



Sailing

To Australia

From The SW Pacific



Farm Cove Anchorage
Sydney Harbour

Why Australia?

From a cruiser's perspective, apart from the fact that it is warm, the best part about cruising the east coast of Australia is that you can say goodbye to overnight passages for a while!

For the most part, when cruising the east coast between Sydney and Cairns, it is possible to sail by day and stop over each night at various marinas, yacht clubs or sheltered, secure anchorages. When cruising the Queensland Coast, there are just 4 bar crossings, all of which can be avoided if conditions are not favourable by choosing an alternate route or destination.

Most of all, be prepared to be surprised by how much there is to see and do 'down under,' so much so that many cruisers rally decide to stay for an extra season, which is no problem as visiting yachts can remain in Australia for up to 3 years without having to be imported.



Lizard Island
Southern Lagoon Anchorage
Far North Queensland

"To sail halfway around the world without spending time cruising the east coast of Australia would be a travesty."



The Passage To Australia

Given that the predominant wind direction for those coming from the east is from the SE / E, downwind conditions can be expected on the voyage to Australia. However, should the forecast not live up to expectations, it is important to understand that Australia is a huge target with many ports of entry, so one can simply change direction and choose a port of entry that offers a more comfortable point of sail. Choosing a southern Queensland port of entry such as Bundaberg reduces the chances of encountering an east coast low or, as they are sometimes called, a 'Southerly Buster'. These weather events are not uncommon when approaching the NSW coast.

When we look at the latitude of Bundaberg in Queensland, for example, it stands to reason that one is much less likely to encounter weather as severe as what can be expected when sailing in considerably higher latitudes. In our experience and that of the majority who have made the passage from New Caledonia or Vanuatu to Australia, it is typically a reach or a run, especially if a port in South East Queensland is chosen, such as the Port of Bundaberg.





Clearing Into Australia

The overwhelming majority of yachts that have arrived in Australia in recent times have reported that The Australian Border Force (Customs & Immigration) and the Department of Agriculture & Water Resources (Quarantine) were very efficient, pleasant and easy to deal with.

In fact, many have said that they found clearing into Australia as part of the Down Under Rally easier and more convenient than many other countries they had visited.

Many have shared their experiences [HERE](#)

Arrival Fees

The Australian Border Force does not charge a fee for inspecting and providing clearance into Australia for recreational vessels under 25m LOA. The only department that charges a fee is the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. This fee is a fee for service, and as such, it is not a set amount meaning that the fee charged can vary from vessel to vessel.

The fee for the initial pratique & timber inspection is calculated as follows:

- \$120.00 flat fee per vessel.
- \$50.00 per 15 minutes spent onboard the vessels by the officer carrying out the inspection.
- \$30.00 per 15 minutes spent in the office by the officer completing the documentation related to the inspection and issuing the clearance certificate.

The average cost (per vessel) for the pratique & initial timber inspection of vessels that have participated in the Go West Rally and arrived in Bundaberg has been AUD 448.00. However, some vessels have reported being charged over AUD 700.00.

In the majority of cases, vessel preparation plays a vital role in the amount of the fee charged.

Fee-Free Entry

The Down Under Rally understand that not knowing how much it might cost to enter the country is a significant concern for many international yachts. For this reason, the Down Under Rally has partnered with the Bundaberg Port Marina, which has made it possible for those yachts who join the Go West Rally to no longer have to worry about how much the biosecurity fees will be.

The Down Under Rally pays the cost of the initial biosecurity pratique and timber inspection for all vessels who join the Go West Rally as part of the rally entry fee*.

PLEASE NOTE: *Overtime charges apply for clearance outside normal working hours, and these fees are not included in the rally entry fee.



Cruising Permits (Control Permits) For Yachts Visiting Australia

When you arrive in Australia, there are a number of clearance options depending on when you intend to leave. If you intend to leave within twelve months, you may be granted a Control Permit, asked to provide a security for temporary importation or to formally import the craft.

A Control Permit will be issued to the Master of the craft if the ABF are satisfied the craft is transiting Australia for non-commercial purposes. Control Permits may be issued for a period of 12 months or the length of the Master's visa, whichever is less. Extension of the initial control permit may be granted on application for up to two years, provided that you meet eligibility requirements and have an appropriate visa. The maximum period of time the vessel will be permitted to remain in Australia before it will be required to be imported is three years.

