

# Aboard Sengo

Aboard Sengo

December 2021

Kgari

From page 3



The Gold Coast

From page 10

## Head in the Clouds

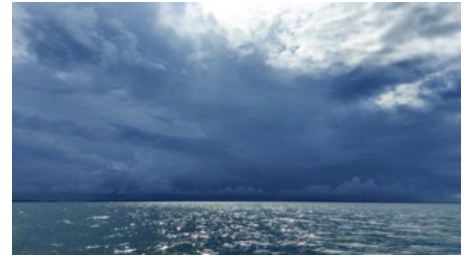
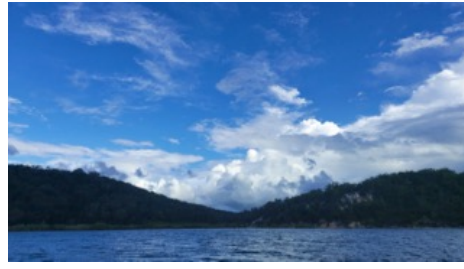
From Kgari to The Gold Coast



Although technically below the northern limit of our cyclone insurance line at the beginning of December, our aim was the Gold Coast for the summer season. Firstly it was easier for interstate visitors to get to us at Christmas, and secondly, and more importantly from a bulk time perspective it was closer to a set of medical appointments I wished to set up over the next couple of months. So early December saw us sailing from the anchorage at Kingfisher Bay, Kgari (Fraser Island) down to our usual summer haunt, the Paradise Point vicinity of the Gold Coast.

There was, given it was storm season, understandably a lot of cloud spotting on the way down, and sometimes the main activity for the day was watching the weather. We were I suppose fairly lucky; we either didn't hit, or managed to avoid most storms in the area. But we still got wet!



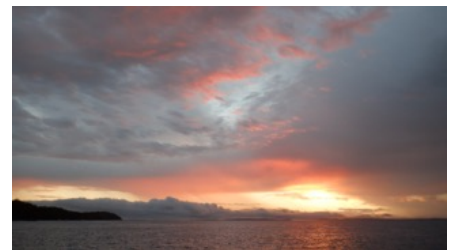
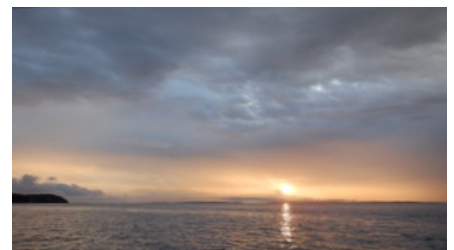


## Kgari (Fraser Island)

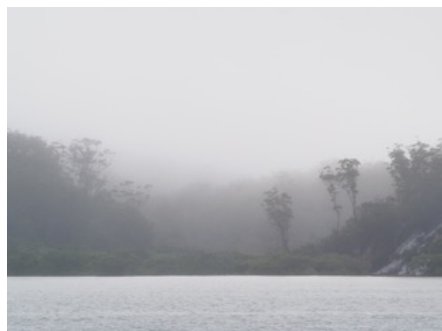
1<sup>st</sup> December 2021. I wasn't expecting the sunshine. I was expecting dark clouds -70 percent rain with 8 to 15mm was the forecast. In the end we got very little rain (a short shower around 1230 and on and off drizzles from dusk onwards). It doesn't mean the rain didn't get close, sidling down the coast, at low tide away.

I didn't manage much today, the humidity was almost overwhelming, helped slightly by opening windows and covers when we could. The jobs for the day included clove oiling half the cockpit ceiling, making nibble balls and muesli bars for tomorrow's walk, and some recreational reading.

Just after 2200 we went outside. The winds had been calm for some time and the skies were clear. The stars were lovely. A mopoke called somewhere in the distance.





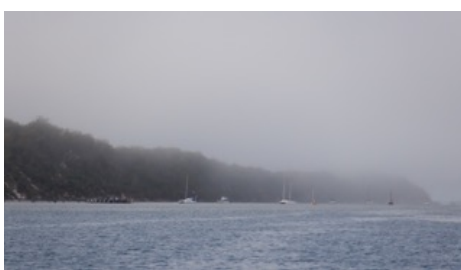


## Lake Mackenzie

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021. Kgari was enveloped in low cloud at 0500. As she was again at 0600 when I got up, and as the temperature was due to get to 30 degrees I hoped the low cloud would stay a bit longer.

We had talked about getting to shore at 0700 near high tide but we were a bit later than that, finally walking away from the Jetty Bar at 0800. Stopping for a quick shop at the village store had us leaving that premise at about 0815 and we got to the sign at the back of the fenced property at 0830. The cloud had started to lift and I was fearful that that would mean a very hot and uncomfortable day. We were lucky that we did indeed get some light showers during the day: this meant we didn't get the classic view and blue of Lake Mackenzie, but the walk was slightly more comfortable than it could have been.

We have walked to Lake Mackenzie before, but last time was in from McKenzie's Jetty. This time it was from the Resort through what arguably can be deemed a prettier landscape. The other walk is through more open bush and banksia dominated scrub, at

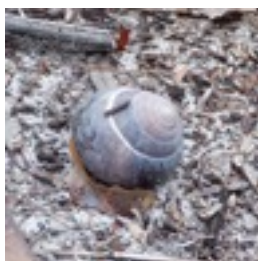


times with little shelter. The path we took today did have some of this type of bush in sections but about half the route is greener with more ferns, xanthorias, cycads, and thicker bush in general.

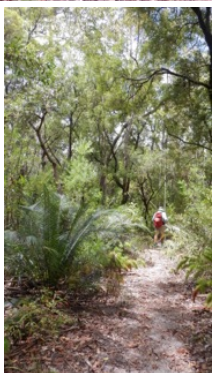
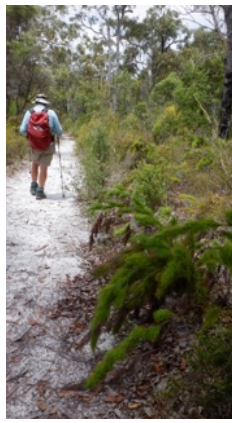
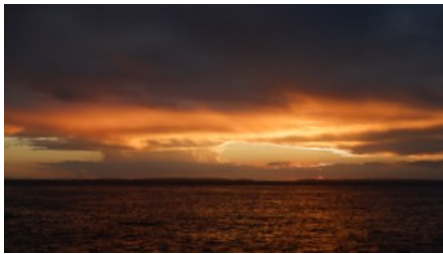
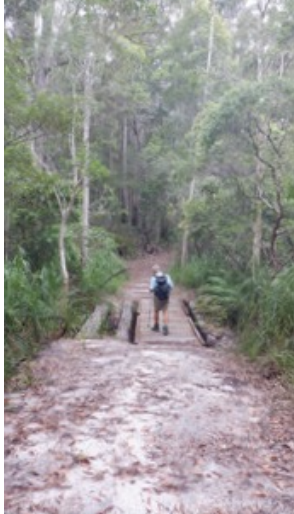
The beach near the car park and picnic area at Lake Mackenzie was full of people, and apparently the water lovely but our priority was getting off our feet; we haven't done this length of walk for a while. After a nibble and about an hour's break we headed back the way we came.

