

CRUISE OF CUTTER "ANY'DAH" R.S.A.Y.S. 2nd to 17th Feb. 1935

Norman Ford Master.
H.P. Brownell Passenger, crew and ships surgeon.

Itinerary.

	Time Hours	Distance Miles.
(1) Outer Harbour to Wilson's Sandhill Eastern Cove K.I.	22	55
(2) Wilson's Sandhill to Pelican Lagoon.		9
(3) Pelican Lagoon to Potter's Rock Eastern Cove K.I.		5
(4) Potter's Rock-Pt. Marsden, Cape Cassini, Cape Dutton, Wedge Island, Thistle Island, Observatory Pt, Taylor Island. Anchored.	33	115
(5) Taylor Island to Port Lincoln.		15
(6) Port Lincoln to Fisherman's Point.		7
(7) Fisherman's Point to Dangerous Reef.		15
(8) Dangerous Reef to Spilsby Island		12
(9) Spilsby Island to Boucaut Island per "NERIDA".		1
(10) Boucaut Island to Spilsby Island		1
(11) Spilsby Island to Snug Cove (Thistle Island)	6½	21
(12) Snug Cove to Wedge Island	5½	22½
(13) Wedge Island to Pondalowie Bay (York Peninsula)	6½	19
(14) Pondalowie Bay, Althorpes, Stokes Bay, Emu Bay	12	46½
(15) Emu Bay to Kingscote.		12½
(16) Kingscote to Outer Harbour.	23	56
		<u>432</u>

Sat. 2nd. Feb.

Sailed out of Outer Harbour at 9.50, wind S. (light). Beat up to Glenelg (12.30) then close hauled. Turned in till 4.30 and slept while Norman sailed. I took over and sailed her to Rapid Head with a good S.E. breeze.

It continued until one third of the way across Back Stairs Pass and then dropped to nothing and we drifted right back on the tide to Rapid Head.

Sun. 3rd. Feb.

We drifted about most of the day but later made Kangaroo Head with a light S.E. and anchored at Wilson's Sandhill at 8p.m. and turned in.

Mon. 4th. Feb.

Up at day break. Launched dinghy and caught a whiting, then sailed into Pelican Lagoon (a fresh S.E.) and caught enough fish for three meals. Sailed out and anchored at Eastern Cove. Landed-cleaned fish also dinghy, had a swim and walk along beach.

In the evening a fishing cutter anchored near us. We hailed the owner (Ratcliffe) and he came on board and gave us fishing information.

Tues. 5th. Feb.

At day break lifted dinghy on board and set sail (wind light S.E.). Rounded Ballast Head and steered towards Pt. Marsden. Wind fell light and shifted to S.

We were followed closely by a seal for a short distance.

We were opposite Cape Dutton, 20 miles from Cape Borda about 9p.m. We set a compass course for Wedge Island. A fine night light southerly and heavy swell with cross sea making uncomfortable sailing conditions. The stars were very brilliant, we could see four lights at the same time (Borda, Neptunes, Wedge and Althorpes).

Wed. 6th. Feb.

Arrived at Wedge anchorage opposite Golléy's barn at 4p.m. but the sea was breaking into the bay, rendering conditions unfit for anchoring. We therefore rounded the Island and steered for Thistle Island. Sailing still uncomfortable. "Stormy Petrel" passed us half a mile south.

Arrived at Whaler's Bay Thistle Island (Horney Point) at 11.30 a.m. but conditions for anchoring still unfavourable owing to swell. Found "Merida" there fishing and we both decided to on to Taylor's Island, where we anchored about 3p.m. Dined on "Merida" (Tom Hardy, George Eimer, Len Wigan, George Cleland and Jack Willoughby).

Went for a walk and swim on Taylor Island in the evening. The piece de resistance was goat cooked in a waterless cooker. The goat was shot on Wedge Island.

Thurs. 7th Feb.

A cutter anchored alongside and the men, Sydney Beach and Bob Nugent, came on board and invited us to shoot goats on the Island, but we set sail in a fresh S.Westerly rounded Pt. McLaren past Boston Island into Port Lincoln. Five sailing ships were in the Harbour. Went on board a fishing cutter (Westerman and Uncle). They lent us water containers and we went ashore for water-Fost Office-rope and fruit. Met an old derelict, Martin ex 27th in pub and afterwards Leighton.

Washed clothing in some water that would not go into tank.

Set sail for Fisherman's Point and anchored alongside "Merida".

