



# CRUISING NEWS



DECEMBER 2021

## End of month Cruise Nov 27-28 , at Yarras Edge Marina

Barbara Burns



Interest in the weekend to Yarras Edge started very slowly, two weeks out, there were only 3 boats showed an interest. However, by Thursday the numbers had swelled to 2 more boats, and by Friday morning there were 7 boats registered for the weekend.

These boats were:

*Sophistique Saffron, Kathleen B, Nimrod II, Sunkiss, Its Amore and a new cruising member Asterix, (Peter and Judith Forbes)*

Docklands was already booked out, so we made the decision to go to Yarras Edge instead.

I didn't really mind as I like Yarras Edge , there seems to be a lot more to do, more restaurants to choose from, and the added delight of going to DFO, where you can spend lots of money.



Several of the cruisers had dinner at the RBYC on Friday night, (the new chef certainly produces delicious meals). Richard and Marion Johnson did decide to go home rather than sleep on their boat, as it was very windy, and Marian was looking forward to her comfy bed.

Paul Jenkins and Steven Etches and Geoff and Barbara braved the windy walk out to the boats, and enjoyed being rocked to sleep.



Everyone left roughly at 10 am the next morning, and had very lively sail to Yarras Edge, most just put the head sail out as it gusted up to 30k, with a roly sea.

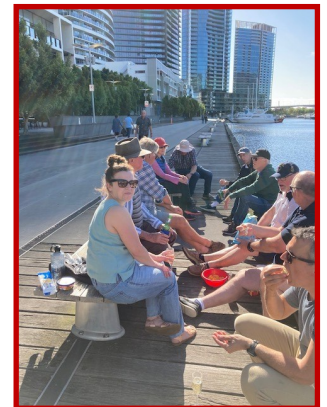


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## End of month Cruise Nov 27-28 , at Yarras Edge Marina

### Barbara Burns

We managed to stagger our arrivals very cleverly, ensuing there were plenty of hands available to assist with docking. The afternoon was spent either spending money at DFO, chatting with other members of our group, or lazing around out of the wind on their boats. Evening drinks and camaraderie, was enjoyed in an impromptu gathering on the marina walkway. I booked a restaurant for 6.30 with some trepidation, as it is always an unknown with a new restaurant, however it turned out to be quite acceptable . Sunday morning turned out to be lovely, warm, with very little wind, what a relief, after Saturday. Some of us who were too lazy to cook, went out to breakfast, which was really delightful.. It was lovely having our new cruising members Peter and Judith Forbes (Asterix) a beautiful 38 foot Dufour, joining us for the weekend. Sunkiss ,Asterix and Saffron left about 11 and had an easy motor sail back to Brighton. I think Sunkiss sailed, and a good job they made of it too The rest of the group left at various stages throughout the day.





Titanic - "A Night to Remember"

Captures the magic of the Belle Epoque era in 1912. Fabulous costumes, orchestrated music, talented cast, plenty of fun and audience participation. Dress up for First Class or Dress down for Steerage. Come along for a great night of fun and entertainment. Have your photo taken in front of the Titanic's Grand Staircase with Captain Smith. Book your tickets through Mandy at RBYC reception. Tickets \$75 includes the entertainment and a two course meal. 7.00pm on Friday February 22nd 2022

## CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**Rod Cuthbert**

## **How to: Boating**

*The author (anonymous, but may often be found around #203) bought a boat in February and joined RBYC soon after. Since then he has recorded everything he's learned — sadly, not very much — in what may (or may not) become a handy how-to guide for new boaters. Read on, though it may be best to keep your expectations low.*