A person eligible to apply for a Control Permit must be a tourist or a temporary resident of Australia. Australian citizens are not eligible for a Control Permit unless they have overseas residency. Satisfactory evidence of overseas residency is required.

If you are an Australian citizen, permanent resident of Australia or migrating to Australia on a craft purchased outside Australia, importation of the craft is required. Customs duty and tax are payable on any craft imported into Australia upon its arrival.

See the following page of the Australian Border Force Website for more information:

www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/entering-and-leaving-by-sea/yachts-and-pleasure-craft

AUSTRALIAN VESSELS Returning to Australia.

If your vessel has departed from Australia, it is likely that you will be required to re-import your vessel when you return to Australia despite having not exported the vessel when you departed.

You can clarify this yourself with the Australian Border Force by emailing the Bundaberg Office of the ABF using the following email address. bundaberg@abf.gov.au.

If the vessel was tax paid when it left Australia, you should not have to pay import duty or GST again; however, only the ABF can confirm this.

If the ABF confirms this is the case, they will likely inform you that you will need to complete some paperwork on arrival to re-import the vessel and that they strongly recommend you employ a customs agent to assist with the completion and lodgement of the associated paperwork.

The Down Under Rally has a long-standing relationship with DAZMAC, who are customs brokers. The Down Under Rally recommends contacting DAZMAC to get a quote from them to act as your agent should you be required to import or re-import a vessel.

You can make an obligation-free enquiry with Dazmac via the following page of the Down Under Rally website:

www.downunderrally.com/agents.

Discounts for Down Under Rally Members.

DAZMAC MARINE LOGISTICS

- » Customs Clearance for Yachts Sailing into Australia
- » Import/Export New & Used Boats, Yachts and Catamarans
- » Competitive Shipping Rates
- » Licensed Customs & Quarantine Brokerage
- » Over 30 Years of International Logistics Experience
- » Complete Marina to Marina Shipping Solutions

1300 DAZMAC (329 622)
www.dazmac.com.au





Marine Trades & Services

There are many choices when it comes to finding marinas and shipyards, all of which are serviced by various providers of marine-related products and services.

The Down Under Rally understands the needs of visiting yachts and has formed strategic partnerships with key providers of marine-related trades and services, many of whom offer discounted services to Down Under Rally members.

To see some examples of the wide range of products and services offered by our Down Under Rally Partner Businesses, visit:
downunderrally.com/rally-partners-sponsors





Down Under Rally Organisers Vessel Track. Australia To Fiji Return 2019

RETURNING TO THE PACIFIC

Most of us who have crossed the Pacific realise that there is no way to see it all in one season, which leaves us with the dilemma of what to do if we would like to spend more time in the SW Pacific?

Some of you reading this information have probably read or heard the statement:

"Unfortunately, one of the things that help make Australia an easy destination to sail to, the SE to East prevailing wind, also makes it a difficult place for cruisers to get back into the Pacific from"

This statement is no more accurate than when the same people also say:

"Getting back to the tropics from New Zealand for the next cruising season is EASY"



The voyage from Australia to New Caledonia, Vanuatu & even onward to Fiji is one that, in recent years, many yachts have made as an annual pilgrimage; in fact, The Down Under Rally organisers made the voyage from Australia to Fiji via New Caledonia each year for five years consecutive years aboard their Catamaran 'Songlines'.

In addition, over the past few years, the Down Under Rally has assisted more than 200 Australia cruising yachts to successfully make the voyage from Australia to New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

It just requires some careful planning & patience.

GO EAST
YACHT RALLY

AUSTRALIA TO NEW CALEDONIA



2019 Go East Rally Fleet
Ilot Maitre New Caledonia



10 REASONS TO CHOOSE BUNDABERG AND BUNDABERG PORT MARINA AS YOUR AUSTRALIAN PORT OF ENTRY

1. **The Port of Bundaberg is the closest Australian Port of Entry from New Caledonia**, thus reducing passage time and the risk of encountering adverse weather conditions on route.
2. **The Port of Bundaberg offers all-weather, deep-water access**, with much less likelihood of encountering concentrated shipping traffic on approach to the port than many other Queensland & NSW Port of Entry.
3. **Professional and friendly Customs and Quarantine Officers** that specialise in small craft arrival.
4. **Inward clearance takes place at Bundaberg Port Marina**, which is located only one nautical mile from the entrance to the river.
5. **Bundaberg is the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef** and World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, meaning there is some spectacular cruising on offer right on your doorstep.
6. **Largest dry storage facility on the East Coast of Australia** with a modern sealed hardstand area, professional staff and competitive rates.
7. **Relaxed marina with quality berths**, clean amenities, WIFI and a courtesy bus into the city of Bundaberg.
8. **Walking distance to the township of Burnett Heads** shopping village, Hotel/Motel, Sports Club & quiet, uncrowded beaches and parklands
9. **Affordable Direct Access to Brisbane International Airport** via public transport or air.
10. **Great base for "Land Cruising"** to discover the inland beauty that Australia has to offer.

