



## CRUISING NEWS



MARCH 2023

### Cruising Dinner 17th February 2023 "Beyond the barrier" Robina and Brenton Smith



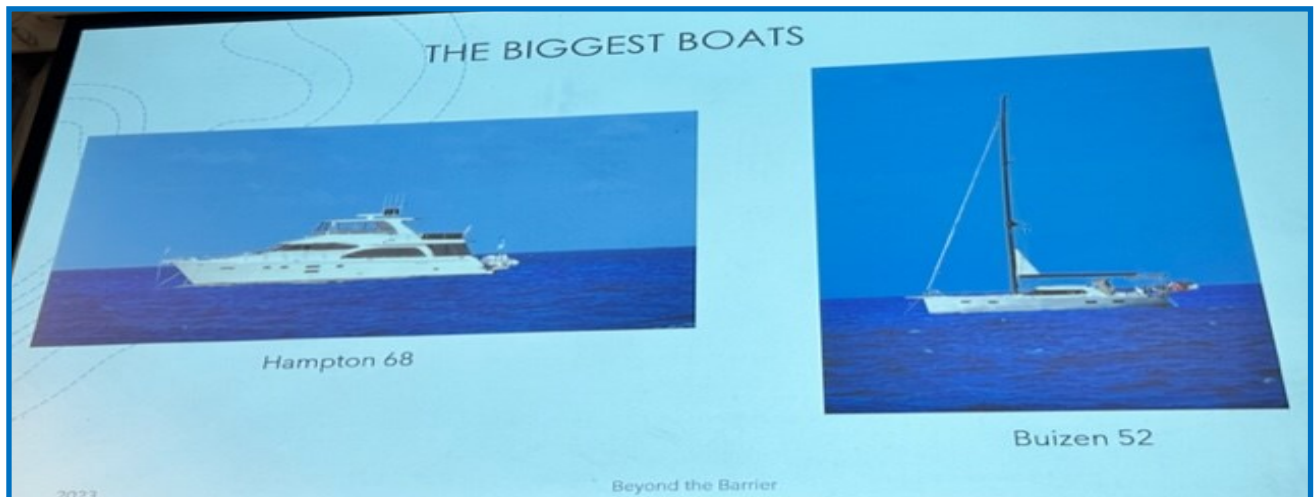
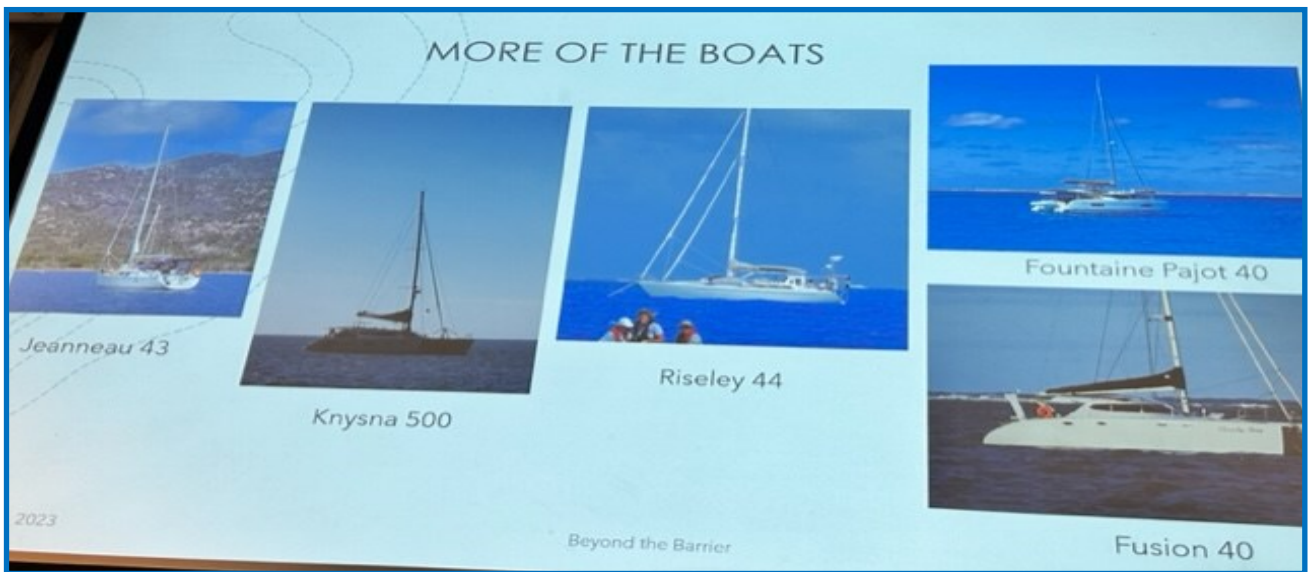
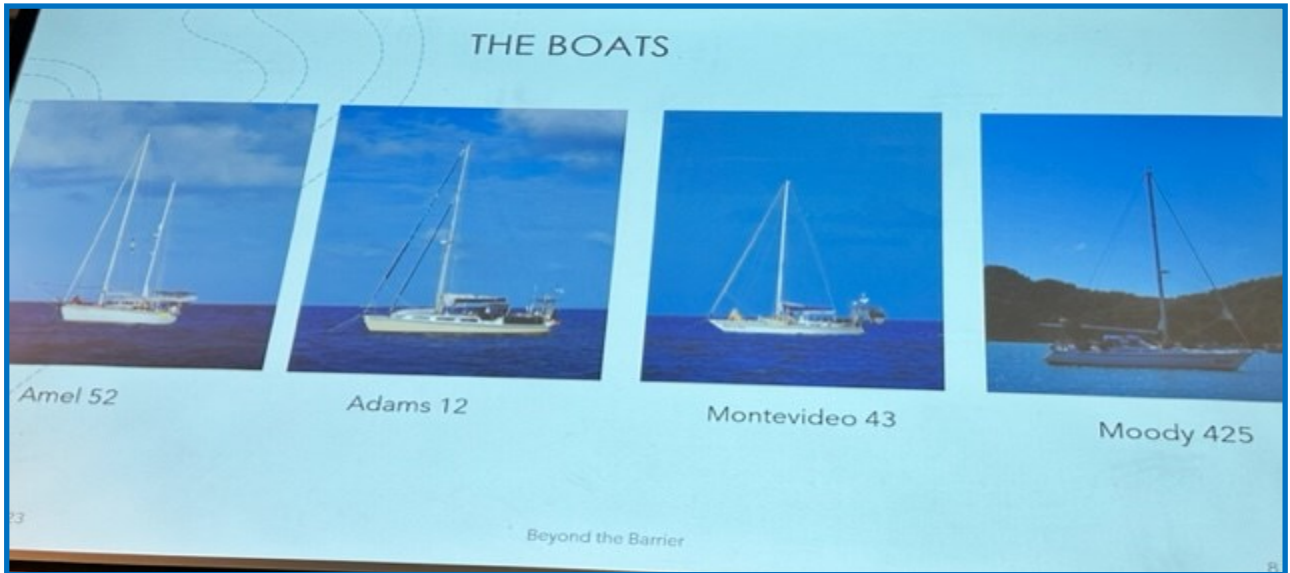
46 people turned up on the 17th February to enjoy a wonderful meal and listen to Brenton and Robina deliver a very enjoyable and precise discourse of their travels off shore with the rally "Beyond the Barrier Rally" into the Coral Sea.



