

WESTERNPORT and WILSONS PROMONTORY CRUISE IN COMPANY!

Karla Yarnall

On the Friday the 9th of February we left RYCV for Queenscliff (QCYC) starting our first ever cruise in company at 14.00. We didn't end up leaving (QCYC) until the 13th of February due to extremely strong easterly winds! Finally our adventure begins, my mum Eila sails out the heads we are sailing along nicely.

Things get even better when we are surrounded by a big pod of about 20 dolphins, they stay with us for about half an hour. They were jumping out of the water and looking up at us, it was fantastic! Then we hit a bit of trouble with black smoke coming out of the back of the boat, dad tied a rope to himself and jumped off the back, luckily it was just some weed around the prop.

Once it was cleared we were on our way again. Seven hours later we arrive at Cleelands Bight, drop anchor and have a swim. My dad Brian and I motor over to San Remo to get fuel in our little rubber duck, a nice young man sold us the fuel and gave us some hot chips (they were really nice). The next day we sailed to Refuge Cove, the water looked like a piece of glass and it was all milky. We came across two young seals, that liked to show off jumping out of the water and doing flips (they were very cute). It was a long day of sailing as there was no wind, but it was made enjoyable as we passed some absolutely beautiful scenery on the way.

Once we arrive and the anchor is set we have a swim the water is so nice, but not as nice as the water at Deal Island the more experienced sailors tell me. The following day we stay at Refuge Cove. We went for a walk to see the surroundings, it's stunning but it has a lot of blow flies. In the afternoon we went back to the beach and had drinks and nibbles with the fleet, Dad and I carved our boat's name into a piece of drift wood and put it onto a wall were the boats names are.

Today we are on our way to Deal Island I can't wait, everyone tells me that it's wonderful! The entrance is extraordinary, with rocky outcrops and all different rock formations. We anchor in the east cove, it sort of reminds me of the Whitsundays. Steve sets our anchor for us and Mia and I decide to call him Diver Steve, because he is a diver and is always diving and setting peoples anchors. The water is crystal clear with a gorgeous sandy bottom, a lovely beach and then a big hill! We have a swim and sunbathe. The next day we get up early and head up the hill to the museum and have a chat with the caretakers. Then continue up the hill to the lighthouse. The walk is hard, but the view at the top of the lighthouse is worth it. Then have nibbles on Nantucket, Peter and Jeff's boat, with John and Diver Steve. When we get back to the boat we go snorkeling along the sides of the cove, there's a lot of grass, sea

weed, fish and penguins. The whole fleet has a BBQ on the beach with the caretakers; they are a really nice couple. The guys from Ganggajang Mel, Paul and Rod caught some squid that they cooked up, it was magnificent.

My sister Mia and I feed the wallabies and Mia names them Sandy and Danny. On the 18th we sailed back to Cleelands Bight 17 hours later we arrived at 22.30 had a quick dinner and straight to bed. The next day my dad had to get up at 03.00 to make slack water at the heads.

We arrive at QCYC at 12.00, we play a few games of table tennis, have dinner, Mel, Rod and Paul from Ganggajang arrive at QCYC we talk with them for a while and then go to bed. Today the 20th we are heading back to Royals it's an overcast day and there's no wind, so we have to motor sail. I would just like to thank Darryl Morrison for organizing such an incredible trip. Even though Mia and I were the only children there we still had a fantastic time and made lots of friends Peter and Jeff from Nantucket, John and Steve from Sunbird, Duncan, Eva, Judy and Martin from Trade Winds, John, Veronica, Cameron and Kaylee from First Contact and Mel, Paul and Rod from Ganggajang.



Looking forward to the 2008 cruise in company. Karla Yarnall, Red Sky at Night. Junior Member