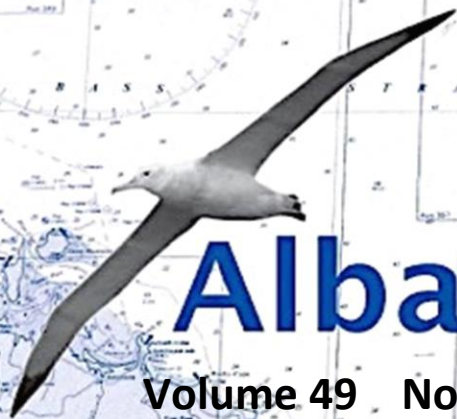




Albatross

Volume 49 No 20 October 2024



Newsletter of the
Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania

PO Box 605 Sandy Bay TAS 7006
cyct.org.au

Commodore	Val Nicholls	0404 825 310	<i>Aziza</i>
Vice commodore	Rick Allen	0419 304 500	<i>MV Southern Explorer</i>
Rear Commodore	David Bowker	0418 136 493	<i>Duet</i>
Treasurer	Bev Hitchens	0424 932 235	<i>Mystic</i>
Secretary	Chrissie Rowland	0438 266 425	<i>Ca Va & Escapade</i>
Editor <i>Albatross</i>	Ian Howarth	0407 822 319	<i>Meltemi SYC</i>
Cttee member 1	Alison Peacock	0488 413 007	<i>Pacific Haven</i>
Cttee member 2	Dorothy Darden	0436 021 591	<i>Arabella</i>
Membership officer	Paul Peacock	0488 413 007	<i>Pacific Haven</i>
Warden	Mark Stephenson	0438 854 380	<i>Crown Venture</i>
Webmaster	Rob Greenwell	0448 348 395	<i>Cuvee</i>
Past commodore	Scott Poulter	0419 513 983	<i>Gradiva</i>

Life members

Erika Shankley, Dave Davey, Chris Creese, Andrew Boon, Kim Brewer, Paul & Rosemary Kerrison

Guidelines for contributions to the *Albatross*

Please contact the Editor (Ian Howarth – editor@cyct.org.au) with any questions.

- Submit items of less than 1600 words in Word format, with up to 5 photos. Longer stories may be serialised. Boat names should be italicised. Font Gil Sans MT.*
- Images: jpg format with captions - must be your own or clearly attributed. Copy deadline 18th each month.*

Cover photo: Out with the old. Val Nicholls is the new Commodore of the CYCT, taking over from Scott Poulter (left) while being presented with her cruising plaque by CYCT Warden Mark Stephenson at the annual dinner. A Spanish theme and paella was the order of the night.

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CYCT Calendar – Check the website for more details

Friday September 27th till Sunday 29th Vice Commodores Cruise – Three days in our Channel playground. Anchorages weather dependent- Randall's, Quarries, Mickeys. Rick Allen to coordinate.

Tues October 1. CYCT general meeting. Presentation by Dorothy Darden "Cruise aboard the schooner MAPLE LEAF in Haida Gwaii, Canada. In 2003 and 2011, Dorothy Darden and her late husband, Steve, received plaques from the CYCT for their travels around the Pacific, aboard their catamaran, *Adagio*. Without success, they attempted to tour the Queen Charlotte Islands in Canada. Last year Dorothy and her granddaughter joined a cruise aboard the schooner MAPLE LEAF for two exciting weeks in the islands of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, Haida Gwaii, considered the "Galapagos of the north".

Where: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania

Tues October 8. Women on Boats meeting

Thurs October 24 – 28. Show day cruise including New Members lunch at Port Esperance Sailing Club. This 4-day Show day cruise will include a New Members BBQ lunch at the PESC on the Saturday. This leaves plenty of time to sail down on Show day, enjoy some time out on Friday, enjoy a BBQ on Saturday then sail home on Sunday. All the time taking in the Channel and Port Esperance waterways. Cruise contact Mark Stephenson

Sat October 26. New Members lunch at Port Esperance Sailing Club. The CYCT annual event where we gather to welcome new members and get to meet and chat with each and every member. The Port Esperance Sailing Club (PESC) at Dover is our venue and a BBQ will be available at no cost to all members. This year drinks will be available for purchase at the bar of the PESC. (NO BYO this year). Event Contact is Membership Officer Paul Peacock onboard the Mercedes Sprinter Motorhome "Van Haven" on 0466184809.

Tues November 5. General meeting. Cruising Rallies – ARC, WARC and VDL" by Rob Greenwell. Rob and Tricia will talk about their experiences and why they participate in yachting rallies. Will touch on challenges of looking for and purchasing a yacht in France and setting the yacht up for blue water cruising with the associated safety requirements to participate in blue water rallies. The ARC+ (Atlantic Rally Crossing Plus) took them across the Atlantic, where they joined the WARC (World Atlantic Rally Crossing) leaving from the Caribbean, across the Caribbean Sea stopping in Columbia and the San Blas Archipelago on the way to Panama, traversing the Canal. Now back in Tasmania they will share their latest experiences of circumnavigating Tasmania on the combined clubs RYCT/GYC VDL rally.

Where: RYCT.

Editorial – Ian Howarth

The annual meeting has come and gone and the CYCT has a shiny new committee with a number of new members. I missed the AGM due to an unexpected trip to the other island but it will be good to meet the new committee and gain some new perspectives on the club and its activities.



With all the different faces and experiences, both on committee and within the club, the range of stories potentially available for filling up our magazine each month is almost endless.

I am looking forward to collecting all those stories members can contribute and sharing them with our ever expanding membership.

The wet and windy winter season has certainly slowed down the on-water activities so it will be a relief to see the sun a bit more regularly as we head towards summer. But a number of members have avoided the Tassie chill and headed to warmer climes for some alternative sailing experiences.

Locally a number of sailors are getting boats ready to participate in next year's Melbourne to Osaka (M20) race, the world's longest south to north race.

Nick Jaffe, who presented to the CYCT general meeting in July, is getting his Radford 36 based at Kettering ready for the big event and up to ten M2O competitors will be arriving in Hobart around new year after using both the Melbourne to Hobart and Sydney to Hobart races as qualifying voyages for the race to Japan.

Tasmanian yachting legend Ken Gourlay and his son Tristan have entered the M2O and will be competing in the two handed division of the Sydney to Hobart to qualify for the Japan race. At least two other Tasmanian crews are also entered in the M2O.

