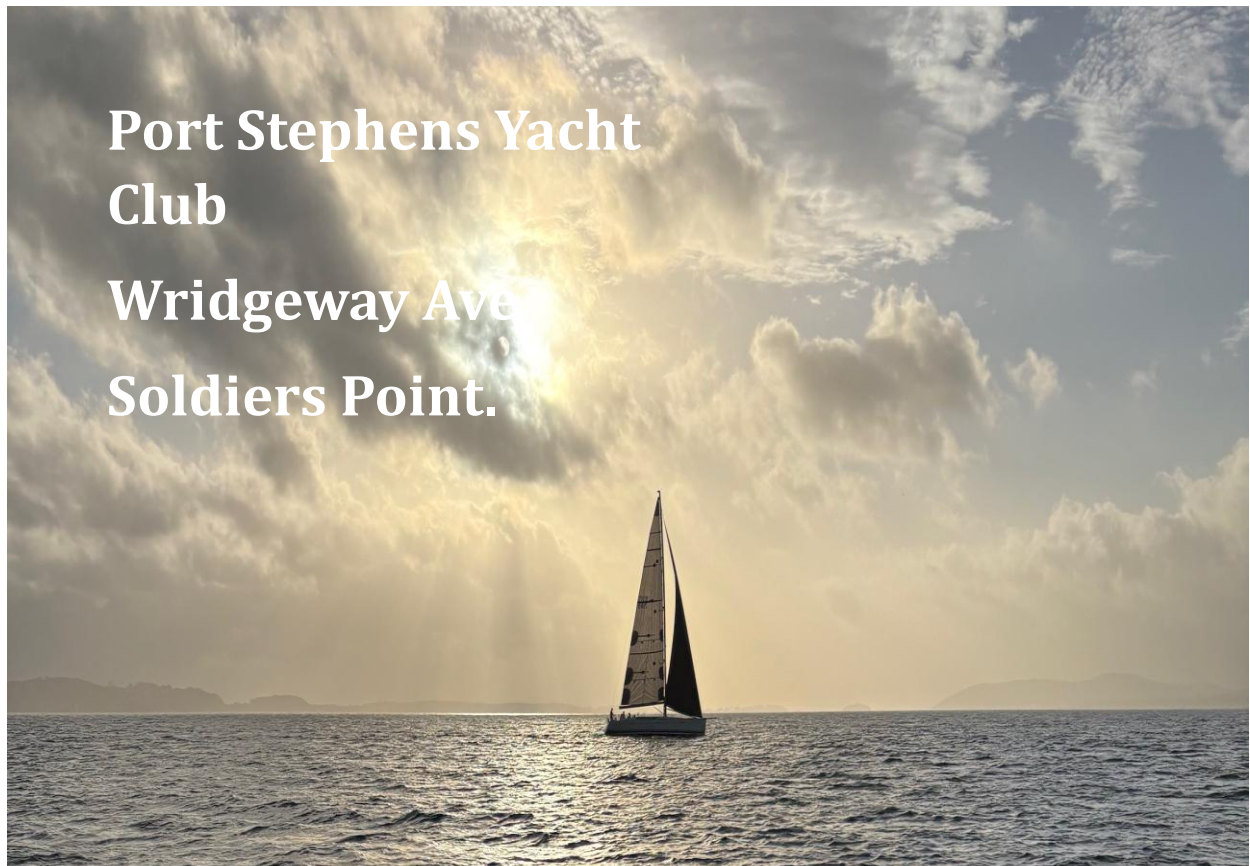




# The Bilge Sept. – Nov. 2025



**Twilight Sailing on Port Stephens. - Photo by Margaux Everett**

## Commodore's Report

Dear Club Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well as we wind down another fantastic year at our club. It's been great to see so much happen over the last couple of months taking out a big year. In particular I would like to thank fellow board members and volunteers for their contributions. As outlined in the Annual General Meeting report it has been one of terrific progress, progressing past board, our strategic objectives and other efforts with several notable achievements including:

- Upgrade of the club house with the bathroom project and signage
- The Open Day and Marine Services Expo followed up with our acknowledgement in NSW Parliament
- Removal of the cool room chiller unit
- Our Marathon event and sponsorship support from d'Albora Marina and Zhik
- Continue to promote an additional sailing offering
- Updates to our Website and media approach
- Concerted Investment in a membership growth strategy
- Take up of our Director 3 and Marketing Manager position and more recently of a dedicated Crew Coordinator position
- Reviewing and managing costs within budget to enable no increases in membership fees.
- Management of member issues
- Removal of the pool table and other enhancements
- Working with five clubs to identify and promote solutions to Hunter region moorings issue including representations to Members of State Parliament

Of particular pleasure was the appointment of two new Life Members, John Townsend and Kevin Lepodivin to recognise their contributions to the Club, community and sailing, their bios are included in the newsletter.

Looking ahead, I am really pleased to see the existing Board continue for another year to consolidate the efforts and progress made within the club. Following the AGM. I would like to thank Ken Peachey for his time on the Board, 2 years in the Rear Commodore Role, and as a past Director and Club Handicapper.

Going forward I look forward to conducting a strategic planning meeting to set priorities for the next year. My thoughts are:

- Continuing to improve appearance and usability of the club house.
- Expanding the Open Day and Marina Services to become a major mini boat show event with increased visitors and more exhibitors and sponsor support.
- Growing the Marathon event into something akin to Sail Port Stephens targeting 50 boats next year.
- Exploring solar power options to further control our costs.

I am hoping these initiatives will continue to promote the club and result in the growth of membership towards our target and increased fleet numbers.

And again, volunteer support has been outstanding, I want to acknowledge that we rely on the generosity of individuals' time and effort contributions for the club to run and hopefully grow in the future. I would encourage all members to proactively support the club, even in the smallest way, through keeping across what's happening on our website calendar, and WhatsApp groups, or Facebook, contributing where possible, and even just attending events. Every effort is appreciated.

Again thanks to all and I look forward to another year of socialising and sailing in our pristine environment, even in the crazy weather of lately. Rick Pacey, Commodore

# Vice Commodore's Report

The first 3 months of the sailing season is always a busy time and not just with sailing activities; the club's 'meeting' season is also a major focus. With some of our club's activities delayed due to building renovations, there have been several events squeezed into a shorter time frame keeping us all occupied with planning and follow-ups.

Our 2024-25 season presentations and Open Day were conducted in October followed closely by the always popular Jack Hollman Race and the Zhik-sponsored Marathon and Sprints regatta in November. The Friday twilight races have started with the traditional finish at d'Albora Marina Nelson Bay. This season we are hoping to expand the locations to include The Anchorage and Soldiers Point Marinas.

Our sailing calendar for 2025-26 is well stocked with a variety of races and formats with hopefully something for everyone. As always, the race committee and I are open to suggestions for improvements to the formats and feedback is welcome.

Our biggest challenge is catering for the mix of boats we have wanting to race. To address some of the issues arising from such a diverse fleet, we have reverted to a Two-Division structure for this season. To keep the divisions roughly equal in size, the division allocation is determined by handicap. Hopefully this results in a race distance/time that is appropriate for all boats. Some races though have a combined fleet, namely the Commodore's Trophy and the Inshore/Offshore series plus our three single-race events. This mix and the differing styles of the races (i.e. 'round the buoys' vs passage races) creates an issue for handicapping. The current concept is to maintain handicaps for each race format and fleet that continues within that format and fleet year to year. The handicaps do not cross over into other fleets or race formats.

This approach should create handicaps that are more relevant and consistent however, when a boat's handicap is generous in one series and 'harsh' in another, it can raise questions! The bottom line is, whatever a boat's handicap, it has been 'earned' by sailing against the same boats in the same format over time.

## **Here is the handicapping convention in use currently:**

Wednesday Afternoon: 2 division, pursuit, 'round the buoys' race series with unique handicaps that are continuous with the previous year

Friday Twilights: single division, pursuit, passage race series with unique handicaps that are continuous with the previous year

Pointscore: 2 division, 'round the buoys' scratch race series with unique handicaps that are continuous with the previous year

Commodore's Trophy: single division, 'round the buoys', mix of pursuit and scratch races with unique handicaps that are continuous with the previous year

Inshore/Offshore, Jack Hollman, Marathon, Max and Edna Berman: single division passage races with unique handicaps that are continuous with the previous year and each other.

