

Saturday, June 26

Off to the market in Neiafu see if we can get the gas bottle filled .....stop at Peter Pan the 48ft Hallberg Rassy on the way...will come back. Gas place doesn't fill bottles , only swaps their own unique tall bottles, never mind, we have plenty...sure to be able to fill it in Fiji.

Bananas, tomatoes, eggs only things worth having from the market. Back to Peter Pan for coffee. Jacob shows us his boat- absolutely beautiful, real quality construction, beautiful engine room, navstation with 19" computer screen, fleet broadband 24 hr satellite internet, routing program from Maersk shipping Line !...everything hydraulic; furlers and winches...helmstation has pushbuttons for Genoa In/Out, Main In/ Out, Staysail In/Out, anchor Up/down etc etc...amazing boat.

Sunday June 27

Wet day playing cards...visit Peter Pan again...lunch with a glass or two of white wine...these guys have it all ! Met up with Peter G and grandson Craig to discuss the Monday departure....we have dinner together at the Aquarium Café ...last time in Tonga.

Monday June 28

Goodbyes in the am...Bruce from reprise (PRG remember he was the guy putting on the Monitor van the same day you helped me with mine) rows over and wishes us luck....Motor over to the wharf for customs, immigration, diesel, port captain for harbour dues and light fees (but none of the harbour lights work !) Diesel tanker arrives at 1100 we take 138 litres...PG is pulling a swifty and filling up jerri cans for a mate !



By 1230 we're motoring off to Port Maurelle for final pickup, a swim and then go. Its really hot and a swim is definitely in order...Chrissy has been hanging out for a swim ever since we got back to Neiafu...no swimming in there 'cos of monster jelly fish !

1600 mainsail up and we're off motoring out of Port Maurelle round the corner onto a course of 272T and the wind is right behind us. Poled out genoa and we're bristling along at 6-7 knots, not much ses but we're very roly with big boomed out sails on each side of the boat.



Over the next 3 days the weather changes..pole down on Tuesday, breeze dies about 1800, by 1900 motor is on and we motor for 24hrs !. Bothe of us have a bit of mal de mer from the rolling, but after a couple of trips to the rail we're back on track. 3 hrs on 3 hrs off is the watch routine starting at 1800..works well...Chrissy is an ace in the galley producing cups of tea between shifts, b'fast, lunch !



...just the job.

Wednesday June 30

0700 and we're approaching Oneata passage to pass through the Lau group...right on schedule.

1900 motor off and we're broad reaching again...it's a bit close behind and we end up having to gybe to avoid an island. Take the opportunity to reduce the genoa...at this angle a full genoa is useless as its blanketed a lot by the mainsail. Gybe again after an hour and we're back heading due west.

Thursday July 1

Just manage to stay on the same gybe leaving Mbengga reef to the north by about a mile and sneak past the next one leaving it about a mile to the south....now heading more WNW.



Friday July 2

0200 harden up to head directly for the Navula passage through the reef to Lautoka

0630 exactly opposite the pass, gybe over, furl the genoa, start the motor...the breeze is on the nose now

0745 motor through the pass...batteries are quite low as we've been using the autopilot as the windvane doesn't steer that well in the almost dead downwind conditions that we had....we see the light tower to port and the surf on the reef to starboard...and now its suddenly calm ! for the first time in 5 days..the breeze is still there, but there's no sea at all. Chrissy organise breakfast – cereal/milk...last bananas were yesterday she tells me !...Nice cup of coffee..I have a quick shower and Chrissy takes to her bunk...her shift was 3-6.

1000 gentle breeze and sailing up Nadi waters towards Lautoka



1230 anchored opp Queens Wharf Lautoka...Off to customs for clearing in...what a bureaucratic carry on...copious form filling...no carbon so photocopied forms filled in 3 times each "can I fill in one and you copy it".."you fill in 3 times " ...OK...then more ..immigration...3 forms ...health...3 forms..quarantine..ah this guy is easy only two forms and he fills them in ! All very pleasant and courteous but slow !..Out by 1515. Now have to go to the Western District Commisioners Office to get a cruising permit for the Yasawas and Mamanuca Is...jogged most of the way...just made it before closing time 1600

Celebrated with BBQ steak and chips for dinner on the boat.

Saturday July 3

Off to town...fabulous market...veg fruit, eggs etc...but forgot potatoes..and kava for seuv seuv (the greeting you have to make to the chief at each Fiji village you stop at). Back to the boat to see the decks covered in sooty spots from the fall out from the sugar cane mill which is right behind the port – thriving industry ...must have been 2 acres of trucks parked outside the mill waiting their turn to unload their cargo of cane.

After Tonga, Lautoka appears to be very prosperous – late model cars, good shops, well dressed people...the city is buzzing on Saturday morning !

Back to boat, we motor to Vunfda point marina..about 5 miles south ..we're low on diesel and need to refuel. PG is ahead of us and has arranged berthing. It's a strange place – to get into it there's a channel about 20ft wide and only 10ft deep at low tide (when we went through) marked by a few sticks with little white flags. Inside it's a big concrete basin – boats are moored bow to with stern lines to buoys in the basin – tricky !

All set, wander off to the office...its \$20/night for us..check out the facilities, there's a café, chandlery (!), general store , restaurant , travel lift and cyclone pits where you can leave your boat with its keel and rudder in the ground, sitting on old tyres and tied down for the cyclone season.

We discover there's a resorts here as well with a nice bar ...we end up having a few drinks and a bbq dinner for \$50 total and free entertainment from the bar staff...especial the cocktail man – he was hilarious.

Sunday July 4

Organised with the diesel man to fill up in ½ hr..checked out the gas facility...closed on Sunday of course. Unhooked the mooring lines with the aid of the marina man in a skiff, motored to the fuel dock and tied up against a sloping concrete wall covered in old tyres – it works ! 80l diesel @ F\$1.90/litre. Bought a small double block from the chandlery to replace the top vang block the came apart on the trip to Fiji.

Untie back out and motor out through “the channel” and we're off to Musket Cove. Breeze is NW F2 but dies after an hour, so motor on again and cruise down to Malolo Lailai Is. Just round ing the first reef and we come across Tuxedo Junction from Auckland who tell us that Clark Gable are in Musket Cove. Work our way through the reefs to the Musket Cove anchorage...there's got to be 60 boats here !

Anchor and sort out...have a bit of lunch and then dinghy over to CGand see Terry and Amanda...have drinks and nibble swith them...they're going ashore to use the facilities...we go back to the boat for dinner.

There are two resorts in Musket cove and the whole fore shore is lit up like Christmas all night. Seems that boats come here and never leave !...Not really my scene.

Monday July 5

Up early and on our way...we're going back to Lautoka to get kava root, potatoes, do the internet thing (send this off etc)... and maybe get the gas bottle filled...and then we'll be off north to the Yasawas...where I very much doubt there will be any communication facilities...so no idea when the next bulletin will be !