



PBYC 2010 Cruise – The Log Part 4



Last "sundowners" on the Island



Sunset over the Bay

Day 9 – Monday 11th January

Weather – Overcast and mild SE breeze turning to the NE later.

Looking at the forecast for today and tomorrow shows a good sea breeze later today (15-20 knots) but even stronger for tomorrow with 3-4 m swells predicted. To enjoy the run we decided to head for Pittwater today except for *Yantara* who will wait for the fresher breeze which is forecast to start earlier tomorrow (to make a quicker trip home under sail).



Bow Wow breaks free

Soleil left at first light followed by *Free Spirit*, *Bow Wow* and *Flying Colours* at various intervals. As the day progressed the breeze swung around to the NE and strengthened to 20-25 knots. *Flying Colours* and *Bow Wow* went well off the coast to pick up the current and enjoyed a great sail running downwind and with some current. On *FCII* we were surfing down waves with a reefed main and reduced headsail at speeds up to 12 knots as we closed on Broken Bay. So much easier sailing than the trip North !!

Captain Jim enjoying the sail



The light haze made coastal features hard to distinguish and we almost overran Broken Bay, having so much fun sailing and ignoring the GPS.

Took a right turn and headed for the club mooring in Refuge Bay with *Bow Wow* in hot pursuit. We rafted up and settled in for the night while *Soleil* made for home and *Free Spirit* dropped her crew home and over nighted in Careel Bay.

Day 10 – Tuesday 12th January

Weather – Clear with no wind in Refuge Bay but a great sea breeze offshore.

While waiting for *Yantara* to make the trip home and *Free Spirit* to re-join us the core cruising group took a run around to Cottage Rock for a swim and lovely fresh water rinse under the waterfalls. Strangely there was very little water at the Refuge waterfall but three fresh streams running at Cottage Rock.



Debbie relaxes at Cottage Rock

After a lazy morning it was time to get back under shade to wait out the hottest part of the day. Fortunately the afternoon brought a cooling breeze and *Free Spirit* rafted up to rejoin the group.

Spent the afternoon swimming and exploring the headwaters of Refuge Bay while waiting for *Yantara* to join us. Geoff had a very enjoyable sail and made it in to the bay just in time for sundowners and a group dinner aboard *Flying Colours*.

Many stories were told and a few glasses of quality red helped the flow of conversation. A great way to wrap up the most successful cruise any of us can remember (in a very long time).

Day 11 – Wednesday 13th January

Weather – Light cloud and a Southerly change forecast

After such a great night it was a slow start as we all get in to gear and prepare to disband and head home. (Lots of tidying up before *Flying Colours* is ready to depart).

Everyone made it back to their respective moorings before the worst of the Southerly change hits Pittwater. (Although *Free Spirit* had to shanghai an extra hand to put the boat away on the mooring).

Don't know where the time has gone but it sure has been a lot of fun and a great trip.

In Summary:

Ten days away, 180 miles sailed, many stories told and lots of adventures = a Great Cruise.

My Thanks to John Buggy for being our Fleet Captain (even when he nags us you know it is for your own good).

To all the participants I say thanks because you made the trip happen and each person has added to the experience in some way or another.

Looking forward to our next Away Cruise.....

Jim Gordon.