It seems Tasmania is easily maintaining its long reputation as one of the key nurseries of Australian offshore sailing and the ongoing experiences of CYCT members is a key part of building on that reputation.

As the sailing season gets underway the CYCT has a large number of cruises planned and a host of members have other plans to take their boats to remote places. In this issue Marion and Derek Stoneman begin the story of their new yacht *Moonbird* which they are collecting in Africa and sailing to the Mediterranean at the beginning of a long adventure. We will follow their journey in subsequent issues of *Albatross*.

Reports on our many local cruises will also feature in the year ahead.

Happy cruising.

Commodore's report – Val Nicholls

I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the CYCT membership for supporting my nomination for the position of Commodore. I am honoured to take up the role. Acknowledgement and respect are due immediate past Commodore Scott Poulter and all members of the outgoing committee for giving their time and energy in support of good governance and a thriving club. A number of committee members have extended their stay and for that I say thank you, thank you, thank you! Others are taking up a committee role for the first time, again I say thank you, thank you, thank you! Without a committee there is no club. With that in mind, please welcome your new committee at our next general meeting. Shake their hand and say thanks and get to know them! I am confident that we will make a strong team going forward to 2025 and beyond. The new committee is as follows:



Commodore	Val Nicholls	New appointment
Vice Commodore	Rick Allen	Re elected
Rear Commodore	David Bowker	New appointment
Secretary	Chrissie Rowland	Re elected
Treasurer	Bev Hitchens	New appointment
Editor	Ian Howarth	Re elected
Membership	Paul Peacock	New appointment
Webmaster	Rob Greenwell	Re elected
Committee Member 1.	Allison Peacock	New appointment
Committee Member 2.	Dorothy Darden	New appointment
Warden	Mark Stephenson	Re elected

Spring has sprung and the daffs are up! Its time to start getting excited about cruising and the CYCT calendar. Pour a cuppa tea or stronger and put your feet up to read reflections on past events such as cruises, our Spanish-themed anniversary dinner, Plaques and Trophies, as well upcoming events such as the Combined Opening Day, Safety Training and importantly, the New Members Lunch at the rebuilt Port Esperance Sailing Club. There's much to read. Please enjoy this latest edition and get inspired. The newly formed CYCT committee and I look forward to sharing your relaxed good company at the next general meeting October at the RYCT on Tuesday October 1st 7.30pm. Perhaps you might double up with drinks or a meal in the Bistro from 6pm. See you there!

It is an especial honour to represent our club as we approach our 50th anniversary. There is much to celebrate, and I really look forward to getting to know new members and getting reacquainted with the those of longer standing. Sharing knowledge, support, adventure, yarns and BBQ's is the club's forte and with summer weather rumoured to be on its way I'm confident that I'm not alone in getting excited to get out on the water.

"To be successful at sea we must keep things simple" Pete Culler

Vice Commodore's report – Rick Allen



Not much has been happening on the water, but plenty on the hard. See the CYCT calendar for up and coming cruises.

A look at *Southern Explorer's* week ahead of the upcoming cruises.

Last week's maintenance included 210-man hours, 14 hours travelling and all the annual maintenance jobs out of the way. A huge Bravo Zulu to all my crew and volunteers. The weather wasn't kind on Monday morning. Trying to hold the ship steady while we fitted the pesky frames took an hour, finally being lifted out at midday. A pressure wash then into our bay and home for the next week.

Anodes were ground off and new ones fitted, this time with welded bolts so they can be changed in the water. We also kept them a consistent size, small for the slipper, large for the

rudders, A-Frames and mid-hull. Anti-foul prep, masked up and the first coat applied. Other jobs included SW strainers cleaned, painted and proved, ship sides prepped for painting, second coat of anti-foul, gunwale side cap sanded and painted 2 coats of blue, anchor chain re-marked to 50 metres, lift frames done away with, sponson cut out to allow slings to sit properly against the hull.

Other jobs, familiar to most boat owners included the bowsprit stainless steel plate removed and cut down to proper size, two coats of Pilot White applied to ships sides, stern and swim platform and the boot topping sanded and painted with three coats.

Now the boat is ready for the CYCT Vice Commodores cruise (restricted spaces on board *Southern Explorer*) from Friday 27th till Sunday 29th September.

Crew should come on board Thursday Night or join us at 0800 for a 0830 sailing. Veterans welcome free event! BYO drinks!

Join us for three days in our Channel playground- anchorages, as always will be weather dependent- Randal's, Quarries, Mickies. Great scenery, Great food, Great company.

Southern Explorer is gearing up for the Norfolk Bay Cruise starting January Friday 24th 2025, then straight into the annual cruise- *Southern Explorer's* "Eat, Fish & Enjoy" cruise. Starts Jan 28 until 20th February – 24 days.

This cruise is set by the Vice Commodore Let's enjoy what we want to get out of cruising - relax, good company, fishing, good food! No great distances to travel, if the weather's bad, stay where we are or move out of the weather. Fishing, fun things ashore for those that want to walk etc. Explore the Southern coast, and lower Channel areas.

Cheers Rick
CYCT Vice Commodore.
MV Southern Explorer
0419 304 500
isarickallen@gmail.com

Rear Commodore's report – David Bowker



Its good to be back as Rear Commodore and thank you for re-electing me. And also a big thank you to Bastian for holding the fort while I had a year off courtesy of our CYCT Constitution which doesn't like people to become entrenched in club positions.

The speakers list for next calendar year is looking a bit sparse so if you are aware of any interesting speakers, please get in touch with me.

Our speaker at the next general meeting is Dorothy Darden who has sailed extensively around Zealand and the Pacific. I highly recommend a look at her website and blogs. (dardens (smugmug.com))

In 2003 and 2011, Dorothy Darden and her late husband, Steve, received plaques from the CYCT for their travels around the Pacific, aboard their catamaran, *ADAGIO*.

ADAGIO at Johns Hopkins Glacier, Alaska

Without success, they attempted to tour the Queen Charlotte Islands in Canada.

Last year Dorothy and her granddaughter joined a cruise aboard the schooner *Maple Leaf* for two exciting weeks in the islands of this UNESCO world heritage site, Haida Gwaii, considered the "Galapagos of the north".

She will tell us all about it at the meeting.



