



ROYAL BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB

CRUISING GROUP HISTORY
25 YEARS 1991-2015



Cruising Group Chairs

JOHN MOWSON	1991-1992
CLIVE HEARNE	1992-1993
JIM PATTON	1994-1997
CLIVE HEARNE	1998-2000
DAVID JAMES	2000-2003
LYN BINGHAM	2004-2006
WILL MERRITT	2006-2012
ROD WATSON	2013-2014
ROGER WALKER	2014-CURRENT

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Foreward

From humble beginnings 25 years ago the Cruising Group quickly grew into an important element within Royal Brighton Yacht Club.

Since the group was formed, hard-working committee members have endeavoured to provide a varied and interesting program of monthly meetings as well as social and 'on water' activities. Successive Chairmen and Committees are to be thanked for their dedication.

In recent years Newsletter Editors have produced informative monthly newsletters to keep members abreast of forthcoming events.

For those wishing to cruise, the Annual Bass Strait 'cruises in company' present an excellent means of extending cruising experience beyond Port Phillip Bay.

Over the years Cruising Group has provided opportunities to meet and socialise with fellow yacht club members, both on and off the water, resulting in many long-lasting friendships.

As we head into the next 25 years we hope this continues for many years to come.

Acknowledgement

The RBYC Cruising Group Committee would like to thank Pam Merritt, with the support of Lyn Bingham, for the generous hours spent collating the history of our wonderful group.

Thanks also to Robina Smith and Rod Watson for the use of their Bass Strait photos.

1996

It seems that the birth of the Cruising Group came about when like-minded RBYC members came together with their ideas and a common interest.

In 1990 David Pollard was a member of the Sailing Committee. He surveyed the yachts in the marina to form a yachting register classifying the yachts into three Racing Divisions. However while conducting the survey he found a group of yachts that weren't racing, but were basically cruising yachts, and so placed this group into an informal Cruising Division.

Meanwhile club member John Mowson had been reading about Cruising Groups in yachting magazines, sowing the seed in his mind that RBYC could form a Cruising Group.



Founding Chair,
John Mowson

Ian Twentyman, the Commodore at the time, was in favour of the idea and supported the formation of a Cruising Division as part of the Sailing Committee. He, John Mowson and Jim Patton regularly met for a morning cuppa out on John's boat 'Greenough', with David Pollard joining in after a time. This was when discussion began about the formation of a Cruising Division and the activities they could organise.

Miriam and Brian Cherry were racing at the time, as well as cruising occasionally along the northern Bass Strait coast. They had just purchased Peter Joubert's *Billabong* and were keen to extend their cruising further offshore - so they joined the group too.

John Mowson became the Founding Chairman of the Cruising Division and a number of successful bay trips were held. John spent 18 months as Chairman before moving to Perth, and recalls that in these early days he personally rang interested cruisers to make things happen.

The first official sail of the newly formed Cruising Division was to RYCV in January 1991, where 25-30 boats and about 80 members sailed to Williamstown and enjoyed a barbeque on the lawn in perfect weather. This event has been celebrated as the official start of the Cruising Group, with a birthday BBQ cruise to Royals on the third Sunday in January ever since. 2016 marks the 25th Anniversary.

1992

From the 117th Annual Report (1991-1992) the Commodore's Report reads...

117TH RBYC ANNUAL REPORT

This year saw a further interest in cruising and the group had a number of successful trips. Our founding Chairman moved to Perth during the year, however from a sound start the Division, now led by Rear Commodore Clive Hearne and club member Jim Patton, has continued to assist members not actively involved in racing to sail together and enjoy their boats.

IAN TWENTYMAN,
Commodore

On July 12th 1992 the first Frostbite Cruise was held at Victoria Dock, an event that has continued to take place on the Yarra River on the first Sunday of July each year.

1993

By now the Cruising Division had formed its own Sub-Committee, listed in the 1992-1993 Annual Report as Vice Commodore Clive Hearne (Chairman), Ken Brown, Peter Metherall, Fergus McPherson, Jim Patton and David Pollard.

Chairman Clive Hearne had the honour of presenting the Inaugural Report of the Cruising Division.



Second Cruising Group Chair
- Clive Hearne

Mr. Award Winners

Many RBYC yachts have cruised to distant parts over recent years, but none more successfully than *Gumblossom*. Congratulations to Thorry Gunnensen, winner of the first 'Cruiser of the Year' award.

CRUISING DIVISION REPORT

I am pleased to present this inaugural report on behalf of all RBYC Cruising Yachtsmen.

Early this season it was agreed to form a Sub-Committee to cater for the needs, and to further the aims, of members who wish to pursue yachting in a broader sense, complementing our Sailing Committee's task of administering the racing program.

Although our Club's Charter refers to 'racing between yachts in particular' it is obvious that most boats go to sea at times 'other than' and 'as well as' racing. We have at present 73 yachts and more than 160 members registered as Cruising Members of RBYC.

Our program has become an integral part of 'on water' and ashore events of the Club.

Regular meetings to share special interests and information are held monthly. Our thanks to those members and guests who have shared their experiences with us. Information is also published in our 'Cruising Newsletter'. Congratulations to our editor Peter Metherall for his effort this year.

Kindred clubs who also have active cruising fleets have formed a 'Combined' Committee to co-ordinate voyages and day trips this season. A highlight will be a 'Cruise in Company' to Lord Howe Island during February 1994.

In August 1993 the Combined Cruising Divisions of kindred clubs gathered for the Inaugural Dinner Dance held at RBYC. This was a huge success with good representation from other clubs.

Finally, thanks to my committee, especially Jim Patton and David Pollard, and members Di Patton, Judy Hodgkins and Joan Hearne for their contribution to our social activities.

CLIVE HEARNE
Vice Commodore

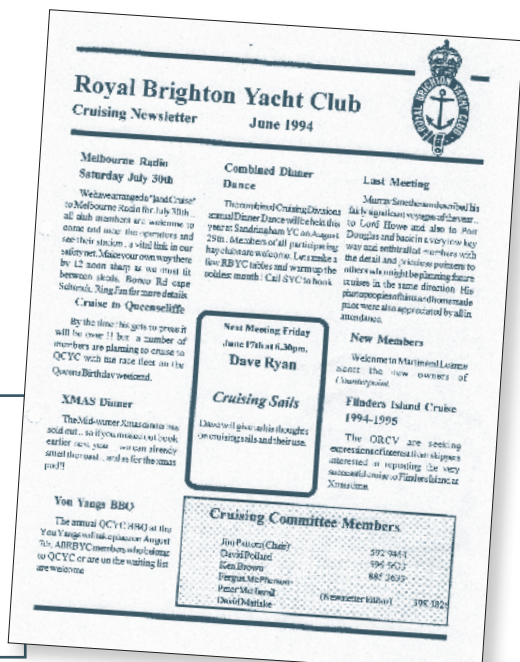


1994

Jim Patton took over as Chairman, with Ken Brown, David Mattiske, Peter Metherall, Fergus McPherson and David Pollard on committee.

The first official newsletter, a single page, was produced in May, June and October, with Peter Metherall as Editor.

The second Combined Cruisers Dinner Dance was held on August 29th at SYC, with several tables of RBYC members.



Award Winners

Murray Smitheram, *Adams Rib*, was the winner of the 1993-94 RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year award.

119TH RBYC ANNUAL REPORT (1993-1994)

CRUISING DIVISION REPORT

We continue to cater for the needs of those members who wish to go to sea in the broader sense and, complementing the racing fraternity, we have maintained our members. One of the highlights was the Inaugural 'Veterans' Race Day organised by David Pollard.

Three RBYC boats participated in the Lord Howe Island Cruise, surviving the vagaries of the weather and East Coast currents. Its success will ensure that further events to far flung destinations will be organised in the future.

Our monthly meetings continue to prosper with mixed attendance, unfortunately. We continue to be able to find interesting speakers from within our Club Members.

JIM PATTON
Chairman

1995

The Cruising Committee was:

Jim Patton (Chairman), Peter Metherall (Newsletter Editor), Ken Brown, Fergus McPherson, David Mattiske, David Pollard, Bill Westerbeek and Judy Hodgkins.

There were 75 active members who met on the 3rd Friday of each month in the downstairs Bill Currie Library.

'On water' activities included a Veteran Skippers Race, cruises to RYCV, Mornington and QCYC, as well as a combined RBYC/QCYC 'on land' BBQ to the You Yangs.

Monthly meetings continued to prosper, with growing attendances and interesting speakers.

In June 1995 the first Classical Music Evening was held - another tradition that continues today. Committee member David Mattiske had an interest in the MSO and was responsible for organising the first few Classical Music Nights. The first, 'A Midwinter Soiree', was a night of chamber music accompanying dinner. David Mattiske organised the musical program, with Diana Patton and Judy Hodgkins assisting with organisation to ensure a successful evening.

During the year Judy Hodgkins took over as the (still single page) Newsletter Editor, with Bill Westerbeek doing the layout. The September

1995 Newsletter was the first 'two page' edition, with the introduction of 'Member News' and 'Nautical Terminology', the forerunner of 'Captain Coxswain'. Both these newsletter columns continue 20 years later!

Peter and Jan Metherall set off in *Penyllan* for a shakedown cruise in preparation for setting out on their planned world circumnavigation in 1996.

Award Winners

The 1994-1995 RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year was awarded to Martin and Judy O'Donohue for their circumnavigation lasting more than 5 years on their yacht *Kinta 111*.



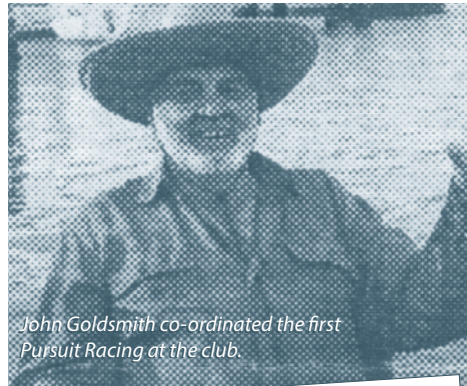
1996

The next five years saw steady growth of the Cruising Division, with an official renaming to Cruising Group in 1998. Jim Patton continued as Chairman, with Ken Brown, John Goldsmith, David Mattiske, David Pollard, Gary Tischler, Judy Hodgkins (Newsletter Editor) and Bill Westerbeeck (Newsletter Layout) on Committee. Monthly meetings continued to attract a regular audience to the list of talented speakers.

A two page Newsletter was issued in February, April, May, June, August and September. These issues included News Items, Member News, a regular Notice Board of upcoming events and Nautical Terminology.

This year also saw the introduction of Pursuit Racing at the club, co-ordinated by Cruising Committee member John Goldsmith. The first race was held on February 24th with the intention of attracting more 'cruising boats' out on the water to race.

A notable event on the social calendar was the second Classical Music Evening on Friday 24th May - "Autumn Leaves". The evening was a sell out and featured a woodwind ensemble, accompanied by Tamara Vasilevitsky on piano, playing music by Mozart, Hayden and Schubert. In the June '96 newsletter a report deemed the evening 'a great success'.



John Goldsmith co-ordinated the first Pursuit Racing at the club.

1996 CLASSICAL MUSIC EVENING

Such was the enthusiasm of our organiser to appropriately 'deck out' the room with foliage that she was rumoured to have been seen stalking New Street with a chain-saw, eyeing off all manner of plants. Reg (General Manager) and RBYC staff are still finding autumn leaves in the most unlikely nooks and crannies!

RBYC/QCYC
Cruising
Yachtsman
of the Year

Award Winners

Jim Patton – for his dedication to cruising and organisation of on-water activities.

Club Library

In late 1995 there was a proposal that a library be established at RBYC in the room next to the Olympic Lounge. This idea met with approval and gained momentum during 1996, with a working bee held to clean and fit out the room.

Proceeds from the Classical Music Evening went towards refurbishment of the former Regatta Room to provide a library for use by

members, and donations of boating books and furniture were requested.

By September the newly named 'Bill Currie Library' was 'looking terrific' with painting completed, refurbishment of the table, heater installed, wall units and book shelves in place and new curtains. Chairman Jim Patton, Diana Patton and Ken Brown were driving forces behind this project.

