



# CRUISING NEWS



MARCH 2022

## Cruising Group Dinner Minus the organised Titanic night. Pam Merritt

On **Friday 18th February** a group of about 20 cruisers met for dinner in the Members' Bar.

We had two reasons to drown our sorrows with pre-dinner drinks .

- 1) The much anticipated Titanic Night booked for this date had been postponed yet again due to 'You Know What'.
- 2) None of us managed to win the \$500 members key draw.

Despite these minor disappointments we all managed to enjoy a delicious meal and some lively conversation in the company of good cruising friends. I think we've all been missing our regular monthly dinners over the last couple of years!



## RBVC Land Cruisers February Event 2022 Rod Slater



February saw the 'RBVC Land Cruisers' embrace their first trip of 2022. And what an event it was, with no fewer than 20 Club members heading off for a week of excitement and adventure, as well as great food and wine, on the beautiful Bass Coast of Victoria (or Phillip Island to be more specific).

Variously described by those who were lucky enough to be there as...."awesome, amazing, spectacular, updulating, and more....." And before you write to the editor, 'updulating' is a word. No correspondence on this matter will be entered into!!

In true Cruising Group fashion we set off on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, that is after first consulting BOM weather and having a quick run around the 'skippers'. Getting there was quite uneventful, but once we arrived, members quickly set up camp in the very comfortable New Haven Caravan Park. And what an array of 'craft' there was, from caravans (off-road included) to camper trailers, tents and cabins. After setting up, we gathered at Rod and Sandy's rather splendid camp for sundowners and a pow-wow. This was followed by an excellent Italian feast and a lovely walk along the beach at dusk. A great start to our week long adventure.

We camped on the banks of a large bird filled swamp, which gave the twitchers amongst us hours of entertainment.<sup>2</sup>

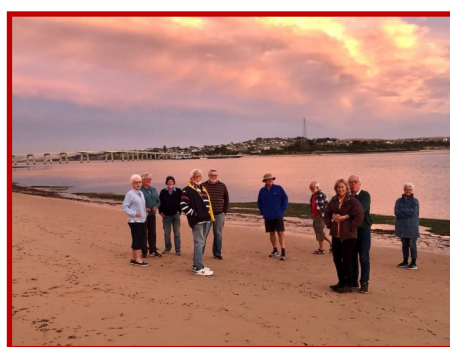
Monday dawned with a beautiful sun filled sky (as it did everyday for that matter), and over breakfast the decision was taken to tackle the Bass Coast Track from San Remo to Kilcunda where we planned to have lunch in the rather excellent Kilcunda General Store Café. Half the group chose to walk the 7kms to Kilcunda, while the other half

chose to ride, although I am not sure that E bikes constitute riding?? It was a simply stunning track, stretching as far as the eye could see, hilly in some spots and relatively flat in others, with wonderful coast and ocean views, providing a very different perspective to the one most of us were used to, as we sailed from Melbourne to the Prom.

The walkers and riders made it to Kilcunda, and lunch, in good time. It was an excellent lunch, enjoyed by all who participated.

That evening we had a bbq and some very special wines. A fitting end to a lovely day.

Tuesday was another active day, with a ride from Newhaven to Cowes for the seriously active, or a car drive for the less active. The breakfast at "Gullivers" was very good, followed by a walk on the pier and a trip down to the Nobbies to look for penguins in their burrows. Dinner was fish and chips courtesy of the San Remo Fishermans' Co-Op. you can't beat freshly caught local fish. We also got to watch one of the local trawlers off loading its catch taken from the waters around the Prom.



