

Notes on Raraku from Jasper Bowering 10/6/2022

2015 I joined Bruce Macky in a delivery trip to Sydney on Raraku. Left on the Saturday 14th May (mother's Day weekend). Had a very fast trip to Cape Jervis. Wind was now blowing at about 35-40Knots. Suggested to Bruce that we go to antechamber Bay for 24hours. He decided to press on, by late afternoon on Sunday we were on motor only with big seas and 50+ knots. At about 10pm I went below to have a kip for a couple of hours (we were off Robe at this time). When I came up at just before midnight, I asked Bruce what course here was steering he said 120", and I knew we were in trouble!! When we checked the chart we were inside the reef at Beachport. On our first attempt to get out we bounced across the reef but with 10 min we were knocked down to about 100' and I was thrown off the wheel and over the side, my tether kept me with the boat, by the time the boys got me back on board we were inside the reef again. On the second attempt we must have been at the bottom of the swell and ploughed into the reef, the swing keel swung up and pierced the hull and we took out the rudder. So now we had a propellor, but know way to steer and we did not know if the keel was still jammed in the hull. (it was) Now it became a little scary as we contemplated manning a 4 man liferaft. We could see the breaking surf about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile ahead, and we were worried the boat would roll if the keel was down. We took to the raft, we were rolled about 5 times before we washed ashore at about 1am. We had set of our Epirb as soon as we hit the reef. We had a very cold few hours until the SES found us about 7am I think that is enough dramatics for one lifetime, but I am still here.