

Wallis Lakes - 3 Clubs Cruise

19th to 20th March 2022

By Brian and Heather on "Spy-C"



Members of the Newcastle Hunter Trailer Yacht Club ventured up to Wallis Lake for last weekend ready to explore the lake with light winds & fine weather predicted. Launching at the Pacific Palms Recreations Club on Friday afternoon & enjoying a few drinks with a delicious meal from the club enjoyed by the water while we waited for the last of our fleet to arrive & launch. A peaceful night on the lake was had by all with cloud cover to greet us at sunrise.



A new weather forecast had presented itself with a stormy change & 30knot winds from the south to send us on our way – eight yachts set off towards Coomba Bay Aquatic Club with some local sailors leading the way through some of the shallow waters. The view from the leading boat looking back at the fleet was purple grey, ominous and chasing the fleet was white caps. Some of the yachts turned to greet the oncoming front while the

remainder headed for the safety of Coomba Bay Aquatic Club.

On our approach we could view a colourful fleet of sailing boats still racing off Coomba – Who would be out sailing with what was approaching? – only keen sailors we thought. It was a race to beat the front but it hit us with wild winds & heavy rain as we rounded the racing fleet and took shelter from the storm.

We anchored in the shelter of the bay, drenched but safe as we viewed these gutsy little sail boats finish their race at the Aquatic Centre. The wind howled over the trees and passed the point with white caps following. Following instructions from some of the experienced yacht sailors, we anchored in a circle with sterns facing the centre and bows at the anchor. We shared stories from our cockpits & even played – I Spy with nautical viewing & some light refreshments and nibbles to see the storm out overnight we hoped.

The original plan was to venture over to the Great Lakes Sailing Club for Pizzas by the Lake in the moonlight, but the weather was against us and we consumed whatever we had on board for dinner and settled in the safe anchorage for the night.

A loud noise awoke us with shouting and laughter in the morning light with the Lady Dragon boat fleet launching from the boat ramp for some training. Later over breakfast, with the wind still howling, we viewed the fleet of small sailing craft preparing to venture out again – boy these guys like a challenge!!!

With amazing support from their race committee, we viewed competitors venturing down to the jetty, boats ready, some in wheel chairs, some with walking sticks, some were lifted by hoists on the jetty into the sail boats by dedicated team of men – shouts of – “Are you comfortable?” “Have you got water”, “Are you ready to go” – These were disability sailors competing in the NSW titles.



We found out later they had 3 races that morning and several in the afternoon.

A different attitude was shared amongst our fleet of able-bodied yacht sailors, and we ventured out into a stiff wind from the south-west. So, after viewing what the sailing competitors could achieve with their disabilities- it was decided to still head to the Great Lakes Sailing Club for a Pizza lunch under the palms. It was challenging with the shallow approach to the club but on arrival we anchored back in and enjoyed the club’s picnic area. We then devoured a hearty lunch of pizza Supremes with everyone putting in their efforts to invent the best pizza of the day.

It was mostly headsail sailing due to the limited areas on the lake to sail for trailer sailor yachts with keels down. There were some who chose to motor and not put up their masts. It was a challenging weekend to sail with stiff breezes however viewing activities from the local racing clubs was a highlight.



It was all agreed maybe we would try again next year when the weather was a bit kinder & even make it a camping weekend & explore the other part of the Wallis.