



Welcome to Paradise- ICA Style



ISLAND CRUISING ASSOC.  
PACIFIC CIRCUIT RALLY

2013

So what is the Pacific Circuit Rally? Quite simply the best way to see the South West Pacific. Starting at Opuia in the Bay of Islands one of New Zealand's Premier cruising spots the rally heads off in early May and returns to Opuia in November after legs to Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. Comprising five legs in total with a "Cruise in Company" through each island group, participants can choose to join the rally any where and do as many of the legs as they like. Customs clearances and formalities are all taken care of and you have access to a huge knowledge base of places and events that would take you years to accumulate by yourself.

The Island Cruising Association reserve the right to vary the dates and program if required. Final program will be released by 31st March 2013.

For the Pacific Circuit Rally Entry form Click "[RALLY ENTRY FORMS](#)" on the RH menu bar on the home page of the web site.

**LEG 1**

**OPUA NZ TO PANGAIMOTU ISLAND,**

**TONGA :- SAT. 4TH MAY**

Destination -"Big Mama's Yacht Club  
Pangaimotu Is. Tonga.



Special clearance has been arranged for rally participants at the island, with a week of fun and games before we head north through the Ha'apai group, Tonga's central group of islands, to Vava'u. Special clearances and duty free supplies including fuel are arranged prior to the departure of the second leg.



**LEG 2**

**VAVA'U TO FIJI - WED.12TH JUNE**

Rally Departs Port Maurelle, Vava'u, first stop Niuatoputapu, Tonga's most northern Island, then past Niuafu'ou and onto Savusavu.

We are welcomed to Fiji at the famous "Copra Shed Marina" with special rally clearances organised by the marina on arrival. Savusavu is like stepping back in time with a quaint old fashioned feel. Savusavu is also the gateway to North East Fiji and some of the worlds top dive sites.

The rally participants can choose to cruise Fiji on their own program or join the Cruise in Company "Over the Top" of Vanua Levu with the boats meeting up again at Musket Cove in the Mamanutha Group for some fun and games before we head off to Vanuatu. Special clearance has been arranged for the fleet to depart Fiji from Musket Cove.



**LEG 3**

**FIJI TO VANUATU RALLY - 10TH AUGUST**

Depart Musket Cove Saturday 10th August for Anatom in Southern Vanuatu

On the way north the fleet will visit Tanna for a close up look at Mt Yassur and the "John From" cargo cult. Next stop Vila. Participants can choose to sail on their own program or join the cruise in company to Epi for a swim with the Dugong, Mystic Magic on Ambrym, Local dance and festival at Asanvari on Maewo and finally Oyster Island on Santo. The diving is outstanding in Vanuatu and Santo in particular has some great wreck dives. The fleet will reconvene again in Vila around the 15th of Sept for the lead



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## LEG 4

### VANUATU TO NEW CALEDONIA: - 21ST SEPTEMBER

Rally departs Vila for Ouvea, the northernmost island

This is the shortest of the passages on the PCR but Ouvea is perhaps one of the most beautiful. It's the quintessential tropical paradise, white sand, azure waters and swaying palm trees. Again ICA has arranged for clearance officials to fly into Ouvea for clearance.



where the diving is second to none, fish and birds abound.

The Cruise in Company through New Caledonia takes us over the top of Le Grande Terre and down the western side on the main island to Noumea.

## LEG 5

### NEW CALEDONIA TO NEW ZEALAND:- 25TH OCTOBER 2013

Rally departs Noumea early for the Isle of Pines, another jewel of the South Pacific and is the southernmost island in the group. Rally clearance is from the Isle of Pines with the date dependant on weather.

"Gadgi, Isle of Pines

The destination is Opuia with a quick stop at Norfolk Island on the way. This stop over is very much weather dependant as the anchorage is open, but if the weather's right, Norfolk is a great stop.

At every stop along the circuit there are organised events and tours, all of which are optional but great fun. We look forward to having you along.



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Nuku: - Vava'u

## ISLAND CRUISING ASSOC. PACIFIC CIRCUIT RALLY 2013

### LEG 1

**OPUA NZ TO PANGAIMOTU ISLAND, TONGA  
SAT 4TH MAY 2013**

Our circuit of the South West Pacific begins in Opuia in the



beautiful Bay of Islands- New Zealand. Participants are encouraged to arrive at least a week before the start on the 4th of May to take part in the lead up fun and games, information seminars and briefings prior to the start. As with all ICA rallies the start is weather dependant and will be delayed if the weather is not suitable.



The passage to Tonga is 1060 miles

direct or 1120 miles via Minerva reef's. These two reefs make a great stop for a break in the passage, some diving and fishing and there's something magic about being parked in the middle of the ocean.

