



Campbell Christmas News 2005

Once again we began the year at Quindalup beach on Dusky Dolphin, surrounded with sailing friends in their yachts. We listened to stories of the frightening times when the tsunami after-waves plus thunderstorm raced through Bunbury Harbour while our friends were anchored there on the 27th December. Although several boats were washed up on the beach it was a miracle no-one was injured.

On the return journey we spent a few days anchored in Bunbury Harbour (now back to its usual calm self) and had the builder of our boat, Peter Bielby, over for a cup of tea. As was his habit he looked over the boat with Rob, remembering how he used to do things and making suggestions of things we might like to have done. He was dismayed that we had managed to get a hole in the boat, and gave us lots of helpful advice on fixing it properly. As was our habit we made sure we asked him all the questions that had come up over the past 12 months since

we last saw him. This was our first boat we still had lots of learning to do!



Figure 1: Peter Bielby

In mid-January we sailed north for the 11-hour run to Mandurah, good winds behind us. We followed Peter's advice and Dusky Dolphin fairly flew before the wind and sizeable waves. We flew with dolphins and seabirds, and for the first time felt absolutely at one with our boat.

The highlight of the year came in February - on 25th Thomas Jeremy Campbell was born to Tristan and Blaine. We were all over the moon, including Blaine, especially when she had recovered from the long, difficult birth. Tristan stayed in hospital with Blaine, visiting us for the occasional meal, and after a week proudly took his little family home.



Rob and I decided that our longer sails with Dusky Dolphin would be to the south in future, as any attempts to sail north had met with disaster of some sort. Then opportunity came to be crew for some of our sailing friends who were taking part in the Fremantle to Darwin fund-raising Splash from 30th April to end June. That way we would see a lot of our coast without sailing our own boat, who didn't seem to want to go that way. So we attended the mandatory "Sea Safety and Survival" course in Fremantle along with lot of "Splashers". It was challenging, learning to handle fire extinguishers, life rafts and flares as well as the theory we would need to pass the



exam at the end of the day. But we made it and passed! A few weeks later we joined a number of boats to sail to Mandurah for the first fund-raising event. We dressed up as anaesthetists as we entered the harbour, and Rob won the award for raising the most funds!

Elwyn finished working at Nautronix in March and wisely gave herself a few weeks to complete her preparations before leaving for UK. We made sure we attended her last few cricket matches, as we wouldn't be able to do that for a long time after she left. I remember watching her play in the annual Lilac Hill cricket match just after my birthday on the 4th. She had organised everyone to chip in for an iPod for my birthday present, and I was trying to work out how to use it during the spells between Elwyn's batting. She shone that day!



Figure 2: Jeanette can also organise us from the helm!

Before she left we made the most of the sunshine, getting out for as many sailing trips as we could. Jeanette, not the keenest of sailors, came with us to make the most of her time with Elly: they had become even closer friends since Jeanette had returned from UK than they had been before, and now Elwyn was leaving for UK...

On 20th April we gathered at the airport to farewell Elwyn for her travels with friends before she would arrive in UK in late May. It was hard to see her go, but we had done that with Jeanette and Christopher and survived, so I guessed we would again. She loved Tom and worried that he might not remember her. But at 2 months old he was already very aware of the different people in his life...



On the 30th April Rob and I attended the farewell for the Splash Fleet from Fremantle Sailing Club. It was a huge function, a breakfast with much ceremony. We would be joining one of the boats in Geraldton in a week's time.

Then on 7th May we flew to Geraldton and joined the yacht Momentum. We would be their crew through to Carnarvon, a passage of about 10 days. As we had never even reached Geraldton on Dusky Dolphin we enjoyed this opportunity to see new coast, especially the notoriously difficult Zuytdorp cliffs at sunrise, and Shark Bay (somewhere we longed to visit on a boat for ages). We spent a lovely few days in Shark Bay (yes, there are sharks there, tiger sharks, so not much swimming!), before going on to Denham for fund-raising activities.

