



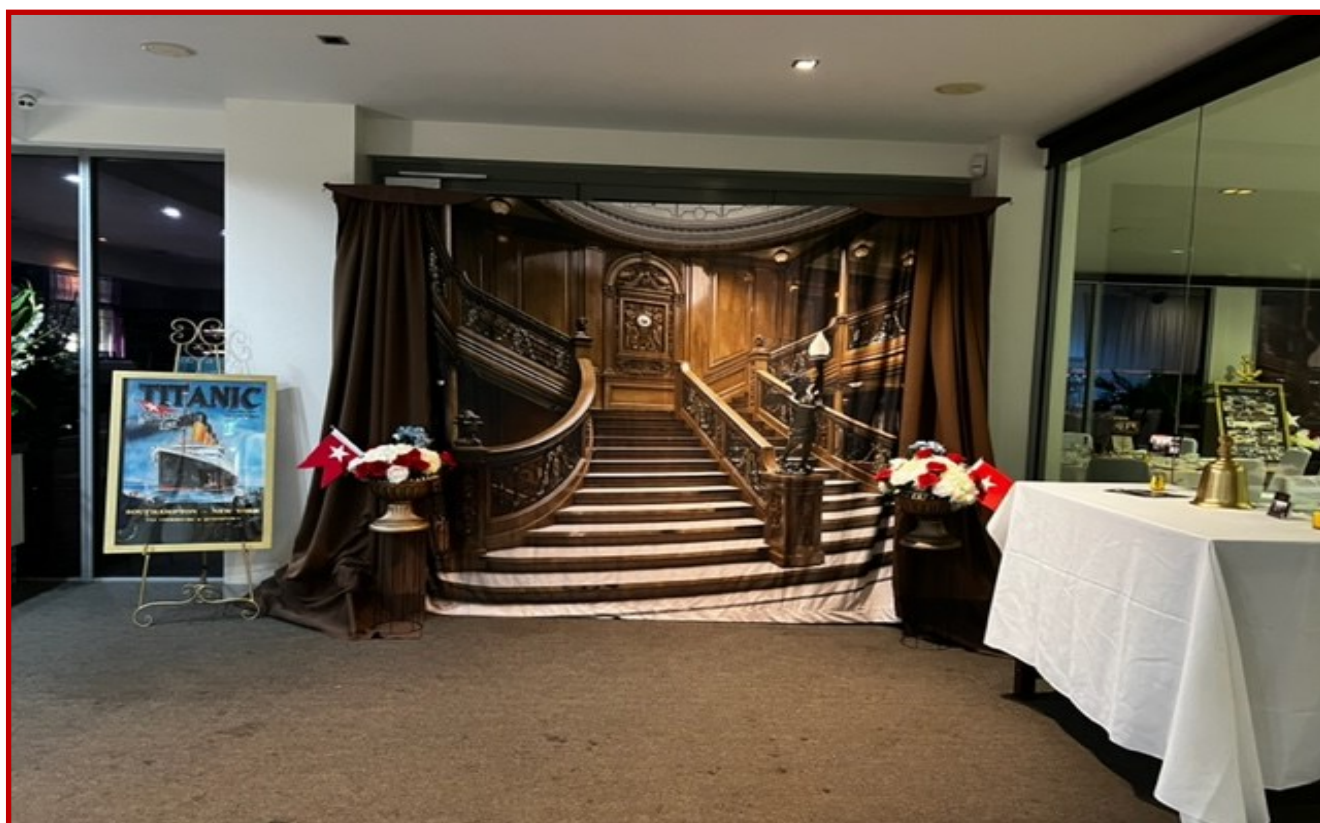
CRUISING NEWS

JUNE 2022



'A Night to Remember'.

By
Pam Merritt



Oh what a night!!

After two cancellations due to Covid restrictions threatened to sink Cruising Group's planned 'Titanic Night', it finally went ahead on Friday May 20th.

The Bayview Room was suitably decked out in Titanic theme including a Grand Staircase - the perfect background for some memorable photos.

142 passengers seemed delighted to finally have a reason to dress up in their best 'cruise-ship' finery. The ship was slightly top-heavy with First Class passengers who well out numbered lower decks lackeys. Lavish gowns, furs, dinner suits, silk scarves, top hats etc. were unpacked from travelling trunks and dusted off for the evening. Cabin boys, waiters, maids and ship's crew were there to look after the guests as a rather large iceberg drifted by. Everyone looked fabulous, and it was 'All Aboard' for an evening of lively entertainment!



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After mingling in the Grand Ballroom for a while guests were seated at allocated tables ready for the show to begin. The group, professional entertainers Leonie Collins, Paul von Harder, Matt Hadgraft, Kristy Gayther and tech support Nick Elliott, sang, joked and danced their way through their Titanic tale in three separate segments. It was a simple tale on an age-old theme: posh First Class family's pretty daughter falls for a bright, good-looking young lad from Steerage. Despite some impressive singing and lively banter from the young lad, the girl's mother disapproves of the match. So it goes - but we'll never know the outcome as the the ship went down!

Audience participation was encouraged and we noted some familiar faces up on stage with the cast.

The entertainment was interspersed with a delicious meal of Thai beef salad entree and marinated chicken breast, roasted potatoes, broccolini and wild mushroom sauce for main, followed by chocolates and tea or coffee.

After the show the music continued with many guests happily letting their hair down on the dance floor following the past two years of lockdowns. Some Conga line dancing led by Leonie Collins completed a fabulous evening.

It truly was 'A Night to Remember'.



CRUISING NEWS JUNE 2022

[We asked new Cruising Group Committee member Rod Cuthbert to write something about why he chose to buy his powerboat Halcyon, which is berthed on Row 2 at RBYC. Here's what he told us.]