I stripped my boots and socks off when we got back to the jetty bar where we had a refreshing drink and an ice-cream before heading to the Sandbar for a late lunch/early dinner. We had a chat to fellow yachties before launching the tinnie to head back to boat - nine hours after we left it this morning.

The evening on boat was spent recuperating







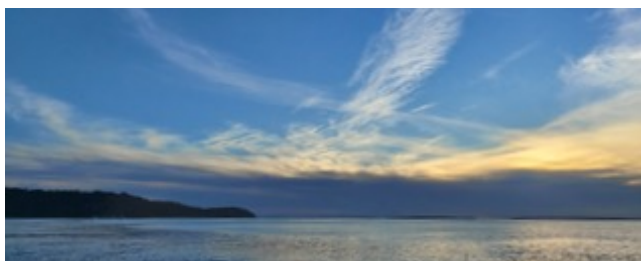


## A day of domestics

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. I rinsed yesterday's clothes, finished clove oiling the back cockpit ceiling and started clove oiling the bathroom. Intermingled throughout the day was some recreational reading, November's newsletter, some of October's newsletter and I started tidying my clothes cupboard.

## Another day (mainly) of domestics.

4<sup>th</sup> December 2021. I clove oiled some walls, including our head, and C2. I continued with some newsletter, read a bit, and pulled the washing in. At around 1430 we headed to shore to check out the Discovery Centre; a room of interps with the history of Kgari. This facility is relatively new; it wasn't here the last time we visited Kgari and the interps mainly well done. A bit of slight editing wouldn't have gone astray but in the main pretty well written. After that we went for a 40-minute beach walk before heading back to boat. The evening was spent researching our long delayed Canada trip.



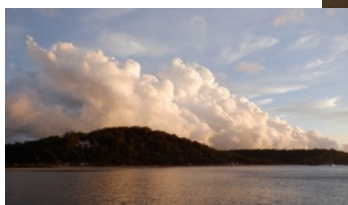
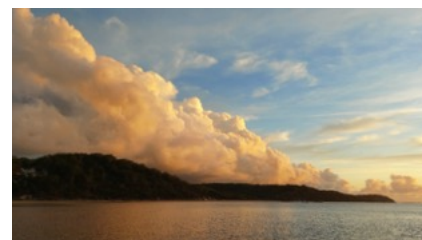
5<sup>th</sup> December 2021. At 0100 it started to rain - and it seemed steady. At 0200 we woke again to increased wind with 25.8 knots on gauges, and a few, thankfully distant, lightning strikes. I only heard thunder claps four times during the early morning and all were a fair way away.

I put another waypoint on the plotter as we were turning around a bit. Given our disturbed sleep we didn't get up until 0700, the bright sun blocked out by putting the blind down.

Yet more domestics today interspersed by simple but more enjoyable activities

We managed a yoga session around 0845 after which I managed to wipe down the mesh of the side cockpit windows and wipe down the mesh of the starboard top hatches. The rest of the day was spent with some recreational reading, making pumpkin pasta for lunch and some newsletter editing.

We enjoyed the evening on the back step as the sun went down. A mopoke called and a dingo howled. This is the first sign of a dingo that we've noted on this trip.



6<sup>th</sup> December 2021. At 0557 the sun was shining brightly upon us but the rain radar threatened a storm very shortly.

There was only a 40 per cent chance of rain for the closest town in the forecast, but that turned into 100 per cent where we were. It rained on and off all day. I got some washing done but given the rain not all of it was dry by the end of the day – although that was a result of me not washing early enough; I was collecting the rain water for the washing but was unaware that the collection tube had fallen out of the retention bucket. That is, I would have a lot more water earlier had I noticed.

Not much else got done today. We did more research on Canada...for when we finally get there, did the dishes, made muffins for lunch, some recreational reading, and a bit of yoga

## Toward the bottom of the Sandy Straits

7<sup>th</sup> December 2021. It was a lovely morning and the sun was up when I got put of bed at around 0530. Cumulous dotted the sky but they weren't threatening and any little splashes on the rain radar weren't expected to affect us.

At 0633 at low tide there were wimbrels on the shore and a little black cormorant flew past. There was no wind and very little rain on the radar.

It was a casual morning, a yoga session at 0830 and deciding where we were going to anchor overnight tonight.

We had never anchored at Elbow Point so that was Plan A.

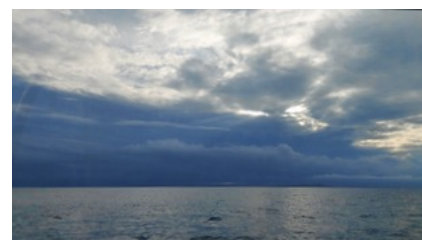
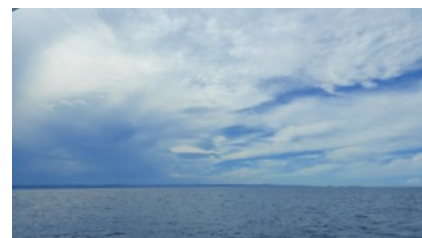
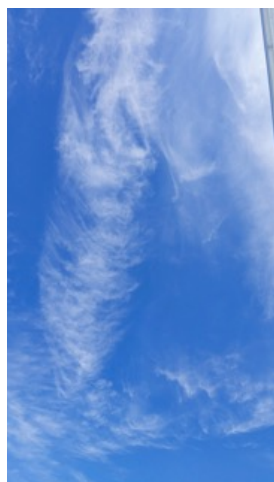
I started picking the anchor up at 0855 and by 0905 we were ready to pull the genoa out. The wind wasn't strong but with all the zigzagging required to get through the Sandy Straits, having the potential burden of the main up wasn't worth it. In the end the motor went on five times during the trip: two bouts of 5 minutes, two bouts of ten minutes and one of approximately 15 minutes. The rest of the trip was propelled by wind only.

