



CRUISING NEWS



AUGUST 2019

FROSTBITE CRUISE (or was it?) - July 6th-7th, 2019

By
Pam Merritt

It's always a bit 'dicey' - Melbourne's weather on the first weekend in July! But this year we were blessed with a perfect weekend. As we motored to Docklands on Saturday we marvelled at the welcome winter sunshine and glassy sea.

Three boats - It's A Privilege, Chakana and Be and Be, took advantage of similar weather on Friday, with Andalucia, Kathleen B and Sophistique joining them by lunchtime on Saturday. 18 cruisers enjoyed a Pot Luck dinner in the comfort of Melbourne City Marina's cosy facilities on Saturday Night. The catering bar was raised somewhat with Paul J's Spicy Moroccan soup and Peter G's wholesome Italian Minestrone for all to share before the varied delicious mains. Robina's freshly baked Chocolate Brownies and John's Portuguese Custard Tarts rounded off a delightful meal.

Most headed out for a walk and coffee on Sunday morning and were joined for the official lunchtime Frostbite Cruise BBQ by several cruisers who had arrived by car. Mirrabooka joined the other six boats in the marina.

The silly hats were..... silly!! 📺 📺 📺 📺 There appeared to be several obvious contenders for the prize but the chosen winner, judged by the junior crew of Be and Be, was Geoff's very imaginative handkerchief with cleverly knotted corners! Now where did he get that idea? Also seen were policemen's helmets, a pirate hat covering frizzy black hair, tartan Scottish tam 'o shanter hiding silly red hair, a Turkish fez, Davy Crockett hat, a yellow bird beanie and a stylish feathered Italian ladies hat that looked a bit like a cinnamon donut.

After a most enjoyable lunch and gathering of about 28 cruisers those leaving by boat departed at about 2pm and once out of the Yarra enjoyed a great sail back to Brighton in a 10-15 knot northerly.

It had been a wonderful weekend of socialising in comfortable surroundings, but many of us remember past

years of shivering around an outdoor BBQ in true Frostbite fashion. Should it now be renamed: 'The Warm Mid-Winter Comfort Cruise??'



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RBYC PRESENTATION NIGHT 2019

Most Improved Cruiser

Peter Gebhardt – Nimrod II – For the preparation work put into Nimrod II to get the boat ready for cruising and completing their first cruise with the RBYC Cruising Group into Bass Strait. This was also his partner Allison's first time sailing out of the heads.



RBYC PRESENTATION NIGHT 2019

CRUISER OF THE YEAR

Paul and Angela Woodman - Summerwind

For cruising extensively up the east coast of Australia as far north as Lizard Island and sharing their cruising adventures via their blog and contributions to the Cruising Newsletter, culminating in an inspiring presentation at a Cruising Forum dinner.



How proud we are to be recognised for our 2018 east coast cruising adventures aboard Summer Wind.

We are honoured to represent our club and the cruising group when away from our home port, RBYC.

Thank you so much for allowing Ignazio Parolini to accept the award on our behalf. Ignazio expressed his pride to be graciously introduced and invited forward to accept our award.



. John Mooney, representing QCYC, Ignazio Parolini, who accepted the trophy on behalf of Paul and Angela and Peter Strain. Ignazio has just returned from cruising with Paul and Angela in the Whitsundays.



Foxy Lady (Sue and Rod Slater) was awarded this wine set and a nice bottle of Cabernet Merlot at the RBYC Presentation night as trophies for:

1st Hearn's Heroes Series 2 Pursuit (10 races)

3rd Hearn's Heroes Series 1 Fleet (11 races)

Congratulations Sue and Rod.

David Pollard

By

Pam Merritt

28 years is a long time - and that's how long David Pollard has served on our Cruising Group Committee. David was, in fact, one of the three members instrumental in getting the Cruising Group off the ground in 1991. David has seen the group grow from those early years, when a small group of cruising stalwarts met on the third Friday of the month around a table in the old downstairs library, to become the vibrant active group it is today - the envy of many clubs around the bay.

