



NEWSLETTER

Noosa Gaff Rig Regatta and Noosa Everglades Cruising

4-6 June 2021



Cygnets 20 Gaff Rig Association was launched in March with 2 Cygnets 20's entering the Marlay Point Overnight Race on Gippsland Lakes. Noosa Gaff Rig Regatta followed with 4 Cygnets 20's entering the race and a total of 8 Cygnets 20 owners participating as skipper and crew. The Noosa Gaff Rig Regatta, organised by Noosa Yacht & Rowing Club started in 2019 for yachts with gaff, gunter or similar rigs, constructed of any material, new or old. This year, the regatta was part of the riverside Noosa Come Together Festival, and a fundraiser for the Yacht Club Sailability program, which gives disabled people the opportunity to learn to sail.

This was our second Cygnets 20 Gaff Rig Association event which for my part, almost didn't go ahead. To fill you in, I had lost my driving license two months earlier for accumulating demerit points. It required some fast, lateral thinking and good old-fashioned bribery, which I must say, is alive and well amongst our younger generation! After some persuasion, I could find a driver for 5 days, enabling me to participate in this year's June 7 Regatta on the Noosa River Queensland.

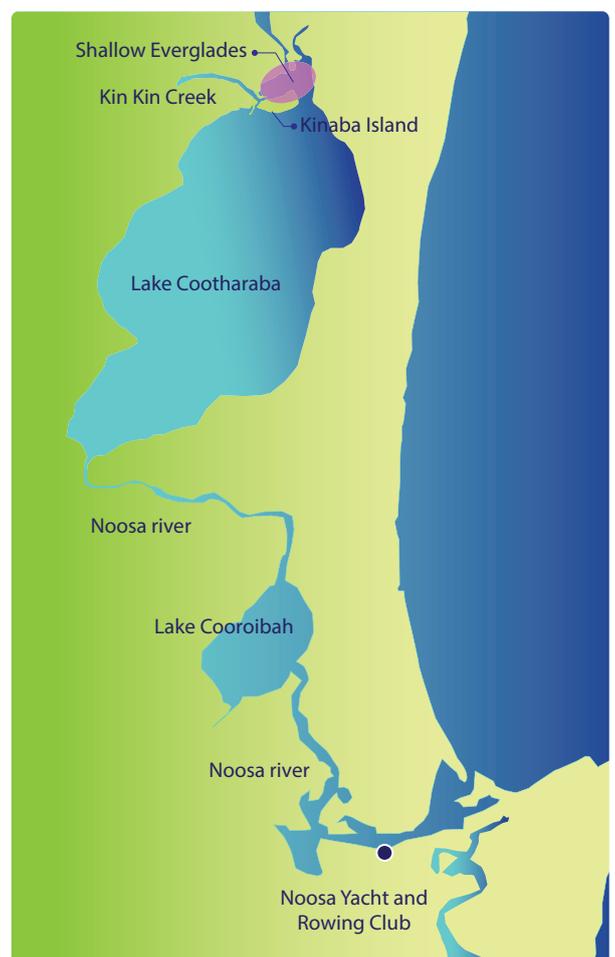
Let me tell you, make sure you have a phone holder fitted to your car so when you go under a bridge at nine at night, driving back from a long trip, you can play your podcast legally. With the advent of cameras, it does not require many mistakes over a three year period to lose that license

which we all heavily rely on! I have bought myself an e-bike, which was doing a splendid job, commuting to work and back. But traveling over 1,000 km with a Cygnets 20 in tow was a bridge too far.

I had so much fun on our last trip to Gippsland Lakes Victoria, I was really looking forward to this event and experiencing again what this wonderful craft has to offer.

DAY 1

The trip from Lake Macquarie to Noosa leaving at 4:30 p.m. and arriving at 10:30 a.m. the next morning with a 5 hours kip in the boat in between and a few stops along the way, Wild Oats eat your heart out. No seasickness, no weather windows or sleep deprivation to deal with! I really love these road/boat trips where we can stop anytime and anywhere along the way.



The Noosa Everglades are a tropical wetland, intricate network of waterways.



On Noosa river



Darryl on No name yet happily sailing on lake Cooroibah and Noosa river.

DAY 2

Upon arriving at Noosa to a glorious day, we quickly checked into the Colonial Resort where I had a chance to freshen up and set up my driver for the weekend of relaxation and partying (part of the bribe). Then proceeded to set up Cygnet for two days of cruising before the festivities on Sunday.

