

BMS 5 Day Australia Day Cruise 23-27 January 2025

The cruise started on Thursday night at Paradise point for a BBQ, drinks and nibbles. Some people anchored outside the Paradise Point Parklands, but most came by car. We had 40 people in attendance and a good night was had by all. For the boats that were at Paradise Point for the overnight stay, Friday was a relaxing day, some had fish and chips in the park others relaxed on their boats in the hot and humid heat!

On Friday we met at the SYC Hollywell Clubhouse for dinner, the club put a special menu on for us due to the numbers. Some boats up-anchored and headed south to anchor outside the SYC Hollywell Club some stayed anchored in Paradise Pont as Hollywell has a reputation as a notoriously poor holding anchorage and others arrived to the club by car. Unfortunately two boats dragged in the storm and relocated to the shelter of the Sovereign Islands. Overall we had a great night of laughter, music, lightning and storms with 50 club cruisers in attendance. Thanks go to our Membership Manager for helping out as it was such a large event.

On Saturday we departed Hollywell at 8:00am and headed to Tiger Mullet for our overnight anchorage. At 4:30pm 30 of us headed ashore for drinks and nibbles to the sandy strip and the eastern end of the anchorage, one tender decided to go for a spin by itself and was rescued by some nearby fishermen. We were mostly eaten alive by midges and we all settled back to our boats to watch the AO tennis women's final for the night.

On Sunday, Australia Day we up anchored at 9:00am and headed to a packed Dux Anchorage for our Australia Day Celebrations. Two boats decided it was too tight an anchorage and headed home, however 41 of us met ashore at 11:00am and started with some old favourite games. The games included, Quoits, Thong Toss, Corn Hole, Egg and Spoon race and Two Up. We all had fun and found out were those muscles are we haven't felt for a while.

Australiana prizes were given to the winners of each event. Our Club Vice Commodore joined us for the event and he and his family showed us their superlative games skill. We then held the BMS and Precision Marine Maintenance lucky draw. Thereafter we settled in for lunch, a traditional BBQ accompanied by Meringue and Trifle, kindly donated by some of the cruisers.

We were visited by a rather large Lace Monitor that wandered around beneath the tables giving us all a good old fright. One of our members held a mock citizenship test which most of us passed and was a great laugh!

After lunch we broke into teams of six for an Australiana Quiz which was won by a team denouncing 'Wokeness'. To help us along some of the answers were left in so at least we got some of the questions right. The winners and runners up and the last place were awarded prizes kindly donated by Precision Marine Maintenance. After the long lunch we then headed back to our boats for the evening to watch the Men's AO final and to get some of that air-conditioning!

On Monday some of the boats headed home and some stayed on for the Public Holiday and more!







