



SAIL CRUISING DIVISION NEWSLETTER

December 2023

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CAPTAINS LETTER

As we wave off another year hopefully many of us will be able to get together on the water over the holiday season.

We have a range of interesting in-shore and short coastal cruises scheduled over the next couple of months. The Halletts Beach BBQ which was postponed due to bad weather is now re-scheduled to the weekend 13/14 of January followed by the RMYC Australia Day festivities and boat parade. Then in February there is a 3 day Pt Jackson cruise followed by the popular Jerusalem Bay cruise. In March a 5 day trip to beautiful Lake Macquarie is planned (word is that the channel dredging is complete) and a seafari to Shell Harbour has just been included. Please watch you screens for flyers which will be circulated about 3 weeks prior to each event.

In the June edition of Cruise News, Safety and Equipment Officer, Bob Vine gave us a heads up on vessel gas system compliance. Wings9 is now 11 years old and required an out of water survey this year so I checked with my insurer about gas compliance and received the following advice...

"When your vessel survey is completed the surveyor should include the gas compliance date last serviced or a photo of the plate clearly showing this. If the date is 10 years or more we will require that the gas system is inspected by a licensed LPG plumber and a current certificate issued or the gas system decommissioned until it can be re-certified." So if your boat is within the 10 - 11 year time frame you are likely to be asked by your insurer to supply a gas compliance certificate with your next vessel general survey. Boats without certification will not pass muster for an SCD safety certificate.

Some members have commented that they are not receiving our cruise flyers. If so, please contact Jaz Rowntree at the club jaz@royalmotor.com.au to ensure that you are on the membership register.

SHORT NOTES; Ric and Sue Murray have upgraded to a beautiful Delher 36 Alfresco; Mark Raymond has added to his fleet with a timber putt-putt; it's pleasing to see Naia happily nodding on her home buoy after her Newcastle sojourn; Caribbean Blue and Adagio are also home from their QLD cruises.

Stay safe on the water.

Bob Aird.
Cruise Captain. Wings 9.

MAITLAND BAY CRUISE

October Long Weekend Cruise.

29th Sept - 2nd Oct.

The October long weekend is footy finals weekend and the activity planned was made to accommodate that.

So we set out a short cruise to Maitland Bay on the Sunday for lunch and a return sail to Towlers Bay that evening where we could be sure of good TV reception for the Grand Final.

Pronto and Knot Again joined Capricorn mid morning off Coasters Retreat for the sail to Maitland Bay in quite brisk north westerly winds.

The small fleet anchored safely in Maitland Bay after a brief detour by Jim on Knot Again to retrieve a wayward tender seen heading to Auckland.

Lunch aboard Pronto (thanks Jodie) whilst watching a large cruiser make 5 plus attempts to anchor. Return sail to Towlers Bay in strengthening wind was straight forward and we were joined by John and Marcia on Barrenjoey for the evening.

Hot dogs and party pies aboard Capricorn before dinner with the TV primed for the NRL final however I think Antiques Roadshow was probably more popular.

Monday morning the fleet dispersed to collect assorted family members for time out on Pittwater.

Cheers

Geoff McIntosh

OoD



Knot Again safely at anchor in Maitland bay



Capricorn leading the way to Maitland Bay



Pomp and Ceremony for the Season Opening



A better looking bunch of roosters you will never see. Paul Howlett, Phil Olgilvie, John Paxton and Bob Aird

SEASON OPENING

21 October 2023

The RMYC Season Opening was held in the club's usual style of some maritime formality, but with much conviviality and camaraderie.

The club was privileged to be addressed by Commodore Ray Leggat, who gave a thought provoking speech on his experience as an Australian Armed Forces leader at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth 11.

A point of difference this year was the attendance by personnel from many of our fellow boating clubs. I am sure that they were duly impressed by the club's efforts in celebrating the season opening with such enthusiasm and regard to member services.

The refreshments provided by the club were outstanding and much appreciated by all present.

The SCD was represented by Bob Aird, Rob and Paul Howlett, Susan and Phillip Olgilvie, Bob and Sandy Vine, Maureen Wannell, Bjarne and Annette Jakobsen, Marcia and John Paxton, Geoff and Pepi McIntosh, and Graham and Liz Clarke.

Three boats participated in the boating sail past - Leeuwin, Liberte and Shenandoah - with those present coming on board as guests to show the SCD flag.

