



## QCYC Sailors report on the Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation of Tasmania Mar 6, 2011

A number of our members are currently undertaking the bi-annual Circumnavigation of Tasmania sail held in conjunction with Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and Royal Geelong Yacht Club.

Our QCYC members in Murray McKay and Brian Golland on Tradition are sailing in the cruise, starting in Hobart.



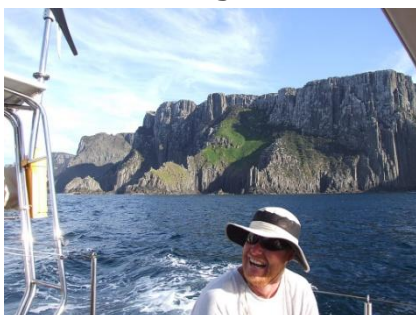
Other QCYC registered vessels in the cruise are Baltic (Peter Bone), Dreamtime of Tasmania (David Weir) and Reverie (Ian Hunter & Jim Tennant).

Tradition has now completed over half of the lap of Tassie having arrived at the Stanley Harbour last night, 5<sup>th</sup> March

This report covers the adventures of Tradition as she ventures around the Isle.

Tradition left Hobart from Royals on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Feb taking off around the southern extremities of Tassie to Port Arthur on our first night anchoring off for the night following a terse afternoon beating into a rough northerly.

On Thurs we headed around to Fortescue Bay and as a southwester hit, we changed plans and hid in Canoe Bay behind an old wreck from 1953 (William Pitt) set to provide a cover for fishing boats.



On Friday we took off and set course for Bryan's Corner in the Schouten Passage - a distance of approx 60 Nm. A BBQ and meeting of many crews on the beach late afternoon saw everyone gather with forecast changes in weather for the next few days.

Saturday saw a difficult day on the anchorage with increasing wind resulting in a dragging anchor just before midnight, when a decision was made to make a dash for Wineglass Bay rather than try re anchoring or moving

closer to another anchorage . This saw Tradition sail in 2 to 3 metre seas under medium conditions with a following sea and wind, to Wineglass Bay arriving around 2.30am. We settled on a quiet glass of Maple Syrup Whiskey before retiring.



Thus in Wineglass Sunday was windy and disturbed, but two of the crew decided on adventures ashore and took off in the dinghy in 34 knots of breeze! Tacos and hot scones late afternoon provoked the crew's return and a quiet night

with IPod music from our Canadian crew member in Art eased us to bunks later in the night. Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> saw us decide to take off in brisk conditions out of Wineglass around 10am, making up the east coast past many favourite towns including Bicheno and St Helens before anchoring in Skeleton Bay at 7.40pm, having progressed around 60 Nm for the day.

We had anchored 200 metres from shore in the lee of the township just outside the kelp beds to the south west. Art cooked up a lovely stir fry of mixed leftovers and washed with a lovely white wine to toast the day's journey.



Our next part of the cruise is now around into Banks Strait toward the Tamar River and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> sees us out in a slight offshore swell at 615 am and with a flood tide we



decide to miss Clarke Island and Flinders Island due to weather and make for Foster Inlet. By 9.15 am we are off Eddystone Light, and around 1pm heading over a spot of shoal ground in very confused but short swells before we approach Foster Inlet and anchor in the south west corner beside another large yacht. Unfortunately the tide is running and holds us sideways against the prevailing wind and swell and this proves a very uncomfortable afternoon and early evening. Our crew conference determines that with a change of tide and a settling wind toward evening will smooth our anchorage and as this occurs we settle for a lasagne dinner and a beautiful sunset!

Again we have an early start on Wednesday heading for the Tamar and whilst we are enjoying a lovely morning sail, Simon takes to the Fleming Self steering from his experience and we get a quick lesson in management of this for the future.

By 10 am we are under Waterhouse Island and skipper Murray seizes the opportunity to have a spinnaker set for a short while and we appreciate the colourful cover as we sail under her. At around 2.30 pm we are approaching Tenth Island with the large seal colony and a deviation of course to say hello.

We now make for the Tamar River and after negotiating the marks we see "Patrick the Bosun" who guides us to a secure berth after a day of over 60 Nm. A quiet night follows.

Simon who joined us in Hobart now heads back to Hobart. Thanks for the ride Simon!



