

# PACIFIC CIRCUIT RALLY 2015

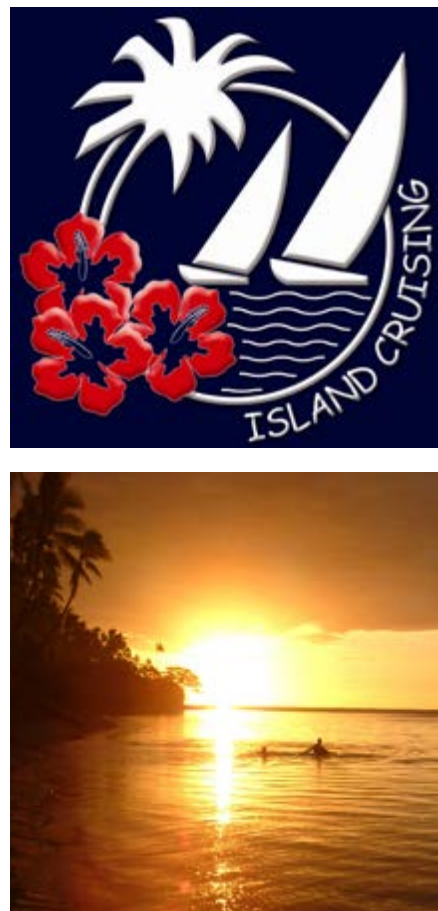
1 Route  
5 Countries  
20 scheduled magic stops  
100's of fabulous anchorages  
*Welcome to Paradise - Island Cruising Style*

Bay of Islands - Vanua Balavu - Fiji



"Off to Live the Dream"

The 2013 fleet departing on the PCR



# INTRODUCTION

A Sandy Beach for Sundowners with Friends

# 2015 PCR

## INTRODUCTION



Are you ready for the event of a lifetime?

*Four Countries, Six months. Hundreds of tropical anchorages, dozens of spectacular sunsets and countless new friends. It's all part of the fabric that is the PCR.*

*The PCR is no ordinary rally, we'll take you places many cruisers don't get to go to and clear into places only ICA has access to. Places like Ouleva in the magical Ha'apai group in Tonga, Vanua Balavu in Fiji's Stunning Lau Group Aneityum the most southern island in the Vanuatu archipelago and Lifou in the French Loyalties, New Caledonia. All documentation, clearances, advance notices, cruising permits, Customs, Immigration, Health and Quarantine requirements are taken care of as part of the rally and we fly these officials in where required.*

*Clearing into remote places has many advantages, not least of which is immediate immersion into some of the most stunning tropical paradises on earth. At each of these there are festival events planned including feasts, custom dancing and tours organised to give you a taste of the local culture, places and people.*

Those that have done it before rave about the rally "Thanks for making our dream of cruising the Pacific a reality. We had the most amazing time and I have heard Grant say to many people it was the best 6 months of his life and I would have to agree. How cool is that! I somehow think if it hadn't been for the rally our dream would have always been just that, a dream" Jude & Grant "Blinder" 2013 PCR.

Who can join? Essentially everyone, as long as you meet the safety protocols noted in the "Terms and Conditions". Yachts, launches, monohulls and multihulls the only restrictions are you must have an overall length of greater than 9m and less than 25m and unfortunately we can't accommodate single handers.

During the months leading up to the start of the Pacific Circuit Rally we will provide you with a wide range of information regarding the preparation of your vessel, crew, and arrangements for your forthcoming blue water voyage to the Islands. These info packs are jam packed full of information necessary for the smooth running of the event as well as info that some of the more experienced skippers have already seen but many of the first timer's may not have. As you will most likely already know some of our South Pacific neighbours have intense regimes of documentation and cruising requirements for cruising yachts wishing to visit, the good news is PCR administration will handle the majority of this on your behalf and take the stress and hassle out of the process. To set you up before we go from country to country there are briefings and chartmarkings to give you a heads up on what to expect. From a safety aspect there are regular radio schedules on both VHF and SSB (or via satellite phone) and a fleet position map on the website so friends and family can follow your progress.