Whilst an SCD table for lunch was booked following the boating parade, there was not much interest in food given the refreshment largesse of the morning.

Well done to club organisers.

Rob Howlett
OoD



Shenandoah fully dressed for the sail past

PLENTY OF PLAY OVER THE PATONGA WEEKEND

November 11-12, 2023

At least by numbers, the SCD weekend "Lunch and Lilypad" was hailed a success. The weather was pretty perfect, too.

With attendance higher than has been for a while, we welcomed at least a dozen less frequently seen or complete newbie members to the fold. This included Dirk and Annie on Esprit, Ken and Heather on Rattle & Hum, Michael and Elizabeth on Halcyon, Peter and Karen on Silver Cloud, Mark and Hong on Echo Beach, Sally and Gavin on Captain's Lady 11, and Martin and Helen on Toucan.

Having a forward party nabbing five tables at the Patonga hotel early on Saturday (thank you, honorary SCDer, Kerry), a floating number of around 36 members caught up with each other and made new friends. Some arrived on their own boats, a group came on Marcia and John's boat, Barrenjoey from Refuge where they had met informally on Friday night and the rest toddled ashore off the Palm Beach ferry.

Much chatter, eating and drinking continued for some while others ensured their anchored or moored boats weren't caught by the outgoing low tide. A couple of minor mishaps led to two boats having to rescue their dinghies, but otherwise a continuing party of around 25 people made it to Refuge Bay for the Saturday evening.



Sally Irwin meets Rob Howlett over lunch at Patonga

Pronto promptly set up the "watercraft play" for those who wished to participate - a Lilypad mat, two kayaks and a SUP. It seems this time of the year is still a bit cool for some, but good on Paul and Rob Howlett and Bob Aird for having a go and a laugh on the Lilypad with John and Jody.

With the beach not looking too crowded, we ventured what was a big group to the sundowners on the sand. Mollys was promptly awarded, drinks and nibbles were had and by the time the water was lapping at our toes we scooted back to our own boats.



Hong Li (left) and Elizabeth Goss at sundowners

Naia, Leeuwin and Pronto hosted shared dinners aboard for those who wished, while others took the opportunity to have a quiet night.

By Sunday morning, the marbles scattered a little more. Around 14 people stayed on for morning tea aboard Leeuwin with generous hosts, Paul and Rob.

Another fine day, but not overly hot, beckoned. John and Jody rolled up the mat and left a couple of boats in the bay on Sunday afternoon.

As always, a delight to catch up with everyone and share some fun and games.

Jody Hammond
OoD, Pronto



Karen and Peter Macdonald



Michael Goss (left) and Mark Raymond at Sundowners



Mark Raymond (left) and Gavin Irwin at lunch at Patonga Hotel



Helen Mahoney (left) and Annie Shady on Refuge beach



Philip Olgvie (left) shares drink with Martin



From left, Rob Howlett, Susan Olgvie and Heather Knight share a smile

THE MURRAY'S EUROPEAN SAILING ADVENTURE

The Murrays over September/early October had 5 weeks in Europe. This took us to Morocco including the earth quake, the last 100km of the Spanish Camino walk ,Portugal, Croatia and Montenegro.

We would like to share our bare boat charter experience over a week in Montenegro.

Day 1 Arriving in Tivat to board our Lagoon 450, Alana. After an interesting provisioning trip we headed out of Tivat late afternoon, stopped for a refreshing swim, and docked at Kotor for the evening What an amazingly beautiful (UNESCO) medieval town). Fabulous dinner and looking forward to the next day climbing the steep hillside to the fort!!

Day 2 - Great walk today from the Kotor port (where we were docked overnight) ... all the way up a steep and winding stone staircase to the very top of the fortress - overlooking the beautiful walled town and the bay of Kotor. 7000 +steps round trip ... nice sense of accomplishment !! (see photo from the track of the spectacular view above Kotor and you might see Alana below tied up at the marina)



Spectacular View above Kotor

Day 3 - In the morning at Herceg Novi (photo to the right)- another high stepping hike around the old town before heading out of the Bay of Kotor and into the Adriatic for the a great 15 knot broad reach with the following mistral down the coast for

a sail 22nm to Budva. For a mono hull crew with Ric being mostly unchallenged for the helm we were impressed how a mistral breeze of 15 knot can drive a 15 ton cat. That night tied up at the marina in the port of Budva.

