

Your



e-Newsletter — Summer 2019 edition



January Canaltime Coffee

Our summer Canaltime Coffee outing is to be held at Watsons Bay Wharf on Friday, January 18 at 12 noon.

It's a few years since we last ventured to South Head for a feed of seafood at this wonderful venue. Come along and join your fellow ACS members and friends for a pleasant day out on Sydney Harbour and a hearty lunch.

Getting there

For people going by car or bus please be at Watsons Bay Wharf at 11.45am.

For people travelling by ferry from Circular Quay to Watsons Bay please catch the 11.17am ferry which gets to WB at 11.40.

For people travelling by rivercat the following times apply:

From **Parramatta Wharf**, the ferry leaves at 9.38am and arrives at CQ at 11.04.

From **Rydalmere Wharf** catch the bus at Rydalmere Wharf at 9.41 which gets to Olympic Park Wharf at 9.58 and then the ferry at 10.08 arriving at CQ 11.04.

From **Olympic Park Wharf** catch the 10.08 ferry arriving at CQ at 11.04.

From **Meadowbank Wharf** catch the 10.11 ferry arriving at CQ at 11.04.

Then everyone will be on the same Rivercat arriving at CQ at 11.04 and we will all catch the 11.17 ferry to Watsons Bay Wharf getting there at 11.40.

Exceeded all expectations

Our first daytime meeting exceeded all my expectations. The thirty-one canal enthusiasts who filled the small Boardroom at the Drummoyne Sailing Club in October, loved the waterside location, ease of parking, club's facilities, an interesting program, and exciting opportunities as we evolve into this new phase of our society.

We even had three unexpected visitors from England. Mike & Cath Turpin are very active in the British canal network, being hard working volunteers at the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire. Cath is a waterways author, historian, waterways speaker, and President of the Boat Museum Society.

We thoroughly enjoyed welcoming them and hearing about their canal experiences. Of course we hope they will continue to come to ACS occasions when they visit their daughter in Sydney.

As usual our recent meeting was varied as we went cruising in Ireland with Lynne, Steve, Dudley and

Dianne, and caught up with some visionary plans for the Sydney Heritage Fleet with David Mitchell.

I was glad that most of you were able to stay for lunch in the spacious Sailor's Club Bistro. with its walls of glass. This gave us lots of opportunities to socialise.

Congratulations to all of you who found your way to this venue in such perfect weather.

I am hoping that you will spread the ACS news far and wide.

We look forward to the fifteen members who sent their apologies (some were canalling in England would you believe?) being able to attend next time.

We appreciate the welcome and assistance from the Drummoyne Sailing Club. For many excellent reasons our meetings will be held on Wednesdays, the next one being on 20th March next year.



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Save Those Postage Stamps

Please continue to collect your stamps for the ACS to forward to the Shropshire Union Canal Society to assist in the restoration of their canals for the benefit of all who enjoy the opportunity of travelling on the inland waterways

Exceeded all expectations

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We shall move to the larger and very pleasant Sailors' Lounge which opens directly out to the waterside terrace and lower parking area. So there's plenty of room to bring friends, move around and chat.

The Club opens at 10.30am on Wednesdays. Coffee will be available from the bar at that time as well as allowing a more relaxed set up period. The Program is to start at 11.00 am and conclude at 1.00pm after which we shall be ready for lunch in the Bistro. The 3 hour room hire is from 10.30 am to 1.30pm.

We think that this new arrangement will work beautifully, and our enthusiastic Executive members are feeling very excited about the different scenario.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our 'Canaltime Coffee' lunch at Watsons Bay on 18th January.

Meanwhile, my very best wishes for a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Janet.



Waterways of Ireland

In early June this year, Dudley Bennett and Dianne Stark teamed up with Steve and Lynne Brompton to explore the delights of the Shannon River down the centre of Ireland. At our October meeting they again teamed up to give a presentation to the ACS describing their experiences, with a varied selection of photos to illustrate their venture.

Dudley discussed the choice of boat, hire company and deci-



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sions to be made about the route. Steve explained the ins and outs of navigation on the broad river and massive loughs, so different from following a narrow canal. Other differences were also described, notably the locks – large and operated by lock keepers.

Dianne described the many and varied places visited, from Clonmacnoise, an ancient monastic centre, defences from the Napoleonic Wars, Portumna Workhouse, with its echoes of devastating poverty and harsh treatment and Portumna Castle with its idyllic walled garden, to historic pubs with and without music and donkey races.

Lynne took us off the straight and narrow to describe the detours made up the Grand Canal, Suck Navigation and Lecarrow Canal. Each was a welcome change of pace and scenery from the broad river, and offered up little villages to explore and rural scenes to delight in.

They would highly recommend the experience, but are mindful that they were blessed with brilliant weather to appreciate the Emerald Isle at its best.



Daytime meeting proves a success at new venue



Above: The Drummoyne Sailing Club Below: President Jan welcomes members



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David Mitchell explains the changes proposed for the new
“Marine Heritage Precinct” involving Wharf 7 Pyrmont, the
National Maritime and Sydney Heritage Fleet.



Derek & Helia Wolfson
cycled to the meeting



English visitors
Mike & Cath Turpin



DATES FOR 2019

Canaltime Coffee
Friday,
January 18 . Lunch
at Watsons Bay.

Excursion:
in August. Sydney
Heritage Fleet
tour (to be con-
firmed)



Meetings —
Wednesday,
March 20, and
late October
(dates to be con-
firmed)

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Anything for in-
clusion in the
Autumn 2019
edition of this
newsletter should
be sent to: [lets-
live-it@optusnet.
com.au](mailto:lets-live-it@optusnet.com.au) by Febru-
ary 10, 2019.

Interested in crewing on a narrowboat ?

ACS member Hilary Rhodes is the owner of NB Willow which is on the British canal system.

Hilary is offering our members and friends the opportunity to crew with her during the coming northern Summer season.

She anticipates moving off from Willow's winter mooring Mid-May and will require assistance with crewing until late August, when she will be returning to Australia.

If you will be in the UK during this time, for several days or a few weeks, Hilary would be grateful of assistance with mooring, locks and mainly steering. She normally does the locks and bridges herself.

There is room for two extra people and, if a couple, can use the cabin. There is a pump-out toilet, a small bath, basin, fridge and gas stove. While on board you can contribute to the cost of diesel, any pump outs and groceries, otherwise your accommodation and cruising is free.

Willow is a 58' trad stern Narrowboat. She has a covered cratch, and a very good and powerful Perkins D3 engine. You can see pictures of her journeys on Willow on Flickr at: [https://
www.flickr.com/photos/hilofoz/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/hilofoz/albums)

I would like to travel along the Kennet and Avon as I have not been there before, most probably going out through Dukes Lock or Isis Lock onto the Thames, eventually coming into the K and A at Reading after Faversham. The Thames trip is idyllic, with many interesting stops on the way such as Goring, Mapledurham, and the lovely town of Wallingford famous for Midsomer Murders. I have two anchors on board and a number of windlasses. Thames locks are usually operated by lock keepers. (I have travelled upstream from Brentford to Oxford previously). If there is time, and the weather is good it is also possible to travel the western



reaches of the Thames to Lechlade. Another possibility is to journey down to Gloucester docks, going through Wolverhampton and the famous Tardebigge locks.

Looking forward to welcoming any of you aboard.

Contact her at: drhilary@optusnet.com.au



Hilary's narrowboat 'Willow' at Coventry (left) and Calcutt (above)