In addition to the trophies for each individual series or special event race, the club championship is a combination of the Pointscore, Inshore/Offshore and Commodore's Trophy series regardless of division or fleet. Similarly, the Wednesday Afternoon Championship is the combined results of both divisions that sail on a Wednesday.

# **Director 1. Report** *By Roger Dunwell.*

The annual membership renewals are encouraging, with crew numbers exceeding 24/25. At present we have 62 crew members.

Sailpass numbers are climbing and should continue as we move into summer's peak, a steady stream of converts from their sailing introductions are signing up as full crew, there are a range of marketing initiatives ongoing, encouraging greater participation, particularly through Shesails and Australian Sailing.

The all-important boat register dwindled slightly, goodbye to Boot n Scoot, Bellamy, Kardinia, Neighbourhood, and Hanini Bay not racing. At present 27 Boats are listed.

The Social members have dropped off mainly due to the bathroom upgrades disruption, the summer events are sure to see an increased attendance at the clubhouse. A reminder to any member planning an event, family gathering or whatever, that our facilities are at your disposal. Currently we have 21 social members and (the pillars of our club), the Life Members, now number 11. We welcome Jake Winne who is joining the racing in his Corsair trimaran to rival David Simm's Chilli 11.

The membership is holding fast, but the overall Sustainability and growth is always a work in progress.

More boats and crew are being encouraged, enhanced social connections and clubhouse occasions and events are regularly scheduled, along with racing logistics, media and general governance all is enabled by the continuing interest and efforts of our broad volunteer brigade to keep the whole of club working.

Sailing and Port Stephens, how fortunate we are. Do your bit when you can.

# **Director 2. Report.** *By Peter Saxon Williams.*

At last, the toilets have been finished and our Social Programme has started with our first Trivia Night.

The trivia night was a great success and was so popular that extra tables had to be set up. Seventy Trivia Devotees attended. One third of the attendees had never been to the Yacht Club before.

The next social will be the Christmas Barbeque to be held at the completion of sailing on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Bring some extra nibbles as the bar will be open until late.

You can book on line. Cost \$15.

# Director 3 – Marketing & Communications Update

By Margaux Everett

Since stepping into the role of Director 3, my focus has been on strengthening PSYC’s profile and how the Club communicates with members and the wider Port Stephens community. I bring more than 15 years of sailing experience, including time with the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club (RPAYC) in Pittwater and as a current co-club member of the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club (SASC).

My background includes offshore racing and long coastal passages between Sydney and Hamilton Island for Race Weeks. I continue to volunteer with SASC, assisting with crew and skipper matching software, archiving publications to the website, and producing their newsletter. This work directly shapes my approach at PSYC: structured communication, strong presentation and a focus on connection.

Over recent months, the PSYC website has been refreshed, new social media channels have been introduced, and a modernised digital newsletter has been rolled out. The redesigned *Bilge* was published as a flipbook on the PSYC homepage and has already attracted more than 4,000 views.

These communication changes have supported broader community engagement. The 2025 Sail Past Season Opening saw increased attendance, received acknowledgment in State Parliament by Kate Washington MP, and featured on the front page of *News of the Area*. As a new member of PSYC, I am grateful to those who have welcomed me and offered opportunities to crew.

Data and information underpin effective marketing and communication strategies, and the improvements delivered to date are built on this foundation. The results so far show a clear commitment to strengthening PSYC’s visibility, engagement and community presence.

## Presentation Dinner.

The Presentation Dinner was held at the Club house with lunch provided by Restaurant 2317. Below are listed the award winners.