On board for dinner (curried goat, preserved pineapple, black coffee, cigars, raisins, port.)

Caught seven dozen fish in nets and cleaned them, then to bed.
Friday 8th. Feb.

Breakfast at 7 (fish) and set sail for Dangerous Reef at 8. About five miles from Dangerous Reef we ran through a bad southerly rain squall and the main sheet parted. There was a heavy sea running and it was very difficult to reeve a new sheet. In doing so the topping lift fitting on the boom was broken and the port jib sheet was nearly sawn through on the fluke of the anchor. We drifted to leeward about a mile. We then had a beat to windward to reach the reef and finally anchored beside the "Merida" at 1.45. There was some difficulty in landing from the dinghy owing to the swell. We saw two dead seals and a number of birds, mainly fairy tern.

Got under way again at 3p.m. and had a fine lead to Spilsby Island (Sir Joseph Bank's Group) anchoring at 5p.m.

We landed and met a man called Scruby who has been living with his son on the island for some time. An impressive looking man over 6ft.

The Island has been overrun with Chinchilla rabbits. Some were liberated there 5 years ago by a man called Kerrison. The rabbits are showing signs of reverting to type and are of no commercial value. From the Island we could see seals on Seal Rock.
Sat. 9th. Feb.

After breakfast Tom Hardy invited us to join the "Merida" for the day and see Boucaut Island. It was only a mile away and the "Merida" went under power, Len Wigan sounding till a suitable anchorage was found. Some fishing was done with indifferent success but most of the party explored the Island. We saw some Chinchilla rabbits and Worman Ford caught one. Having no shoes I walked all round the shore of the Island with George Cleland. We saw seals and penguins and caught one. After a late lunch on the "Merida" we returned to the anchorage at Spilsby and carried out a few small repairs to "Anyndah's" gear. Turned in early.
Sun. 10th Feb.

Made a fairly smart after good breakfast, putting dinghy aboard and a thorough clean up. Set sail at 9p.m. for Snug Cove, Thistle Island, course S. by W. Light wind almost due S. Sailed close hauled beyond Dangerous Reef. We failed to locate Howard Porter, Sims, and Black Rocks. We close hauled as far as Grindal Island and then had to beat up to the Thistle Island. Wind freshened considerably after Dangerous Reef was passed. Anchored at 4p.m.

We at once went ashore and had a walk round the point and a swim on a perfect sandy beach. On our return we saw some fish jumping close to the shore. We rowed out to the "Anyndah" for the net and put it down just as it was getting dark. Fish caught themselves at once so we rowed along the net twice and picked out enough fish to last us two days. Returned, cleaned the fish and turned in early after a light meal.
Mon. 11th Feb.

Up early had breakfast cleaned up the boat and set sail about 10.45 with a light beam wind (S) and headed for Wedge Island.

The day being misty it was only just visible on the horizon. Arrived and anchored opposite Golley's barn at 4p.m. We immediately went ashore and walked to West Bay. There is a beautiful rugged

coastline with high cliffs similar to those at EagleHawk Neck Tasmania.

We then called upon Andrew Colly sole inhabitant. He was about to go to Adelaide for a holiday and a man called Nelson and his wife were preparing to do a locum tenens for him. He had not been away from the Island for five years. We looked at his stallion and horses which he breeds and returned to the "Anyndah" tired and hungry. We saw a number of quail on the Island.

Tues. 12th. Feb.

Had to throw some bread away this morning as it is getting mouldy. After breakfast went ashore to clean the dinghy and have a swim. Then we cleaned up on board lifted the dinghy out of the water and set out for Pondalowie Bay at 10.45. very light S. breeze but otherwise perfect weather. We had to beat up towards West Cape and probably our actual course was 30 miles. Anchored at 5p.m. a very beautiful little bay with 3 rocky islets shutting it out from the sea.

There was a fishing cutter anchored slightly north of us and towards sundown the ketch "Seahawk" and cutter "Sunbeam" (John Tickley) came in. We exchanged a bottle of beer for a loaf of bread with the latter (ours being rather mouldy) and he asked us if we had any unwanted fish to catch barracouta for cray pots. Norman and I shot ~~xxxx~~ our net had caught a few useless fish, which we handed over to the worthy Tickley. While we were waiting for fish to get into the net we walked along the beach and looked at the skeleton of a wreck of a ketch.

Wed. 13th. Feb.

