

RC - Sail 2023/2024 Season Report

This year's sailing could best be described as somewhat frustrating with the majority of races either being abandoned due to weather - with either too much or not enough wind, and also lack of entries with too few boats to run series races on weekends.

There are however some results:

Pre-Christmas Twilight - 12 races, only 4 completed:

3rd - Ian Bond's *Sans Souci* overall with 25 points
2nd - John Gordon - *Etoile* with 12 points
1st - John Hall - *Wingara II* with 7 points

Post Christmas Twilight - last race was 25 January - only 2 completed

= 1st - *Etoile* and *Wingara II* on equal points.
3rd - *Sans Souci*

It can't get much closer than that!

We had some very close racing, with often all boats finishing within a minute or two of each other. The SailSys handicapping system works very well ensuring close finishes in the "stern-chaser" races, which are a pursuit start - meaning that theoretically, all boats finish at the same time! Thus the close finishes which can be exciting. You'd be forgiven for thinking that we were racing for sheep stations!

The Saturday series was effectively a non-event with lack of entries meaning an inability to have any racing.

Cruising wise there were several notable events.

First, Glenn and Michelle's Nauticat 36 "*Daisy*" finally made the journey across the Bass Strait to reach her home port at Hidden Harbour after her purchase and time in Tasmania. We look forward to *Daisy* with Glenn and Michelle joining us on future cruises and events.

Next, two MCYS yachts completed the 2024 Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation.

"*Corinthian*" a Nauticat 40 owned by Peter Hollins sailed from Queenscliff to Queenscliff with the mainland fleet - about 1250 nautical miles all-up to complete their first VDL-C. Pete and crew had a great cruise - were excellent hosts, and clearly enjoyed the event.

"*Wingara II*" John and Pam Hall's Zeston 36 sailed out the heads on 5 February headed for Hobart to commence the Hobart - Hobart circumnavigation, returning at the end of April. You could say that *Wingara II* completed both the Hobart to Hobart *and* Queenscliff to Queenscliff circumnavigation.

Wingara II was the Radio Relay Vessel for the cruise, with skipper John the Communications Officer conducting two radio scheds per day, over HF and VHF radio during the cruise.

The scheds were surprisingly a lot of fun to conduct, and with the vagaries of HF and VHF radio reception, when all else failed, many boats carried *Starlink* - a complete game changer allowing access to all internet including weather services, *wifi* phone service, and email everywhere!

Future VDLC cruises will no longer require HF Radio - from now on the requirement will be HF radio **OR** Starlink (or similar). This will allow more boats to join with the HF requirement previously being a bar (high cost of installation) in the past. The fleet is limited to 45 boats and is often oversubscribed - so get in early if you want to participate.

The VDL-C is a very social *power* and *sail* combined cruise "in company" run by the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania with many social events including BBQ's on pristine beaches the most memorable of which was the biennial cricket match at Bramble Cove, Cruise dinners at RYCT, Beauty Point (Tamar Yacht Club), Strahan (Macquarie Harbour Yacht Club - one member!), Port Esperance Yacht Club, Kermantie Hotel (owned by famous yachttie Sean Langman), and then back at RYCT for the final Cruise dinner.

"Sea shanties" featured this cruise. We had some great *singalongs*, with much amusement to those other than sailors present at the Kermantie hotel!

The "mainland" fleet held their final cruise dinner at RGYC, and by all accounts it was a great night with tall tales, some of them even true.

This year the "Buddy-Boat" system was instigated, to ensure that the two fleets from mainland and Tasmania integrated. Many "sundowner" drinks turned into dinners, with great danger getting back to boats by dinghy in the dead of night. No one got wet and no animals were injured in the making of a memorable cruise.

Wingara II and *Corinthian* were buddy-boats and enjoyed great dinners, fine company and sundowner drinks! The "flatty" catching comp continues!

MCYS members on the cruise were Glenn Brien, Peter Hollins, John Hall and David Carver.

Planning for the 2026 VDL-C is well underway, and if not already, entry by way of expression of interest will be available via the RYCT website soon.

If anyone wants information on the cruise - call me to discuss.

This coming season we are going to concentrate on combined power and sail cruises to destinations such as Mornington, Blairgowrie, Queenscliff, Wyndham, Docklands and venturing outside the heads to Wilson's Promontory if there is interest.

Regular Racing will likely be with Mornington Yacht Club with twilights Thursday evenings during DST, and their Long Distance series - usually 8+ races over the season. Affiliate membership is available with MYC for this purpose.

That is a wrap for the 2023/2024 season.

If anyone is prepared to assist on the MCYS Sailing sub-committee for the 2024/2025 season - please contact me - I need help!

John Hall
RC - Sail
MCYS