1. **First, buy a boat.** This seems like an obvious first step but, surprisingly, many people are put off by the *too many choices*. I can simplify: if you are a sailor, get a sailboat. If, on the other hand, you are either: (a) over 60; (b) worried about the cognitive load involved in learning new things; or (c) don't enjoy leaning at a 40% angle while trying to enjoy a glass of white wine, then get a powerboat. (See point 9, below, for an important caveat on this issue.)
  2. **Choose the colour wisely.** Anyone who has seen even a few episodes of CSI: Miami will know that when a white boat scrapes the side of another white boat as it leaves the marina, it leaves very little useful evidence as to whodunit — a quick trip over to Williamstown for some touch-ups and no-one's the wiser. The lesson here is that if you know what you're doing at the helm then go ahead and buy a boat with a pretty blue or red hull. If not, white is your best friend.
  3. **Find a home for your new baby.** Key issues here include the availability of weekend car parking, the walking distance from your berth to the ice vending machine, the size and resale value of the boat in the adjacent pen (see 5, below), and — most importantly — the outlook from the cockpit of your boat on a warm summer evening. If the proposed berth looks towards an attractive skyline bathed in the warm glow of the setting sun, then you are good. If, on the other hand, your outlook is towards the rear end of a rusting steel ketch whose owner is rumoured to be six months behind on their berth payments, well...
  4. **Get a boat license.** This should come first but it's so easy you can do it on the morning of your first day out. Really! While a license to drive an automobile requires substantial effort and a test with a government examiner to prove you can, in fact, drive a car, the logic behind marine licensing is that boating is so much more complex — what with wind and currents and tides and swell and new words like astern and buoyage and midships — that only a complete fool would go out to sea without knowing exactly what they were doing. Using this bullet-proof logic, the government applies only the thinnest layer of regulation to boating, confident that everything will probably be OK. In summary: Google "boat license" and you'll have one before you know it.
  5. **Learn to drive.** Note that this is entirely separate from getting a license, which requires nothing practical at all. Experienced sailors may skip this point, but if you are new to this whole on-water business you should pay very close attention. When your boat is moving, and especially while you are still inside the marina, maintain a distance from other boats exactly in proportion to the estimated dollar value of each vessel you pass. Using this navigational technique, you may occasionally bump or scrape old or apparently abandoned boats while shouting (even if the owner is nowhere to be seen) "Sorry — I'll buy you a drink in the bar later". However, as you approach the larger and better maintained yachts you must calculate the potential damage bill and adjust your course to provide a measure of safety of which other club members, your bank manager and your insurance company would all approve.
  6. **Knots.** Important to have someone on board who can tie them. Any family member who did well at scouts will do.
  7. **Anchors.** Plural; some boats have two. You'll only need yours if you join the Cruising Group, in which case the other members will show you how to use it.
  8. **Weather.** Changes constantly; tuning in to Jane Bunn's forecast the evening before going out won't do. A better approach is to befriend the older club members who frequent the hardstand and marina area. Look skywards and ask "What do you reckon?" whereupon you'll receive a detailed forecast along with advice tailored specifically to your vessel and experience level.
  9. **Know your place.** Hierarchy plays an important part in the day to day life of a Yacht Club, and you must learn to fit in. You are not the Commodore. You are not a Flag Officer, or even a Committee Member. (You may not even be a sailor, which would of course mean that you belong to that sub-species known as "stink-boaters". That's OK, though: most people don't know the difference and when you tell them you have a boat they will immediately think of the America's Cup and Alan Bond and John Bertrand and so forth, and there's absolutely no need at all for you to correct them.)
- Re-do your will.** Boating, it turns out, is expensive. Whether it's paying for the things you break (see 5, above) or ensuring you have enough red, white *and* sparkling wine on board to accommodate every potential guest who might happen by on a warm summer evening, you will likely spend five or eight times more than you had imagined on keeping your boat "nice". With this in mind, practise telling your offspring that "one day this will all be yours" in a tone that suggests the boat may be all they get. Do this even if the idea of those same offspring driving your boat without you constitutes your worst nightmare. Face it: you won't be around anyway.

### Walk around the Bay Wyndham Harbour to Werribee River

Susie Strain

The Cruising Group trip to Wyndham Harbour on the four-day Cup weekend provided a good opportunity to continue the Walk Around the Bay project so rudely interrupted by lockdowns and 5 km limits.

The western side of Port Phillip Bay is very different to the well-settled east. Melbourne's residential development has followed the river and attractive land to the south-east, giving the metropolis the familiar skewed shape; the western flat basalt plain became home to the supporting service functions – Avalon airport, defence area at Point Wilson, Western Treatment Plant and RAAF base. These occupy a good part of the north shore of Corio Bay and the shore line is not easily accessible either by water or land. Werribee River at Werribee South is the first access point on the inner west coast of Port Phillip Bay.

Wyndham Harbour is an isolated settlement on the shore of the bay, backed by market gardens on the good red volcanic soils extending 8 km to the Princes Highway. Local shops are in short supply, however other facilities of the beach, boat ramp at the river mouth, walking and cycling tracks are of a high standard and a pleasant walk of about 3 km takes you to the mouth of the Werribee River all the while enjoying the view across to Portarlington. The beach was thronged and Cup Day parties on the foreshore enjoying the burst of sunshine for this year's Cup Day public holiday.

