



SYDNEY- 3 Bridges Cruise-

18-20 February 2022

By Ken and Wendy “Aye-Sea Red”

Aye-Sea Red Arrived at Kissing Point in the rain. Graeme & Di from Tin Can Bay on Farr Horizons introduced themselves as Barry came up from the ferry wharf to say he & Cathy, Brian & Heather were catching the ferry to Sydney Rowing Club at Abbotsford only 2 stops away for dinner.



Crosswind and Only Time were across the Parramatta River anchored up in Yaralla Bay, so we caught the next ferry for a great time at the Sydney Rowing Club.



Next morning, we all rigged up, waving off Peter & John on True North for their day sail through the Sydney Heads, and motored to meet Crosswind. We then rafted up for a planning meeting and lunch, with Alf Lette joining us for the day on Chesapeake Lady II. Mark & Kerry, another Tin Can Bay Boat joined us on Silver Wake as we set off down river going for a look into each bay,

*such as Hen & Chickens & 5 Docks Bays, etc and under “The Gladesville Bridge” (the **FIRST** bridge) – it was great having Alf give us the history of landmark buildings.*

The bad news was that Brian & Heather were heading home as they had smashed the window in their ute.

We motor sailed past Cockatoo Island & up Lane Cove River, to Burns Bay beside St Ignatius College for overnight mooring. Free Spirit, Only Time & Amethyst rafted up on a mooring and Aye-Sea Red, Crosswind & True North on another with Coconut Duck joining at 9.30pm.

The college fire alarm went off at 3am, which was a break from being in the flight path! The locals must have thought we were professional sailors as they watched me use flags to signal in Semaphore to the other raft, the response from Kev was “text me!”



Motoring into Lane Cove River channel there were hundreds of boats anchored up outside the channel, who started yelling at us that there was a rowing regatta on using the channel and to

get out of it! Next minute our 8 boats were following Crosswind weaving through the spectator fleet to the mouth of the river. We entered into the spirit of the event, yelling “Go Red, come on boys, put your back into it!!” I’m sure they appreciated the encouragement!

Around Cockatoo Island True North joined us with Peter’s S.I.L. Jake and Grandson Jack, and raising the sails we headed towards the Sydney Harbour Bridge with the advice to have the outboards on just in case – which was lucky as we had to do a 360 to let a bloody big cruise boat go past.



*The fleet went under “The Sydney Harbour Bridge” (**SECOND bridge**) in a group on the Luna Park side with cameras clicking. Yay, another one off the bucket list!*



Like all good cruises that are written in the sand at low tide, the lunch location became Watsons Bay for Doyles Fish & Chips! Next minute, a cheeky seagull knocked a bit of fish out of Gaylene's hand!

As we headed up to the Opera House exploring all the bays the wind dropped off so it was motoring past Clark Island. Free Spirit bid us bon voyage to go see the grandchildren.

*Regrouping in Farm Cove off The Opera House, it was then a sprint across Circular Quay ferry terminals, with Amethyst looking for ice and getting various responses from the locals. Then dodging the Party Boats, it was under "The ANZAC Bridge," the **THIRD** bridge!!*



We anchored off Glebe Point in Rosella Bay. The Tin Cannies shuttled their canoes to get ashore with a bit of nude kayaking, with Crosswind's tender picking up Garry & Cathy for an explore on shore.





True North bid us adieu heading back, then the Conga Line formed behind Aye-Sea Red as we motored into Darling Harbour down to view the Maritime Museum



boats, then up past the restaurants and ferry's, not so scary without the party boats.

We went up past Goat Island, then to Snail Bay past the industrial concrete moorings, then sails up as approached Cockatoo Island, around past Snapper and Spectacle Islands looking at all the different styles of houses.

Just as Gladesville Bridge came into site, the wind died & we bobbed in the middle of the Parramatta River for a while before saying farewell to Garry & Cathy who had launched from 5 Dock boat ramp.

Tania and I explored every bay motoring - Glades Bay & Morrisons Bay on the north bank, & as we came out of each bay, there was Amethyst gamely tacking up the river.

An ice cream while derigging made the job easier, especially after I had thrown my mooring rope into the water 3 times!! Thanks Gaylene, for the help! Keep an eye out for the "Sydney Middle Harbour Cruise" same time next year!

