

ERIK'S REPORT FROM HAMILTON ISLAND

Just before Easter 2 years ago we left the Squadron in ERIK, our 32' double ender, and headed for Sydney. Our trip was pleasant, only twice ducking into ports to wait an approaching front. We spent time at Robe, Port McDonnell, Port Fairy, Refuge Cove, Eden, Bermagui and Ulludulla finally arriving in Sydney on 21st April 86 where we spent a week in this very impressive harbour.

We then sailed to Broken Bay and on up the Hawkesbury to Berowa Waters where our friends own a restaurant called the "Berowa Waters Inn". It was early in the afternoon when we picked up our mooring and we must have presented an unusual sight to the diners because a bottle of Bollingers was rowed out to us. This was a welcome and fitting gesture of things to come. We spent a fantastic 9 months there, living in, working in, and caretaking this well renowned restaurant. It was a great first stop in our culinary venture and we learnt and shared a great deal with a truly wonderful team of people. It was therefore with much sadness that we left behind our friends at the restaurant and also quite a few "old salts".

Our Swiss-French friend who owns "The Boatshed" built a boat high in the Swiss Alps, trucked it to the nearest river, motored out into the Med and then sailed her to Australia and around the Pacific. Another couple are building and fitting out their second boat to continue their travels. They have extended their family by 2 thus necessitating a bigger boat.

We left Berowa Waters late in February 87 and finally left Broken Bay early in April for Hamilton Island. There are so many areas to cruise along the East coast and our time was marked by the company of

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many people from many varied facets of life. One of our most memorable days was going through "The Narrows" at Gladstone which was a fantastic experience.

We arrived at Hamilton Island on 30th June 87 for an overnight stay and were severely rocked by the price of a berth here. However, 9 months later we are now preparing to leave. It has turned out to be a very convenient place to replenish the coffers and for our 4 year old daughter, Colette, to be with other kids. We have been working at a bakery plus doing various catering jobs for island functions and Ansett Airlines.

On 10th April 88 we leave for Townsville for the mighty stock up, then on to Darwin for a slip and paint. From there we will sail to Christmas Island, Cocos, Sri Lanka, Aden, the Red Sea, eventually hoping to enter the Med about this time next year. We hope to settle in France for a couple of years either on the coast, or take the masts out and tour the canals. We have tentative work arranged already, however we will see what happens. Our plans are always open to suggestion!

Our time here has been hectic making our trip preparations whilst working, with little time to put pen to paper. However, once we're back into cruising mode, I will have time to write more interesting and informative accounts of our travels.

LIZ MURPHY