

## New Year's Cruise - Report from *Karadi*

**F**irst Leg - Sydney Harbour to Port Hacking (PH). *Karadi* found Jibbon at the entrance to PH - a good anchorage even in NE winds. There are moorings and you need to be careful of the bombores on approach.

Second Leg - PH to Jervis Bay (JB). For the first time in the writer's experience *Karadi* has logged on with the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (RVCP) and SYDHARB and then been passed to Coastguard Port Kembla then to Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) at Shoalhaven and finally to RVCPJB. Well done! The communication was good and our transit sheet was passed on from station to station without fail; South Coast rescue organisations coordinating their efforts to enhance our safe passage to JB. The entrance to JB is majestic, the tallest sea-cliffs in Australia, bookends for the story that opens as you pass between and enter the tabletop waters of JB.

*Karadi* sailed past Plantation Point and accompanying reef to Vincentia where *Breakaway* and crew are anchored. After sundowners with Nick Evtoushenko and Peter Sinclair, we watch the starry, starry night (apologies to both artists), a low pressure ridge comes through and the boats spend the night snubbing at their chains.

The forecast is for perfect weather for the next two days and we enjoy JB Marine Park with a cruise to the Tubes and then to the Hole-in-the-wall.

*Breakaway* is the host boat and on board is the retired Independent MP for the South Coast, John Hatton. Some of the planned developments that didn't happen in JB were the Nuclear Power Plant (true!!), the steel works (!), the major Naval Base, sewage outfall, high-rise development - instead what happened was the Marine Park, so the Bay is now preserved. John had a hand in all this, and also instigated the Lady Denman Maritime Museum. He is not a Johnny-come-lately as he has resided in Huskisson since 1959. John gave us some history and anecdotes of the Marine Park and is probably remembered most for his campaign against police corruption which ended in a Royal Commission. John crewed on *Breakaway* on the return voyage to Sydney with his compatriot and old mate Arthur King.

K & A have visitors and we go sailing on another perfect day - is there a downside? JB being an open bay 10 x 15 kms, one has nowhere to hide - there are few navigable creeks and no

ivers, one of the reasons it is so pristine. There are no sheltered anchorages, the bay is open to the swell from the east.

This is the travel story of JB, you will see a new anchorage and sail 10nm most days. Anchoring in sea grass is not good, the anchor cannot dig in, you can be fined for anchoring in prohibited areas. There is an area of moored boats at Callula Bay (CB). There are dirty neglected boats and the anchorage is crowded with little protection. Cruising boats only need to visit these places for facilities. CB lacks facilities, best to go to the beaches nearby to the north for a good anchorage or to Huskisson and Vincentia for provisioning. There are good anchorages on sand and clear water and white sand beaches around the bay. K & A must leave the bay and call Shoalhaven VMR. I clear the heads with full wet gear and of course harness and inflatable life jacket. We plan to visit Greenwell Point.

Crookhaven Heads is a good entrance *Karadi* picks up the VMR courtesy mooring at Greenwell Point. This is a quaint village with all the essentials of life as I know it - Club, pub, butcher, boat ramps, swimming pool, servo, handy shop, Chinese restaurant, caravan park, slipway, bait shop and fishing boat wharf. Fishing rods outnumber people, boats and tinnies are on par. Kids doing the summer thing, riding their bikes, fishing, swimming, snorkelling, diving off wharves and being happy little vegemites. There are the locals and visitors - for the blokes wrinkled stubbies, stained singlets and thongs are standard for both, Haute Couture will never reach Greenwell Point.

When we leave, *Karadi* is on a grey and heaving sea. We see yachts racing in the Batemens Bay race and *Karadi* goes into Jibbon for a peaceful night's rest. The Batemens Bay fleet experience an uneasy sea with little wind and more retire.

When *Karadi* enters home port Sydney, she just purrs along to Balmain, I have noticed this before, after a trip when they come home, boats are so much nicer and faster. Not like a horse champing at the bit and snorting in



expectation of a feed and a rest. The boat is quiet, she just slips along down the harbour as if she does this every day. She bears a secret, she has been to other beautiful places, she has as much satisfaction and pride in her journey as her skipper.

Regards,  
Alan

## Commodore's Report 2005/2006

The Club has had another successful season - it's 11th. The Club members and visitors have enjoyed the sailing and social aspects of the Sailing Club.

If I tried to thank everyone who has helped through the year, I would miss someone - there are so many of you and you know who you are. The strength of the Club is its volunteers. We had great involvement this year from all crews, both sailing and otherwise. I would say that a successful club is like a good boat, without a top crew it won't perform.

I am especially proud of the many facets of the club and its sailors. We have had Sydney-Hobarts, Airlie Beach/Hamilton Island, cruises North, cruises South, a dinghy section - which is an enclave of lucky people doing their think on the river - and people learning to be sailors. It all adds up to another happy and safe season at Balmain Sailing Club.

Many thanks,  
Alan Clark

## Register your interest in our Cruising Division

The new Cruising Captain, Alan Clark, is asking for registrations of interest in the Balmain Sailing Club's cruising division. Members can register by email to [bsclub@tpg.com.au](mailto:bsclub@tpg.com.au), any ideas welcome. An informal meeting will be conducted at the Top Bar, Royal Oak Hotel on Wednesday 23rd August at 6pm, meet at the Bottom Bar. Anyone interested in cruising is invited so we can get a programme of activities happening and discuss ideas. Try to keep your input to just two suggestions each. Alan will be in the Whitsundays for the next fortnight and is looking forward to seeing you on his return.

David Stenhouse(Commodore 2006/7)

**Australian Wooden Boat Festival  
9th - 12th February, 2007**

Register online:

[www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au](http://www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au)