

Monday August 9

In to the beach, Beachfront Resort has a sign up welcoming yachties – they have a bar, restaurant, internet and a little brochure explaining things. Out on the road, hail a taxi in to town, well the port actually, on the other side of town. In to Customs to check in – have to check out when we leave.. Walked back in to town, found a chinese shop with luers, hooks, line, swivels...all set..got a Digicel phone card...should have got one in Tonga !! Its only 58c/min to ph Oz. Found a supermarket with everything I need...long walk back to the Beachfront...should have got a taxi !

Back on the boat sorting things out before back to shore to hail a a taxi to go to the airport to pick up Judith.

Drive to the airport takes us past Millionaires Point where a number of palangi have bulilt big houses (the ones I saw on the way in). On the se side of the road, my rastaman taxi driver tells me, all the land is owned by the man that owns the big supermarket chain au Bon marche in Vila.

At the airport waiting, I meet Carl another Taxi driver who wants to take me into town – we start chatting and he decides we are best of friends!.

Judith arrives and were off in Carl's miniature taxi to the Beachfront resort and a bumpy dinghy ride to the boat. The breeze and swell comes right in here and its roly and windy all night – une nuit blanche !

Tuesday August 10

Go ashore to use the wireless internet, but it doesn't work. Back to the boat, decide to move to the other side of the bay where its calmer - but man its deep – eventually find a spot in 18-20m. Its quiter – can see the whitecaps on the sea rolling in through Segond channel. Steak and chips with aioli for dinner.

Get a txt from Chrissy to say there's been an earthquake and tsunami in Vila !

Get on Ch16 All stations ask id anyone has any info ... Keith on Avant Garde II comes back to say he believes it will be 300mm in Santo ...not so bad...

Wednesday August 11

O'cast, turns to rain about 0830 and BLOWY...we wait

The wind is against the tide and the tide is strong, so we are bow to the tide with the wind and rain coming in aft...very uncomfortable.

Stayed put, weather calmed down about 1600...first night sleep in Santo without a roll !

Thursday August 12

Lovely morning ...we head off for Palikulo Bay. The trip up the coast is not to Judith's liking, but once round the point we motor into calmer waters, negotiate the reefs and anchor 15deg29.5S, 167deg15 E

Scrubbed the waterline – bit grassy for'd – prop is clean though.

A French (Ovin?) Sea Lance came in after us and anchored further up the bay. Nice and calm and sunny !



Friday August 13 – wake up to a breeze change – NE – and there's a chop in here at high tide, no doubt it will lessen as the tide drops and will change back to E/SE again. Sea Lance motors off, looks like he's heading for Pt Petersen in the north. According to the cruising guide, we can't get in there – the passes are down to 1.8m in spots...never mind we'll stay here and maybe go to Aese is or Suranda bay tomorrow.



Local fishing (well trying anyway)

One of many wrecks that litter these islands

1300 Wind has dropped – dinghy in to the shore, walk on the beach – meet a few locals looking for firewood – very hot. Dinghy back to the boat, swim...phew!..make a batch of bolognaise sauce to freeze.

Spaghetti Bolognese con parmigiano reggiano with a bottle of Brouilly for dinner, listening to opera – only boat in the bay, we can have it as loud as we want !

Saturday August 14

Beautiful morning – pancakes for b'fast, then up anchor and off north to have a look at Pt Petersen.

We anchor outside between Leperouse and Wooded Is (15deg22.9S, 167deg11.71E). Avant Garde II, a Chico 50 from Auckland arrives..he too elects to anchor out next to us



The port hand marker to the entrance !



Wooded Is.



The reef about 30m from where we're parked!

We dinghy in to Oyster Island – there's about 30 yachts in here! Mostly ICA folk. Ashore we meet Grant, an affable Kiwi who owns/runs the small resort. He tells me we should be able to get in easily an hour or

either side of high tide. Problem is that high tide is 1930 tonight and I don't fancy going in there in the dark, so we'll stay outside thanks !

Booked for dinner in the little restaurant..they have wireless internet too, so this could have gone from there...BUT after 2 hours on the wireless only got to the inbox..couldn't read messages, send ...nothing..gave up. Dinner was nice though, I had fillet steak with kumala mash, Judith had beef burger. Back to Diva in the dark, avoiding reefs was accomplished with aplomb !

Sunday August 15

There's a yacht, Nada, coming out from Oyster Is and she hits the bricks and stops dead...Full reverse and she won't move ! A couple of inflatables zoom out to assist and eventually manage to turn her and get her off.

Avant Garde II is going in on the high tide – I've sounded it with a leadline and there's 2.4m he says – no thanks, we draw 2.3m, its too risky.

We motor off to Alese island and anchor off the reef/wharf/wreck – with Nada on one side and Kukka on the other - nice quiet spot 15deg26.6'S, 167deg15'E. Dinghy in over the coral to the beach and investigate..lots of small fish swimming around the wharf...coral a bit far away from the beach for Judith to snorkel...but swimming off the beach is OK..the water is crystal clear...we can see the bottom 10m down from the boat...and its HOT !



Wharf and landing craft WWII relics



Beach scene

Monday August 16

Beautiful morning ..a bit hazy, but it clears around 1000 – fishing..catching nothing of course !



Hazy morning

Took down the brass instruments and soaked the cases in white vinegar to remove the salt corrosion, polished with Brasso, they look almost like new!



The reefs ahead of us



Judith relaxing onboard

Called the beachfront resort on the mobile phone and booked a room for tomorrow night – make Judiths exit to the airport easier on Wednesday.

There is mobile phone signal everywhere here....each island must have a cellular tower...certainly can see microwave antennae on towers around the place



Tuesday August 17

0700 up and off – difficult getting through Diamond Passage motoring against 1m swell and 15knots SSE – an hour to get around the point – bear off a bit due South, put out some jib...motorsailing about 4 knots. Round Scorff Pt – ah that's better – full genoa out, engine off and reaching West across Segond Channel. Anchored Luganville Bay 1000. 1200 in to shore to book in to the resort ... lunch in the café, and trying (very trying!) to use the internet.....

Judith flies out tomorrow at 1230 and hopefully this will be sent before then.....

Cheers from Luganville

Alan