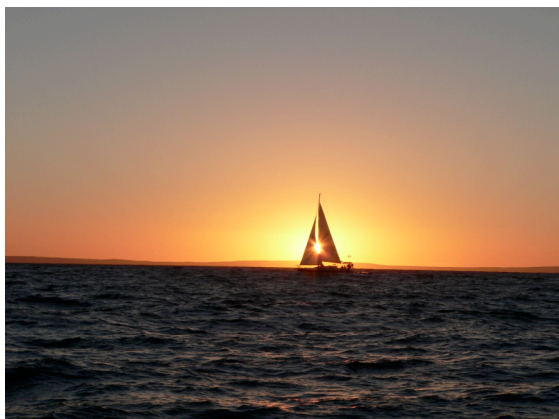


Figure 3: Sunrise over the Zuytdorp Cliffs



Figure 4: Shark Bay in a calm moment



Figure 5: FUNdraising in Denham

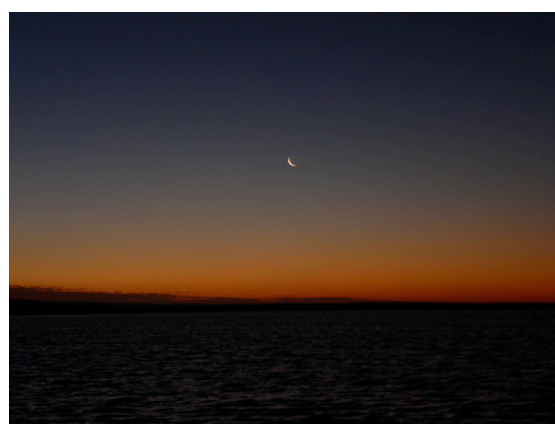


Figure 6: Moon on the night sail

Rob and I took first watch on the night sail out of Denham, in our usual roles of Rob the navigator and me on the helm. It was a difficult passage, and we enjoyed making it through safely for the skipper and his wife. Carnarvon the next day was the end of that part of the Splash for us, and we drove home with other friends who also disembarked there.

It was good to see the family again, especially little Tom who seemed not so little any more!



On 2nd June we flew to Broome to join Jacqui Mac and her friendly crew for 2 weeks. Along with 4 others we sailed overnight north to Lombadina Aboriginal Mission for the next fund-raising event. To be taken on a tour of this far-flung settlement, to be fed and entertained, by the dark-skinned, gentle inhabitants was a rare privilege. From there we sailed on north through the Buccaneer Archipelago to Raft Point and Samson Inlet in the Kimberley. The amazingly rugged, red coastline, the crocodiles, the brilliant colours, the huge tides, the turtles...it was incredible. I had long wondered what this part of Australia was like and never imagined it could be so gorgeous yet so terrifying...



Figure 7: Sunset Magic



Figure 8: Sea Eagle catching a fish



Figure 9: Raft Point, a very special place for the Aborigines



Figure 11: Crocodile Creek at (very) low tide



Figure 10: Chapel at Lombardina Mission, built entirely by the resident Aboriginal community



Figure 12: It wasn't all hard work...



Figure 13: Memory corner at Crocodile Creek - visiting ships always leave a memento, including our own boat Dusky Dolphin (before we owned her). Dennis is placing Jacqui Mac's memento

On our last night we were sailing back to Broome. Rob and I had the midnight to 2am watch. On the clear, starry night a light wind came up, so we could turn off the motor and sail, gently, through the starry light among the bobbing, weaving lights of fishing boats in the distance. It was heaven.

Back in Perth Rob finished his 2-year term as Cruising Captain at our club. Although it had allowed him to work with sailing friends and plan cruises (which he loves doing) and introduce new sailors to cruising (which he loves doing) this role had also given him some severe headaches. So he had mixed feeling when he handed over to the new Cruising Captain, also one of the skippers of the Jacqui Mac, Bernie. Amazingly Bernie and his crew docked the Jacqui Mac, having sailed her back from the Splash, at the club at the conclusion of the hand-over dinner, so Rob led the rest of us out to the dock for a formal handover as Bernie stepped off the boat. Never been done like that before!



And Tom was developing into a very alert, gentle little man. His adoring parents arranged for his first professional photo shoot...

On 9th July we had sad news from UK - Judy's husband Arthur had passed away after a distressing last few weeks with terminal cancer. Although they had known that he had cancer when they had married the previous September, they hadn't known that they would have such a short time together. Judy had nursed him to the end, and was exhausted and grief-stricken. But she carried on, trying to be philosophical, and I called her often. She's a very special person.

Jeanette and Christopher decided that staying in Perth for some time was the way to go, so almost a year after they arrived back here from UK they bought a lovely town house in Leederville/West Perth (on the border). It's quite spacious, and gives them room to work from home plus keep all their books and treasures as they want to.



On 21st August was a special anniversary for Rob and me - the 36th anniversary of man first stepping onto the moon. On the 21st August 1969 Rob and I had shared this incredible event while at university. Our lectures were cancelled for the day so we were free to watch spellbound as the blurry images were beamed from so far away. I will never forget watching the earth rising over the moon; our beautiful, precious earth.