A cruise from Port Phillip to Port Lincoln in February 1997 was proposed and organisation begun. A Cruise Committee of Jim Patton, Bill Westerbeeck and Ken Brown was formed to run the cruise. This cruise could be considered to be a forerunner to the Annual Bass Strait (and beyond) Cruising Group 'Cruise in Company'. An unbelievable 87 yachts from around the bay initially expressed interest, with greatly reduced numbers actually participating!

In this year the first Cruising Division t-shirts and wind cheaters were available to order at a cost of \$22 each.

Did you know?

From the 1996 Newsletters...

- Having recently sailed back from Devonport on *Auctioneer*, Judy Hodgkins cannot understand why Bass Strait crossings are planned with such caution and nervousness. "I've seen more turbulence in a glass of Barocca" she was reported as saying. The only close shave with death was experienced by a fellow crew member who was given the job of getting Judy up in the early morning to stand watch.
- *Penyllan*, Peter and Jan Metherall, are waiting out SE Queensland's 'big wet' and the accompanying easterlies in Mooloolaba. May the sun shine on them from here.
- *Adams Rib* arrived in Eden after a 46 hour run from QCYC. Murray and Barbara Smitheram are in good company with Curley and Anna Robinson, and Rosie Colohan doing the Eden leg. Rosie was reportedly eyeing off the spinnaker across the 'Paddock' but the 'geriatric' watch wouldn't be in it!
- Frank Smith's *Under Capricorn* was last heard of at Lizard Island on the way back from Port Douglas.

Award Winners

Jim Patton was awarded 1996-1997 **Clubman of the Year** for his outstanding services to Cruising Division.



1997

With Jim Patton continuing as Chairman the Cruising Division was in good hands, especially with his able committee, including several new members, of Lyn Bingham (Newsletter Editor), Bill Westerbeeck (Newsletter Layout), Ken Brown, John Carruthers, John Goldsmith, Chris Holliday, David Mattiske and Gary Tishler.



Docksider Tavern, Port Lincoln

The very successful 'Currie Port Phillip to Port Lincoln' cruise took place in February, with 20 yachts from various clubs around the bay participating - *Adams Rib, Akala, Amaya, Ayesha, Interlude, Jubilation, Judet, Kathleen 7, Kiandra, Laughing Cavalier, Lena, Marie Louise IV, Nagisa, Quickmatch, Rosamund Duncan, Sirimi, Solace, Sovereign Lady, Tilting at Windmills* and *Tom Bowling*.

While in South Australian waters the RBYC team of *Amaya, Laughing Cavalier* and *Tilting at Windmills* won the Lincoln Week Regatta Team's

event. Currie & Company, under management of Past Commodore Bill Currie and his son David, were major sponsors of the cruise.

Miriam Cherry, *Lena*, continued to cruise after some boat malfunctions, as well as Brian needing to return home to attend to family issues, and was the well deserved 1996-1997 RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year.

Award Winners



'Currie Port Phillip to Port Lincoln' cruise.

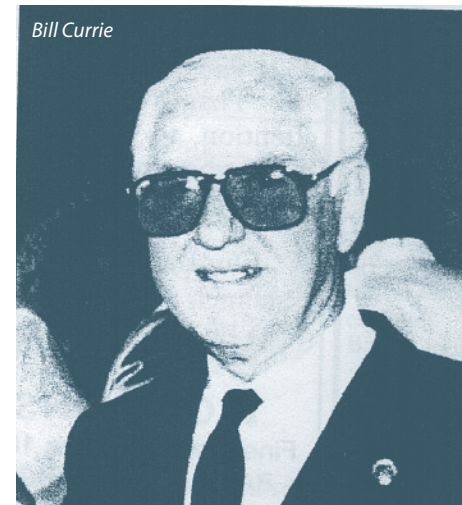
Bay cruises were held to Point Cook and Portarlinton, as well as the Frostbite Cruise to North Wharf and a gathering at the club on Sunday 30th November.

The third Classical Music Evening, 'Baroque Interlude', was held in June - once again organised by David Mattiske and once again a sell out with 180 guests. The evening was deemed a success with some spellbinding music, glamorous gowns and convivial atmosphere. From the July, 1997 newsletter - "The room looked magnificent with a hanging garden surrounding the musicians, columns and urns decorated with gold tassels and the tables decorated in the baroque manner with candelabra, fruit, gold leaves etc".

Following the success of the Music Night, an afternoon Classical Music Concert was held in September with 130 attending.

The Bill Currie Library was taking shape, with a dedicated regular team of Noela Gower, June Linacre and Diana Patton meeting every Tuesday to cover and catalogue the many donated books, over 200 at this stage.

Also of interest, the monthly 3rd Friday meetings were held in the newly established library at this time.



Bill Currie

New Members welcomed:

Denis & Chris McConnell - *Schuss*

Will & Pam Merritt - *Chindrina*

Ben Shepherd - *Ayesha*

Kevin Whitelaw & Marlene - *Moët*

Andrew & Karen Parker - *Highland Fling*

Did you know?

From the 1997 Newsletters...

- *Ayesha's* John Carruthers and crew arrived safely back to RBYC after their cruise to Port Lincoln, having suffered a 30 to 50 knot beating and some broken gear on their return journey.
- Christine Tishler, when contemplating the planned cruise to Point Cook in May, said "Oh no, another day sailing with Gary in 3m waves".
- Bass Strait Cruising in these days generally meant 'The Men' got 'The Boat' to 'The Destination' while 'The Ladies' joined them by land or air. Two notable exceptions were Miriam Cherry and Rosie Colahan
- The Cruising Newsletter, with Lyn Bingham as Editor, grew from 2 pages to 4 during the year.

From the November Newsletter Notice Board:

A few of us are getting together for an end-of-year BBQ on the Club's verandah. BYO sausages, salads etc and come along for a social get together. See you around 6pm.

This was probably the forerunner of our very popular Annual Hardstand Christmas Party.

In late 1997 there was a change of watch with Jim Patton resigning as Chairman and Clive Hearne taking over the helm. On committee were Jim Patton (Secretary), Lyn Bingham (Editor), Bill Westerbeek and Sophie Doran (Layout), David Mattiske, John Goldsmith, John Carruthers and Chris Holliday.

Two RBYC members, Jim Patton *Kathleen 7* and Phil Mellett *Free Spirit*, participated in the Tall Ships Race from Sydney to Hobart. They were joined for the Circumnavigation of Tasmania Cruise by David Spriggs *Renaissance*, David Bingham *Amaya*, Richard Oliver *Sovereign Lady* and David James and Rosie Colahan *Jubilation*.



Participants of the Circumnavigation of Tasmania Cruise aboard *Kathleen 7*. Heritage Landing, Gordon River

At the suggestion of Committee member Bill Westerbeek the little used squash court, located in the south-eastern basement corner of the clubhouse, was converted into a gymnasium for use by members (actually now the 'dreaded dungeon!'). Cruising members once again

123RD RBYC ANNUAL REPORT (1997-1998)

Since the formation of RBYC's Cruising Division in 1991, the group has continued to grow both in numbers and activities. Quite often members of kindred clubs also join our events.

Our regular meetings on the 3rd Friday of each month continue to be well attended and help boost the numbers in our dining room and bar.

Notable events this season included the 'Tall Ships Race' and the Circumnavigation of Tasmania Cruise.

rallied, with working bees held to convert the room to a gym and install equipment. Driving forces behind this project were Bill and Maz Westerbeek, Jim and Di Patton, Tom and Connie Laux and Frank Smith.



Lyn Bingham, Will Merritt, Maz and Bill Westerbeek at the Fourth Annual Classical Music Evening

The fourth Annual Classical Music Evening was once again a sell-out. The theme, 'Romancing in Vienna', was enhanced by 'tasteful decor' and supported by a superb menu with Austrian cuisine. Those attending were treated to the Brahms Piano Quartet and the Mozart Clarinet Quintet played by Tamara Vasilevitsky - piano; Sergei Tchybykin - clarinet; Irina Grigorian - 1st violin; Tatiana Chudnovski - 2nd violin; John Quaine - viola and Gregory Puterman - cello. As usual the evening was declared a resounding success.



Music Night MC Chairman Clive Hearne

Bay cruises included a Point Cook Picnic Cruise, Queens Birthday Cruise to Davey's Bay, Frostbite Cruise to North Wharf as well as participation in several ORCV 'Rip Tours'.

By now the Cruising Newsletter became a regular monthly publication of 4 pages.

In October 1998, with Clive Hearne driving the decision, it was decided to change the name from Cruising Division to Cruising Group. It was felt this was a more inclusive name that reflected the ideals and activities of the members.

Did you know?

From the 1998 Newsletters...

- Third Friday of the Month meetings were now held in the Committee Room.
- David and Beverlie Asprey *Vivace*, have joined Cruising Division, as have Ian and Judy Mather in *Rampallion*, a Northshore 33.
- Andrew and Karen Parker *Highland Fling* are cruising the Whitsundays - having trucked their boat up.
- Kerrie and Linda McGorlick purchased *Waterfront Bar* in Tassie and sailed her back to RBYC early in the year.
- A Nocturnal Rip Tour, conducted by the ORCV, was held in April on the *MV JJ Farnsworth*. With commentary by Robin Hewitt and careful guidance by David Spriggs, the tour was an enjoyable and educational experience for Cruising members.

W Award Winners

Rosie Colahan was the 1997-1998 RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsperson of the Year. Nicknamed 'Spinnaker Lill' for her enthusiasm for spinnaker hoists, Rosie had a long and impressive sailing history starting at Frankston Yacht Club at the age of 9. Rosie and husband David sailed *Jubilation* down Tasmania's west coast to meet *Kathleen 7* in Storm Bay in time to escort her to the finish of the Sydney to Hobart Tall Ships Race, returning home via Tassie's east coast.



1999

Continuing under the leadership of Past Commodore Clive Hearne, 1999 Committee members were Jim Patton (Secretary) Lyn Bingham (Editor), Bill Westerbeek (Layout), David Mattiske, John Goldsmith, John Carruthers and Sophie Doran.



Cruisers at Pier 35 celebrating the 8th Birthday of Cruising Group.

1998-1999 RBYC ANNUAL REPORT

This group's activities continue to have the enthusiastic support of our members. The 150 or so members represent about 70 - 80 boats, most who race (but enjoy the cruise back), or are otherwise engaged in Club activities.

Many of our 'Cruisers' enjoy weekly Pursuit races.

Each month we are able to produce and distribute about 200 Cruising Newsletters, keeping our members informed and entertained with chatty news and gossip.

The 8th Annual Birthday Bash was held a little later than usual, well quite a bit later - on May 23rd at Pier 35, the new Marina and restaurant in the Yarra River. The turn up far exceeded the 40 or so who had booked, which caused some consternation with staff.

In all 84 members and guests - an excellent turn-out which demonstrated the growing interest in the group's social activities.

Plans were afoot to organise an RBYC Cruise in Company to New Zealand to coincide with the America's Cup in early 2000. Several skippers expressed interest in this event, with organisation eventually being taken over by the ORCV.

Once again the Classical Music Evening was a sell-out success with 162 attending. The theme was 'Esprit de France en Juin' and featured music from French composers, with piano, violin, double bass and harp. Touches of red, white and blue adorned the room and the MC,

Chairman Clive 'Bonaparte' Hearne, looked resplendent with a fine white moustache and French tricorne hat. Profits from this wonderful evening went towards refurbishment of the Committee Room chairs.

The 4 page monthly newsletter continued to flourish under Lyn Bingham's Editorship.

Guest speakers this year included:

Ken Lippold - who built a 17m catamaran *Panrod 11* in his backyard.

David James and Rosie Colahan presenting their account of the fateful 1998 Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, supported by a video presentation of the race.

Antarctic Night - presented by a group of Cruising members who had recently visited.

Professor Peter Joubert - boat designer of a range of very seaworthy and competitive yachts, including his own, *Kingurra*.

Duncan Sandel - yacht rigger.

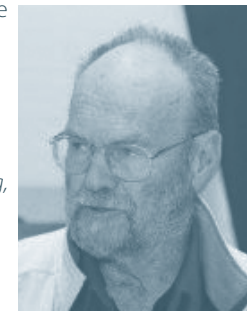
Peter Johns - cruising the canals of Europe.

Award Winners

RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year

for 1998/1999 was Robin Hewitt. Robin sailed *Yoko* in the Melbourne-Osaka Race, placing 2nd overall and winner of his division.