*"The most popular port of
entry into Australia,*

*Bundaberg Port Marina has
been welcoming visitors from
across the globe for decades"*



Bundaberg Port Marina

15-17 Marina Drive
Port Bundaberg QLD 4670
AUSTRALIA

P: (+61) 7 4159 5066

E: info@bundabergportmarina.com.au

W: bundabergportmarina.com.au





Largest dry storage facility on the East Coast of Australia with a modern sealed hardstand area, professional staff and competitive rates.

Our first-class facilities, with onsite trades and a wide variety of services available in the city of Bundaberg combined with competitive prices, satisfy the needs of most boaties and include:

- 75-tonne Marine Travel Lift with 6.4m beam
- 100 Hardstand/ Dry Storage sites available
- High Pressure Cleaning
- Enclosed Spray and Blast Bays
- Antifouls
- Resprays, Propspeed and Protective Coatings
- Insurance repair work specialist
- Quality cradles and stands with tie-down points available
- Professional Job Management – No job to big or small!
- Live-aboard facilities available
- Level 3 accreditation- Australia's Clean Marina Programme

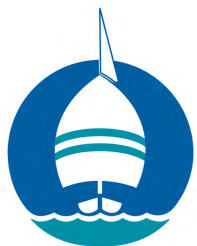


LOCATED AT BUNDABERG PORT MARINA.

Our well-stocked family-owned, and operated ships chandlery has been helping cruising yachties for almost 20 years!

PH: (07) 4159 4399
E: info@captainschandlery.com
W: captainschandlery.com





SCARBOROUGH
MARINA

QUEENSLAND



SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND CRUISING YACHT HAVEN

Located **ON Brisbane's Moreton Bay**, Scarborough Marina provides visiting yachts with easy access to the many anchorages and the islands of Moreton Bay, including Moreton Island and the Tangalooma Wrecks. **The City of Brisbane** and the Brisbane international airport are only 40mins away, with **Public Transport** right at our door. The suburb of Scarborough is home to families and retirees who form part of the **safe & friendly community**. With the convenience of waterfront Cafes, Clubs & Restaurants plus major shopping centres and medical services nearby and our popular weekend farmers & craft markets, **Scarborough really is a home away from home!**

Recognised by the international cruising community as the preferred destination when visiting the Brisbane Region.

- Safe Enclosed Harbour
- Protected from swell & unaffected by flooding.
- Clean, Modern & Well Maintained Facilities
- Modern Cruisers Lounge with TV and free WIFI
- Electronic gated Access, with 24 Hour CCTV Monitoring
- 24 Hour Fuel Wharf
- Full-Service Boatyard with 35 Tonne Travelift
- On-Site Chandlery

**DOWN UNDER RALLY PARTNER
DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS**



Tangalooma Anchorage
Moreton Island

PH: +61 7 3880 0300

SCARBMARINA.COM.AU

info@scarbmarina.com.au



HOME IS WHERE THE BOAT IS



AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST
BOATYARD



Get In Touch Now



(07) 55 000 000



admin@theboatworks.com.au



theboatworks.com.au



[Coomera, Gold Coast](#)

