

CYC CRUISE TO HMAS STIRLING AND MANGLES BAY



What a weekend - when too much fun was nearly enough!

The convoy set out from the Club at 8:30 on Saturday morning – well, maybe “convoy” suggests a greater level of order and leadership than actually occurred on the day.

By 11:00 am all 16 boats from the Club were safely anchored in Careening Bay at Garden Island.

About 60 members and guests were welcomed ashore by Captain Brian Delamont who is the Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling, in fact, he is the commander of the navy in WA (<http://www.navy.gov.au/biography/captain-brian-delamont>). Visitors were told not to pick a fight with anybody we saw wandering around in green as they would probably be a member of the SAS on a training course!

At the end of his welcome, Capt Delamont presented Commodore David Bovell with a commemorative medal to mark the visit. Members were then invited to wander around Careening Bay, but not to breach any barbed wire fences. It was unfortunate that Capt Brian was unable to take us for the anticipated visit to part of the base because of the long walk it would have entailed.

As we settled down at Camp Markham for a BBQ lunch the light breeze swung around to the SW. As the wind increased, a couple of boats dragged their anchor, which somewhat broke up the party. Fortunately, as we had remained in the Camp Markham BBQ area, skippers were able to get to their boats quickly to sort out the problem. Special mention here to Matt Pearce who was both the water taxi running people to boats and also spent a short time as a “tender fender” to keep one of the drifting boats away from another. In the end, due to quick action, no boats were damaged.

As we departed Camp Markham to cross the Sound to the The Cruising Yacht Club (TCYC) moorings, many skippers took advantage of the invitation from Capt Delamont to enter the restricted waters and take a close look at the ships and submarines in their docks. This waterborne inspection of the craft somewhat compensated for Capt. Brian being unable to take us on a walking tour to the base.

After settling down on their allocated moorings in Mangles Bay, members repaired to the bar at TCYC for a refreshing ale. After we had enjoyed a few drinks and shouted the TCYC members a few jugs to thank them for their hospitality, members peeled off to restaurants around Rockingham Beach for dinner.

Sunday dawned fair, fine and calm. By 8:00 am, about 40 members and friends had found their way ashore and were gathered around a BBQ in Churchill Park. Everybody enjoyed egg and bacon in a roll supplied by the Club and washed down with a coffee purchased from one of the many local cafes. Eventually the party broke up as skippers decided to take advantage of the prevailing calm conditions to head back to Fremantle rather than pounding through the chop whipped up by the brisk sea breeze forecast for later in the morning.

Thanks to Rear Commodore Power, Paul Hodgson, for wrangling the bookings and the changing needs of members, and also for organising the supplies for Sunday’s breakfast. Thanks to Vice Commodore Bill MacLeod, for liaising with HMAS Stirling and TCYC. Thanks to “chefs” Paul Hodgson and Anne and Bill MacLeod for cooking the bacon and eggs for breakfast. Finally, thanks to all of the members and friends who came along and made the event such a success. It was very pleasing to see among the group many new members and also some long standing members trying a new destination.

It was a great trip with almost perfect weather and a fantastic turn-out of appreciative members.

There were a lot of pictures taken over the weekend – if you have a couple of good photos, please send them to the office to be put on the website for others to enjoy.