Buying Halcyon

Lyle Cornish* was not happy. He should have been — he was selling the boat he'd bought two years earlier for not a penny less than he'd paid for it, which anyone who knows anything will tell you is no mean feat. Yet Lyle was definitely unhappy.

He loved that boat. He wanted it the minute he saw it — *even his wife loved it; who could resist the colour?* — and paid exactly the asking price, no bargaining, no funny stuff, just get it on a truck back to Westernport.



And didn't it turn heads there? "It's like a Palm Beach!" "No, it's a Tim Phillips!" "I love the colour!" Lyle wasn't used to all this attention.

He'd fished the waters of Bass Strait for 40-odd years and hauled out more crayfish than he cared to remember. There's not a lot of chit chat on a fishing boat. Nobody stops by to comment on your boat's paint job, or ask where she was built, who was the designer. That stuff doesn't happen when you're twelve miles out to sea.

When Lyle landed on the Mornington Peninsula, retired and comfortable and still holding onto those fishing leases, he hadn't needed a boat.

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*[We asked new Cruising Group Committee member **Rod Cuthbert** to write something about why he chose to buy his powerboat Halcyon, which is berthed on Row 2 at RBYC. Here's what he told us.]*

Buying Halcyon

Had enough of them for God's sake! But when it's in your blood, well, it's in your blood, and he found himself browsing the boats for sale sites to fill the time between breakfast and when he should have been in the garden, or the shed, or some other retirement activity that just didn't hold his interest for quite as long as he'd thought it might have.

Soon enough he saw her: five years old, a 44-foot wooden cruiser in the Maine lobster boat style. And he was a lobsterman, after all! The builder had kept her himself for five years, cruising the Whitsundays and the NSW Central Coast, and she was like new. A drive up the coast and Lyle had a boat again; all was good in the world.

Life, of course, doesn't always play along with our plans. Eventually the doctors get involved, making grave statements about the dangers of a 70-something year-old man being alone at sea. Wives nod along in agreement, pointing out that the garden won't tend to itself, nor will the grandchildren stop growing up simply because their Pop has decided to look for some bluefin tuna off Cape Shanck.

Lyle knew enough about wooden boats — well, that's an understatement right there; Lyle knew damn near everything about the bloody things — to know that it made no sense for a boat like that to sit unused in the marina from one week to the next. Just to be there for the birds to perch on, for the sea life to glom onto, for the passers-by to slow down and say it's such a shame — the damn thing hardly ever moves!

He made his mind up and saw the broker. He'd sell her, and "as quick as you like, but not a penny less than I paid for her, she's worth every bit of it."

Early 2021, Covid lockdowns on and off, nobody knows what they're doing next week, let alone next year. A couple of lookers but nothing solid. The broker says he's got a mate who sells boats up in Melbourne. He could put a listing in his window. Ok then, that sounds good, do that.

The picture goes in the window, but at the bottom where only the keenest lookers will squat down to peer at the tiny type and four by six photo. Enquiries do not roll in.

Enter a rider — on a pushbike, not horseback; it's 2021 after all. Taking his two-hour out-of-home lockdown exercise allotment, he's ridden to St Kilda Marina and stopped at the boat broker's little office there. Nothing in the window to catch his interest. He bends down to pick up a mask that's fallen from his pocket (*Can you believe this stuff? Every word of it is true!*) and sees her, down at the very bottom of the window.

He steps inside — What about that green boat in your window? Well, says the broker, not looking up from the half-filled crossword in *The Age*, which somehow endears him to the visitor, you can go down to Hastings to take a look at her if you fancy a drive. She's not my cup of tea, but you might like her.

Fast forward to the end of the story: the bike rider went to Hastings. He bought the boat. He paid the asking price, not a penny less, and he brought her to Brighton. People there love the colour.

And from time to time, Lyle comes up to visit. Just to keep an eye on her.

** A real person, but not his real name.*

NOTICEBOARD

*****June 17th 2022*****

Forum Dinner Speakers Doug and Sandra Williams



Doug and Sandra Williams have been cruising the South West Pacific in their yacht "Freycinet." In this time they have spent each cruising season in the Pacific Islands, with a return to New Zealand for the cyclone season.

A large part of their time in the Islands has been spent helping local communities with donated goods and then working with Lions International on health related projects

usual gather in the members bar about 6.30. members draw at 7pm, followed by the meal. Please book at the office (95923092) with Mandy no later than Wednesday 15th to get an idea of numbers. Meal \$40 per person and payable on the night

*****Frostbite Cruise 2nd– 3rd July 2022*****

Destination Docklands.

You may choose to spend the weekend and take advantage of the terrific clubhouse, or just come over for lunch. Coordinator to be advised later, you also need to book a berth with Melbourne City Marina.

*****July 15th 2022*****

Forum Dinner Topic to be advised

***** July 30th and 31st 2022*****

End of Month on Water Activity Destination and co-ordinator to be advised



Thank you to all that helped us get the Titanic Night off the ground, it was a huge success. Several weeks later people are still talking about what a great night it was.

It shows that people can enjoy getting out socially and appreciate being able to see friends and have a good time once again so don't hesitate to take these opportunities as they arise. On another note, I have noted some of our sailing members having to have skin cancers removed from time to time and as I recently found out I am not exempt from this. I just had a Basal Carcinoma removed from my ear which also required a skin graft. Our love of sailing unfortunately exposes us all to the harmful rays of the sun and it is a stark reminder of the importance to protect ourselves.

Winter has bitten hard so far with wet cold and windy days not usually suitable for enjoying sailing. Although I will remind our sailors we do have the Frost Bite coming up from Saturday July 2 to Sunday July 3, so put this date aside for a cruise to Melbourne City Marina and consider what to bring for your Pot Luck Dinner.