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Big Mama's Yacht Club on Pangaimotu Island, just out from Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu is our host for the rally. Customs and clearance officials are brought out to the island for the clearances and participants are usually cleared within half an hour of dropping the pick and able to enjoy their first swim in the crystal clear, warm blue waters of a tropical paradise. Then, of course, it's off ashore for a welcome drink at the yacht club bar. There are five days of rally events at Pangaimotu including a dinner, hosted by the Tonga Visitors Bureau at the Tonga Culture Centre. The events are capped off with the Pirates Fancy Dress and Prize Giving. There are three main island groups in the Tonga archipelago and before



we leave Big Mama's we run a comprehensive "Chart Marking" for the boats that are looking to cruise on their own. For the rest there is a cruise in company north to Vava'u taking in all the best of the Namuka and Ha'apai Groups on the way. Participants meet again in Vava'u in the week leading up to the second leg of the rally. Again there are a number of events organised, information seminars, briefings and of

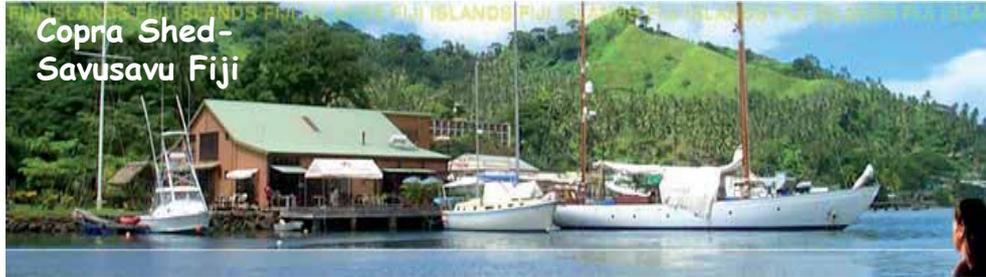
course a whole lot of fun and games. Our hosts in Vava'u are the Mango Bar and Grill who not only are ICA Port Captains but host the Port of Refuge Yacht Club and are located on the waterfront at Neiafu with a good dingy dock for cruiser access. Our other Port Captains in Vava'u are Greg and Lisa at Cafe Tropicana on the main street overlooking the harbour. Both Port Captains can be used for mail and parcel receipt and to locate info and services.



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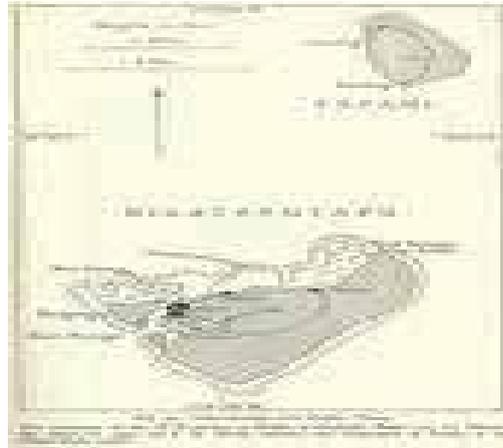
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## LEG 2

VAVA'U TO FIJI RALLY - WED. 12TH JUNE

Special customs clearance and duty free fuel are arranged for the participants in Neiafu on the Monday and the fleet proceed to Port Maurelle, approx. 5 miles from the harbour for departure the following day.

Nuiatoputapu Island is 160 miles north of Vava'u. Recently devastated by the September 2009 Tsunami, the island is still one of the gems of the South Pacific. The harbour is well protected and the entrance well marked. This makes a perfect stop over on the way to Fiji and gives a better wind angle for a reach across to Savusavu in Southeast trades. From Nuiatoputapu our course takes us past Nuia-afua or "Tin Can Island" the shores were too steep to land a longboat from the Post ship, so the locals sent out a canoe with the mail in a Tin Can, hence the nickname for the



island.

Our hosts in Savusavu are the Copra Shed Marina and the Savusavu Yacht Club. The fleet can either stern-to the Copra Shed dock or pick one of their moorings in the stream.

Clearance is all co-ordinated for the rally by Dolly at the Copra Shed Marina. There are four

sets of officials for clearance in Fiji, Quarantine, Health, Customs and Immigration. Advance notice is required and this is all taken care of as part of the rally and all the necessary forms are handed out at the briefing in Vava'u. The welcome to Savusavu will be the participants first introduction to "Sevusevu", or the traditional gift of Kava to the village Chief and the Kava ceremony. There are five days of events in Savusavu, culminating in the obligatory "Chart Marking", before the fleet heads off to explore Fiji. As part of the chart marking, the fleet is given an understanding of Fiji culture and tradition and how Fijian society works, very important when



travelling the outer areas.