**Last year’s Club and Wednesday Championship winners were:**

Club Champion	She's The One	Michael Kirby	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Adios	Graeme Ellis	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Una Vita	Ken Peachy/Dave Rundle	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Wednesday Afternoon Champion	She's The One	Michael Kirby	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Adios	Graeme Ellis	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Friends	Saxon/Pacey/Kall/Lasky	3 <sup>rd</sup>

## Season 2024-25 Individual Trophy winners:

Offshore Series	51st Project	Julian Bell
d'Albora Friday Twilights	Adios	Graeme Ellis
Pointscore Summer	Adios	Graeme Ellis
Wednesday Afternoons Spring - Soldiers Point	Adios	Graeme Ellis
Wednesday Afternoons Summer - Soldiers Point	Adios	Graeme Ellis
Zhik Marathon	Aja	David McManus
Wednesday Afternoons Autumn -Salamander	Aquanimity	Michael Norvill
Wednesday Afternoons Summer- Salamander	Aura	Paul Bertholli
Jack Hollman Trophy	Boot 'n Scoot	Steve Liney
Wednesday Afternoons Spring- Salamander	Boot 'n Scoot	Steve Liney
Commodore's Trophy	She's The One	Michael Kirby
Inshore Sternchaser Long	She's The One	Michael Kirby
Max & Edna Berman Trophy	She's The One	Michael Kirby
Pointscore Autumn	She's The One	Michael Kirby
Pointscore Spring	She's The One	Michael Kirby
Wednesday Afternoons Autumn - Soldiers Point	She's The One	Michael Kirby
Inshore Sternchaser Short	Solanda	Peter Ballard
Pointscore Winter	Una Vita	Ken Peachey/Dave Rundle
Sail Port Stephens Regatta PSYC Champion	Una Vita	Ken Peachey/Dave Rundle
Wednesday Afternoons Winter	Una Vita	Ken Peachey/Dave Rundle

## Season 2024-25 Non-Competitive Sailing Awards:

Coastal Cruising Award	51st Project - Julian Bell
Christopher Columbus Trophy	Adios - Graeme Ellis
Wounded Rock Award	Exalte – Craig Tucker
Crew Person of the Year	Rowan McGregor
Honorary Starters Award	John Humphreys
	Hugh Mountford
	Ian Clarke
Offshore Cruising Award	Roaring Forty - Kevin le Poidevin

## Season 2024-25 Club Awards:

Bar Person of the Year	Dave Enderby
Club Person of the Year	Steve Thomas

## Presentation Day *Photos by Sally Dunwell.*



Left “She’s The One” table, celebrating.

Team She’s The One with their 6 trophies.



Team Adios (Graeme Ellis) with 5 trophies.



Team Una Vita (Ken Peachey/David Rundle) with three trophies.



Aquanimity (Cherylle Stone/Michael Novill)  
Wednesday’s Trophy.



Steve Thomas was jubilant to receive his well-earned Club Person of the Year award.

# ZHIK Marathon Trophy Race - 2025

Twelve yachts contested the ZHIK Marathon in a gentle breeze on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of October. This allowed the big boats to put up their big spinnakers while the sports boats had a ball with their asymmetrical spinnakers.

The course was a passage race around the bay, from the start line at Soldiers Point down the channel to Shoal Bay then North to Pindimar then back South to the main channel then all the way East along the port to Garden Island then across to Malaboola on the Southern shore, before returning to the start /finish line.

**Over the line times:** 1<sup>st</sup> "Wubaray" 14.44.01, 2nd "She's The One" 14.52.59, 3<sup>rd</sup> "Una Vita" 14.55.42.

**Handicap placings were:** First: "AJA", Second: "Aquanimity" and Third: "Eusemere".



**Cherylle  
Stone, Pics.**



# Jack Hollman Trophy

The Hollman Trophy was held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 with eleven boats entered. Jack was a very popular member of the Club and it was a great loss when he was killed in a traffic accident. In his honour the Hollman family raised money and presented the club with the magnificent silver trophy which is keenly contested.

This year the race was plagued with light winds. Each year the Hollman Family turns up to honour Jack and this year they turned up in force. ( See pic.)

