

Intermezzo - Langkawi to Fremantle April May 2006

Leg 1 - Langkawi to Bali

Mark Loader - Skipper

Reg Wells - Crew

Denice Kilpatrick - Crew

We departed the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club at 10:30 on Wednesday the 12th April 2006. Reg and Denice had paid a deposit on Intermezzo, a Gib Sea 52 owned by Errol Robins of Fremantle. Errol had purchased Intermezzo in Langkawi and after berthing her there whilst he owned her, sailed her back to Langkawi where she was on the market. Reg and Denice had owned a Catalina 36 for the last two years and were purchasing Intermezzo with the plan to take her long distance cruising in 18 months time.

I had arrived in Langkawi on the 3rd April (Julie birthday), to get everything ship shape for the delivery, not much needed to be done but there was a fuel leak from the port diesel tank, a small water and fuel leak on the engine and the 4hp outboard had water in the fuel and didn't want to run. I tracked down the outboard repair company and Reg & I dropped the outboard off and it was fixed four hours later, a grand total of RM\$44, about AU\$19 including clean fuel and a new spark plug. I topped up the 3 empty jerry cans that filled up the onboard tanks, filled up the 3 x 300 litre water tanks and spent the most of my time poking around the yacht to learn where everything was and how it worked. With a 80 hp Perkins main engine, Onan genset, 4 heads and showers, built in marine airconditioning, 12/24 converter and a heap of instruments, radar, radios and other misc electronics there was plenty to learn. I also met a guy who had cracked the latest Max Sea software and had the latest 2006 C-Map charts so I spend RM\$600 getting my CMap up to date, the Max Sea software is a heap better than the old demo CMap stuff.

The first day out of Langkawi we had some reasonable wind and got in about 10 hours of sailing, there were fishing boats all over the place as well as a few ships but mostly we saw rubbish, heaps of it everywhere, big patches where the fishing boats empty their nets and other rubbish spread out all over the ocean. We sailed through the first night and then on the evening of Thursday 13th we anchored in a little bay on an island called Pulau Rumbia in the group of islands called Kepulauan Sembilan near Lamut and slept in air conditioned comfort that night after a short swim at the only beach on the island. All the way from the high tide mark on the little beach up inland into the dense rain forest like jungle was rubbish, cans, bottles, plastic bags, fenders and rope, it was really sad to see so much crap messing up a beautiful place. At 08:45 we upped anchor and headed out between the islands and headed to a waypoint off Klang, about 60 miles south south east and the start of the narrow and busy stretch of Malacca Strait.

It is now Easter Sunday, we have motored and sometimes sailed for the last three days, we are now at 01 17 N, 103 23 E and about 15 miles West of Singapore, just about to leave Malacca Strait. We have been passed Klang, Port Dickson and Malaka, all had heaps of ships, for most of Malacca Strait there has been an average of 20 ships, boats, fishing things on the horizon, we have dodged boats of various sizes, ocean liners, tugs towing big square things, and the array of floating crap that has seemed to disappear as we get closer to Singapore. Last night one of the engine start batteries blew up as Reg was starting the engine, we swapped one of the batteries from one of the house banks to get the engine going again, for a few moments we were drifting with no wind, 500 metres from the busiest shipping lane in the world, bugger. This morning the battery on the multimeter died just before it had given me readings that looked like all of the batteries were being overcharged but not so by the ship's gauges. The genset battery doesn't seem to charge very well so we stole the second battery that made up the 24v 2nd house bank and the genset now runs beautifully. We have been eating really well, Denice has been doing 99% of the cooking and the food is really good. The freezer has been working really well, -20 most of the time. The fridge seems to struggle but it is very full and still at about +4 to +8 degrees, as it gets emptier it will probably manage better. We should be passed the main part of Singapore before dark, we expect the shipping to be pretty busy. As we speak we are crossing over the shipping lanes in front of Singapore Harbour, it is about 7 miles across and we will then be in

the East bound lane to head through Singapore Strait

We are now out of Singapore Strait, and pointed roughly in the direction of Bali, we had heaps of shipping, tugs, barges, ferries etc but no dramas and none of them came too close. It is Easter Monday, about 950 miles to Bali and about 10 days to get there to meet the new crew and say goodbye to Denice. Still no fish have been caught but now that we aren't surrounded by fishing boats and rubbish we might have a better chance. Current position is 01 17 N, 104 45 E.