And my regular reminder, **PLEASE REGISTER** for the general meeting as numbers are limited. This will be a popular session so registration is really important if you want to get in. RYCT is offering meals but please book separately with the RYCT office (62234599) if you want a meal and please order before 600pm. And a heads up for the November meeting when Rob Greenwell will tell us about his experiences on some overseas and local cruising rallies – ARC, WARC and VDL.

Membership officer's report– Paul Peacock

My first report as membership officer is due in time for two significant club events:

1) New members lunch - Saturday, October 26, 2024, 12:00 noon until 5:00 pm at the Port Esperance Sailing Club, Dover.

This will be our first new members lunch at this venue and I am personally looking forward to it. The PESC is a great club, very friendly and always welcoming to visitors and cruising sailors. I expect we will have a terrific day and I look forward to meeting and mingling with our new members this year. This will also be an opportunity for some of our members to visit the new PESC clubhouse since the devastating fire several years ago.

Please remember to register on the club website so that we know how many people to cater for. In addition, the club has a four day cruise to Port Esperance/Dover starting Thursday 24th October and covering this event. Those members joining the cruise should register for both the cruise and the lunch.

The lunch is free for all new and existing members and the PESC will open the bar at 12 noon so you can purchase drinks. Bar purchases will support PESC for their future operations.

As always, the new members lunch is a team effort and I will gratefully accept volunteer assistance on the day and the weeks leading up to the lunch. Please let me know if you are willing to lend a hand on the day, flipping burgers, squirting sauce or tossing salad (at each other). I look forward to seeing everyone there!

2) Club membership directory

It's that time of the year when we publish next year's membership directory. Please check and update your details on the CYCT website by 8th October at the latest. Thank you.

Applications for membership & provisional members

New members

Boat Name

Michael Stanojevic and family (5 members in total)

Millibela

Applications for membership will be automatically ratified within 14 days of the date of the scheduled general meeting immediately following this publication of the *Albatross*, subject only to any member lodging an objection, in writing, to the secretary no later than that date.

Warden - Mark Stephenson

Our first order from the suppliers has arrived and been distributed, with comments received including..... "Better quality in the puffer jacket than Kathmandu!" "Great colour choice and material for the polo".

Check out our storefront on the CYCT website and see the full range of items for sale. You can order and pay online and the orders are collated at the end of the month and passed to the supplier. Items are sourced and then embroidered or printed with the CYCT logo and will be available to collect at the General Meeting on the first Tuesday of the next month.

Costs are very reasonable with our Club making only a few dollars on each item, to cover the costs involved.

So go on, take a look see and check out what you need for the coming summer season.



This is our Warden Mark trying to model his new polo shirt. Go online and check the colour on the electronic version of the Albatross!!

49th CYCT anniversary dinner – Mark Stephenson

Oh, what a night!! Great camaraderie, good food, local live entertainment, lots of colour in diner's outfits and some superbly put together costumes.

Liz and Lew Garnham appeared as Dali and Gala, with Liz collecting the 'best dressed' prize. Many photos have been shared on our Facebook page and I think this one pic taken by Ian Howarth of the ladies high kicking - with attitude - best describes the feeling of the night!



Left to Right: Liz Garnham, Tracey Taylor, Chrissie Rowland, Val Nicholls, Gillian Walter, Lyn Boulton kicking up their heels

A big vote of thanks to our host Joe Zucco from The Boathouse Restaurant, for believing in the idea of a seafood paella right from the start. His easy going manner bode well as the event approached, especially in accepting the lesser numbers than hoped for. His staff were very personable and eager to get things right.



Joe Zucco and staff prepared a great paella



Lew and Lizzie Garnham



David Graney, Chrissie and Michael Rowland, Jenny Graney

In recent years, we have had around 70 diners attend the Anniversary Dinner but this year we had members away overseas, many on the mainland, and some exhausted from their many other activities. Forty two diners did suit the space in the restaurant well, making it a cosy atmosphere.

August is a good month to hold the dinner, with the end of the club year approaching and the trophies and plaques to distribute. As we approach a significant year for the club, a good turnout would be great, so please advise me if you can suggest a better time.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of the club, I am hoping for a venue close to Con Dock so we can take our boats in and spend a more relaxed time with each other. It is a challenge finding value for money in central Hobart.

This year the canapes were delightful, the Mediterranean platters for entree very tasty and satisfying (the calamari just so tender) and the paella full of seafood and flavour. The Burnt Basque cheesecake went down a treat too.



The musical trio set the Spanish theme for the evening

The Spanish guitarists had a bad start to the night by arriving on time, at the Bellerive Yacht Club to find no function running. They then arrived late at our venue, The Boathouse in Cornelian Bay. They were not able to do what was planned but that didn't seem to dampen the mood. Lovely live music in the background helped set the mood for the night.

Cruising Plaques, along with the Donald Sutherland Memorial Navigation Cruise and the Cruise of the Year trophies were presented by Commodore Scott so please check on other pages in this *Albatross* for that report.

My thanks to Josephine and Tolly Jaworsky for the imaginative colourful table decorations, Rachel for manning the door, Justin and Ian for judging the costumes, the photographers for sharing so many photos and to everyone for glamming up a bit and making the night such a success.

WoB September: Some Favourite Boating Reads

For the September 10th meeting Women on Boats met for a cosy and convivial evening at the home of member Sue Powell.

This month members were invited to bring a few favourite nautical books, and/or films that have inspired, educated, made them laugh, weep or in any other way fired up their Inner Sailor Gal! Clearly spoilt for choice the issue was resolved by each member giving a brief overview of just two of the books they had brought. Below is a list of the titles selected. Any one of them being a solid bet as a source of discussion, reflection, education and/or inspiration. Not to mention a being a great gift idea!

Wave Walker	Susan Heyward
First Lady	Kay Cottee
Sailing for Dummies	Australia NZ Edition
The Knot Book	Geoffrey Budworth
Boatowners Mechanical and Electrical Manual	Nigel Calder
The Sailing Handbook	Halsey C. Herreshoff
Those Seal Rock Kids	Jon Tucker
Sir Peter Blake	Tessa Doder
The Schworers	Marc Zollinger (German text)
Come Hell or High-Water	Clair Francis
The Watcher on the Quay	Olma Mignacca
Finding Pax	Kaci Kronkite
Sailboat Refinishing	Don Casey
Once is Enough	Miles Smeeton
Quest	George Dibbern
Two in a Top Hat	Jan Mitchell
Sailing Alone Around the World	Joshua Slocum
66 Days Adrift	William Butler
Maiden Voyage	Tania Aebi
Marine Plants of Tasmania	Fiona Scott
Snow Petrel	Jon Tucker
The Riggers Apprentice	Brion Toss
Jack de Crow	A J McKinnon

Engaging conversation had us work up a mighty appetite to be satiated by the tasty Pizzas delivered by a local Margate Pizzeria. Another very informative and enjoyable WoB evening.

