

Wine-Dark Sea Log

Following the adventures of Sarah Goddard-Jones and Peter Lowndes as they circumnavigate Australia.



The Beautiful Curtis Coast

We eventually had the right conditions to make it back to the Capricornia Cays National Park, spending three days at North West Island. The snorkelling was awesome, with sharks and manta rays as well as the full array of coral and tropical fish. It was sad to say goodbye to the Southern Great Barrier Reef, but on our way back in, we saw our first whale. We have seen humpbacks every day since then, spouting, fin slapping, breaching and even power napping!

The islands in this area are quite beautiful, pristine and many have coral. Most are maintained by QLD National Parks who allow camping by permit only, helping to keep the unspoiled nature of the islands. One of our favourites has been Hexham, a great anchorage with a small pretty beach and a great hill scramble for awesome views and internet access!

Wine-Dark Sea has also made the pilgrimage to Middle Percy, leaving some memorabilia in the famous AFrame. See if you can spot our calling card next time you visit, and drop us a line to let us know what it is! We had three fantastic days at the Percys, hiking the track to the Homestead and meeting Cate, the current leaseholder, who told us a lot of the history of the island. We met old and new friends and even joined in the Friday night Percy Island Goat Curry.

Our last stop on the Curtis Coast was Curlew Island, with its slightly challenging anchorage for a yacht drawing three meters at spring tide! We had a delightful evening walking on the beach, then admiring the full moon rising over the island.

Noel Patrick's Curtis Coast Cruising guide is now closed, with 100 Magic Miles now taking its place on the nightly reading list. Wine-Dark Sea has reached the southernmost Whitsundays and will slowly cruise to Hamilton Island, where we are to attend a wedding in early August.

