organ

is not my favourite musical instrument I must confess that Gordon played it to full effect. Putting personal preferences to one side I have to admit that there is no other instrument which can mimic almost any other instrument whether piano, trumpet, trombone drums or even xylophone. Gordon also treated us to a varied programme which included Latin American, ragtime, jazz, musical theatre, and classical played variously on the piano and the organ. The first bracket commenced with a rousing rendition on the organ of 'Viva Espana' followed by three other pieces on the organ and then three pieces on the piano the first two of which were described as 'piano roll' but which I would have called Ragtime and the final piece was an arrangement by Gordon MacKenzie himself of three pieces in tribute to Richard Clayderman. The first of these was the introduction to the Greig piano Concerto in A minor. Did anyone notice the melody from Three Blind Mice cleverly interwoven after the main theme?

The delicious main course of duck or pork accompanied by enjoyable conversation preceded the second bracket of music. The Second Waltz Brilliant of Durand, "so named because it followed the first" was followed by Chopin's Impromptu in G Flat ("so we spend a lot of time blowing it up") Major. Gordon McKenzie told us that Chopin was his favourite composer and he really rattled the piano with this one. The rest of the bracket was organ starting with Tico Tico and ending with Granada. Did I hear a xylophone?

After the second bracket dessert was served. For the chocoholics there was double chocolate tart together with honeycomb rocks and orange cream, for the more conservative there was passion fruit crême brûlée and almond biscotti. Being a chocoholic, I struck lucky with three other people at the table not liking chocolate. Note: remember to order larger sized wet weather gear.

**Continued on next page:**



## 2018 Black Tie Music Night by Alan Sherratt

Introducing the third bracket Russell informed us that he broadcasts on 3CR on Sunday nights. At least that's what I think he said because by that time the haze of red wine was adversely affecting my hearing. This bracket consisted of four parts, the first played on the piano, the second on the organ, the third a duet of piano and organ and lastly vocal. On the piano there were 'Rustles of Spring' by Sinding (never heard of him) and Wiener Tanze by Freidman Garner. The latter was a very pleasant piece of music now out of print but a favourite of the famous Polish pianist Paderewski.(you don't remember him? He died in 1941). Then on the organ Gordon played a medley ranging from Phantom of the Opera to 'Muskat Ramble'. To my disappointment he omitted the programmed 'Czardas' which is a famous Gipsy show piece for piano and violin.....on an organ? After the organ we were treated to a piece written by Gordon MacKenzie himself 'My Love For You', a piano and organ duet. Of course, he cheated and whilst he made out initially that he was going to play both instruments simultaneously he actually played a recording on the organ and accompanied himself on the piano. Nevertheless, it was impressive. Gordon's finale was vocal. Firstly 'If I were a Rich Man' from Fiddler on the Roof and, yes, Gordon might make a Topol and finally 'Old Man River' but no, Gordon would not quite make a Paul Robeson.

All in all it was a most enjoyable evening with good fellowship, good food and good music. What more could one wish for?



## Frostbite Cruise Brrrr! & End of Month Cruise

by  
Sally Spencer

After a wet and windy morning Andalucia, Boomaroo (having had a fast run from Queenscliff), Folie A Deux, Kathleen B, Sophistique and Sun Kiss arrived at Docklands marina at various times in the afternoon. While on the way it was fun to see a couple of ships close by, go under 2 bridges and arrive in a landscape of dense highrise, it was sad to see so much debris in the river and to keep a watch for floating timber. The bands of the Firelight Festival were close to where we moored at the Melbourne City Marina. The marina's lounge was a good venue for a potluck dinner for 17 and being on the first floor we had good views of the fireworks and other light displays.

Next morning, we were joined by Lena, but farewelled Boomaroo. Some sampled different breakfast cuisines on shore while others breakfasted on their boats. We were also joined by 3 "boatless" couples. Kathy De Garis and Alan Richardson, Rod and Sandy Watson and Geoff Brewster and Barbara Burns, and one who flew in from South America (such dedication!). The marina's facilities including a BBQ were ideal for a group of 26. Whilst indulging in the frivolity of different headgear there was serious conversation about the aspects of a good cruising boat with some getting used to an older boat, some updating, some dreaming! In the early afternoon light winds enabled a gentle return to RBYC before the air became frosty. With the shortest day behind us we now enter the second half of the year to more great cruising. Many thanks to those who organised the Frostbite Cruise.