WoB October is scheduled to focus on boat maintenance and documentation.
Thanks go to Sue and Mike for sharing their home and hospitality.

Val Nicholls

CYCT financial position at August 31, 2024

Report presented by Treasurer JP Corgnet to the AGM

Balance Sheet

Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania Inc.

As at 31 August 2024

	31 AUG 2024	30 JUNE 2024
Assets		
Bank		
CBA Main 28035573	39,973.26	41,048.23
CBA Visa Debit 10560637	503.59	509.08
Paypal Account	14,824.29	871.35
Petty Cash	137.34	137.34
Total Bank	55,438.48	42,566.00
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	500.00	-
Inventory Quarter Master & warden Stores	595.71	595.71
Total Current Assets	1,095.71	595.71
Fixed Assets		
Moorings (assets)	6,267.00	6,267.00
Total Fixed Assets	6,267.00	6,267.00
Total Assets	62,801.19	49,428.71
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	-	400.00
Prepayments	-	(714.30)
Total Current Liabilities	-	(314.30)
Total Liabilities	-	(314.30)
Net Assets	62,801.19	49,743.01
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	13,058.18	2,520.42
Retained Earnings	49,743.01	47,222.59
Total Equity	62,801.19	49,743.01



Profit and Loss

Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania Inc.
For the 2 months ended 31 August 2024

	JUL-AUG 2024	YEAR TO DATE
Income		
A - Memberships		
Memberships - New	195.00	195.00
Memberships - Renewals	15,975.00	15,975.00
Total A - Memberships	16,170.00	16,170.00
B - Sales Advertising		
Advertising in Albatross	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total B - Sales Advertising	1,000.00	1,000.00
C - Net Result linked to Events		
Annual Dinner Costs	(3,990.00)	(3,990.00)
Annual Dinner Incomes	4,085.00	4,085.00
Total C - Net Result linked to Events	95.00	95.00
D - Net Result linked to Sales of Items		
Apparel Sales	320.00	320.00
Total D - Net Result linked to Sales of Items	320.00	320.00
Total Income	17,585.00	17,585.00
Gross Profit	17,585.00	17,585.00
Less Operating Expenses		
F - Administration Expenses		
Club Express & Web hosting Expenses	453.05	453.05
Fees - CBA	19.03	19.03
Fees - Paypal	412.06	412.06
Rent Expenses	933.07	933.07
XERO & Accounting Expenses	64.84	64.84
Total F - Administration Expenses	1,882.05	1,882.05
G - Albatross Expenses		
Albatross Postage costs	547.66	547.66
Albatross Printing costs	1,527.11	1,527.11
Total G - Albatross Expenses	2,074.77	2,074.77
H - Social Expenses		
Engraving Expenses	305.00	305.00
Wine/ meal/ gifts for speaker Expenses	55.00	55.00
Women On Boat Expenses	23.00	23.00
Total H - Social Expenses	383.00	383.00
I - Mooring Expenses		
Mooring Fees MAST	187.00	187.00
Total I - Mooring Expenses	187.00	187.00
Total Less Operating Expenses	4,526.82	4,526.82
Operating Profit	13,058.18	13,058.18
Net Profit	13,058.18	13,058.18

Cruise of the year award – Chrissie Rowland

Cruise of the year awarded to Val Nicholls in her Bristol cutter *Aziza*



Nomination –

Yacht:

Departure Date:

Return Date:

Length of Time Away:

Distance Travelled:

Destinations: See Figure 1:
Rosslyn Bay, Queensland)

Figure 2:
Queensland to Kettering, Tasmania).

Val Nicholls

Aziza, Lyell Hess 32ft Bristol Channel cutter

March 1st 2023

January 2024

10 months

4000nm

Map of Journey Heading North (Kettering, Tasmania to

Map of Journey Heading South (Great Keppel Island,

The experience

Prior to departing Val described herself as being relatively new to the concept of skipper, considering herself to be relatively novice to the level of stewardship and collaboration the trip would require. She described her journey as stepping into the unknown, the definition of Adventure!

Val has been the sole owner, skipper and custodianship of *Aziza* for five years and had spent that time sailing solo in local Tasmanian waters.

During Val's ten-month, solo cruise she discovered the pleasures of solitude, nomadic life, letting Mother Nature have her way with her sailing plans, pulling into new places, having time to meander, chat and notice. She described time alone on *Aziza* as a pleasure and felt a sense of what those roles (owner, skipper...) entailed mature throughout her adventure. She commented that she stopped thinking about the journey as a cruise or sailing trip but rather her Camino. The "adventure with *Aziza* was truly about: awe, wonder, patience, determination, commitment and a healthy disregard for age and cultural norms".

Seaworthiness of the boat – *Aziza* is a 32ft Lyell Hess, Bristol Channel cutter which Val describes as "an ocean trojan, thoroughly reliable blue water boat".

Aziza went through extensive preparation for the journey. Val was guided in her preparation by Category 1 requirements for the Sydney Hobart yacht race. The vessel and rig were thoroughly assessed, and necessary improvements were made prior to departure.

The experience of the crew:

Val has extensive sailing experience which has included crewing:

- Albany to Sydney
- Sydney Hobart yacht race,
- New York to Ireland,
- Ireland to Holland
- 2014/5 Clipper yacht race - Holland to London

Val has also completed:

- RYA engine
- Yachtmaster theory
- Radio
- Tasmanian boat licence
- Wilderness first aid
- Cert IV outdoor leadership

Val was joined for short periods of time by Tracey Taylor for four weeks, and Meg Stredwick for three days.

Planning Involved

A year in the considering and planning.

Crew capability should be sufficient to undertake the cruise in a seamanlike manner

Val considered her experience and skills combined with extensive planning and boat preparation sufficient for the trip. She was aware of the constant need to flex and adapt, any limiting concepts of self as sailor was challenged and stretched and responded to.

