



CRUISING NEWS



DECEMBER 2022

2022 Progressive Dinner on Boats
Pam Merritt

In 2007 we tentatively held our first Progressive Dinner on cruising boats around the marina. I wasn't sure how it would work and if it'd be successful. It was, and quickly became a popular annual event.

On Friday 21st October we held the **15th** Progressive Dinner with 18 guests and 24 boat owners. A few days ahead the weather was looking a bit dicey with rain and possible thunderstorms forecast, so with the help of our General Manager a backup plan in the Bayview Room was organised.

As we met in the Members' Bar beforehand the weather was warm with light wind, cloudy, but no immediate rain on the radar - so no backup plan needed.

Programs for the evening were distributed and we headed down the pier to allocated boats for Main Course. About halfway through Main Course the heavy rain and lightning show began, luckily easing a bit before people started dashing around the marina at 8:45pm looking for their allocated Dessert Boats. At 10pm a few headed home and many continued on to It's a Privilege for chocolates, port and some comparing of notes. All comments were complimentary with praise going to the chefs for their amazing efforts. There were reports of Beef Bourignon, BBQ's and delicious chicken dishes. On Halcyon we're treated to Wagu Beef Burgers, with the bar being raised somewhat higher with pre dinner nibbles and a Margarita handed to us on arrival. Thanks Rod and Kristina!

Dessert had a distinctly 'citrus' theme with reports of lemon tart, orange and almond cake, lemon curd slice - as well as other sweet delights.

Huge thanks go to Boat Hosts, for without their willingness to host, generosity and cooking expertise this event wouldn't happen.

Hosts were:

MAIN COURSE

- Rod Cuthbert and Kristina Beltran *Halcyon*
- Brett Heath and Niesje Hees *It's a Privilege*
- Peter Gebhardt and Alison Hedger *Nimrod*
- Terry and Suzanne Frankham *Reliance*
- Geoff Brewster and Barbara Burns *Saffron*
- Richard and Marian Johnson *Sophistique*



DESSERT

- Will and Pam Merritt *Andalucia*
- Bryan and Sue Drummond *Birubi*
- Steve and Sue Etches *Favourite Child*
- David and Lyn Bingham *Mirrabooka*
- Rod and Sandy Watson *Sophistique*
- David and Sally Spencer *Sun Kiss*



**Another great Progressive Dinner, may the tradition long continue!!
I'm looking forward to next year's already.**



CRUISING NEWS DECEMBER 2022

November Cruising dinner

Peter and Karen Johns cruising adventures presentation on the Joie de Vivre



The evening was a great success , with 67 people in attendance,. The meal which was Braised Pork Belly with cauliflower puree and red currant jus , followed by the desert of chocolate mouse with vanilla crème, was absolutely delicious.

This was followed by a very interesting talk by Peter and Karen Johns. Peter Johns was inspired by a book. "The Guinness Guide to the Waterways of Western Europe" read almost 40 years ago. This influenced Peter Johns to build a replica Dutch barge and spend the European summer cruising and exploring the delights and challenges of the canals and rivers of Europe. From the serenity of the non-tidal Thames, to crossing the English Channel and landing in Dunkirk Peter and his wife Karen invited us to share their experiences of the past 4 years (minus

2020, of course).

The visual presentation introduced us to engineering feats of genius, both modern and antique, that enable boats to move seamlessly along the waterways, the protocols of navigating the locks and sharing the canals with commercial traffic. But more importantly we were witness to the stunning scenery and charming ports encountered along the way.

They will return to their barge Joie de Vivre, currently wintering in Brugge, in April 2023, and plan to head south and explore France. If you want to share their experiences, you can follow Karen's blog, yachtsandbarges.com

2019, Uk to France, France to Belgium, Belgium to the Netherlands, the Netherlands to Belgium

2021 Belgium to Netherlands, the Netherlands to Belgium

2022 Belgium to France, France to the Netherlands, the Netherlands to Belgium



A big Thank You to Pam.

**BY
Jenny Collins**



On behalf of the Cruising Group, we want to say a Big Thankyou to Pam Merritt for your 19 years of service on the RYBC Cruising Committee. After joining the Committee in 2003 Pam took on the role of Secretary in 2004 and then became Editor of the Newsletter for 6 years. Pam and Will have participated in nearly all the Bass Strait Cruises over these years and instigated the 'Cruise Competition' of Klop held between the different crews participating on the Bass Strait Cruises. But her participation and work didn't stop then. Pam has been instrumental in organising the Progressive Dinners since their inception in 2007, Co-ordinating monthly On-water Activities, organising the Silly Hats Competition at the Frost Bite Cruises, making sure we have Fruitcakes and Songbooks for the Christmas Hardstand Party to name a few. Pam has always been happy to go the second mile where-ever it was needed. Her initiatives and input, and her sense of fun at Committee meetings will be greatly missed. Thanks Pam for a job very well done.

The Anchor Holds

Rob Hurrell

The thunder stomped across the sky, With angry fists
the rain did beat.

My little ship was buffeted so, I thought I'd sink into
the deep.

My ship was lifted on high waves, Then slammed into
an angry sea. As gusts of wind so fiercely blew, I
thought dry land I'd never see.

And then a voice called out to me,

So calm and clear, though the storm raged. "Be not afraid, the
Anchor holds,
It settles deep beneath the waves.

Allow yourself to rest in Me,
I am the Anchor! Do not fear! Together we'll go through this
storm, Come into waters calm and clear.

And so I took Him at His word,
Though weary, tempest-tossed and worn. My ship, though buf-
feted, was secure.
The Anchors' strength outweighed the storm.

CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Geoff Brewster.....0418507828
Secretary Terry Frankham.....0407308988
Editor Barbara Burns.....0417 035 404

Rob Hurrell.....0409 781 477
Peter Strain0418 530 385
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Peter Gebhardt.....0413 048 997
Rod Cuthbert.....0414955009

November Cruising dinner
Peter and Karen Johns cruising adventures presentation on the Joie de Vivre



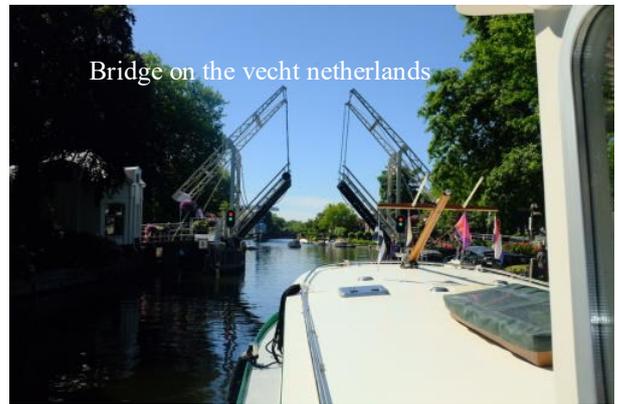
Dinner with friends at volenhaven netherlands



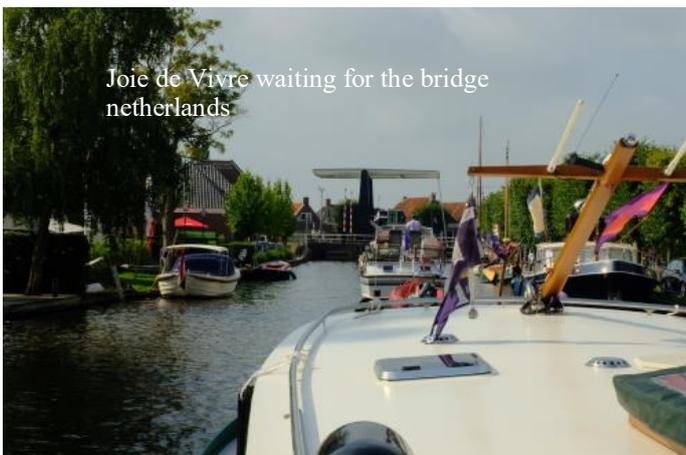
Captain climbs a ladder while the crew relaxes



Crew relaxes



Bridge on the vecht netherlands



Joie de Vivre waiting for the bridge netherlands



The lock south of Brussels

NOTICEBOARD

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER at 6 pm BASS STRAIT CRUISE IN COMPANY

An information and registration meeting will be held for those interested in Cruising in Company for two weeks from 23rd February to March 11th—Long Weekend—Bass Strait destination as determined by the weather. The meeting will provide some information about the organisation of the cruise and any requirements. If you are interested in participating in the cruise but can't attend the meeting please email : ts.frankham@ozemail.com.au to register your interest.

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Saturday December 10th, 2022 –

RBVC Cruising Group Hardstand Christmas Party.

Join the Cruising Group out on the Hardstand from 6pm for our Annual Hardstand Party. Load up the barrow for BYO everything for the BBQ including folding chairs. Not for the BBQ. We will supply the BBQ. Please remember your Christmas Carols and don't forget to dig out your Christmas hat.! Come for a fabulous evening of socialising and carol singing. We are hoping for warm weather, however there are other options at the club, if the weather is awful

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Sunday 17th January 2023***

Annual Birthday Cruise to Royals.

A cruise to RYCV at Williamstown for lunch. Boats will be leaving RBVC marina around 10am. BYO picnic lunch, or order off the menu at their bar.

Coordinator: Geoff Brewster:

trenchtech@bigpond.com .

Please let Geoff know 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.

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Saturday 24th til March 13th Bass Strait Cruise

Chair Report December 2022



November was one of the coldest and probably the dampest we have experienced in quite some years with lots of flooding including the Diamond Creek out where live in Eltham. Creek banks washed away, undercutting undergrowth and many large trees, all flushed down stream and into the Yarra River and then Port Phillip Bay.

Port Phillip has seen much silty water, logs, and copious amounts of rubbish from city streets flushed out of drains winding up in the various marinas, clogging boats on mooring chains and piling up against boats in pens. The amount of plastic shows the on-going problem we have with this substance plus cardboard and coffee cups not countable. Apart from trying to rake some of this up and remove it from the bay it will take months of flushing tides before some of this will finally wind up out in our oceans.

Boats that may not have engines started for some time, may suck up plastic into engine water traps and engine inlets and damage them so do take care and check your inlets to be sure you don't damage your engines or propellers.

Up and coming events for the cruising group this month include a presentation aimed at those who may be interested in going on the annual Bass Strait Cruise in February 2023. This presentation will be presented by Geoff Brewster & Peter Strain at 6pm on Friday 9th in the RBVC committee room.

The annual hardstand Party will be held on Saturday 10th; the weather looks like 24 deg and light winds should be a delightful balmy Melbourne evening so hope to see a good turnout.

Quite a number of Brighton Cruisers have been attending the last couple of Cruising Yacht Association of Victoria meetings in Bells Hotel South Melbourne. The main interest is planning and discussions on the proposed cruise in company to New Caledonia in May 2023, looks like RBVC boats may make up more than half the fleet of 9 at this stage. Look forward to seeing you at the Hardstand Party . Happy summer sailing.

Geoff Brewster
Chair RBVC Cruising Group.