

## Broughton Island Cruise – Part 2

### Day 5 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Weather – Light overcast and light Southerly pattern



Decided to make the trip out to the Island by taking advantage of the Southerly winds to get us there. Set off via Dalbora Marina to pick up some supplies and re-fuel.

The sail to the island was quite a contrast with 2 days ago as the wind was only 5-8 knots but at least we managed to keep pretty much together. Had some "locals" to keep us company for the voyage.

Arrived in Coal Shaft Bay at 14:30 and picked out spots close to the Western shore behind Cobb Rocks to afford some protection from the Southerly swell that was still rolling in to the bay.

All squared away and gathered on the beach for Sundowners. The small breaking swell on the beach led to a few adventures with the dinghy's getting ashore without getting swamped. Very happy to finally be in a beautiful part of the country. Looking at the fine white sand and shallow reefs you could think you are in the Whitsunday's.



*Anchored in Coal Shaft Bay*



*Shore Party admires the view.*



*Enjoying Sundowners*

## Day 6 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Weather – Light Overcast clearing. Wind SE turning NE in afternoon



Slightly unsettling night with the Southerly swell causing more rocking than some of us would like. Also had "fun" with birds flying into the rigging causing a loud "bwaang" in the middle of the night. Wish "Flying Colours" had a smaller mast....Wouldn't you think those birds would look where there are going!

After breakfast we formed up the shore party and set off to explore the island. The tracks from Coal Shaft Bay are badly overgrown and Prickly Pear has invaded a good part of the island. Between the vegetation and the mutton bird burrows it makes the walking hazardous.

Rob & Ron had set off on a circumnavigation of the island while the rest of us opted to stick to the low ground. The sun was blazing down and the temperature quickly rose to the early 30's. Once we reached the Eastern end of the bay it links up with the main track through Esmeralda Cove and a short walk brought us to Providence Bay. A beautiful stretch of sand facing the north with crystal clear water was too tempting and we jumped in for a quick dip. Lots of small stingrays took flight at our intrusion but the water was so refreshing.



*Esmeralda Cove with "fishermans huts"*



"preservative free milk".

Trekking back to Coal Shaft Bay and a well-deserved lunch. Spent the afternoon having a rest and catching up on some minor maintenance before it was time to head to the beach for sundowners.

A quick survey of the bay revealed 11 yachts in residence and not a powerboat in sight.

We settled in for a quiet night only to be boarded by pirates after dinner. Fortunately it turned out to be the Crosby's bearing gifts so they were made welcome as we enjoyed special coffee with

Wonder what tomorrow will bring ??.....

Providence Bay

To be continued.....