Crew of a sailing boat

Val had additional crew (Tracey and Meg) for just under five weeks of the ten-month trip, which provided great opportunities and learning experiences to other women who were relatively new to *Aziza*.

Respect of handling ground tackle, navigation and exposure to the elements:

Sailing single-handed required diligence and attention to all aspects of the boat upkeep, monitoring and servicing, as well as attention to her physical, mental and emotional health. On

solo passages Val remained on deck at all times (attempted 10 min naps every hour). She used tiller pilot to make it easier to keep observant night watch and used the engine to maintain at least 5kts.

Val sailed in areas which encompassed traffic separation schemes, oil rigs, timing bar crossings (Paynesville, Lakes Entrance (twice, once with crew, once singlehanded), Yamba, Gold Coast Seaway, Wide Bay Bar and the Mad Mile, ferries, tankers, battleships and 30-40 knot headwinds (Jervis Bay)., the shallows of the Sandy Straits (Fraser Island) and the Narrows near Gladstone, working with tidal currents (Forster/Tuncurry hanging off a mooring in an energetic tidal stream) along eastern seaboard and Bass Strait. She experienced no navigational mishaps due to her prior preparation and voyage planning.

Trouble shooting issues:

Jib furling issues, Simrad Tiller pilot nipple failed twice, Tiller pilot unable to cope with certain swells entailing up to 9 hours hand steering, In all nothing major.

- jib decided I was much too smug and refused to furl, darn!
- gas bottle had leaked, Val had no gas and managed a week with no cooking
- nipple of the Simrad Tiller pilot sheered in half. Fortunately, Val already had what she calls” my self-steering (i.e. me-steering)” kit in the cockpit: water, snack food and her friend the bucket! She hand-steered for six hours to Pancake Creek where she sought out someone to fabricate three new nipples of better design than the Simrad option which broke twice.
- Created a tweaker, bungee cord self-steering the lifelines and leeward jib sheet.
- outboard not starting however has an electric motor back up

Seawomanship

Val singlehanded 3,500nm of 4000nm (Batemans and Jervis Bays, Shell Harbour, Port Hacking, into and around Sydney Harbour Sydney - Blackwattle Bay). She was constantly countering fears with passage planning, engine checks, weather checks, a little quiet time, and the reminder that moving on is a choice not a necessity. There were no mishaps demonstrating her seawomanship. She was cognisant and appreciative of the contribution of volunteer coastguards and marine rescue organisations around Australia that give freely of their time to safeguard coastal mariners. In this instance, in response to a call to Coast Guard Tin Can Bay I was provided with the latest Notice to Mariners and the details of Virtual Nav aids providing guidance over the bar and notorious Mad Mile

Val described Aziza as a constant teacher and learnt that it is perilous, for her at least, to mindlessly break a task stream – if you start something finish it. “You do you Val, you do you”, was used as an affirmation of preferences and individuality. It encourages her to investigate and respect her own priorities, style and decision making and impacts positively on her level of Skipper confidence and sailing enjoyment.

Val was patient with her timing and weather choices, “plenty of common sense and no hormones”. No cortical energy wasted on feeling afraid. I hear myself shout instruction and encouragement to myself: “Grab this, do that, well done, try this, go on, be brave, good on ya! Whoops, not that one!” nurture herself towards self-confidence, trust and courage.

Whether the cruise is breaking new ground

Val is the first female from the CYCT to sail/cruise solo between Tasmanian and Queensland (return). Not only did she break new ground as a CYCT member she also undertook a trip that was outside her comfort zone, however weighing up the capacity of Aziza with her potential capacity as skipper, and having considered perceived risk v real risk, and spending a year to develop her skills and Aziza’s systems she undertook the trip.

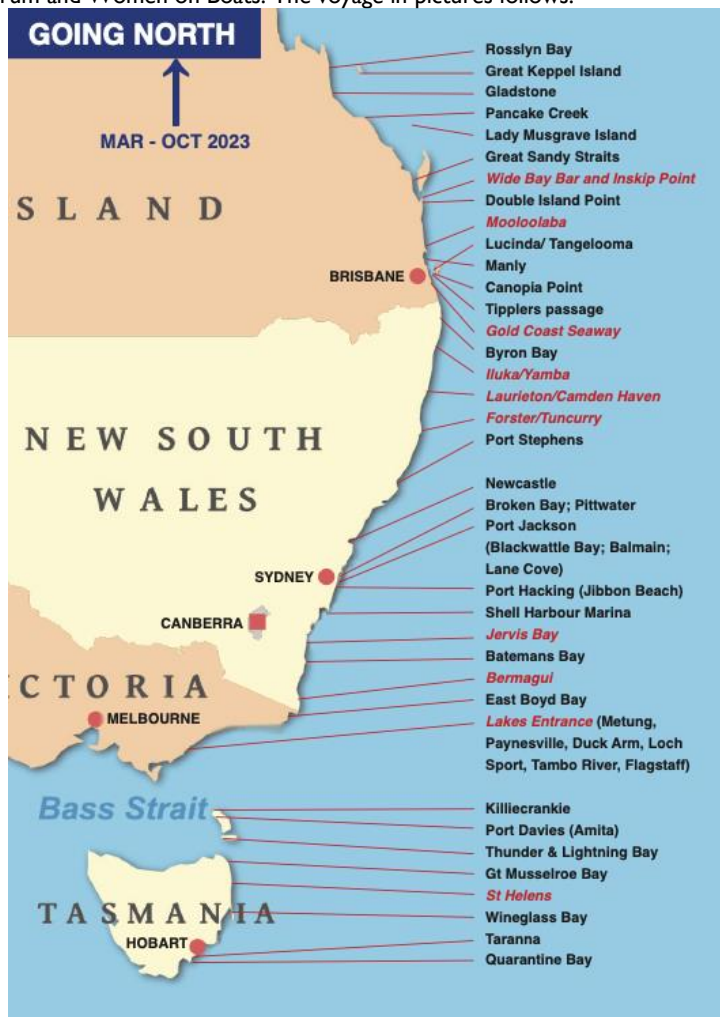
Val drew inspiration from people she met along the way (80+ year old sailor Bob) sharing his humour, enthusiasm, experience and gentle knowledge was inspirational has inspired.

The crew should (preferably) have lived on board for the period of the cruise.