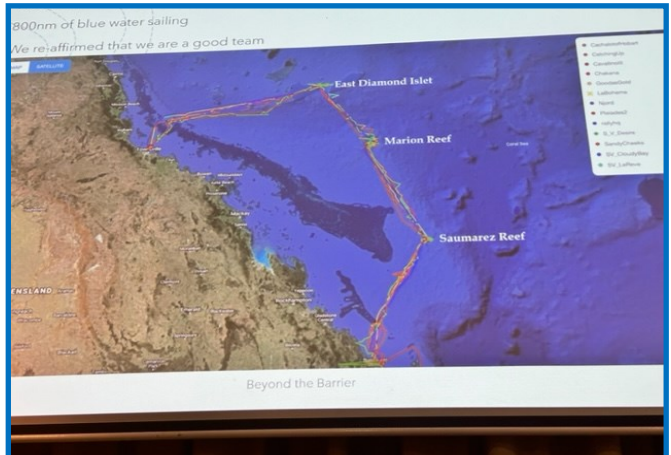
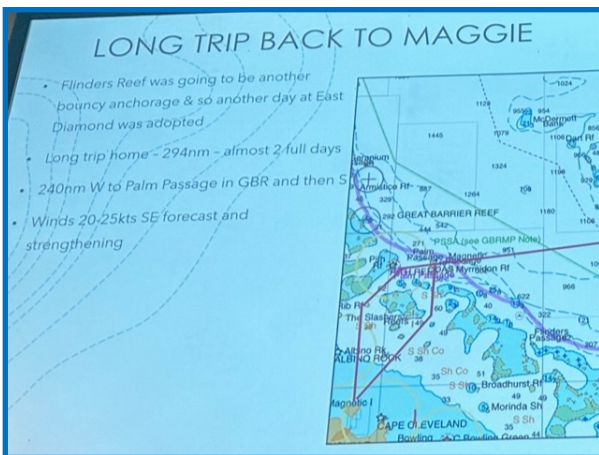
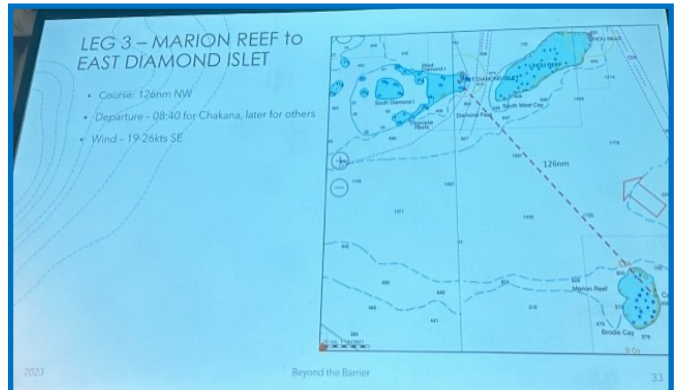
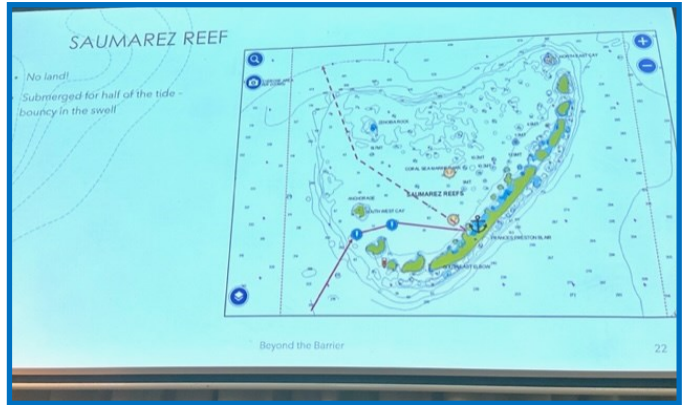
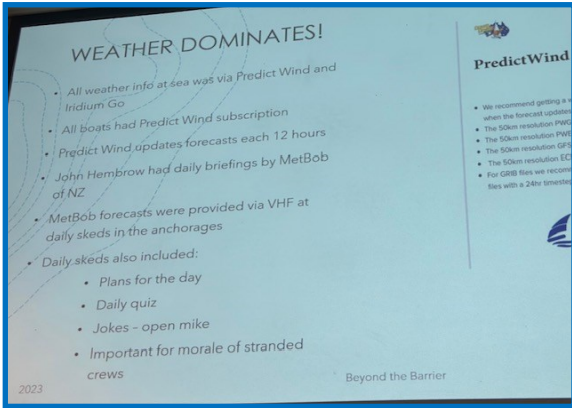
The adventure started when there was a chance encounter in a laundry and chandlery which led Robina and Brenton Smith to participate two handed in the 'Beyond the Barrier Rally' between COVID lockdowns in August, 2021, On Chakana, their Caliber 40LRC. The 'Beyond the Barrier Rally', cruising 200-400nm offshore into the Coral Sea was a true blue-water adventure, with pristine coral reefs, sandy cays, islets, and shipwrecks .