Werribee River rises in Wombat State Forest (near Ballan) and flows 110 km to Port Phillip Bay providing drinking water for Melton on the way. The mouth of the river is popular with small fishing boats and also provides swing moorings for a number of little yachts. The boat ramp is very busy. Curiosity pushed me to paddle a board a short distance up the river and there is opportunity to kayak, canoe or dinghy a long stretch up the river with natural bushland on either side – hard to believe so close to a city – then on to Werribee Park Golf Club, Open Range Zoo, under the Geelong Road to Werribee itself. Popular for fishing but not recommended for RBYC boats.

Wyndham Harbour is a good base to explore this side of the bay, and further walking towards the city via Campbell's Cove on to Point Cook and around Altona Bay to Williamstown and the river await the walker. As with the Werribee River mouth, there are curious and interesting features of Melbourne and legacies of the past that are unknown to the eastern suburbs and easily missed from the Geelong Road.





**ANNUAL CRUISING GROUP CHRISTMAS GATHERING ON THE HARDSTAND**

*By Lyn Bingham*

After months of lockdowns it was pleasing to see and meet up with fellow cruising group members out on the hardstand on Saturday night 4 December. This year it was a somewhat smaller than usual gathering of around thirty people most of whom were wearing Christmas head attire of some description. Thanks to those who set up the tables, chairs and the barbeque (or perhaps thanks to whoever organised the staff). After socialising and sharing of nibbles, it was time to approach the barbie and the cooking finally began in earnest after Gordon failed to start a rush when Caprice's lamb went on. Some delicious smells then started wafting from the barbie.

After the long gap in Cruising Group social events there was much to catch up with. Several members have new grandkids, some have returned temporarily from cruising the east coast. We shared stories of lockdown activities including the story of catching a 5kg schnapper complete with photos of same proudly shared

around. Jenny Collins and Leanne Grant (Caprice) discovered they both came from Wycheproof (Vic). And on and on.

During this time the wind was becoming noticeably cooler as the temperature dropped slightly. Time to rug up a bit.

The Lions Christmas cake was cut and shared around and it was delicious. There didn't seem to be much enthusiasm for singing Christmas carols and I'm not sure if anyone had the books with words to the songs and there were no lights to see by! So we drifted off, some to sleep on their boats and others home to a good night's sleep after the blustery Saturday afternoon race, and with a big day on the horizon – Opening Day on the Sunday.

It is a busy time of the year but those who made it out to the hardstand were rewarded with the renewing of friendships and seeing of faces we hadn't seen for some months.



A blast from the past, Hard Stand Party 2019  
Much warmer I think



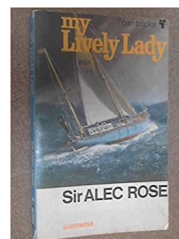
**BOOK REVIEW**

**- My Lively Lady by Sir Alec Rose  
also Around the World with Lively Lady by Sir Alec Rose (children's version)  
Susie Strain**

**Who has heard of Sir Alec Rose?** In some ways up there with Sir Francis Chichester who is a household word. Alec Rose likewise circumnavigated the world alone, not the same year as Chichester (1966) as he intended, but due to boat damage in the year following. He did make two stops, one in Melbourne to stay with his son, another in New Zealand for a major repair. His boat was considerably smaller and slower than Gipsy Moth IV; Lively Lady was a 36 foot cutter built in India of very hardy and seaworthy local timbers padouk and teak. She was described as basic, sturdy and stable.

Alec Rose did the trip because he wanted to, without sponsorship or commercial support, entirely self-financed from his greengrocer shop in Portsmouth and only provided occasional radio reports. Modest, and called 'the shoestrapping sailor' he was surprised by the fuss when he returned to Portsmouth and the subsequent knighthood.

The book is a factual and interesting account of his experience, and a salutary reminder of the enormous contribution to sailing due to modern technology and communications. Definitely worth a read.



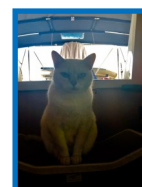
**RBYC Cruiser of the Year 2021  
Geoff Brewster and Barbara Burns "Saffron"  
Grant Collins**



On Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at RBYC 2021 Open Day **Geoff Brewster and Barbara Burns** were presented with the Cruising "Yachties" of the Year award after sailing their yacht "Saffron" to Great Keppel Island and back from early 2019 to early 2020.

They joined RBYC in 2012 and have done 4 Bass Strait Cruises before embarking on their voyage to Great Keppel. Geoff was certainly no stranger to Bass Strait prior to joining RBYC as he had done several Bass Strait crossings in a sea kayak.

