

Edition 39
September October 2011



Queensland Careel News



Careel 18 vs Humpback





Queensland Careel News

Queensland Careel Committee

Paul Trotter (0409 061603) ptrotter@bigpond.net.au

Michael Yeates (0415 892 237) michael@yeatesit.biz

Inside this edition

<i>Front Cover – Careel 18 / 26 Wyuna takes on Humpback in Platypus Bay!</i>	
<i>Message from the Editor</i>	1
<i>What an Adventure</i>	2
<i>Wyuna Triumphs on the Clarence</i>	16
<i>Up and Coming Events</i>	22

Message from the Editor

This edition has two big articles from two adventures with Mr Cook and myself. Cruising and Racing and that = good fun!

The first article is about our recent Whale Watching Trip to Hervey Bay which turned into quite a saga but an amazing experience. The second article focuses on another trip to Grafton to compete with those NSW people. We had a great few days at both events and we would encourage more of the Queensland Careelers to get out and join us!

We have had a number of changes in recent years with Bundy Bruce selling Bundy Flyer and Paul Dwyer selling Restless. This means we get more people involved in the class. Why? Because Bruce and Paul still come Careeling in our boat and we get to see the new Careelers out having fun! Its a win win for everyone.

The State Titles will be coming soon on Lake Samsonvale and I'll confirm dates very soon.

Cheers

Moreton Bay Captain CCYA
Paul Trotter



Queensland Careel News

What an Adventure!

Whale Watching with Capt Cook in Ivana and support vessel Wyuna with Trots

In re reading this article it sounds like a tale from a scared and nervous sailor. And that's because he was! This trip was not to be a holiday. It was an adventure.

After much preparation, trepidation and anticipation the Cooks and Trotters headed north on the Bruce Highway to chase Whales up the western side of Fraser Island. I was always nervous about this kind of trip and had said as much on www.careel.com when I read of the adventures of others. Being trapped in a strong northerly and with the tide low and no chance of entering a creek is the nightmare scenario. Strong northerlies are very common in October.

I had spent Thursday and Friday preparing the boat and after cricket on Saturday we were ready for the road trip. We had an incident free trip to Urangan Boat Harbour but ask Cookie about how important immunisation certificates are for your dog!

We got up to the Caravan Park adjacent the harbour late in the day and the Cook's went 'up market' hiring a cabin while Matt and I slept in the boat. We adjourned to watch the old folk and couples dancing at the Hervey Bay Boat Club. The over 60s go "OFF" at this joint and not much had changed since our last visit during the Bay to Bay Race. It took us a long time to get a meal after a couple of false starts but we did eat.

Monday

The next day we awoke to a brisk and building southerly and at the ramp we were counselled by some hot water dingy people how rough it was out at Moon Point on the west coast of Fraser. Now I really was getting nervous with a boat full of gas fridges, cylinders and camping gear! Cookie said we needed to have a look! So under reefed mains and jibs we headed out of the harbour. There was a strong outgoing tide which travels north and a gusty southerly at about 10 - 15 knots. No sweat! We had some troubled waters just off Moon Point and we had to head South East to maintain our due north east course but we made it over very comfortably. With much relief on my part, we rounded the point and passed through the 'gate' between a long sand bar that stretches north west sheltering the channel which runs parallel to the western coast. The water smoothed and we enjoyed a glorious sail North East and we even cracked a couple of beers to celebrate the crossing of Great Sandy Straits.



Queensland Careel News

We stayed relatively close to the coast which stretched as far as the eye could see. The coast is initially flat but before long the hills appear with sand blows adjacent the beach. In the far distance where the dunes ended was our destination of Wathumba Creek. Rooney Point appears as a group of islands to the north. We stayed pretty close to the shore and the wind picked up with the occasional 'bullet' heeling the boat over. We finally capitulated to reduce the levels of stress and continued under a reefed main alone, allowing the brave Capt Cook to continue ahead with his jib still in action.

He reached Wathumba and made contact via radio. Cookie was in reasonable chop having passed all the yachts sheltered further south. The tide was now on the way back in but we had another four hours until high. He took the risk and bumped over the banks to find himself in the creek and safe. We followed suit. We rested up on a sand bank and watched a fellow Careeler being pushed around and into the creek. We heard later he had motor trouble.