**RBVC Land Cruisers  
February Event 2022  
Rod Slater**



On Wednesday we had a very special day, organised by Rob Hurrell, a Director of the Phillip Island Adventure Resort. After a morning of swimming and body surfing at the stunning Smith’s Beach, and coffee at the local bakery, we headed off to the Adventure Resort where Rob had very kindly arranged for some of the young staff to introduce this bunch of dare I say somewhat older sailors, to the thrill (horror?) of so called ‘high wire’ activities! First up was the high swing, some 17 metres off the ground. Not unlike climbing a yacht’s mast, then freefalling for several metres, before being ‘saved’ by the ground crew. Rob led the way, but it was Sue Slater’s response to the freefall, with a loud “@#\*\*%” that said it all. And so it went on, with most of this band of brave sailors facing the challenge, even Pam, whose first words were “I’m not going on that thing” and then she did J. Thanks to Rob for organising this, and young Emma for leading the way. We finished the afternoon with homemade pizzas around a large camp fire. What more could you ask for??

Thursday started once again with coffee at a local café, and then off to walk out to the point at Cape Woolamai. A very good walk. It wouldn’t be an RBVC Cruise without Klop, and this trip, albeit on land, was no different. Clearly some members had been in training, with Sandy Watson recording a resounding victory in round 1, and then husband Rod repeating the feat in round 2. Something dodgy??? Grant went fishing and was rewarded with whiting and flathead. Then it was off to the San Remo Pub for dinner, a lovely way to finish the week.

**Thanks to Jenny for organising this, it was a great week.  
Only one question remains, when is the next ‘land’ event, and where will it take us?**

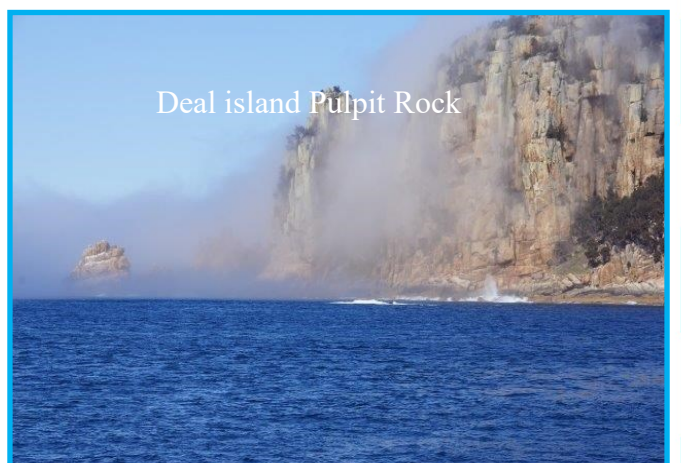
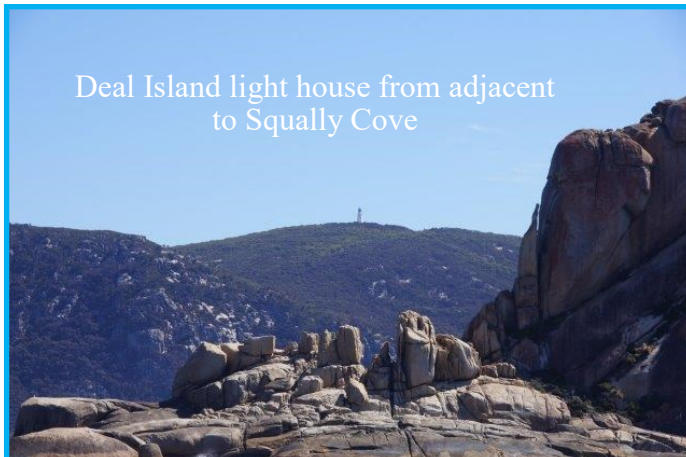


**CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

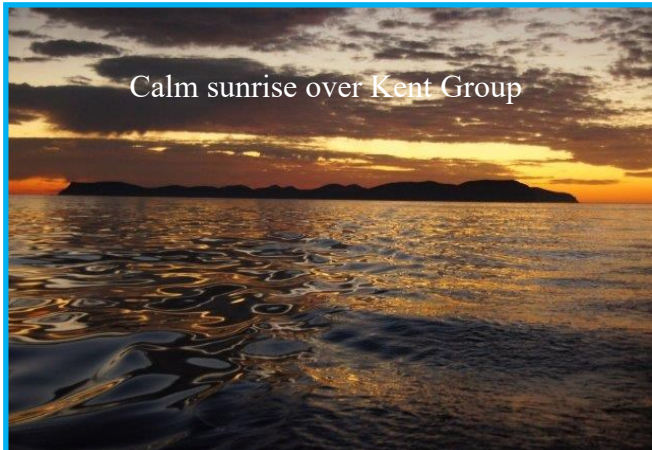
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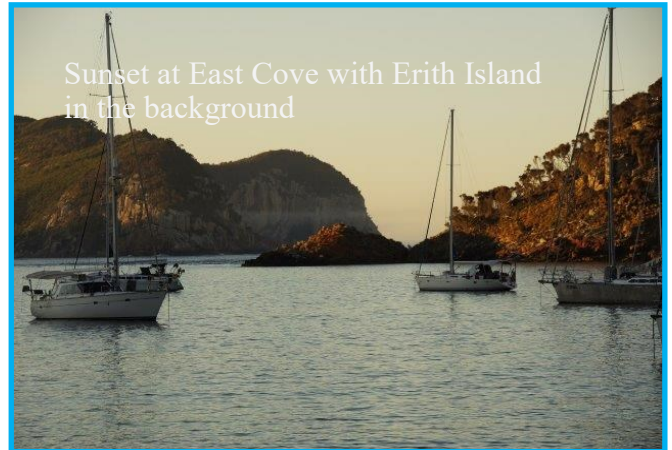
**Rod Watson  
Has shared some fabulous photos that he has taken over several Bass  
Strait Cruises**



**Rod Watson**  
**Has shared some fabulous photos that he has taken over several**  
**Bass Strait Cruises**



Calm sunrise over Kent Group



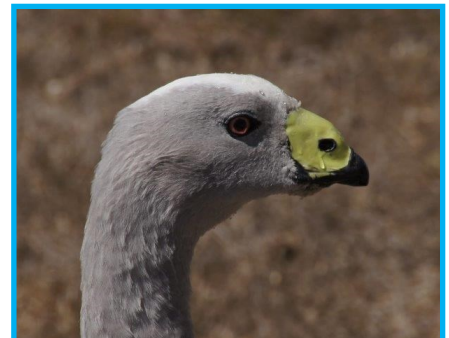
Sunset at East Cove with Erith Island in the background



East Cove, Deal Island with Murray Passage, Erith Island and Dover Island in the background



Bennetts wallaby at East Coves Spring



**Cape Barron Geese on Deal Island around Keepers Station**

Vale  
 Ian Cummin  
 Sandy Watson and Mariane  
 Johnson



It was with shock and sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of Ian in early February.

Ian will be affectionately remembered as the self-appointed 'Chair of the Motor Boat Division of Cruising Group'. He and Susan were enjoying their recently purchased motor yacht, 'It's Amore', an Integrity Sedan.

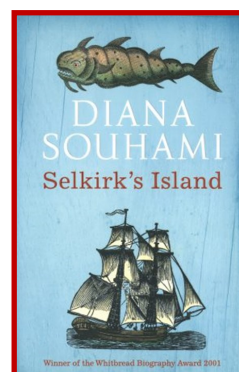
His positive outlook on life combined with a cheeky sense of humour and love of fun times made him great company. He was a genial host and a very generous and kind friend.

The Cruising Group extends its sincere condolences to Susan, Jade, Riley and their families.

Book Review

Selkirks Island by Diana Souhami

Barbara Burns



Diana Souhami

In *Selkirk's Island* I hoped to stretch the boundaries of biography. The hero is the island not the man marooned there. I went to Crusoe Island to write this book .

The real **Robinson Crusoe** was Alexander Selkirk who was a Scottish privateer and Royal Navy officer who spent four years and four months as a castaway after being marooned by his captain, initially at his request, on an uninhabited island in the South Pacific Ocean.