About 6a.m. Tickley hailed us and gave us a snook for breakfast. We had a very hearty breakfast about 7.30. Then fished for snook for a time. We had several bites and nearly caught one. We then beached the dinghy, spread the net on the sand to dry and the tide being very low we spent some time on an uncovered reef between South Island and the Mainland and looked for crays in the pot holes.

It was a beautiful warm sunny day and we set off on what proved to be a very long walk to look for the wreck of the "Ethel". We kept close to the coast and saw some magnificent sandy beaches and cliffs. At last we discovered the "Ethel" in a charming little bay closed in by two bold headlands (between Reef Head and West Cape). She was lying heeled over but outwardly intact well above high water mark and there was a boiling surf on the beach. I remembered the "Ethel" in my boyhood in Hobart. She was an extremely smart well kept barque and I always admired her. The words Ethel. London. were still visible on her stern and a portion of the beautiful scroll work in carved wood near the figure head which has disappeared.

We explored her and took some photos and then had a swim in the surf and also saw the remnants of the wreck of the steamer "Investigator".

We arrived back at the Anyndah rather tired at 3.30p.m. and had lunch. We consumed much beer and the remainder of the corned beef which was very good although showing signs of becoming mouldy. We spent the next 2 hours in a state of coma, then did a little more fishing, collected the net and came aboard. We stowed the dinghy on top of the house and put 2 reefs in the mainsail as there were signs of a change coming up and we didn't want to be caught unprepared if

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we had to leave the anchorage in a hurry.

During the day several boats came and anchored in the bay, Bermudian sloop Vamp R.S.A.Y.S. Guy Hazelgrove. G.Y. Martindale J.T. Mortlock. Fishing cutters, Sunbeam Tickley, Zephyr C. Peterson, (Hero), one unknown out of St. Pirie, Fishing Ketches Sea Hawk and Janet.

Roached eggs on toast and so to bed.
Thurs. 14th Feb.

Left Pondalowie at 8a.m. wind E. all signs of unpleasant day ashore, weather hot. Weather forecast, southerly and westerly winds. Sailed with 2 reefs, jib and staysail, anticipating hard wind.

Sailed through Althorpes closehailed and approached K.I. opposite Snellings Beach. We proceeded eastward along the coast of the island by short tacks. There was almost a flat calm and we anchored in Emu Bay at a point where the highest sandhill closes in on the cliff between two table topped hills with the reef on Cape D'Arstaing completely covering the points further west. At about 11p.m. the wind came from the N.W. and quickly increased in strength. We paid out 35 fathoms of chain anticipating an early change to S.W. when we would have been sheltered by the shore, but instead the wind kept in the same quarter and increased to a very hard blow. Conditions become increasingly difficult and we prepared to beat out to sea. A third reef was taken in the mainsail and the sail hoisted in readiness to clear out if the anchor dragged. It looked as if it would not be possible under those conditions to get the anchor. We were riding to a spring fastened to the mast. A line was also attached to the anchor chains clear of the bow. The other end was on the life bouy so that in the event of having to slip the anchor and let all the chain run out the anchor could be recovered later.

As the anchor continued to hold we finally lowered the sail and had a rest but kept in our clothes all night. The wind gradually abated and about dawn there was a change to south west (light).
Fri. 15th Feb.

After breakfast, a clear up and a rest we shook out the third reef and got under way and arrived at Kingscote about 2.30. We anchored among the fishing cutters, had some lunch and then went ashore. Had dinner at Queenscliff Hotel.

Afterwards Mrs. Anderson gave us some chops for tomorrow and Mr. Anderson came down with us to the yacht, showed us his own boat and helped us haul the dinghy aboard.

We turned in early and had a long sleep.
Sat. 16th Feb.

Up about 5 and had a very hearty breakfast - 3 chops and 2 eggs each. Got under way at 6.40. wind very light south.

When clear of the Kingscote spit the jib was taken off and the baloon foresail hoisted. This sail proved very useful as the wind became more easterly as the day advanced. Good progress was made although the wind was never strong and there were some very light patches.

We passed Port Noarlunga at sunset.

There was a fairly fresh breeze off the bay at Seacliff but after that the wind fell away and there were long patches of flat calm. When opposite the pool at the Outer Harbour it was necessary to lower

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the dinghy and tow the yacht to the Squadron pontoon where we tied up. This was at 5a.m. on Sunday morning.

Sun. 17th Feb.

We turned in till about 7. We had a fairly early breakfast and spent most of the morning cleaning up, swimming and talking to our respective families who had come down to welcome us home.

Thus ended a very successful and interesting cruise.

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