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Cruising Dinner 17th February 2023  
"Beyond the barrier"  
Robina and Brenton Smith



## Cruising Dinner 17th February 2023 "Beyond the barrier" Robina and Brenton Smith



## CRUISING GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Geoff Brewster.....0418507828  
 Secretary Terry Frankham.....0407308988  
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### RBYC Bass Strait Cruise in Company 2023 Jo Walker and Robina Smith



As is convention, we gathered at QCYC on Saturday 25 February to discuss the impending weather and cruising situation. This year we had 7 boats cruising, Reliance, Chakana, Aquacadabra, Saffron, Y Knot, Kirra Kirra and Why Knot. Distinguishing between Y Knot and Why Knot on the skeds, became Yankee Y Knot and Whiskey Why Knot, which seemed to suit those affected.

After cooking our respective dinners and sitting together to eat and meet crew and friends joining the cruise, it was a fairly early to bed for most as we had a consensus to leave the next morning.

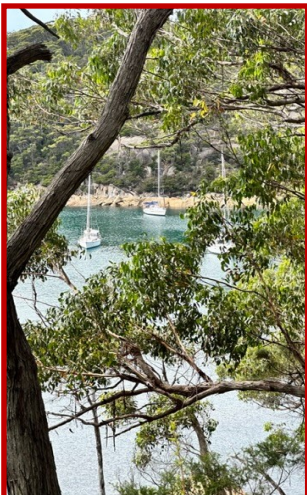
In a slightly unusual occurrence, ALL boats left QCYC at around 7.10 am Sunday 26 February, exiting the rip in slack water around 8am into a very sailable SW 10-15 Kt breeze heading for our first anchorage of Cleeland Bight. We all arrived within an hour or so of each other, anchoring in calm water on the western side of the bight from about 2.30pm onwards. Great conditions to start our cruise this year. Terry had arranged 2 hourly skeds on the odd hour, each reporting the status and any details or issues to the rest of the group. Luckily, most were reporting nothing amiss and enjoying the sail. The sunny day for most of the afternoon was most welcome. We didn't gather, as the following day was going to be a long sailing day, so an early night was on the agenda.

Having arranged to leave around 6.30am, we set out into a stronger SW 15-20Kts wind, along with its inherent lively seas, fast sailing today to start, but with winds predicted to drop away later in the day we were happy to move it along to eat up the 70 odd nMiles to Refuge Cove at Wilsons Prom enjoying the scenery along the way. All boats were virtually travelling within a few miles of each other for most of the way, with pictures of chart plotter screens showing us all in a convoy. As the wind strength decreased, we became more spread out. A yacht was already occupying Refuge Cove when we arrived at approx 5pm, but there was adequate room for everyone once anchoring positions had been claimed. A very quiet night staying on board after a tiring trip.

Early next morning, Why Knot had moved on to Port Welshpool, to get internet connection and deal with water ingress, they unfortunately did not rejoin us. And then there were 6!

Monday morning after a great sleep in the beautiful surroundings of Refuge Cove, we met on shore for a walk to Telstra / Telecom rock to check weather and emails etc. a group of us continued up to Kersop Peak for the wonderful view across Waterloo Bay. However, the day was cloudy, and mist partly obscured our view, but the exercise was good for the soul! Returning to boats the day regressed to showery with dull, low cloud. The showers disappeared for our rendezvous on the beach for the annual Bocce championship. Robina expertly led the round robin and laughter was the main sound during the games. Kirra Kirra came out on top so had the extreme pleasure of taking the trophy straight to the pool room, or in this case our snug saloon. Drinks and nibbles for all continued aboard Kirra Kirra until dinner on individual yachts called.

**RBYC Bass Strait Cruise in Company 2023**  
**Jo Walker and Robina Smith**



### **RBYC Bass Strait Cruise in Company 2023 Jo Walker and Robina Smith**

Hoping for a warm and sunny morning, we awoke to clouds moving away for part of the day, the sun warming us, before most headed off for a walk towards Sealers' Cove finishing at the Peak. Various on-board tasks were performed by those who weren't walking. The keen fishermen took off in a dinghy to get tonight's dinner, success with flathead and other fish being caught. Aquacadabra had caught a lovely snapper just off the side of their boat. We gathered on shore late afternoon for sundowners and chat about our next moves and the weather. A split in the group was destined to occur tomorrow, as boats had different wishes for the following days and handling the impending weather – a strong W to SW wind forecast for 5 days!! As usual it was up to skippers to decide their own priorities in the quite changeable weather.

