



CRUISING NEWS



FEBRUARY 2021

2020 December Christmas hardstand party. Barbara Burns

The December Hardstand Party turned out to be a lovely evening, warm and no wind. This is after a week of strong winds, and generally very unpleasant conditions.

As the pier is still closed to vehicles, with only pedestrian traffic allowed, yachties who are an innovative bunch brought with them a large amount of food and drink, along with tables and chairs by means of Chinese Euclids.

Because of Covid, we still couldn't have our Christmas Carols, so we settled for recorded versions of Christmas songs, no virus spread here.

It was really lovely to see everyone ,and catch up with all the latest news, and look forward to next year, hopefully being back to normal, with lots of the usual cruising , racing , and overseas adventures.

We were at least able to present our awards for the year. This we have not been able to do as our end of month dinners have all been cancelled due to the Covid virus.

The three awards were: More details on these awards in the next Monthly Dinner.

- 1 Cruiser of the Year ---- Peter Strain
- 2 Most Improved Cruiser----- Allan Sharratt
- 3 Stars and Compass Award----- Brenton Smith



Stars and Compass Award----- Brenton Smith



Cruiser of the Year ---- Peter Strain



Most Improved Cruiser----- Allan Sharratt



CRUISING NEWS FEBRUARY 2021

17th January 2021 – 30th Birthday of the RBYC Cruising Group A Quintessential RBYC Cruising Group Day at Royals

Kathy De Garis

Sunday 17th January saw 6 boats set out from RBYC . Andaluca, Chakana, Favourite Child, Reliance, and Saffron. All boats carried quite a large number of people ,55 in all. The sailing conditions were great, with good breezes, clear skies and moderate seas.

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the commencement of the RBYC Cruising Group .

As usual we all met on the beautiful grassy area in front of Royals Yacht Club and this time sat in comfort at tables and benches under umbrellas. Out came masses of delicious picnic food and we bought drinks from the club bar. The sun was shining, the conversation and wine were flowing and yes it was absolutely perfect. It felt so good to be able to gather together like this and to mingle and share our news .It seemed to mark the end of a terrible year for most of us and there was a real sense of things getting back to normal. Future sailing plans were discussed and old memories and stories shared.



Miriam Cherry, being the one present with the longest involvement with the group, was asked to cut the traditional and very large and delicious chocolate Birthday Cake , brought by Jenny Collins, who carefully managed to not splatter it on the trip over..**RBYC Commodore Doug Shields made a very welcoming speech, wishing us a Happy Birthday, and their Club looks forward to us visiting many more times. The RBYC Rear Commodore Andrew King was present to welcome our boats when we arrived, which was a very special touch from**

RBYC .

All too soon it was time to pack up and return to RBYC We all had a champagne sailing trip home that seemed to be over far too quickly. As we put our boats to bed we looked back over the day and all felt very lucky. We had shared a day of great sailing ,perfect weather, lovely food, great companionship and fun. Yes, just exactly what the RBYC Cruising group is all about!



CRUISING NEWS FEBRUARY 2021

RBYC Cruising Group's 30th Anniversary Dinner Brenton Smith

Fifty-four people gathered in the Olympic Room on 16 January 2021 to celebrate 30 successful years of informative meetings and on-water activities for which the RBYC Cruising Group is recognised as being one of the most active in the bay.

Following a survey of boats in the marina by David Pollard in late 1990, a group of like-minded folk recognised that there were a substantial number of what could be called cruising boats in the marina, and there was an opportunity to involve them in organised club activities. From this, the Cruising Division was formed in 1991.