High tide at Boonlye Point was officially at 1155. You usually aim for this time to reach the port marker just to its north where you turn south. Despite starting with 7 knots sog, we reached this buoy at 1200, sogs ranging from 7 knots to 2 knots. We weren't rushing, we technically had all day. We were passed by a monohull but we suspect he was motor-sailing, and by three cats, only one of which was sailing at the time although all of us turned our engines on when the wind was on our nose.

As it turned out everybody else wanted to anchor at Elbow Point as well, well not quite but there were four boats already scattered along the coast. So we pulled up a bit sooner than expected, to the north of Browns Gutter (the real one – not the one I keep calling Browns Gutter at the end of the Coomera River). The anchor was down at 1430.

We hadn't got wet on our journey but we had seen rain, one cloud set and downpours seemingly not to move in the vicinity over Tin Can Bay. Eventually the system moved north, missing us to the west.





Out the Wide Bay Bar and heading south.

8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. It was a quiet morning. There was no wind and curiously there didn't seem to be any midgies either.

The anchor up at 0830. At 0900 we decided we would to enact Plan B and stop at Double Island Point instead of heading all the way down into Morton Bay. At 0910 however the wind picked up and we raised our sail going back to plan A -

At 1115 we turned south from the bar exit, which is extremely different from last time - and decided on Plan B and Double Island Point again. At this point a military jet did a low fly by giving us both a bit of a start (we expect one of the retiring F18s).

At 1135 I was inside getting lunch when I heard Andrew put the genoa out. The engines went off not long after. The wind is back up - perhaps we are back to Plan A, so we tacked briefly so we wouldn't hit Wolf Rock and headed in a southerly easterly direction once more.

At 1305 two more jets went past. We were late to see them because we were sitting on the front deck, admiring the scenery as it went past, and particularly, the sky above us. The boat

was travelling well and we felt it speed up.

About 1310 Andrew decided he would put a line in. He caught no fish.

At 1500 we moved inside. A line of thunderstorms was on its way

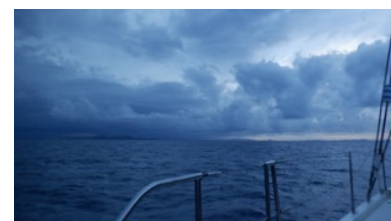
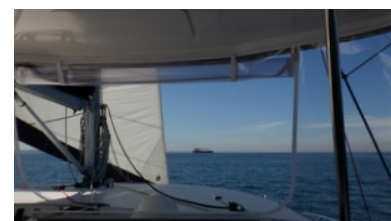
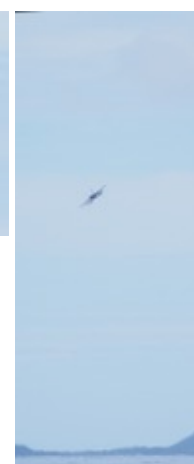
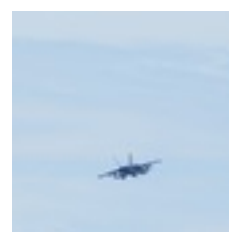
At 1700 we closed the front window and dropped the mainsail to slow down

At 1830 we turned around to try and out run the clouds of thunder and lightening, heading back north.

At 1940 we turned toward the storm hoping we would skim its outside. We did only getting a period of light showers

At 2030 we put the main back up again and found ourselves in the same place we had been three hours ago!

Whilst this storm was nowhere near as severe as the one we travelled through at Heron Island in November, for a start we only copped a bit of rain, but it did heighten some of our senses... and dulled others. We tried to outrun it and turn around the main part of this storm with the aim of turning into a lesser section of the tempest. Of course as time went on the lesser section of tempest got to become a bigger section of tempest. So in the





end, looking at the radar we decided to turn and head straight into it – hoping we could jag the area of least activity. That went well and we both took a huge sigh of relief once we were through. Of course thinking we were through this test, I had forgotten the yellow buoy off the coast. We had originally sailed to the west of it on the way south, and to the east of it on the way north. Luckily Andrew was awake because had his reactions not been quick – I would have sailed directly over the top of it on our way south again!

9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 The wind finally went north – just a bit late to be really useful to us. After the storm we had had the motor alternating on and off overnight but we got an hour or so of pure sailing in Morton Bay this morning. The engine went off at 1130 to go around the shallow bit north of Peel Island.

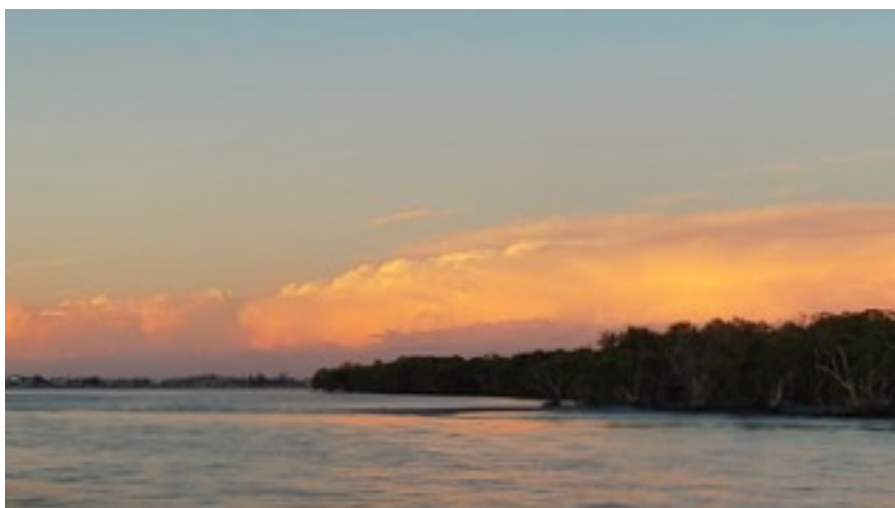
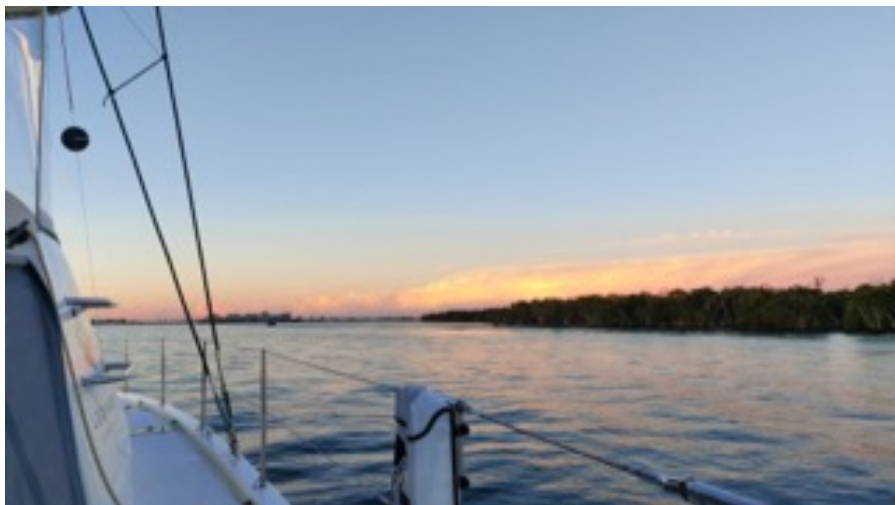
We found ourselves in a southerly to south west wind when we got to Peel Island. This was not predicted by bom.gov.au. It was however noted on Windy.com. At first we thought the wind direction related to the edge of some intense storms going over granite belt but when they petered out the wind was still there

The anchor was down at 1300 at Peel Island, 28.5 hours after we started. That was the longest time we have taken to traverse that section.

