



CRUISING NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2022

Bryans Super Kahoot Nautical Quiz



The Cruising Group meets every 2 nd month on a Friday night, usually to listen to erudite speakers about things boating and cruising but last Friday we , ourselves , had to do the thinking and come up with answers . It was quiz night.

Bryan Drummond presented a quiz , with a nautical bent, via the App Kahoot. We coalesced into 3 large tables with one phone to answer questions. Teams called themselves Slightly Mad Sailors , Upside Down Pigs? and Boat Bumpers(Iceberger term) We learnt that a double fisherman's knot is not a nautical knot. Truly.., it's knot! There were some queries about this but the umpire is always right. There was a dispute about the foundation year of RBYC. 1885 or 1886?

The Upside Down Pigs (where did that name come from?) were victorious.



New Cruising chairman Geoff Brewster



Geoff Brewster was born and raised at Seaspray on Gippsland's 90 mile beach, and this is where his life-time association with the ocean and ocean going craft commenced. Geoff's youth and early adulthood was spent in surf lifesaving, rowing and "sweeping" surfboats, competitive paddling of surf ski's and generally mucking around in the salt water. In later years have been spent paddling sea kayaks, with some epic adventures including Bass Strait Crossings, West Coast of Tasmania adventures, and 70 k's offshore from Ceduna SA in White pointer country to the Nuytes archipelago. The experience gained in these adventures made Geoff a valued instructor with the Victorian Sea Kayak Club. Geoff yachting career commenced some 9 years ago, not long after he met partner Barbara Burns, a long time yachtie at Royal's at St Kilda. 3 boats later Geoff is the Skipper of "Saffron" (Barbara is the admiral) with a number of Bass Strait Adventures East Coast Cruises and social racing under the keel. Assisted by Barbara, Geoff runs a dynamic Cost Engineering Consultancy with involvement in many of Victorian Australian and international iconic civil engineering projects.

Commodore's Award For Pam and Will Merritt Grant Collins

The Commodore's Award for 2022 was presented to Will and Pam Merritt for services to the RBYC Cruising Group, in which they have been heavily involved in for the past 25 years.



Will and Pam joined the Cruising Group in 1997 when they became members of RBYC. In 2000 Will joined the Cruising Committee and served until 2003 when he tag-teamed with Pam who joined the Cruising Committee in 2003. Will took a "break" in 2004-2005 to serve on General Committee, including a term as Rear Commodore.

In 2006 Will had a "Second Coming" on Cruising Committee when Lyn Bingham retired and he took on the role of Chairperson for the next 6 years until his retirement from the Chair in 2012. Will would start proceedings at Cruising Events with "Good Evening Cruisers" and the response from those gathered, "Good Evening Chairman Will" became part of the Groups liturgy which remains to this day.

Meanwhile Pam was working quietly behind the scenes as Secretary from 2004 to 2007 and then Editor of the Cruising Newsletter until 2012. Pam is still serving on the Cruising Committee. After 25 years of tireless service Will finally retired from the Committee in May, 2021.

Will and Pam have participated in the vast bulk of the Annual Bass Strait Cruises since its inception in 2001, when Jenny and I joined them as crew on Chindrina (a 30 foot Clansman) which was the beginning of a friendship that is still flourishing today. A few years later they upgraded to a Mottle 33 – Andalusia. This saw Will and Pam head off on a cruise up the East Coast in 2005 which earned Will the "Cruising Yachtsman of the Year" in 2006.

Will and Pam are also keen racers on Wednesday afternoons and evenings and Saturday races too, taking out many awards.

The years have seen their massive input into all events of the Cruising Group; Frostbite Cruisers, Pontoon Christmas Parties, Music Nights, Monthly on-water activities and Progressive Dinners just to mention a few. The Cruising Group's success owes more than just a little to this dedicated pair. An award richly deserved.

CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson	Paul Jenkins.....0400 946 658	Rob Hurrell.....0409 781 477
Secretary	Terry Frankham.....0407308988	Peter Strain0418 530 385
Editor	Barbara Burns.....0417 035 404	Sue Drummond.....0417107053
Email.....	barbaraburnstwiss@bigpond.com	Peter Gebhardt.....0413 048 997
		Geoff Brewster.....0418507828
		Rod Cuthbert.....0414955009

ON THE WATER AT COBBOLD GORGE

By Lyn Bingham

Two of our daughters separately had visited Cobbold Gorge south west of Cairns. Their descriptions and photos sparked a desire to visit for David and myself. Earlier this year an occasional email arrived from a travel bureau in Cairns which I had used years ago. Lo and behold amongst other information there was on offer a four day small group tour out of Cairns to Undara Lava tubes and Cobbold Gorge. We didn't hesitate for too long before booking as this would be an opportunity to visit these places without the hassle of hiring a car and driving ourselves.



We departed Melbourne early July 2022 on a flight to Cairns. We enjoyed two days exploring Cairns and early on the third morning we were collected from our hotel in a Mercedes 4wd mini bus. After several interesting stops including Millaa Millaa falls, lunch at Ravenshoe, we arrived at Undara Village. After a quick settle in we were off for sunset drinks and nibbles at Kalkani volcanic look-out with a 360 degree view of the surrounding flat countryside. A good dinner at Undara Village and an excellent campfire breakfast early next morning before our excursion to visit Stephenson's cave, Archway and Ewamian cave. The caves are said to have been formed around 190,000+ years ago when a staggering 23 cubic kilometers of lava flowed forming a wide riverbed and kept flowing for 160 km, making it the longest lava flow from a single volcano in the whole world. The flow left behind huge caves or tubes where some lava kept flowing while the surrounding lava cooled leaving tubes, some over 21m wide and up to 10 m high.



