

Cruising Group '09

RGYC has an active cruising group which meets on the first Thursday of each month. The cruising group was started a few years ago to give yachties interested in cruising the opportunity to meet and share experiences and dreams. The meetings usually involve dinner and a guest speaker, followed by coffee and friendly banter. For many, it has been the catalyst which has enabled them to join in on the social side of our great club and to plan opportunities to cruise-in-company.

Our guest speakers this year have included such luminaries as:-

Bob Appleton, who gave an entertaining talk entitled "Cruising in Depth", in which he spoke about his days as a submariner in the British Navy. Richard Ham, who eased our worried minds with a talk on Pirates.

Bill Newman, who showed us some wonderful sights from the Tasmanian circumnavigation cruise and encouraged us all to join in next time.

Bill Ethell, who told us about his adventures sailing a protest boat to Muraroa Atoll.

The cruising group has had a few activities in the past year. During Dennis Walter's Carols by Candlelight, members decorated their boats with Christmas lights and had a sail past between the yacht club and the swimming enclosure. By all accounts it was a spectacular display and winners of the best dressed boat were Dave and Carmel on Lady Bay.

On a cold Friday night in June, four boats ('Arctic Wolf', 'Happy Hour', 'Moonshadow' and 'Lady Bay') cruised all the way over to Western Beach Boat Club and had a barbeque tea. Special thanks to WBBC and especially Bill Ethel for his hospitality.

Some of the cruises members participated in this year included:

The Tasmania Circumnavigation - 'Maatsuyker', 'Bundaberg', 'Lady Bay', 'City Limits', 'Samoya' and 'Fistral'.

Three Hummock and Hunter Island - 'Arctic Wolf', 'Dreamtime', 'Acropora', 'Mercator' and 'Moonshadow'.

Living the dream in higher latitudes - 'Just Magic' (Gerrit and Evonne who started the group.)

Phillip Armitage and John Peirce

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