Our bird spot in Morton Bay was minimal – three pied cormorant flybys.

When we arrived at Peel there was a beautiful blue sky – with one fascinating cloud that I knew would lead to something. There was a district thunderstorm warning but the yellow of the drawing seemed to end just inside the mainland border. We did nothing but relax and catch up on sleep for the rest of the afternoon. And then watched the thunderstorm as it came over us in the dark at night!





## To the Gold Coast

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. I woke up at around 0600. The sun was up. It was already hot outside as I opened the back covers. What tempest?

We didn't get a walk on Peel Island this morning. Andrew didn't get up early enough for a stroll and if we wanted the tide to carry us south toward the Gold Coast, so we would hit the shallow bits at high tide, we needed to leave soon after low tide here, around 0800. In the end it was 0900 when we picked up the anchor and 0920 when we turned the engines off, the genoa doing most of the work for the slow but smooth trip south. There were a couple if navigation oopses that had us going over shallower depths than we expected, we haven't been here for a while, and we headed under the power lines at mid tide. We got to our usual area of the Gold Coast mid afternoon. The anchor was down at Crab Island just after 1500.

There were quite a few dead and dying boats spotted on the way

down; I thought the Council cleaned the waterways up!

We spent twilight sitting on front deck listening to the raucous call of the lorikeets coming from the trees on the island and watching two bats fly past. The clouds to the north east were pretty – they were on top of a storm raging over Morton Bay – just as well we had moved today.





## Back to an old favourite; Tiger Mullet Channel

11<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The sun was rising over the horizon at 0445. But I wasn't getting up yet. I had gone to bed after 1100 and had had a disturbed sleep, I suspect due to either the hard cheese I had eaten or the soft drink I had consumed. Or both. I wanted more rest. I closed my eyes and didn't think I got any until I opened them again, around 0630.

I had felt the bow waves of small boats at sunrise; at 0530 there were noises as well. I could hear the lorikeets screeching on the island, and jet-skis zooming to the south.

We were off boat and got to the Runaway Centre around 0705. Woollies was open at 0700 and low tide was at 0830. I wanted to do the shopping run over slack tide, the current has proved difficult when getting back on the big boat at this anchorage in the past. Ideally I would have liked to visit the health food shop as well but they were not open until 0900. The other factors for an early shop involved increasing southerly winds and the hope we could get further down the waterway to visit friends. They weren't far away...but too far in a tinnie this morning. However, upon ringing our friends we discovered there wasn't really a lot of anchoring room where they were, and given it was the weekend we decided perhaps we would try for a catch up later, sometime next week. The winds were supposed to be lighter then, albeit from the same direction, and there would be less traffic doing 40 knots past us! In theory.

So, to get out of the busy crazy Gold Coast Broadwater to shelter from frisky south easterlies, we headed back to our favoured anchorage for these conditions, Tiger Mullet Channel.

To take the tide and to ensure we had enough water in Whalleys Gutter we had to leave early – hence the other reason for our early morning food shop.

12<sup>th</sup> December 2021. It rained overnight. At 0030, so we didn't officially get any rain yesterday. It wasn't much but we had seen the rain come up the coast on the bom.gov.au radar for a while before we went to bed so I instigated all the towels again under our leaky hatches. I had just put them away!

I got up at 0515. Early considering we had had a late night but I had had a few hours sleep yesterday afternoon. The sun was well and truly up. It was, as expected windy, but not windy enough to counteract the tide.

Checking the rain radar at 0530 showed a large lump of rain just below Byron Bay in NSW. It was tracking north but as it was a large lump and some of it was out to sea it was currently hard to work out whether the main part of the body would follow or whether it would stay along the coast and get to us?

It was a day of small bits of jobs. I started a clean up of the anchor well, started a clean up of the bilge, managed to organise all three meals (Andrew usually does at least one), recreational reading, some newsletter, dishes, a yoga session.

It was windy for most of the day, but sunny. The only rain a small smattering around 2130 but we collected nothing by the time I put the bucket out.

Calls of whistling kites, wimbrels and white-bellied sea eagles rang throughout the day, and bush birds and lorikeets called in the evening. I didn't venture outside much (the sun was hot despite the wind) but there seemed to be minimal bitey insects as well (although they do spray this area for bugs).

13<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Not much; a small yoga session, recreational reading, newsletter and a snooze in morning

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021. I didn't notice the sky with regard to the level of clouds during the day but I did notice the 30.4 knots on the gauges during one check of the instruments.

We expected it to be windy. It was why we were still here.

None of today's plans came to fruition. I had planned a couple of cleaning and tidying jobs but this morning I felt ill, and recovering from that took a couple of hours out of the day.

I did get some newsletter done, and some holiday planning done, and a 30 minute yoga session and some recreational reading so I guess the day wasn't a total loss.

Andrew started organising contractors and projects for the xmas stay on dock.