As a committee member David has always been a staunch supporter of the annual Classical Music Evening, regularly filling three or more tables with members and guests. He was part of the group who initiated the first Birthday Cruise to Royals in '91 and was the original proposer of our now very popular annual Progressive Dinner. He also became known as The Badge Man, having organised Cruising Group badges for new members over many years.

David has seen many Cruising Group chairmen, secretaries, newsletter editors and committee members come and go over his 28 years and was a reliable source of knowledge of the history or past practices of the group.

We thank David for his many years of service and valued input and wish him a relaxing 'retirement'



CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Circumnavigating Tasmania in a Trailer Sailer

By Brenton Smith



Drawing on his experiences from two circumnavigations of Tasmania in his trailer sailer, Peter Hackett kept the audience of 43 spellbound at the July Cruising Group dinner. Sure, the trailer sailer is a Noelex 30, which can be considered to be at the top end of what can be considered as a trailer sailer, but the two cruises are still substantial accomplishments, as this audience could appreciate.

His two children were the crew both times, this time when they were 16 and 17, but the previous circumnavigation was 7 years earlier when they were pre-teenagers. Both have been brought up sailing, as had Peter, and the two circumnavigations are substantial additions to their log books of sailing experiences.

The boat rules included sailing in day hops and taking plenty of 'toys', which included two mountain bikes, a surfboard, wet suits, goggles, snorkels, flippers and plenty of fishing gear. *Bulletproof* was also set up for cruising with a life raft, inflatable dinghy and outboard. Add clothes – remember this is Tassie – walking kit, food and water and this is a well-laden Noelex 30. The mountain bikes came off in Hobart, to be replaced with his son and his kit.

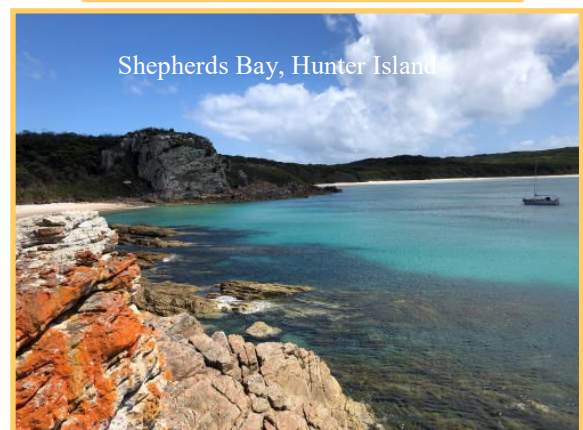
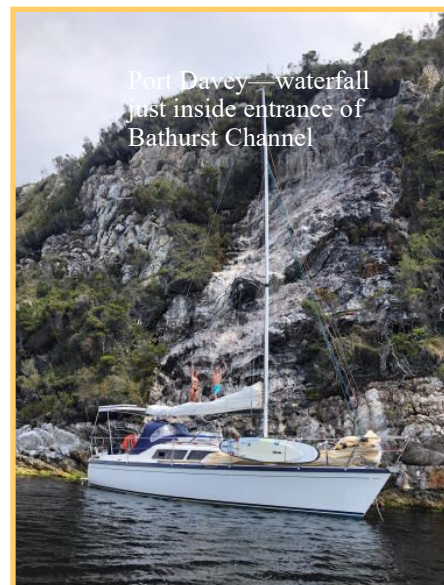
Sailing two-up initially with his daughter they headed towards the Prom, anchoring in Glennie Bay before cruising the western side of the Prom and then around to Refuge Cove. Deal Island was next, which was an ideal place to use the bikes. Royden Island in the Furneaux Group proved to be the ideal anchorage that it is, and then it was onto Trouser Point, which proved to be as treacherous as it is described in the pilot books.

