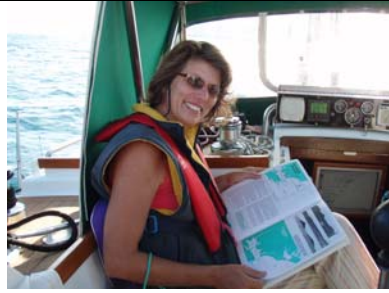


AHOY! COCKATOO II

MARCH 2007 UPDATE.



I am sitting on the back deck of Cockatoo II looking around the beautiful Fame Cove at Port Stephens with a cold drink in one and my computer on my knee thinking of you all.



Meanwhile Paul has been asking when this newsletter will be ready to send out and is currently sitting with the fishing rod in his hand hoping to catch our dinner (no luck yet).



We left Sydney with many fond memories of the amazing life on the water enjoying the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race start, Christmas with Samantha at Quarantine Bay, the Fireworks on Sydney Harbour New Year and the amazing Australia Day celebrations on the Harbour, We were invited to come with some new friends that we met on Texas Lady and what a great day it was, everyone had to dress up in .the theme of Pricilla of the Desert inc the boat, what a sight



Sydney to Hobart Race. leaving the heads



New Year, the Bridge with the coat hanger theme



Australia Day on the Texas Lady



We had a visit for a few days from some old friends who had moved to Queensland a few years ago Rose and Malcolm



The Madbuggers a group of friends who have just purchased a new cruising boat and sailed it down from Queensland together



Rory O'Hara, we had a great time with Rory and his family in Sydney.



Samantha and mum at Darling Harbour, Sydney –we did the tourist thing going to the museum, art gallery etc.



We made our way up the coast to the Hawkesbury River, enjoying great sailing weather. The Hawkesbury River with its quiet serenity and the forest going right down to the water was a welcome break from the busy Sydney Harbour. We could have stayed a lot longer as the weather was so warm we swam nearly every day. We had two couples stay overnight -the Whalley's and the Clewett's.



Pete, Rene and Kyle who was only three weeks old. We enjoyed swimming, and talking about old times.



Savannah, 2 years old and a ball of energy. It was lovely having a young person around. Coco loved her company.



Gene and Cate we even had a few games of 500s and I conned Gene into helping me give the boat bottom a scrub



In Yeoman's Bay Paul was fixing a small leak in the motor water pump when he discovered that the bearings desperately needed repairing ie one no longer existed, very lucky to catch this in time. With no spares on board, I dropped him off at Jerusalem Bay where he walked through the bush 3km to Cowan train station and caught the train to Sydney for the parts. I waited for his call to pick him up, listening to the bilge pump going every 20 minutes. Paul had it fixed within 30 minutes upon his return.



After everything was back together we headed off to pickup Tracy's new surf ski so that she could do some paddling, she has only used it once so far



Getting the map out one relaxing day in the Hawkesbury we discovered how far we had to go up to Brisbane and the Whitsunday which we wanted to be by August at the latest. This discovery spurred us onto seeing Pittwater and Brisbane Waters. We stocked up on provisions at Woy Woy before sailing to Lake Macquarie. After entering over the Swansea Bar we spent a week in this huge lake the size of the Sydney Harbour before moving on to the beautiful Port Stephens.



This picture shows our AIS showing all the ships on the way up the coast to Port Stephens, waiting to get into Newcastle. We passed these all at anchor off the coast, an amazing sight passing close to these immense ships hoping that we will never be that close again out on the open ocean. Port Stephens is lovely with white sandy beaches, clear blue water, and lovely warm weather. Upon arrival we met up with Chris from Azure. It was great to catch up with him and find out all his news. Lilly is in Italy with her mother for three months.



Here is Samantha in Sydney- Christmas 2007. Samantha turns 21 this month. She moved to Brisbane before Christmas and is settling in well.

Tamara is at Bank West working hard and still has not sold her old car.

Danielle and Chris are working hard, enjoying their new house and avoiding baseballs.



Paul turned 50 this year, the girls and I gave him a great reason to jump out of a perfectly good plane.

In September we are heading off to the USA for 8 weeks to meet up with his mates and have another drink for his birthday. We will be leaving the boat in the Whitsunday's with a friend Brian and Ruth Combley who will be using the boat while we are away, Hope its still there when we get back



We celebrated two years on the water just before Christmas and are still enjoying the sailing life. We are currently appreciating being in warmer climates (after Melbourne and Tasmania) and looking forward to getting to the Whitsunday's.

To keep track of us don't forget to check out our website at www.cockatoo2.com. And look at our trip Log

Please do keep in contact as we look forward to hearing of your news and happenings. I promise to reply this time as I have been very slack in replying to emails as of late.

Take care and fair winds
Paul and Tracy
Cockatoo II