



Inside this issue:

<i>Cruising JAMs</i>	2
<i>My Boat—Grey Douglas</i>	2
<i>Cruise review - Abrolhos Islands Cruise.</i>	3
<i>News from the Cruising Committee</i>	4
<i>Contributions Sought</i>	4
<i>Buy and Sell</i>	4
<i>Useful Tips</i>	4

May Newsletter

Welcome to second issue of Cruising News, a newsletter from the cruising section of the Fremantle Sailing Club. My apologies for there being no newsletter in April but I was away on the Abrolhos Cruise. See my wrap up of this cruise on page 3.

In this second edition, you'll find an article on the upcoming cruise on the Labour Day long weekend a write up about Grey Douglas by owner Doug Rogers in his legendary humorous style. Also as mentioned, there's a review of the recently completed Abrolhos Cruise that saw a record number of yachts do the cruise.

We'd love to have our cruising members contribute to the newsletter so if you do have anything you think will be interesting to the rest of us, please send it in, including your "My Boat" story.

Don't forget to give feedback and suggestions for possible regular articles and sections.

I hope you find this edition interesting. Regards, Nick Walker—Editor.

Upcoming Cruise - Foundation Day Cruise



Rockingham Beach anchorage

On the Foundation Day long weekend, May 30 to June 1, the last cruise of the season will be to one of two destinations depending on the weather.

The preferred destination is Rockingham Beach, on the sand flats between the Rockingham jetty and the CSBP grain loading terminal. If the forecast winds are from the north however, the cruise will be to Rottnest, most likely Thompsons Bay. The cruise leader will make the decision which of the two destinations will be visited when we have a close-in forecast, probably on the Wednesday or Thursday immediately before the weekend.

The Rockingham destination has many attractions including good holding over a large sandy anchorage, close to the beach. Just over the dunes are a number of free public BBQs and a short walk along the foreshore is the vibrant Rockingham foreshore with it's cafés and restaurants.

This is a great anchorage that is probably often overlooked and is also the site of the mooted Mangles bay marina. (See this website for details of this proposed marina at www.portrockingham.com.au)

Rockingham beach is sheltered from everything but the north so makes a great summertime anchorage.

Thompsons Bay offers the choice of either anchoring south of the Army Jetty or renting a mooring in the mooring area. The anchorage is quite large though there is quite a bit of weed there. That said, there is plenty of sandy patches to stick the pick into.

The cruise leader will advise of times and locations for any get together or Sundowners.

Special points of interest:

- Cruising Section takes on Sunday JAMs.
- Abrolhos Cruise recap.

Cruising does JAM

First Sunday of each month.

The cruising section has now taken over the running of the Sunday JAM "races". As we shy away from the "r" word, we'll just call it a Cruising JAM.

"What is a JAM?" you may ask. JAM stands for Jib And Main. It is a form of race where these are the only sails that are permitted to be used.

Cruising boats often compete in this type of racing as it keeps it much more simple

and requires much less crew.

In taking over the Sunday JAMs, the cruising section has made it even more cruiser friendly by eliminating the need for a start / finish boat and using a "rabbit" boat to start the "race". This makes the whole thing much less formal. A full description of the start and finish is on the section notice board and will be put on the cruising section web page.

The whole point of the Cruising JAM is just get out for a sail with other cruisers on a



Join the Sunday Cruising JAM for some fun sailing.

Sunday afternoon and have some fun while you try to coax a bit more speed out of your boat (or not) then get together afterwards for refreshments and maybe a BBQ at the club.

Contact Mark Ainscough on PH: 0430 211 494 or catchastar42@gmail.com for more information.

My Boat - Grey Douglas - A Catalina 34 Mk II

By Doug Rogers

Grey Douglas in the Abrolhos Islands



Boat Name: Grey Douglas

Boat make & model: Catalina 34, Mark II

Length & Displacement: 10.8m, 6 tonnes

When did you buy the boat?: Launched October 2006. Heart attack at end October slowed me down a bit...but both owner and boat still going strong.