A veteran yacht well prepared, right down to the homemade featherweight sails to get him through the doldrums. It was Robin who said "I enjoy ocean racing, but enjoy even more the cruise back home".



New Members Welcomed:

- Geoff Champion and Val Vernon - new owners of *Mikado 11*
- Bukhard Franz, owner of *Freycinet*
- Ralph and Gwen Higgins and their boat *Ragar*
- Gary Rowswell, a crew member on *Iona*
- Grant and Jenny Collins - currently boat-less and looking for adoption.

Did you know?

From the 1999 Newsletters...

- The Green Queen, *Ayasha*, was back in the bay after her Kangaroo Island cruise, having made a significant dent in South Australia's reserves of red wine and beer. Apart from a couple of spells of heavy weather the 'Three Muscatelles' (John Carruthers, Ben Sheppard and Jim Yarra) had a great time and were surprisingly coherent when relating their adventures.
- Five boats - *Sovereign Lady*, *Renaissance*, *Fayoum*, *Iona* and *Chindrina* participated in an Anzac Day cruise to Point Cook organised by John Goldsmith. Sunny, calm conditions made for a great day out.
- Don Amooore, *Lutana 11*, has arrived in Turkey after a passage through the Red Sea.
- Rosie Colahan was recently interviewed on SBS on a regular segment, 'Women in Sport'. It was a good interview with excerpts from the video of *Jubilation's* recent Sydney to Hobart Race featuring Rosie on the helm and 'Diesel Dave' in the background.

2000

Jim and Diana Patton retired from the Committee after many years of working tirelessly to make the Cruising Group a success - having been involved since its inception. In July a dinner was held in the Committee Room in recognition of Jim's ten years on the committee and his dedicated loyalty and hard work.



Current Chairman Clive Hearne continued to lead the group, with Committee members Lyn Bingham, Bill Westerbeeck, John Carruthers, John Goldsmith, David Pollard and Sophie Doran being joined during the year by Will Merritt, David James and David Asprey.

The major cruise for the year was the America's Cup Cruise to New Zealand which, after an enormous amount of effort from the Cruising Committee, led by Jim Patton, was subsequently co-ordinated by the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria. In all 8 boats participated, 3 from RBYC - *Eveready*, *Tilting at Windmills* and *Amaya*. *Eveready* experienced gear damage and returned to Eden.

Bay cruises included visits to SYC, Point Cook and the Annual Frostbite Cruise which attracted 13 yachts and about 60 people - a great 'roll up'. As well, land trips to the Port of Melbourne Control Tower and Point Lonsdale Lighthouse were organised.



In October Clive Hearne vacated the Chair after three years. He was thanked for his cheerful presence and hard work during his time as Chairman. David James took over the helm,



becoming the fourth Chairman of the Cruising Group.

A big event on Anzac Day was the wedding of Committee member John Goldsmith to Nevis Tedoldi, which took place at St. James Church, Point Lonsdale, with the reception at QCYC. The wedding was attended by most of the Cruising Committee and partners, as well as other cruising friends.

Heard at QCYC on John Goldsmith's wedding night:

Rod Ryan, warming his back by the fire, calls to John Goldsmith:

"Well John, you can step onto your boat, take your bride in your arms and say 'Iona'."

Quick as a flash from John:

"Well Rod, you can step onto your boat, take Melita in your arms and say 'She's a Lady'."

In November members of the Cruising Group committee, who were in Queenscliff for QCYC's Opening Day, visited Point Lonsdale Lighthouse. They were made to feel very welcome and enjoyed a tour of the control centre and the light.

Award Winners

RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year was David Bingham - a well deserved award for his participation in the New Zealand cruise earlier in the year.



Did you know?

From the 2000 Newsletters...

- This year's Frostbite Cruise saw record numbers attending - 13 boats and 58 people. Boats attending were *Achernar 11*, *Ayesha*, *Charliebird*, *Chindrina*, *Eveready*, *Iona*, *Jubilation*, *Leading Lady*, *Lena*, *Red William*, *Seaduction*, *Sovereign Lady* and *Taurus*.
- Cruising Group continued to support the running of the gymnasium and library, with Nolah Gower and Beverlie Asprey helping out in the library on a regular basis.
- Peter and Jan Metherall departed in *Penyllan* to circumnavigate the globe. The plan was to head up the East Coast, on around the top to Malaysia - and beyond.

Classical Music Evening

Yet another wonderful Classical Music Evening in June with 140 guests. 'Corelli to Cole' featured Quartet Brunetto, superbly performing works by Corelli, Mozart, Brahms, Massenet, Elgar Gershwin and Cole Porter.



Music Night decorating committee: Joan Hearne, Lyn Bingham, Diana Patton and Wendy Pollard

Bill Westerbeeck, Frank Smith, Jim Yarra, Ben Sheppard, David James, John Carruthers and David Bingham at the Classical Music Evening



2001



Cruising Group Committee celebrating 10 years

Cruising Group continued to flourish under the leadership of new Chairman David James and his committee of Lyn Bingham (Editor), Bill Westerbeek (Layout), David Asprey, John Carruthers, Will Merritt, David Pollard and Jim Yarra (ie. Lyn and her 'boys').



Cutting the 10th Birthday Cake

In January Cruising Group celebrated its **10th birthday** with a sail to RYCV and a BBQ lunch on the lawn. Around 15 yachts and 90 people attended, reflecting the strong following for the group.

In early March 47 guests enjoyed a chicken and champagne supper on the schooner Enterprize as she slipped her mooring at Williamstown for a fantastic 2 hour Sunset Cruise. Those present even witnessed David James scaling the rigging.

In June yet another great Classical Music Evening. 'Mendelssohn's Family and Friends' saw around 130 people listen to delightful music by the woodwind quartet 'Ensemblinx.' We were fortunate that David Asprey's MSO involvement enabled him to engage such top quality musicians. Funds from this evening went towards the installation of the fireplace in the Club bar.



Bill Westerbeek

Award Winners

RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year was Bill Westerbeek. Bill had a long history of cruising, was a keen Committee member and in recent times had spent a lot of time and effort on the Cruising Newsletter layout.

Gordon Syme was the winner of the **Stars and Compass Trophy**.



Gordon Syme

Third Friday of the month meetings continued to be well attended, with speakers this year including:

Darryl Jones: Rescue Helicopter Pilot with the Victoria Police Air Wing.

Alby McCracken: Para Anchors

David Pollard and Bill Westerbeek: Messing Around in Boats.

Harrow Morgan: Editor of the annual 'Dog Watch', published by the Shiplovers' Society of Victoria.

Commander Colin Jones: Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerebus at Westernport.

Gordon Syme: Yachtmaster Sailing School. Navigation - traditional and modern methods.

Anthony Brown: (Chef for 15 years) Demonstrated 4 or 5 dishes which can be cooked at sea on a two-burner stove.

David Axup: Cruising the Canadian west coast.

Did you know?

From the 2001 Newsletters...

- Cruising Group's 10th birthday was celebrated in style on January 21st with 15 boats and around 90 people sailing over for a picnic lunch on the lawn at Royals on a sunny summer's Sunday.
- On the Bass Strait Cruise to Wilson's Prom and Flinders Island in March Will Merritt's *Chindrina* entered Refuge Cove being majestically towed by Brian and Miriam Cherry's *Lena*. Something about engine failure due to weed in the inlet pipe. Brian did observe afterwards that he had the coldest beer he'd ever had - thanks to a couple of hours of towing.
- Lyn and David Bingham and Pam and Will Merritt cruised in the Whitsundays on David Brown's *Seaduction* for ten days. Favourite snorkelling area - Manteray Bay.
- Andrew and Karen Parker packed up *Highland Fling* to be transported north to the Whitsundays. A clever and efficient way to get to cruise your own yacht in faraway places without the long slog from Melbourne.

First Annual Bass Strait Cruise

The first of the Annual Bass Strait Cruises was held in March - to Flinders Island via Wilsons Promontory (Refuge Cove) and Deal Island.

Eleven yachts participated:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Acherner 11</i> | (Frank Smith) |
| <i>Adam's Rib</i> | (Murray Smitheram) |
| <i>Amaya</i> | (David Bingham) |
| <i>Bilyana</i> | (Graeme Hellenen) |
| <i>Brindabella 11</i> | (Roger Sayers) |
| <i>Chindrina</i> | (Will Merritt) |
| <i>Jubilation</i> | (David James) |
| <i>Kathleen 7</i> | (Jim Patton) |
| <i>Lena</i> | (Brian Cherry) |
| <i>Seaduction</i> | (David Brown) |
| <i>Taurus</i> | (Ron Thiele) |

Unfavourable weather for much of the time did not dampen enthusiasm and the cruise was deemed a success. A daily sched on HF radio from 'ship to shore' (Brighton Base) was manned by David Pollard, Wendy Pollard and Bill Westerbeek.

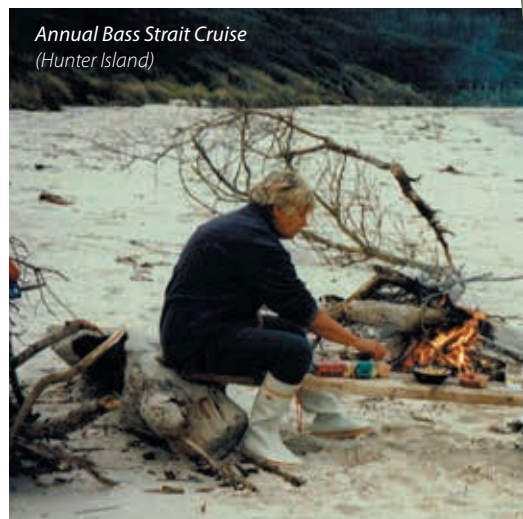


Committee members: David James (Chairman and Newsletter Layout), Lyn Bingham (Editor), David Asprey, John Carruthers, John Goldsmith, Will Merritt, David Pollard, Bill Westerbeek and Jim Yarra.

45 cruisers enjoyed a visit to the Matthew Flinders Exhibition at the State Library in February, followed by a Chinese meal at a nearby restaurant.

Six yachts took part in the Annual Bass Strait cruise in March - this time to Western Bass Strait including King Island, the Hunter Group and Stanley. Participants were: *Adams Rib* (Murray Smitheram), *Amaya* (David Bingham), *Chindrina* (Will Merritt), *Currawong* (Jenny Collins), *Jubilation* (David James) and *Lena* (Miriam Cherry).

With better weather than last year the group enjoyed some good sailing, although they did experience 40 knots in Stanley Harbour necessitating the moving of some boats.



Annual Bass Strait Cruise
(Hunter Island)



Bass Strait Crays!

The Annual Black Tie Classical Music Evening, 'A Night at the Opera', was attended by 150 guests and featured David Kram (piano), Kylie Pointer (soprano) and Robert Arnts (baritone). Those attending declared the night to be up to the usual high standard.

It was decided to establish an additional annual cruising award to encourage 'less experienced' cruisers to participate in Bass Strait cruises.

In July the Frostbite Cruise to North Wharf was well attended by 9 yachts and around 30 people who enjoyed a pleasant barbeque and sunny weather - a bonus for that time of year.

Third Friday dinner speakers included:

David Ryan Sail Repairs at Sea

Richard Barton Water Police Squad - licensing requirements, marine regulations, EPIRBS Etc.

Captain John Carroll

Port Phillip Sea Pilot - 'Big Ships, Little Ships'

Peter Metherall

Cruising Experiences - RBYC to Malaysia

David James

Yacht Delivery, Finland to the Mediterranean

Brian Cherry - 'From Fire and Shot, and Rust and Rot, Good Lord Deliver Us'

Award Winners

The RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year was awarded to Peter Metherall. Peter and Jan departed Brighton in 2000 to sail around the globe and their yacht, *Penyllan*, was currently berthed in Malaysia.

The inaugural Most Improved Cruiser award was presented to Jenny and Grant Collins for their first participation (as boat owners) in the Bass Strait cruise, and their first Bass Strait crossing.

The 2002 Stars & Compass Trophy was won by John Spencer.



Peter Metherall



Jenny and Grant Collins receiving their award from Lyn Bingham

Did you know?

From the 2002 Newsletters...