Again, those that wish to cruise to their own agenda will disperse and the "Cruise in Company" heads in an anti clockwise circuit of Vanua Levu then the Yasawa's, before heading to Musket Cove for the next leg. This cruise takes the boats on a route less travelled and introduces them to the real Fiji with traditional village life, not the tourist version seen at the resorts. Along the way we pass through the Somo Somo straits between Vanua Levu and Taveuni where some of the best diving in the world can be found. On the way to Musket we pass through Lautoka to complete internal clearances and stock up for the next leg. Lautoka has one of the best local markets in the South Pacific with a huge variety of fruits and vegetables, local crafts etc. Add to this the spices and curries from the Indian influence, wow!

Next stop Musket Cove.



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Musket Cove - Fiji



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LEG 3

FIJI TO VANUATU - 10TH AUGUST

After a leisurely cruise around Fiji, it's time for a little Musket Madness with a mini Musket Cove week of fun and games. Events include Sports Day, "The Sand Bar" for the International Olympic Bathing Suit, Hairy Chest, Drinking and Tug of War contests. A Fancy Dress Gala, Golf Tournament and some fine dining all are hosted by Musket Cove Resort and Marina and the Island Bar.

Customs clearance is at Musket on the Friday with departure for Vanuatu on the Saturday. The passage to Vanuatu is usually down wind in the trades and the 500 mile passage just slips past. Clearance arrangements are made at Anatom Island in Southern Vanuatu.

The fleet will head north as weather allows to Tanna to experience some of the diverse culture that is Vanuatu. A trip up Mt Yassur to the active volcano rim is a must. The fleet will move



onto Vila for provisioning. Participants can then choose to explore Vanuatu on the own schedule or join the cruise in company north through the group ending up Oyster Island in Santo, Northern Vanuatu. Between Oyster Island, two other smaller islands and the Santo mainland is one of the best anchorages in Vanuatu. The entry through the reef is well marked and new inner marks have been put in by the resort to guide



cruisers into the inner anchorage. From here we can also explore Santo, it's history, sights and diving.

Vanuatu, and in particular Santo, was a forward staging post for the US during WW2 and there is still significant evidence of their presence, not least of which are some of the wrecks. There were five airfields in and around Luganville, the capitol of Santo and there are many downed planes on the approaches to these fields. The rodes off Luganville were also filled with shipping and there are two notable dive sites here, the President Coolidge and Million Dollar Point.



The fleet will then make their way south back to Vila as weather allows for the lead up to the Ouvea leg of the rally. Four days of fun and games are planned in Vila including a fun Harbour race in conjunction with the Vanuatu Cruising Yacht Club. Special clearance has been arranged and a rebate of 50% on Port Dues is allowed for rally participants.



The slower boats will head off on the Saturday and the faster boats on the Sunday to ensure we are in Ouvea for clearance on the Tuesday.

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Palakula Bay - Vanuatu



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LEG 4

VANUATU TO NEW CALEDONIA: - 21ST SEPTEMBER

Vanuatu is a magnificent cruising ground and covers a huge area with wild scenery: Volcanos, divergent cultures, ancient rituals and outrageous fashion sense. Vila, its capital, is quite the opposite. A vibrant, modern multi cultural city with great restaurants, supermarkets and shopping, almost anything a cruiser needs is available here and at a reasonable cost.

Vila is the jump off point for the next leg of the Pacific Circuit Rally. Cruisers are encouraged to get to Vila a week before the start date and there's plenty to do here. Our sponsors, "Yachting World", know exactly what cruisers need and how and where to get plus a host of other services and the Waterfront Bar & Grill, host us while we are in Vila. As members of the rally, participants are eligible for a rebate in Port and Light dues which in Vanuatu are quite hefty. Clearance is done at the Anchor on the Friday and the fleet depart on Saturday and Sunday depending on the speed of the boat to arrive on the Monday.



The passage to Ouvea is a short one at just on 200 miles. New Cal officials are flown up to Ouvea on the Tuesday for clearance and quarantine, but boats are strongly encouraged not to arrive on the Sunday. After clearance the local village of Moulie put on

a market for the fleet. New Cal quarantine will not allow any fresh fruit or vegies into the country, but the market in the afternoon is an opportunity for the boats to stock up. Ouvea is your quintessential Tropical Paradise. The island is the Northern most in the Loyalty chain lying approx.



65 miles off the East coast of the main island of New Caledonia, Le Grande Terre. 27 miles long and at it's widest 3 miles, the island forms the barrier for one of the worlds largest lagoons. The blues are amazing and the sand on the beach so white it's blinding and so fine, when the waves lap the shore the air is pushed out and the sand bubbles like champagne. This leg of the rally is limited in numbers. Ouvea is a world heritage site so a clean wake is essential. Just north of Ouvea's lagoon is another smaller lagoon and atoll, Beautemp Beaupre, which is excellent for diving and snorkelling. From here cruisers can explore the other Loyalty Islands, but the Cruise in Company heads over to the mainland, then up over the top of Le Grande Terre to Noumea.