We crossed the equator in the middle of the night, well nearly, at 05:45 on the 18th, we all got up, took a few photos of the GPS and of an unopened bottle of champagne, told Neptune he is a great bloke and hit the sack again. Not a lot happened that day, still not much wind, a 1-2knot current that is still pushing us in the right direction, no fish, we lost a lure, maybe something does live down there after all bugger. I have still been playing with the electrics, apart from the blown up battery, one of the house batteries doesn't hold charge, the genset charger is kaput so I have put the genset battery with the good house battery (of that bank) and they appear to be charging ok, we will have to put the genset battery back in place to run the genset and then back onto the house bank to recharge it when it gets down a bit. We finished the first water tank yesterday and topped up the diesel from the remaining 5 jerrys, we have enough fuel to motor about 500 miles and it is 750 to Bali. Denice baked a loaf of bread yesterday it was pretty good considering that she had some oven problems. She attacked the process again today with excellent results. We caught a Wahoo, about 6 kg this morning, so it's fresh bread and barbecued fish for lunch, Yum. We are about 15 miles from Pulau Karimata where we plan to stop for the night and get a bit of rest, there is still no wind, current is behind us fortunately. Current position is 01 32 S, 108 32 E, we are heading 115.

We anchored off the South East corner of Pulau Karimata, we saw a small village on Pulau Serata as described in Cruising Guide to South East Asia, it appeared to be an assortment of shacks built right on or even over the water and a small temple. Our anchorage was in 8 metres of water, I did a quick check in further towards the island and whilst it looked ok there were quite a few big rocks and coral that might get damaged and/or make retrieving our anchor a bit difficult. After we had anchored a small fishing boat with an even smaller local driving it motored around us and motioned towards the shore, inviting us to visit. Reg & Denice took the tender, camera and handheld VHF and took up the invite. About 20 minutes later they reported that they were heading up a bush track following the invitee. After another 20 minutes or so, Reg radioed that they would like to give some chocolate to the local kids, I found the booty under directions from Denice, Reg picked me up and we headed back to shore. There were a heap of smiling kids having their photos taken, a couple of 8-10 year old boys, a couple of 12-13 year old girls and a few other assorted kids. The adults were very small, wiry thin and very fit and healthy looking. We went back up the bush track that Reg & Denice had already travelled to the little 3 humpy village at the end. The kids loved the chocolate, Reg had a carton of Marlboro cigarettes that he and Denice handed to the adults, they nodded their appreciation. The village was amazing, the photos of it and the people show all. After a short visit we headed back to Intermezzo, we had a quick pasta dinner, a few wines, a bundy of course and then hit the sack. I woke up at 04:00 to the sound of my fan running really slow, I switched it off and checked the batteries, the house bank was down to 10.5 volts, I switched off the instruments, computer, and anchor light the volts came back up to 11.8. I slept in the cockpit until 06:30 then got up and started the genset to get the batts up to charge again. After a quick cup of tea, finished as we headed ashore in the dinghy, we went for a quick skin dive near the large rock that had lead us into the bay. The brain coral, mushrooms & other coral that I don't know the name of were beautiful, reef fish, bluebone and 1 metre long black blowfish made it a beautiful dive. Denice swam the whole way back to Intermezzo, Reg went half way & I took the easy way & supervised from the dinghy. The main engine blower fan that I had replaced in Langkawi has died, the sucker still works so it isn't a major problem. One of the house batts is definitely dead as well as the blown up one, and the genset 240v/12 v battery charger doesn't work. I am swapping the genset batt between the house bank & the genset when we need to run it & then putting it back to the house bank when we run the main engine to get it recharged back up it's a bit of a pain, we need to get two new batts & a smart charger in Bali to put things back to normal again. We are on our way again, heading

145, about 600 miles to Bali and about 500 hour left in the fuel tanks, we need to sail for 100 miles to get there with reserve fuel.

We are about 30 miled from Pulau Karimata, the wind has varied from 0 to 15 knots and come from every direction, we had rain squalls, really heavy rain, sunshine and dead calm seas, we are currently doing 1knot with almost no wind at all, the current is still giving us a push along at about a knot to the south. We have around 500 miles of motoring left in the fuel tanks and about 600 miles to go so a bit of sailing is all we all we need to make it to Bali with fuel to spare. We caught our second Wahoo today, we also caught a sharkie catfishy thing that we send back for repair. We dined on fresh baked bread, barbequed wahoo & pasta with a nice glass of red to wash it down, beautiful.