The following day we were on the road again, stopping at Einsleigh Pub for lunch, then visiting nearby Copperfield Gorge. We crossed many dry creek/river beds on the way to Cobbold, arriving at Cobbold Village late afternoon.



The next day our group of ten (including our driver Steve) set off with many other tourists in buses to the

Gorge where we broke up into smaller groups. Our group with guide Graham walked and scrambled to the top of the escarpment for great views over the Gorge itself and surrounding countryside. Australia's first fully glass bridge installed in 2019 spans the width of the gorge where we donned blue disposable shoes to protect the glass and at a height of 17 metres we could view those on the boat trip gliding along the narrow chasm deep below us.



Then it was our turn for the boat ride, a custom made electric powered punt to glide in almost eerie silence along the narrow gorge. A great experience as we enjoyed gazing up at the 30 metre sheer walls and at times only two metre width.

Back at the resort David and I enjoyed a late afternoon walk along a dry creek bed before dinner. Next day we drove back through the Savannah Way with various stops and we were dropped off at Yorkey's Knob our home for the next five days.

Yorkey's was a good location close to Cairns and the airport and with a hire car we were able to explore. On our final day we enjoyed an early morning ferry ride (good to be on the water again) from Cairns marina to Fitzroy Island. We scrambled for an hour or so to Nudey Beach but were advised by a returning family that the snorkelling there was not so good, with poor visibility. There was also a south easterly blowing which was not really conducive to snorkelling.

The weather we heard was not as warm as it normally would be at that time of the year, but still warmer than Melbourne and a pleasant break from our winter. We did not receive our check-in bag on arrival back at Tullamarine due to cargo hold issues, but fortunately it was delivered to our house the following day.

NOTICEBOARD

***** Friday September 16th
Forum Dinner
Kimberley Cruise in Comfort
Geoff Brewster and Barbara Burns**



The Kimberley raw rugged beauty is perhaps best seen from the deck of a ship. Here is one of the last most remote and beautiful wilderness areas. Geoff and Barbara were fortunate to see this amazing coastline on the beautiful Coral Geographer. The awesome scenery had plenty of stunning bays, cliffs and waterfalls, whales, indigenous art, and the marvelous Montgomery Reef..

As usual, gather in the Bayview Room after the 7pm announcements and draw in the Members Bar, for a two course meal, good company, and Geoff and Barbara's talk. \$40per person, payable on the night. **Please book with Mandy at reception (phone 9592 3092 or email reception@rbyc.org.au) by Wednesday, 14th September.**

***** Friday to Sunday 23rd to 25th
September on Water Activity ***
Grand Final Long Weekend Cruise**

Destination is Wyndham Harbour, a short sail across the Bay from Brighton. Great facilities - Watch the Grand Final with your fellow cruisers in the marina lounge. Perhaps take a bus to the Werribee Zoo, or visit a winery. Barbara Burns is coordinating the weekend, so please contact her on ph: 417 035 404, email: barbara-burnstwiss@bigpond.com if you are planning to come along.

*****Friday October 21st ***
Annual Progressive Dinner**

Annual Progressive Dinner :Please contact: Pam Merritt: andalucia1771@icloud.com or Jenny Collins: jac-ngrant@gmail.com If you are interesting in attending. 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".....this is a call for all members to consider volunteering your boat.. and develop your hosting skills. You could even offer to host on another boat. Please book with Mandy (95923092) no later than Wednesday October 19th. , if you wish participate in an evening of delicious food and enjoyable company.



This is my last copy in the Cruising News for RBYC as I hand the position of Chair to your new Chair, Geoff Brewster.

In preparation for my retirement plans which involve selling up in Melbourne and moving to a new home on the Bellarine Peninsula, KathleenB has been moved to the RGYC Marina and I am stepping down from my duties at RBYC to make way for others to take up where I leave off.

It has been a wonderful journey at RBYC and I am pleased that I have been

able to contribute to the club in my roles on several committees including Sailing, Cruising, Finance and last but not least General Committee as a Flag Officer. I have made many friendships which I hope can continue and many great sailing adventures both racing and cruising. The past two years have been difficult however we got through it and I believe the Cruising Group is in great hands and will continue to provide the many great social and sailing activities it has for those that enjoy the Cruising lifestyle.

Although officially stepping down from my role on General Committee at the AGM September 20, I will maintain Membership at RBYC so you will still see me around the club from time to time even after I move house.

I will take this opportunity to thank everyone for showing their trust in me to take on the roles I have and the support they have given me in those roles. Together we managed to have a few weekend on water events, a Bass Strait Cruise, Progressive Dinner, several Forum Dinners and of course the incredibly great Music nights in Swing Dance and Titanic.

I wish the Cruising Group every success in its future and to quote the Irish Blessing:

"There are Good Ships and Wood Ships,
Ships that Sail the Sea,
But the best Ships are Friendships,
And may they always be".

See you around the Club or on the Water,
Paul Jenkins