

Rumours, trips and tall stories submitted by members

Recently, it appears, several Squadron boats were moored at Port Vincent and the crews arranged to have evening drinks on one of the boats. An impressive array of nibbles – cheeses, dips, biscuits, olives etc – was pooled on a table in the cockpit. The dozen or so participants spent a pleasant hour or two eating, drinking and swapping the usual tall stories. As the participants made their way back to their own boats, the host noticed that some of the dips had been spilled on the table and resolved to wipe it down. However, as dinner and a few more glasses of wine beckoned, the clean-up was delayed till later. After dinner the host, while checking the boat in the now dark night, was surprised to see rather more of a mess on the table than he remembered. "Funny", he thought, "we must have spilled more dip than I remembered. I wonder which dip it was." He drew his finger through the spilled dip and tasted it. It seemed rather bitter, fishy and a bit gritty. It slowly dawned on him that the boat had been visited by cormorants cleaning up the residue of the nibbles and, in exchange, had left a huge mess of their own. He spent the next hour alternately spitting, cleaning his teeth and gargling! Moral, as Forrest Gump says: "Be prepared to take some sh.. in life; just don't take more than a single mouthful at a time!" or "don't eat anything until you know exactly what it is!"

Four Days on *Ellös*

As Annie and I had been invited to sail with Bob and Gill Hogarth on *Ellös* in the Port Lincoln race it was in the best interest of all that we had a shakedown cruise to become familiar with the yacht. This is our 'log' of the cruise.

Ellös is a luxurious 34ft Halberg Rassy yacht built in Sweden with hot and cold running water and central heating which we did not require but Bob needed to demonstrate.



Day 1 - departed Outer Harbor 1600 hrs

As the wind was strong and from due south, we were not able to head to Kangaroo Island as planned and so chose to sail to Port Vincent. We had an excellent sail with 2 reefs in the main, a half furled genoa and Annie on the helm. We averaged 6.8 knots arriving at 2115 hrs and picked up a mooring in the dark. Dinner was hot lasagna with a bottle of 2001 St Hugo followed by coffee and Xmas cake. It was really pleasant to go to sleep with the motion of a moored boat and the gentle sound of water slapping

on the hull.

Day 2 - After a late start we departed Port Vincent and headed south. Again the wind was quite strong and we were soon with reefed sails, making good time beating down the coast. We passed Stansbury, Lime Bay, the giant silos at Port Giles where a super tanker was loading grain, Edithburgh with its 56 large windmills and on to the Cutter Patch, a safe anchorage tucked in behind the decommissioned lighthouse on Troubridge Island. Annie and I got out the fishing lines and caught dinner (six whiting) which we enjoyed

with a bottle of 2001 Gramps Chardonnay. There was a significant tidal race through the anchorage which kept the boat swinging all night. We were tired enough not to notice this and all slept well.

Day 3 - After an even later start we decided to

get in some training for the upcoming race to Port Lincoln and spent the day practicing sailing practicing putting spinnakers up and down, making sail changes and generally tuning the yacht. Late that afternoon we even had the opportunity to learn how to get a boat off a sand bar after we had run aground on the Oyster Bay bar off Stansbury. With a rope to the top of the mast, we were towed off by some kind fishermen. On arrival in Stansbury we spent happy hour with friends Ian and Di from *Pied Piper II*. For dinner that night I prepared

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Member Profile

Bronya Alexander is 24 years old and joined the Squadron as a Crew Member in late 2005. Introduced to the Squadron by Sue Buckley via the "On-Board" programme she is now hooked on sailing. After only a few twilights, she joined up and now sails as regular twilight crew on Bill van Reet's 25ft Lyons boat *Breathless*.

Bronya grew up in Melbourne and sailed with the family on her father's 22ft Trimaran in Westernport Bay (East of Port Phillip Bay) in Victoria. However, it's only in the last year that she's taken it up as a hobby for herself.

Bronya studied science (majoring in atmospheric science) at the University of Melbourne. Since finishing in 2003 she spent a few months working at the CSIRO Atmospheric Research Division before moving to Adelaide for her current job as Climate Risk Officer with SARDI (South Australian Research and Development Institute). While the small unit she works in has a hand in many research projects with an agricultural/climate focus, the team also has the opportunity to pass on climate information to end users such as farmers or consultants. Bronya assists with preparing monthly newsletters, farmer specific reports and running workshops, as well as participating in current research projects.

Bronya's most memorable sailing experience to date occurred just recently in a twilight race.