And it was the day we fell in love.



Figure 14: Earthrise from the Moon



Figure 15: Buzz Aldrin

On 27th August Rob and I flew to Exmouth for our 3rd and last Splash crew assignment, this time on Mandala II. We sailed out of Exmouth the next morning, and made good time south in the company of whales migrating to the Southern Ocean, arriving in Fremantle 2 weeks later. Usually it takes a lot longer at that time of year - we were very lucky. And sailing with the whales every day...magic! We had sailed past lots of history, including the many ship wrecks along this passage. And sailed through Shark Bay again, this time to anchor next to Dirk Hartog Island. We even walked there with the skipper, in awe to be part of such an isolated, historic place.



Figure 16: Walking in the windy wild - Dirk Hartog Island

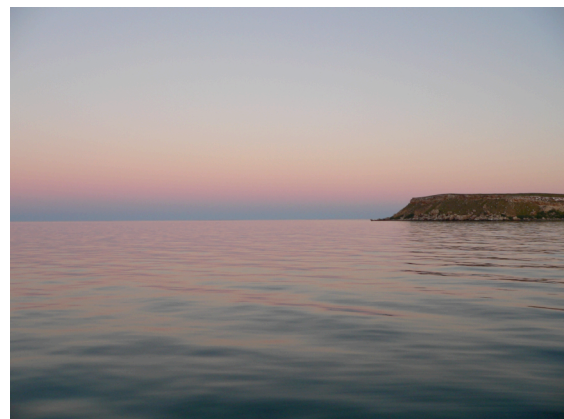


Figure 17: A magical dusk in Shark Bay - not a breath of wind, it was absolutely silent

Back in Fremantle the skipper and his wife had lots of family and friends coming to greet them as they had left 3 months before. So we made it an occasion by dressing up and playing appropriate music as Mandala II gracefully landed on the dock.



Figure 18: Luukje and Tony Hawke, Mandala II



Figure 19: Welcome Back!

And as we landed, I felt I had ... graduated ...

In October Tristan and Blaine celebrated their 2nd wedding anniversary. Although Rob and I were booked to babysit Tom for the first time so that the happy couple could celebrate, Rob worked late and couldn't make it. So I went over to their place. Tom slept through, and I patted the cat. When Tristan and Blaine came home they looked much happier for their time together.



Figure 20: Tom and his Pa - a great couple!

In November Rob and I went "land-cruising": we hired a campervan and toured around New Zealand for 3 weeks. Rob liked the fact that there were no rolly anchorages, and we both loved the way we could back into a picturesque spot and share a snack or meal with a beautiful view. Among the mountains we camped by the road the first night, surrounding by ghostly peaks - magic! We visited Paul Scaife's wife as well as his mother. It was good to share stories of our times with Paul with them. And another night we camped next to a kauri reserve. We walked through hoping to hear a kiwi. As well as hearing something crashing towards us through the brush calling loudly, the "something" bumped into Rob's boot. In the light of the torch we saw a little kiwi! How did something so small make so much noise? What a joy to be in the same place as this rare creature! It ran off then, still calling. Towards the end of our trip we saw the biggest kauri pine, estimated 2,000 years old. Actually "experienced" is a better word. A tree that massive has a huge presence.



Figure 21: The view on our first morning



Figure 22: Kauri Pine - even the "hangers on" were huge

And in the Bay of Isles we met a friend who is also a round-the-world sailor. He took us in his well-travelled yacht to Roberton Island, visited by Captain Cook...



We came home to sort out the fallout from the robbery of our house just before we'd left for New Zealand, and from my mother's change of nursing arrangements (Silver Chain would not provide nursing to her requirements any longer, so I had found a private nursing firm who would).

In December Jeanette and Christopher celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary, and Tristan, Blaine and Tom moved from their town-house to a duplex. With Tom moving around so much now they needed some garden! Sadly their cat died the day before they moved, making it an event of mixed emotions.

With Rob's work continuing to slow down and my opportunities for work increasing, times of change are in the wind for 2006. I almost completed the latest edit of my book, had my first and second articles published, booked the first of the series of leadership courses (on which I have been working for some time) for the new year, and made plans for a complete rewrite of the Glastonbury website.

On 23rd December Elwyn arrived to spend 3 weeks with us, so we had a lovely family Christmas and New Year.



Figure 23: Elwyn enjoying the sunshine while she can!



Figure 24: Tom's first Christmas

And yes, Tom did remember Elwyn!

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and your New Year,
Wendy, Rob, Jeanette, Christopher, Elwyn, Tristan, Blaine and Tom.