Day 4 - Budva .. is known as the Montenegrin riviera .. true to form there was a massive amount of restaurants specialising in generous servings of squid and octopus at reasonable prices . The beaches jam packed with beach chairs along the coast line and an abundance of nightclubs ... massive construction underway (it will be interesting to see this place in another decade as it still has somewhat of a "communist-era" hangover from the former Yugoslavia to the vibe).

Fortunately it was the very end of season so the crowds were mostly gone. The old town (stari grad) was tranquil and made for a great morning walk.

The afternoon saw us once again with the following mistral sailing the rugged coastline to Bar ... with a swim stop along the way. Water temp is best described as "refreshing" - we were possibly in the last one or two weeks of swimming in this part of the world. All lovely!

Day 5 - Bar, an industrial port - the 5th largest city in Montenegro was our overnight tie up and the furthest southern point on our cruise (only 12k from Albania). This morning we visited this 2240-year-old olive tree, reputedly the oldest tree in Europe!



Crew relax at Herceg Novi

We also did another energetic walk through the old town which, set on the side of a steep hill and surrounding a Roman fortress, was quite different to the walled towns we have seen so far on our old town walks.

Spent most of the afternoon beating back into the 10-12 knot north westerly mistral along the rugged coastline to overnight on a mooring in the cove of Bigova... All along enjoying our creative and healthy lunches on board and well priced on shore restaurants for evening meals with great red wines a bottle mostly priced around 8-10 Euro!

Day 6 - a total "on the water day"... with a nice sail close reaching into the mistral ... a refreshing swim ... a little cave (Blue Cave) exploration ... spectacular sunset and a magnificent anchorage. Our dinner was also the best so far at Restaurant Ribarsko Selo (Fisherman's Village)... a totally spectacular setting and fish fresh from the Adriatic that day ... Seabass carpaccio with truffles, shrimp pate with home made bread and clams vongole. Totally memorable day in the Cove of Zanjica!

Day 7 - and the very last day of our fabulous sail in the beautiful waters of Montenegro. Today we stopped in the picturesque town of Prevast - reputedly Montenegro's oldest town. A fabulously leisurely lunch of delicious fresh shrimp octopus and squid - and a (number of) bottles of a Bosnian Chardonnay. Then it was time to say goodbye to Marko, our guide for the past week .. and start packing back at the Tivat marina yacht base ...

Our return the next day was a bus trip back to Dubrovnik overnight. A flight to Frankfurt and on to Dubai and Sydney.

Ric and Sue Murray



Ric and Sue helming Alana in the waters of Montenegro



Crew of the good ship "Alana"

A NOTE FROM OUR CAPTAIN

Unfortunately we were forced to postpone the very popular Halletts Beach BBQ in November due to inclement weather. The good news is that it has been re-scheduled to the weekend of the 13 / 14 January. Please mark your calendars.

A reminder flyer will be circulated a couple of weeks prior to the date.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to our contributors: Dirk Muller, Rob Howlett, Jody Hammond, Ric and Sue Murray, Bob Aird (C), Geoff McIntosh and Jaz Rowntree.

The next edition of Cruise News will be published in March 2024. Contributions Welcome. Please contact Trevor Bird, editor, trevorbird@bigpond.com or 0438777151.

Sail Cruising Upcoming Events

December 2023		
Fri 1	Marina Lights. See club webpage for details.	RMYC
Sat 9	RMYC kids Christmas party. See club webpage.	RMYC
Thurs 14	SCD Christmas Lunch and BBQ in the Basin.	Maureen Wannell
Sun 31 / Mon 1 Jan	NYE fireworks and a quiet little drink in Towlers.	Alan Pearce
January 2024		
Tues 9	Committee meeting.	Committee
Sat 13 / Sun 14	Halletts Beach themed beach BBQ.	Ric Murray
Fri 26 / Sat 27	Australia Day. RMYC boat parade on Friday 26th, late sundowners and local cruise.	Bob Aird
February 2024		
Sat 10 / Mon 12	Sydney Harbour coastal cruise.	Alan Pearce
Thurs 22 / Fri 23	Mid-week cruise to Jerusalem Bay and bushwalk.	Peter Isaac
Thurs 29 / Tues 5 Mar	Shell Harbour Seafari	TBA
March 2024		
Tues 12	Committee meeting.	Committee
Fri 22/ Wed 25	Lake Macquarie coastal cruise.	Alan Pearce

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



MOLLY'S CRADLE WINES