Now onto some notes for your preparation and costs for the rally.

### In this Pack.

- Rally description
- Rally costs
- What's included
- What we need from you
- Some basics to get you started
- Rally Registration form link

Regards,

**John & Lyn Martin.**

Joint Directors,

Island Cruising Regattas Ltd (trading as ICA or Island Cruising Assoc.)

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yacht "WINDFLOWER"

## 2015 Pacific Circuit Rally

### Rally Program 2015 (Provisional)

Saturday 26th April

Muster at Opuia in New Zealand's magical Bay of Islands

Sunday 27th April

Opuia festivities begin.

Friday 1st May

Departure from Opuia for Tonga

Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th May

Clearance into Uoleva Island, Ha'apai Group Tonga

The timing of clearance allows for a stop at Minerva reefs on the way

Cruise Tonga.

Monday 8th June

Depart Vava'u for Vanua Balavu - Fiji

Arrival in Vanua Balavu is planned for the 11th & 12th of June.

Cruise the Lau Group and Eastern Districts - Fiji

Friday 26th June

Festivities Start in Savusavu

Cruise Fiji

Saturday 25th July

Festivities start at Musket Cove, Fiji

Saturday 1st August

Depart Musket Cove Fiji for Anatom, Vanuatu.

Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th August

Arrival at Anelghowhat Anchorage Anatom, Vanuatu

Saturday 15th August

Festivities start at the Waterfront Bar and Grill, Vila

Cruise Vanuatu

Saturday 5th September

Depart Vila for New Caledonia.

Arrival Destination - Lifou in the French Loyalties.

Tuesday 8th September

Arrival and Clearance at Baie du Santal - Lifou - New Cal

Cruise New Caledonia

Friday 23rd October

Depart New Caledonia for New Zealand via Norfolk if weather allows



The Cruise in Company through Tonga begins after the festivities at Uoleva , the official welcome and BBQ "Pirates Night", and an evening of dancing and feasting at the "Serenity Lodge".

The Ha'apai cruise will take in some of the most beautiful anchorages in Tonga, white sand beaches and swaying palm trees. There is plenty of opportunity to find a quiet spot if you want to relax by yourself for a spell.

After a visit to the quiet town of Pangai the cruise heads to the Northern Ha'apai before jumping off to Tonga's Northern group, Vava'u where there are picture perfect anchorages every few miles. Vava'u is a "compact" area to cruise but there's lots to see and do.

Nieafu is the main town in Vava'u and their centre for tourism. For the more social there are plenty of bars and restaurants and we clear from here after taking on duty free fuel for Fiji.

# TONGA

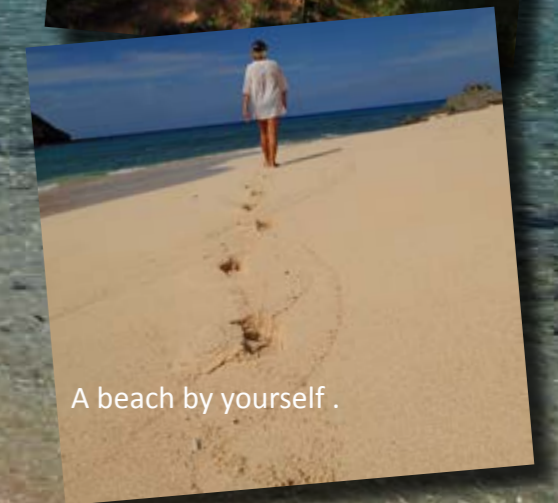
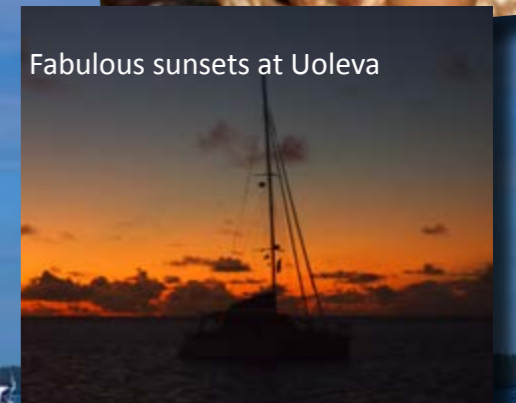
## Cruise in Company