Val wanted to experience longer term living aboard a steadfast vessel. She spent the whole ten months living on board.

Publications

Val provided postcards for publication in the *Albatross*, sharing her experiences and the knowledge gained along the way published in the June, July, September, October, November and December 2023 issues. She also wrote an article for the Southern Wooden Boat Sailing magazine and made presentations to the CYCT general meeting, Winter forum and Women on Boats. The voyage in pictures follows.



Map of Journey Heading North (Kettering, Tasmania to Rosslyn Bay, Queensland)



Map of Journey Heading South (Great Keppel Island, Queensland to Kettering, Tasmania)

CYCT trophies and awards 2023

CRUISING PLAQUES

Aziza	Val Nicholls	Queensland and return
Gradiva	Scott and Rachel Poulter	Bass Strait circumnavigation
Skye	John and Jenny Avery	Bass Strait circumnavigation
Mv southern explorer	Rick Allen and crew	Bass Strait circumnavigation
Dulcinea	Philip and Julie-anne Garlick	Bass Strait circumnavigation

2024 DONALD SUTHERLAND MEMORIAL NAVIGATION CRUISE

Gradiva	Scott and Rachel Poulter
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2024 CRUISE OF THE YEAR TROPHY

Aziza	Val Nicholls
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Minutes 49th AGM of the CYCT Inc – Tues, Sept 3, 2024

Opening

The meeting opened at 8:15 pm.

Attendees

26 members registered their attendance online.

Attendees on the door: Mark and Andrew Perkins, Blair Bryant, Greg Hitchens, JP Corgnet, Dorothy Darden, Christine Vitesnik, Robert Howrie, Lew Garnham

Apologies

David Jones, Catrina and Brendan Boon, Julie Porter, Charles Burns, Micheal Rowland, Alison and Paul Peacock, Ian Howarth, David Bowker, Tracey Taylor, Simon & Melissa Hume, Sue Powell.

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 5 September 2023

Motion - The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 5 September 2023, as published in the Albatross, be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed Mark Stephenson	Seconded Ian Barwick	Unanimous
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Business arising from those minutes NIL

Treasurer's Report, Auditor's Report Approval of the Annual Report for the financial year 2023-24. JP presented the financial report

Motion: Approval of the Annual Financial Report

That the Annual Financial Report 2023/2024 as distributed to all members by email on the 29 August 2024 and presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Proposed: Blair Bryant	Seconded: Val Nicholls	Unanimous
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Appointment of Auditor

Confirmation of Auditor appointment for the financial year 2024-25

Motion: Confirmation of appointment of Auditor

That Max Peck and Associates be renewed as Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania inc.'s Auditor for the next reporting period.

Proposed: Greg Hutchens

Seconded: Ian Barwick Unanimous

Commodore's Report

Scott Poulter presented the Commodores Report outlining the achievements of the CYCT over the previous 12 months. Scott thanked the outgoing committee members for their work and acknowledged the cruise contacts over the past twelve months.

Presentation of Awards

Cruising Plaques

Val Nicholls Aziza

Jenny and John Avery Skye

Rick Allen *MV Southern explorer*

Philip and Julie-anne Garlick, *Dulcinea*

Scott and Rachel Poulter, *Gradiva*

Cruise of the Year

Val Nicholls Aziza

Donald Sutherland Memorial Navigation Cruise

Scott and Rachel Poulter, *Gradiva*

Election of Office Bearers

Committee positions to be declared vacant at the meeting and re-filled by election:

Other Business - nil**Close**

AGM closed at 20:38 and was followed by a General Meeting.

General Meeting: Tuesday September 3, 2024

Opening - Chair

Scott Poulter opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Guest speaker

Scott introduced Rob King a Krill Research Systems Manager for the AAD. Rob presented current research on Antarctic Krill and the Southern Ocean ecosystem and explained some of the interesting research system capabilities of *RSV Nuyina*. Southern Ocean Research. At the conclusion of the Guest Speaker the 2024 AGM was held. Following the AGM the September general meeting continued.

Opening

The new Commodore, Val Nicholls, opened the meeting at 8:40 pm

Val thanked the previous committee and acknowledged the contribution of Scott Poulter as the Commodore.

Val thanked the new committee and acknowledged those that came along to the AGM.

Secretary

Attendees and Apologies - 26 members registered their attendance online. Attendees on the door: Mark and Andrew Perkins, Blair Bryant, Greg and Bev Hitchens, JP Corgnet, Dorothy Darden, Christine Vitesnik, Robert Howie, Lew and Liz Garnham, Ian Johnston, Lee Astheimer, Bastian Seidel

Apologies: Catrina and Andrew Boon, Charles Burns, Julie Porter, Michael Rowland, Alison and Paul Peacock, Ian Howarth, Fiona McCarthy and Graeme Wallis, Justin Barwick, Ian Pagett, David Jones, Catrina and Brendan Boon, Julie Porter, Charles Burns, David Bowker, Tracey Taylor, Simon & Melissa Hume, Sue Powell.

Correspondence

Email from Peter Hopkins MAST on 28th August advising of his retirement from MAST after 25 years. Scott has responded on behalf of the CYCT and thanked him for his service to the boating community over the past 25 years.

Minutes of the last general meeting

Motion - The minutes of the previous General Meeting held on August 6th, 2024, as published in the September *Albatross*, be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Scott Poulter. Seconded by JP Corgnet. Unanimous

Business arising from the Minutes - NIL.

Membership officer – New Members

Applications for Membership & Provisional Members. Dorothy Darden was introduced as a returning new member and was presented with the Club Burgee.

Vice Commodore - report

What's happened

13th Aug WOB Meeting – Adam Marmion – Helicopter Rescue.

27th Aug – 3rd Winter Forum: What makes a 'perfect cruise' – panel discussion

31st Aug – CYCT 49th Anniversary Dinner, went well

What's to come:

10th Sep – WoB meeting – favourite books at Sue Powell's home in Kettering

27th – 29th Sep – Vice Commodores cruise - 3 days in our Channel playground - anchorages weather dependent- Randall's, Quarries, Mickies. Rick to coordinate.

1st Oct – Dorothy Darden "Cruise aboard Schooner *MAPLE LEAF* in Haida Gwaii, Canada.

24th – 27th Oct - 4-day Show day cruise including new members BBQ lunch at PESC on Sat 26th Oct.