Following a welcome glass of champagne, the night opened with the current Chair of Cruising Group, Paul Jenkins, listing the impressive list of activities that the Cruising Group have conducted and continue to do so. These included monthly meetings where guest speakers present on a wide range of topics relevant to members, monthly on-water activities, a cruise into Bass Strait each February for two weeks, the annual Music Night and special projects in the club that the Group has adopted and funded. Paul also acknowledged the contributions from former committee members who attended the dinner; David Pollard, David Mattiske, Bill Westerbeek and Lyn Bingham (previous chairperson). Long serving committee members also present were acknowledged including Will Merritt (chairperson for 6 years), Pam Merritt and Jenny Collins. Previous chairpersons Rod Watson, Roger Walker and Peter Strain were also present and acknowledged.

Paul proposed a toast to recognise the success of the Group.

Entrée followed with a shared platter of Lobster Brioche Slider Rolls, Lemon Peppered Fried Calamari and Karaage Chicken to share on each of the six tables of eight or ten guests.

Main course was an alternative between Slow Cooked Beef Cheeks in a delicious Massaman Curry Sauce or Grilled Salmon Fillet with a Lobster Bisque.



CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Paul Jenkins.....0400 946 658
Secretary Terry Frankham.....0407308988
Editor Barbara Burns.....0417 035 404
Email.....barbaraburnstwiss@bigpond.com

Rob Hurrell.....0409 781 477
Peter Strain0418 530 385
Will Merritt.....9598 8626
Pam Merritt.....9598 8626
Jenny Collins.....95851154
Peter Gebhardt.....0413 048 997

CRUISING NEWS FEBRUARY 2021

RBVC Cruising Group's 30th Anniversary Dinner Brenton Smith

Prior to the main course, Chairman Paul presented the three annual trophies of the Cruising Group to their respective winners. These were:



**Stars and Compass —
Brenton Smith.**

This is a written paper that aims to encourage people to use traditional navigation methods. Brenton now has the pleasure of setting this year's paper



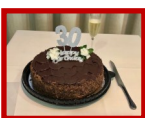
**Most Improved Cruiser –
Alan Sherratt** *Sans Souci*
and *Here n' Now* – For
venturing north of Lake
Macquarie and skipping
on the return passage
from Mooloolaba



**QCYC Perpetual Trophy for RBVC
Cruiser of the year.**

Congratulations to **Peter Strain, *It's a Privilege***,. For his significant contribution to Cruising Group Activities, including taking on the role of Chair of Cruising, Bass Strait Cruises, circum-navigating Tasmania and extensive east coast cruising

Pam Merritt and Grant Collins had prepared a Trivia Quiz with three themes: nautical history, Cruising Group history and general knowledge questions from 1991, the year of inception of the Cruising Group. The people on each table participated for the glamorous prize of a gold-plated teaspoon with the RBVC Cruising Group insignia, previously awarded to the speakers at each monthly meeting, and which had been taking up space in the club safe for many years. Table 6 won the golden spoons with 22 points. The wooden spooners with 12.5 points shall remain unnamed.



Three of the early participants in Cruising Group; David Pollard, David Mattiske and Bill Westerbeek cut the rich chocolate cake before it was served with cream and berries as our dessert.

Personally, it was a great opportunity to meet David Mattiske who cruised with my father sixty years ago in South Australia and to hear more sailing stories from that era. Using his connections with the MSO David was instrumental in starting the tradition of the Classical Music Nights.



GRANDCHILDREN, SUMMER AND BOATS

Pam Merritt



When I was a teacher school holidays were for going away. These days school holidays mean grandchildren, which raises the question of how to amuse them. My six are now between 9 and 16 years old so it's becoming more of a challenge - but in summer they love the boat.

About seven years ago we initiated the Annual Marina Treasure Hunt, which involves kids running around the Marina with clipboards answering a set of questions from each row (eg. Row 5: Motto of JAMHU, Boat with biggest wheel? What's Looking Good made of?). Sometimes there are clues in envelopes hidden round the Marina - near boats, under steps, taped onto light pedestals etc. When they were little I used to ride a bike around keeping an eye on them, didn't want any dramas on 'grandma's watch'. These days they just disappear until finished, or hungry or thirsty. The questions / challenges are becoming more sophisticated the older they get so can take an hour or two. The Treasure Hunt finishes at Andalucia with clues to help find the 'treasure'. Over the years it's been hidden in the anchor locker, raised up the mast, and this year lowered into the water in a dry bag. Couldn't believe how much weight it took to keep the bag below the surface but a weight from the dive belt finally worked.



