Big Bay, Stuart Island to Forward Harbor and Lagoon Cove.

Nasty, Nasty, best describes the weather conditions starting from early Friday June 27. We felt the wind picking up late in the afternoon while visiting with the caretakers but didn’t think that much of it. During the night and early morning a very low pressure system landed right over us. John had to get up and close all the windows and zip the curtains in the fly bridge. We left a little later than we had originally planned to because one of the house battery meters got out of sync and John wanted to make sure that everything was ok. We still had time to transit all the rapids safely. Our goal was to try and make it up Johnstone Strait to Broken Island but we could see that our plans were rapidly fading away with the low clouds, wind, and rain becoming a serious factor. With poor visibility we were glad that we had radar but we made the decision to head to Forward Harbor and drop anchor to wait out the storm. Many boaters use this harbor because the anchorage is good and it’s usually calm once you are inside. The usually calm waters had white caps plus the N.W. wind was still blowing. We anchored securely while preparing to spend the night. Rebecca took some greenling from the freezer to thaw for dinner and we settled in. After a nice meal of fish and brussel sprouts we went to bed early in anticipation of good weather in the morning. During the night the wind and rain increased but by 4:00 am it started to calm down. Unfortunately the weather out on Johnstone was still kicking up so John started the genset , turned on the heaters, and made coffee. It is now 7:00 am and we’re in a waiting period staying occupied by listening to the weather and reading.

Well 30 minutes is all it took for the weather to change. The winds dropped and the skies opened up to let some sunshine through. We made a last minute listen to the weather channel, pulled the anchor and headed down the Sunderland Channel to Johnstone Strait. The water was rippled and the wind was behind us up to Port Neville. After that it was just a short run up to the Broken Island, up Havannah Channel, and hang a left to go up Chatham Channel where it takes us to Lagoon Cove after going through the Blowhole. We did see our first bear of the trip midway up Chatham Channel due to a boat that was coming towards us with a lady waving and pointing to a bear on shore off our starboard side. Rebecca did get a photo of it but it was a long distance shot. We sadly did see that the house and store where the lady baker Jennifer lives, had several for sale signs posted. She made the best rye bread and cinnamon buns ever and we always look forward to picking some up at Lagoon Cove. Before entered the Blowhole, we called on the radio to Lagoon Cove and reached Pat, to make moorage arrangements and purchase diesel. They were very busy taking care of boaters, but as always helped to get us tied up safe and secure. We plan on staying for a few days, catching up with Bob and Pat and enjoying the ambiance of this beautiful location. We were surprised to see Jean Barber here. She had been working in her garden and her clothes fit the part. This is one of our favorite destinations. Happy hour tonight with lots of prawns and very friendly, happy boaters to chat with over various snacks that all of the boaters bring up as well.

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