

Captain Candy, the Cruising Canine!

Sally Metzger

Captain Candy, as she likes to be known, likes to take charge on Phil and Marlene Tassicker's *Crusader*.

The 20-month-old Maltese Terrier, sometimes referred to as a Maltese Terrorist, is an experienced yachtie, having sailed last year from Mackay to Airlie Beach, around the Whitsundays, then as far south as Yamba in northern New South Wales.

The Tassickers travelled with Candy on land (in their caravan) and at sea from late July until late October, and Marlene says it was a steep learning curve for the three of them! 'Candy actually did a great job and had us well trained very quickly,' Marlene says. 'We taught her that barking was not a good idea, and she taught us that walking on beaches was a good idea! She was a delight to have with us. In fact, our sail without her this year made us realize how this small 5.8kg fluffball has woven herself into our lives and hearts.'

On board *Crusader*, Candy is very safe at all times. 'The distance from the cabin floor to the cockpit is too steep for her stumpy legs, and the leap from the cockpit to the deck is impossible unless we lift her,' Marlene says.

Candy's favorite spot in calm waters is in control at the bow, where she is able to plan tactics for scaring off sea-gulls, dolphins, even whales and container ships; all four quite successfully!

The dinghy is very popular with Candy. 'If Phil makes a move on deck she gets really excited – beach walkies time! Unfortunately for Phil, this is at least a twice daily expedition, sandflies, rain or not. In the 'Great Sandfly Strait' he was forced to wear long sleeves, pants, plus socks and elastic bands to seal them together – charming, but still not successful!'

The Tassickers discovered that Candy has at least a 22-hour bladder on their 'overnighters', but they don't like to test it any further. 'If only the deck had looked tempting as a toilet...'
'We really enjoy our 'Dog on Deck' experiences and recommend them to everyone!' they say.



Captain Candy and Crew all at sea. Photograph by Di Mollison, who, together with Rick of Soleil sailed in company with Crusader in the Whitsundays

Cruisin' Crusader Returns

Marlene Tassicker

Crusader, a 12 m Dr. Peter Joubert design Cape Barren Goose model, launched in 1979 came into the Squadron from Geelong in January, 1994. She had been named *Sailmaker III* which we thought was unsuitable for a cruising lady so she had a name-changing and welcoming ceremony on 23 January, 1994. She became *Crusader*.

She did a little racing with a very happy crew. She won Ladies' Day in the 1999/2000 season; entered some Adelaide-Lincoln races; enjoyed a few successful Twilight series and a combined winter series which she won in Div 3 in 2000.

Approximately 7 years after her arrival, *Crusader* left the Squadron in late June 2001, shamefully on the back of a truck. It was very embarrassing for her, but we wanted to spend our time in northern waters, rather than the long sail to Brisbane. We had a great farewell party for her, so maybe She is very obviously a 'cruiser' now, with a seat and storage area added to her stern, a bimini, solar panels, wind generator and 'shed'.

In her 7 years away she has taken us safely and comfortably twice to Vanuatu, in '02 and '04, and in '06 a very interesting trip to the Louisiades, PNG.

In '02 we sailed south of New Caledonia and then north to Port Vila, and the next time north into Luganville for better winds and broad reaching to the country's villages and islands to the north. We marvelled at Huon Reef and Chesterfield Reef in the Coral Sea and visited each place three times. We returned into Scarborough Marina, just north of Brisbane, which was an entry/exit port at that time, storing the boat 'on the hard'. One time we returned to her from being home for a few months to find an invasion by cockroaches and geckos!!!

The cruising was beautiful in both countries. We met friendly villagers and marvelled at their self sufficient lifestyles, their bartering ability, their generosity to us, and their laughter and happy faces. *Crusader* has taken us safely through some horrific conditions, dug some channels in a number of strange places, and given us many happy memories.

It is appropriate that we are bringing her home after another 7 year interval, and we look forward to interesting cruising in local South Australian waters ----- and maybe a 'fun' race or two!!! She will have a well earned rest, with lots of TLC, paint jobs, face-lifts - in fact, a real spoiling.