Next morning saw Saffron, Chakana and Aquacadabra heading to Deal Island, Y Knot to Killiecrankie on Flinders Island and Kirra Kirra and Reliance taking the shorter way towards home by just moving to Waterloo Point at the S end of Waterloo Bay for the night. This proved to be a lovely little beach for a walk, seals playing on the point, clear, calm water, what more could you want? Reliance sailors Terry, Dave and Chris were invited to Kirra Kirra (John and Jo) for a roast dinner with all the trimmings, which they gratefully accepted. We had an array of nibbles with Champagne and a delicious roast pork dinner along with a fair bit of wine, ice cream to follow and enjoyed a very convivial evening together!

Leaving this lovely bay about 9.30 am we headed for a return to Pt Philip Bay on an overnight sail. The weather was predicted to increase in strength with SE to E wind and with a WSW swell, we didn't know quite what to expect but as it turned out we had a reasonably comfortable sail most of the day / night. Winds got up to 30 Kts gusts but consistent 25+ seemed to be the order of the day. The sea settled to a comfortable swell with a bit of wind wave on top. Passing the south Gippsland wind farms we had the strongest gusts - guess that's why those wind farms are there! We also had our first pod of dolphins for this trip follow us for about half an hour, lovely animals. Reliance kept in touch via VHF a few times during the night as it's always reassuring to have another boat reasonably close by. Due to the wind, both boats had to slow down to enable a timely rip crossing. Reliance had their main double reefed, Kirra Kirra had a hanky of a head sail and no main sail out, but we were both still doing 7+Kts due to the following seas. Both boats detoured via Inverloch /Waratah Bay to give a longer route. We both entered the bay at slack about 6.30am and made for QCYC, moored and secure by 8.30am. Chakana and Aquacadabra were next to arrive around noon, with Saffron having stopped at Oberon Bay overnight they arrived the following morning

#### **Continuing to Deal Island - by Robina Smith**

On examination of the weather forecasts downloaded from the top of Sealers Cove walking track, some boats decided a quick sail down to Deal Island or further was a possibility. Y Knot led the fleet out of Refuge Cove having a longer distance to sail, to their destination of Killiecrankie on Flinders Is. Their intention was to continue south along Flinders Island then continue sailing to the Tamar to hide from the forecast westerly strong winds.

Aquacadabra, Saffron and Chakana upped anchor at 6.45am for the sail south to Deal Island. With 15-18 knots W tending WSW winds we had a great sail with main and genoa out, making fast progress on a broad reach with an average of more than 7kts. It also helps when there is a bit of current with us. This was one of those passages that makes cruising seem so worthwhile.

By mid-afternoon anchors were down at Garden Cove in the north of Deal Island, East Cove being a lee shore and deemed unsuitable for anchoring. This cove has sand patches and weed to anchor in, a sandy beach and a good walking track to the caretaker's cottage and Telstra bench at East Cove. It is also subject to strong bullets that blow through the SW gap in the bay. The skipper and crew on Saffron were soon ashore to find mobile reception at East Cove and the latest weather forecasts, leaving Chris on anchor watch. On the return of Saffron's crew, it was reported that our weather window for staying at Deal had shortened. Saffron decided to return early the next morning, sailing to Oberon Bay for the night before continuing back to the heads. Aquacadabra and Chakana motored around to East Cove the following morning, and explored the museum, and the caretakers' grounds which seem to be well maintained, before heading back to Port Phillip Bay on an overnighter. We did find out from the caretaker that the wood fired barbecue in East Cove is no longer allowed to be used! Plus, the jetty there is in a poor state .