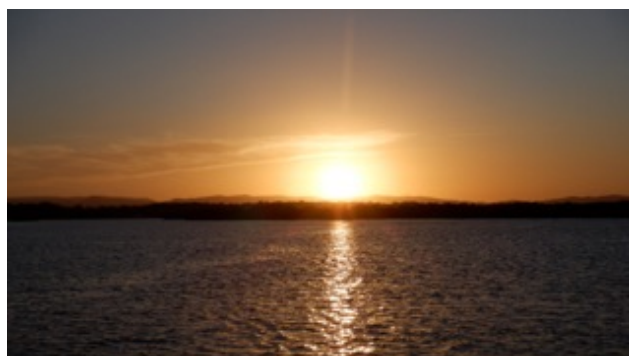
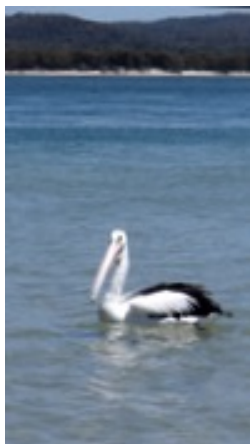
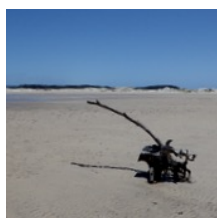
---

### Finally a walk! Jumpinpin Short as it was

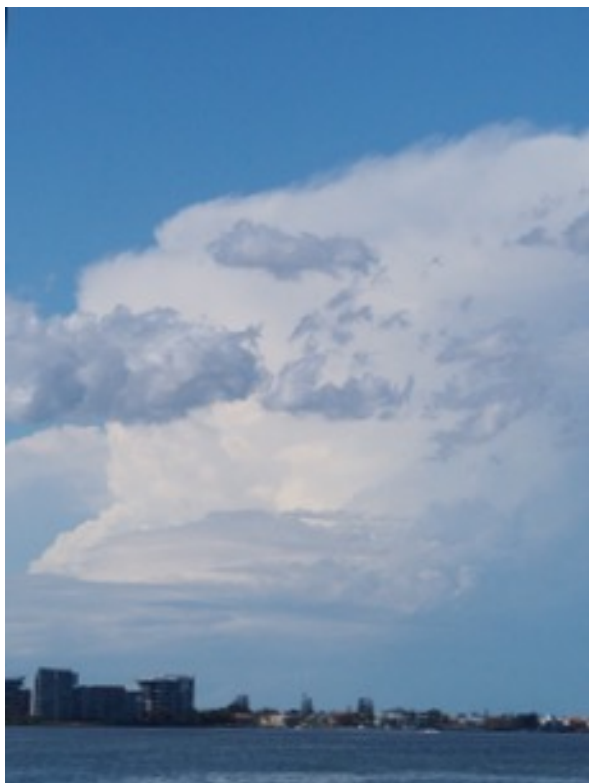
15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The morning had held blue skies, with minimal clouds. By lunchtime picturesque fluffy cumulous was starting to fill the space and by late afternoon if you looked up you had a vista of predominantly grey

Birds spotted during the day; red capped plover, pelican, silver gull, several species of tern together on the beach, and pied oyster catchers. And of course the resident osprey. We also heard whistling kites and white-bellied sea eagles.

The walk was delightful and desperately needed. The rest of the day spent relaxing with some holiday planning for Canada thrown in – yes we are trying for this year







## Back to civilisation

16<sup>th</sup> December 2021. We moved from midgie infested Tiger Mullet Channel to midgie infested Paradise Pont this morning. To be fair there was practically no wind and Tiger Mullet is lined with mangroves. We had been lucky to avoid midgies for most of the past few days but the wind had been a significant factor in that. Paradise Point on the other hand is suburbia. Yes it is just across the Broadwater from South Stradbroke Island but never have I experienced so many stinging invisible bites here!

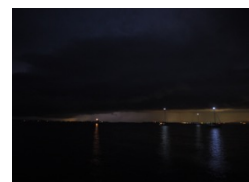
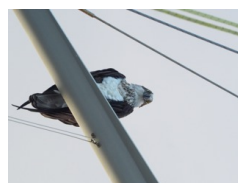
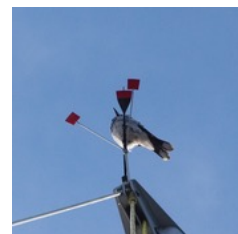
The anchor was up early, around 0610, and we motored all the way back south. The early time was due to both the timing of the high tide in Whalley's Gutter and the fact we had lined up a contractor this morning to take a look at our water maker. We hadn't set a time for that meeting however and it eventually didn't happen, the contractor delaying several times. I suppose I can

forgive him.... he was stuck on a job in Brisbane.

We had hoped for a relatively empty anchorage at Paradise Point given it was mid week but there were boats spread

along the entire length of the anchorage. There was one possibility. Maybe but it was mid tide and the boats weren't at full stretch on their anchor and as the anchorage area is pretty narrow, with an easterly coming, albeit light, I didn't want to have a lee shore that was potentially a step away from the back of our hulls. The channel in between Ephraim Island and the Sovereign Islands was however devoid of boats. We have anchored here before, usually just a quick stop for supplies, but I figured we could always move to the anchorage adjacent shore later if someone moved out. Of course just as the anchor was set and I was putting up the anchor ball I noticed a cat leaving. He could have done that 10 minutes earlier!

The first job was to remove items that were going to be in the way for our contractor. That really turned out to be the only real job of the day. It was hot and we had been up early. We didn't have a lot of energy. Given the contractor wasn't coming we eventually had an excursion to shore, walking our usual coastal loop at Paradise Point before a quick shop at the health food store. It wasn't a long walk, I didn't time it but it usually takes around 45 minutes. There has been a bit of construction happening in this area since last we were here with new buildings going up and some older buildings getting a facelift. The rest of the day was spent recreational reading...when i wasn't snoozing - catching up on some sleep from my early morning.





17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. It had been calm overnight and it was still calm at 0530. From inside I could hear swallows - probably on the lifelines (grr because they have a propensity to poop on the deck). We could also hear a channel billed cuckoo and pied butcherbirds calling. Looking out the back a pied oystercatcher flew past.

The water maker guy turned up at 0730. We spread a shade across the top over the front hatch so he wouldn't fry. The problem was diagnosed and by the time he left we were making water but it was with borrowed equipment. Our faulty part was being taken away to get repaired. Hopefully we will have it back next week. We will wait for tomorrow morning's high tide to make water...high tide will hopefully have clearer water from which to source our brew.

We didn't do much for the rest of the day. I managed a bit of newsletter. We also manage to go for a walk late afternoon and picked up some bbq meat for dinner. *Anui* came across for a bbq. It is a while since we have been able to catch up with them for a decent amount of time and have them exclusively to ourselves, the more recent occasions have been 'sundowners' in groups.

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021. I wanted a morning walk. I would have been happy with a run around the local circuit. For some reason the purchase of new shoes came up in the discussion and Andrew suggested we head to Runaway Bay instead, or even perhaps Harbour Town. But not until after we had made some water!

High tide was around 0900. We started the water maker around 0700 and almost filled one tank. We were on shore around 0900 and after a quick check at the post office we started the wander south.

Our credit cards expire this month. We haven't yet got the new ones but they are somewhere in the mail. They have a tracking number which states they left Victoria 9 days ago! The lass at the Post Office told me 'letters' were slow at the moment. Terrific! We have not had a good run with Aus Post: specific instances of the toilet parts this year and a bulk of mail when we were in Darwin at the end of 2016 come to mind!