26th Oct - New members lunch at PESC midday start, simple BBQ free to members.

Rear Commodore - guest speakers for coming months

1st October - Dorothy Darden "Cruise aboard Schooner *Maple Leaf* in Haida Gwaii, Canada"

5th November – Rob Greenwell – Cruising Rallies Atlantic Rally Crossing (ARC) World Atlantic Rally Crossing (WARC) and the combined RYCT, RGYC Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation (VDL-C).

Winter forums wrap up

The 3rd and final Winter forum. What makes a 'perfect cruise' - a panel discussion was held on Tues August 27. It was well attended despite the severe weather. The discussion covered choice of destination, boat setup & equipment, skipper & crew, provisioning, alone vs group, preparing for what can go wrong etc. They were informative and inspirational. Val thanked Bastian for organising the Winter forums.

Treasurer - Report

Treasurer provided an overview on finances.

Commodore

New Members' Lunch will be held from 12:00 noon on 26th Oct at Port Esperance Sailing Club from 12 midday. The lunch coincides with the four days Show Day cruise to Port Esperance.

Women on Boats

Helicopter Paramedic Adam Marmion presented at the August VoB meeting. Adam shared his experience and provided some great guidance for sailors requiring the Helicopter medical assistance team. Val suggested Adam would be a tremendous presenter for a general meeting and thanked Chrissie Rowland for organising the presentation.

The September VoB meeting was held at Sue Powell's home. See report

Other Business

Crew sought for upcoming cruise

A friend with a 40 aluminium well founded cruising yacht is looking for one or two experienced crew to do a couple of legs from Littleton around the south of NZ and up to Nelson. February to mid-April. Then possibly across to Brisbane via New Caledonia, if anyone is interested, please contact Ian Johnston.

50th Anniversary of CYCT. A reception on Monday May 8th, 2025, has been arranged at Government House as part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the CYCT. Mark requested an indication via a show of hands as to who intends to attend

Quartermaster

Mark showed members examples of the new CYCT merchandise which can be ordered through the web site.

Crew List

Dorothy Darden requested a list be compiled of those members who would be interested in crewing on members boats.

ACTION: Secretary to include on the October Committee Meeting agenda.

Guest Speakers

Ian Barwick requested that guest speakers be provided with a gift. Members were advised that the club has used all its plaques. New plaques have been ordered and we are awaiting their delivery.

ACTION: Val to follow up with a thank you letter and plaque to Rob King.

Val thanked the Committee members who are leaving and those that are staying on.

Next Meeting Tuesday 1st October 2024 7:30pm;. The meeting was closed at approx. 21:00 and members were invited to socialise.



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Safety is everything

These are real reports from the US navy and annually cost the service lots of money, not to mention the loss of life and injury. There are lessons for us all here.

“Gee grandpa, how’d you get that scar?” A Sailor was loading food stores when a box fell down a ladder well and, the report states (we can’t make this stuff up), “a frozen meat log ejected from the box and hit [him] in the head.” The report adds a statement of the obvious that it caused “immediate pain.” The report’s conclusions are a bit lacking, with a sole causal factor of “the service member being hit in the head with a frozen meat log.” Ensure boxes are securely closed before passing them down, and stay alert if you’re the one at the bottom of the ladder well.

I don’t gotta go to the bathroom no more. One fine afternoon, a report said, “A Marine was in a rush to use the bathroom (yes, they said bathroom and not “head”). In his rush, he used the first step of the ladder and skipped the second and third steps, using both hands to propel himself “upward and forward” to the fourth step. By vaulting upward, he drove his head into the overhead handle on the ladder deck frame above and behind him. After the impact, the report says the Marine “noticed an excess amount of blood coming from the crown of the head” (we think “excess,” probably means anything more than “none”). Ship’s MO had to use five staples to close the wound. As you can see, if you skip steps, there’s more than just a trip hazard. The hole in the deck is only so big. If you don’t stay vertical as you climb the ladder step-by-step, you won’t fit through the hole, and “Wham!”...you suddenly have a headache.

Was this what happened to the Hindenburg? Two sailors were carrying a compressed hydrogen bottle up an inclined ladder well. Sailor 1 was at the bottom of the cylinder and Sailor 2 had the top. As Sailor 2 reached the top of the ladder, he accidentally stepped on the coaming and tripped. Sailor 2 lost control of the cylinder (compressed Hydrogen!), and it slid down and compressed Sailor 1’s hand against the ladder well handrail – a fractured finger and 30 days of light duty. We commend Sailor 1 for keeping control of the flammable cylinder and for holding on enough to prevent falling. Note for all of us to learn, though: There is a cylinder-carrying bag designed for this that they did not use. Please use the gear that’s designed to keep you safe and unhurt.

Countdown to liveaboard life – Marion Stoneman



Marion and Derek Stoneman soon to set off for a life aboard

For fifteen years Derek and I owned *Ariadne's Clew*, a 39-foot Jeanneau Sun Odyssey, which we cruised, raced and day-sailed out of Bellerive. We came to sailing in our mid-forties, first joining the crew of *Trouble* a 30-foot Masrm with Dave Willans, a self-confessed member of Over-canvassers Anonymous.

We enjoyed fun times aboard, getting into the spirit of amiable competition on Wednesday twilight races, as well as pennant and long races on weekends. We were soon bitten by the sailing bug, joining a few of Tassie's classic regatta weekends, then a crew for Hamilton Island Race week one year.

Dave also treated us to a couple of rather cramped but otherwise idyllic weekends cruising around Bruny Island. Soon after, we decided we just had to get our own boat. We took delivery of her in Sydney and enlisted four sailing buddies to help sail her down to Hobart in October 2008.

On *Ariadne's Clew* we found we were soon doing more cruising and less racing. We dropped the hook in all the usual anchorages up and down the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, moseyed up the Huon and then began cruising further afield. On our first trip to Port Davey we took our daughter and friends and dropped them at Melaleuca to walk the six days back to Cockle Creek. Here we also encountered the legendary wild weather of the South-West with 50 knots at anchor in Bramble Cove and a comedy of errors with the dinghy... needless to say the learning curve was steep. We've since made two more trips to the South-West, (the last being the fantastic 5-week CYCT cruise in 2023 with the added highlight of cruising up the Gordon River), one to the Furneaux Islands and many up and down the East Coast. We joined the CYCT about five years ago and have thoroughly enjoyed cruising in company as well as the occasional on-shore event.