"We were only about 200m from the finish line with four boats ahead of us and we'd sailed a great race" she says. "At this point Bill was on the tiller, I was on the Main and the other three were leaning over the edge for ballast when – SNAP, SPLASH! The wire we were all leaning on came undone and the three hanging over the side went straight into the water. I was fine because I was holding the Main and I turned to see Bill struggling to sit back into the boat properly after almost losing his balance. Matt was the first to be pulled back in as he had a hold of the wire (or rather, the wire had a hold of his waist and there was a pretty impressive bruise to prove that!). Bill then turned the boat around to go back and pick up Ben and Alana and by the time we pulled them in, got going and finished the race, only one boat had passed us! Then, obviously, it was time for a bevvy!"



Bronya's other interests are dancing (tap, jazz and classical), rock climbing (mainly indoor), and a bit of hiking, rogaining, caving and cross-country skiing. Her sailing dream is to sail into the sunset and to keep going. Another of Bronya's dreams which will come true this month is to go to Antarctica. "Well, sometimes you just get lucky!" she says. "I currently sail a boat that's roughly 7 metres long in up to 2m swell, and I haven't become seasick. So by my calculation, the 65m ship I'll be travelling on would need to be in 19 metre swell before I need to be worried about seasickness. Hmm, yes, well that's what I'm telling myself anyhow!"

At the time of writing Bronya was really looking forward to going to the Skandia Geelong week – this would be her first sailing regatta. Of her sailing so far at the Squadron, she says "I've really enjoyed my sailing experiences over the last year, and am especially grateful to now be a regular crew member for the twilights. I certainly hope to continue sailing and learning more in coming years".

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House and Social Committee Report

Sue Buckley

The House & Social Committee has had fantastic response from members for our most recent events ensuring they have been both fun and successful. We count our success not only by numbers attending but also by how much fun members and their friends have at our events. In fact when members ask us "when are you planning the next one?" we know people have really enjoyed themselves.

helpful for Necole who has to cater over the Christmas public holiday period. Many members and guests helped Keith Flint celebrate his birthday and Necole did a fabulous job feeding everyone – no queues and every table groaning under the weight of all the food.

We again ran The Keith Flint Sprint – a short fun race round some of the channel beacons with 10 boats starting and 7 boats finishing.

New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve celebrations on the

while sipping on Pimms No. 1. The cocktails went down well and were accompanied by several large platters of food beautifully prepared and presented by Necole and her team. A special thanks to the skippers and their crews for the evening. We knew this party was a success when people started asking us when we were going to run another one! And that was before we headed back to the marina...



Cocktails Afloat on *Rhythm and Blues*

Santa at the Squadron

Father Christmas' visit to the Squadron proved to be a hugely popular event for those children of all ages who attended. Santa who is particularly versatile arrived on Naiad after a hard afternoon's racing and the bouncy castle seemed to also be greatly enjoyed... there certainly seemed to be several children who bounced in it for hours.

Sydney-Hobart Lunch

Well this day is getting bigger each year and was sold out well before Christmas. Many thanks to members who booked in advance – this was extremely

Quarterdeck was well attended with about 50-60 people gathering for a casual barbeque and drinks late into the night.

Cocktails Afloat

So far I think our best success has got to be the Cocktails Afloat night in part due to the fact that it was a perfect night for it. Although very hot – I think it was still about 40deg at about 9.00pm! – it was perfect out on the water. After a drink or two on the Quarterdeck, 50 members, guests, skippers and hosts headed off on 5 boats. *Rhythm & Blues*, *Bluewater II*, *Twilight Express*, *Reprieve* and *Tardis* headed off separately and then rafted up between North Haven and Largs Bay. We watched a stunning sunset

Future events

We've got lots more planned for the rest of summer and into the winter months. So stay tuned to Middle Watch for further details as they are finalised. ✂

Four Days on *Ellös*

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a rack of lamb roast basted with olive oil and lemon juice and coated with a garlic and pepper garnish. We had baked potatoes pumpkin and zucchini and a bottle of 1996 Centenary Hill Cabernet Sauvignon.

Day 4 – We awoke to another glorious day with clear skies but still strong winds. We departed Stansbury at 1000 hrs for a fast, close reach back to Outer Harbor. It was a beautiful sail and I shared the helming with Otto the autohelm. The wind strength increased and we reefed twice and half furled the genoa arriving home at 1600hrs.

Warm sun, a fair breeze, a comfortable ship, the ocean, good friends with interesting conversation, a wonderful relaxing 4 days where we could wind down and look to whatever 2006 would bring. What more could we ask for?

John Phillips
The Other Annie III ✂