In early 2019, with David & Sally Spencer on board, they departed along with the annual Bass Strait cruisers. However, after clearing Port Phillip Heads they turned left whereas the other cruisers turned right. Saffron sailed in company with Kirra Kirra to Lakes Entrance with brief stop-overs at Refuge Cove and Corner Inlet. Tom Hinton joined them at Lakes Entrance and they continued to Eden, where David & Sally departed. Tom remained for the voyage to Sydney. After staying at Rushcutters Bay, Geoff & Barb sailed to the Pittwater where they mooched around the bays before day hopping to RQYS.



During the stay at RQYS, Geoff was able to enjoy the company of his Grandchildren before they sailed in company with the RQYS Cruising Group to Rossalyn Bay with several stop-overs along the way. A great time was had exploring the many anchorages of Great Keppel before returning at a leisurely pace to RQYS via The Narrows. Geoff & Roger Lloyd brought the boat back to Melbourne in what was a "Delivery Trip" in early 2020. Like Matthew Flinders, with his cat 'Trim', Geoff and Barb's cat, Savannah, was a vital part of the crew the entire voyage.

I wrote this article with a couple of shades of envy - how I would have loved to have done something similar. Congratulations to Geoff and Barb for their well-deserved award.



**RBYC Commodores Award**

**Alan Hadow**



# NOTICEBOARD

**\*\*\*Sunday 17th January 2022\*\*\***

## **Annual Birthday Cruise to Royals.**

A cruise to RYCV at Williamstown for lunch. Boats will be leaving RBYC marina around 10am. BYO picnic lunch, or order off the menu at their bar. Please advise **Paul Jenkins** .

**paul.jenkins8@bigpond.com**

if you intend to come and how many you will have on board so we can have some idea of berthing requirements and numbers attending.

.....  
**\*\*\*Friday February 18th 2022\*\*\***

## **.TITANIC NIGHT**

### **“A night to remember”**

Captures the magic of the Belle Epoque era in 1912. Fabulous costumes, orchestrated music, talented cast, plenty of fun and audience participation. Dress up for First Class or Dress down for Steerage. Come along for a great night of fun and entertainment. Have your photo taken in front of the Titanic's Grand Staircase with Captain Smith

. **Book your tickets through Mandy at RBYC reception, no later than Wednesday 16th . Tickets \$75 includes the entertainment and a two course meal. 7.00pm on Friday February 18th**

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**\*\*\* Saturday 26th February to 14th March 2022\*\*\***

## **Bass Strait Cruise.**

If you are interested please contact Peter Strain. **peter\_strain@bigpond.com.**

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**\*\*\* Friday March 18th 2022\*\*\***

## **Dustin marshall**

Guest Speaker: Prof. Dustin Marshall Director of the Centre for Geometric Biology. He will be talking about: “The big issues in Marine Environments from Port Phillip Bay to around the world”.



By Now you will all be aware and will be as pleased as I am to see that the pier repairs have been completed, the pier is open and the long-awaited dredging has been completed.

As expected, everybody is madly catching up with family, friends, getting boat maintenance done and sailing again.

It was very pleasing to see 7 boats turn up to participate in the Yarra's Edge end of month cruise and I believe we had 23 people sit down together for a lovely meal and drinks at Hooks on the Yarra for dinner on the Saturday night.

Steven Etches and I broke Kathleen B's time record for crossing from RBYC to the Yarra's Mouth on the sail across Saturday morning with half a head sail out and up to 25knots of breeze behind us. The sail back on Sunday under full sail was a pleasant trip in flat water and around 8 knots of wind under full sail. Many thanks to Geoff and Barbara for coordinating a great weekend. Unfortunately, the weekend clashed with the HMAS Goorangai Race and the QCYC opening. We will encourage participation of our cruisers in this for 2022.

From all reports the Hard Stand Party was a success however probably due to some unforeseen circumstances carols did not happen and numbers were down.

The latest numbers booked for the Titanic night I have from Mandy are 40 and we expect once Christmas and New Year are out of the way we will get a large number booking in January, so don't miss out, get some friends together and book a table for 8 to 10 people!

With Christmas and New Year, a mere 3 weeks away, I will take this opportunity to thank our committee for all their help throughout the year, and all the cruisers for their patience and understanding during the disruptive time we had during the Covid lockdown.

Some of us are planning to be on the Marina to see the New Year in and watch fireworks and drone lights over the city scape.

Wishing you all a Safe, Merry Christmas and New Year.

See you soon around the Club.