After anchoring on the north side, and climbing Mt Strzelecki, they settled in for the forecast 30+kt SW winds. The pilot books warn about bullets generated by the land effects, and they were true to form with 50+knots, which needless to say, tested the anchor tackle. The video of the waves, and movement of their boat at anchor, were a sber reminder of what 200m of fetch can generate when winds of this strength occur. The ground tackle failed and after a

torrid few hours they moved around to the mooring on the other side of Trouser Point, which proved to be challenging. Reversing up to the mooring finally provided success to hooking on.

Next day was calm, and they cruised around Cape Barren Island and eventually across to Tasmania to St Helens. After only just making it across the bar before the tide against swell action closed it, they took the mountain bikes to Derby, for some awesome action amongst the rocks, streams, ferns and forest. Peter is pretty good with the photography as well!

Christmas Day at Wineglass Bay – the Whitehaven Beach of the south as Peter described it, saw them hiking amongst the Hazards before sailing onto Maria Island. Here they climbed the Bishop's Clerk and took photographs of the Totem Pole and the Candlestick before sailing around the base of them with another set of photographs of these stunning dolerite formations.



Circumnavigating Tasmania in a Trailer Sailer

By Brenton Smith

Continuing on from these they sailed around probably the most photographed landform by the sea, the southern end of Tasman Island. The dolerite landforms never cease to impress, no matter how many times we see them, and whether it is in photos, or for real.

Hobart presented a break of three weeks at RYCT while James participated in some national dinghy sailing championships. After resisting the temptations of lingering in the D'Entrecasteau Channel the three were heading around SE Cape of Tasmania – another formidable landform for seafarers. By chance, Peter had heard about a new cruising guide 'The Shank' that covers the south and west coasts of Tasmania. Written by Ian Johnston, it provides pilotage notes and photos about a series of ocean anchorages on these coastlines. Most people find a weather window and hightail it from Recherche Bay to Pt Davey in a single leg, but with this book on board, Peter cruised the south coast spending days in Louisa Bay and then Ketchem Bay, which is a tiny snug anchorage with swinging room for one.

Eventually the weather forecast soured with a 30kt NW forecast, and an overnighter was required to reach Pt Davey. Peter was grateful for the new technology when he went around the coast in the dark missing all the rocks and making a safe landfall behind Breaksea Islands at the entrance to Bathurst Harbour. They spent 4-5 days here with activities including a hike across to New Harbour on the south coast and topping up the water tank with water from a natural spring.

The next leg was up the west coast to Macquarie Harbour, again with the intention of cruising amongst the ocean anchorages. The 20kt SW forecast quickly deteriorated to a gale warning by the BOM, but by then they were at sea and scooted up the coast with surges up to 15kts, which we can all agree is fast for a heavily laden Noelex 30. They had 30-35kts from dead astern and hand steered the 60nm to Pt Gibbs, which provided a welcome respite. This is another ocean anchorage with an easy entrance that most of us sail straight past.

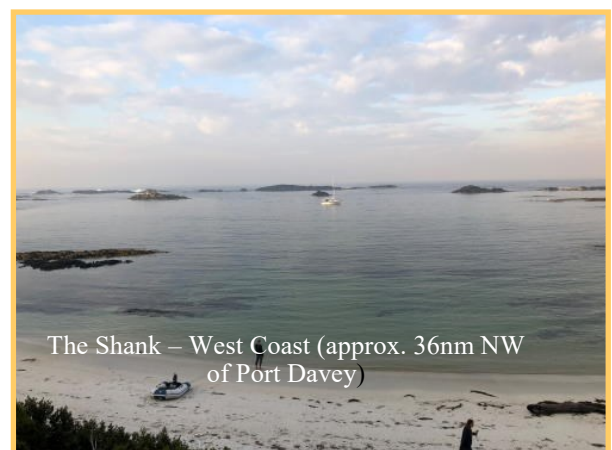
Next, it was onto the highlight of a trip of highlights, with an anchorage at the The Shank, which is a group of rocky islands that combine to provide great shelter from the Southern Ocean swells. Remember, the next stop due west of here is Bahia Blanca in Argentina! The entrance shown in 'The Shank' appeared too challenging and Peter took an alternative route in – which is uncharted. He described a certain sphincter as being tight. After snorkelling amongst the rocks and spectacular kelp beds moving in

harmony with the swells, they moved onto the anchorage at Mainwaring River for breakfast before tackling the notorious Hells Gates – in a calm.

