



CRUISING NEWS



JULY 2019

Melbourne to Osaka & Return By Paul Jenkins



Grant Dunoon had everyone on the edge of their seats as they followed the adventures of his Yacht “**Blue Water Tracks**”.



The night started with Grant running a per table competition to guess the 25 items in his grab bag. The winner received a bottle of wine. Some comical contents, the good old favourites, but not many thought of keys, money and passports which were born out of his experience with the Inception rescue

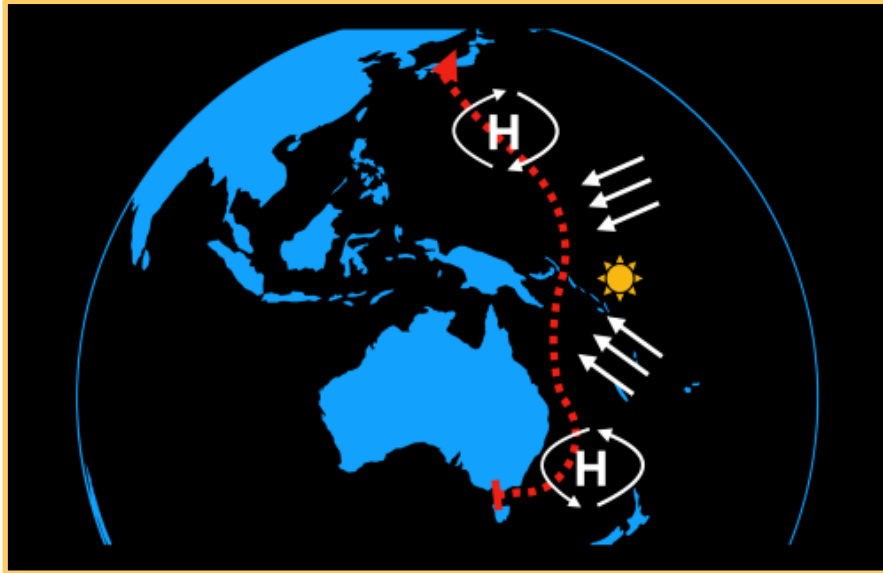
A second competition at the end of the night was a bottle of Fireball Whisky, so that everyone could appreciate what was up for grabs, Grant had arranged a shot for everyone in the room to be delivered to their table. I’m sure this will be on the hit list for many attending.

Grant’s story started dramatically, while they were going through the Port Phillip Heads, another competitor “Rod Smallman” noticed when he happened to be looking back that Grant’s boat launched like a scene from “The Hunt for Red October” over a wave becoming airborne. Grant described that unbeknownst to him at the time, the boat’s hull had been fractured, and the sail locker bilge pump, separating from the floor, was taking on water. Grant went on to describe how they located the source of the crack but was now forced to go to Sydney.

CRUISING NEWS JULY 2019

Melbourne to Osaka & Return

By
Paul Jenkins



Arriving in Sydney on Good Friday and unable to be lifted out for several days, Grant with the help of many friends managed to remove the bow thruster and fibreglass over the hull, returning to the race 5 days behind the fleet.



After pushing through the subtropical highs of the NSW coast, they had only entered into the trade winds before the steering gave way and they were forced to return to Southport to pick up the new chain for the steering.

As they left Southport, the sub-tropical highs had moved north, forcing them to spend another 3 days before they were able to re-enter the trade winds, putting them now 7 days behind the fleet .

Grant described entering the Solomon Seas, and the number of logs floating in the water. They sailed through the doldrums, pausing only to take a photograph as they crossed the equator, Grant showed a video of life in the doldrums, thunderstorms in the distance, the use of light air sails and how during this time they were very fatigued in the heat ,and the need for so many sail changes due to storms. He said it felt the 10 days were like “groundhog day”. Once they finally exited the doldrums it was a fast run to the bottom of Japan.

