



Merry Christmas from Cockatoo II.

December 2007 marks 3 years since we threw the mooring ropes off from Fremantle Sailing Club and headed off into the sunset.



Christmas Day 2007



What a beautiful sunny day anchored at Quarantine Bay around the corner from Manly, Sydney. Samantha flew in from Brisbane and spent Christmas with us aboard.

Boxing Day 2007



We went and watched the start of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race with the million other boats out on the harbor very exciting.

We left Sydney in February spending time in the beautiful Hawkesbury River. We caught up with Azure at Port Stephens where they are building 2 Catamarans and putting Azure up for sale.

During 2007 we sailed from Sydney, NSW to Bowen, QLD, even taking a deviation by plane to the USA. We successfully crossed nearly all of the NSW bars travelling up the coast spending a fair bit of time in the Clarence River meeting another WA boat "Indali".



The Clarence was also memorable because Col gave us a fly in his plane to see the river from the air.



Samantha came down from Brisbane and spent some time aboard at Maclean where we saw our tartan on a pole- The Fraser Clan.



Ballina was another place



where we crossed the bar and spent some time at a Allan's Macadamia farm. A magic spot. Sad to leave but Brisbane and our daughter Sam was to leave soon for Melbourne.

We anchored right in the centre of the City of Brisbane.





Cockatoo II cont....

Passing many ships as we went up the Brisbane River.

Sam was inducted into the Navy and left for Melbourne whilst we were there.



We cleaned the bottom of the tender at Tangalooma off Moreton Bay Island as it was getting VERY dirty.



Meeting Huon Mist at Gary's anchorage off Fraser Island and then having a gourmet champagne

breakfast aboard at Yellow Patch was a delight . We have caught up with them at Bowen and are planning to spend Christmas day with them on the water.

We sailed to the beautiful Percy



Islands , Paul carved a sign and placed it at the Percy Hilton. That evening everyone came ashore had a BBQ and sun-downer. It was a truly memorable evening. A major milestone this year was the crossing at 20 degrees 30 minutes, the Tropic of Capricorn.

Stopping ashore we visited Graham and Meredith busy fixing



up their new land base and we stayed for a while.

Stopping at Airlie Beach we caught up with Di and Col and their family of Kookaburra's. We met Col and Di on the water in NSW bringing



their new boat up from Sydney. Note the five kookaburra's in the tree- isn't there a song about that?

Whitsunday islands are beautiful, the water was clear, blue



and the scenery and snorkeling stunning. We have spent a lot of time exploring these islands. The outer reef was worth the trip out.

We swam with a very friendly fish.





THE END OF THE YEAR IS A TIME TO REFLECT ON WHAT HAS GONE AND WHAT IS TO COME.

We met Tamara at Hamilton Island and spent four days with her sailing around the Whitsunday's.



A surprise was seeing Bill and Pauline from Tibia in Gulnare Inlet – it was lovely to see them again.

Currently we are at Bowen after cruising the beautiful Whitsunday Islands.

Paul turned 50 this year. January saw him leap out of a plane-Tracy and the girls giving him a parachute jump for his birthday. In September we headed over to the USA to spend time with the



boys all celebrating their 50th birthday's this year.

We spent time with Sue and



Tom in New York (Tracy's Sister) whilst we were over in the States. Tom's father sadly passed away while we were there.



Brian and Ruth looked after Cockatoo II whilst we were

away.

Coco was a welcome addition in Melbourne but in November she flew to stay with Sandy and



Andrew in WA as Tracy is very allergic to her. It was sad to see her go but she has settled into her land life extremely well.

Maintenance is a constant and after two days sewing the sail by hand we invested in a heavy industrial



machine that will do the job we hope for us.

Family update:

All the girls are busy with their lives and we are so proud of them all.

Samantha will be spending some time with us after Christmas with her new boyfriend. Samantha has joined the Navy and is living in Melbourne . Paul attended Samantha's graduation ceremony in July.

Danielle and Chris were planning to come over to QLD , but Chris has taken a bad tum-



ble off his motorcycle and has a broken foot and a fractured hip bone. He will be in a wheelchair for at least six weeks. Their trip has been cancelled, so we'll catch up with them later on. During the year Danielle has been busy selling boats in Mandurah.

Tamara was working full time at Bankwest but now is working part time and is looking forward to attending university in 2008. She has a steady boyfriend and is enjoying life.

Ann and Arch (Tracy's Mum and Dad) went land cruising, they travelled on the Canning Stock Route. This year Dad was also very ill with pneumonia and Mum broke her wrist but managed to play at the Vines in December this year.

Ian (Paul's dad) had injured his knee, fallen over and smashed his knee cap, but all is well now.

We are selling a few marine products we found in the USA and are regulars at the local markets here so that's keeping us busy.

Highlights:

- We are Aunt and Uncle again. Welcome Alex to the world ! (courtesy Liz (Tracy's sister) and Lee).

- We are aunt and Uncle for the second time this year-another little boy. Welcome Same to the world ! (Courtesy Mark (Paul's brother) and Michelle.)

- Arriving in the Whitsundays, Queensland July 2007.

- Two months in the USA visiting friends and family.

- The fantastic people we met along the way

- Seeing our girls grow up so beautifully in to young women

- Sydney - Hobart Yacht race, the New Years fireworks and Australia Day on the water.

Paul and I send you all our best wishes and hope that you have a safe and happy Christmas and that the New Year brings you good fortune and good health.

Visit our website at www.cockatoo2.com for more detail or email us at sailing@cockatoo2.com

