

## **PALM BEACH YACHT CLUB DECEMBER RALLY REPORT**

After lengthy discussions & preparations 4 boats came together for the inaugural PBYC Rally weekend on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Meeting up at the Palm Beach pile with the forecast of a freshening sea breeze, “Finesse” lead the charge away at 12:30 followed at 1 by “Addiction”, “J-Force” and “Element” in short order.



By now the wind has filled in to a steady 18 knots and the course is to a virtual mark off Second Point, which is about 7 miles away to the N.E.. This gives us a good work across Broken Bay and Huey co-operates by sending a stiff sea breeze with the occasional bullet to 25 knots ! Fortunately the swells are quite small and the sea only a half meter so some spirited sailing ensued.



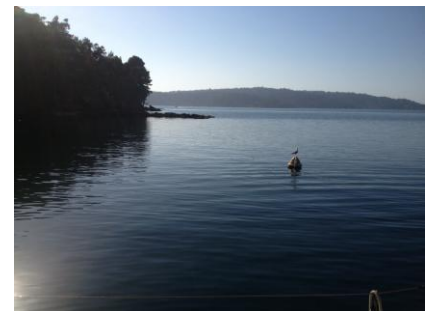
“Finesse” is first to reach the Northern point and turns to run back along the shoreline. The other three participants turn a little further out to sea and elect to take a slightly longer trek home aided by the fresh breeze and a southerly current along with a fair bit of surfing ! “Element” reported breaking 10 knots and “Addiction” hit 9.8 – all without the aid of spinnakers! We went with a #3



headsail & a reefed main. “J-Force” was a standout with a full main and #1 headsail – what a team !

A quick trip back to Mother Pittwater resulted in all the yachts arriving very close to one another – it looked like a virtual dead heat but since this is not a race there are no results.....so best to just keep sailing down Pittwater to our overnight destination of Towlers Bay.

Having picked up the club mooring and rafted up it’s time for Sundowner’s in a beautiful part of the world! Dinner followed, conversation & good wine flowed and another pleasant evening away was enjoyed by the flotilla.



Next morning we awoke to clear skies and calm conditions though the forecast was for a strong southerly change mid-morning. “Element” left early to get Bruce home in time for his afternoon flight to Singapore.

Just as we finished morning tea the Waterways BSO pulled alongside to advise a 35 knot Southerly change had hit the harbor so perhaps it was time to break up the party. Good advice so we packed up and headed home before the weather turned sour.

All in all a great trip and hope to have a bigger attendance for our next Rally on the 19/20<sup>th</sup> January. You can join for the sail only, or just the overnight raft-up or the whole event.

**FAIR WINDS & HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !**

Jim Gordon