

Catriona Goes South

By Kingsley Haskett

On the morning of 22nd January, 2015 *Catriona* left her berth at RSAYS heading south for the Hobart Wooden Boat Festival. Kingsley (Bones) Haskett describes the preparation and voyage of this beautiful wooden yacht.

Catriona is possibly the last plank on frame large all wooden yacht built in South Australia. Designed by the immortalised Alan Payne and built by shipwright Alan Smith for Malcolm Kinnaird, she is a fast, comfortable, cruising yacht. She was launched in 1984 and sailed to the bi-centennial sailing celebrations in Sydney and Hobart. Due to Malcolm's ill health she was little used in recent years.

She was acquired by Squadron member Adrian Donald of *Exodus* fame at the Winter 2014 meeting of the Squadron Wooden Boat Chapter. Adrian was determined that she was to attend the Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart in February 2015, so work in getting her up to speed started immediately.

Much was to be done. She was a total 'one off'. Most of her gear was original, with some

32 years old. Sourcing parts was to take much time. New hatches; new dead lights for the doghouse; remove and reseal all chain plates; strip and re-varnish all clear exterior Huon pine; plus re-seal the entire teak deck and re-do all seam and cockpit seat slats. A total re-rig from sloop to cutter required total removal and replacement of every nut, bolt, washer and rivet in the mast and boom, and total replacement of all running and standing rigging plus fitting two furlers forward. These were but a few of the jobs deemed necessary for a safe ocean passage.

It was decided to go straight from Adelaide to Pt. Davey on the Tassie West Coast, and, if time and weather permitted, to cruise the bottom of Tasmania and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel to Hobart, arriving in time for the Wooden Boat Festival on the weekend of 6th-9th February. The crew for the trip were to be Adrian Donald (owner); Kingsley Haskett (Bones) who was charged with the rebuild and preparation of *Catriona*; Jeff Hunt (*Mahalo*) navigator and electronics; Bruce Weatherall, the best all-rounder I've ever sailed with; Arthur Vandenbroek, sailmaker and Cape Horner; and

David Searle, sailor, weatherman, pilot and good company.

Unfortunately without Adrian, who had to cancel last minute due to work commitments, we headed off on a reasonable weather window, hoping for west, north/west or south/west winds and not a slog into the seasonal s/easter. Due to the failure of the auto-pilot on the first day, we hand-steered all the way. She is the most balanced, smooth; driest in all conditions and fastest yacht any of us has sailed on.

On 26th January, Australia Day, we anchored in King's Anchorage, Bathurst Harbour, Pt. Davey, four days almost to the hour. The passage was cold, wet (with lots of rain), fast and most of all, lots of fun.

The cruise to Hobart that followed was truly memorable with each night in a different harbour and only one at a marina. I look forward to writing more of this part of the voyage in a future edition of Squadron Quarterly.

KI New Year's Eve Cruise 2014

By Phil Stump

After the festivities of Christmas Day and the excitement of the Sydney Hobart start on Boxing Day it was time to pack the boats and head to KI. The Squadron has a long tradition of members cruising to KI over the Christmas New Year period and this year was no exception with many registering an interest in catching up for a few drinks at Brown's Beach on 31 December.

You have to say the weather at this time of year is not always conducive to cruising but the spirit and determination of members just makes these events happen. Some boats headed off early and others left just in time to arrive for New Year's Eve. *Last Tango*, *Erica*, *Antares* and *Aquitaine* made the most of a weather window on the 27th and had a good overnight sail to arrive in Kingscote on the 28th.

The weather was overcast on the 30th but the direction and speed had improved and so with birthdays looming on *Airwaves* and *Last Tango*, most of the boats headed over to Eastern Cove where the afternoon turned into one of those perfect days when you wonder why you would want to be anywhere else but Eastern Cove KI!



For many Squadron members the continuing attendance of Anthea Cowell at these New Year's celebrations is a real highlight and makes this a truly special evening. The presence of Ian and Di Moncrieff, who travelled over by ferry, added to this great cruising event – highlighting that cruising is for everyone, with our very young crews on several boats including *Sunstar* enjoying an evening of sailing camaraderie and party poppers.

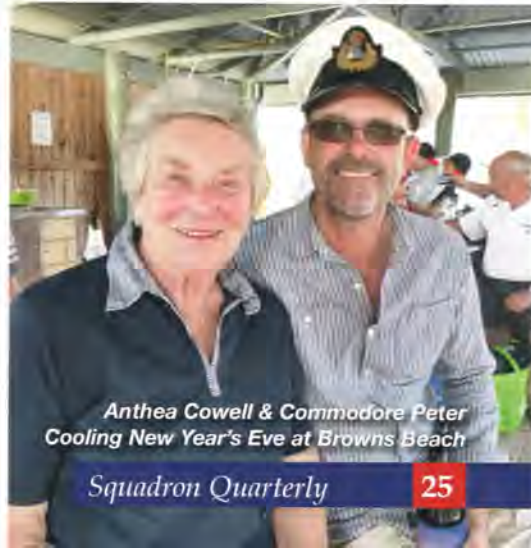
There were 27 boats anchored off Brown's Beach for New Year's Eve and 82 sailors ashore partying which was great – thanks Cruising Committee and the crews of *Last Tango* and *Aquitaine* for helping to transport essential gear to ensure this was a great night of cruising tales.



Because the forecast wasn't looking good for a few days some of us anchored in the Bay of Shoals, but the majority followed *Koorinal's* lead and anchored off Kingscote in front of the Hospital. This turned out to be a better location with fewer gusts than the Bay of Shoals.

It was clear that multihulls make good 'party boats' as crowds of dinghies were soon hanging off the transoms of *Antares* and *Summer Breeze* as we enjoyed birthdays or just a few drinks as a warm up for the next night's New Year's Eve celebrations.

It was great to see a number of new cruisers joining us this year including *Sunstar*, *Summer Breeze*, *Trieste*, *Taniwha*, *Solomon Ophir* and *Last Tango*. *Team Wild Oats* (ex *Nimrod*) were a great addition with their kegs of home brew beer and lemon cider which really added to the festivities of the night.



Anthea Cowell & Commodore Peter Cooling New Year's Eve at Browns Beach