### Tonga Arrival INFO

[Click to GOTO](#)

### Tonga Departure INFO

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Some of the fleet anchored off Uoleva

# Fiji

## Cruise in Company

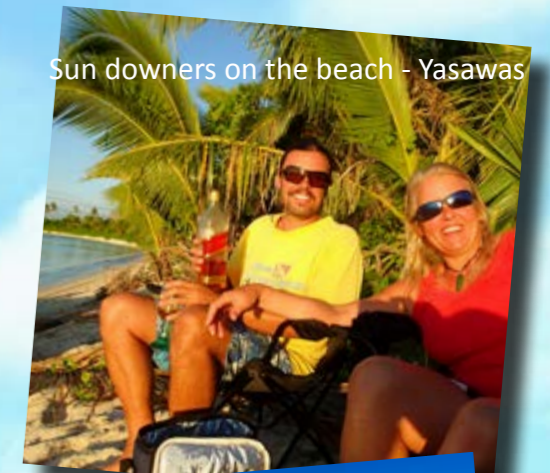


Fiji Arrival INFO

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Fiji Departure INFO

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Bay of Islands - Vanua Balava - Fiji

Fiji is a vast Cruising Ground, you could quite literally lose yourself here for years. After clearing into Vanua Balavu we are welcomed at the Royal Exploring Isles Cruising Yacht Club, big name small club, last year it welcomed only a few boats but is our host club in the Lau Group. From here it's around the corner to the world renown "Bay of Islands" (see main pic.) The locals will show us some of the sights including swim through caves, floating islands, secluded lakes and much more. They are also our hosts for the festival at the village of Daleconi.

From the Lau we travel north to the Somosomo Strait and Viani Bay. For the divers this is paradise with some of the worlds best diving close at hand not to mention the Garden Island of Taveuni on the eastern edge of the strait.

Next, Savusavu and a week of fun and games including a day at the races, yachts that is. Youth Sailing at the Savusavu Yacht Club challenge the cruisers to a Laser match race series, the cruisers are sitting at 1 to 5 at present!

Across the Koro Sea is Makongai and more great diving, Nananu I Ra, Yandua and the Yasawas before heading to Lautoka for provisions.

Musket cove is the Muster Point for the next leg where you'll get treated to some more fun and games before we bring the customs officials out to clear the fleet for Vanuatu.



# VANUATU

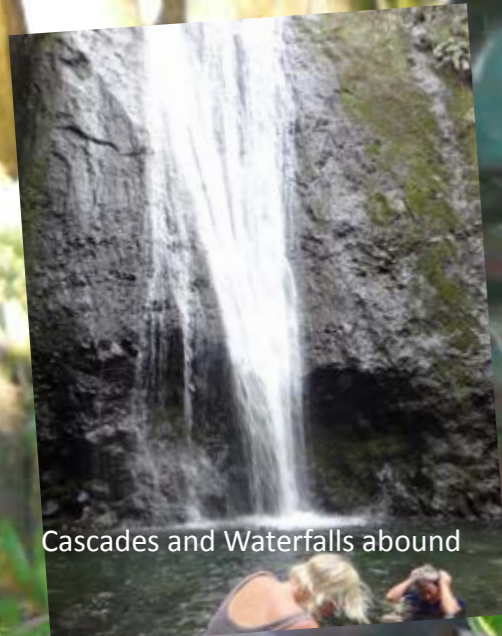
## *Cruise in Company*

Vanuatu Arrival INFO

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Vanuatu Depart INFO

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Cascades and Waterfalls abound



One of Vanuatu's many volcanoes.  
Mt Yasur on Tanna.

