

BLESSING of the FLEET
ULLADULLA 2008

CRUISE INSTRUCTIONS

Preamble

Please check the attached schedule and stay in contact with your Group Co-ordinator for departure times for each leg of the cruise. We have specifically set out to provide a schedule with the maximum amount of laydays so that your Ulladulla experience will be as relaxed as possible. However the schedule is, as always, weather dependent. We will not put to sea if the conditions or the forecast are unsuitable. We will not continue unnecessarily if the conditions deteriorate or the forecast indicates unsuitable weather approaching. Therefore changes to the schedule can be expected at some time and your Group Co-ordinator will advise you of these changes.

As with all Royal Prince Alfreds Yacht Club cruises, and the Cruise Management Plan, all participants are reminded of the following requirements.

- Participants are to know their approximate position at all times in order to be able to advise a rescue authority;
- A minimum of two crew who are able to send a Mayday or other emergency call;
- A minimum of two crew, each of whom are able to bring the boat back to the vicinity of a Man-Over-Board single-handed;
- All crew shall be attached by tether to a jackstay or clipping point when on deck, and should wear their PFD when the boat is in open waters. At night or in bad weather they shall be clipped on when in the cockpit.

Cruise Co-ordinator

The Cruise Co-ordinator for this cruise will be Maurice Byrnes, sailing aboard Southern Cross, and the contact phone number is 0411 867 567

Departure – Day 1

Leave RPAYC marina at 0700 hrs 15th March 2008, or otherwise meet at the Barrenjoey Port Hand Pile in time to log-on at 0800hrs.
Allowing 6 hrs sailing time, this will have us entering Port Hacking at approx. 1400hrs,

Log – on

Log – on by calling your Cruise Co-ordinator on VHF channel 77 as you pass the Barrenjoey Port Hand Pile, at approx.0800hrs and before setting out to sea.
This procedure will be repeated each and every time that the fleet puts to sea.

Engine Operation

It is most likely that in the early morning there will be little wind and therefore if there is insufficient wind to maintain 5-6 knots, you will be required to motor/sail in order to keep up with the rest of the fleet

Radio.

Please monitor Channels 16 and 77 during the cruise. Contact between boats can be made on Channel 77 and therefore not affect the Emergency Channel 16. If you need to contact your Cruise Coordinator, you can do so on Channel 77.

Radio Schedules

A radio schedule will be conducted at 1105 hrs and again at 3 hour intervals and yachts will be called in the order that they appear on the Cruise Entry List.

We do not wish to tie up the air ways any more than necessary, so please be ready with your position report and give latitude and longitude only in degrees, minutes and decimals of a minute. It is safe for us to assume "South" and "East"

Example "Here is Pacific Princess, my position is 33 09.5 – 151 40.6"
"All is well aboard"

This message format is concise, quick and easily recorded.

Also ensure that you switch your radio from "Scan" or "Dual watch" to Channel 77 as the schedules commence.

Arrival

Upon arrival at each destination point, log-off with your cruise coordinator, by calling on Channel 77, then proceed to anchorage.

Cruise Schedule.

- 15th - **Pittwater to Port Hacking** - **32nm (5-6 hrs)**
(Refuge Sydney Hbr, Botany Bay)
- 16th - **Layday**
- 17th - **Port Hacking to Jervis Bay** - **68nm (11 hrs)**
(Refuge Wollongong, Kiama, Crookhaven)
With a high tide at 1747, it may be appropriate to enter Crookhaven if sea conditions are suitable. This would reduce the passage length to 53nm, or 9 hrs.
- 18th - **Layday**
Or depart from Crookhaven for Jervis Bay. High tide 0541hrs.(2 hrs)
- 19th - **Layday**
- 20th - **Layday**
- 21st - **Jervis Bay to Ulladulla** - **22nm (4 hrs)**
Early start to arrive before sea conditions deteriorate.
- 22nd - **Layday**
- 23rd - **Blessing of the Fleet**
- 24th - **Layday**
- 25th - **Ulladulla to Crookhaven** - **37nm (6 hrs)**
(Refuge Jervis Bay)

- High tide 1023 hrs, therefore depart Ulladulla at 0400hrs to cross the bar on the rising tide.
- 26th - Layday**
- 27th - Crookhaven to Port Hacking - 53nm (9 hrs)**
(Refuge Kiama, Wollongong)
High tide 1145hrs, so depart 0900 half way through rising tide, and arrive Port Hacking 1800hrs.
- 28th - Layday**
- 29th - Port Hacking to Pittwater - 32nm (5-6 hrs)**
(Refuge Botany Bay, Sydney Hbr)
- 30th - Cruise Ends**

The cruise schedule may change due to weather forecasts, and any such changes will be advised by the cruise co-ordinator on Ch77

Easter Sunday

We have been invited to join in the annual “Blessing of the Fleet” celebrations and ceremony. This will involve “Dressing” the boats and proceeding with a sail-past along the local beaches before re-entering the harbour. The sail-past is designed to provide a visual impact for the local and tourist onlookers, and we have been requested to take visitors from the local community aboard. Numbers will be restricted to safe limits.

Once the sail-past is completed we have again been invited to join in the “Blessing of the Fleet” ceremony, at which time the boats will be blessed by the local priest.

Supplies

Food, water and fuel is readily available at Ulladulla, however all yachts will be required to be self sufficient on the way down and again on the way back.

Other Facilities.

Some provisioning is available at Bundeena, adjacent to Jibbon Beach, and also at Crookhaven. However, as entry to Crookhaven requires a bar crossing, it's access is uncertain.