

SV NEVER DIE WONDERING II



Voyage 2020

Cape York & Cairns region

After 18 months searching and eventually finding the perfect vessel to continue the sailing odyssey, I have purchased a French Lagoon 410 and have spent 6 months working on the vessel here in Cairns upgrading it to all new electronic navigation system, and major engine servicing along with most pump replacements water maker, rib tender new outboard and numerous improvements for safety and comfort. Waiting time for some parts had been up to 3 months. On one occasion working on the vessel I dropped a small item over board and dived in to retrieve and was hit by a stingray that severely cut my foot.





My original vessel a crowther 33 catamaran has only recently been sold to an experienced world yachtie who at 82 years young sold his home to live a life again on the sea. I have internationally registered the vessel for a world adventure, and named changed it to Never Die Wondering II. Abiding to seafaring tradition, my son Brandon and I conducted the change of name christening off Snapper island with the request to the gods Neptune and Poseidon for fair winds while sharing a glass of scotch and offerings to the sea gods with a sprinkle over the bow and stern. The vessel is 7.3 on the beam 12.46 length with 1.2meter draft. Huge saloon and cockpit of which could fit 20 people if needed. Owners version with large office library bathroom laundry 3 x cabins queen size beds, with large second bathroom for crew.



Cedar bay sth of Cooktown



Cape Tribulation



Brandon with Barracotta



Life's easier with 3.1 rib and outboard that gets on a plane

Six months prior to purchasing the Lagoon I had been caught in the Torres straits and frustrated waiting for permission to enter Islands from traditional owners then waiting for a couple months for the trade winds to ease to make my way back to Cairns to sell my 33 foot catamaran and up grade to a larger vessel of which I could comfortably cross the sea as well as take crew.

Who could of imagined what was going to happen with the country and most of the world in Lockdown?? And even now All Australians are not allowed to leave our country without permission from the Federal Government. I was hoping to cross the coral sea and sail to the islands of east PNG, and back to new Ireland were I spent time on a catamaran several years ago. If I am not able to, then after cyclone season has passed I will make may way back to the Torres straits and Gulf of Carpentaria then review restrictions of Indonesia and west Papua?

“Your yacht is similar to an island, it can be your refuge

Or quickly become your prison”

After my long wait for the easing of the trade winds in the Torres straits Jeff Mullenger flew in to crew and then we sailed back to Cairns. After sailing the length of Australia mostly solo having crew members makes sailing a lot less stressful. And what a great sail, we jumped on the first of the northerlies and was able to spinnaker run a fair bit of the 400 nm journey. We only had 3 days with the protection of Loyd Island from a blow and while there witnessed the traditional owners burning off the Islands were we were anchored, an incredible sight throughout the night giving a volcano eruption impression.



Sun set over Lochhart river



Burning Islands

“You must be willing to leave the life you planned

In order to find the one waiting for you”



Features north of Cooktown



Asymmetrical spinnaker run new vessel



While at palm cove a photographer took this photo of my dingy and lightning bolt, Brandon and I had a wild ride back to the vessel just north of Double Island



Endeavour River



Flinders Islands

"An adventurer, a free-spirited person must never conform to other people's expectations. It is essential to live your dreams, to explore and to discover. Anything less would eventually lead to a life of regret.

Pursue the ultimate- goal to NEVER DIE WONDERING."

Alistair J MacLeod

Never Die Wondering



Kind regards

Alistair Macleod

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