**The Hollman family came in force with grand-children as well.**



**The eventual winner was Exulte (Pictured).  
Second, She's The One, and Third, Una Vita.**

**Dallis Howe receiving trophy from Ken Peachey on behalf of Exulte owner Craig Tucker.**

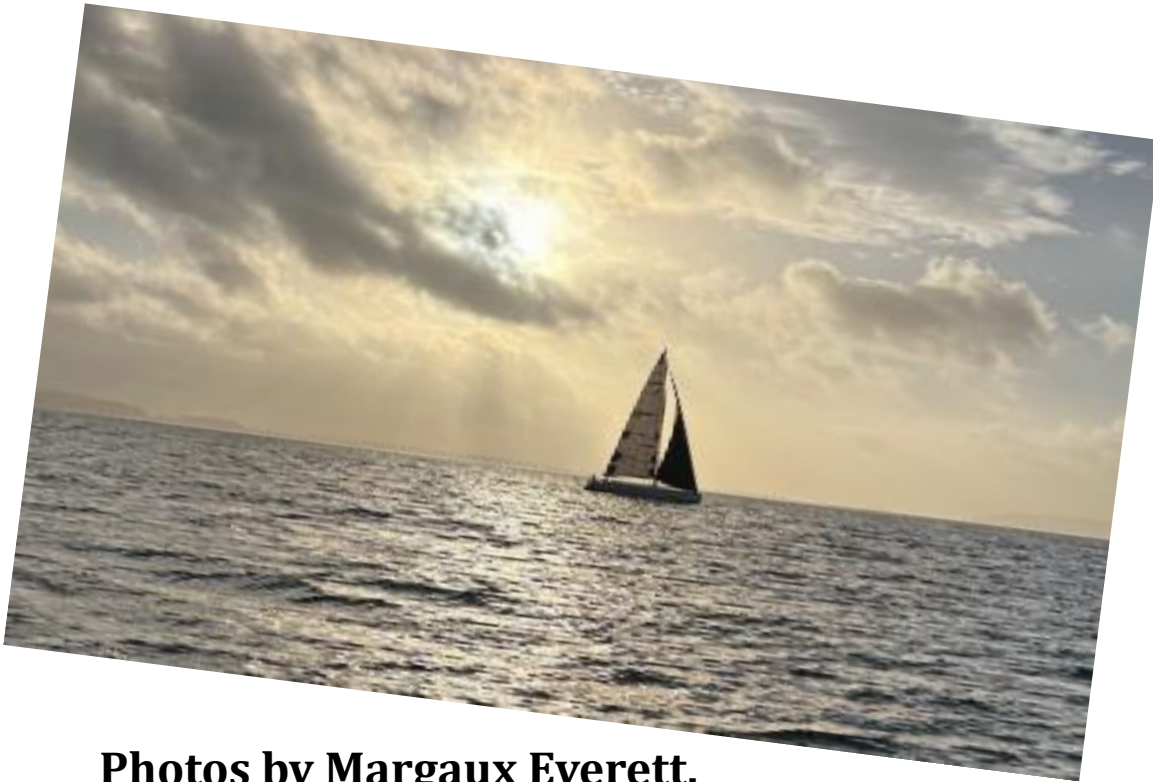


**Heather Atkins, our retired stalwart starter, appropriately won the raffle prize.**

# Twilight Series

The first of the Twilight series run on 15<sup>th</sup> November, was started in overcast skies and a wind that eventually dropped out leaving 51<sup>st</sup> Project the only boat of the four to complete the course before cut off time. Eusamere, Friends and Lickety Split bravely, sailed on to join several other members who came by car at the Nelson Bay Marina for the dinner at Maxims Restaurant.

**The Twilight Season races are run on Friday nights.**



**Photos by Margaux Everett.**



# LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB EMERGENCY SERVICES REGATTA

17 & 18<sup>TH</sup> November 2025 -

Story by David Rundle.

Congratulations to Commodore Rick Pacey who represented PSYC in the keel boat two-day event and coming second by only one point over five races.

It was a hard-fought regatta. His yacht Elusive, was leading the field and looked unbeatable in the last race but had rigging failure (Jib track), causing Elusive to drop to 8<sup>th</sup> place to end up only one point behind the eventual winner.

So close was the competition that there was only four points separating the first three finishers.