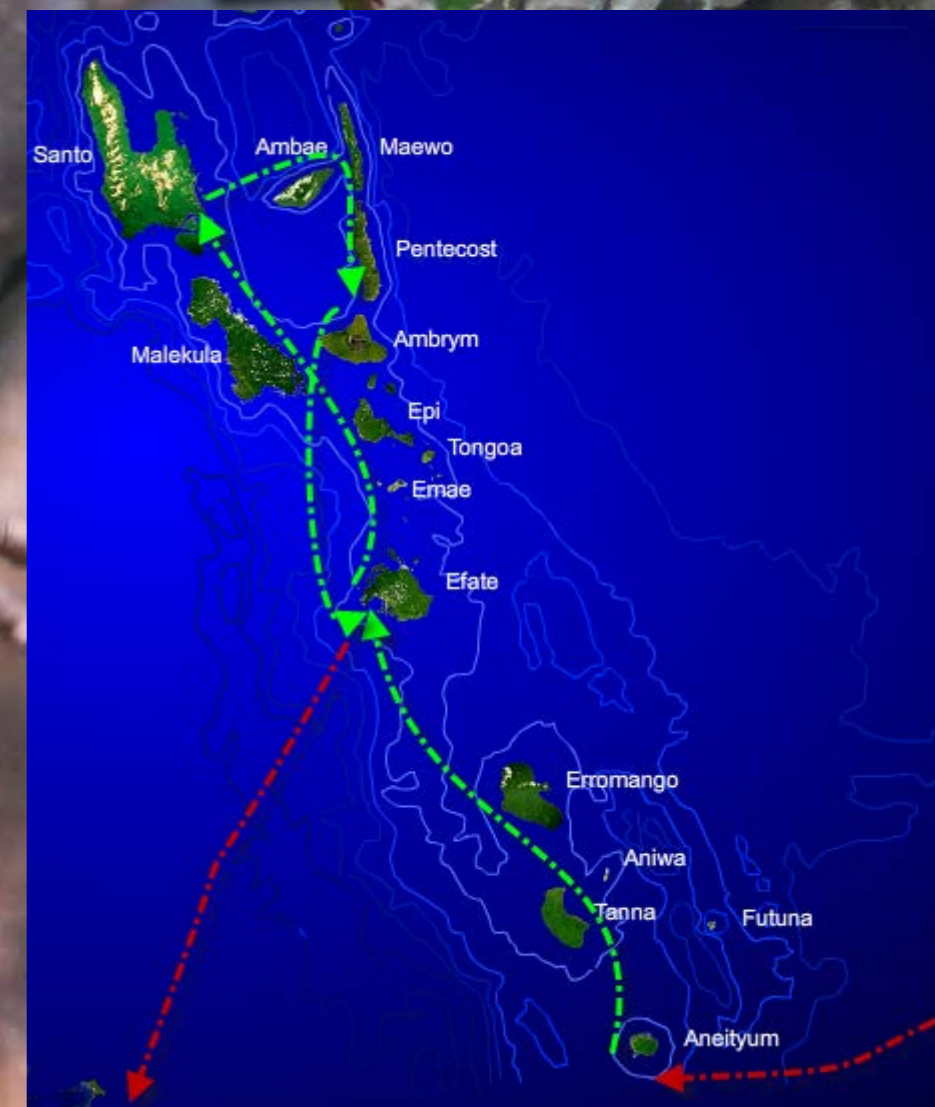


Views from the Clifftop at Kenutu



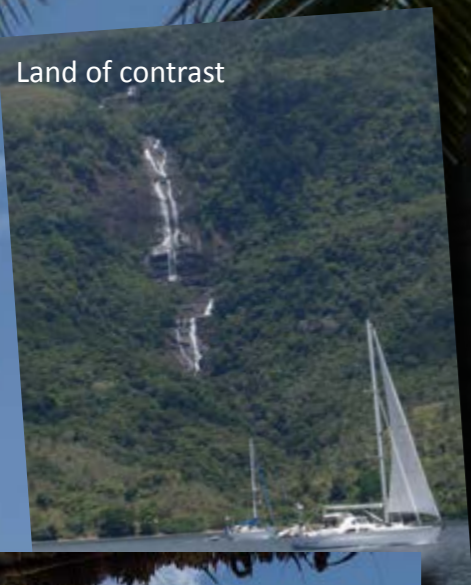
Turtles at Lamén Bay

Vanuatu, land of mystery and black magic, volcanos and over 160 separate languages. Five main islands and over 100 smaller ones. Vila on Efate is the capitol and Luganville on "Santo" is the only other main town. The population is still mainly village based. Vanuatu while known as the New Hebrides was run as a condominium by the French and English and their influence is everywhere still. Native relations were not always cordial and many a misionary was treated to an evening meal. Vanuatu was also subjected to "Black Birding", they called it Indentured labour but it was effectively slavery for labour in the plantations of Northern Queensland and the sugar fields of Fiji. Less than 20% of those taken ever returned to Vanuatu. Vanuatu is a lush, green and vibrant landscape with rugged steep faced islands and volcanic cones. It's natives are Melanesian and are a friendly, cheeky and savvy hard working people who will welcome you into their lives, villages and hearts. Brought from tree and bush dwellers to where they are today in only a couple of generations the Nivan people are a fascinating race. Beware of the Kava here. It's potent and a couple of "shells" is usually more than enough. Alcohol and Kava shouldn't be mixed as one turbo charges the other. Your impression of Vanuatu will be quite different from other South Pacific countries and may surprise you.



# New Caledonia Cruise in Company

Land of contrast



NC Arrival INFO

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NC Departure INFO

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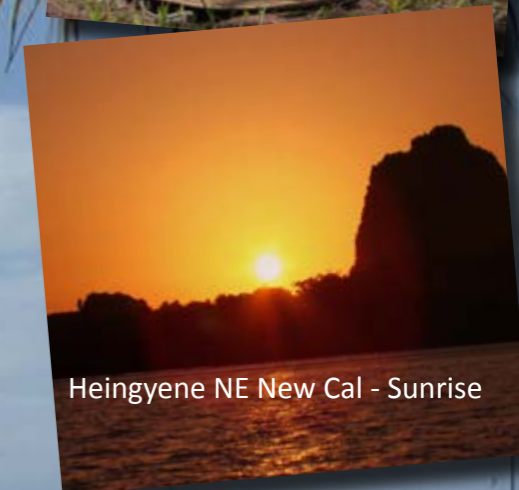
Ouvéa



White sand and Azure waters



Heingyene NE New Cal - Sunrise



Moulie Beach - Ouvéa.