By now the wind was gusting strongly from the south and the tide was ripping in through the mouth at a rate of knots. We headed up the creek to find a camp spot and ruled out the exposed position our fellow southern Careelers had selected.

We then did a loop around a couple of boats at anchor and at this point Mr Cook did not indear himself to the NSW trailer sailer fleet almost tangling himself with an anchor rode and then a subsequent T boning of C22 Katrina which was bravely vended off by Amanda. No damage, just damaged pride and some abuse from the shore from the crew of the other boat.

We did find ourselves a private camp in a heavily treed section of the headland on the northern shore of Wathumba Creek and we tied ourselves between some logs and watched the tide rise. The speed of the water was just amazing and the tidal range of about four metres was something to see. We lugged our gear up a ladder that had been positioned on shore to make life easy and we put our gas fired fridges in the open Dingo Shelter, which could be locked to protect all our food. We had a nice open area with some exposure to the southerly to keep the sand flies at bay and a wonderful view out to the east over the creek. We had everything just set up in time before dusk and Cookie very carefully put a diode space ship on some string to light our shared kitchen.



Queensland Careel News

Ivana heading north and Mr Trotter very happy!



Tuesday

During the night we had a visit by the local mob of Dingos and in the morning I found they had made off with one of my crocks and ruined my RM Williams belt with a good chewing! With the sun rising over the creek to the east and a hot cup of coffee we had the sound of howling Dingos haunting our morning camp. We had to depart early this morning on the rising tide to start our hunt for Whales.

So we copped another 'spray' from the boat with the anchor chain as we passed and I did my best to 'pour oil on the water' but the guy already had a grudge...never mind! We were washed out of the creek into the light southerly and we continued out into the bay with a jib and a reefed main. I saw a Whale immediately on leaving the creek but it was heading north and I was reluctant to chase him given the forecast for strong southerlies. The Cooks and Trotters split up to cover more territory to find Whales and after some time the Whales found us. We had re-joined to head further out into the bay on our quest to chase some Whales to the west when the strong southerly kicked in. It came in with some strong gusts and as we turned our tails to run east, a Whale come up just behind us to our surprise! But the mood for chasing Whales waned in direct proportion to



Queensland Careel News

Drying out at Wathumba Creek



the wind strength. We were a long way out; 1 or 2 nautical miles and our return destination was in the eye of the building wind. Cookie 'heaved to' and put in a reef and then we had a tacking duel back to the creek. The chop increased and the boats heeled and we had an exciting sail.

On return we moored up the boats to let them try out in the ebbing tide and we settled in to enjoy the rest of the day. We celebrated with some lunch time beers and then we did some exploring and caught up with our surrounding sailors. We had no luck with the yabby pump but my son had some fun using some soft plastics and a line off the bank. Amanda, David and Hayley with Matthew and I enjoyed a magnificent sunset over Platypus Bay from the beach and we agreed that we would need to return to Moon Point on the following day due to the ordinary weather forecast for Thursday (my feared strong northerlies).



Queensland Careel News

Wednesday

We hastily packed up camp as the water rose in time to get our boats afloat and we headed out of the creek at about 8am. Before too long and only half a nautical mile off shore we spotted our first pod of Whales. Cookie madly banged the side of his boat with a paddle and found himself inadvertently very close to a whale with the back flipper almost hitting Ivana. After that point he kept a careful distance and I took on the mantle of silly whale watcher. We, with a number of yachts worked our way north parallel to the same small group of whales, which consisted of a mother and calf. Then the whales disappeared. As we headed back south towards the Cooks the most amazing thing happened. Matthew, who had been complaining how boring whale watching was then got the shock of his life.

At 10 o'clock (direction) and only about 20-30 yards away a whale surfaced like a submarine on a direct collision course for our boat. The keel was locked down and the whale came so far out





Queensland Careel News

of the water it was level with my head while sitting in the cockpit. This was going to be close.....Matthew was no longer bored and I think we both needed a change of underwear.

