

Westernport Sail 26/11/11

By Ron & Carol Haigh

Participants: Ian and Lesley Clapperton

: Joan Rockliff and Geoff Peplar

: Ron and Carol Haigh

Cremè Caramel

Take it easy

Diamonds Are Forever

Carol and I arrived at Hastings on late Friday afternoon to find Ian Clapperton already rigging his boat in the carpark. We got ourselves organised while Ian went out to test his new mainsail and quick retrieval system. Ian said that it was very good, but needed some refinements. (Sounds a bit like me!) The forecast for the weekend was lousy, but changing every few hours so we rigged for the rain and then went for fish and chips. Ian went home to promote the Saturday sailing event to Lesley.



Saturday morning 6 of us met near the marina cafe. The forecast was for total confusion so we decided to ease back for a while and meet at the Hastings Yacht Club pontoons around lunchtime. At this time the trimaran, trailersailers and keelboats were heading out for racing but we decided to hold off and watch the sky. It didn't take long for the first batch of lightning and thunder to make us decide to stay right where we were. During the afternoon in the comfort of the HYC clubrooms, we were watching the varying conditions and listening to banter from the racing group when a voice burst over the radio "woman overboard; 30 knots; 2.5m sea; driving rain. We are having trouble keeping track of her!! Oh good here comes "With Teeth". He is near her and heading straight for her. He missed her and is going around again.

The lady involved was picked up and later told how she had been at the stern end of a trimaran pontoon rethreading a block. The tri was doing 12 knots under spinnaker. She stood up to return but the new trendy deck shoes lost grip and she slipped of the transom without the knowledge of the 2 other crew members. To the relief of all she arrived back at the clubrooms safely but wondering what all the fuss was about. It seems that she didn't even bother to inflate her life jacket because she was a very good swimmer. She was more concerned that 2 boats didn't get to finish the race.

Joan and Geoff were obviously enthralled in their boat improvement plans because they were locked up in their boat all afternoon and missed the excitement. When they finally surfaced we all went to the Mariner Bar for dinner and enjoyed a warm pleasant night there.

Sunday morning the weather improved but was still dubious. Carol and I left around midday but later found that Ian had been out for a very pleasant sail to Yaringa and back.

Looking forward to next time and especially the lakes at Christmas.

Ron Haigh