

SV NEVER DIE WONDERING II



First sight of land



Purchasing supplies



Mosque Drummer



Typical Fishing home on stilts

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At present I am writing this newsletter from my yacht Never Die Wondering II, anchored at Tual eastern Indonesia, it's late afternoon and the Muslim call to prayers are echoing across the water from the large mosques that are numerous on the islands. The Muslims believe the call to pray is the most peaceful, therapeutic sound imaginable. Tual is an incredible place rich in culture with a population on the handful of islands of 65,000, the majority are Muslim with a small percent Christian. The buildings through out the township show the signs of the Dutch rule back before independency.

Walking the streets and obtaining supplies in this vibrant market with a huge variety of local produce, the fish market has all the catches of the day and vendors are every where offering their meals from chicken cooked on the coals to fried vegetables. You can breathe, smell,

see and feel the culture of this magnificent part of Indonesia of which the archipelago consists of 18,110 different islands of which 6,000 are inhabited. In total there are 300 different ethnic groups throughout the islands.

Bahasa is the common language of which I did a course with the Indonesian embassy at the Darwin sailing club that has helped me a little, to say the least?

“Man can not discover new oceans,

unless he has the courage

to lose sight of the shore”



Bringing customs by tender



Customs



Fishing Platform



Village amongst the coco nuts note the mosques

450 Nautical miles across the Arafura Sea

Crossing the Arafura Sea was an exciting passage, my crew Simon Curati an Italian world traveller felt the roughness of the beam swells that were a little challenging for a couple of days. He quickly recovered from sea sickness after three days when the rough seas reduced. Simon had recently canoed the entire Murray River in Australia, and is planning to kayak from Singapore to Bangkok, so when he was asking in the Sailing clubs of Darwin to crew to Asia, I decided to

allow him on board as he had a sense of adventure that is a must on Never Die Wondering II.

The Arafura Sea lies in the west pacific it is a marginal sea of which covers 650,000 sq kms Australia is on its southern side and west new Guinea on its eastern side with numerous islands of the Indonesian archipelago.



Family Out with the fishing nets



The negative side of Indonesia plastic rubbish



Fishing homes on stilts



Flying the asymmetrical through the island passage

” Adventure may hurt you

but monotony will kill you”

Its no easy task getting through the lengthy paperwork that is required to get clearance into Indonesia, firstly you have to obtain a visa for 6 months, and need to extend it every 60 days when travelling through Indonesia. That means being at an immigration office at the 60-day period and there are not many immigration offices on my route only two, from Tual to the Philippines? You need a vessel declaration and when clearing in, your mandatory sponsor/agent must meet you, then quarantine comes aboard to clear you, then you can lower the yellow quarantine flag, then we had another two inspections border control and customs all up seven officers not including agent/sponsors then I had to report to the harbor master and he must be satisfied of where I am going through out Indonesia and it is the Harbour master who gives you a sailing certificate? This document is a must to produce when sailing the waters of Indonesia as I was told a recent yachtie did not meet with the harbor master

or obtain his sailing certificate, he had his vessel confiscated and was gaoled along with a huge fine Ticking all the boxes is a must. And all the officials that have been on the vessel were all very friendly and welcoming to their country. It's the warm friendly greeting that you receive with the Indonesians that makes your journey here rewardable. I can not recall being asked to have my photo taken with so many people, most people want to know you, and that itself is refreshing.

“Ambition leads me not only further

than any other man has been before me,

but as far as I think it possible for a man to go”

Capt James Cook

Ther water here is crystal clear, on the negative side the plastic pollution is some of the worst I have seen, as the photo shows with the abandoned vessel the waters are littered with all throw away plastic items. And the streets / laneways litter is everywhere, so the first storms and all is washed into this beautiful water that really is paradise if wasn't for the rubbish.

The people are very friendly and helpful, even though my Bahasa is poor? I can communicate ok, there is the odd beggar on the street, but when I have tried to give a tip to a vendor etc they knock it back, very generous people overall.

After the vessel is re stocked with Supplies, we will be island hoping across the Banda Sea with the winds in our favour. [Downwind sailing] Next destination the Spice islands of where legend has it that sailors could smell the aroma of the nut meg twenty nautical miles out at sea, and its where the nut meg was wealthier than gold by the weight in the 17th century...Spice Islands here we come...



Sunset on the Arafura Sea



Vendors in the market



Flags up waiting for quarantine



Port of Tual

"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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