- Those hardy souls who ventured to King Island in March had the unforgettable experience of showering in a green concrete tank, roof half open to the elements, with slightly smelly brown water.
- Also on the Bass Strait cruise - a 21st birthday celebrated in style at Shepperd's Bay on Hunter Island. Grant Collins' son Michael was the lucky 'birthday boy'.



Michael's (far left) 21st Birthday

- Many cruising members assisted in the running of the Breakfast Club on Sunday mornings. Around 35-40 breakfasts were cooked and served by volunteers each week (pre the Club Café).
- In July Chairman David James helped deliver a 57' Swan, *Amerigo*, from Finland to Sardinia with fellow international cruising yachtsman Murray Jacob.
- In November *Currawong's* Grant Collins, chef extraordinaire, entertained with a cooking demonstration - Thai fish curry, rice vermicelli, Salami Aurora (kangaroo risotto) and chocolate hazelnut crepes - all on a two-burner metho stove. Impressive, and delicious.
- 38 Cruisers joined the Pontoon party on a cool December Evening.

David James continued on as Chairman, with Committee Members Lyn Bingham (Secretary & Editor), Bill Westerbeek (Layout), David Asprey, John Carruthers, John Goldsmith, Pam Merritt, David Pollard and Jim Yarra.

Cruising Group continued to flourish with increased membership and an excellent and varied program of both monthly meetings and on-water activities. The monthly Cruising Newsletter was posted to 156 members, with copies also included in the New Members' Kit.

Attendance at regular events continued to grow, with 12 boats and around 50 members enjoying the Annual Birthday Cruise in January, this year to Beacon Cove.

February saw 28 cruisers 'land cruise' to Geelong to visit the Geelong Maritime Museum, a little known facility which had once been a submarine base, now housing a comprehensive display of naval and maritime artefacts.

On the 3rd Friday in May 'Secret Women's Business' (men welcome) was an evening organised by some of our female members to

encourage more women to actively participate in sailing. This most successful and interesting evening was in the form of a forum, with speakers relating sailing experiences - from newcomer to old hand. 70 attendees enjoyed hearing speakers: Rosie Colahan, Marion French, Nives Goldsmith, Jenny Collins, Pam Merritt, Mavis Sheedy and Betty Comacho.

The 2003 Bass Strait Cruise was to Tassie's Tamar River and Launceston, with a smaller group of 4 yachts participating - *Amaya*, *Chindrina*, *Currawong* and *Jubilation*. Two boats, *Chindrina* and *Currawong*, sailed via Apollo Bay, Stanley and Burnie, meeting up with the other two at Rosevears in the Tamar River a couple of days later. A most enjoyable cruise with time spent at Rosevears, Launceston, Beauty Point and Georgetown before a motor back across a calm Bass Strait.



Chindrina and Currawong at Stanley

Another successful Classical Music Evening, with musicians organised by David Asprey, maintained the high standard set by previous Music Nights. 'An Exotic Night for Four to Eight Strings' - with four brilliant musicians on viola, violin, cello and guitar, entertained the audience with music by Telemann, Beethoven, Schubert, Bach, Dittersdorf, Stamitz, Codero and Monti.



In October there was a change of Chairman with David James resigning and Lyn Bingham taking over the helm. A Black Tie Dinner was held in the Committee Room to show appreciation to David for his leadership as Chairman of Cruising Group for the past three years.

Award Winners

RYBC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year - Philip Mellett, *Free Spirit*, cruising around the world and currently in the Med.

Most Improved Cruiser
Gordon Candlish
Strathtay - cruise to Apollo Bay and Port Fairy.

Stars & Compass Trophy - Nick McGuigan



Phillip Mellet

Did you know?

From the 2003 Newsletters...

- In April a Cocktail Party was held in the Bill Currie Library and adjoining front garden, with Librarian Beverlie Asprey on hand to showcase the library. The library was at that time located downstairs in the north east corner of the building.
- Jan and Peter Metherall, circumnavigating the globe on *Penyllan*, survived a pirate attack in the Red Sea - 50 nm's off the Yemen Coast and 100 nm's from Somalia in the Gulf of Aden. They were in company with four other yachts and heard shots fired from half a mile away, luckily surviving with no injuries or damage.
- Boat Operator's Licences became compulsory in Victoria this year for anyone helming a boat under motor.
- A total of 28 new members were welcomed into Cruising Group during 2003.
- Richard Hawkins OAM, donor and instigator of the Stars and Compass Trophy, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List "For service to the community of the Mornington Peninsula and to the boating fraternity, particularly through the publication of books to assist in navigating local waters".
- On August 25th Cruising Group hosted a Whisky Tasting, with a massive 105 people attending! Tastings of three single malts, a grain and Johnnie Walker Black Label were assessed and rated by those present.

2004

Under the leadership of Lyn Bingham, our first Lady Chairperson, Cruising Group maintained the momentum of previous years. On Committee were David Asprey, Betty Camacho, John Carruthers, John Goldsmith, David James, Pam Merritt (Secretary), David Pollard, Bill Westerbeek and Jim Yarra.

Lyn Bingham also continued on as Newsletter Editor, with David James doing the Layout, followed by Betty Camacho from May.

Highlights of the year included:

- Cruising Group's 13th Birthday Cruise to Royals in January
- Annual Bass Strait Cruise to Apollo Bay, Port Fairy - and beyond.
- Bass Strait Cruise reunion at April meeting.
- Classical Music Evening - 'Great Romantic Classics'
- Shipwreck Night in November

The Annual Bass Strait Cruise saw 9 boats and over 30 cruisers participating.: *Achernar, Amaya, Andalucia, Currawong, Ingenue, Danseur, Jubilation, Lena* and *Point of Sail* They headed first to Apollo Bay, then on to Port Fairy for a few wonderful days enjoying the delights of the Moyne River and the hospitality of the Port Fairy Yacht Club. From there the fleet dispersed to Portland, Three Hummock Island or home, with most reassembling for a reunion party at QCYC.

'Great Romantic Classics' was the theme for this year's Classical Music Evening. The internationally

renowned artists, once again organised by David Asprey, delighted the audience with Spanish music and pieces by Schumann, Borodin, Chopin, Rachmaninov and Massenet. Another wonderful evening of fine dining and superb music.

The Frostbite Cruise in July was - 'Frostbite! 11 boats and 70 people braved the elements and headed to the new Yarra River destination of Docklands to huddle around the barbeque with glass in hand - still in wet weather gear for warmth.



A Shipwreck Night was held in November with dress code - "Come as You Were When the Ship Went Down". A fun night with music for dancing, prizes for costumes, lucky prizes... and more dancing.

The December Pontoon Christmas Party was held in idyllic weather on the handstand, where a spit roast was served to a lively crowd of over one hundred, followed by a visit from Santa and some carol singing.

Guest speakers this year included:

Phillip Mellett 2002/2003 Cruising Yachtsman of the Year - "Life's Dream: A Cruising Life - Melbourne to Croatia.

Vic Goy Navigating The Rip Safely.

Mike Kenyon South Pacific Dreaming: 'Cruising in the South Pacific'.

Noel Thomas Cool Factor - 'Keeping the Tinnies Cold: A-Z of boat fridges and freezers'.

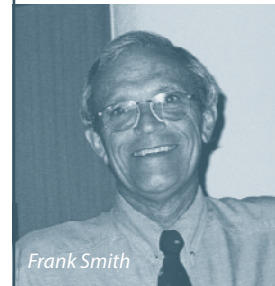
Thorry Gunnensen *Tilting at Windmills* 'The Two Jacksons - From Cape Jackson to Port Jackson' (*Tilting at Windmills* in Kiwiland).

Did you know?

From the 2004 Newsletters...

- The Official Opening of the new floating Marina by Governor John Landy AC, MBE took place on February 29th 2004.
- David James and Rosie Colahan delivered their Jeanneau 40, *Ingenue*, down the coast from Queensland to RBYC.
- 12 yachts sailed to Black Rock Yacht Club in May to help celebrate their 100th Anniversary. After anchoring near the Cerberus crews were ferried ashore in rubber ducks by BRYC members for a very pleasant barbeque on the balcony.
- In September, after many years on Cruising Committee, Bill Westerbeek resigned to travel overseas, sail boats and seek new adventures. His contribution was recognised with a Sunday gathering and presentation at the club.
- About 20 new members were welcomed during the year.

Mr. Award Winners



Frank Smith

The 2003-2004 RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year was Frank Smith, *Achernar*. Frank had many cruising miles under his belt, including Australia's east coast, Bass Strait and a recent delivery trip from Japan to Queensland.

Most Improved Cruiser was Betty Camacho, who had ably assisted David James and Rosie Colahan with several delivery trips.

The Stars & Compass Trophy was won by David Axup.



Betty Camacho

2005

A big year for Lyn Bingham, continuing in the roles of Chairperson, Newsletter Editor and Classical Music Evening organiser. Newsletter Layout - Betty Camacho. Lyn was ably assisted by Committee members Pam Merritt (Secretary), David Axup, John Goldsmith, Robin Peile, David Pollard, John Sagar, Frank Smith and Ron Vandenberg.

Another good year for Cruising Group with interesting and well attended activities.

Some 2005 highlights:

- 12 yachts headed to Refuge Cove for the Annual Bass Strait Cruise in March.
- A 'Bass Strait Revisited' dinner later in March
- A Flotsam and Jetsam Nautical Swap Meet and Cruising Expo in April.
- In June - an evening of 'Beautiful Music'.
- A record 16 yachts at the July Frostbite Cruise.
- In August - a Bollywood Night.
- And yet another Shipwreck Night - could this become an annual event?

So Cruising Group just keeps getting better and better. The hard-working Committee keeps coming up with great ideas and has the wonderful support of many active members.

The year began with 9 yachts heading to Royals for the 14th Birthday Celebration.

The Annual Bass Strait Cruise was a beauty, with a fleet of 12 - the largest fleet yet, crewed by about 40 people.

Participating yachts were:

Achernar 11, Amaya, Andalucia, Chindrina, Conrad, Crocodile, Currawong, Fantastique, Lady Cassandra, Lena, Mintaka and Strathtay.

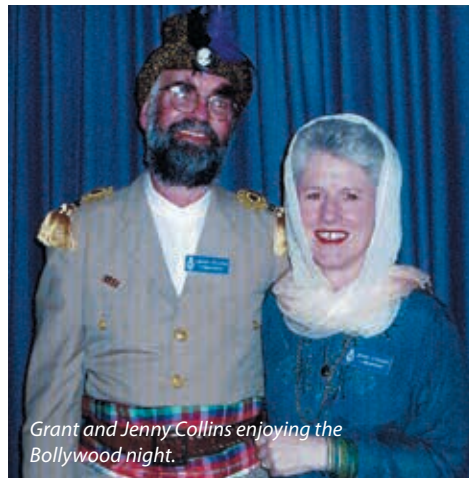
First stop - Refuge Cove, then (for most) on to Hogan Island and Deal Island, with two boats continuing on to the Tamar from Deal. The cruise was blessed with mostly good weather and some great sailing.

In June 134 guests enjoyed the Classical Music Evening - 'Beautiful Music'.

David Asprey had managed to secure brilliant musicians: Dr. David Kram, Head of Opera at the VCA - pianist, Emily Wang - Soprano and James Egglestone - Tenor. They entertained a delighted audience with operatic pieces of the usual high standard, all accompanied by an excellent three course meal.

'All You Ever Wanted to Know About Diesel Engines' was the topic at the July meeting, with Steve, Keld and Jim from Mariner Engineering sharing their knowledge and answering the many questions.

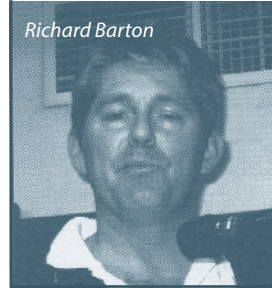
Over 100 people attended the Bollywood Night held in August. Just the thing to brighten up a wintry night - complete with Bollywood movie, Indian buffet and amazing costumes.



Grant and Jenny Collins enjoying the Bollywood night.

Mr. Award Winners

Richard Barton



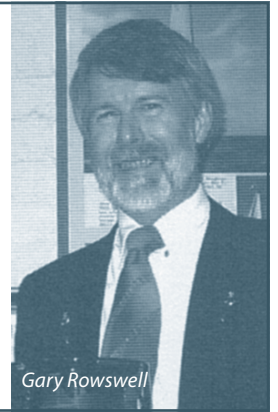
RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year

Richard Barton, *New Horizons*. Richard and his partner Merryn departed RBYC in February 2004 to cruise the Pacific, returning in June 2005.

