



# SAIL CRUISING DIVISION NEWSLETTER

## March 2024

### CONTENTS

Captains Letter	1
Christmas Party 2023	2
Halletts Beach Cruise	3
New Years Eve 2023	4
Australia Day	5
Offshore Cancelled, Shell Harbour Cruise	6
Safety Advice	7
Upcoming Events & New Members	8
Thank you to contributors	8
Thanks to Sponsors	8

### CAPTAINS LETTER

In previous editions of Cruise News we have highlighted safety concerns such as life jacket maintenance, man overboard practice and the regulations for gas compliance on vessels. In this issue we mine the same 'safety' vein with a reminder about the SCD vessel safety requirements plus an article advising us of the NSW Transport checklist for safety equipment in tenders. The SCD motto is *'safety is our concern but your responsibility'*. Take a look.

Officers of the Day have commented that some skippers are not responding to fleet radio calls which makes it difficult for the OoD to know if each boat received the message or to convey group communications. Please ensure that your VHF radio is turned on and tuned to ch77 or scanning between 16 and 77. Our fleet call sign is ROMOSA which precedes our fleet messages and skippers should be ready to respond as required.

Rocinante, Esprit, Toucan and Knot Again made up the SCD contingent which joined the fleet in the annual seafari to Shell Harbour. Many thanks to Russ and Helen Hosking who jumped in to co-ordinate SCD boats and a couple of Top Hatters to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Well done!

Please remember that we have the Mediterranean long lunch planned for Saturday 20th of April followed by our inaugural Progressive lunch on Saturday 25th May. Watch your screen for flyers and please respond to the OoD by the prescribed date for catering purposes.

SHORT NOTES; Following several months on the wait list, Silver Cloud is now on the RMYC marina; Bjarne Jakobsen has sold Sweet Love and Peter Garland has divested himself of High Jinks...stay in touch fellas; Caribbean Blue has safely arrived in Wineglass Bay en route to Hobart.

Stay safe on the water.

Bob Aird  
Cruise Captain



Capt'n Bob

# THE 2023 CHRISTMAS PICNIC

December 14

The day dawned without a breath of wind. A scorcher had been forecast but at least the strong winds that marred last year's set up was pleasantly missing. The willing band of helpers had mostly everything looking very Christmassy by 9am. The tables were bedecked in Christmas cloths, bunting was strung around the picnic shed, the bon-bons on the tables - all set to go, just waiting for everyone to arrive.

Then horror of horrors-the ferry pulled up disgorging 100 plus students from Newport primary & the teachers & volunteers were all heading for "our tables/our shed". It was the school picnic day as well. They had booked the venue, I had not ..... BIG mistake, with 49 guests due & nowhere to seat them.

Then along came Scott, the National Parks Campground Manager to save the day. "No worries" says he & proceeded to open The Cottage holding ample trestle tables & chairs to seat us all. He found us a lovely shady spot under the trees, down by the water & within no time the Christmas tableau had been recreated.

Three cheers for Scott!

Time to pull out the champagne, followed by the prawns, then the BBQ or sandwiches & finally Christmas tarts with a splash of raspberries, cream & mint to make them look all that more festive. Thanks to our treasurer for generously funding our picnic offerings. There was nothing left to take home!

There were bottles of wine to be won which was hotly contested until everyone ran out of the names of carols, so a bit of singing was introduced to finalise the matter. Sonia Holtheuer off Elision was lucky enough to win the major prize, a \$150 visa card for use at the RMYC. Everyone cheered & the day continued under the trees.

Many had come on the ferry & by 2.20 it was really heating up, so some departed. A willing band of helpers got all the furniture back to the cottage & the place tidied up. Myra reappeared & there was a last minute dash to get all aboard that was going aboard. We were waved farewell by those staying overnight on boats. They all gathered onto Esprit a bit later to continue the day over Sundowners.

This day can never happen without a huge help from a lot of people. They are too numerous to name but my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making the day such a great success. Much enjoyed but pity it was so damn HOT!!