Why did you buy this boat?

Mid life crisis No 2 (1st one was an MX5)

There are those who own a Catalina, and those who aspire

to owning one. All else is a compromise.

Thought the MX5 would lure a suitable 'trophy' within reach, but didn't work. Then thought that a yacht would work better than an MX5. Failed on both counts and would welcome sage advice on next effort.

Where have you sailed in your boat? On top of the water mostly.

Abrolhos twice, and nearly Quindalup twice. (got as far as Bunbury hospital, then sailed back). Aim to sail to every hospital on the West coast

eventually.

Has anything interesting or peculiar happened to the boat or the crew during a cruise?

The interesting bits are best left unsaid....but with the advent of computerised charts it is getting more difficult to ram Australia despite ones best efforts.

Going crayfish gathering and forgetting the bag and having to use my bathers as a temporary measure certainly startled my diving companions (I was hoping for 'impress' but am satisfied with 'startle').

Do you or have you raced it? Although another sail on the horizon is the definition of a race, I have shown much self control and only hack about the seas in it to hide my basic incompetence. (Race on Dick Adrian's C&C 115 just to get rid of the jitters.)

What are your plans for the future with this boat? Use it as a funeral pyre when I go. Tie my lifeless body to the deck, set fire to the boat and push it out into Gage Roads. Till then....try to sail it more time than I have to spend fixing it.

Is there a story behind the name of the boat? Owner is grey, deck is grey, sails are grey/white, canvas is grey, just the skies are blue....the Black Douglas has passed on to more maturity and gone Grey.

Next boat will be the White Douglas.

Cruise review – Abrolhos Islands

By Rob Hills, Andrew Farrar, Ian Howlett & Nick Walker —Cruise Leaders

Getting There

Good Friday, April 10 dawned another beautiful day with a fresh easterly blowing.

Many yachts were setting off mid morning to go straight through to Jurien Bay, planning to arrive mid Saturday. What started as a fast sail north very quickly died with the breeze and became a long motoring exercise. Shortly after dawn on Saturday a blanket of fog along the coast swallowed the boats that were in transit. For most, a new experience but fortunately no problems arose.

The trip from Jurien Bay to Pt Denison was also largely a motoring or motor-sailing exercise with either no wind or just a little from the north.

From Port Denison to the Abrolhos however was some champagne sailing with a good breeze on the beam. Great stuff after two days of burning diesel.

At the Islands

Most of the boats made their first stop at guano jetty on Pelsaert Island with a sun-downer held on Easter Monday. Some boats had arrived days before and others arrived later. After a day or two the fleet began to scatter across the 3 island groups. Unfortunately the wind that should have carried us to the islands from Fremantle started about a day or two after we arrived and kept on blowing for the week we were there.

Various yachts had crew join or leave them at the islands by flying in or out from the airstrips which is very convenient.

Rob Hills on Pegasus II ran a daily radio sked which was generally well patronized so all had a good idea of who was where each day. There were many first timers on the cruise and the radio was often busy with advice being asked and provided by those with previous experience in the Islands.

By the end of the week most of the yachts had gravitated to the northern end of the islands or were on their way there. Some chose not to venture too far north due to the persistent strong southerly winds that suggested a long slog back home was in store.

Indeed a few boats did find the conditions for heading home somewhat adverse but either pressed on or put into Geraldton or elsewhere to await more accommodating winds.

Highlights

For many the highlight of the cruise was the time spent socializing with fellow cruisers, making or renewing friendships. For others it was the fishing, diving or snorkeling. The fish were abundant and the snorkeling was fantastic with some amazing coral reefs and marine life.

It was noted however that due to the number of boats at the islands, the number of moorings provided were completely inadequate and in some locations, anchor chains had and continue to do significant damage to fragile coral.

