

Navigating the Barrier Reef

Sixty members and guests attended the recent presentation on coastal navigation delivered by Barry Cuneo, Rear Commodore of Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. Barry's talk was focussed around a recent cruise he and other RSYs members enjoyed to "The Swains" on the outer Barrier Reef off the Queensland coast. This was on board RSYs member Mark Johnson's 20 metre cruiser "Northerly". It also covered some of Barry's experiences during his 34 years on merchant ships including his time as a super tanker captain, the largest of which had a dwt of 400,000 tonnes when fully loaded.

Members were fascinated to hear about his attitude to planning of passages and about caution when approaching reefs, many of which have not been surveyed since Captain Cook sailed the east coast of Australia in 1770. He drew attention to the dangers of reliance on digital charts which are extrapolated from paper charts, thus compounding inaccuracies.

Many thanks to Barry who made the time to travel to the club for this excellent presentation. The photo shows Barry Cuneo with Cruising Group Chairman Richard Lawson sporting an injured wing and Paul Thackray who was on board for the Swains cruise and who invited Barry to deliver his presentation.



Our next presentation will be on 28 June and will cover the Sounds and Migration of Whales which are starting their journey down the east coast back to Antarctica with their new born calves. Doug Cato, Chief Scientist and Adjunct Professor at the University of Sydney, will share

his love and profound knowledge of whales: their sounds and their conservation. He will conclude with some fascinating statistics concerning the humpback whales since they were almost made extinct by hunting for oil and bone.