I check with the older grandchildren each year to see if they're still keen to take part and the answer so far is a resounding yes! This year we had the added bonus of a very warm evening with the skipper of a power boat two pens up from us lending the kids his stand-

up paddle board. Kept them amused for ages, especially when you add his Portuguese Water Dog into the mix.

Taking grandchildren out for a sail is popular too, especially if it involves steering the boat, reporting changes in instrument readings or pulling on a sheet rope. Also a hit - anchoring somewhere for a swim off the boat if the weather's good. So if you have grandchildren AND a boat we can recommend combining the two for some fun times for all.

A few changes within the Committee of the Cruising Group

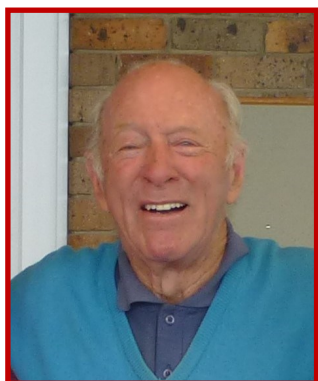
Committee Membership: Roger Walker and Robina Smith tendered their resignations from the Cruising Group Committee after many years of service. Roger as a committee member and past chairman, for 3 years, and Robina as secretary 2 1/2 years and editor for 6 years. A vote of thanks to both was unanimously passed by the committee. (Given Robina is going to be away cruising for a couple of years with Brenton, it was suggested that this should be more a leave of absence than a resignation)

Terry Frankham has now taken over the job of secretary for the Cruising Group, and the committee welcome him to the Group. Terry has had many years in the RBYC, racing and cruising on his beautiful Yacht "Reliance"

VALE JOHN MOWSON

The Founding Chairman of the RBYC Cruising Group

Robina Smith



John Mowson, the Founding Chairman of the RBYC Cruising Group passed away peacefully on the 25th January. John was heading towards his 90th birthday. Jill, his wife for the past 68 years, reported this information to David Pollard who was also involved with the formation of the Cruising Division 30 years ago. John was a talented musician with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and a passionate sailor before moving to Western Australia where he continued playing for the WASO and sailing at Royal Perth Yacht Club.

A seed of an idea – How Cruising Group Began

The following is an excerpt from the 2015 February edition of the Cruising Newsletter, written by Robina Smith after chatting with John Mowson at the Birthday Cruise in 2015. This formed the basis of the first chapter of the Cruising History Book that was published in 2016 for the Cruising Group's 25th Birthday and outlines how the Cruising Group began and the part that John Mowson played in its formation.

It seems that the birth of the Cruising Group came about when likeminded people came together with their ideas and common interest.

In 1990 David Pollard was a member of the sailing committee representing the 2nd Division. He did a survey of the yachts in the marina to form a yachting register classifying the yachts into 3 Divisions. However, while conducting the survey he found a group of yachts that weren't racing, but were basically cruising yachts, and so placed this group into an informal Cruising Division.

Meanwhile, John Mowson had been reading about Cruising Groups in yachting magazines and this sowed the seed in his mind that RBYC could have a Cruising Group.

Ian Twentyman, the Commodore of RBYC at the time, was in favour of the idea and supported the formation of the Cruising Division as part of the Sailing Committee. He, John Mowson and Jim Patton used to have morning tea out on the marina on John's boat 'Greenouch' with David Pollard joining in after a time. This was when the discussion started about forming the Cruising Division and the activities they could organise.