New Caledonia is one of the least cruised countries in the SW Pacific yet it's natural beauty is second to none, mostly. New Cal is a country of huge contrast. With the Loyalty Islands and the Isle of Pines the cream de la cream of it's natural beauty. Unfortunately greed has also shaped the landscape in the form of Nickel mining.

The French are very much in charge here and relations with the local Kanak population is often strained.

Making an effort to say hello in French will often make them smile and if you're lucky they'll take over and talk to you in English.

The Loyalty Islands are our entry point for New Caledonia and are between Vanuatu and Le Grand Terre, the main Island. The Loyalties are "uplift" islands, the result of a "bubble" in the Indo-Australian Plate where it butts the Pacific Plate. There are Three main islands in the Loyalties, Mare in the south, Lifou and Ouvéa in the north and are mainly flat islands with beautiful white sand beaches and azure blue lagoons.

The main Island of le Grand Terre is a long thin mountainous island with a north and south lagoon. These shallow lagoons are home to hundreds of small islands.

The Isle of Pines is at the southern end of the southern lagoon and boasts some of the most beautiful beaches and anchorages in New Cal.

New Cal has a rich history, a cosmopolitan population and rich blend of new and old.

# Come, Share the Dream

## 2015 Pacific Circuit Rally

### Costs.

The cost of the rally is broken into two parts. Registration for the boat and two crew, plus a cost per leg. There are five legs in total. Plus registration for each additional crew plus a cost per leg, this covers the cost of festival events etc.

A deposit is required on submission of the rally entry (\$150.00) to secure your place but is fully refundable until the 31st of December 2014 at which date the remainder of the registration cost is due.

Full payment of the remainder of costs is due by the 31st of March 2015. Crew joining later than this can pay as they go.