Fortunately the whale manoeuvred to pass behind our transom but the calf, which didn't surface, passed directly under the rear of our boat. It was very clear as it passed underneath me! Just amazing and fortunately no contact was made between boat or whale. I said to Matt "that's enough whale watching for the day!" and we headed south with Ivana towards Moon Point.

It was a glorious day with a very light northerly, clear skies and a flat sea. It was one of those days we will never forget. We passed another Mother and Calf asleep on the surface and after a long sail we pulled in to Awinya Creek for lunch. What a magic spot. We had our first freshwater bath for a few days, climbed the sand dune to see our boats and explored the creek to discover a magic camp site and a freshwater hole and shade....We will be back some day! The tide was on the way out and we almost had our boats aground at the creek but managed to get off before we were in trouble. This creek is only really accessible close to high tide but would provide good shelter.

After a short lunch on the boats we resumed our passage under motor and sail depending on the wind strength and paid another visit to a creek. We anchored off Coongul Creek at dead low tide and went ashore to explore. It's a smelly place with a strong sulphrus odour and lots of dead trees at the mouth. It must be nicer further up the creek but on return to the boats we had a visitor. A Dingo ran down from the dunes and came out on to the beach to greet us. It came right down to Cookie and I and went down on its haunches and opened its mouth in a big yawn at us.....very strange. Matthew found it very amusing.

We got back on the boats and enjoyed sailing south around Moon Point in a dying breeze in a lovely sunset. We spotted a pod of dolphins just as we got the motors going to enter the shallows to the south of Moon Point. We rafted up for our last dinner together on the holidays and relived the most amazing day before parting ways to enjoy our first night sleeping on the boats. The Cooks seemed to take forever after dinner to set their anchor and I dedicated some tension on board their boat. As usual in a potentially exposed and unfamiliar anchorage we didn't sleep well. The tide dried us out and the boat leant on its side and the wind started to whistle through the standing rigging. The prospect of an uneasy passage back to Urangan played on our minds (with good reason).



Queensland Careel News

Yes thats a whale near Ivana!!





Queensland Careel News

Sand cliffs at Awinya Creek



Thursday

We awoke to a troubled, gloomy sky and a strong wind from the north. Both boats were still dry and by the time I walked over to Ivana to discuss our plans for the passage the water was surrounding my boat. We rigged a reefed main and we waited for Ivana to float on the tide so we could do the crossing together.

Just a recap on the weather forecast.

Winds strengthening from 15-20 knots in the morning to 20-25 late morning from the North North West. The tide was incoming until mid morning with the current coming in from the north with the wind. The wind had increased during the night with a large fetch building from the unprotected north of the bay. After mid morning conditions were going to be bad!



Queensland Careel News

Our strategy was to make a quick early crossing before the wind got up too much and enjoy the fact that the wind was with the tide and hopefully conditions would be okay.

As we headed out under a reefed main only from the lee of Woody Point Cookies GPS was reading 4 knots but he was not making any ground against shore....we were all just going side ways and losing ground slightly against the tide. We needed to make ground to the north if we were to successful round the northern cardinal mark off Woody Island.

Before too long we found ourselves in a sharp 1-1.5 metre chop which started coming from two directions at 90 degrees to each other. It quickly became scary with some strong gusts and water over the bow. By now both boats had their motors going and the props were cavitating as we rode over the increasingly large swells. I asked Matt to install all the storm boards and life jackets were donned and straps tightened. It was getting really 'hairy' with Ivana dropping behind but it





Queensland Careel News

Dried out before the nasty crossing of the Straits



was too late to go back...we were committed. This trip would test our seamanship and navigational skills to their limits. God knows what this sea would be like when the tide turned!

We squinted our eyes to find the Cardinal Mark off Woody Island and we worked the main in the swells and constantly adjusted the throttle as we rode the ways.

Finally the swell started coming from north in one direction and we rounded the mark and started our surf back to Urangan working hard to avoid the boat broaching in the step swells. This was exciting but challenging sailing!

But it wasn't over yet. We killed the motor for a time but it didn't take long to fire it up. The Cooks were well behind and we hoped they were doing okay and we were relieved to see them get around the mark.