Not a lot has happened in the last couple of days, it is Saturday the 22nd April, we are about 400 miles from Bali, 120 miles from Pulau Bawean where we may decide to spend another stopover night, that is if we dont arrive there too early in the morning. We are currently at 04 35 S, 111 09 E, it pissed down with rain earlier, we have had winds between 16 and 0, the latter being more common. Yesterday we sailed for the longest stretch yet, over 15 hours, we flew a spinnaker for a while. I launched the dinghy and took a few photos they came out pretty good. We had barbequed Wahoo for dinner last night, we still have only caught 2 fish, we may get luckier as we get closer to Bali, who knows. We seem to have sorted our battery problems, we have one bank missing due to the two faulty batts & I rotate one of the house batts with the genset battery when it gets too low to start the genset.

Finally some excitement, at around 14:00 I was having a snooze when Reg came and woke me up. A wooden vessel with unusual markings (see the photos) had decided to follow us, Reg had altered course to port 3 times, 10 degrees per time and the following vessel altered the same. We had a bit of wind and only the main up and the motor running, the other vessel was going faster than us. We unrolled the headsail and simultaneously the other vessel put up a blue asymmetric jib and a heap more smoke started coming out of their exhaust. We gave the engine some more revs and headed up another 10 degrees and were now doing 8 knots. With the blue sail up the following vessel seemed to be struggling to head up so we went almost hard on the wind, now heading 175 degrees, 45 degrees above our course. The pursuers started to drop further behind and about five minutes later turned to port and went back to our original heading of about 130 degrees. The point that they started following us was 04 40 S 111 15 E, about 130 miles SSW of Kumani in Kalimantan and some 380 miles from Benoa.

It's Sunday the 23rd April, we are 20 miles east of Bawean Island at 08:00, we have just passed a couple of fishing boats (see photos), a very uneventful night. We have been doing the same watches each night, I am on from 1800-2000, 0000-0200 and 06:00-09:00 everybody seems happy to stay on those and to float during the day, it's working well. I love doing the early evening watch as it is hard to sleep then anyway and things haven't quite cooled down below, not that it gets below 30 centigrade and 77% humidity anyway. We have one more meal of Wahoo left, it's time to catch some more, we have had fish barbeques the last two nights, the freezer works really well so we can catch a heap more and keep it fresh. The float switch on the engine bilge pump is stuck on or there is a short in the wiring, we have to leave the pump on manual & give it a run every now and then. The only water that comes in is from the stuffing box, I have put a hose clamp on the front where it looks like one was fitted before and I have greased through the grease nipple a couple of times, this seems to keep the flow to a couple of drips per second, still more than I would like but I am not familiar with this type of stuffing box, I might check the manuals later & see if there is any info.

We have been into Sangkapura, 5000 people live there, it is a cross between Ambon & Banda, most vehicles are motorbikes, scooters or modified versions of the same with double rear wheels and a tray back, a few small vans and some smallish trucks. We dined at a little restoran fried chicken rice and some veg, four cool drinks for three people it was about AU\$5. We met a useful man called Ari who drove us around, the markets were closed but we found a couple of shops

that sold us some fruit and some coke, all at very cheap prices. Diesel is about AU\$1.00 per litre so we topped up our supply, Ari organized it, bought the jerrys to the shore and decanted them into our jerrys, 1 litre at a time, we paid \$1.00 per litre, we could have almost managed without it we probably had just enough to get to Bali.

We just did a trip in the dinghy to get the lats & longs of the port and stbd entrance markers, everything is about .287 of a mile out, the channel and leads are actually to the east .287 of a mile, I have put an east & west cardinal on our Maxsea software and put the lead in where it should be. In daylight there wouldn't be a problem, follow the leads on 0.0 observe the port and stbd channel markers and park east of the "L" shaped jetty, watch out for the rocks that come out from the east towards the jetty, at the time of writing the end of the rocks was marked by a long stick with a couple of white flags on it. The starboard (green) channel marker is at 05 51.55S 112 38.69E, the port marker is at 05 51.60S 112 38.47E, we anchored at 05 51.105S 112 38.673E, on Maxsea this shows you as right on the shore about .131 NM bearing 123 degrees from the shore end of a jetty.