Most Improved Cruiser

Ron Vandenberg, *Conrad*, for his first venture into Bass Strait with Cruising Group in March.

Stars & Compass Trophy winner - Gary Rowswell.



Gary Rowswell

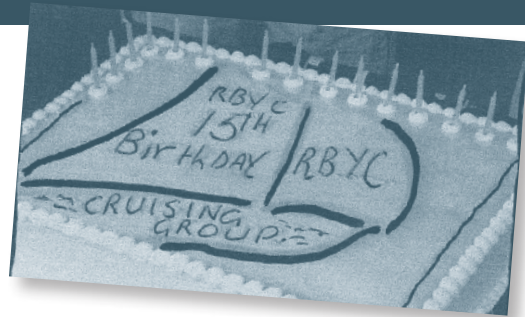
Did you know? From the 2005 Newsletters...

- Cruisers out and about this year, doing what cruisers do - cruising:
 - Penyllan*, Peter and Jan Metherall - cruising the Med
 - Free Spirit*, Phillip and Robin Mellett - cruising the Med
 - Andalucia*, Will and Pam Merritt - East Coast
 - New Horizons*, Richard Barton and Merryn - Returning from Pacific Cruise
 - Point of Sail*, David Brown - Louisiade Archipelago, Ghizo and the Solomon Islands
- New boats this year for David and Robyn Piele, *Maajhi-Re* (from NZ), Dennis and Chris McConnell, *Schuss*, David and Lyn Bingham, *Mirrahooka*.
- Enthusiasm was dampened for a planned trip to QCYC in mid September with a forecast of cold, wet, 'on-the-nose' weather. From the expected 5 or 6 usual diehards, only two boats turned up - *Jasbr Pearl* and Rob Hanke's *Django*. The weather must've been really bad!
- In December Lyn Bingham retired as Newsletter Editor after eight years. In that time the newsletter had grown to 4-6 pages, with about 160 copies posted each month. Regular columns had been established, supplemented by cruise and meeting reports and other newsy items.



You've heard of the Four Tenors, well we have the Four Davids: L to R David Pollard, Asprey, James and Bingham!

2006



Fifteen years on and Cruising Group is looking better than ever. Committee members: Lyn Bingham (Chairperson and Editor), Pam Merritt (Secretary), David Axup, David Asprey, Jenny Collins, John Goldsmith, Ian Mather, David Pollard and John Sagar. Newsletter Layout by Club member Trish Jeffery.

Highlights of this year were:

- Cruising Group's 15th birthday, with 15 yachts cruising to Royals in a light southerly.
- Another 15 - the number of boats braving the cold and venturing to Docklands for the Frostbite Cruise in July.
- On St. Patrick's Day - a cruise to SYC's Ken King Centre with 'green theme' dress.
- Annual Bass Strait Cruise to Apollo Bay, King and Hunter Islands. Participants - *Andalucia* (Apollo Bay), *Burgundy*, *Currawong*, *Danseur* and *Taurus*.
- 'Love and Friendship' - Annual Classical Music Evening.
- A Mad Hatter's Tea Party in September.
- Another bumper Pontoon Christmas Party - good weather, and over 100 people singing Christmas Carols dressed in their best 'Christmassy' outfits.



This year's Bass Strait Cruise was a revisit to King Island and the Hunter Group, with a smaller group of five yachts participating. The reduced numbers did nothing to dampen enthusiasm of those taking part and a good time was had by all.

In July Lyn Bingham resigned as Chairperson, with Will Merritt taking over the role. Cruising Group had flourished under Lyn's leadership for the past three years, and this was recognised with a surprise dinner and presentation at a local Thai restaurant. As well as her role as Chairman, Lyn also took on the roles of Newsletter Editor and organiser of many events, including the annual Classical Music Evening. A huge load for anyone!



Lyn Bingham

Award Winners

RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year Will Merritt. Will and Pam cruised the East Coast as far north as the Whitsundays in 2005.



Will Merritt

Most Improved Cruiser Paul Lobstan. Paul sailed to Lakes Entrance in 2005 and has participated in a circumnavigation of Tasmania.



Paul Lobstan

Stars and Compass Trophy Garry Hamilton.

Then in December Lyn retired as Newsletter Editor, a position she had held for nine years. In that time the newsletter had grown in size and content, with about 160 copies posted each month. Hard shoes to fill, and a job well done. The Editor's job was taken on by Pam Merritt.

The annual Classical Music Evening - 'Love and Friendship' was held in June. Musicians were the Tin Alley String Quartet, with two violins, viola and cello, featuring music by Wolf, Ravel, Janacek, Beethoven, Vivaldi, Mozart, Gershwin and Grainger. The musicians were again organised by David Asprey and all agreed it was another evening of wonderful music, table decorations and fine dining.

Did you know?

From the 2006 Newsletters...

- Martin and Sue Stevens delivered *Mandolin Wind*, their newly purchased 43' Perry Catamaran, down the coast from Airlie Beach, with a few exciting 'bar' adventures along the way.



Martin and Sue Stevens

- Cruising held more 'off site' Cruising functions this year due to major Clubhouse renovations being carried out, with little or no access at times. The newly renovated Clubhouse was officially reopened in November.
- David and Robyn Piele, *Maajhi-Re*, enjoyed some South Pacific cruising, including New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

Guest speakers this year included:

- Michael Fitzallen** - Electronics Engineer - Maintaining and charging batteries.
- Pam and Will Merritt** - East Coast Cruising.
- Waterfront City Marina, Docklands** - Facilities for cruising yachties.

New members welcomed this year included:

- Bryan and Sue Drummond *Jean*
- Mike Blenkinsop and Pam Langford *Pelikan*
- John and Heather Tadich *Enya*
- James and Bronwyn Ide

2007

Committee members: Will Merritt (Chairman), Jenny Collins (Secretary), Pam Merritt (Editor), David Asprey, Ian Mather, David Pollard, John Sagar, Mavis Sheedy and Sue Stevens.
Newsletter Layout - Trish Jeffery to mid-year, then Rob Spaulding, 'Saga'.

By now Cruising Group was a well established entity within RBYC with organised social and 'on water' activities attended by many members.

The year started with a bang with two cruising events in January.

- First the 16th Birthday Cruise to Royals - this year with a 'less than pleasant' forecast resulting in a car convoy across the Westgate. Despite this the 45 attendees had an enjoyable celebratory get together.
- Then, for the first time, a dinner gathering on the 3rd Friday of January. This was to take advantage of the timely return to Melbourne of Bill Westerbeek, Tony Furzer and Chris Parkinson who had recently completed a 60 day delivery trip of a Beneteau 50 from the Caribbean to the Med.

Other on water activities included cruises to RGYC, QCYC, the Annual Frostbite Cruise and Docklands.

In June the Classical Music Evening had a distinctly Spanish flavour. 'Flamenco and Strings' began with 'Quartet Andalucina' presenting an energetic program of traditional guitar and dance. This was followed by trio 'Angels on Strings', comprising harp, cello and violin, presenting works by Debussy, Satie, Braga and Beethoven. Profits from the Music Night were used to purchase a modern lecturn for Club use.



Six boats gathered at QCYC for the Annual Bass Strait Cruise:

Andalucia, Bajaryn (RGYC), *Currawong, Danseur* (SYC), *Mirrabooka* and *Fantastique*.
Anchorages were Refuge Cove, Corner Inlet, Port Welshpool, Hogan Island and Deal Island.



Bass Strait Cruise

The Inaugural Boat Progressive Dinner was held in May and has been a popular annual event ever since. Held out on the marina, this first Progressive Dinner saw 15 boats host 43 guests for either main course or dessert, with 6-8 guests on each boat. Boat owners quickly embraced the idea and gave generously of their time and cooking expertise.

Did you know?

From the 2007 Newsletters...

- Early in the year Brian and Miriam Cherry had an interesting trip to Tassie in *Lena* when they decided to sail rather than fly when Brian was invited to give the opening paper at a conference in Hobart. Something about gale force winds etc etc.
- Peter Knight and Jean Hutson-Knight departed in June on their 44' steel ketch *Hinewai* after ten years of planning, fitting out and busily preparing for a big trip. Initially to Darwin, then on to Indonesia and beyond.
- Rob Spaulding, *Saga*, answered pleas for help for assistance with the newsletter layout. Trish Jeffery had donated her time and expertise for the past couple of years which was greatly appreciated.
- Peter and Jan Metherall have spent this year cruising the French canals in *Penyllan* (minus mast).

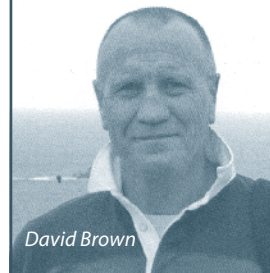
New boats this year for:

Bryan and Sue Drummond - 39.6 Beneteau, *Folie a Deux*
Douglas and Heather Gee - Northshore 34', *Sun Kiss*
Rob and Judy Hanke - Zeston 40, *Dallymore*
Rod and Sandy Watson - Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 39.6, *Emma Kate*
Ian and Judy Mather - Northshore 38, *Watershed*

Guest speakers included:

Bill Westerbeek - Yacht delivery Caribbean to the Med.
David James and Rosie Colahan *Ingenue* - Melbourne to Vanuatu Race.
Alan Storen - Divemaster. Port Phillip Rivals Great Barrier Reef (spectacular dive sites in Port Phillip).
David Ryan - Sailmaker. Sails and Rigging for Cruisers.
Peter Manuel - Knots and Ropes.
Jim Sismanis - Cruising in Croatia.
Batavia Shipwreck Movie Night.
Brian Pattinson *Gusto* - Melbourne / Osaka Race - single handed.
David James and Rosie Colahan *Ingenue* - Melbourne / Osaka Race.

W. Award Winners



David Brown

RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the year - David Brown, *Point of Sail*. David had extensively cruised the East Coast as well as the Louisiade Archipelago and Vanuatu.

Most Improved Cruiser - Martin Stevens, for significant advances in cruising skills and successful delivery of *Mandolin Wind* from Airlie Beach to RBYC.

Stars and Compass Trophy winner - John O'Grady, HBVC.



Martin Stevens

Cruising Group continued to flourish under the enthusiastic leadership of 'Chairman Will', supported by his Committee of Secretary Jenny Collins, Editor Pam Merritt, Music Night Co-ordinator David Asprey, Ian Mather, David Pollard, John Sagar, Mavis Sheedy and Sue Stevens. Newsletter Layout - Rob Spaulding to mid-year, then Trish Jeffery.

Highlights included:

- Cruising's 17th birthday celebration at Royals.
- Bass Strait Cruise - Apollo Bay and Port Fairy.
- The popular 2nd Progressive Dinner.
- 'Bach, Baroque and Beyond' Classical Music Evening.
- Judi and Rob Hanke's Official Boat Renaming Ceremony - *Dallimore to Dalliance* - performed by Grant Collins'

The Annual Bass Strait Cruise, with 5 boats participating, cruised to Apollo Bay, Port Fairy, and one on to New Year Island. Well, *Andalucia*, *Currawong*, *Enya* and *Mirrabooka* departed the Heads and turned right, while one Phantom Cruiser, *Fantastique* turned left. No, they weren't lost, just decided not to cruise 'in company'!



A new addition to the newsletter, Cruising Yacht of the Month, was introduced in late 2007. Boats featured during '07/'08 were *Tilting at Windmills*, *Adams Rib*, *Ingenuie*, *Lena*, *Mirrabooka*, *Skyamsen*, *Mandolin Wind*, *Charliebird*, *Enya*, *Rusalka* and *Andalucia*.

The 2nd Annual Boat Progressive Dinner was held on a balmy April evening - with 60 cruising members and an amazing 18 boats providing either main course or dessert.

Reports of wonderful meals and hospitality dominated the conversation on *Looking Good* later in the evening.



Enjoying a night-cap on *Looking Good* at the conclusion of the Progressive Boat Dinner

'Bach, Baroque and Beyond' was the theme for this year's Classical Music Evening featuring an outstanding selection of music for oboe, violin, cello and harpsichord. Vivaldi's 'Summer' and Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' were popular pieces.