Maureen Wannell, Ood "Flat Chat"



*Christmas celebrations at The Basin*



*Pepi and Geoff John and Terry ham it up*



*Jody, Maureen and David delivering the goodies*



*The group was well accommodated thanks to resourceful Scott, the campground manager who helped with the furniture*



*Pepi, Geoff, Trish, Cris and Angelo get acquainted over sundowners on Towler's beach*



*Hostess with the mostess, Cris on her boat, Katana 11*



*Pepi, Marcia and Trish together on the beach*

## QUIET DRINK PROVES PEACEFUL AT TOWLERS

*Towlers beach, 31 December 2023*

With Towlers beach completely to ourselves, some 13 members of the Sail Cruising Division shared sundowners on a lovely New Year's Eve - ready to welcome 2024. Ashore with quiet classical music playing in the background, old friends made new friends as we were joined by new SCD members Cristina and Angelo Silvio.

The low tide meant we had a short walk across the sand back to our dinghies so we could each return to our boats to finish making dinner and collect our bits and pieces.

Being brave and friendly souls, Angelo and Cristina kindly invited us all to our shared meal aboard their beautiful catamaran, Katana 11 (where we all met our newest fur friend, Mya).

It was a relaxed evening featuring music, convivial chatter and a few 'oohs and ahs' as we took in the distant Bayview fireworks at 9pm.

By 10.30 pm we all called it a day and returned to own boats under starry skies.

Day 1 of the new year was a little bleak, but that didn't stop another opportunity to get-together, this time on Geoff and Pepi's boat, Kingfisher for morning tea.

Keen bees also joined Rob and Paul on Leeuwin for a game or two in the afternoon.

Jody Hammond  
OoD  
Pronto



*Sharing a quiet little New Year's eve drink ashore at Towlers, from left: Marcia Paxton and John Paxton, Cris and Angelo Silvio, Paul Larter, Terry Perrottet, Trish Larter, Jody and John Hammond, Pepi McIntosh, Alice McAuley; front, Geoff McIntosh.*



*John and Marcia aboard Katana 11 for the shared dinner*

# RMYC SCD HALLETS BEACH CRUISE

January 13/14, 2024

A warm Saturday, under a light easterly breeze that prevailed through the day, was enjoyed by 15 SCD yachts on the annual Hallets Beach cruise.

This year saw our return to the Hallets cruise with great weather (compared to the previous weeks) and after a recent checkered history, so there was much enthusiasm. The Hallets cruise is always popular with beach BBQ (and this year we had a new BBQ), an annual theme which is always well participated and this year was no exception, being a Yacht Rock party theme.

The 15 yachts including Adagio, Alfresco, Barrenjoey, Echo Beach, Equinox, Esprit, Knot Again, Leeuwin, Liberte, Naia, Rocinante, Rum Doodle, Shenandoah, Tempus and Wings 9 made their own moderate air passage with a following tide to Hallets Beach. We had mostly all arrived in time for a 13:00 beach gathering to renew friendships over some SCD champagne, pre-lunch refreshments prior to a crew versus crew beach tug-a-war and a well-deserved BBQ beach lunch with the new BBQ.

As there are only 4 moorings at

Hallets, they go to the early birds with others getting some good anchoring practice in the Hallets black silt. Deck washing equipment always gets a good work out at Hallets at weighing of anchor.

The fleet's crews were resilient and enthusiastic participants for beach activities including the tug-a-war won by Marcia from Barrenjoey and a boules game won by Bob from Liberte all being played to Yacht Rock classics music ex Spotify from Ric.

There were many donning's of colourful Yacht Rock nautical attire which would have casted well in a West Coast rock (Yacht Rock) audition. We all gathered on the beach for a dress up Yacht Rock celebration and a beach BBQ which all made for a great Hallets Beach cruise event.

The tides were kind to us providing plenty of beach area for mid-afternoon beach activities. Larry, the local tame

goanna monitor, whilst a little shy this year, maybe because of the brief visit of a juvenile red belly black snake also noticed fossicking for scant pickings and obviously not deterred by some very colourful beach outfits. Thanks to Oatley's Wild Oats wines for providing the prizes.

Sunday morning saw most of the fleet making a return under light southerlies, motor sailing to Pittwater for marina and moorings.