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Moulie Lagoon- Ouvea - New Caledonia

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LEG 5

NEW CALEDONIA TO NEW ZEALAND:- 25TH OCTOBER 2013



From Ouvea to Noumea over the top is a distance of about 500 miles, the scenery is fabulous along the coast of Le Grande Terre with some amazing waterfalls and cascades. Being on the east side of the Island offers some fabulous sunrise's and there is a safe anchorage every 30 miles or so up the coast. From Touhu North, you are inside the barrier reef, the second largest in the world, and the seas are flat.

The north lagoon is a huge area to explore and would be well worth a month or two on it's own.

The lagoon stops just south of Koumac on the west coast, from there to the next reef pass into the south lagoon is about 65 miles in open



water, good timing last year gave us a calm motor sail into Bay St. Vincent.

From Bay St Vincent to Noumea, you are again behind the reef and again the cruising is tremendous. Noumea is a vibrant cosmopolitan city with parks and museums, shops and three great marinas for visiting boats. It is expensive here so we plan to stay here only a week. Our hosts in Noumea are the CNC Yacht Club and Marina.



The rally boats leave Noumea on the 24th to 26th of October and make there way south to the Isle of Pines. Clearance is done in Noumea before heading to the Isle of Pines and departure is dependant on weather. Leaving from the Isle of Pines gives us two advantages. One, it allows us to sit and wait for a good weather window and second it's 60 miles south and 40 miles east of Noumea in relation to New Zealand giving a shorter run and better angle in the South

Easterlies. Crew should plan to be in Noumea by the 23rd and skippers should be in a position to leave direct from Noumea if a weather window opens. In the past 4 PCR's we have left from Noumea direct twice.

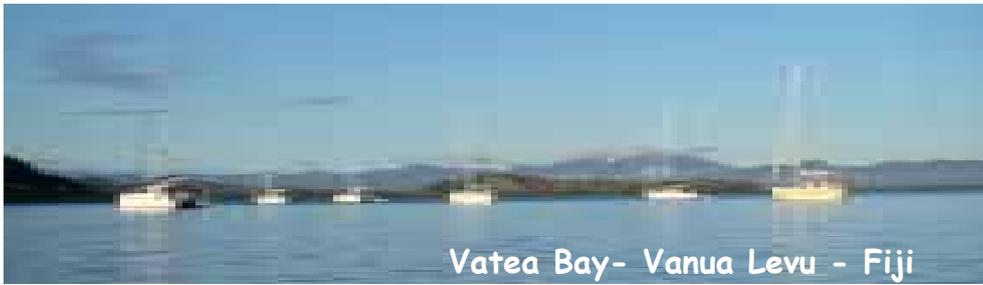
2010 was the first year with a scheduled stop at Norfolk Island on the way south. Just 360 miles south of the Isle of Pines, Norfolk makes a great stop provided the weather is right. Cascade Bay on the north side is the best anchorage in winds from the south and there is access to shore at the wharf there, where the local boats are launched by crane.



The anchorage is roadstead and can get quite roly but the holding is good and a visit to Norfolk won't leave you disappointed. For those that like to shop Norfolk is a duty free haven and one of our onshore events is a Golf tournament. Our destination in New Zealand is Opua to complete our Pacific Circuit.

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Vatea Bay- Vanua Levu - Fiji

## WHY JOIN A RALLY?

The answer is many things to many people but here is a brief list of just some of the benefits.

***Camaraderie, friendship***

***Safety***

***Daily radio skeds and weather information.***

***Briefings, seminars, chart markings, etc.***

***Passage Planning experience.***

***Local Knowledge.***

***Special Customs Clearances***

***All the necessary paper work and forms.***

***Exotic Destinations***

***Special Events, tours, etc.***

***ICA Port Captains for info, who's who, parcel delivery etc.***

***See things and attend events not open to the individual.***

***Special deals.***

***Discounts***

***Reduced fees***

***Travelling in a group gives you access to a wide skill set.***

***Someone undoubtedly has that part you forgot.***

***Help if you get into trouble.***

***Someone to smooth the way.***

***Someone with connections when it's needed.***

***Motivation.***

***A program that keeps you moving but not too fast.***

***See some of the out of the way places not often visited with someone that's been there before.***

***Great social events.***

***A whole heap of fun and games.***

***Access to a wealth of knowledge, experience and information.***

***We've already sorted the wheat from the chaff.***

The Pacific Circuit Rally has five legs in total. Boats can come and go as they please and do as many legs as they like. They can also choose to sail with the Cruise In Company in each area or do their own thing, it's totally up to the individual. Above all else our motto is,

***"We make cruising more fun"***



***"Come join the fun"***

For a full Pacific Circuit Rally Program Click [HERE](#)

For the Pacific Circuit Rally Entry form Click [HERE](#)

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