Women on Boats has been a great resource for me, with a wealth of knowledge and experience freely shared, as well as practical skill sessions and informative speakers. As well as all these benefits, we've found the CYCT a great way to meet and network with others, as we're not the most outgoing of sailors and were not always able to rustle up company on our own.

As we approached sixty, we began thinking about retirement, and whether we could sail further afield. We began looking at boats more suited to living aboard and ocean passages. We subscribed to cruising magazines and later, to live-aboard sailing YouTube channels and began to wonder if this could be possible for us too. We began discussing our plans with friends and family. Some thought we were crazy, but others gave us their full encouragement. We made lists, looked at comparisons and boat reviews, trawled the second-hand market and scrutinised new builds. We had initially been firmly in the monohull camp, but gradually we began to see the



benefits of a catamaran and our opinions began to tip towards the space, comfort and stability of a multihull.

In March 2021 Derek resumed international travel for his work and I decided to accompany him for this trip. Between a few work gigs in the UK and Prague we visited the International Multihull Boat Show at La Grande Motte in France, where we closely scrutinised as many cruising catamarans as we could find and whittled them down to a short list of models we liked and could possibly afford.

We then flew to South Africa, one of the major non-European centres of boatbuilding, to visit the town of Knysna on the south-west coast. We went to look at the Vision Yachts factory, where they make a very practical and affordable 44-foot cat that was almost in our price range. While we were there, we also popped across the road to see the Knysna Yacht Company and drooled over their beautiful, but expensive, 50-footer.

When we got home our heads were spinning. Could we really make this dream a reality? And which option should we take? Whilst a couple of good friends from Sydney (Gayelene and Craig, who joined us for the west coast cruise in 2023) were visiting we talked about our dream, and how much we loved the Knysna 500SE. We joked that we could only afford half, but that if they pitched in we could buy one together. **They said yes.** Seriously. And then they too visited the factory and we signed up for hull number 104, due for delivery in October 2024. The Knysna is a more traditional design, with a semi-custom fit out. We've chosen the standard 3-cabin layout with the signature Knysna timber interior finish in light neutral tones. In September 2023 we sold Ariadne's Clew and have spent the past 12 months missing our Tasmanian cruising, but planning for the big sea change. The four of us have regular online
Craig, Gayelene, Marion and Derek with the hull of Moonbird behind, at Knysna, March 2024

meetings to discuss options and our long, long shopping list. In March this year we all visited the factory again to make final decisions on the fit-out and saw the hull freshly turned out of the mould, with the team at work glassing in bulkheads and other structural elements. The factory makes only four boats each year, and for the first time ever they had the owners of the next four boats in town at the same time. We all went out to dinner, enjoyed sundowners on the latest one to be launched (#101) and a sea-trial on boat #100 which was being prepared for shipment to the UK. We all became firm friends and exchanged stories and contacts. We've also joined the active and friendly owners' WhatsApp group where everyone shares knowledge and ideas.

Now that delivery time is getting close we are madly tying up loose ends. We're selling the house; sorting, storing, selling and sharing our belongings amongst the children; handing over roles and responsibilities and banking time with the grandchildren. Derek is trying hard to retire... And since we're boatless we've been working to improve our seamanship in other ways. Over the past year or so Derek and I completed some online training with Sydney-based Above and Beyond Boating. First the theory for RYA Day Skipper, then RYA Yachtmaster Coastal and Offshore, passing the four theory exams with flying colours. It was quite challenging, and we both wondered why we hadn't done this years ago. Many of the concepts we had picked up the hard way by experience, by listening to other sailors and asking questions or research. However, we soon found that a lot of our previously acquired knowledge was shaky or had gaps. We found the course very thorough and easy to undertake at our own pace, taking best advantage of the materials. And our trainer was always available for personal assistance if required. We topped off our theory in early August, with a one-week practical training course in the



Moonbird much progressed in the KYC factory, August 2024 (attribution: Knysna Yacht Company)

Whitsunday Islands with Paper Sailors Rock, a one-woman training organisation on board Fika, a beautiful Najad 50-foot monohull. Here we had to plan and navigate several passages, including one night-sail; perform man-overboard drills, dock manoeuvres, anchoring and raising anchor, picking up moorings (including under sail), general sailing, safety and ropework, as well as a theory presentation. We were on board with three other trainees, all lovely people, and despite the weather (strong wind warnings every day!) thoroughly enjoyed getting out on the water again.

I had met our trainer, Netty Hesselman, at the Women Who Sail Australia gathering in April this year. She's a very experienced sailor and trainer. She will be two-handing the Sydney to Hobart this year with her daughter, as a qualifier for the Melbourne to Osaka race next year. Do say hello from us if you meet her whilst wandering the fleet in Hobart – we'll be off on the high seas by then!

So what will we be doing? We will be flying to South Africa in October to take delivery of the boat. We're naming her Moonbird – after Tassie's iconic Short-tailed shearwater. Like the bird, we will be leaving our chicks and migrating north. We will fly home from time to time, but our sailing will be dictated by the seasons, winds and currents. Initially we plan to spend several weeks in and around Knysna, learning the boat and thoroughly testing all the systems. When we're ready we will venture to Cape Town and then eventually across the South Atlantic via Namibia, St Helena Island and on to Brazil. After that our plans are written in sand at low tide (as always). Sailing Moonbird is a very loose 5-year project with no particular destination in mind; and, with the four of us living on board, somewhat of a social experiment. I plan to blog about our trip as we progress, and we will be sharing photos and clips on social media. Our website will be Sailingmoonbird.com (no, we're not the 37-metre luxury charter yacht of the same name!)

I'll be sure to update the CYCT on our progress via the *Albatross*. We'll be flying our club pennant and, who knows, maybe we'll come across some other wandering albatross members out on the high seas.

For those interested in our past sailing trips in Tasmania you can find my (very) old blog at ariadnesclweblog.wordpress.com. I will also post a link here to Sailing Moonbird.



Derek, Craig, Gayelene, with the crew of Gradiva, uphill from Schooner Cove, Bathurst Channel, Jan/Feb 2023



Preparing for a sea trial aboard Knysna hull #100, March 2024



Gayelene aboard Ariadne's Clew, approaching Bramble Cove, Port Davey, Jan 2023

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