

Shakedown Cruise 7 Oct 2017

And a good time was had by all the four vessels participating in the shakedown cruise for 2017-18. Briefing at 9.30 saw discussions of possible targets compatible with the weather forecast of a NE wind dropping out to not very much at all. The consensus was to sail in the direction of S Channel Fort with the possibility of returning via Capel Sound and the Sorrento Channel.

Dinghies took the four crews to their vessels – being Boomaroo, Sundance, Tiercel and Valentine. Tiercel was first out of the cut (first time ever?) and sailed a few practice maneuvers waiting for the others, and when all were visible, Valentine led the way towards South Channel. Boomaroo and Sundance took a more westerly route than Valentine and Tiercel, who crept over the expanding sandbank south of the Caisson in 2 m of water. Wind about 17 knots, sea choppy against a flood tide.



Sundance sails into the distance as Boomaroo, Valentine and Tiercel anchor for lunch off South Channel Fort.

With all vessels arriving at S Channel Fort about the same time (12.15), Sundance elected to keep sailing while the others anchored for lunch in about 6 m of water with steady east-going tidal stream. A leisurely lunch and /or brew-up took about three quarters of an hour, time enough for the wind to drop dramatically and a decision to take the direct route home. Anchors weighed about 13.15 for a largely motoring journey back to Queenscliff. Tiercel practised with the dreaded spinnaker and while doing so cleaned the bottom of the keel near No. 8 pile. From moorings to Clubhouse for a quick drink for some crews, and home following a successful shakedown.



OOD Geoffrey reflects on a long day on the water.