Thursday brings a lovely day and we decide on progressing up river to Rosevear's landing and the famous pub. By midday we are well on the way and tie up at their pontoon mid afternoon.

The Tamar is very interesting and eddies and flows of the river make for some helming sensations as they grab hold of the hull! And as we arrive we get a welcoming wave from the crew of "Archer" who have had a wonderful lunch in the garden.

A few local bikies are attracted to the yacht as we sit on the pontoon and as it happens we end up entertaining a Point Lonsdale couple who are passing on business through Rosevear. Dinner is lovely in chicken wings with some roast vegies and followed by a Murray special in "Peaches Rosevear" for desert with ice cream and maple syrup whiskey topping!



Friday sees us on the pontoon with Julie arriving to join the crew for a few days and some household chores during the day... and we make for the opposite side of the river at Rosevear's taking on a short walk around the old church and history of the local cemetery before



enjoying a lovely steak dinner with red wine complementing.

At ten days into the cruise on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> we take an early start to ride the ebb tide back to Tamar Yacht Club and in just three hours we are fuelling and nudging a berth with the club.

Murray erects the beautiful "boom tent" over Tradition and we attend a BBQ with the committee and members of the Tamar Yacht Club for the evening. This gathering is the first combined group of VDL which includes the afternoon arrivals of Geelong, Victorian and Queenscliff boats.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> begins delightfully with a warm day and some early walks to town followed by most people attending the local hotel for a very reasonably priced and attractive lunch on the deck.

After a quiet afternoon discussing plans for the next few days all crews are welcomed to the Tamar Yacht Club official dinner for the VDL cruise and approx 140 people cram inside to enjoy both the superb food and great service given by the committee. A night of celebration and thanks to everyone who attends continues till late!



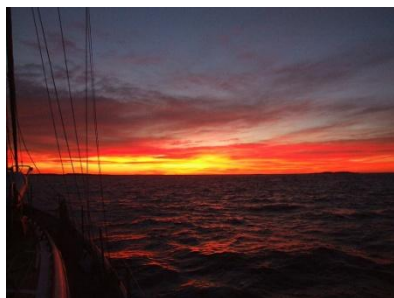
On Monday there are many early moves and the cruise shifts to the next leg with light rain falling and a number of large vessels moving in the port waters making for some interest.

All moves are outbound and heading for the Mersey, Stanley or Hummocks. The weather is due to close in and gale force winds make moving important early.

Off Egg Island Tradition comes on a school of dolphins and they stay around for some fifteen minutes...huge photo opportunities!

By 1.30 pm we are inside the Mersey YC marina and snug for the next few days...a quick visit to town via the passenger ferry (\$2.50 each) and a lap back to the yacht then off to the club house for a drink before going to a nice Chinese restaurant to end an adventurous day.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and all is well in Devonport except for the cold and blustery south wind....not much happening but we end up with the boys in the Mersey YC for their weekly Tuesday meal and hear many stories from Colin and Gary who spin them out rapidly re old days at King Island with fires, melted cheese down the hill, rhubarb poisoning .....funny!! We end the night on a high note.



With all yachts scattered around northern waters of Tasmania we occupy our Wednesday time on chores and stores supply ready for the next leg of the trip....not much to report.

By Thursday we are gearing up with the possibility of a move soon...putting the final touches to provisioning and Julie leaves for Melbourne.

The local butcher attends to our needs

with his own local meat supply and fresh as...we attend at the club house again as they put on a BBQ for everyone and a social occasion is soon under way with many stories and discussion on what is ahead. Late night though!!



And on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March we prepared for Saturday's early departure .... To Stanley which sees us over half way thru the journey.

As expected Tradition travels well all the way to Stanley even though we motor sailed the breeze is ENE and off the stern quarter most of the way. Arrival in Stanley late afternoon and after a cleanup we venture into town and meet other yachties for a "quiet one" before



**QCYC and bet you wish you were all on the journey!!**

**So for now.....Over and Out from "Tradition"**

**heading back to join in the evening "sched" which gives us info re all the other participants and their positions.**

**So in summary we have been on the journey for 18 days and covered around 410 Nm in a journey of total 760 odd Nm.**



**Fair winds to all at with us**