We did a quick re-provision on Monday morning, the market was open, everybody we asked about the market described it as "little market" but it was quite good, everything was fresh, eggs, chicken, fish, prawns, veges and pretty cheap, we bought a large hand of bananas and some fruit for Rp\$10,000 or about AU\$1.30 not bad at all. Ari was supposed to meet us at 08:00 but wasn't there, he caught up with us at the market and was very apologetic, he had to take one of his children to hospital early in the morning but everything sounded ok, he picked up a tuna and gave it to us and said "I buy this for you" we barbecued it for lunch it was not bad at all. We had met Reg had his first go at filleting and did a good job, then barbecued it to perfection, Denice prepared some rice & veges & some of her fresh baked bread, we washed it down with a beer, spot on. We met another "helper" at the market, he didn't seem too bad but he didn't haggle very well for us, I stepped in and got things for more like the price we should have paid, using "mahal mahal" (too much) and "berappa aduh" how much, what?" He said that he would take us back to the boat for Rp\$3000, then when we got there said Rp\$20000, I was arguing and had him at Rp\$10,000 but Reg was keen to get moving and paid him the \$20,000, I have his name and won't use him when back in Bawean in 5 weeks time, Ari was much more honest and helpful, I gave Ari a big tip for his help.

When we got back to the boat there were a heap of beautiful little school children, on the road just before the jetty, they looked like grade 1 or 2, they all came running up very smartly dressed and we took their group photos, the teachers tried hard to stop them running all over the place but smiled and gave up when they saw that their situation was hopeless. After the photo I said "terimakasih" they immediately all turned around and walked back to the teachers.

We should be in Bali on Wednesday, early afternoon if we get some help from the wind and tide. Denice and I have been working on a shopping list, we need to do oil and filters on the engine and genset, get two new batteries and a regulated charger for the genset, and a few other smaller items.

It is Tuesday 25th April 2006, we are just over 140 miles from Bena, currently passing through Selat Raas, the strait between Pulau Raas and Pulau Sapudi. Pulau Sapudi had a heap of buildings on it, a huge Mosque and what looked like a three storey Buddhist temple (see the pics). Along the shore there were a lot of fishing boats, probably having the day off as it is Anzac Day. We waved at a fisherman on a small prow, anchored on the edge of the reef that surrounds the island, he stood up and gave a huge friendly wave. Denice was a bit crook this morning, the seas weren't that bad but it is the first non-flat water we have had for the whole trip, we were hobby-horsing a little bit and with 14 knots of wind that was coming and going we had a bit of sideways rocking as well. Reg caught a barracuda this morning and practiced his filleting on it, we had some on the barbie for lunch, like the ones we caught in SA it was a bit bland but a bit less mushy than the SA variety, it would be pretty good in a curry or dish that has its own flavour. I rang Julie as I do every day, she has arrived in Onslow and is getting settled in the 2 bedroom "donga". I haven't been able to reach Bali Marina on the sat phone so Julie will try from there to notify them that we need a pen from late tomorrow or early Thursday. As we approached the southern end of Salat Raas we could see fishing boats with long poles out either side, with trolling lines on them bouncing up and down in what looked like quite rough water, the binoculars showed a turbulent

area of water on the south western corner of Pulau Raas, where the current through the strait met the deeper waters of the Bali Sea. We headed a little more to the west just in case the water was shallower than the 40 or so metres shown on the chart, or if the coral perhaps comes out further than shown. We passed through the rough water and into smoother, but still lumpier than we had experienced, water on the other side. Bali came into sight during the night, a large ship passed us as a violent rain storm with 22 knot winds passed over us, it cleared within 10 minutes and half an hour later we were in calm water again. The breeze was light and on the nose all night so we motored the whole time, we are now about 7 miles from the NE corner of Bali, the wind is blowing 15 knots from 170, when we turn and head about 140 we should be able to sail the last 40 miles to Benoa. We hope to be there early enough to get into the Bali Marina but I don't know if the authorities will be able to do all of our paperwork today so we may be trapped on board for the night, no problem. In front of us there are more than 150 fishing vessels, Reg stopped counting at 155 they are all heading west, probably to get their catches to shore, it's 08:00 26/4/06, I would have thought that it is too late in the morning to get them to the market. We arrived in Benoa Harbour on Wed the 26th April at 15:00, the marina staff were ready for our arrival, despite our not too powerful transmission on VHF due to a broken wire at the top of the mast and the fact that all of the cruising guides say that Bali Marina is on VHF 73 and that they are actually on 77 we chatted to them, received directions on where to park and arrived without any dramas. Within a few minutes staff were aboard, customs, immigration and harbour formalities were completed and due to the fact that we didn't have "Security Visas" we had to stay within the marina for the evening until the US\$10 per person was paid and stamps put in our passports. We still don't quite understand the process, we have a US\$150.00, 3 month cruising permit (CAIT) and each have paid a "Social Visa" fee of US\$50 but still need the US\$10 one as well, I think that perhaps we didn't need the Social Visas" but who knows.