A trip up the Gordon River followed provisioning at Strahan. The retracting keel of the Noelex gave them confidence to travel almost as far as the junction with the Franklin River, and then they took the dinghy up the Franklin for a short way.

Victualling with fresh flathead followed at Three Hummock Island before moving onto Stanley for some boat repairs. School had already started for the two youngsters, which, along with a suitable forecast for the crossing, prompted the second overnighter across Bass Strait to the home port of Hastings in Westernport, almost two months to the day since leaving.

If you want some more information about this wonderful boat then google Boatsales.com.au where *Bulletproof* is listed. Peter is still deciding about the next boat, with the young ones keen to know where the next adventures will be.



A challenge - would anyone like to compose music for the lyrics for [this poem](#).

Paul Stephenson

*Acknowledgement to John Denver's song **Country Road**.
These lyrics are inspired by the 2015 film "In the Heart of the Sea",
and by swinging my grand-daughter in a hammock; hence the metre.*

Whaling Song.

1. We've had three months of endless toil,
2. And our hold is full of the right whale's oil.
3. Our lances once again are keen,
And the try-pot's cool and been scoured clean.
4. Our sails are worn and the sheets are frayed,
Our tracks across the charts are laid.

Refrain:

**Rolling home, rolling home,
We are surfing home.**

5. On the topsail yard the wind is keen,
I was cold and wet, now I'm hard and lean.
6. Home with my girl's where I want to be;
Captain, take me off the sea.
7. I long to see her smiling face,
Feel her warm young skin and her firm embrace.

Refrain.

8. We'll give chase to the spouts no more,
We've done our jobs, that's for sure..
9. I've a newborn son that I've not seen yet
So home is where I want to get.
10. The wind is fresh on our port quarter;
I'm going home to see my daughter.

Refrain.

11. With tight square sails and a following sea,
12. The lights of Melbourne soon we'll see.
13. We'll leave Nepean's Point a'lee,
And our own snug berth is where we'll be.

Refrain. (Slowly and softly, repeated).

14. Warm North wind,
Take me home.
Gentle sea,
Take me home.

Stars and Compass Trophy

There were three papers submitted and the results were very close. **Peter Osbourne, was the winner.** He is a member of RBYC and Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club. He has a Naval background.

Brenton Smith was thanked for preparing and marking the papers.

. Peter Strain, Peter Osbourne and Paul Pascoe.



Papers are to be left at Reception for collection of the entrants after the announcement on Presentation Night

MEMBERS NEWS

A few cruisers are on the move again some by land, and some by sea, and some by air and sea.

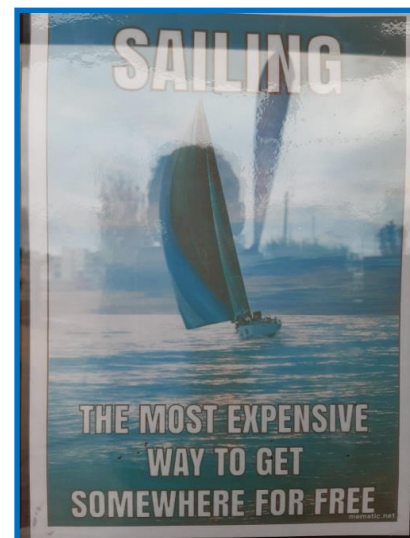
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Geoff Brewster and Barbara Burns "Saffron" are in Brisbane preparing to go further North. To the Keppels.

