

Yaringa Mariners Club Cruising Division Newsletter 12 July 2009

Weekend Sail

Our next Cruising Group outing is a weekend sail on Saturday and Sunday the 18th and 19th of July. We plan to sail to Rhyll and stay there overnight, either anchored in the Rhyll channel or dried out ashore between the Rhyll Jetty and the boat launching ramp. We will be able to go ashore at Rhyll for an evening meal, and to return to the boats at about 9pm.

If you would like to participate in this cruise please reply by email as soon as possible, as a booking may need to be made at the Foreshore Restaurant at Rhyll.

The sea conditions at Rhyll are usually relatively smooth as it is well protected from southerly and south westerly weather, so it is unlikely that you will find yourself in the precarious position of the yacht below.



Day Sail Opportunity

Alternatively, if you would like to sail on the Sunday only, we could arrange for Sunday sailors to meet up with the overnights from Rhyll for lunch on the water at about 2pm on Sunday, possibly near the Crib Point pier. If you are interested in this option please let me know by return email so arrangements can be made and disseminated.

Two Jeddas for Sale

Some of you will have heard that Kevin Robertson has purchased a 38 ft steel yacht “Mermaid” which is in a mooring pen at Yaringa. Kevin who is in the process of restoring “Ronga” a fixed keel Jemma is reluctantly offering Ronga for sale. Ronga is well equipped and has a long history at Yaringa. The asking price depends on whether you want to acquire the boat and complete the restoration yourself, or whether you want to wait until the restoration work is completed. If you are interested contact Kevin by email (there is no phone on the boat!) at drafty43@hotmail.com.

Blair Shrimpton who keeps his Jemma “Irish Jack” at the Hastings Yacht Club is also looking for a buyer for his Jemma. Irish Jack is one of Ossie’s early Jeddas with the usual heavily hand laid GRP hull and GRP sheathed deck and coach house. She has fixed keels, a Yanmar YSE8 diesel engine, roller reefing main and furling genoa plus a small spinnaker and jib, a 15w solar panel with regulator, dual batteries, Autohelm auto tiller, a large CQR anchor with all-chain warp, and an unsprung launching trailer (purpose built at Yaringa). Blair is asking \$10,000 ono and can be contacted on 5983-5079.

The Millmerran Historical Society Museum, Queensland

Next time you are at Millmerran near Warwick in the Darling Downs area of Queensland, take a step back in time and experience local history at the Millmerran Museum. The museum holds the remnants of the one and only steam launch built on the Darling Downs in the nineteenth century. It was used to rescue marooned sheep when the Condamine River was in flood. The vessel, named Waterbaby, was built at ‘Yandilla’ Station in 1877 by an Irish immigrant, John Patrick Purcell.

Purcell was seven years old when he arrived in Australia in 1841 at Port Henry near Geelong with his parents. It is not known how he got to Queensland. Purcell became a blacksmith and operated a blacksmith business in the Millmerran district for many years in the late nineteenth Century.

The remnants of Waterbaby that are on display at the Millmerran Museum show a shallow draft boat that is 28 ft long with a beam of 6 ft. It was fitted with a double acting reversing steam engine, also on display, that drove the boat at up to 9 kts. Waterbaby had over twenty wrought iron ribs and was sheathed in rivetted sheet iron. She carried up to 19 passengers or 30 sheep. The remnants of the boat were retrieved by the Millmerran and District Historical Society in 1988.

Purcell’s great grand nephew, now in his mid-seventies, has more than a passing interest in boats, and can often be seen at Yaringa Boat Harbour working on his mustard-yellow hulled Jemma “Spindriff”. If you want to find out more about the Waterbaby, stroll over and have a chat with him some time.