As they entered the outer bay of Osaka, Grant talked about how they lost their spinnaker overboard and how the Dynema tangled around the Jib, making deployment of it impossible. We gained an insight into the first sights seen, first land seen in weeks, levels of marine traffic in the harbour and how the wind died only miles from the finish line, causing them to spend the next few hours drifting .

CRUISING NEWS JULY 2019

Melbourne to Osaka & Return
By
Paul Jenkins



Grant recounted the amazing hospitality of the Japanese and how they presented the Commodore of the Hokko Club with a didgeridoo.

6 days later it was time to leave and as Grant recounted, he'd spent so much time planning for the race and almost nothing for the return. They travelled in company with another competitor boat "Red Jacket" and had a rendezvous with "Spirit of Downunder" in ChiChi Jima, a Japanese island only accessible by boat.

On route to ChiChi Jima, it was Annette's birthday from "Red Jacket" and Grant had baked a gift of cinnamon scrolls for Annette which was floated to her. We were all surprised and felt part of the adventure upon finding that the red wrapped parcels on our dinner tables contained the same dessert for us to enjoy.



In ChiChi Jima the 3 crews had a wonderful time teaching a Korean fellow how to sail after he had purchased a boat in Hawaii and got lost sailing back to Korea.

CRUISING NEWS JULY 2019

Melbourne to Osaka & Return
By
Paul Jenkins



500nm south they arrived at Nissan Island which is part of PNG and again were warmly welcomed by the locals wanting to trade fishing line, hooks and packaged western food for fresh produce. Grant showed pictures of 2 coconuts tied with part of the husk sheet still attached for easy carrying. Grant joking indicated this island had "coconuts to go".

CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Peter Strain.....0418530385
Secretary Robina Smith.....0403791347
Editor Barbara Burns.....0417035404
Email.....barbaraburnstwiss@bigpond.com

Rob Hurrell..... 0409 781 477
Paul Jenkins0400 946 658
Will Merritt..... 9598 8626
Pam Merritt..... 9598 8626
David Pollard..... 9592 6554
Jenny Collins.....95851154
Roger Walker.....0407844992

CRUISING NEWS JULY 2019

Melbourne to Osaka & Return By Paul Jenkins

As they headed on for a further 3 days sail, Grant showed a video crossing the Bougainville Straits where they encountered short sharp waves giving everyone on the night a sample of how rough it could be.

Arriving at Liapari, an island in the Solomon Islands group, and a very welcoming and well known spot for yachties .

A short sail to Gizo where they spent a few days before they set off on the 890nm back to Townsville, Australia



32 boats had entered the race, 19 had made it to the start line and 16 finished the 5000nm Melbourne to Osaka race. Grant had expected it would take 35 days, however with their unscheduled repairs, it ended up taking 49 days. Grant thanked the Osaka organising committee, who were all in attendance. Last but not least at the end of a fabulous evening ,Grant showed on the screen, the overall distance from Australia to Japan that Blue Water Tracks had travelled. There was a winner who correctly answered the distance of 5,905.10nm.u!

Up The Clarence with the Shaggers

(Or Shagging up the Clarence)

By Jo Walker

We were sailing north on Kirra Kirra when we received an email from the Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club (of which we are members), commonly known as "The Shaggers" for anyone who doesn't know. There was to be a Shaggers cruise up the Clarence River in northern NSW, from 23rd May to 29th May 2019. We decided we would join in, as it fitted our schedule and we weren't too far away from the commencement point of Iluka.



We had a couple of enjoyable days in the protected anchorage at Iluka prior to the cruise commencing. Good walking tracks to the surf beach through the bush, a ferry ride across to Yamba, called the big smoke if you come from Iluka! Yamba is a very attractive town with many facilities, shops, cafes and restaurants - everything a yachtie could want. We walked to the lighthouse with its great view of the surf, had a beer at the Pacific Hotel nearby also with that view.

