



## Queen's Birthday Weekend Cruising in Company By Sarah Goddard-Jones

A very successful June long weekend cruise to Echo Point saw seven boats enjoying perfect winter conditions. *Rapunzel*, *Saliere*, *Sweet Chariot*, *Wine-Dark Sea*, *Willyama*, *Magnificat* and *Well Inclined* met at Careening Cove Anchorage for a hearty breakfast before getting under way to make the 11:30 Spit Bridge, with a spanking westerly which meant we could all sail around to the Spit.

Everyone made the 11:30 bridge opening, though we did have to ask the bridge operator to hold on while *Well Inclined* caught up to make it through. Like a line of ducklings following their mother, we lined up behind Cruise Captain Richard in *Rapunzel* as we made our way up Middle Harbour. As we approached Killarney point, *Wine-Dark Sea* had to make plans for a bail out if it proved too shallow at the starboard hand marker just before the marina.

*Wine-Dark Sea* squeaked over the shallows with a metre of water to spare and found a good six-nine metres beyond, between the marina and the moorings. *Saliere* anchored with *Rapunzel* and *Sweet Chariot* joined them. *Wine-Dark Sea* anchored with *Willyama* joining them, and *Well Inclined* anchored nearby.



*Rafting up at beautiful Echo Point*

*Sweet Chariot* gracefully hosted us for sundowners, and we were blessed with a wonderful sunset. *Magnificat* arrived halfway through sundowners and joined *Well Inclined* before joining us for drinks on *Sweet Chariot*. Departure for dinner at respective rafts took a little time to organise with dinghy transport but was achieved around 7pm.



*John and Robbie Hancox with David and Sarah Salt at Echo Point café*

After a lovely calm but very cold night, we woke to a sunny morning, and most people headed in to Echo Point café for breakfast or coffees. We then had a BBQ lunch rendezvous at the grassy knoll above the café, where there was a convenient electric BBQ and seating in the sun. We headed back to the boats around 2:30pm as the sun was leaving the park and caught another hour of warm sun on the boats.



*BBQ at the grassy knoll*

Sundowners on *Wine-Dark Sea* were made a little cosier in the chilly conditions with the famous *Wine-Dark Sea* blankies which were a great hit with everyone. It was again too cold for dinner on deck, but cosy down in the cabin of the host boats.



Monday dawned fine with just a slight breeze, and boats gradually departed. *Willyama* was first, aiming for the 8:30 bridge with a Governor's Garden Party to get to! *Magnificat* and *Well Inclined* were next. *Rapunzel*, *Saliere*, *Sweet Chariot* and *Wine-Dark Sea* headed to the café for a last coffee, then *Rapunzel* and *Sweet Chariot* went for the 11:30 bridge. *Wine-Dark Sea* needed to wait for the tide to come up enough to get across the bar to depart Echo Point, so left at about 1:30pm, creeping slowly and successfully over the bar using the incoming track.

All returned safely to the Squadron after a very enjoyable and sociable weekend.

*If you would like to find out more about the RSYS Cruising Division, please subscribe to the monthly Cruising e-newsletter: RSYS Members should login to the **Member Internet Portal** and tick Cruising under Special Interests, otherwise **contact the Sailing Office**.*