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elcome back to the Discovery Bay Yacht Club (www.dbyc.net), based in Discovery Bay, we are a community of yacht owners and crew who enjoy fun & friendly regattas, cruises & races.

At this time of year, we concentrate more on the cruising and social side of sailing, with 12 boats arriving for a splendid lunch at the Boathouse

in Stanley (29.Nov.14). An enjoyable pursuit race with variable winds and the bullets off Stanley providing an exhilarating finish. A big welcome to *Pelorus* and *Nervous Breakdown* in their inaugural DBYC events and lovely to see two lady helms, Lucie Cameron on *Swan* and Louise Jewell on *Nervous Breakdown*.

It's always great to see the fleet anchored off the old Blake Pier. Congratulations to *Sula* (Graham Boyd) for 1st place in the Cruiser mono & cat division, *Allegro* (Tom Wiesinger), first of the Plastic Fantastics and *Kapt'n Blaubar* (Stefan Filip) in the Cruiser Racer Division.

Then, for our customary December social, we hosted some 60 people at the 2014 DBYC Christmas Party in the Bounty Bar at the Auberge and, in the best tradition of these parties, there are gaps in the collective memory.

This year will be remembered for the complete lack of vegetables or potatoes or rice or any carbohydrate to complement the splendid array of meat and seafood dishes for the main course! However, we made up for it with the dancing and general merriment, until they had to switch the lights on and kick us out!

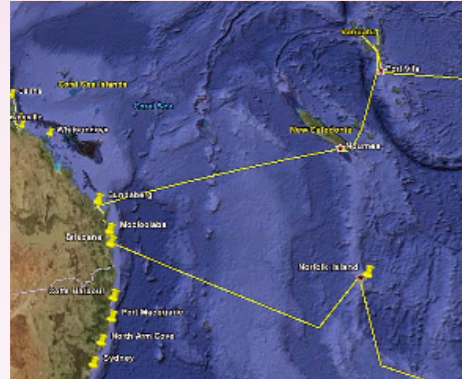
Talking of cruising, here's introducing a series, describing some of the club's yachts.



## DISCOVERY BAY YACHT CLUB

www.dbyc.net

**Harlequin**, still a proud member of the DBYC, has been flying our double-dolphin pennant under Antipodean skies for the past three years. This is her tale . . .



Owned by former DBYC commodore, founder and life-member, Jim Fernie and wife Sue, *Harlequin* is a Bavaria Vision 44 which was launched and commissioned in Hong Kong in 2007 but has been cruising more distant shores since 2009. First on a return trip through the Philippines to Palawan, Kota Kinabalu, Labuan and Brunei, followed by a somewhat longer cruise to New Zealand via the Philippines, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Australia. She took almost exactly a year from Hong Kong to Auckland, cruising in stages and covering 10,000 nautical miles.

*Harlequin* spent over a year in NZ, circumnavigating North Island in the wake



of Captain Cook to visit East Cape, Wellington, Marlborough Sounds, the Abel Tasman National Park, and taking part in the Nelson Regatta. Nelson also proved an ideal spot from which to buy a van to explore South Island in all its splendour.

April 2014 saw *Harlequin* depart NZ for Fiji for a six-month visit, before riding the Trades to Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides), New Caledonia, and finally back to Australia ahead of the cyclone season for a Christmas berth in Mooloolaba near Brisbane. Last there for Christmas 2012, the two-year Tasman circuit had added



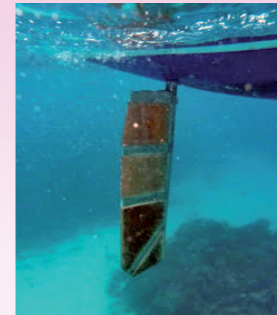
another 8,000nm to the log, now totaling about 25,000nm.

*Harlequin* has had many adventures along the way. She lost her rudder in the Coral Sea en-route from PNG to Cairns. Former co-owners Steve Turner & Pat Sherriff had to deal with that one, first deploying a jury-rigged drogue to allow limited steerage through the reef and into shelter in the Louisiades, then building a temporary replacement to get them back to Alotau.

Sourcing and fitting a new rudder in a remote corner of PNG was another, quite separate, trial. Then, crossing from Australia to New Zealand, she had to divert 200nm to Norfolk Island with steering chain failure (right & overleaf) in the face of stormy Tasman Sea conditions. Later, her Saildrive gearbox seized on departure from NZ, requiring a return to port under sail for a complete replacement — an expensive exercise! In addition to the odd mechanical upset, she has encountered the occasional cyclone — not, as one might expect, whilst cruising the islands of the South Pacific, but in Australia (TC Oswald) and New Zealand (TC's Lusi & Ita).

All worthwhile, though, when considered alongside many remarkable sights and experiences in some remote and very beautiful locations: the Philippines, right on our doorstep, offered remarkable cruising; spectacular Palau with superb diving and raw WWII

*Continued from previous page* — history to boot; the timeless Ninigo atoll (home of the last builders of traditional two-masted, square-



sailed outrigger canoes) where the crew traded fishing hooks for lobster; visiting a sand-floored village school in the Hermit Islands, where it takes the islanders a week in an open dinghy to trade for supplies at the larger Admiralty Islands; landing massive tuna and dorado during ocean crossings (right).

Then it was playing with pilot whales, dolphins and giant manta rays in Fiji, diving deep within the *SS President Coolidge* and the even more amazing 'Million Dollar Beach' off Espirito Santo, Vanuatu; later sailing just 300nm to enjoy a civilized coffee and croissant in Noumea, as if berthed at a glitzy marina in the south of France. The list is long, if not endless.

Along the way, various crew have joined the fun: friends and family, as well as many

'hitch-hikers' who have signed on as crew for weeks at a time — many of the latter through the excellent Find-a-Crew website. Seeing the cruising life through new eyes is refreshing, and another pair of hands around the boat is always useful. So, anybody interested in joining *Harlequin* for a spell should contact the skipper by email at HKG2301@gmail.com — anyone with a bit of sailing experience and a flexible schedule will be very welcome.

*Harlequin* is now cruising south again, down the Queensland/New South Wales coast, and has just left the Coral Sea to re-enter the Tasman. Her next major destination will be Sydney harbour, for that iconic 'photo-op' by the Sydney Opera House. After that . . . Tasmania? Follow her adventures on

facebook.com/SYHarlequin or harlequinsail.blogspot.com!



And whether you are cruising to the South Sea Islands, or just the islands south of Hong Kong, the Discovery Bay Yacht Club is your cruising club.

More on our upcoming events can be found www.dbyc.net, together with membership details. We work though emails to contact members for updates, changes and informal events, so join up and join us for our fun & friendly series of cruising-style events.



If you would like to know more about future DBYC events, or wish to join the Club, join us at one of our monthly gatherings or Stammtisch - we'd love to have you along!

— Lindsay Pickles, Commodore

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