## RBYC Bass Strait Cruise in Company 2023 Jo Walker and Robina Smith

The strong easterly winds gave us a fast passage back to Port Phillip to get in before the westerlies. The winds encountered were strongest as we approached the shipping lanes, and this was when the following seas also increased. With a brief respite from the wind and sea state as we sailed in the lee of Wilsons Promontory (and the ideal time to eat dinner) we headed west for home. Saffron tried to lure us into Oberon Bay with a radio call saying it was peaceful in Oberon!

Through the night the wind abated, and we had a gentle 15kts sail on moderate seas to arrive at the heads for 11am slack water. As for Kirra Kirra and Reliance, Chakana had trouble slowing down enough to time this right even with half the genoa driving the boat and with a flood tide and tidal stream of a maximum 1.5kts headed through the heads just after the peak of the flow with a calm passage. We were tied up at QCYC by 11am shortly followed by Aquacadabra.

### Back to Jo Walker's report



Friday morning Brenton and Robina had arranged to deploy a 12-year-old life raft they had been storing. It was a lovely calm day with the sun shining. In their full wet weather gear and self-inflating life jackets, they threw the raft overboard, it's tether broke, the raft was retrieved and then inflated perfectly, as did their life jackets when they followed it into the water. There was much mirth when their life jackets gave off an AIS signal and local marine rescue called up, then came around with blue light flashing to check all was well. They were happy to have this as a practice for a real rescue, as were we observers. It was interesting to know what was stored within the life raft, bailing bucket, knife, strobe lights, reflective paddles, sea anchor etc. The raft appeared quite easy to get yourself into, having strong straps and a strap ladder and was designed with large pockets underneath that fill with water so it wouldn't capsize when hopping in. A BYO BBQ in the evening outside was a great way to finish the day.

On the weekend, various boat chores were tackled, coffee or lunch ashore in Queenscliff were enjoyed and the sun shone - until Sunday afternoon when the NW wind picked up and pinned us all to the dock!! Evening meals were taken together inside the QCYC clubhouse, and we had a Woodstock Theme for the Spotify music. Wine and drinks were flowing, as were stories, and laughter was loud.



Monday morning 6<sup>th</sup> March Reliance and Aquacadabra set off for RBYC. Reliance had some difficulty getting off the dock due to the strong Westerly. Aquacadabra expertly, with bow thrusters, was able to tow the front of Terry's boat away from the dock and he was then able to set off safely. Both boats arrived back at Brighton later Monday afternoon. And then there were 3.

Enduring the strong NNW - WNW for the next couple of days was not a pleasant thought, but with company at the club, it was more than bearable! Walks to the beach - windy.

Walks to the golf club for a relaxing drink - windy. Outdoor chores aboard - windy! We played Bocce in the wind, but Klop in the wind was challenging as the pieces blew over, but we had fun and laughs despite the wind.

Wednesday morning during a lull in the wind, Kirra Kirra and Saffron set off from QCYC to return to RBYC. A terrific sail back with a 15-18Kt Westerly. Chakana remained to continue to enjoy the delights of Queenscliff. Then there was one!



**Ode to Flinders Island  
by Craig Walton**

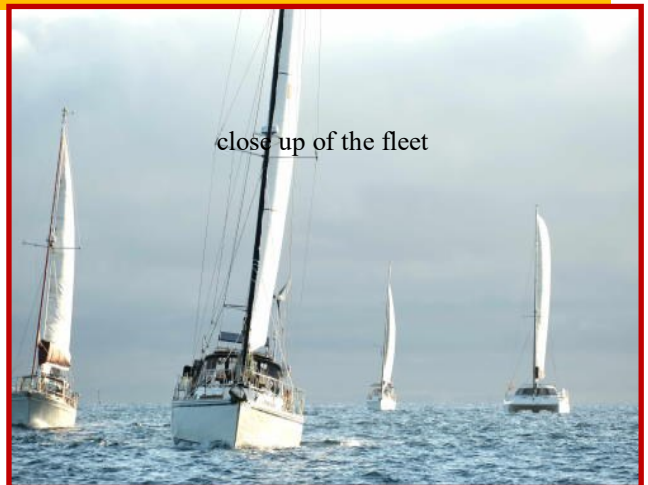
Sailing forth across Bass Strait,  
Wind and waves our only fate.  
Challenging seas and stormy skies,  
But adventure calls, we cannot deny.  
Flinders Island looms ahead,  
Rugged cliffs and sandy beds.  
Wildlife abounds, a natural treasure,  
Our hearts and souls filled with pleasure.  
Onwards we sail, to Beauty Point,  
Tamar Rivers' calm waters anoint.  
Rolling hills and vineyards pass us by,  
Quaint towns and local fare satisfy.  
If brave enough, we'll cross once more!  
Bass Strait's fury we'll explore.  
Queenscliff awaits, a charming town,  
Historic sights and beaches abound.  
But safety first, we'll always heed,  
Our journey's success is what we need.  
So, sail on adventure seekers all,  
The open sea awaits, ready to enthrall!