Miriam and Brian Cherry were racing at the time in third division and cruising occasionally along the northern Bass Strait coast. They had just purchased Peter Joubert's 'Billabong' and were keen to extend their cruising further offshore – so they joined in.

John Mowson became the Founding Chairman of this group with a common interest called 'Cruising Division' and a number of successful bay trips were held. John spent 18 months as Chairman before moving to Perth, and recalled that in those early days he personally rang interested cruisers to make things happen.

John and Jill both played instruments in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra – leading double bass and bassoon. He, along with David Mattiske who was also in this core group in the Cruising Division had the idea of a Classical Musical Night as they shared an interest in the MSO. However the first Classical Music Evening organised by David Mattiske was not held until 1995.

The first official sail of the newly formed Cruising Division was to RYCV in January 1991, where 25-30 boats and about 80 members sailed to Williamstown and enjoyed a barbeque on the lawn in perfect weather. This event has been celebrated as the official start of the Cruising Group, with a birthday BBQ to Royals on the third Sunday in January ever since.

2021 marks the 30th Anniversary!

NOTICEBOARD

***FRIDAY 19th FEBRUARY ***

Forum Dinner.

“Of Love and the open sea”

“Sailing Lifts your Spirits”

Come and listen to an enthralling tale of how Leanne Grant travelled to the US where she fell in love with and purchased *“Caprice, a 52ft performance cruising yacht.* She spent 18 months meticulously preparing Caprice for her successful voyage from New York to Melbourne

. As usual, gather at the Club about 6.30pm, members draw at 7pm, followed by the meal and with the talk at about 8.30pm. **Please book with Mandy in the office (95923092) no later than Wednesday February 17th. Bookings essential. Please let Mandy know at the office if you have any dietary requirements. e.g gluten free, vegetarian, non red meat**

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MARCH FRIDAY 19 th

Annual Progressive Dinner. please contact either: **Pam Merritt : wilm@hotkey.net.au**

or Jenny Collins: jcngrant@gmail.com Gather at the members bar at 6.30pm 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 on “it’s a Privilege”. Cost, \$20, per person. Reimbursement to \$10/person for main and \$6 person for desert. There is an urgent call for all members to consider volunteering their boat.. Please email either Pam Merritt Wilm@hotkey.net.au or Jenny Collins jcngrant@gmail.com. to volunteer your boat and hosting skills. You could even offer to host on another boat Please book with Mandy (95923092) not later than Wednesday March 17th

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MARCH 26-28th

END OF MONTH CRUISE.

Land Cruising for a change

We have reserved powered camp sites(\$37 per night, pay on arrival) and four cabins (\$120-\$155 per night, one night’s deposit required) at Maryborough Caravan Park for the weekend of 26th to 28th March. Maryborough and the caravan park look picturesque with things to do and plenty of history.

If you would like to join us please contact the caravan park directly (contact details below), mentioning that you are in the RBYC Cruising Group booking, and please let me know as well (rodsandy@bigpond.net.au).

I am sending this email to those who have joined us in the past but please feel free to mention the weekend to anyone else in Cruising Group who might be interested. The park management requests booking, especially the cabins, by mid February. There are only four cabins available for this weekend.

From the Helm



Welcome to 2021 and what can only hope to be a better year than the previous one. So far we have been able to celebrate two special dinners, the last one being our 30th birthday as a group. The dinner was sold out with a great meal and special tributes as we toasted to continued success and a great future. This was followed by our tradition Birthday Cruise to Royals where we were welcomed and enjoyed the hospitality of our host club on the day. The weather turned out perfect and for those that sailed, a cracking sail home.

At the time of writing we have booked our first forum dinner for the year with guest speakers from Caprice and plans are well underway for the Bass Strait Cruise with 9 boats currently preparing to get underway on Feb 20th. Let’s hope that this is the start of a good year with far less interruption from the terrible Global Pandemic we have experienced thus far.

Best regards,
Paul Jenkins



Stanley 2014