As far as the weather goes it was a magnificent day. There was minimal cloud, practically none. The sky was blue and there was only a hint of humidity. Of course that was enough to build up a bit of a sweat but given that the only discomfort I had was the slightly tired under surfaces of a couple of toes in my right foot (as I haven't yet put any padding under them in the new shoes, the original sole having been removed for the installation of my orthotics), I think it was a good run.

I did get a pair of shoes (sandals). They were expensive but they are designed to work with orthotics and they have a natural arch support and metatarsal pad in their soles. They were also slightly soiled, one part of the strap looked like it was sun damaged in terms of blemish colour. That got me 25 pc off.

Shoes bought, I also ended up buying a dress. I rarely wear dresses and I rarely buy retail so it was a bit of a spending day for me.

After we got back to Paradise we had lunch at Bridges Tapas Bar and popped across to *Koolsid II* for about 5 minutes to say hello. Andrew spent the rest of the day watching cricket. I did some recreational reading and then went to bed.

The evening sky before sunset was thick with grey stratus, such a contrast to most of the day.





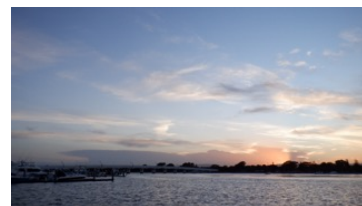
### On being a teenager...

19<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Well not really, but I got my ears (re)pierced today. This came about because I rarely wear earrings but when I do go out (about once a year) I would like to put some pretty earrings in (I only have a couple of pairs). Due to lack of use, the holes in my ears had closed up. After the pop and pain of the ear piercing (which in the scheme of things was quite minor) we did our usual Paradise Point walk and a quick fruit shop, we returned to boat. I managed some more newsletter in the afternoon. Andrew managed more cricket. *Koolsid II* came across for an afternoon catch-up.

### Waiting

20<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

It was now a waiting game. The next booked activity we had was going onto dock on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for a month and so for the next couple of days we were just filling in time. Of course we read a bit- actually we read a lot. We did get a walk along the foreshore and a few boat jobs; Andrew did some gluing – I attacked some rust with some toothpaste. We also started packing for a few days off boat.



### From one anchorage to... the same one.

21<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Pied butcherbirds sang their morning chorus from the top of the mast. Of course they disappeared as soon as I got the camera out.

The anchor was up around 0730, after fighting with the wash-down pump where the leaks are becoming more prevalent and it is becoming impossible to avoid the water squirting out at all angles. Our mission at this early hour of the morning was to get fuel and in the relatively calm conditions we motored around to the fuel dock at Runaway Bay. After filling up we motored back to Paradise Point securing a spot along the shore in the main anchorage.

The water maker guy turned up at around 1200 and left around 1400. Our reconditioned pump having been reinstated and the borrowed one returned. We then went to shore for some food shopping and popped over to *Koolsid II* on the way back.

Two butcherbirds sat on top of mast singing a beautiful song when we finally got back to boat before dusk.

I went to bed early

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021. The anchor was up and we were motoring out of the Paradise Point anchorage at around 0825, turning left into the main Broadwater channel and then left into the Coomera River. It was an easy motor up the river; we had the tide with us, at one stage having to throttle back to stay within the speed limit. Tying up to dock was easy. After a nice shower we had a cuppa at the café whilst waiting for the hire vehicle to be delivered. Catching up with a contractor to discuss our leaky hatches was the last activity before lunch.

After lunch a quick visit to the chandlery before heading off to catch up with *Anui*. It was around 1630 by the time we got back to boat. Time to do some work. Given we were going to be away for a few nights and it was due to rain, quite a bit, we used the plastic bags we had been given by Gladstone marina and stuck them to the deck. We ran out of tape and did a quick run to Bunnings surprised at firstly how quickly we got there, I was expecting more cars on the road, secondly the crowds in the premises, I was expecting more people in the shop, and thirdly the fact not everyone had masks on, despite the fact it is now mandated, including for staff, half of which were not wearing any. Mind you, having a mask on and having it on properly to make any difference are two different things.

We got back and finished the job just before dusk. Dinner was late.

We were serenaded in the evening with the call of the common koel.



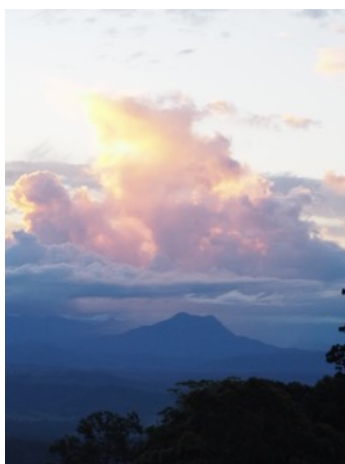
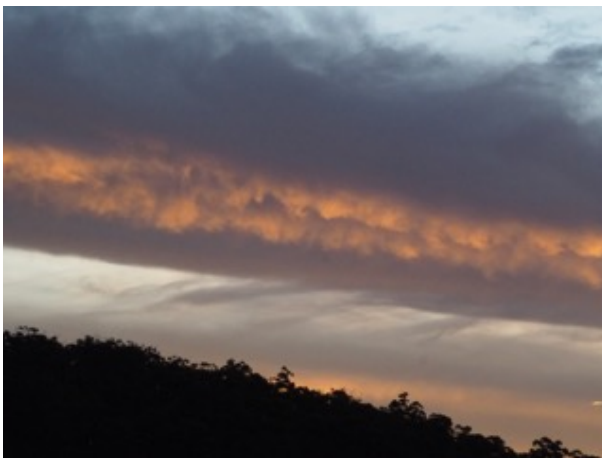
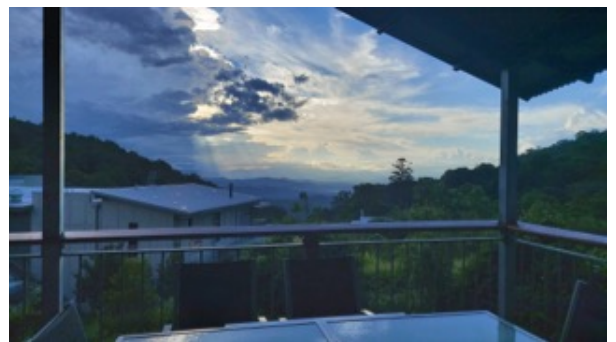
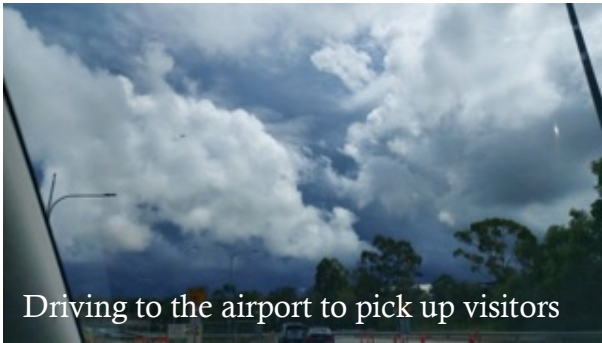
## Christmas Break

