

Hawkesbury River Cruise -

5th to 8th March 2021

By the crew on Spy-C



LAUNCHED PARSLEY BAY TO EXPLORE THE EASTERN HAWKESBURY RIVER

DAY 1

Spy-C anchored overnight in Parsley Bay the Thursday night & headed for Refuge Bay on the Friday to grab a mooring. On arrival there were plenty of spare buoys in a fairly sheltered bay so we jumped in the tender & went ashore for a swim & then a shower under the nearby waterfall – it was lovely. Later that afternoon we were joined by – Only time & Blew by u – doing a uber pick up at Blew by u to rendezvous on Only Time for evening drinks & nibbles – lots of laughs – farewelling after a few drinks the Uber driver had trouble starting the motor but once underway the only complaint was “Oh no – I have wet socks” with a quick disclaimer by the Uber driver “we take no responsibility for wet socks” & a shaky boarding by the skipper of Blew by u after a last minute shove from behind to secure him on board. Thanks Only Time for a fun evening.



DAY 2

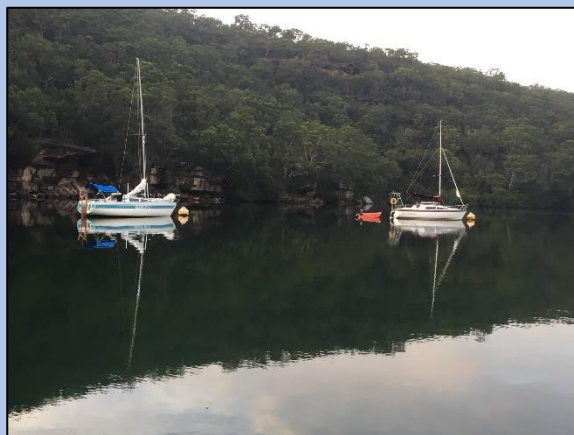
The fleet of three woke to a beautiful morning with a light southerly and with forecast of a light breeze. We were joined by Liquid Lunch who had spent the night in Castle Cove after two days of exploring Cowan Creek. Lola & Crosswind who had anchored the night in Parsley Bay joined us at the entrance of Cowan Creek and under the guidance of Crosswind with favourable conditions decided to head for the beach under Barrenjoey in Pittwater, some sailed, some motored and some motor/sailed.

We all anchored up in close proximity only a short distance from the shore, enjoying a comfortable anchorage for lunch. We all looked on with amusement as a float plane wing dipped at low altitude over our little anchored fleet either giving his passengers a bit of a thrill or was it we where too close to the exclusion zone? After lunch the crews of Crosswind, Only Time, Blew by U and Lola decided to climb Barrenjoey to the lighthouse – Liquid Lunch & Spy-C

deciding to stay with the boats as Spy-C had started to drag its anchor on the weeded bottom. With the wind on the nose we motored up into Newport as Crosswind went up into Coasters Retreat to check out the mooring options, hate to be a coastal cruiser these days and hope to find a refuge there as it was full of mainly locals, Crosswind managed to find a lovely little beach in the top S/E corner – beware of the submerged rocks as Spy-C found later moving to deeper water to clear her bulb keel – no damage done and the day concluded with a congenial happy hour on the beach as only NHTYA members know how – mixed with some friendly banter with the locals walking their dogs.

DAY 3

A leisurely start to the day with Only Time, Crosswind & Lola heading back to Parsley Bay to return home & Liquid Lunch, Blew By U & Spy-C heading back to Cowan Creek, an enjoyable motor out of Pittwater and down the Hawkesbury with a following swell the group split as the Cowan Creek Entrance came up and the stayers under Liquid Lunch guidance decided to check out Jerusalem Bay, luckily we found the only 3 moorings available in Pinta Bay about to become vacant so we moored up for the night. Spy-C took their tender and explored the shallow end of the bay, after a heads up decided to have happy hour on Spy-C with the Spy-C tender being used again as a dedicated Uber craft for Blew By U with Doug being advised not to wear his socks again. An enjoyable happy hour or two concluded the day. Doug so impressed with his vintage Aldi cask wine splashed a bit about Spy-C's cockpit to give it some character (Hope the gelcoat survives) The uber trip back to Blew By U was uneventful this time & a peaceful night was spent in this tranquil cove.



DAY 4

Spy-C & Liquid Lunch slipped their moorings at 0730 & Blew By U a little later to head back to Parsley Bay in ideal conditions, the boat ramp was deserted & Liquid Lunch, Spy-C retrieved to their trailers in a hassle free situation (Phew!) A short time later as we were derigging Blew By U pulled into the jetty & before we had time to assist, Robyn did a swan dive off the bow luckily not injuring herself badly – we learnt then that Doug has many alias names that are not suitable for the newsletter. All in All a great few days exploring the beautiful Hawkesbury – Thanks Crosswind for organising a great club cruise.