**THE CRUISING NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDS YOU!**

Please assist in keeping the monthly Cruising Newsletter going.  
Think of an article which other cruising members would like to read about. If you have recently cruised Bass Strait, write a story, send some photos, or tell us about your favourite anchorages or some snippets of your shore excursions, who played well and won the bolles competition, and who excelled in the kitchen at QCYC.  
Or write a book review or other interesting stuff related to boats and sailing.  
Your article will be welcomed and will help to keep the Newsletter up and running.



discussion at Queenscliff



close up of the fleet



Cleland Bight from Reliance



## MARCH CRUISING GATHERING

By Lyn Bingham

For the third Friday in March (17<sup>th</sup>) – there was a planned get together and showing of photos taken on the recent cruise into Bass Strait. The usual format of the Bayview Room meetings. Due to the small number of bookings received, Cruising committee decided to reserve a long table in the Cafeteria downstairs with food to be ordered from the menu and photos from the cruise to be shown on the screen. (Thanks Geoff)

On arrival at the club the foyer was festooned with green, orange and white balloons and streamers as it was St. Patrick's Day so an appropriate function was being held in the Members' Bar.

Seventeen cruising guests assembled in the Cafeteria at the long table. Just prior to 7pm we ventured up to the Members' Bar for the weekly key draw. The first name drawn was Tony Garvey who unfortunately was not present, and neither were the other two names drawn. Key draw now is \$1000. There was a lively atmosphere in the Members' where some of the staff were appropriately dressed in Irish green and silly hats and somewhere green beer was being served! Dinner and other activities were taking place. The deck was well patronised as the evening's weather was pleasant for being outside.

So back downstairs for dinner and to enjoy the complimentary red and white wines from the Cruising committee.

The conversation flowed and snippets of information were gleaned from the recent Bass Strait cruise where some fine sailing took place, but due to a forecast of strong westerly winds it was deemed prudent by many to return west to QCYC earlier rather than face them.

Even tied up at the wharf at QCYC a westerly can be awkward if you decide to depart while your boat is being pushed onto the wharf by a strong wind. A couple of years ago Mirrabooka was at QCYC for a few days to enjoy the place and see the Bass Strait cruisers off. Came time to depart and Andalucia and Mirrabooka were the only boats leaving and there was a westerly blowing. We assisted Andalucia off the wharf but when it came to our turn it was hard work, requiring more strength than I had with a boat hook and trying not to damage the boat. Apparently Reliance was in a similar situation this year and Aquacadabra came to their assistance using her powerful bow thruster and engine to help out. Hopefully we can read more of the cruising adventures soon.

It did appear that everyone present enjoyed their various choices of meals served, ranging from the special Guinness Pie to the regular fish and chips, calamari, grain salads, croquettes and other selections along with the wines. All too soon it was time to head home to watch the football (well some of us) and call it a night.



## Cruising Group Half Yearly Report 2023

Geoff Brewster

Cruising group activities have continued to rebound, albeit slowly, from the effects of the restrictions of the Covid 19 Pandemic over the last year or two.

Cruising Group membership and participation is holding steady but there have been only one or two “new” over the last two or three years and this only just balances the boats who have left.

There have been some changes in the makeup of the cruising group subcommittee in the last year or so with Paul Jenkins, Pamela Merrit and Jennie Collins moving on.

The group currently consists of: Chairperson Geoff Brewster, Secretary Terry Frankham, Newsletter Editor Barbara Burns. Committee members Rob Hurrell, Peter Strain Sue Drummond Peter Gebhardt and Rod Cuthbert.