What I love is discovering new places and absorbing the ambience, scenery, vibe, weather etc of somewhere new. Coming from chilly Newcastle, 14 degrees to a sunny 24 degrees was wonderful. The long pants, jumpers and jackets made way for shorts and t-shirts as soon as we arrived. I met up with Steve (Dreamkumtrue, Cygnet #8, NSW) at the Yacht Club as well as Michael & Ilana (Cygnet #23 currently being built, QLD) where I demonstrated the quick setup of the Cygnet rig (under 15min). I said my goodbye's as I wanted to catch up with Will and Sue,

(Amethyst, Cygnet #11, NSW) and Darryl (No name yet, Cygnet# 13, ACT) as I was looking forward to cruising the Noosa River, lake system and Everglades.

I had visited Noosa previously but did not really appreciate the waterways at all. Then, how can you without a means of transport? Great to have a different perspective from land and water. It is a busy waterway, with houseboats, fishing, skiing, jet skis, commercial and sailing all using the Noosa river.

I was single-handing Cygnet this time and I was looking forward to this while cruising in company, something I've never done and look forward to more. That's what's great about this size of boat and set up, you can cruise by yourself or four even.





Motoring to catch up, I headed off using Navionics on my phone absorbing the obstacles, channel markers, watercraft, waterfront properties, nature etc, and a couple of hours later, I saw two Cygnets in the distance. Jeez, I was really steaming at 5.5 knots, then I realised they were actually heading back towards me? After circling and working out what was going on, Amethyst had decided to turn back as they didn't have the range to reach the Everglades with their electric outboard, having made it past lake Cooroibah, 3/4 of the way to lake Cootharaba. Electric outboards are certainly silent, clean, exhaust free, light and are a great option when racing but can be limiting when cruising.

We three decided to anchor along a sandy section near the mouth of lake Cooroibah. This is when I started to appreciate the challenges of single-handing, as soon as you let go of the tiller and drop the anchor. Well, it's not quite how you want to end up, but you get there in the end. Not graceful #1!

Great time chewing the fat with beers and nibbles on Amethyst. We planned on preparing our own dinners and meeting back afterwards for more socialising around a fire prepared earlier. Both Darryl and myself decided to sail further upriver and explore the Everglades the next day.

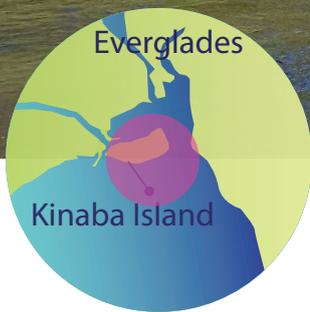
Darryl, Amethyst and Cygnet (back to front) tied near the mouth of Lake Cooroibah in preparation of an evening on the river banks and a night on the boats.

Darryl, myself and Will (left to right) enjoying a drink around the campfire. Thank you, Sue, for the photo!

Darryl sailing his Cygnet



The Everglades



Dark and tranquil waterways of Noosa Everglades and sub-tropical forest. Darryl is motoring peacefully in very shallow water. Below stop for lunch on Kin Kin Creek

Local place name origins Noosa, Kabi Kabi Country

Kin Kin, a small village in Noosa's hinterland, is from the Kabi Kabi word *kauin kauin* meaning red soil. It also refers to a species of small black ant prevalent in the area.

Lake Cootharaba means place where the wood used in making notched or studded clubs could be found.

Lake Cooroibah means place of possums.

DAY 3

On Saturday, we set off after breakfast and planned to motor and sail when we could through Lake Cootharaba to the shallows of the Everglades.

This was a beautiful run and once we passed the channels south of lake Cootharaba, we had a chance to set sail, lower the keel and reach along the lake with 12 to 15 knot winds to the north of the lake. Glorious!

Once approaching the Everglades, we both managed to lower the sails and prepare to motor through the channel into dense semi tropical rainforest. The water was tannin and the river serene now protected from the wind. Sounds of birds and sea snakes excited the senses. This was pristine nature I had no idea existed.

We continued motoring up Kin Kin Creek where you may have been mistaken thinking this was the Amazon. We decided to stop and have lunch before heading back, easier said than done



stopping again, and leap of faith. Darryl did well managing to tie his mooring line around a partly submerged tree, which I quickly rafted up to (Not graceful #2!).

Preparing lunch on each others own boat, we had a chance to chew some more fat, have a cold beer and wine before heading back, this time we would turn left at the fork to explore further. Having said that no sooner had we entered the expanse that I run aground in 12 to 15 inches of water.

The 4 HP Tohatsu did a marvellous job of spinning the boat around, turning up the mud and allowing me to go back the way I had come. We had reached our limit, which felt good that we had achieved what we had set out to do.

Now, all we had to do was to motor sail some 15 miles in 3 hours, through some

tricky channels back to Noosa Yacht Club where dinner was organised at 6.30pm. This is where you need a reliable motor, well provisioned and good mobile reception.

It was fun making a 15+nm trip through shallow water, tricky channels, lake crossings, river passages, no marker lights to the yacht club and another landing. The trip proved easier than the marina tie up. As I was discussing with Will from Amethyst, I had got myself in trouble amongst the boats and pylons at the Yacht Club. Quite embarrassing. Not graceful # 3, but lucky dark! No one saw me and I managed to get out and prepare the boat (lines and fenders ready) to tie the boat up to the wharf properly this time.

