

Cruising Newsletter

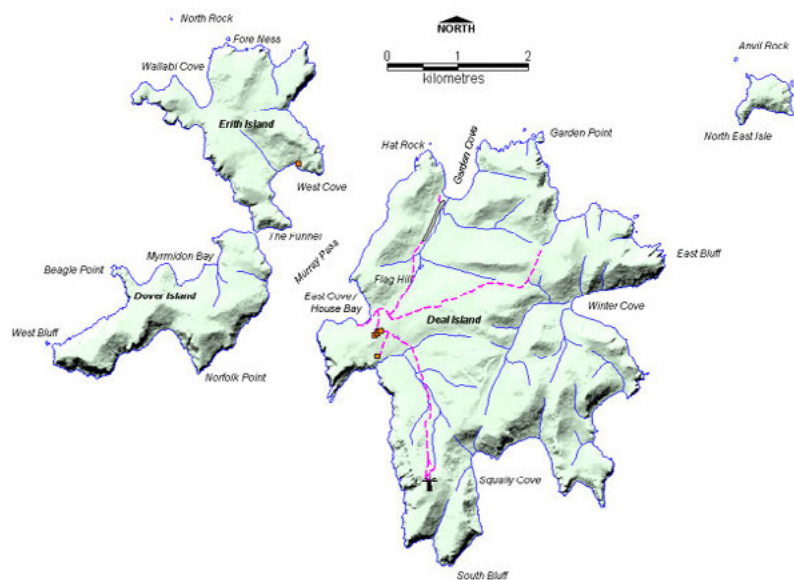
Deal Island *No big deal to get to!*



I first went to Deal Island in 1966 on our family H28 *Matalita* as a 14 year old. We stayed a while in House Bay getting to know the lighthouse keeper, actually making the trip to the lighthouse sitting in the back of a Land Rover, and a few days later moved over to the Erith Island anchorage where we met that prominent Australian Steven Murray-Smith. As a 14 year old I was a bit agast, for cavorting on the shore were his family and friends, all of whom had no clothes on!

From that very first visit I have become smitten with the Kent Group, my view is that cruising the Bass Strait islands is the best cruising in Australia. The trick is dodging around the weather.

There are three main anchorages: Erith; to which the holding is questionable in fresh conditions, House Bay; a little bit better but still questionable when it blows and Winter Cove; which is good when the breeze is from the North to South West quadrants.



Map of the Kent Group Islands



Winter Cove

The key for cruising the Kent Group is having good ground tackle, if you think a CQR and 40ft of chain will do the trick you could be in for a very miserable night if a front comes through. On *Storm Bay* (25 tonnes) we use a 40kg fishermans anchor on half-inch chain. On a Chev or Nepean Launch I would suggest a No 4 SARCA with an all chain rode.

This year on *Storm Bay* we plan to leave Sorrento on **Saturday the 4th of February**. We will be towing the VSR 5.8 so our thinking is that we will probably stop at Walkerville or the Glennies making the passage in a couple of daylight days.



House Bay

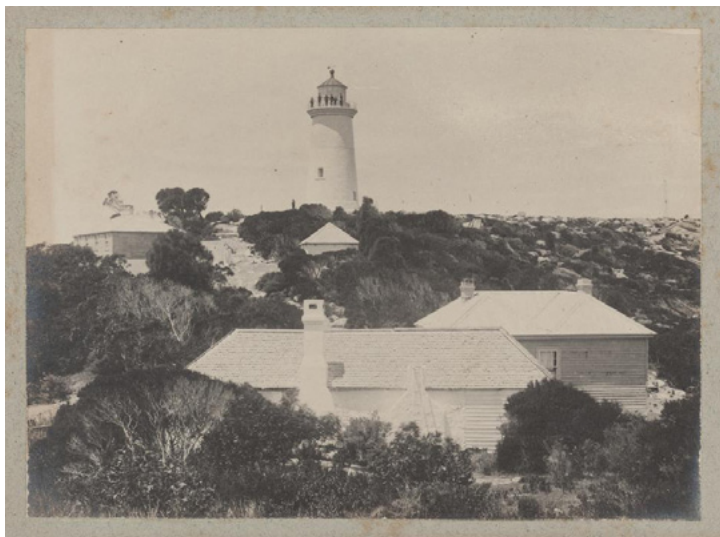
Billy Davis on *Tideways* is planning to leave the following **Thursday, 9th of February** and do pretty much the same easy passage.

At this juncture I must confirm that all times are **TOTALLY WEATHER DEPENDENT**. We are out there on holidays and have absolutely no interest in dealing with any weather on the nose above 20 knots.



Tideways at Deal Island

Bill is planning to depart the group around Friday, 17th of February. We on *Storm Bay* may go on to Killiecrankie and/or the Sisters on the north tip of Flinders Island before returning to Port Phillip via Wilsons Promontory the following week.



Deal Island Lighthouse, then and now

For any new chums (we very much welcome the first timers) it would be advantageous to stick with either the *Tideways* or the *Storm Bay* schedule.

Some distances to think about...

Distances in NM are, Port Phillip Heads to Walkerville 70, +20 to The Glennies + 51 to the Group = 141.

Special Note: Billy reckons there's a pub at Walkerville now!!!

Fuel, Nepean Launches allow 4L ph @ 7.3kts (fairly conservative). Chev's 20L ph @ 13.5kts. Any fuel calculations should be done with a 20% margin, minimum.

Return trip, it is envisaged that we on *Storm Bay* will overnight at Refuge or The Glennies.

Things to do at Deal Island

- Marvelous walking on designated walking tracks to the lighthouse and surrounding bays.
- Visit the museum, situated in a delightful +100 year old lighthouse keepers cottage.
- Cray fishing from the VSR or *Storm Bay*.
- Hand-line fishing and Abalone collecting from the rocks.
- Swimming in any of the anchorages in the turquoise blue water is delightful.
- Group barbecuing in House Bay is always a highlight of every trip.
- Just getting there and back in a classic boat is great fun and a wonderful achievement.
- Good tip, bata a cray for some fresh veggies from the caretakers on Deal.
- Locate the water cres that Matthew Flinders planted for shipwreck sailors.

Breakfast meeting to discuss trip at Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club, **Sunday the 9th of October @ 9:00am.**
Please register with Tim Huggett, it@woodenboatshop.com.au if you are coming.

Hope to see you all there.





Geelong Wooden Boat Festival 2012.

Most of you would have read about, or even visited the Hobart Wooden Boat Festival.

Well it's all happening again in 2012 but the venue is at the **Royal Geelong Yacht Club** here on the shores of Corio Bay.

Make sure that you pencil into your diaries, put into your iPods and iPhones, these dates!!

The 10th & 11th of March 2012 for the Whyte, Just & Moore Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong.

We of the Geelong Wooden Boat Committee, hope that 2011 will be an excellent year for you and that 2012 will produce the best Whyte, Just & Moore Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong ever!!

Smooth seas and warm sailing to you all and, we'll see you in 2012!

[Watch here for updates!](#)

Inquiries to Bob Appleton at tempest@ncable.net.au or the RGYC on 5229 3705

"A lovely weekend away mixing with kindred souls, all with one love of wooden boats". - Tim Phillips