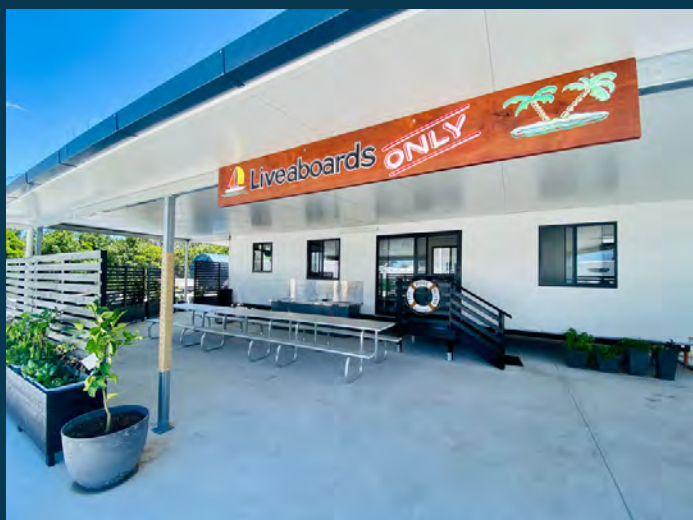


HOME IS WHERE THE BOAT IS

Welcome to our resort-style boatyard encompassing over 55 acres of marine services and trades, hardstand and refit sheds, a marina, in-water service berths, and a chandlery superstore. You can enjoy all the conveniences of our liveboard precinct whilst you tackle all those tasks before you return to the water.

WHAT'S ON OFFER AT THE BOAT WORKS?

- Four haul-out devices servicing up to 300t, we cater to all vessels from 5m through to 50m in length up to a 3.5m draft.
- Cruisers Liveboard Hardstand precinct, catering to like-minded cruiser sailors with their own private hardstand equipped with Lounge, ensuites, laundries, sheltered workbenches, and BBQ areas with access to a tropical oasis for fruit & vegetable plants. A truly unique offer for Cruisers within a Boatyard!
- Resort-style amenities; we've got the works, with the cleanest and greenest facility you will experience. A site that welcomes you to liveboard at no extra costs. You will enjoy the complimentary courtesy cars and Free Laundry Services available to make your stay on the Hardstand or in-water service berth a little easier.



The cleanest and greenest boatyard, extending unparalleled customer service & facilities.



HOME IS WHERE THE BOAT IS

We also understand that convenience counts, and that is just one more reason to choose The Boat Works

Convenience Counts...

- Located in the heart of the Gold Coast Marine Precinct, the HUB of everything marine. With direct access to all marine services and suppliers in one central location. Major Retail, Medical precincts & access to Train stations within only a short 10 minutes drive of which we can assist to coordinate or drop off. 30 minutes to Surfers Paradise beaches and tourist attractions with the Hinterland only 30 minutes drive away as well. Brisbane City and Coolangatta International Airports are all less than an hour away.
- Marine Trade Professionals; The Boat Works features over 80+ marine trade businesses onsite, giving the freedom to choose and consult direct. DIY it or engage with a marine professional to assist, the choice is yours!
- Cafes, Restaurants & Bars, Car museum...even a Barber + Massage options all onsite. As we mentioned, we are the resort for your boat, along with offering a few resort-style options for you and the crew to take advantage of whilst with us. Be sure to check out the 3 unique venues onsite; The Galley Restaurant & Bar, Kokomo Kitchen & Bar & Espresso Twenty5 café & museum.



The cleanest and greenest boatyard, extending unparalleled customer service & facilities.



GO WEST RALLY TO AUSTRALIA

Organised by the Down Under Rally, the Go West Rally is open to all vessels departing from ports in the SW Pacific, with Australia being their destination.

NOT A RALLY PERSON? NO WORRIES!

Do everything, do some of it, sail in company or sail alone, it is up to you! No matter your level of involvement, you can still get the benefits and savings associated with being part of the rally.

YOU CHOOSE WHERE YOU DEPART FROM!

The Go West Rally is open to all vessels departing from ports in the SW Pacific, with Australia being their destination. Participants are free to depart for Australia from New Caledonia, Vanuatu or any other port in the SW Pacific.

YOU CHOOSE WHEN YOU ARRIVE!

The Go West Rally is a destination rally meaning that we do not sail to a schedule; there is no set departure date. Participants are free to arrive in Bundaberg, Australia anytime between August 1st & November 15th 2022

STRESS FREE AUSTRALIAN ENTRY!

All Go West Rally participants receive our comprehensive guides covering every aspect of sailing to & arriving in Australia. We also work closely with rally participants, The Australian Border Force & Biosecurity to ensure that all rally participants are fully informed of what is required before they depart for Australia and what to expect upon arrival.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE!

We are Australians, and we actively cruise in Australia. Access to a local is always a great advantage when arriving at a new location. We are available to our rally participants for the entire time you are in Australia.

GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY!

At just \$660.00 per vessel, the Go West Rally entry fee, which includes the fee charged for the initial biosecurity pratique & timber inspection, AND a complimentary Down Under Rally Membership makes joining the Go West Rally an easy decision.