The committee continues to meet in person at the club monthly with phone calls, emails, and increasingly, the social media platform “WhatsApp” being employed to maintain communications between meetings.

### Cruising Group Newsletter

Arguably the newsletter has been fundamental to the fabric of the cruising group since its inception some 31 years ago. Possible due to Covid, articles and contributions to the newsletter have dried up a bit and it has been increasingly hard for the editors past and present to fill the pages. At a recent forum dinner, a “straw poll” was taken to see if members wanted the cruising group newsletter to continue, or should it be folded into the weekly club on-line newsletter. The response was an overwhelming vote to continue the newsletter, the catch to this is that to continue the newsletter it must have a stream of articles and information and not just rely on the editor (currently Barbara Burns) to create content.....so everyone is encouraged to contribute.

#### Monthly Forum Dinners

The monthly forum dinner is an important part of the cruising group fabric and it pleasing to see the function is showing signs of being revitalized from the bad old Covid days; there is an encouraging increase in the number of events and the numbers attending.

Topics for the dinner have included talks on canal boating in France, descriptions of trips to the Kimberly Coast and so far in 2023 Robina & Brenton Smiths presentation of their trip “Beyond the Barrier”.

Upcoming speakers include author Christiaan de Beukelaer on his book “Trade Winds”, A Voyage to a Sustainable Future for Shipping and Wayne Seaward and crew of Cyan Moon presenting on their recent Rolex Sydney to Hobart race success.

A bit further out the cruising group has accepted an offer by Don Walker and his wife to present a dissertation on their planned 13-night Patagonian Fjords of Chile cruise - starting in Ushuaia and finishing in Valparaiso.

#### Annual Events

The **Annual Christmas Hardstand Party** was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, around 25 people turned up and enjoyed the weather god’s presentation of a near perfect evening.

Appalling weather, with the consequence of little or no interest caused the **Annual Frostbite Cruise** slated for June (2022) to be cancelled: maybe the weather in 2023 will be better and more interest generated. Three boats Saffron, Chakana and Aquacadabra will dodge the decision to go on the frostbite cruise by being in New Caledonia in June.

The **Annual Cruise of Mr. Bass’s Strait** happened as always in February 2023. There was increased participation in the cruise this year with 7 boats participating in the adventure. The boats which ventured out into what turned out to be a windy 2 weeks were; Kirra Kirra, Reliance, Why Knot, Chakana, Aquacadabra, Y-Knot and Saffron.

The majority of the fleet got as far as Refuge Cove with 3 boats going on to Deal Island and Y-Knot getting all the way down to the Tamar.

The **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Birthday Cruise** to RYCV turned out to be a road trip due very high winds but a good turn out once again enjoyed the hospitality of the RYCV.

The **Annual Progressive Dinner** was conducted in March and was a great success with good numbers turning out to enjoy a great evening in mild weather.

# NOTICEBOARD

## Sunday 2nd April 2023

### Junior Big Boat Day

#### Looking for Volunteer boats

Please use the below link to register your vessel and we will get back to you to confirm. We appreciate your help with this great day, remember the youth of today are the crew of tomorrow.

<https://rbyc.org.au/big-boat-day-vessel-registration/>

## Friday April 7th—Monday April 10th

### Easter Cruise

Possibly Queenscliff or Geelong

## Friday April 21st 2023

### Guest Speaker Dinner

Christiaan De Beukelaer

	<p><b>April Guest Speaker Dinner</b> Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Bayview Room</p> <p><b>Christiaan De Beukelaer</b> <b>TRADE WINDS</b> A voyage to a sustainable future for shipping</p> <p><i>Proudly brought to you by the Cruising Group</i></p>
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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 than Wednesday 15th to get an idea of numbers. Meal \$40 per person and payable on the night

## Friday May 19th 2023

### Guest Speaker Dinner

	<p><b>May Guest Speaker Dinner</b> Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Bayview Room</p> <p><b>Wayne Seward</b> <b>CYAN MOON's</b> Sydney to Hobart</p> <p><i>Proudly brought to you by the Cruising Group</i></p>
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## Friday June 16th Guest Speaker

### Don Warner

Cruising the Patagonian Coast