OoD Ric Murray, Alfresco



Marcia, Bob and Alan catch up on the sand at Hallets



Pictures Left to Right: Sue and Ric Murray OoD. SCD takes sporting events very seriously. Tug-a-War on Hallets Beach. A rose between two thorns, Hong Li wins the lucky boat prize

# AUSTRALIA DAY

January 26th, 2024

It was inspiring to see so many Australian Flags on the breeze. Another fabulous Australia Day celebration at the club with terrific BBQ'd snag rolls, drinks, speeches with the 'behind the scenes' staff and volunteer members being recognised. It was very hot, muggy and windy. In the interests of safety the boat parade was cancelled due to the strong WNW winds which built to 18/20 knots during the day, so we enjoyed the extended largess of the club.

The wind also locked most boats in the marina but Adagio and Rocinante jumped early and made it out. I was not so fortunate, even with Terry's help leaving the berth would have been hair raising in the conditions. The southerly came in at around 3.00pm and Windfinder recorded wind speeds of 28k with gusts of 37k. There was no chance of getting out of the marina so put extra berthing lines on Wings and called it a day.

Meanwhile back at the Basin, Enchanted, Silver Cloud, Alfresco, Rocinante and Naia scored moorings and Ric Murray took the reigns as OoD. Thanks Ric! Everyone met on the beach for sundowners for a couple of hours as planned before a quiet and much cooler night.

Adagio, with no available moorings in the Basin and preferring not to anchor out to be exposed to the forecasted southerly, moved to the protection of (west) Morning Bay. The southerly caused a bit of havoc all over Pittwater forcing many boats to retire to home bases so Adagio returned to the Basin late in the day to find a vacant mooring. I'm pleased to report that the SCD fleet was safely moored and did not encounter any problems when the southerly hit.

Boats attending the club celebrations were Liberte, Equinox, Naia, Silver Cloud, Adagio, Caribbean Blue and Wings 9 whilst Alfresco, Enchanted and Rocinante went direct to the Basin.

Bob Aird.  
*Officer of the Day.*



*Trish Larter, Kerri Stokes, Sue Murray and Karen MacDonald enjoy some time on the beach*



*Ric Murray, Paul Larter and David Stokes at The Basin, a finer group of seafarers you will never see.*



*Peter Macdonald, Jim Parsons and Russ Hosking getting some sand between the toes*

# FEBRUARY OFFSHORE CRUISE - CANCELLED



This is the reason the February cruise to Port Jackson was cancelled. 20Knot winds on the "nose" not being pleasant or safe activity.

Most yachts that intended to cruise, elected to stay on their moorings and in their berths.

Nevertheless, three yachts; Adagio, Rocinante and Toucan, gathered at Coaster's retreat. A convivial evening was had by all.

Alan Pearce  
OOD

## SCD SHELLHARBOUR OFFSHORE SAIL

Rocinante, Esprit, Toucan and Knot Again left Barrenjoey at 0900 on Thursday. 5 Stars, a cruiser, from RMYC also tagged along.

On the first day we had a slight nor-easter and arrived at La Perouse around 1430 hours and set up for the night. Next morning we left at 0800 hours all with main sails hoisted and headed south into a light southerly for duration of the trip to Shell Harbour, arriving around 1400 hours. On the way, we were joined by five power boats from the club, and listening to them talk over the radio on the amount of fuel they were using - 177 to 180 litres per hour - we're glad we have yachts!!

Friday, Saturday and Sunday were spent relaxing, walking, eating, drinking and swimming.

Monday brought a 15 knot southerly with a 5 to 6 meter rolling swell. Toucan and 5 Stars left at 0700 hours and sailed all the way to Barrenjoey in 12 hours. Rocinante left at 0830 hours and motor sailed to Barrenjoey, arriving at 1730 hours. Knot Again and Esprit left at 1030 hours and stopped at Port Hacking for the night before proceeding to Pittwater.



*Snug as a Bug on "Toucan"*

Russell Hosking OoD



*SCD members relaxing at Shell Harbour*



*Helen Hosking, Jim Parsons, Helen Mahony, Martin Mahony and Annie Schady at the entrance to Shell Harbour*



*Looking a little lumpy*

# SAFETY AT SEA INFORMATION

The safety of crews and vessels is a major priority for the Sail Cruising Division and accordingly, in conjunction with the Yachting Association we have developed the following safety requirements for vessels attending SCD cruises.

Safety is our concern but your responsibility.

