

RYCT 65TH J BOAG NAVIGATION & SEAMANSHIP CRUISE 2024

CRUISE REPORT

On Friday evening the 3rd of May a fleet of 19 boats set off at one-minute intervals from a crowded RYCT club house on the first stage of the 65th RYCT Navigation Cruise (sponsored by Boag) into a dark moonless night in search of control locations in the vicinity of Cartwrights Point – Kingston Beach – Fisherman`s Haul and Tinderbox.

The loss of one of the organisers most dependable control boat`s due to engine trouble caused a bit of a problem-solving headache but the gap was plugged and by 2130 hours the fleet had checked into their last control for the night and was headed for Sloping Island where the Saturday morning stage was to commence.

A check of control boat time sheets by Beaver on the way to Fredrick Henry Bay revealed that despite the darkness of the night scores were extremely close with K Louisa (2pts) Mood Swing (9pts) and Renegade (12pts) leading the pack.

Following a comfortable if not for some “late night” and after reporting to the rather short-handed Beaver missing long time crew member John Choroszy the fleet got away from 0830 hours onwards in calm sunny conditions and a cloudless sky. Having lost a second control boat overnight the organisers were again required to shuffle the deck control location wise but with the willing assistance of those skippers the gaps were once again plugged effectively. In near perfect conditions the fleet first found a route check at the Isle of Caves where they had to abide by the East Cardinal mark on the stern of “Grand Finale”. From there they plotted their way to controls in Susans Bay - Lime Bay – behind Smooth Island and finally a shore control in Monk Bay after which the fleet anchored for a lunch break.

Another check of scores by Beaver showed that the leading boats all had very similar scores for the morning stage with Alexandra and Flite Mode being the exceptions and big improvers losing only 4 and 8 points respectively. Overall K Louisa (21pts) still held the lead from Alexandra (26pts) and Mood Swing (28pts).

Following the lunch break and again reporting to Beaver the fleet navigated their way to another route check on the shoreline near the Coal Mines after which they were sent on a scenic excursion of the old settlement ruins to find Dave Morris at their actual control location. Once back aboard crews headed to Prices Bay then Cascade Bay before finding their final control ashore near Mason Point.

With the “naviguessing” done the 19 participating crews and 10 control boats made their way into Little Norfolk Bay to anchor and enjoy a well-earned debrief before venturing ashore to the delightful Taranna Boat Club (TBC) who were hosting the Saturday evening function and the “much feared” results announcement. TBC put on a wonderful evening providing a much more than adequate barbecue meal for 101 and convivial drinks for around 115 in total. A great night was had by all who attended.

When final results were calculated K Louisa (26pts) proved to be a clear winner with the other podium places being filled by Mood Swing (55pts) and Alexandra (56pts). Although the gap from first to second was a clear cut 29 points it was interesting to note that only a further 29 points separated second and eleventh places and only 38 points separating second to sixteenth.

Sunday dawned another perfect morning as the fleet began heading for home with some stopping off for a most enjoyable raft up under Sloping Island where crew question results were announced, and all attending enjoyed a pleasant couple of hours before setting off on the final leg of a great weekend.

The most satisfying aspect of this year's event from an organiser's perspective was the fact that the overall average age decreased and the number of new crews increased. The survival to this long running tradition is totally reliant on that injection of next generation participation continuing.

As an aside the secret to setting a successful navigation cruise is having capable and dependable control boat skippers and crews the Beaver Boys are lucky to have a team of the best available who have supported them over the years. The 2024 team was;

Nick Hutton	"Little Bear II"	Bruv Probin	"Grand Finale"
Patrick Copeland	"Martini	Harry Ross	"Reef Runner"
Steve Spaulding	"Sancere"	Dave Morris	"Rubicon II"
Peter Langford	"Samedi"	Andrew Perkins	"Amodet"
Steve Laird	"Wal"	Steve Shield	"Sol Mio"
Glen Roper	"Elletan"	<u>plus their more than capable crews</u>	

To all who came with us to Taranna thanks for your time - interest and enthusiasm.

The "Beaver"