

NHTYA

Lake Macquarie Cruise

January 2015

Written by Kim Sparkes- Sail Away



Australia Day

Saturday 24.1.2015

It was Phillips birthday AGAIN and it took him forever to open ALL his presents before setting off via Rathmines to pick up last minute supplies, wine & fresh prawns. We arrived at Styles Point a little later than planned and found "Only Time" and "Melanie" in the water with Wanderer II and Aquilla at the top of the ramp ready to put in. Some were floating, some launching and we quickly joined them. Bill Hobbs and Jo and Arnold Broekman arrived by car just to say hi.

The instructions given to everyone was; Way Point 1 33° 04' .956S 151° 37' .054E

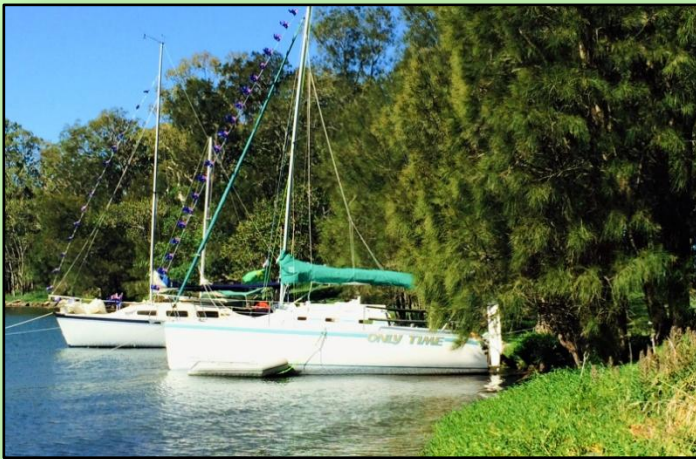
Destination 33° 05' .447S 151° 32' .899E

No one (except maybe Derek) was in a big hurry and we eventually set off motoring down to the sand Islands. Just out of Styles we were joined by "Humm Along" who had launched on the other side of the lake and motored across to join the cruise. One by one we arrived at "WP1" the Sand Islands/ Swansea Caravan Park and anchored, enjoying several beautiful swims in the crystal clear water & lunch. We did have a very tidal influence with a couple of boats dragging through the sand.

Some picked up anchor and set off for a magic sail downwind around (for some) Pulbar Island and with the destination points plotted on the map we all eventually met up again, to anchor stern to shore at SW Shingles Splitters. This is a great anchorage, protected from the South (which was expected later than night) with a park, BBQ's & amenities. A few people commented on how similar this spot is to Styles Point. The northern end of the park is all sand and perfect for swimming.

The birthday party was set up with lollies, chips and birthday cake which was shared by all with their contributions. Happy hour continued later than usual as we all enjoyed a perfect night with a lovely cool breeze blowing over the top of us. Arnold and Jo graced us with their presence again just as happy hour was winding up for the night 1930hrs.





Sunday 25.1.2015

A change came over during the night but we woke to another perfect sunny day.

Amazingly we woke to find a few of us high and dry (some more than others) except Melanie (thankfully). I informed Phillip that it was no longer "his birthday" and get over it ☺ -no further reason to be waited on.

Lazy morning, breakfast, swimming with a giant thong (will leave this to your imagination) and walks were enjoyed waiting for the tide to come in and float us off. As the weekend went on the Ausie pride kicked in as every boat was decorating their boat more and more each time you looked around.

Melanie & friend (Cracked) got sick of waiting and after briefing set off for a sail and arranged to meet off Swansea Caravan Park for a dip to cool off.

Today's instructions were given to everyone Way Point 1 $33^{\circ} 05' .135S$ $151^{\circ} 30' .126E$

Way Point 2 $33^{\circ} 04' .956S$ $151^{\circ} 32' .054E$

Clue "Up the creek without a paddle"

Optional Way Point 3 $33^{\circ} 04' .327S$ $151^{\circ} 37' .797E$

Destination $32^{\circ} 59' .990S$ $151^{\circ} 36' .446E$

Clue "Fasten to place" this is an Aboriginal name

Mid-morning we were floating except 'Only Time' (Brian's commented that you could drive a car underneath the stern). Leaving 'Only Time' on shore and Wanderer wandering off for a swim, the rest of us went in search of the first 2 way-points. Brian & Val jumped aboard Sail Away as we set off for a look see down Dora Creek, it was the first time everyone else had ventured this far.

Just before the road bridge we tied up to the public jetty, just enough room for 2 boats so Humm Along doubled up on the outside. Safe and sound we walked over the road for an ice cream with not much else to see we headed back out into the channel.



By now the day was extremely hot and not a lot of wind around. By the time we got back to Shingles, 'Only Time' was still not afloat so lunch was the next best thing to do followed by a swim up at the sandy beach. An hour later Brian said, 'she's a floatin' (almost) and with a nudge she was off.

Everyone up anchored and went all sorts of ways to the next clue, some for another swim and others for a look around the lake before all meeting again at Bolton Point. This is another great spot protected from the south and all tied up stern-to-shore at a park on the point (with toilets, BBQ's and shelter). 'Idle Vice' had also now found the fleet and were also at anchor in the bay making it 8 boats. Some of us happily just sat in the water to cool down, some swam and yes the giant thong made another appearance (I think just to make John feel better after almost passing out whilst blowing it up).

Happy hour was enjoyed by all, along with an "Australiana" quiz and entertainment by Derek. Scores were added and the result was a shared first place with Lisa & John and Val & Brian. Of course, there were prizes awarded and shared amongst all. Bob & Cybil missed the quiz as they had gone hiking and returned with sore feet and pizza that was shared with everyone.

Another great night was enjoyed before retiring to our boats for dinner and an awesome cool night (southerly breeze) blowing after a super-hot day.

Monday 26.1.2015

Fantastic night with a cool breeze and we woke to gentle rain. It flogged down most of the morning but no one was too concerned and enjoyed the cooler day after the previous days sizzling heat. With nothing on the agenda today no one was in a hurry to depart and a few even got in a walk between the showers. Mid-morning saw the first boat to depart, with everyone slowly peeling off and motoring into the wind from the S with heaps of chop to our destinations to finish a wonderful, fun, and laughter packed long weekend.



Most de-rigged in the dry as the showers were clearing. At Styles the flotilla of Careel's watch us in envy and kept asking questions about how much room we must have.

Thanks to Derek & Leanne for the organizing and thanks to everyone else for the great company.

**Kim and Phillip Sparkes
Sail Away**