Our hosts for the Clarence cruise were Glad and Rick Smith - locals - who have a property on the river and a powerboat. Their knowledge of

the river, its twists and turns and shallow bits was invaluable. They had organised a varied and enjoyable program for us. The river is generally quite deep, 10m or more with tidal flows 2 1/2 to 3 hours after Iluka. The flow is about 2-3 kts at peak flow, and there was no opportunity to hoist the sails.

We all set off, 18 boats in all - including 7 catamarans and 3 power boats, about 11am to motor 8.5nm in order to reach the bridge over the Pacific Highway by 1.30 where it was arranged for us to stop all the traffic for the bridge to open allowing us to pass through.

Such power we have! Our first anchorage was at Harwood, just the other side of the bridge, where we advanced to the pub for a dinner of delicious house made pizza, and frivolities.

In the morning there was no rush as the 3nm trip to Maclean wouldn't take too long. Maclean is sometimes called "The Scottish Town", lamp posts are painted with various tartans, there are Scottish shops and most cafes sell shortbread biscuits.



There is a museum and a 130m peak to climb for those who need to stretch their legs. We were directed to a very nice cafe called Boteros where they roast and pack coffee for freight elsewhere. Their meals looked enticing but we were up for the walk to the peak instead, so just had coffee. It was easy to see the curve of the river and towns of Iluka and Yamba from the peak, and on to the sea. The Aborigines called the river a serpent due to its meandering nature.

Up The Clarence with the Shaggers

(Or Shagging up the Clarence)

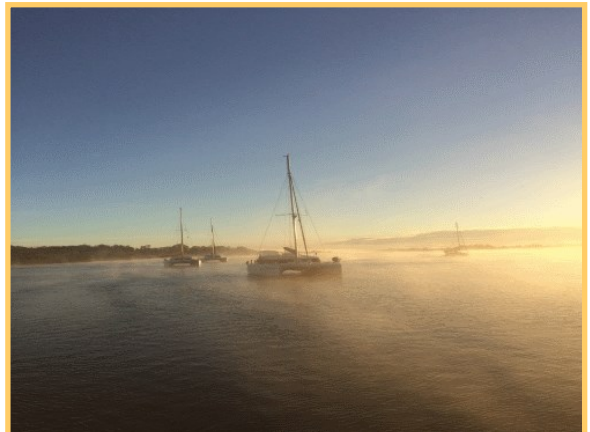
By Jo Walker

Our group was welcomed by a Scottish piper with his stirring music, an aboriginal elder welcoming us to country and the local radio broadcaster. There are a couple of pontoons in Maclean where there is 24 hour tie up and facilities of water and power for free. There is also a hot shower, the key obtained from the pub over the road. There has been an upgrade of facilities over the last few years to encourage people to come and stay in the Clarence with their boats. At the RSL for dinner we were entertained by the Maclean Ukelele group. The ladies had written some of their songs and their performance was excellent.

The trip from Maclean to Brushgrove was about 11.5nm with a couple of quite shallow spots, but Rick had warned us to keep to port to avoid them. There's also a little cable ferry at Lawrence to watch out for. Brushgrove is a very small village also, but of course there's a pub! We all visited Glad and Rick's house to play the usual silly games, bocce, carry the potato between the legs etc , a lot of fun. Our pub meal was enhanced by the performance of a local bush poet, Bill Kearns. He was the ultimate entertainer, his poems were a bit bawdy at times, but his delivery of the poetry was impeccable. Everyone had a good laugh and left us smiling after the night finished.

This is where we had to leave the group sadly, to continue north to Brisbane to have Kirra Kirra lifted and given a facelift. The following couple of days sounded as fun as we had experienced. For example, an early morning to watch greyhounds and horses exercising behind boats, quizzes and trivia, jam session for musicians and a

farewell dinner with a presentation by the Ambassador for Prostate Cancer with a band and dancing. They were a great group, and we have made several new yachtie friends who I'm sure we will see further north when we continue in a month or so.



