

### **News from past RAP member Ian Wavish**

For those who still wonder what I have been doing this last year or where I am now, 2016 was the year spent/wasted in Panama.

The wind required to blow gentlemen sailors across the Pacific from Central America to Australia is the Trade Wind that starts in Chile just south of the Equator and blows all the way across to Mooloolaba. For those homeward bound sailors stuck north of the Equator in, say, Panama, the problem is how to get down to Chile. Ungentlemanly sailors go into the wind by vulgarly tacking across the wind and getting their crew and passengers very wet.

Gentlemen sailors wait for the wind that blows from the north and such a wind usually blows through Panama during the months from December to April. Usually!!!! But 2016 just happened to be an exception. Because of El Nino, the north wind had stopped before I got through the Canal in February and I have been stuck here ever since. There may be more unwelcoming and miserable places in the world than Panama, but in all my travels I have not found them.

A couple of quick trips back to Melbourne broke the monotony. One was to check up on mum who had been urgently admitted to hospital; they stuck a Pacemaker in her and she was up and running the hospital ward before I could get there to stop them. The other visit was for some time consuming running repairs of my own all of which were successful and restored my sanity.

Rozinante is almost ready to go to sea again. Next week she comes out of the water to have her bottom cleaned and painted, crew are being assembled and the north wind is starting to build.

My first stop, after a long 4,000 nm or 5 week passage will be Huva Oa, a small island on the eastern edge of the Marquesas islands. Then there will be series of shorter island hopping passages through French Polynesia, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and New Caledonia until I bump into The Big One, Wonderful Land Down Under.

Let me know if you want to join in any part of this downhill ride.  
I am looking forward to giving you all a big hug later in the year.  
Have a great 2017.  
Cheers and take care crossing the road.

Ian