Since 2015 more than 300 international vessels have joined the Go West rally. Many have written to us to say how happy they are that they joined the rally, how impressed they were with the organisation and communication and how astonished they were by what they received for their money! For full details of what is included in the Go West Rally entry fee, visit:

downunderrally.com/about-go-west

SAVE \$\$\$\$ WITH MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNTS

The Down Under Rally has a network of trusted partner businesses, most of whom offer Down Under Rally Members discounts and deals on everything from Antifoul to Zincs, including marina fees and hardstand fees.



2022 Go West Rally Participants



WELCOME WEEK DOWN UNDER

A FUN & INFORMATIVE INTRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIA!

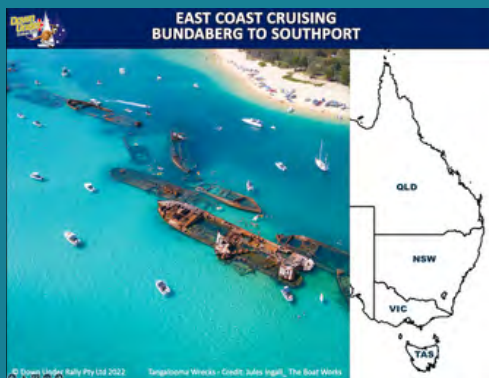
Go West Rally participants are invited to attend the Down Under Rally Welcome Week in Bundaberg. The Welcome Week activities below are a mix of informative presentations, fun social events and relaxed get-togethers and are included in the Go West Rally Entry Fee.

FREE SERVICES & SOCIAL EVENTS

- Free daily shuttle bus to local shops & the city
- Welcome to Country Ceremony & Cocktail Party.
- Fun Social Events
- Beer & Prawn Party (free beer & prawns for all)
- Cruisers Cove Hootenanny /Jam sessions
- Pot Luck Dinners & BBQs
- Free Yoga Classes by [Yoga4Yachties](#)
- Done & Dusted Party

FREE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE SEMINARS

- Surviving Down Under
- VHF Channels & Weather
- Land Cruising Down Under Presentation
- East Coast Cruising Presentations x 4
 1. Bundaberg to Gold Coast
 2. Gold Coast to Sydney
 3. Bundaberg to Cairns and Beyond
 4. Sydney to Tasmania



WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY



Pascal Lutz

16 h · 📍



We are normally not at all the rally type. But I attended the presentation of the Down Under Rally Go East in Nouméa and was convinced to join in. Inés and I are totally happy with our decision. The week of intense social life organised in Bundaberg Marina has just ended yesterday night. An excellent mixture of solid technical presentations on cruising the E coast of Australia, the ports, routes and weather strategies, combined with good-humoured parties. John and Leanne Hembrow are doing a great job to create a warm community spirit. I have myself absolutely no commercial interest in this, I just wanted to share our enthusiasm to encourage fellow cruisers to consider this idea when they go to Australia. The rally is nothing rigid and formal, no fixed sailing dates, no group sailing. The membership fee covers the biosecurity inspection charges.



Annegret Frenzel

👤 · 19 November at 10:32 · 🌐



At this point we would like to express once again how enthusiastic we are about the Down Under Rally. Leanne and John Hembrow did a fantastic job of organising the Welcome Week here in Bundaberg and providing us newcomers with all sorts of information about sailing in Australia. The presentations were excellent, no questions were left unanswered and we are now well prepared to sail the east coast of Australia. Leanne and John always had an open ear despite all the work and patiently answered all our questions. Many thanks to both of them! We can only recommend this rally to anyone planning to sail down under.
Anne and Rainer, SY Meerbaer



“

Extraordinary value for money

”

**OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE
HAVE BECOME DOWN UNDER RALLY MEMBERS.**

At only \$125.00 for the first year and \$99.00 per year to renew, Down Under Rally Membership is extremely good value for money. **It is very easy for our members to save much more than the membership fee, thanks to the many discounts and offers from our network of over 40 partners business.**

**OUR MEMBERS SAY THAT THEIR DOWN UNDER RALLY MEMBERSHIP
REPRESENTS THE BEST VALUE FOR MONEY THEY HAVE EVER RECEIVED!**

FREE MEMBERSHIP* FOR GO WEST RALLY PARTICIPANTS



*The included free Down Under Rally Membership is valid until 28th February 2024.



LEARN MORE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP
downunderrallymembers.com

SAIL TO AUSTRALIA WITH US!



GO WEST YACHT RALLY

SW PACIFIC TO AUSTRALIA

downunderrally.com/go-west-rally