#### Registration

for the boat and two crew (skipper and first mate) **\$550**  
Plus Costs per leg.

#### Opua to Tonga.

T & A for Officials \$175 plus  
Serenity Beach cost two people \$80 **Total \$255**

Leg cost plus official welcome cocktails and BBQ included in  
Registration

**Tonga to Fiji** \$350.00 plus T & A for Officials \$200.00  
plus festival cost for two people \$70 **Total \$620**

Festival events at Savusavu are included Courtesy of Savusavu  
tourism.

**Fiji to Vanuatu** \$350.00 plus festival cost at  
Aneityum for two people \$80 **Total \$430**

Official welcome cocktails and dinner at Vila are included, courtesy of  
Yachting World Vanuatu.

**Vanuatu to New Cal** \$350.00 plus T & A for  
officials \$150.00 +festival at Lifou \$80 **Total \$580**

**New Cal to NZ** \$350 **Total \$350**

#### Each additional crew.

**Registration** includes first leg **\$75**

**Each additional leg** **\$45**

Skippers can purchase "crew credits" in advance to keep admin to a  
minimum.

**\*Early Bird Special\* for entries confirmed before 31st of  
October 2014, get the last leg free.**

**Other costs.** - Immigration, Customs and Quarantine fees are  
each skippers responsibility although we are working on a number of  
fronts for reduction in fees, extension of Visas and Port Dues rebates  
on your behalf.

Ongoing membership of ICA for the duration of your participation is a  
condition of all ICA rallies.

### What's included in the Registration fee?

All rally build up information packs and briefing papers.

Pacific Circuit Rally Battle Flag.

ICA Burgee, to be flown below the country courtesy flag at all times  
throughout the rally.

Commemorative "Bulkhead Plaque" for participants that complete the  
whole circuit.

1x Kiwi Cruisers Log

2 x ICA Pacific Circuit Rally Tee shirts

ICA Rally Briefcase/ Satchel for all your paperwork and briefing  
papers.

Special Discounts on all ICA Merchandise relating to the areas visited  
by the rally.

Drinks nibbles cocktail parties complimentary beers on arrival and the  
list goes on and on. Not to mention the tons of information and the  
promise of a first rate experience.

### Rally - Definition.

Just what is the definition of a "Rally"? - A fun event where a number of  
individuals get together to go places, have fun and meet people. That's  
the crux of it and trust me on an Island Cruising rally our motto "We  
Make Cruising More Fun" lives up to it's name.

On a more serious note though while ICA arrange and organise the  
rally the ultimate responsibility lies with the skipper who in all things  
relating to the safety and operation of the vessel and it's crew bears  
sole responsibility.

In this instance the Pacific Circuit Rally has a number of rally points,  
places where the boats "Must", or get together. ICA facilitate events  
and services at these rally points and acts as "Cruise Control" collecting  
information and making sure you get information relating to the events  
in a timely fashion. We cannot sail your boat for you and it's up to the  
skipper of each boat to get their vessel and crew from one rally point to  
the next. ICA will provide as much information as is available to help, but  
the interpretation of that information is the responsibility of the skipper.  
From a safety aspect ICA will also co-ordinate the collection of position  
reports by way of email, radio, skipr.net and will pass that information  
on to NZSARCC and ARCC in the event of an emergency.

While "In Country" boats are not under any obligation to cruise with  
the group and can explore on their own timetable. ICA will from time to  
time arrange additional events while in country and will disseminate this  
information by email and over the SSB skeds. There will be a "Cruise in  
Company" in each country but participants will be encouraged to stretch  
their legs on their own as well. While in each country a number of festival  
events are planned, participants can attend as many or as few as they  
wish we simply ask that you let us know your plans.

Where possible ICA will conduct "Chart Marking" sessions to give skip-  
pers a heads up on the local "lay of the land". The information presented  
at these sessions is not intended to imply suitability, skippers should  
evaluate anchorages, routes and passages as to their suitability at the  
time and in relation to their own vessel and conditions.

Weather forecast information is passed on based on the information  
received, again it's the skippers responsibility to interpret this data and  
plan accordingly.