**Norfolk Island**

At the end of the 2016 season several boats needed to stop at Norfolk to wait for improved weather before proceeding on to NZ. The following report was prepared by Russel Morris on SV Tika, a 55' Outremer catamaran. It should be noted when reading this valuable report that Russ, wife Greer and their two children hail from Fremantle, Australia so are perhaps used to more sporty conditions than those who hail from San Diego! Never the less it gives food for thought as to how to better deal with conditions.

If you leave somewhere, likely New Caledonia or NZ, with the intention of stopping at Norfolk Island, you should of course complete and submit the pre arrival request as you would if you were going to Australia. This can be done online. Refer to the other document in this library.

There are 3 full time Border Control staff on Norfolk that are on a rotating basis (usually 3 year tenures) so names can be difficult to keep up to date. They also have a number of part time officers. However the office number should not change and that is recorded below. They also have an on call mobile which is +6723 51881 which the office number will divert to if not answered. They do not have facilities to monitor Channel 16 when they are out of the office.

*They stress that they “****would never stop someone sheltering for safety concerns and will attempt to collect their information as soon as practicable after arrival****”.*

Please do not abuse this consideration. They have a job to do and we yachties are grateful for their ready help when weather causes a change of plans.

Thank you, Russ for the following information. Patricia, GHRadio

**CHECK IN**
Border Force phone numbers

Office: +672 322 900
Mobile: +6723 51881 (The office number diverts to this if not answered).

Very easy.  The Border Force officer on the island will do check in and check out at the same time from the back of his 4WD in about 20 mins at no cost.  However they DO like to know you are coming.  So if you are even thinking of coming, send an email to norfolkislandABF@border.gov.au AND yachtreport@border.gov.au and then they can get all the paperwork ready in advance and keep them happy from the get go.

 Info needed is: Name, Country of registration and number, arrival port, estimated arrival date/ time, last 4 ports, # people on board and for each person, full name, nationality, passport number and date of birth.  Statement on whether there are any animals, illnesses or firearms on board.

Then just call Norfolk Border Force on Channel 16 when you are approaching.  They do not come out to the boat, or do any of the normal Aus/ NZ quarantine so supplies are safe and you are asked not to bring any food / food stuffs on shore.  If you have rubbish I believe quarantine will take it, although we just kept ours as we were not staying long

**ASHORE**
While we really just stopped here as a "weather routing" stop, we actually loved the history, friendliness and quaintness of the island and township with a such a great history from the Bounty/ Pitcairn.  The museums are excellent.

And the locals - well - anywhere that you arrive and instantly get given 4 large red throated emperor fillets and then when you ask if you can hitch a ride to town they just give you the keys to their car instead....that says it all :)

**WIFI**
We got great wifi with a booster from both Cascades and Sydney Bay.  However you have to go on shore to buy a voucher from Norfolk Telecom.  Hopefully this will change in the future

**ANCHORAGES**
General comment - they are all roadstead anchorages, so subject to swell - however more than adequate for a breather or to ride out a front. Ball Bay is the best by far, however there is no dinghy landing here.  If just sheltering as a pit stop, landing is optional.  Dave will do your check in over the radio - which he did for 2 boats in Ball bay with us.

**SWELL**
We were there a day after the big swell - so it was probably 1.5-2m solid SW swell.  It is a little awe inspiring anchoring at Sydney Bay, especially - but perfectly safe and quite spectacular once you get used to it!  The dinghy run in this swell is not perfectly safe, but doable...read comments below in anchorages

We were in a cat so for a monohull, Sydney bay and Cascades may have been significantly rolly.  2 monos were parked in Ball Bay while the front was going through and although it was not perfect they looked pretty comfortable and a lot more comfortable than being in 35 knots at sea!

**SYDNEY BAY** -
Protection: NE - NW winds

Anchor WP: 23 03.65S 167 56.91E
About 8 m, rock and coral bottom.  We were concerned the holding may not be good, but we gave it a good tug at 2500 rpm on both engines and couldn't get it to budge.  If it is blowing from the north, there is not much wind and you face neatly stern to the swell.  We were comfortable enough to leave the boat and spend the day exploring and in town

Dinghy Landing:  "Sporty" in any swell 1.5m and above.  It is not unsafe once you know what to do.  There is a reef that projects to the W off the jetty.  The swell breaks heavily over this reef, BUT you have to keep it fairly tight to your starboard side as the deepest water is within 10-15 m of this reef.  The locals actually came out and told us to head out to the left a little, then follow a line where you line up the bottom white triangle lead with the pine tree to the left of the yellow building.  That is the correct line to take you into the basin. In a swell you also want to pick a lull not a set - so fast dinghies only if you are doing it in a swell.  Otherwise would be OK.  Once in, the basin surges a lot but there are no breaking waves, so with timing you can load/ unload and tie the dinghy up with a stern anchor.  Customs guy suggested dragging it up the ramp - but I don't think that is a good idea.  If you have a lifting bridle, and there are locals about they will happily lift the dinghy out on the gantry using their 4WD's like Niue.  Probably made it sound worse than it is - we got used to it and got 2 adults and 2 kids in and out a number of times.

**BALL BAY**

Protection: NNE - W - S.  Best place to ride out a front.  Move in when it is north and starting to head NW.  Head out after it has gone through before it turns SE

Anchor WP: 29 02.96S 167 59.08E
About 11m mixed sand/rock/ coral.  You can see the sandy patches and can drop the anchor on them.  Holding seemed good.

Much less swell than other two anchorages but no dinghy landing, unfortunately no wifi either :(

**CASCADE BAY**

Protection: W - S - SE
Anchor WP: 29 01.21S 167 58.41E

Some fairly large sandy patches to drop in.  Holding good.  Swell still significant but very comfortable in a cat.

Unfortunately the pier is currently being rebuilt so there is no dinghy landing here at the moment.  I think this would be the best landing spot once the pier is rebuilt as it does not face to the prevailing SW swell