

## Australia Day Long Weekend Raft Up By John Hancox

Six boats converged on Hen and Chicken Bay on the Friday evening after enjoying a day of fabulous weather to celebrate Australia Day. They anchored in shallow water below what was the first animal quarantine station for NSW. This is now preserved as a piece of history plus the addition of a public BBQ area with sheltered seating. A sandy beach provides a convenient landing place for dinghies. Once ashore it is a short but steep climb up to the roadway providing access to Sydney Rowing Club and other venues. The river is a practice area for school and club rowers who arrive in the early morning to take advantage of smooth water.



On Friday night everyone enjoyed sundowners and snacks aboard *Hansoff* (Geoff and Ros Jarrett), not bad for a 38 footer, before heading off to dinner in smaller numbers. In addition to *Hans Off*, were *Rapunzel* (Richard and Sandy Lawson), *Matang* (Rob and Fran Hardy), *Magnificat* (John and Robbie Hancox), *Mercier* (James and Gaila Merrington) and *Allegro* (John and Jackie Taylor.) On Saturday morning *Mercier* and *Allegro* left for club racing. *Hansoff* transferred their guests (David and Sarah Salt) to *Magnificat* before returning for grandparent duty.

After a morning of exploring and early lunch, the group of eight rowed ashore and enjoyed an evening BBQ, returning at dusk to retire early on another balmy night. Sunday was D-day for all. A very enjoyable weekend.