ALEXANDER SELKIRK was a buccaneer who sailed the South Seas on looting expeditions for gold and treasure. In 1703 he joined an expedition whose object was to plunder French and Spanish ships. Eventually they reached the island of Juan Fernandez, off the coast of Chile, where Selkirk opted to maroon himself. Suddenly solitude and silence were imposed, and his only relationship was with the island and with himself. He learnt to kill goats with cudgels and use their skins for coats and shoes. He hollowed out a canoe and circum-navigated the island. In 1709 Selkirk spotted two ships from his cliff-top lookout. They saw his fire and the next morning landed on Juan Fernandez – to be greeted by an unrecognisable savage-looking man incoherent with emotion. He sailed back with them to civilisation where he 'bewailed his return to the world'. Selkirk died in 1720 back at sea, of yellow fever.



Titanic Entertainment Dinner Show

**A Night To Remember**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2022**

**Live again that fateful night.**

**All the fun and none of the consequences**



WHERE

**RBVC. Bayview Room**  
253 Esplanade. Brighton

WHEN

7pm Drinks & Photos with Captain Smith  
in the Bayview Cafe

DRESS

Dress up as First Class or Dress down  
as Steerage ( Optional)

**BOOK NOW**

\$75.pp includes 2 course meal & Show  
Bookings: RBVC Reception 95923092  
email:reception@rbyc.org.au



# NOTICEBOARD

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

## **Forum Dinner 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"

As usual gather in the members bar about 6.30. members draw at 7pm, followed by the meal.

**Please book at the office (95923092) with Mandy no later then Wednesday 16th to get an idea of numbers. Meal \$40**

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**\*\*\* Sunday 3rd April 2022\*\*\***

## **JUNIORS BIG BOAT DAY**

### **The Cruising Group and Junior Sailing Group**

Cruise to Royals as a combined activity with Junior sailors and their families. The idea is to give the Junior kids and their parents a 'Big Boat' experience. Meet in the Club at 10am for allocation of Junior families to the boats. BYO everything for a BBQ lunch on the lawn. Buy drinks at the bar. This has become a fabulous annual event. Please email Paul Jenkins to let him know your intention to join the cruise and volunteer your boat.

**[paul.jenkins8@bigond.com](mailto:paul.jenkins8@bigond.com)**

Please consider volunteering so we have enough boats as the Junior numbers have increased and we would like to accommodate all those who wish to come!

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**\*\*\*April 15th– 18th\*\*\***

## **Easter on water activity**

### **Possibly Geelong.**

**To be advised .Depending on weather.**

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**\*\*\* Friday April 22nd 2022\*\*\***

## **Friday night Forum dinner**

**Guest speaker to be advised**

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**\*\*\*Friday 20th May\*\*\***

## **Rescheduled Titanic Night**

**Please mark in your calendars and re-book**

**. 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**

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.



As the saying goes, 'The Best laid Plans of Mice and Men go Awry'. This could not have been further from the truth with this years Bass Strait Cruise. For various reasons three big boats that were going to do the cruise pulled out and one other reducing the fleet from around seven boats to just three.

The remaining boats, it's a Privilege, Y KNOT and Boomaroo remain and at the time of writing were held up at Apollo Bay waiting better weather. Will we ever see fleets of 12 plus again?

Jane and I left RBYC Saturday morning with 10 to 15 Knot ESE enjoying a reach straight to the West Channel Mark with gusts to 18 Knots. We met up with the three boats and were later joined by David and Lyn Bingham arriving on Mirrabooka. It was a very quiet night at QCYC; and unfortunately Jane and I had to return to Brighton Sunday with work commitments. As it was the conditions were not suitable for a departure thru the Rip until Monday morning.

It has been confirmed the Titanic Night is good to go on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, so get your bookings in asap and let's make this an outstanding event with great attendance, I have rebooked a table of 10 already.

Now that restrictions have been lifted, we will see things getting back to some form of normality and your committee is busy planning the events for the rest of the year. Although there may be some annual events that have had have times of the year changed, at least for the remainder of this year will be consistent.

Easter is just around the corner and we are planning to do a long weekend cruise which allows us to go a bit further afield. We have a Junior Sailors Big Boat Day to come shortly so I will be looking for volunteer boat owners to help out with this over the coming weeks. Well, that's all from me for now.

See you around the club.