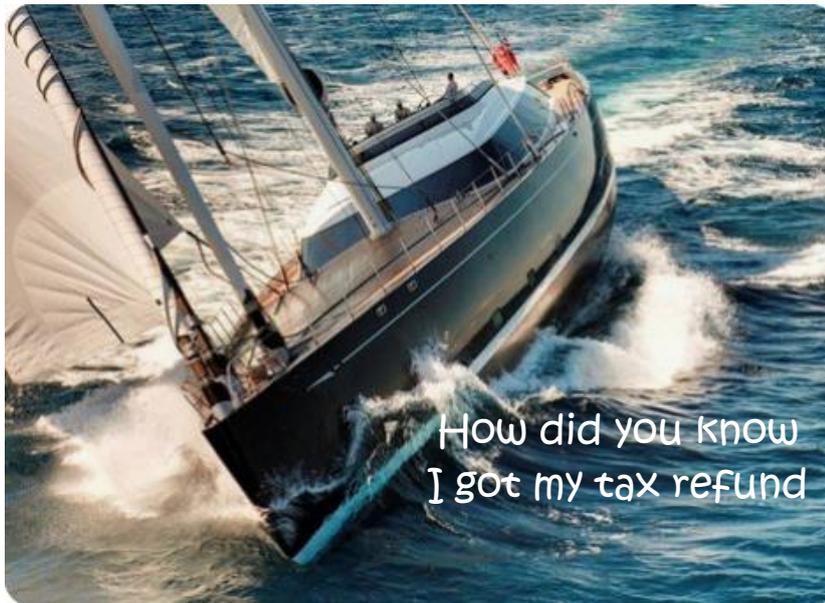


End of Financial Year Cruise 30 June 2019
by David Henry



RSYS Cruising Division Event to the Quarantine Station, Manly

The last day of the financial year started cool, crisp and sunny in Kirribilli with a light westerly breeze.

JT, aka John Taylor, had a well-laid plan for lunch at the Engine Room Café, which is almost on the beach at the Quarantine Station and, in the winter when the weather is right, is a wonderful location without the summer crowds.

Eating started early for some of us with a hearty breakfast in the sun on the Careening Cove verandah before boarding our boats. Mid-morning, *Mercier* (James and Gaila Merrington and their five 'crew'), *Cylex* (Glen Madsen, Brian and Pat Dunn) and *Sweet Chariot* (Jill and David Henry and their six 'crew') left the Pond with champagne in hand for a slow motor around the eastern shore of the Harbour to Quarantine Beach. There, with very little competition for moorings or anchorage space, they were joined by *Investigator* (Alan & Linda Cox), *Lively* (Sophie Nelson and partners), both with crew aboard, and *Vivace* (Tony, Nikki and James Shannon). Of course, also there to help us all ashore in his big black RIB was JT, straight from his morning duties with Sailors with DisABILITIES.



Everyone was able to get ashore, and back to their boats, without getting their feet wet thanks to JT's black RIB, a little help from *Sweet Chariot's* RIB and the nice stainless steel ladder on the Q Station wharf.



So with the arrival of an adventurous couple via land, so as not to get sand between their toes, we were 36 in total for lunch. The day was perfect for al fresco dining in the café's outdoor area, very conveniently located right beside the Engine Room Bar. The very good menu made choosing rather a prolonged process, although we did notice that all the men at our table ensured their choice came with 'man salad'. Lively conversation went hand in hand with the good food and wine.



Being close to the winter solstice, these beautiful winter days become cool early, so around mid-afternoon it was bottoms up, back to our boats and a nice return sail to Kirribilli in a moderate westerly and a delightfully uncrowded harbour.

'Same time, same place next year' was the unanimous decision.