Mr. Award Winners



David Piele

RBVC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year David Piele, with wife Robyn, who recently cruised *Maajhi-Re* to New Zealand and South Pacific Islands.

Most Improved Cruiser

Sue Drummond who, with husband Bryan, pushed boundaries with their first venture into Bass Strait, sailing *Folie a Deux* to King Island.

Stars and Compass Trophy Pam Merritt



Pam Merritt

Guest speakers this year:

Graeme Keys - Port Phillip Sea Pilots

Karen Bennett - Boating Industry of Australia - Marine Pests

Pat and John Bloom - 'Rouseabout' - World circumnavigation.

Andrew Garrett - East Coast, Over the Top, down the West Coast.

John Hutton - Boat Books

Don Richmond - Cruising Croatia on '*Bellina*'

Steb Fisher - Boat Photography

New members welcomed:

Craig Walton *Y Knot*

James Campbell *Gem*

David Elliott *Liberty*

Melanie Chambers

Howard Dare *Coorain*

John and Jo Walker *Kirra Kirra*

Ian and Sue Cummin *That's Amore*

Richard Cowles



Did you know?

From the 2008 Newsletters...

- Ian Cummin's *That's Amore* inadvertently became a Parks Victoria vessel when he attempted to relocate a yellow 'No Boating' buoy from near North Road jetty to RBVC.

- Boat renaming became a serious business when Judi and Rob Hanke enlisted the help of Grant Collins to perform the official ceremony to rename their Zeston 40 from *Dallimore* to *Dalliance*. Seemed to involve a flowing pink caftan and a lot of wasted champagne! And a great party on *Dalliance* afterwards.



- John and Heather Tadich, *Enya*, with David and Kathleen Drennan as crew (pictured left), didn't know what they were in for when they joined their first Bass Strait Cruise in March. They quickly learnt that it's all about camaraderie, socialising, more socialising - with some sailing and beautiful anchorages thrown in. The *Enyans* took 'partying' to a new level!

2009

Committee members: Will Merritt (Chairman), Jenny Collins (Secretary), Pam Merritt (Editor), David Asprey, (Music Night Coordinator), Ian Mather, David Pollard, John Sagar, Mavis Sheedy and Michelle Wale.

Highlights this year:

- 40 people on 16 boats for Cruising's 18th Birthday Bash at Royals, with a Nautical Treasure Hunt along the way. *Folie a Deux* 1st, *Tales* 2nd, *Mirrabooka*, 3rd.
- 7 boats participated in this year's Bass Strait Cruise to the Tamar River.
- 3rd Annual Progressive Dinner - an amazing 20 boats and 67 people.
- Classical Music Evening - 'Elegant Strings'
- Another fantastic Pontoon Christmas Party with over 100 attendees.
- 'Shipwreck Night' in September.

Shipwreck night: Come as you were when the ship went down!



The 2009 Bass Strait Cruise was across Bass Strait for our second visit to Tassie's Tamar River. Arriving by various circuitous routes, 5 yachts eventually gathered at Beauty Point for another fabulous cruise in company. *Andalucia*, *Enya*, *Folie a Deux*, *Mirrabooka* and *Y Knot* had a grand reunion at a Beauty Point. *Happy J* had been and gone, *Currawong* diverted to Port Fairy and *Andalucia* had arrived via King Island. Another successful and enjoyable cruise.

The Progressive Dinner, now in its 3rd year, was going from strength to strength. 20 boat owners volunteered to provide either main course or dessert for 6 - 8 guests with some brilliant culinary delights served. The opportunity to all meet afterwards on Howard Meltzer's *Looking Good* was an excellent way to wrap up the evening.

The annual Classical Music Evening, 'Elegant Strings', featured the Midas String Quartet and some spectacular works by Mozart, Bach, Haydn, Handel, Schubert, Puccini, Mendelssohn and Boccherini. This elegant evening was well attended, and the \$3000 profit was donated to a fund for running the Australian Access Dinghy Association Championships for disabled sailors.

Classical Music Evening



Award Winners

RBYC/QCYC cruising Yachtsman of the Year

Peter Knight and Jean Hutson-Knight *Hinewai*, who departed RBYC in 2007. Currently in the Med via Darwin, Indonesia, Malaysia, Indian Ocean and Red Sea.

Jean Hutson-Knight



Most Improved Cruiser

Craig Walton *Y Knot*. Building cruising experience with recent Bass Strait cruises to Refuge Cove and the Tamar River.



Douglas Scott

Stars and Compass Trophy - Douglas Scott.

Guest speakers included:

Bryan and Sue Drummond, *Folie a Deux* - Chartering on a French Canal.

Peter and Jan Metherall, *Penyllan* - Atlantic Crossing and the Panama Canal.

Stuart Marshall -

Bali to West Timor - Calamity Cruise.

John Hooper, Hooper Sails - Cruising Sails.

Simon Oakley, Safety Marine Australia - Safety Equipment for Boats.

Hugh Jones - Colorado Rafting.

Ian Jemmeson - Viking Ships and Viking Sailing History.

New boats this year for:

Dori Parkin - *Bonnie Lass*

Mark Lazarus - *Surelle*

Michael White and Christine Edwards - *Andora*

Kathy de Garis - *Allegresse*

Did you know?

From the 2009 Newsletters...

- The July Frostbite Cruise was held in the Club's Olympic Room due to 30 knot winds and 10 deg temperature - were we 'going soft'?



- Away cruising during 2009: *Mandolin Wind* - departed in April for Darwin, Indonesia, Thailand... and beyond. *Maajhi-Re* - currently Mooloolaba, joining Darwin to Indonesia Rally. *Penyllan* - Raiatea, French Polynesia. *Hinewai* - Turkey. *Tilting at Windmills* - Scandinavia. *Dreamweaver* - Australian East Coast *Ingenue* - Airlie Beach and Hamilton Island Race Weeks.
- Cruising Group purchased a Sabot with Classical Music Evening profits, officially launched in April and named *Sabotage*.
- Quantity of Cruising Newsletters posted each month - 167. Now grown to 6 - 8 pages. Regular columns - Cruising Yacht of the Month, Member News, Captain Coxswain's Corner, Chair Chat, Forthcoming Events, as well as cruising news and stories.
- At the Safety Marine Australia presentation in August a life raft was deployed - an excellent opportunity to see this happen in the club room (while only imagining it in a real life 'at sea' situation).

Committee Members: Will Merritt (Chairman), Jenny Collins (Secretary), Pam Merritt (Editor), David Asprey, Ian Mather, David Pollard, John Sagar, Mavis Sheedy and Michelle Wale.

Cruising Group continues to provide a varied program of on-water and social activities for its members. Attendance at 3rd Friday Dinner Meetings averages 50 - 60 members and organised cruises and other activities are also well attended.

19th Birthday Cruise to Royals



Highlights this year included:

- A good roll up for the 19th Birthday Cruise to Royals - despite most 'cruising' via Westgate Bridge due to bad weather.
- Cruise to SYC's Ken King Centre in February - 11 boats, 50 cruisers.
- A Cruise in Company to Apollo Bay and the birth of the Official Bass Strait Cruise Bocce Trophy (purchased by the 'Enyans' at an Apollo Bay Op Shop).
- The 4th Progressive Dinner - and the numbers keep growing. 74 people, 22 boats.
- 'Chopin to Broadway' Classical Music Evening.
- Nautical Gear Swap
- Well attended monthly Forum Dinner Meetings.
- Another bumper Pontoon Christmas Party to wrap the year up in style.

The Classical Music Evening was something 'a little different'. With musicians organised by Committee member Michelle Wale. 'Chopin to Broadway' featured 'Front Row' musicians: Alan Kogosowski on piano, baritone Greg Ross, soprano Emily Xiao Wang and tenor Roy Best performing 'songs from the shows', including *Les Miserables*, *West Side Story* and *Man of La Mancha*. The evening was a sell out with about 140 attending.

The ongoing popularity of the Progressive Dinner is evident as numbers keep building - with 74 cruisers participating this year. A great way to meet new people as allocation to boats is random in an effort to mix everyone up. 'Looking Good' once again hosted the group for tea, coffee, port and chocolates.

Bass Strait Cruise: Some went left, some went right! Due to bad weather there was an extended wait in Queenscliff for a suitable weather window. With a planned destination of Refuge Cove, *Kirra Kirra* and *Y Knot* set out ahead of the fleet, with *Mirrabooka* leaving a couple of days later. *Andalucia*, *Coorain*, *Currawong*, *Enya* and *Tales* waited for more settled weather by which time a good SE had set in so, with the breeze on their tail, changed course for Apollo Bay. And so the fleet was split - although *Y Knot* later turned up at Apollo Bay.

Those at Apollo Bay enjoyed the camaraderie, dress up night and Inaugural Bocce Competition on Apollo Bay beach.



Did you know?

From the 2010 Newsletters...

- Bryan and Sue Drummond, on *Folie a Deux*, headed north in February to cruise the East Coast and Louisiades.
- Will and Pam Merritt sailed back from Hobart on David and Lyn Bingham's *Mirrabooka*.
- Great weather for the July Frostbite Cruise. 14 boats, over 50 people! The venue was Yarra's Edge Marina, with 5 boats 'jumping the gun' by heading up the night before and eating out at a local restaurant.

New members welcomed:

Don Matthews	Rob Miller
Louise Cotter	Peter Johns
Helen Scott	Alan Robinson
Daniel and Sandra Levinson <i>Ahwahnee</i>	

Guest speakers included:

Thorry Gunnersen *Tilting at Windmills* - Cruising in Scandinavia
Ben Camm - Education Director, Dolphin Research Institute.
Richard Buxton - 'If Matthew Flinders Had Wings' - Circumnavigation of Australia.
Bob Leighton, Bureau of Meteorology - Port Phillip and Bass Strait weather patterns.
Graeme Duke and Rob Latimer - Medical Sailing Ministries.
Peter Harris - Alma Doepel Restoration Project
Matt Lyons, Energy Matters - Power options for boats: Solar, Wind and more.

And new boats for:

Jenny Stone and John Lute - *Corazan Viaje*, an Adams 435.
 Richard and Marian Johnson - *Sophistique*, a Beneteau 373
 David and Sally Spencer - half share of *Sun Kiss*, a Northshore 34, with Douglas and Heather Gee.

Award Winners

RBVC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year
 Thorry Gunnersen AM
 Extensive cruising of Scandinavian waters and winner of London's Royal Cruising Club's 'Romolo Cup'.

Most Improved Cruiser
 John Scott, building experience in Port Phillip, Westernport and Bass Strait in readiness for more extended cruising.

Stars and Compass Trophy - not awarded this year.



Thorry Gunnersen AM



John Scott

2011-2015

Cruising on, into the future



2011

Cruising Group has now been established for 20 years. The group continues to foster friendship, camaraderie and the encouragement and support of cruising in all its varied forms.

Committee members: Will Merritt (Chairman), Jenny Collins (Secretary), Pam Merritt (Editor), David Asprey, David Pollard, Murray Hine, Rod Watson and John Walker. Newsletter Layout - Hannah Ngaei.

Highlights:

- Cruising Group's 20th Birthday.
- 130 attendees at the February Dinner Meeting.
- Successful Bass Strait Cruise to King, Three Hummock and Hunter Islands.
- 'A Night With the Top Brass' Classical Music Evening.
- Docklands Fireworks Night in July
- Hardstand Christmas Party - 70 cruisers singing carols on the downstairs verandah!

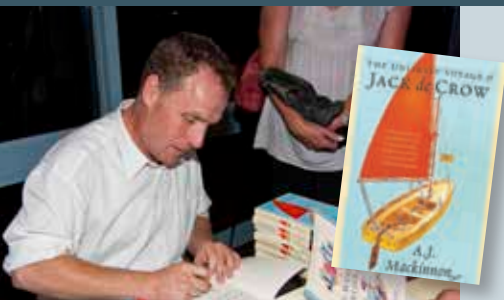
The 20th Birthday Celebration at Royals was a big one. Around 90 cruisers on 15 boats sailed to Williamstown in perfect weather. Chairman Will welcomed Past Chairpersons of Cruising Group: David James (2000-2003), Lyn Bingham (2003-2006) and Joan Hearne, widow of Past Chairman Clive Hearne (1998-2000). Jenny Collins had organised a cake, and all present were given a Code flag 'C' to be flown when cruising.