Queensland Careel News

As we finally approached the entrance to Urangan we worked out quickly we had another problem. Matt yelled at me that we were not going to make the harbour with the wind and tide blowing us due south. The current was so strong that a bow wave was formed off the northern rocky head wall. At our current rate we were going to drift south and miss the entrance and it would not have been fun to fight the wind and current. (Not a chance).

So at full revs we adjusted course and headed straight across the current at the wall. Just as we hit the bow wave I reved the motor again and blasted our way into the calm harbour. Thank god. On entering we quickly downed sails and went back to the mouth to see Ivana make its attempt. He had even more trouble negotiating his way in! He had a whale watching launch get in the rode who thankfully kept clear.

At the pontoon we roped up and awaited the arrival of the Cooks. Amanda looked like she had seen a ghost and was shaken up, Hayley looked remarkably calm but traumatised and Cookie looked amazingly relieved. I quickly grabbed the last couple of beers from the esky which all the adults consumed including Amanda at 8:30am in the morning. It was the roughest sail in my life time and one never to be repeated! God knows what conditions would have been like when the tide had turned and wind has got up even further! Avoid the Great Sandy Straits in big tides and big winds!

Epilogue

We had an incident road trip home and we had some amazing experiences to share. Would I do it again? Yes but only with a good forecast and plenty of time to work around poor conditions. It was a real adventure!

Paul Trotter
Moreton Bay Captain
CCYA



Queensland Careel News



The Cooks after surviving the passage from Moon Point! Beers at 8:30am!!! Amanda was drinking too!!



Queensland Careel News

Hayley and Dolphins





Queensland Careel News

Wyuna Triumphs on the Clarence (well almost!)

Friday 7th October 2011

After only getting back from a challenging trip to Fraser Island the boats Ivana and Wyuna headed south to Grafton to compete in the Clarence River Classic. Paul Dwyer and Paul Trotter crewed C18/26 Wyuna and C18/121 Ivana was manned by David Cook and, his late arriving amateur crew (?)

The drive down was full of Paul Trotter type mechanical dramas and the less said the better for fear of further embarrassment and frustration. At least we made it down this time and back!

We got down there mid afternoon and were greeted by Helen for the CRYC and we launched both boats and left Mr Dwyer to his devices while Cookie and I did the car shuffle to leave a vehicle in Grafton. We arrived back on sunset just in time to move our boats down to the big raft up off the main town pontoon. To our surprise Minx was available to tie up to and Mr Hall was there to greet us having spotted us passing by the RSL. Before long we were sorted and ready for our evening pub crawl.

We dined at the RSL that always has a big cheap feed with fantastic views over this wide river. We enjoyed the company of Shane and Kaye 'Fay' Hall and we then moved down the street to the next pub where we played a game of pool where drinks were called and we then moved further down the street to a strange place called the Argyle which was full of interesting characters and strange stares....we left quietly after only consuming one beverage.

The evil Stanley red was opened by the Halls at the pontoon where Mr Dwyer was captured by the Halls web of hospitality. Cookie and I wisely moved towards the noise coming from further down the street to a pub much more to our liking with Coopers Pale Ale on tap.

Saturday 8th October 2011

Mr Dwyer paid dearly for his night with the Stanley Red and was slow to emerge. Cookie and I had a great coffee and breakfast at the local café and we prepared for the racing. This year the CRYC seemed to lose its officialdom with a non event briefing and a scramble to the boats. We headed around the first bend with a group of about 15 yachts and man in a tinny laid out the start line in an outgoing tide with the only wind coming from the north east over the top of a large hill.



Queensland Careel News

Maclean Jetty stacked with boats



Wyuna was positioned on the line at the start and the first to cross (this time after the start horn or flag). The rest of the fleet didn't appear interested in even crossing the line. Ivana put in an early charge but lost all buff but Wyuna managed to latch on to a Zephyr and with Mr Dwyers insatiable help and will to win we proceeded to part company from the rest of the fleet by almost a kilometre when to our dismay the CRYC cancelled the start! BUGGER, Double BUGGER!!

We all then fired up the iron headsail and motored up past the vehicular ferry to Laurence where we wasted time circling and an instruction to start. Word came out that we needed to motor to Brushgrove for another start and off we all went after a light snack. Mr Dwyer was expecting lunch but was disappointed with the harsh Trotter catering arrangements. Mr Cook and his crew were enjoying fresh sandwiches!!!

