

Cruising in Company – 2016 Annual Cruise

By John Hancox

This year we decided to organise those boats and crews who were cruisers only to a program of events that coincided with the four inshore race days. John Hancox was tasked to arrange lunch venues and to prepare a program for the initial 9 boats and 23 crew that had confirmed their intention to participate. Unfortunately, 3 boats and 11 crew had to withdraw from the cruise at late notice for family or work reasons.

The venues in race order and crew numbers were the Dangar Island Bowling Club (7), Galley Foods at Bobbin Head (6), Halyards Restaurant at RPAYC (8) and the Wharf Restaurant at Church Point (9). Numbers were slightly reduced by some crew being shanghaied to race boats on several days. Participating boats were Magnificat, Matang, Patricia VII, Prime Time, Sweet Chariot and Wah Moon.

Dangar Island is a picturesque place with lush vegetation and an active community of friendly residents. We took one boat and anchored off the public jetty leaving room for the regular ferry then tendered ashore. The bowling club prepared a very good lunch.

For the Bobbin Head visit three boats moored or anchored in the bay opposite, tendered to the marina and enjoyed lunch served in environmentally friendly packaging.

RPAYC provided courtesy berths for the three yachts that attended and we enjoyed a magnificent venue at Halyards restaurant.

Church Point presented the only challenge for access. Magnificat and Matang anchored in about 10 metres with just enough swing room whilst Sweet Chariot and Prime Time stayed in their RMYC berths and the crew drove to the venue – smart move. This is a very popular place and richly deserved as the menu is extensive and excellent.

In summary, a successful and relaxing experience that is sure to catch on in the future.