Last year's Bass Strait Cruise saw the fleet separate due to unfavourable weather - some to Refuge Cove, some to Apollo Bay, so this year the Bass Strait Cruise was advertised as a 'Mystery Cruise' ie. no set destination - just go where the wind blows. Given the unpredictability of Bass Strait weather the fleet would sail to Queenscliff, see what the weather was doing, and decide accordingly.

Northerly winds made a decision easy - King Island, Three Hummock Island, Hunter Island. 15 people on 5 boats participated: John and Jo Walker on *Kirra Kirra*, John and Heather Tadich/David and Kathleen Drennan on *Enya*, David Bingham and David Hutchings on *Mirrabooka*, Craig Walton, Andrew Rice and Steve Dickson on *Y Knot* and Will and Pam Merritt, Jim Yarra and Doug Hodges on *Andalucia*. The second Annual Bocce Competition was hotly contested. Winners: *Mirrabooka*, Wooden Spoon: *Enya*.

In February we held the largest ever Forum Dinner Meeting since the group began.

Guest speaker was A. J. (Sandy) McKinnon, author of 'The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow'. Sandy McKinnon enthralled and entertained over 130 people while describing his voyage from Wales to the Black Sea in a Mirror dinghy. There were signed copies of his book to purchase, as well as its sequel 'The Well at the World's End'.



RBVC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year
Bryan and Sue Drummond, *Folie a Deux*, - cruising Australia's East Coast and the Louisiades in 2010.

Award Winners

Brian & Sue Drummond



Most Improved Cruiser James and Bronwyn Ide, *Alegria*, - participating in a QCYC Cruise to Refuge Cove and Gippsland Lakes.
Stars and Compass Trophy - Kathy de Garis.

'A Night With the Top Brass - Renaissance to Zamba', this year's Classical Music Evening, showcased The Australian Brass Quartet comprised of two trumpets, trombone and French horn. Wonderful music, again organised by David Asprey, enthralled the audience and made for another memorable evening.

Wimpy or Wise? The July Frostbite Cruise saw about 40 cruisers meet for lunch around the open fire in RBVC's members bar. Strong northerlies, rain and a top temp of 13 deg was the reason. So cruisers do get to decide whether to brave the elements - or not!

Guest speakers this year included:

A. J. McKinnon -

'The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow'.

Bryan and Sue Drummond -

Cruising the Louisiades on *Folie a Deux*.

David Axup, *Skyamsen* -

Flags and Flag Etiquette

Carlos Ogues, McFarlane Generators -

Power Management on Boats.

Brook Felthensal, Charter World -

Bareboat and Crewed Charter Destinations.

Alex Whitworth - North West Passage on

Berrimilla, a 34' Broлга.

Rod Watson, *Emma Kate* -

Over the Top: Cairns to Darwin by road.

Janet Roberts-Billett -

The Yachtsmen Scheme: Australian Volunteers in the Royal Navy 1940-45.

New boats for:

Brenton and Robina Smith - a Caliber 40 cutter sloop *Liquid Courage*, to be renamed *Chakana* at the Hardstand Christmas Party.

Bryan and Sue Drummond - a Hylas 54' *Gypsea Rover*

Did you know?

From the 2011 Newsletters...

- The Cruising Newsletter was now consistently 8 pages. With the Editor running out of boats for 'Cruising Yacht of the Month', a new series, 'How I Started Sailing', was started. First stories 'volunteered' were by - Kathy de Garis, Alison Roberts-Wray, Don Richmond, Will Merritt, Alan Hume and Lyn Bingham.
- And another boat renaming ceremony - this time Hugh Jones' Compass 29' *'Nemarluk'*, renamed to *'Polly Jane 11'*. Renaming expert Grant Collins did the honours again - in pouring rain, maybe the Weather Gods weren't too happy.
- A summer storm, complete with lightning, dictated that the December Cruising Christmas Party move to the Club's downstairs verandah. A bit of a squash with tables set up along the verandah, but the confined space meant that the Carol Singing sounded better than usual.
- Sole members of Cruising Group's Power Boat Division - Susan and Ian Cummins, *That's Amore*.

Boats away cruising:

Highland Fling, Karen and Andrew Parker - Australian East Coast.

Mandolin Wind, Martin and Sue Stevens - Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia.

It's a Privilege, Peter and Susie Strain - East Coast.

Corazon Viaje, Jenny Stone and John Lute - East Coast.

New Horizons, Michael White and Christine Edwards - Sydney and beyond.

Chairman Will, now in his 6th year as Chairman, continues to lead Cruising Group, ably assisted by his Committee: Jenny Collins (Secretary), Pam Merritt (Editor - to July), Robina Smith (Editor - from August), David Asprey, Murray Hine, David Pollard, John Walker and Rod Watson.

Newsletter Layout - Hannah Ngaei

The year's highlights included:

- Cruising Group celebrated 21 years.
- Bass Strait Cruise - Westernport Bay
- An Easter Cruise to RGYC for *Chakana, Catwalk, Andalucia, Tales, Kirra Kirra and Emma Kate*.
- 6th Boat Progressive Dinner - 20 boats hosting 63 cruisers.
- 'Telemann and Tangoes' - Classical Music Evening.
- The introduction of regular 'End-of-Month on water' activities.
- Docklands Fireworks visits in July and August.
- In August - a Cruising Olympics Night.
- Hardstand Cruising Christmas Party again under cover on the downstairs verandah.

Changes at the helm this year with Will Merritt retiring as Cruising Chairman after more than six years. Will had enthusiastically led the group, chaired meetings, MC'd the Classical Music Evenings, organised cruises, dispatched 'bullying' emails and become well known for the catch cry - "Good Evening Cruisers" / "Good Evening Chairman Will" at the monthly Forum Dinner Meetings. He handed over to Rod Watson in November. A black tie dinner and presentation was held in the Committee Room in recognition of his time as Chairman.

Pam Merritt retired as Newsletter Editor after



more than 6 years and 61 newsletter issues. In this time the newsletter had grown from 4-6 pages to 8. Robina Smith took over as Editor from August 2012.

This year's Bass Strait Cruise was again thwarted by bad weather with a wait of almost a week at QCYC while fronts passed through. By the time the weather had settled time was running short and *Andalucia, Emma Kate* and *Sun Kiss* ended up at Westernport (Flinders and Cowes) for a few days. The Bocce competition took place on Cowes beach with *Sun Kiss* winning the coveted trophy.

In an effort to encourage more 'on water' activity the Committee introduced a regular 'End-of-Month' cruise. Destinations included Ken King Centre at SYC, RGYC, Waterfront City at Docklands and QCYC. Melbourne City Council had introduced Friday Fireworks Nights during July and August which provided an excellent winter destination.



This year's Classical Music Evening was 'Telemann and Tangoes'. Another night of wonderful music from a delightful string quartet accompanying one of Australia's leading oboe players, Anne Gilby. Music covered a range of styles and periods with classic Mozart, Telemann and Bach Concertos as well as some modern pieces.

To coincide with the Olympic Games an Olympic Night was held in August. Trivia, individual and team events, Pin the Burgee on the Yacht, beach volleyball, quoits, prizes for best dressed - and more.

Guest speakers included:

Paul Bartley

Yacht Rigger - Rigs on Cruising Yachts.

Karen and Andrew Parker

Highland Fling - East Coast to Cairns.

Jenny and Grant Collins - *Currawong* Does the Kangaroo Hop - SA Cruising.

Sheree Maris - Melbourne Down Under - Marine Environment of Port Phillip Bay.

Colin Miller, Offshore Marine Electronics - Electronics & Communications for Cruising

Sue Drummond - Sailing on the *HMB Endeavour*- 18th Century Sailing.

New members welcomed:

Barbara Burns and Geoff Brewster *Folie a Deux*

Anne and Colin Nicol *Riff Raff*

Malcolm Ferguson *Quixote*

Ken Hoppe *Rendezvous*

Dean Newlan

Tom Clynes *Nantucket*

Steve Dickson

Rob and Rosie Dros *A Current Affair*

Rob and Nona Hurrell *Aquacadabra*

Did you know?

From the 2012 Newsletters...

- Heading north again this year - Anne and Roger Claydon *Dreamweaver* and Jenny Stone and John Lute *Corazon Viaje*.
- How I Started Sailing Stories' from: Robina Smith, Grant Collins, Dori Parkin, Rod and Sandy Watson, Roger Walker, John Hart, David Asprey, Miriam Cherry, Mavis Sheedy, Sue Drummond and Brenton Smith.
- For the second year in a row the Cruising Christmas Party was held on the Club's downstairs verandah due to stormy weather. Didn't stop spirited carol singing led by Kathy de Garis and Dori Parkin and even a Cryptic Carol Quiz.
- Richard Hawkins OAM, donor of the Stars and Compass Trophy, celebrated his 90th birthday.
- Official handing over of the Dungeon Keys as Will Merritt steps down as Chairman - no more threats of vats of boiling oil!

Award Winners

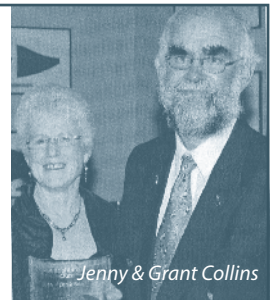


Karen & Andrew Parker

RBYC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year - Karen and Andrew Parker, *Highland Fling* - 12 months of East Coast cruising as far as Cairns.

Most Improved Cruiser - Jenny and Grant Collins, *Currawong*, - recently completed a 9 week cruise to South Australian waters.

Stars and Compass Trophy - Dori Parkin.



Jenny & Grant Collins

Committee members: Rod Watson (Chairman), Jenny Collins (Secretary), Robina Smith (Editor and Layout), Richard Johnson, Will Merritt, Pam Merritt, David Pollard, Sandy Watson and Roger Walker.

With Rod Watson settling in as Chairman of Cruising Group the growing trend for participation in meetings, 'on water' and other activities continues.

Highlights for 2013:

- Perfect weather for the 22nd Birthday Cruise - 12 boats and over 60 cruisers.
- A wonderful Bass Strait Cruise - Refuge Cove, Port Welshpool, Deal Island.
- In April Cruising Group hosts Sabot families for a 'Big Boat' experience to Royals.
- Perfect weather as well for the Frostbite Cruise.
- 'Shades of Autumn' Classical Music Evening.
- Mini Cruises overnighting at Docklands for Friday Night Fireworks.
- 9 boats participating in Melbourne Cup Weekend Cruise to Queenscliff.
- In November - a night of Shipwreck Shenanigans and Blooper Bungles.
- At last - Chairman Rod turns on fine weather for the Hardstand Christmas Party.

The Classical Music Evening continues to be a popular annual event on the cruising calendar. This year 'Shades of Autumn' was no exception with 96 members and friends gathering for an evening of beautiful music featuring Elyane Laussade on piano, Edward Antonov on violin and Michael Petruccielli, tenor.



Award Winners

RBVC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year - Roger and Anne Claydon, *Dreamweaver*, spent 2012 cruising to New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia, mostly two-handed.

Most Improved Cruiser - David Spencer, *Sun Kiss*, first Bass Strait Cruise as Skipper - to Refuge Cove and Port Welshpool.

Stars and Compass Trophy - Kathy de Garis.



The Progressive Boat Dinner was in its 7th year and still as popular as ever. About 60 guests were hosted on 20 boats for the usual gourmet delights, followed by a get together on *Looking Good* for port and chocolates. We are indebted to Howard Meltzer for offering the use of *Looking Good* year after year.

This year's Bass Strait Cruise was one out of the box. In brilliant weather 7 boats, *Andalucia*, *Chakana*, *Emma Kate*, *Enya*, *Happy J*, *Mirrabooka* and *Sun Kiss*, departed Queenscliff for Refuge Cove. *Lara* and *Aquacadabra* joined in later.

From Refuge - Port Welshpool and Chinamens Creek, Corner Inlet, with most continuing on to Deal Island. All this in light winds, flat seas and warm sunny weather!

The Bocce Competition was hotly contested at Chinamens Creek. Trophy winners - *Andalucia*



Guest speakers for 2013

Kerry and Linda McGorlick - *Southern* Around Australia.

Carolyn and Don Warner - Antarctic: The World's Last Great Wilderness.