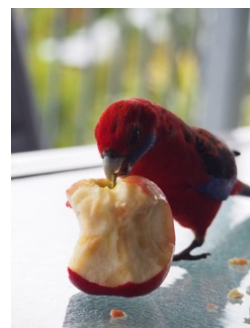
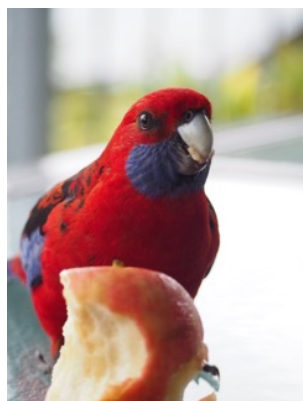
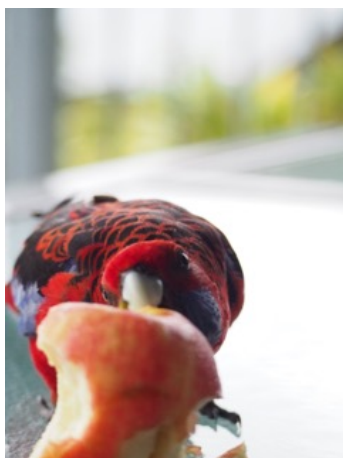
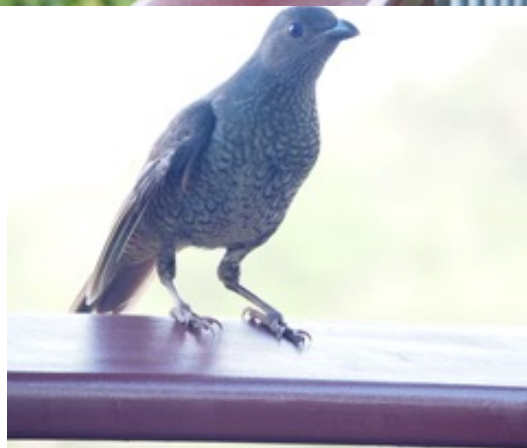
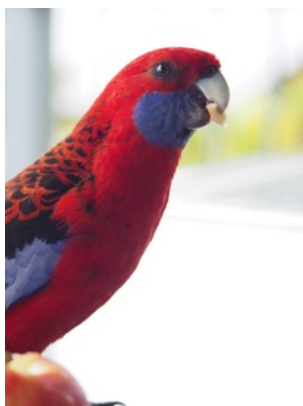
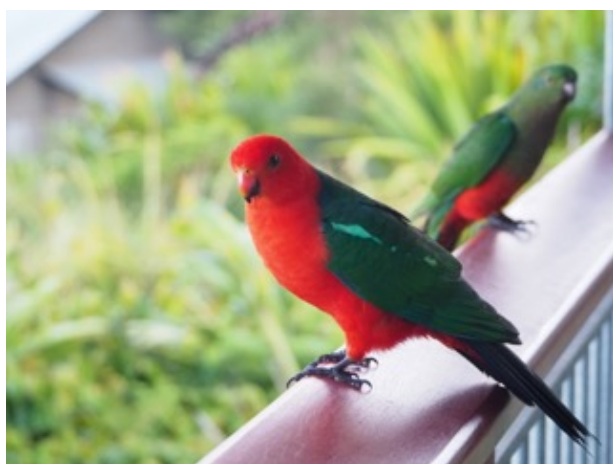
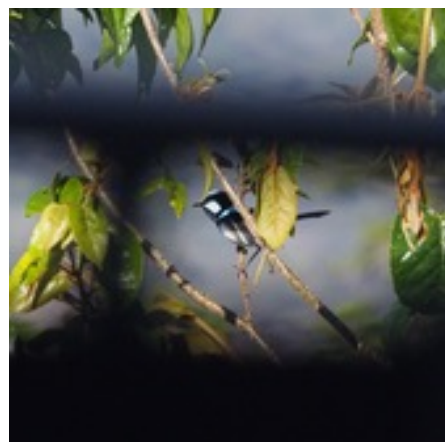
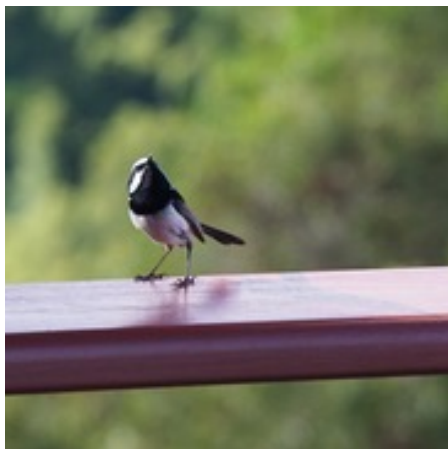
23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. I was up around 0400. The still morning pierced constantly by the call of the common koel. Today involved picking up interstate visitors and driving to the accommodation we had booked for four nights over Christmas. We left boat earlier technically than we needed to, but given the heat of the day there was no point sticking around. We also didn't know what the traffic was going to be like getting to the airport given the date, and due to the mid afternoon arrival of the flight, and potential baggage collection delays along with a one and a half hour drive to accommodation, I didn't want to miss dinner -- which was booked for 1800.

We spent four days at a Villa at O'Reilly's Rainforest Resort in Lamington National Park. We have stayed at O'Reilly's before - but not in a Villa,- which are the newest accommodation-s here (still over ten years old) but quite fancy, self contained and very comfortable. We didn't do anything serious over those days, our visitors are elderly, but the atmosphere is great even if you spend the day just sitting on the balcony.









28<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Andrew swore at me at 0400 this morning. Admittedly I did get him up. It had rained all night apparently; at least rain is what I could hear every time I woke up. I had gone to bed early. It hadn't particularly been a long day yesterday, but it had been a slightly frustrating one. Dropping interstate visitors off to the airport in the morning was the easy bit. For lunch we headed to the cafe at Binna Burra with the hope of an afternoon walk. However we got the view across Heinz Dam for around 5 minutes before the rain came in and the whiteout of precipitation stayed for the length of our meal. Andrew decided he wasn't going to be dragged into an afternoon walk in that so we took a break in the weather and walked back to the car. The rain cleared up as we drove toward the coast and it was dry when we got to The Boat Works. Typical!