- All vessels attending coastal cruises, these are cruises which go east of Barrenjoey Headland, must have a current SCD safety audit certificate. This covers safety equipment such as EPIRBs, radios, flares, charts, navigation equipment, PFDs, anchors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, gas compliance and other important safety requirements. Once the safety audit is completed the onus is on the boat owner to ensure that vessel maintenance is kept up to date and equipment is replaced or repaired as necessary.
- Vessels without a current safety audit certificate will not be permitted to attend SCD coastal cruises. The safety certificate is also recommended for vessels attending closed waters cruises but not compulsory.
- Boat owners are at all times entirely and solely responsible for the safety of their vessel and crew.
- It is entirely each boat owner's decision to attend a cruise and to join or depart the cruise at any time. Boat owners are advised not to join a cruise if they feel that their boat or crew is not competent to handle the prevailing or forecasted conditions.
- Boat owners should individually log on to Marine Rescue when cruising offshore. The use of the MR app is recommended to ease this procedure.
- Boat owners should monitor VHF channels 16 and 77 for messages during cruises and be aware that the club and division call sign is ROMOSA.
- PFDs must be worn when alone in dinghies, and PFDs and torches are compulsory in dinghies at night.
- When visiting host vessels at night, visitors are to advise the host vessel that they have returned safely to their vessels. Deploy boarding ladders at night.

This information is posted on the RMYC Sail Cruising Division website page. We recommend that you print a copy and keep it on board for ready reference.

If you have any concerns please contact Bob Aird, Cruise Captain, or Bob Vine, Safety Officer.  
[bobaird@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bobaird@bigpond.net.au) [thevines1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:thevines1@optusnet.com.au)

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR YACHT TENDERS.

We often don't give our work horse rubber duckie yacht tender much thought, however the NSW Maritime has some advice on its website which we should take into account. The following are the requirements, some mandatory and some recommended by NSW Maritime, for the safety equipment to be carried in your yacht tender;

A tender is any type of boat up to 7.5 m long used to transport people or goods between the shore and a parent vessel or another vessel. It is no longer classified as a tender if it travels further than 1 nm from its parent vessel.

### **Tenders up to 3m long must carry;**

- paddle or oars
- Bucket, bailer or bilge pump.
- Waterproof torch at night.

### **A tender must carry the same equipment as yachts and cruisers if it goes....**

- More than 200m from shore on enclosed waters
- On open waters

### **Tenders over 3m long;**

- A tender over 3 m long must carry the same safety equipment as yachts and cruisers.

It is recommended that you review the complete safety checklist on the NSW Maritime boating safety webpage. Go to [Maritime Information/NSW Government](#).

Bob Aird

# THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Aird(C), Rob Howlett, Jody Hammond, Ric Murray, Bob Vine, Russell Hosking,  
Alan Pearce, Maureen Wannell, Wendy Klaassen, Jaz Rowntree,

The next edition of Cruise News will be published in June 2024. Contributions Welcome.  
Please contact Trevor Bird, editor, [trevorbird@bigpond.com](mailto:trevorbird@bigpond.com) or 0438777151.

## Sail Cruising Upcoming Events

<b>April 2024</b>		
Fri 29 Mar / Mon 1	Easter Local Waters Cruise.	Geoff McIntosh
Sat 20 / Sun 21	Mediterranean Long Lunch.	Bob Vine
<b>May 2024</b>		
Sat 4 / Sun 5	Local Waters Cruise.	Bob Aird
Tues 7	Committee meeting.	Committee
Sat 25	Progressive Long Lunch.	Marcia Paxton
<b>June 2024</b>		
Sat 1	Safety audit day.	Bob Vine
Sat 8 / Mon 10	King's Birthday LWE whale watching cruise.	Ric Murray
Sat 29	Safety audit day.	Bob Vine
<b>July 2024</b>		
Fri 5	SCD AGM.	Bob Aird
Tues 9	Committee/Programme meeting.	Committee
Sat 20	Spanish lunch.	Jody Hammond

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members to our division and look forward to catching up with them at future events. Karen Brown, Nick Brown, Wayne Cooper, Simon Cornwell-Smith, Tracey Cornwell-Smith, Kerry Elliott, Caryn Hanley, Bob Lye, Peter Milton, Philip Pryor, Angelo Silvio, Beverly Smythe, Michael Smythe, Christopher Stone, Mark Tolson, Pamela Turner, Ross Turner and Irving Underwood.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



MOLLY'S CRADLE WINES