For some the cruise was a walk in the park. For others it was a test of themselves and their boats. But it is probably fair to say that it was an ex-



Grey Douglas and TrentQuillity II heading for Morley Island

perience that everyone will remember and be able to say, "I did that!".

Special Mentions

Two yachts, **Moonraker** and **Bunyip Dreaming** (Royal Perth YC) both made it as far north as Port Denison but no further due to equipment problems.

Dusky Dolphin made it to Jurien Bay but after an injury to the crew, travelled no further north.

George Farquhar on **Shadow** got as far north as Cervantes but fouled a craypot line and returned to Fremantle with suspected prop/shaft damage. After inspection by mechanics, George turned around and set off again, this time getting to the Abrolhos without incident.

Also a special mention goes to Terry Day on **Tantrum I**. Tantrum I reached the islands after a non stop trip from Fremantle including heaving-to overnight at the Pelsaert group to await daylight.

Terry's crew of 1 left the boat in the islands to return home and from there Terry has continued on northward solo in her 30' yacht.

Last contact with Terry put her in Exmouth awaiting a

weather window to push on to Dampier and then onto Darwin to join the Indonesia Rally.

Who Got There

Yachts that made it to the Abrolhos were;

Canopus (Fremantle Cruising YC)
Comet
Dubonnet (Royal Perth YC)
Grey Douglas
Gulnare
Hey Lubber (Sun City YC)
Leprena III
Lizard
Marco Polo I
Osborne Star
Pegasus II
Ruby Tuesday II
Shadow
Tantrum I
TrentQuillity II
Whitehaven II.

Editor—*Nick Walker*
Phone: 0417-957-735
E-mail: nwalker@bigpond.net.au

Each month on the first Thursday of the month, the cruising committee meets at the club to discuss and plan activities for the section. The committee meetings are open to all members and we encourage members to attend.

In the last couple of months the committee has made approaches to club management in attempts to improve member access to the library out of office hours and also seeking an amendment to rules to allow members to transport pets directly to and from their boat for the express purpose of taking their pets sailing with them.

Input from our members is vital to ensure that we are working in the right direction. If you are unable to make it to the meetings, we'd still love to receive your input and feedback so please send an email to the secretary at Ralph.lynn@westnet.com.au

Contributions sought

This newsletter is for our cruising community by our cruising community. Please send any worthwhile contributions to the editor.

Photos of boats, locations and people from recent or distant cruises are also welcome. The dimensions of the photo are not import, but please try to keep the file size reasonable (no bigger than 1mb). I can resize the photo to fit the space available.

If you have an album on the web somewhere, for example a Picasa webalbum that you'd like to share, let me know and it can be listed here for others to enjoy. If you'd like the link to be added to the cruising website, please tell me and I'll pass that onto our website manager.

The Cruising Helmsman magazine frequently has articles written by cruisers relating their travels. If you have a cruise or experience you'd like to share with us along these lines, by all means write it up and send it in.



Tell us your news

And don't forget, if you have something to sell or something you need, let me know and it will appear in the ads below.

Buy, Sell & Swap

For Sale

12 Metre Pen

Floating 12M Pen in Hillarys Yacht Club

With lease until 2012 and first option for a further ten year lease.

Contact Mark or Cathy

0439917781

\$POA

FOR SALE

Dolphin Battery Charger, 12V, 20 amp, 1.5 years old, perfect working condition. Get all specs from <http://www.reya.com/English/Catalogue/batterychargers.pdf>

Sell for around \$495.

Contact Ralph on 0419.191.565

FOR SALE

Water Maker: Katadyn Power Survivor 40, includes the extended cruising kit (excluding the filters)

Asking \$3400 (replacement cost \$4550), unit is 18 months old and has run for 74 hours.

Contact Steve on

0409 792 071

Useful Tips

TIP:

On a regular basis and before setting off on a cruise make sure your anchor locker is clear of debris and that the locker drain is clear. An anchor locker full of seawater is a lot of weight on the bow that you can do without...