

## **BMS 6 Day Kooringal Cruise Report 17-22 November 2024**

The cruise was registered originally with 26 vessels; however a number withdrew before the cruise started. With a starting fleet on Sunday, the first day, 20 vessels, some old and some new cruisers made their own way to RQYS Canaipa for a BBQ dinner and briefing. Three cruisers planned to meet us at the end of the cruise at Dux. At the briefing the fleet was split into two groups based on speed, size and hull type due to the narrow and shallow entry route into Days Gutter, Kooringal via the Rainbow & Rous Channels and Black Gutter. It was also mentioned that there might be the possibility that we may only spend one night instead of two due to wind and weather conditions. If it became apparent, we could only spend one night, the plan was to come back to Canaipa for a lunch at the RSL club.

By Monday morning the fleet had reduced further to 16 Cruisers. With Andy Day leading the first group and Phil Barlow leading the second group we set off at 0730hrs from the Canaipa anchorage pushing the tide to the Rainbow Channel. We all successfully anchored at Days Gutter, Kooringal. The wind was around 11-13 knots from the north.

At 1200hrs most met ashore for a wonderful sunny and relaxed lunch at the World Famous Gutter Bar! Some had a swim, some went around Crab Island in their tenders with only just enough water, whilst the rest had a relaxed afternoon on the boats. One eye was being kept on the wind and weather, as a southerly change was forecast, which would dictate whether we stayed at the anchorage for another night, or whether we headed back to the relative safe anchorage of Canaipa. It was decided to wait until the morning sked at 0810 to make the final call.

Early Tuesday morning it was evident that a few boats had unfortunately found the bottom overnight, all were safe and undamaged except for some pride.

The southerly change with gusts of up to 24 knots for later in the afternoon and possible heavy rain was confirmed, so it was outlined at the 0810hrs sked that we would leave the anchorage at 1000hrs and head back to Canaipa. The passage out of Kooringal was going well until the southerly change kicked in early and a few boats decided to get on the plane and head of the Canaipa in search of calmer waters.

During the passage across Lower Moreton Bay, we ended up with south easterly gusts up to 40 knots much higher than forecast. Another 8 boats decided to head home due to the forecast and other commitments. It was deemed unsafe to anchor at Canaipa, so the RSL lunch was cancelled and the remaining boats headed for Tiger Mullet Channel to hide out of the wind. It turned out to be a relatively calm anchorage although the southerly kicked up a notch at around 0400hrs but was still not strong in the anchorage.

On Wednesday morning we left the anchorage at 0900hrs and headed to our final anchorage of SYC Dux. At 1200hrs we headed ashore for a relaxed BBQ lunch. Earlier in the morning another group of six arrived by helicopter for a birthday party lunch under the Bali hut. After a while some of the party goers decided to join us and we all enjoyed singing happy birthday, trying to do the Macarena and chatting to our unexpected new friends whilst eating their leftover crayfish,

Moreton Bay Bugs, prawns and oysters. A great fun afternoon was enjoyed by all. The helicopter arrived around 1600hrs to take them home. We gave them a warm wave to send them off and they reciprocated with a cheeky parting gesture of their own.

The following morning, Thursday, we were joined by the cruisers that said they would meet us at Dux, some met ashore and walked to Tipplers, and some not so energetic took their tenders and we all had a relaxing lunch. Later that afternoon the 8 remaining vessels' cruisers met ashore at 1630hrs for a BBQ, drinks and the BMS and Precision Marine Maintenance draw! On Friday most vessels proceeded home.









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