MEMBERS NEWS

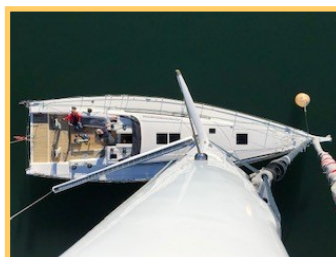
We thought our fellow cruisers would be interested to know that we have just crossed the Arctic Circle again heading South.

We have cruised from Bergen to Kirkenes (near the Finish and Russian borders on the top of Norway) and are on our way back to Bergen..

I am attaching our last sunset heading North into the land of the midnight sun.



David Pollard has stepped down from the Cruising Group Committee after 28 years of service on the committee. He was a founding member and instrumental in initiating some of the Annual activities that we continue today, such as the Birthday Cruise, Progressive Dinner, and Music Night. The Cruising Group extends a huge thankyou to David for his contribution and involvement.



Rod and Sue Slater are enjoying 4 days on Pittwater and the Hawkesbury River ,on a friend's XP 50 X -yacht. Nice! Someone ?is up the mast taking the photo

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 7th JULY

ANNUAL FROSTBITE CRUISE

Please contact Paul Jenkins cruise co Ordinator. For expressions of interest.

Paul.jenkins8@bigpond.com

FRIDAY 19th JULY

FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speake: Peter Hackett

An Adventure in Tasmania on his Trailer Sailer

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

Please book with **Mandy** in the office (**95923092**) no later than Wednesday July 17th. Bookings are essential. Please state any **dietary requirements** when booking.

WEEKEND 27TH/28TH JULY

END OF MONTH ON WATER ACTIVITY

A cruise to Docklands to take advantage of their wonderful facilities during mid-winter.

Sail up on Saturday, sundowners in the warmth of the Melbourne City Marina lounge followed by pot-luck or restaurant dinner according to the consensus of the group. Sail back on Sunday.

Contact person for this weekend is Robina Smith. Please email robina_smith@hotmail.com stating your expression of interest to join this weekend so that you can be sent further updates and details.

FRIDAY 16th AUGUST

FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speake: Terry Frankham Reliance and Craig Walton Y Knot

VDL-C 2019 Circumnavigating Tasmania with the VDL Rally leaving from Queenscliff.

FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER

Keep this date free for our new look Music

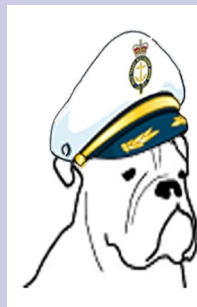


Night

Swing musicians!

Swing dancers!

Plus as opportunity to get into the swing yourselves!



Captain Bully's Blog

Certainly one of the greatest experiences of cruising the East Coast of Australia is the chance to fish and consume the results. Our oldest son Richard, loves the practice to the extent that whether at anchor or cruising the fishing lines are out bottom bashing or trolling. His results are awesome, having hooked, spotty and Spanish mackerel, lots of breeds of tuna, long tail, northern Bluefin, yellowfin, mackerel, bonito, stripy to name a few, Australian salmon, coral trout and many more. Our annual pilgrimage to Refuge Cove for the last 25 years always yields flathead, whiting, calamari and shark. No culinary experience surpasses eating fresh seafood straight from the ocean. One trip we were moored on the west coast of Fitzroy Island, just out from Cairns, sheltering from 30 knot plus south east trades, when a prawn trawler hitched up to the mooring next to us, five kilos of prawns for \$20 was a feast for a few nights. Another anchorage in Wine Glass Bay, similarly waiting out gales we were anchored next to Old Truthful in his Cray boat. He took a great interest in our mighty Privilege and the result was a fresh cray dinner. One quest we have repeatedly failed at is trying to find what I reckon is the best of shellfish, being scallops in home base Port Phillip Bay. Everyone seems to have an opinion as to the best location to find them, but so far we have failed. Generous bag limit of 100 scallops, doesn't solve the problem of actually locating them. Anyone who can lead us to the best scallop ground is welcome to a free all expenses paid trip on "It's a Privilege".

