

Port Adelaide Cruise - June Long Weekend

Wow, the dinner cruise on the Queen's Birthday on the long weekend of 6-8 June, involving members of both the St Kilda and Garden Island yacht clubs, developed into a major event! It came together so well that we nearly over succeeded! Some 24 or so visiting yachts evenly spread between the Garden Island and St. Kilda clubs were found visitor's berths at the Squadron on the Saturday afternoon, resulting in a splendid evening dinner, with over 100 in attendance. It was 'full on', with the Garden Island club band in peak form, complimentary port for the Commodore's Loyal Toast, a fascinating vintage aviation photo display, excellent food and service, and at least one sprained calf muscle on the dance floor!

The superb weather continued on the Sunday, with more Squadron yachts adding to the host of vessels now determined to find marina berths at either Dock 1 or the Fisherman's wharf locations at Port Adelaide. This happens to total 40 spaces for future reference! Some chose to drive around for the evening dinner to ease the predicted congestion, and thus we just had enough berths for all. Port Adelaide marina berthing was however full. One committee member who chose to drive around, thus sparing a berth, and collected a parking fine for the trouble, parking of all places behind the Fisherman's wharf building! Be warned.

The marina gates were not locked, although the bureaucracy could not take a

bulk booking for the bridge openings and were thus given plenty of phone or radio calls.

Sunday evening saw an estimated 90-100 at the Port Dock hotel, with fellowship and seamanship in full swing.

Speaking of both seamanship and swinging, it was really great that the newly returned yachtsmen from the Tasmanian circumnavigation & Wooden Boat event were in attendance. Thus Bones, the chair of the cruising committee, was able to welcome all and speak a few reassuring words about Bass straight for the gentle hearted. It was again a splendid evening to close a great weekend.



Athena makes headlines... and Michael receives praise from his peers!

Not only has the 15m steel silica composite ketch *Athena* made the front cover of the May edition of the national news bulletin produced for the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, but her builder/owner Michael Rossiter and the RSAYS have also been favourably featured.

The author, Stan Gaffney has followed the building of this yacht quite closely over the many years of her making. He was one of the members of the Institution who assembled at the Squadron for a viewing of Michael's pride and joy on 21 March. Stan remembers having attended a barbecue in 1975 at Michael's Salisbury home when *Athena* was but a bare steel frame in the adjacent paddock. Members of the Institution again visited the boat in November 2007 when the masts had been fitted, the hull painted, much of the interior finished and with soft furnishings in place. Michael entertained them then with a wine and cheese tasting evening and a PowerPoint presentation of the hull construction.

Athena was launched on 23 December 2009 and arrived at the Squadron on 2 January 2010 after a fraught trip when the

new propeller shaft bearing seized. (Ed: This drama was documented in SQ March 2010)

The basic building process of the boat is outlined in the article, no doubt of great interest to the select professional readers. Michael's partner Lillie Seddon is also mentioned in the article, referred to as *Athena's* 'First Lieutenant'. "That's quite a promotion from my usual role as deckhand", laughs Lillie.

After the recent viewing, the Mechanical Engineers and their partners went to 'the Yacht Squadron's newly refurbished dining room, overlooking the yacht basin, where many a lamp was swung, for a delightful evening repast'. Well done, Michael

on following your dream, seeing it to fruition, and also for promoting the Squadron so admirably!

Contact Michael on: mikerrr@ozemail.com.au if you wish to read the full article.