# CRUISING NEWS JULY 2018

## Frostbite Cruise Brrrr! & End of Month Cruise by Sally Spencer



## MEMBER NEWS

“Emma Kate “(Rod and Sandy Watson) is residing at Orkneys Knob, as Rod and Sandy prepare for their overseas trip to Alaska and other farflung places

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“Aquacadabra” (Rob Hurrell) is enjoying the warmer climate at the Whitsundays .

.....

David and Lyn Bingham are back from their overseas trip, and we look forward to hearing about their holiday.

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Paul Jenkins has welcomed a granddaughter “Olivia Rose” 91/4 lbs

.....

“Aquarius” Lloyd Hetrick is exploring the Lakes , Metung and environs.

.....

'Pam and Will Merritt are chasing the sun and heading to Broome and the Kimberley for a month, then on to Perth to catch up with family and friends.'

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Peter and Suzie Strain are also enjoying the warmer climate of North Queensland on “It’s a Privelege”

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 20th July

Cruising [dinner](#). Guest Speaker.

**Dr Charles Meredith.** Royal Melbourne's vice commodore **Dr Charles Meredith** will be talking on his sailing adventures in the Three Peaks Races from the Tamar River to Hobart with runners conquering Flinders, Freycinet and Mount Wellington peaks.

**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 18th, by 12 noon.**

**Bookings essential**

July 21st

Keelboat Information day

**Check RBYC website:**

July 28th

**END OF MONTH ON WATER ACTIVITY  
YARRA'S EDGE MARINA**

**1. Book Now for Yarra's Edge Marina**

☎ 96588738 ☎ [berthing@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:berthing@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**Discount \$35.00 per yacht per night**

**Sail 28th Saturday return 29th to Sunday**

**2. Confirm with Cruise Coordinator that you are coming.**

☎ [Barbaraburnstwiss@bigpond.com](mailto:Barbaraburnstwiss@bigpond.com)

**Confirmation with Barbara**

**no later than Wed 25th July, for yacht numbers, and dinner bookings for the group. Any suggestions for restaurants are appreciated.**

August 17th

To be advised

September 1st ORCV

Passage Race Melbourne to Geelong. Winter Series.

Lets get some Cruisers going.

**Check ORCV website:**



**Captain Bully's Blog**

A few years ago Susie and myself crewed for a friend out in the Pacific from Vanuatu to New Caledonia. In the harbours and marinas you inevitably end up chatting to other sailors from different parts of the world. The frequent comment was how amazing the Queensland coast was, to the extent that it was usually rated the best cruising ground on the planet. The Barrier Reef, beaches, islands, lagoons and friendly hospitality were often rated as unequalled. Now on our fifth cruise up the east coast of this wonderful sunburnt land, girt by sea, it seems such a sad situation when there are so many of our beautiful island resorts now closed. Dunk, Hinchinbrook, Hayman, Daydream, South Mole, Lindeman, Brampton and Great Keppel are some of those great islands we have visited which have had a wonderful history and are now left closed and in a derelict and declining state. It is easily understandable that the next generation prefers destinations like Bali and Thailand given it is cheaper and more exotic with different cultures and cuisines. From recent press reports there are plans lodged for re-development of 9 of the 11 resort islands now closed. Maybe there is hope for a new era of the Queensland Islands as holiday destinations.

One of the musings of "Dad's Army" sailing up the east coast was the need for retired "Baby Boomers" to have something like the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel as a destination from the freezing Melbourne Winter months. The Island that we rate as the most beautiful, is Great Keppel Island, which is currently now up for sale. pristin white, powder soft, perfect sandy beaches, walking tracks, fringing reefs and easy access from Keppel Bay. Maybe now, from its history of twenty somethings getting wrecked there, it could become a gentile destination for geriatrics with croquet lawns, bridge lessons, farmers markets and more peaceful entertainment. Just dreaming but hopefully these great destinations will again regain some or their former glory.



**Captain Coxswain's Corner**

Henry David Thoreau

The sail, the play of its pulse so like our own lives: so thin and yet so full of life, so noiseless when it labors hardest, so noisy and impatient when least effective.