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Rob and Sue Hurrell are spending some time in Hervey Bay on "Aquacadabra" looking for whales

.....
Will and Pam Merritt are planning to take off in their A van, to enjoy warmer weather further north.

.....
Lyn and David Bingham are off exploring the Baltics.

.....
Brenton and Robina Smith are sailing a Seawind Catamaran in the Whitsundays for a week during the Hamilton Island races.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 16th AUGUST FORUM DINNER MEETING

Guest Speake: Terry Frankham Reliance and Craig Walton Y Knot

On the 24th of February 2109, the RBYC good ships *Y-Knot* and *Reliance* set sail from Queenscliff in the company of 10 other Port Phillip boats to join a 24 boat Hobart fleet in NW Tasmania for six weeks of highs (amazing destinations, adventure and camaraderie) and lows (mostly weather), returning home on the 4th of April. Craig and Terry will discuss their participation in the 2019 Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation, and let you know why you should sign up for the next [one](#)

As usual gather at the club about 6.30pm, members draw at 7pm followed by the meal and the talk. Please book with **Mandy (95923092)** no later than August 14th bookings are essential.

Please state any **dietary requirements** when booking.

END OF MONTH ON WATER ACTIVITY THE DATE TO BE ADVISED

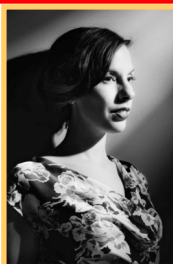
FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Gerry Byrne is a civil engineer who has been working exclusively as a specialist in the area of port planning and coastal engineering for over 45 years.

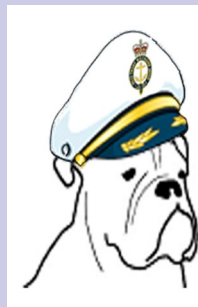
FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER

Keep this date free for our new look Music Night

THE GEORGIE BROOKS SWINGTET



A rising star in the Australian jazz scene, vocalist Georgia Brooks has spent the past thirteen years studying, performing and teaching vintage jazz and swing dance and it was here that her Love of swing era jazz was born. It was on the dance floor that Brooks met drummer Sean Loughran and the two decided to work together to create a band for their fellow swing dancers to enjoy. Since then **The Georgia Brooks Swingtet** has played numerous swing dances,concerts and jazz clubs including the Paris Cat Jazz Club and Dizzy's Jazz Club, further expanding and developing their concert repertoire. Festival appearances include The Melbourne International Jazz Festival, Castlemaine Jazz Festival and Melbourne Swing Festival.



Captain Bully's Blog

Hopefully you are aware of the extensive work Niesje Hees and Steve Ingram are doing with strategy planning for the next 10 years out and further. What will make our Club great? The success of the Cruising Group has even prompted keelboat racing to consider a similar Keelboat Group to promote keelboat sailing, not just presume it will happen. The sessions highlight the complexity and diversity of everything that goes on around the Club.

Being busy enough to enjoy the activities of the area of the Club you enjoy, you can miss out on the exciting aspects of what else is happening. The feedback to date shows considerable pride in the great facilities that we are lucky enough to have, in brilliant location, great clubhouse, beautiful beach and excellent marina/hardstand. It is recognised and applauded by our landlords Parks and Local Government, the Clubs openness of the clubhouse to the public and our inclusiveness of the community through schools programs, local community and charity groups and public events like comedy and information nights.

While being open and welcoming to the public, it is now understood that the Club must respect member value and do more to make members feel like they have something special and are appreciated. It is paramount that we stay a family club, not a corporate entity that seems like it is just chasing your money.

A practice that has fallen down is new member and new boat owner induction and welcome to the Club. I am sure that will be restored and we hope all members join to make new members feel included and enjoy the honour of being part of RBYC. If you can spare the time the Club would be much enhanced by greater feedback and more members opinions, if you can participate in one of these sessions. To enjoy the excitement of sailing and have fun around the Club seems to be the overriding message from the sessions to date.