Dori Parkin *Bonnie Lass* - Sailing the Scottish Coast and the Solent.

Gordon Syme Quick Fixes and Emergencies at Sea.

Anne and Roger Claydon - *Dreamweaver* in the Pacific.

Brenton Smith *Chakana* - Cruising the Beagle Channel.

Marnie and Lou Irving *Cavarlo* - Circumnavigation of Tasmania.

Did you know?

From the 2013 Newsletters...

- On the move this year: *Gypsea Rover*, Bryan and Sue Drummond - departed on Boxing Day for Tasmania for a few weeks, then trans Tasman to New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and back to Brisbane. *Kirra Kirra*, John and Jo Walker - departed in February for some Tasmanian cruising, then north to cruise the East Coast as far as Lizard Island. *Highland Fling*, Andrew and Karen Parker - meandering down the East Coast on their way back to Port Phillip. *Cavarlo*, Marnie and Lou Irving - cruising the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Hobart.
- Club member Terry McMullan, McMullan Conway Communications had, for the past three years, provided staff members Hannah Ngaie, then Kate, to do our newsletter layout, for which we were very grateful. Editor Robina Smith put out an (unsuccessful) impassioned plea for a volunteer to take over the layout, so from then on Robina has managed the job of both Editor and Layout.



Enjoying the fireworks display at Docklands during Winter.

Committee members: Rod Watson (Chairman), Jenny Collins (Secretary), Robina Smith (Editor and Layout), Kathy de Garis, Richard Johnson, Pam Merritt, Will Merritt, David Pollard, Roger Walker, Sandy Watson and Vanessa Twigg.

Highlights of 2014:

- Many cruisers began the year by spending New Year's Eve on their boats in the marina with city fireworks viewed from the attenuator.
- 23 years of Cruising Group celebrated at Royals in January.
- 8 boats and 27 crew participating in another successful Bass Strait Cruise.
- Another outing for Sabot kids and their families cruising in 'Big Boats' to Royals.
- 8th Annual Progressive Boat Dinner in April - with 19 host boats.
- 'Bagatelles, Fantasies and Re-Imaginings' - Classical Music Evening.
- Frostbite Cruise held in the Club due to pier closure from storm damage.
- Annual Hardstand Christmas Party - actually out on the hardstand.
- More winter Fireworks Fun at Docklands on the last Friday of July and August.

After two years of successfully leading Cruising Group, Rod Watson retired as Chairman in November. The group had been in good hands under Rod's leadership with a full program of well attended activities. Roger Walker agreed to take on the job of Chairman.

The 2013 Bass Strait Cruise had 8 participating boats with 27 crew, varied weather and a 400 nautical mile cruise to King Island, Three Hummock Island and Stanley. Good to revisit this beautiful cruising area, although Stanley Harbour became challenging when a boisterous

chop built up. Participating boats were: *Andalucia, Andante, Chakana, Emma Kate, It's A Privilege, Lara, Mirrabooka* and *Sun Kiss*. The Bocce Championship was hotly contested at King Island, with *Chakana* taking out the trophy.



Now in its 8th year, the Progressive Boat Dinner was held on a wintry, wet night in April. The weather didn't dampen enthusiasm with conditions improving as the night wore on and those present enjoying the delicious dinners served on boats.

The 2014 Classical Music Evening had the fascinating title of 'Bagatelles, Fantasies and Imaginings', featuring internationally acclaimed pianist Stefan Cassonenos. Stefan enthralled those present with music by Beethoven, Debussy, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. Music organised by Kathy de Garis.

This year's Frostbite Cruise was held in the Clubhouse, but not because of bad weather. Wild storms that had wreaked havoc on the pier and hardstand a couple of weeks earlier had closed the pier, hence no access to boats.

Guest speakers this year:

Robert Ireland, Suzuki Marine - Outboard Motors and their Operation.

Bryan Drummond - Cruising the South Pacific on *Gypsea Rover*.

Dustin Marshall - Marine Research Project: Sea life in the Bay and around our Marina.

Rod Watson - Borneo Cruise.

Past Commodore Peter Johns - Nautical Antiques and Netherlands Canal Cruising.

Kathy de Garis and Rosie Colahan - Cruising Medical Emergencies.

Peter Strain

Cruising Turkey and the Panama Canal.

Michael White and Christine Edwards - Living the Cruising Dream: one of the most inspiring talks we've heard at our Monthly Dinner Meetings. 'Dilemmas, Dreams, Discoveries and Decisions' charted their journey from the 'dream of full-time cruising' to 'making it happen'. Taking Risks, Managing Risks, Living Aboard and What We've Learnt were topics covered in a comprehensive account of fulfilling their dream.



An unsung hero – **Jenny Collins** has worked tirelessly as Cruising Group Secretary for the past nine years – in recent years also taking on the role of Classical Music Evening organisation. What would we do without her?



Did you know?

From the 2014 Newsletters...

- Another renaming ceremony, with Grant Collins in action and the pink caftan getting another airing - this time for Ted and Maree Masur's Beneteau 40.7 renamed *Pizazzz*
- *Highland Fling's* Karen Parker began a 'Favourite Cruising Recipes Corner' in the newsletter.
- Cruising Newsletter went digital from February this year.
- True yachting camaraderie was shown on the Bass Strait Cruise when six of our cruising yachts in Stanley Harbour were at risk of serious damage when lively seas whipped up, necessitating moving them to a safer area of the harbour in difficult conditions. Crew members spent several hours helping each other out during the move.
- Great weather for the second year in a row for the Annual Cruising Christmas Party, again celebrated out on the hardstand. Carol singing was ably led by Kathy de Garis with her team of choristers - Vanessa Twigg, Jacqui Lucas, Cath Hurley and James Heywood.

RBVC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year Bryan and Sue Drummond on *Gypsea Rover*, cruised to New Zealand before joining the ICA Pacific Rally in 2013.

Mr. Award Winners

Bryan Sue Drummond



Most Improved Cruiser

Geoff Brewster and Barbara Burns, *Andante*, Their first Bass Strait Cruise to King Island, Three Hummock Island, Stanley and the Tamar River.

Stars & Compass Trophy - Andrew Roberts.

2015

Committee members: Roger Walker (Chairman), Jenny Collins (Secretary), Robina Smith (Newsletter and Layout), Richard Johnson, Pam Merritt, Will Merritt, David Pollard, Peter Strain, Sandy Watson, Rod Watson and Vanessa Twigg (ex Officio).

Cruising Group is now into its 24th year - and heading towards celebrating the first 25 years.

In January the Cruising Committee held a dinner in the Committee Room to thank Rod Watson for his leadership as Chairman during the past two years. Rod had capably carried out the role of Chairman, chaired Monthly Dinner Meetings, led Bass Strait Cruises and other 'on water' events and encouraged strong participation in all Cruising activities.



Highlights for the year:

- 24th Birthday Cruise to Royals - 88 cruisers attending.
- Bass Strait Cruise - Apollo Bay, Port Fairy and Portland.
- Tasmanian Circumnavigation for *Summer Wind* and *Odysseus*.
- 9th Annual Progressive Boat Dinner.
- 5 Cruising Boats take 21 Junior members and their families to Royals for lunch.
- 'Melba Magic' - Classical Music Evening.
- In October - America's Cup Revisited night.

A large group of 88 cruisers ventured to Royals in January to help celebrate Cruising Group's 24th Birthday. 11 boats sailed over, while the crews of 4 more boats elected to drive. We were honoured to have our Founding Chairman, John

Mowson, and his wife Jill, who were visiting from WA. John cut the cake, and later thanked everyone for their hospitality.

Following a couple of years of good cruising weather, 2015's Bass Strait Cruise, although having a brilliant first few days to get the fleet of 7 boats to Apollo Bay, was then hampered by heavy weather for several days. The fleet split, with *It's a Privilege* heading home, *Aquacadabra*, *Y Knot*, *Mirrabooka* and *Sun Kiss* continuing west to Port Fairy and *Andalucia* and *Enya* staying at Apollo Bay. Luckily the Bocce and Klop Competitions were contested at Apollo Bay while all were there, with the hotly contested Bocce Trophy being won by *Sun Kiss* for the second time.



'Melba Magic', this year's Classical Music Evening, was up to the usual high standard and featured outstanding pianist Stefan Cassomenos accompanying singers from the Melba Opera Trust scholarship program. Another top class evening of wonderful music and fine dining.

Award Winners

RBVC/QCYC Cruising Yachtsman of the Year

John Walker, *Kirra Kirra*, RBVC to Tasmania to Lizard Island in 2014.



John Walker

Most Improved Cruiser

Allan Haddow - currently sailing single-handed up the East Coast in a Compass 29 *Ophelia*.



Chris Reynolds

Stars and Compass Trophy

Chris Reynolds, Hobsons Bay Yacht Club.

The fact that the regular End-of-Month 'on water' activities continue to be well supported is evidence of the need for these events.

This year they included:

- Sabot Cruise to Royals.
- Anzac Day and overnight cruise to RMYS with 5 boats and 20 crew.
- July and August 'last Friday of the month' Docklands Fireworks Cruises.
- September cruise to overnight at Martha Cove - 7 boats and 17 crew.
- Cup Weekend cruise to Queenscliff - 7 boats and 17 crew.
- November Sunday lunch cruise to Ferguson Street Pier, Williamstown - 6 boats and 14 crew.

Guest speakers this year:

Jenny Stone and Hugh Jones - The Norway Coast (on two very different ships).

John and Jo Walker - To Lizard and Back on *Kirra Kirra*.

James Heywood and Peter Clark - Batteries.

Peter and Karen Johns - *Frances* - a Classic 8 metre yacht, launched in 1948.

Paul and Angela Woodman - Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation Cruise.

Bryan Drummond and Karen Parker - Sail 2 Indonesia Rally on *Gypsea Rover*.

Alex Parry - Cape Otway Lightstation - Beacon of Hope.

Did you know?

From the 2015 Newsletters...

- Sue Drummond offered to be 'Casual Newsletter Editor' while Robina Smith was away cruising in June, July and August. Big shoes to fill - we're sure Sue graduated from L's to P's!
- During trips to Docklands for the Frostbite Cruise and July and August Fireworks Nights all present were impressed with the luxurious new onshore facilities for visiting yachties at Melbourne City Marina. This destination has just got a lot better.
- Boats on the move:
 - Kirra Kirra* - returning to Victoria from Brisbane after two years of cruising. *Kirra Kirra* will be berthed at Gippsland Lakes for a while.
 - Ophelia* - Allan Haddow departed in January to meander slowly up the East Coast with the plan of eventually circumnavigating Australia.
 - Chakana* - spent several weeks mid-year cruising to New Caledonia from Brisbane, then sailed from Brisbane back to RBVC in November.
 - Gypsea Rover* - on the move again in December, after a year off, for some cruising in Thailand.
- America's Cup knowledge tested with some Trivia Questions at the October America's Cup Revisited night. Hmm..... should've read up beforehand!!



The Musings of a Cruiser

The tranquility of the sea during a cruise can bring out the poet in any of us. Brian Cherry found this to be the case and the prose flowed from his pen as he recalled the fond memories of the Bass Strait cruise. Inspired by the style of the famous Australian poet C.J. Dennis, these musings were put to paper and read at a cruising function by our own Brian Cherry of *Lena*.

Cruising Malaise

*Bloody waves and bloody swell,
Jib is flapping, what the Hell.
Bloody preventer's bloody jammed,
Bloody main has slam, slam, slammed.*

*Cape Patton course two thirty bloody seven,
Dolphins around its bloody heaven,
Bloody breakers to bloody port,
Henty reef bearing two six nought.*

*Apollo Bay's first port of bloody call,
Bloody entrance is bloody small
And unless you're very bloody tall,
You'll never get up the bloody wall.*

*Round bloody Otway in the night,
Bloody moons not bloody bright
The wind is getting bloody light
And bloody Amaya's out of sight*

*At bloody Port Fairy,
We're sitting on't bloody mud,
But bloody Crays are bloody good,
Bloody thanks to bloody Murray,
We'll soon be back no bloody worry.*

*Some go South and some go West,
What's happening to the bloody rest
They are going bloody home,
No bloody time to stay or roam.*

*Back at Queenscliff at bloody last,
Bloody possums up bloody mast,
But bloody truth to bloody tell,
All in all it went bloody well.*

Brian Cherry