That is where the fun started. Our patching above the hatches hadn't worked as well as we had hoped, and there were wet spots at various spots around the boat. Fortunately there was very little water in C2 shower sump but our head sump was full, and the towel soaked. After removing the soaked towel and putting a container down to get the drips I ventured to C3. The towel was soaked, the vinyl and floor covered with water and I hate to think what the bilge was like. It was some thing I deliberately left until this morning.



As at 0513 I still hadn't checked the bilge but at 0400 I checked the 'bucket' Andrew said he had put out last night. Unfortunately it turned out to be a rather small Tupperware container so water was still over the floor, would be in the bilge, and as I discovered, it went under the mattress and will be in the storage section as well. It will be one ginormous clean-up job. And the scary thing is we are expecting over 100mm at the end of the week over two days. I hope the rain gives me a few hours break to clean up, if nothing else then to get the towels in the dryer!

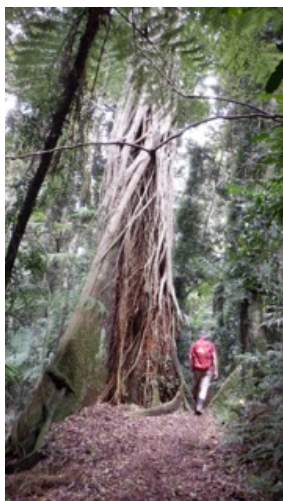
At 0645 the rain had stopped. Hatches were still leaking and seven towels were in the dryer. I put

the dial back on extra dry with the aim to check in an hour. The machines wouldn't start when I initially turned the dial to 60 min. I don't know how to use these machines anyway and the fact they were mounted upside down didn't help!

What I really wanted to do today was inflate the paddleboards and store them on the cockpit table so they were ready to use, even thinking that despite the grot, on a calm morning I could go for a paddle around here. I would have to stay on of course, I didn't want to be swimming with the bull sharks in the Coomera!

The cockpit table however was used throughout the day to dry things, paper, wetsuits, flippers, all of which had been in the wrong place at the wrong time: the paper was on the couch downstairs as was the towel (there is only so much water a towel can absorb), and the wetsuits from under the bilge were smelling mildew having been wet in a confined space. Because of the bulk of the items, I am going to take a while to clean up and dry out the area.

Our excursion for the day was changing the car over to something smaller and cheaper and a quick run to Paradise Point, thinking the post office would be open, as Dr Google suggested it might. However, a notice on the door suggested otherwise. We picked up some items for lunch and returned to boat.



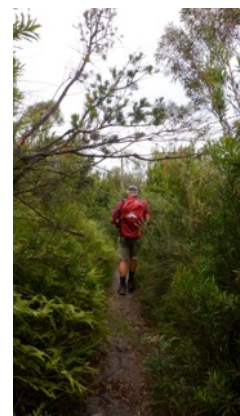
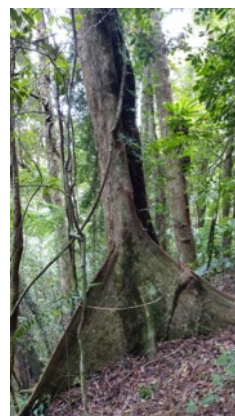
## Daves Creek Track

29<sup>th</sup> December 2021. By 0715 I had a run of washing on. Technically I probably could have squeezed this job into yesterday, there were enough gaps in the afternoon between showers but after getting the method of putting the dryer on completely wrong, drying the towels had taken three times as long as they should have, and I had lost patience for the laundry machines by mid afternoon.

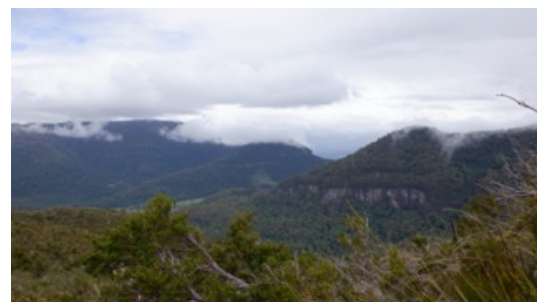
Around 0630 this morning the sun was out above us but there was grey to the east. A check of bom.gov.au radar showed a line of showers just off shore, and I wondered whether it was possibly current related.

Our priority of the day was to pick up the mail. Our credit cards were expiring on 31st December and despite the fact they had been sent on 9th December the mail only arrived at Paradise Point Post Office on 24th! When of course we couldn't pick it up! Yet another frustrating Aus Post experience for us.

I told Andrew I wanted a walk. He was reluctant and said we could to the Paradise Point jaunt we usually do. I said I was hoping for something a bit more exotic and suggested Binna Burra. The walk I had chosen was a two-hour down and up track and new to us, and it will have to wait until next time. We got up the mountain around 1130 within our lunchtime window so started the day at The Tea House. After Andrews reluctance to go for a walk he was now looking for something more substantial than I had suggested but by the time we had had lunch (we actually got the view over the Heinz Dam for longer than five minutes today) there was really only one available choice. We have done the Daves Creek Track before but it was in slightly dryer conditions. At times the track was slippery or muddy and by the time we got to Nimbah lookout the valley was full of cloud



and rain. We got back to the car around 1630 and back to boat around an hour later. I had got my walk in but didn't really get any boat jobs done.







## Wireaway Dam

30<sup>th</sup> December 2021. There was no set plan for today's excursion except that we wanted to go for a drive. We ended up west of Beaudesert at Wireaway Dam. It is only about an hour's drive and has options of a bushwalk or a kayak – a great little resource we didn't know was here. Of course by the time we got there today it was after lunch so it was only a look see.



31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. 40 pc chance of rain most likely from late morning. First rain shower was 0900, which I suppose is technically late morning.

Today's walk consisted of a stroll around Westfield Coomera where our only visits were a sojourn into JBHi Fi...nothing bought, and a wander in Coles where we bought quite a few groceries but only went in for a large tin of oil.

Boat jobs included putting the wetsuits that we are going to keep back in the bilge, and cleaning up some nasty black runoff stains from fiberglass, also in the bilge but along the next section. Other activities included recreational reading, and putting some washing away.

In the evening someone was having a loud party not all that far away from us and a cafe at the Gold Coast City Marina had two sittings of a New Years Eve event, releasing two lots of fireworks, one at 2030 and one around 2230. I am not sure if they released any at midnight, I was asleep.