At last at Brushgrove there was some semblance of a breeze (perhaps assisted by the flatulent and mooing herd of cattle that moved with the boats on the shore!) and again Wyuna made a good



Queensland Careel News

start and gave all the big boats a run for their money. Our little boat did well with the following breeze and kept up with the big boys until.....dark clouds could be seen gathering and the radar on the iphone confirmed the immanent arrival of a nasty storm.

I took the view we would ride the storm out and use its arrival to our advantage. We watched the fleet make view preparations and were amazed at what happened in the period the storm struck. We firstly put a reef in the main and kept a sharp eye on the trimarran by now well in the distance. A squall was seen in the distance on the river and suddenly the trimarrans sails were flapping madly and its course changed dramatically as it beared away from the wind. A large monohull in the distance also took a hit under full sail with the boat leaning perilously over!

I said to Mr Dwyer we needed to get all sail down fast. The jib came down as we headed to the more sheltered bank and then the main was taken down the same time as Mr Dwyer threw out the anchor on lots of rode! We retreated to the cabin just as the wind and rain hit and watched the





Queensland Careel News

Panicing before the storm



mayhem in the fleet around us! Some boats turned and ran with the wind with madly flapping sails, others soldiered on with the wind on the beam with only storm jibs and others fire up their motors while trying to control their sails.

The moto of the story? Use your brain and act early. It was obvious conditions were going to be bad and even the Clarence can whip up a sharp little chop. We were perfectly safe at anchor and only poles and the lightning was our only concern.

With the last of the big squalls we up anchored and continued our sail under a reefed main. The rest of the fleet was under motor and bare poles! Having never successfully finished this race and having DNFs at Marley with Don Ray and a DNF at the recent Bay to Bay we were going to finish this race!



Queensland Careel News

Before too long we were underway with full sail in light and variable winds. We had a long tack up to Ulmarra in winds that changed a full 360 degrees at one point and we scraped bottom as we rounded the bend near the ferry crossing. Cookie rang us at this point to say he had made the ramp at Grafton and was returning his guests to Maclean.

Mr Dwyer and I had promised each other that we would crack a beer when the sun came out or it stopped raining. We did as we started our long reach down to Grafton. Thankfully the wind had settled and was coming in from the north west on our beam and the tide was now running in our favour. Mr Dwyer took the tiller and I relaxed as we watched the flat country slide by and we enjoyed the sunset.

With the sun setting, the breeze died and as we neared the island which marked the remaining leg of the journey. The navigation lights were put on and we saw torches flashing from the clubhouse





Queensland Careel News

as we slowly rounded the last bend and were met by Cookie at 8pm NSW time who signalled our completion of the race.

To our surprise the race had been cancelled and for the third time the CRYC stole my opportunity to triumph in the good little ship Wyuna! The gods were conspiring against me! The race had been called at sunset for good reason but we were happy to at least finish the course and the CRYC acknowledged our dogged efforts with the distribution of a real CRYC beach towel for Mr Dwyer and I!

After good Barbeque put on by the local scout group in the old hall we retired to the boats for a night cap and an unwelcome visit from some of the local youth!

Sunday 9th October 2011

We awoke to a thick blanket of fog and the spectacle of a rowing boat and race horses being towed out into the Clarence for their weekly swim. We all agreed a sail back to Maclean would be a slow affair and Cookie and I did the car shuttle back to Grafton. The Halls had the same idea and we bid them good bye at the ramp after receiving some assistance with a car battery. The trip home was somewhat slower with an unwelcome interruption and a visit to Super Cheap Auto to solve all my problems. I am having some bad long runs lately!

Will we be back? It will probably take some arm twisting from some determined NSW Careelers who are keen to defend their State of Origin Trophy! Once again great hospitality from the Clarence River Yacht Club and a big thank you to them for putting on such a great event.

Paul Trotter
Moreton Bay Captain
CCYA



Queensland Careel News

Finsihing with Mr Dwyer



Foggy Morning!



Queensland Careel News

Notice of Event
Qld State Titles
Date yet to be advised
Venue
Lake Samsonvale