It is Sunday the 30th April, we reprovisioned at Marko Supermarket yesterday, it was a lot like Costco in the states and Hawaii, you need a membership card, we borrowed Reg's driver, Wayan's. Most items need to be bought in bulk, two of most things, cartons of others, we spent about two hours filling a trolley to the max with fresh fruit & veg, meat, tinned stuff, bread, eggs, cartons of longlife milk & juice and a few cleaning things that we had run out of. Our total bill was RP\$2,500,000 or about AU\$385, the same load at FAL in Perth would have been closer to AU\$1000 I am sure. We fixed a few things yesterday as well, diesel and water were done a couple of days ago, I re topped the water yesterday and will do it again tomorrow. The marina staff are aware that we wish to depart tomorrow so with a bit of luck our formalities will be done by mid morning and we will be out of here. Our plan is to point at Dampier when we can but if all goes well sail straight to Freo and do our customs stuff there.

Today we are going to finish doing a temporary fix to the broken VHF antenna where the coaxial cable was worn through at the top of the mast, Dale and Martin fixed the seized clutch on the windlass yesterday, we installed a new float switch on the bilge pump, oil and oil filter and primary fuel filter on the main engine replaced, oil change on the genset but we don't have any filter and a pile of little jobs have been done. At about lunch time we will head for Kuta, we all want to get a few more DVD's, Julie asked me to get some more kids ones for Dylan, Nemo, perhaps Ice Age, Harry Potter etc. etc. Last night we had dinner at Griya Santrian with Reg & Denise, Denise flies out today at about 13:00. We headed off to Kuta after doing all of the repairs. I bought the DVD's that Julie wanted, a couple for us as well and tried to get some cereal and dolphin torch batteries to no avail.

We had a very nice dinner on the beach south of Kuta, can't remember the name but it was quite sad to see the number of empty tables and chairs as far as the eye could see, we were entertained by the local band that was not quite of the quality of the one at Griya Santrian but still entertaining, we tipped them a few thousand rupiah, devoured our seafood, king prawns, snapper, squid and local veges and headed back to Benoa Harbour.

Leg 2 - Bali to Fremantle
Mark Loader - Skipper

Reg Wells - Crew
Martin Kalkhoven - Crew
Dale Peterson - Crew

We departed Benoa Harbour at 11:30 on the 1st May 2006, the Bali Marian people had been very helpful, both in getting the clearance for Intermezzo ready and with the preparation of CAIT and Social Visas for myself and the crew of Even Star that we would be bringing back from Langkawi later this month. We motored out of the marina and had to wait as a tug towing a large barge passed by the entrance. Once we were through the channel and near the clear water mark we unfurled the main and headsail and pointed her towards Carnarvon, 975 miles to the waypoint that we set 30 miles WNW of Bernier Island,

Today is the 2nd, we have travelled about 125 miles in the last 24 hours, the compressor on the fridge has given up the ghost, we think that it is out of gas, the solenoid cuts in with the switch but drops out under control of a pressure switch on the gas line after a few minutes of running. Bummer, we played with the genset and 240V refrigeration and managed to get some cooling water flowing, it now appears to work on the genset but not as efficiently as from the compressor on the motor, oh well, hot piss and off food, we are sailing that is what counts.

We had a relatively easy trip down the coast, 11 days from Bali to Fremantle, we got rid of Martin in Exmouth, he was sick almost all of the way and not much use in between that, Customs were in Exmouth so they didn't have to make a special trip, we dumped him on the jetty to the awaiting customs guys and took off again straight away. No bad weather, almost no swell, and the wind behind the beam almost all of the way, what a trip. We went inside Dirk Hartog & caught 7 mackerel in one day, we had a freezer full when we go to Freo. Customs, Immigration, Quarantine were all very efficient & we were through the formalities in no time at Fremantle sailing Club. Not a bad trip from Bali at all, we had following winds a good part of the way and even when on the nose Intermezzo handled the conditions beautifully