We had made it back safe and sound. What an enjoyable cruise! Time to get changed and meet the locals keen to get to know the Cygnet owners who had trekked from NSW to enter their Gaff Rig Regatta. Likewise Cygnet owners were eager to get to know gaff rig boaties in another area.



The Regatta



planned to stay at the resort on Saturday night after dinner, but I just love staying on board the Cygnet so I looked forward to reuniting after dinner instead.

DAY 4

After a nice breakfast ,coffee, I was getting Cygnet ready for her crew/guests and giving her a wash and wax. Other owners/crew started to arrive and there was excitement in the air, Elaine (*Cinnamon, Cygnet #14, QLD*), Michael (*Hopewell, Cygnet #3, QLD*), Neil (*Cygnet #22 currently being built, QLD*).

Michael's brother in law, John, living locally was giving us advice about the race course. Four Cygnets had their crews organised. We were briefed by Noosa Yacht Club at noon for a race start at 1.30pm The club did a wonderful job at making us, the only interstate participants, feel very welcome and at home. Great to meet Phil, the organiser and crew from pilot cutter *Lucille*.

There was a series of horn blasts, which signified the lead-up to the start. The course was very simple with essentially two markers and a start line opposite the club and three short races. There was a lot of traffic on the river.

Why a gaff rig?

Gaff rigs typically provide more sail area for the same mast length, which results in:

- less stress on the mast therefore softer and simpler rigging, making it easier to fold mast down
- shorter and stronger mast with a lower centre of gravity
- less maintenance cost
- an excellent starter rig to learn to sail.

I think this type of rig is beautiful and takes us back in time.

Noosa Yacht & Rowing Club

Briefing at Noosa Yacht & Rowing Club

Start of regatta with magnificent looking gaff rig pilot Cutter *Lucille*

Cygnet with Michael, Elaine and myself



Darryl (#14) was quick of the blocks with Amethyst and Dreamkumtrue all jockeying for the lead, Cygnet was well behind but by the third race was 2nd for most of the race until Darryl with the help of Neil (#22) took 2nd place with a photo finish.

PLACINGS

No name yet	2x1 st	1x2 nd
Amethyst	2x2 nd	1x1 st
Dreamkumtrue	2x3 rd	1x4 th
Cygnet	2x4 th	1x3 rd



Close end between Darryl (#14) (front) and Cygnet (#1) at the end of race number 3.

Overall Cygnet 20's placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th. The winner of the regatta, a French sailor, won all three races with an O'Day 20, Petit Bateau. Everyone received a prize of Bundaberg rum and Cygnet owners an extra bottle of wine each. The Gaff Rig Regatta profits (\$600) was donated to Sailability, the Club charity.

DAY 5

A really fun 5 days and leaving at 7pm from Noosa, we arrived back in Lake Macquarie at 10.30am the next morning, time to get Cygnet ready for the next gathering mid-August, Brisbane Sandgate Classic Yacht Regatta. I can't wait to share this QLD adventure with other Cygnet 20's owners.

WHAT I LEARNT

- When single handing make sure you have everything ready before you stop, comes up very quick
- Make sure you evenly share helming and advise before the race regardless of results so everyone gets a turn.



The legendary Bundaberg rum, produced three hours north from Noosa since 1882. We will have to race again next year to be awarded the first prize 4lt barrel of rum!



Suggestions for our next get togethers

Brisbane Sandgate Classic Yacht Regatta, QLD

This Regatta referred to as 'The Gaffers' organised by the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club will be held commencing 13 August to 15 August 2021. Each year this event sees a fleet of between 30 and 60 boats competing in four races over two days. This regatta is well know to welcome a very mixed fleet and to create a beautiful atmosphere.

If you have concerns on racing, afraid of not knowing where to go, seeing the rest of the fleet rapidly disappearing, why not racing as a crew of one of the Cygnet 20's?

Myall Lakes Cruising, NSW

Suggested as a great weekend escape exploring the Myall Lakes National Park (448km²).

Lake Macquarie Cruising, NSW

Suggested as the weekend explorig the largest permanent coastal saltwater lake in the southern hemisphere (twice the size of Sydney harbour, 110km²). Water temperature reaches 26 degrees in summer. Do not forget your swimmers!

Southport to Moreton Bay, QLD

A lovely cruise from Southport to Moreton Bay via the waterways known as Gold Coast Broadwater, a large protected waterway extending from Southport to the southern end of Moreton Bay and is bordered by land on both sides.

Please contact me to express your interests, comments or suggestions: David Bradburn M 0412 656 271 Email david@bluewatercruisingyachts.com