**Rick Pacey with his hands on the Trophy.  
Maybe next year.**



## Note from David Rundle:

A little side note in the regatta was that 9<sup>th</sup> placed, M2 Rival – has the name and same sail number of my grandfather's boat.

Lake Macquarie Yacht Club has two training 25ft club boats, Piccolo and Rival, which are named after the two boats from the club which won the Sydney Hobart. Piccolo won in 1976 and I'm not sure but the owner John Pickles may have had a Port Stephens place near the club at one stage (It's a vague memory which some older sailors may know). Rival was co-owned/skippered by my Grandfather Nelson (David) Rundle and Alby Burgin (a well know Port Stephens yachtsman) – Rival won the Hobart in 1961 and was 4<sup>th</sup> in 1960. The yacht was built locally at Speers Point, Lake Macquarie, by

L. J. and B. P. Steel & Sons.

In terms of the Emergency Services Regatta. My grandfather also served in World War two as a Lieutenant in the Australian army. He served stints I believe, in what was known as Burma and Papua New Guinea, as a despatch rider on Motor Bikes. He passed away in 1969 fairly young, so I never actually met him.

David Rundle. (Una Vita)

# TRIVIA NIGHT

## Trivia Night - Quizmaster Philip Bendeich.

The trivia night was the most successful social event this year with 70 participants from Trivia buffs from the surrounding suburbs and Club Members.

Extra tables had to be positioned to accommodate the influx of guests. Many had not visited the Club before. Once again Philip Bendeich and Margaret Flockhart really put on a magnificent Trivia night.



Table winner presentations. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Above. Even some club members can answer Trivial Questions.



# PSYC's Sydney Hobart Entry

*by Life Member, Kevin Le Poidevin*

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race (RSHYR), and Roaring Forty will once again be flying the **Port Stephens Yacht Club** burgee for our 4th attempt in this iconic, world class race.

Veteran ocean racer and experienced shorthanded skipper Brian Pattinson from Melbourne, will be joining me as co-skipper for this year's race. Brian has a solid background in Open type boats so I think we will do ok. Brian spent time onboard at our fantastic Soldiers Point Marina getting familiar with her systems before we set off on our 24h >150nm qualifying sail. We had a blast out near the shelf and then back into CYCA, retuning to NCYC and home. No surprise, I came home with a To-Do list of improvements to help maximise our performance. I have been slowly building Roaring Forty's sail wardrobe to close our performance gaps. I fitted a Code 0 (big front sail) meeting the requirements of a Flying Headsail adding a furling Jib Top and finally second hand J3 sail for the inner forestay. Being able to test the sail configurations with Daz during the Melbourne to Osaka race this year was critical to developing our sail crossover chart.

There are 136 entries this year, so it's going to get very crowded on the start line. See Picture.

The harbour is not very wide, so by the time the spectator fleet boundary is set and the start lines laid out 200m apart, it's very, very crowded. Sailing Instructions dictate you can only manoeuvre in the 200m paddock between your own start line and the one behind, so your head needs to be on a swivel.

In 2024, there were 105 boats divided across four start lines. Roaring Forty has a 1.232 IRC handicap so we were allocated Line 2, right behind the rock stars. It's going to be a hoot!

After a quick haul and clean at The Boatyard Nelson Bay early Dec, we will finalise preparations and sail to Sydney about 18 Dec to arrive at the CYCA for the formal activities.



A big shout out to Soldiers Point Marina for their continued support.

**The start of the Sydney Hobart can be a little hectic!**

**Photo credit: Bow Caddy Media.**

*If you can manage, please consider donating to our charities Brain Tumour Alliance Australia and Soldier On.*

**Brain Tumour Alliance Australia**

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/global-solo-challenge-for-bullet>

**Soldier On**

<https://fundraise.soldieron.org.au/fundraisers/kevinlepoidevin/racing-for-our-mates>

# Captain Crook's Ocean Passage Sticky Date Pudding.



*Haar me hearties, try this aboard.*

**THE PIRATE'S PUDDING** that grand kids and **captains** love to bake.

**INGREDIENTS:** Pitted dates, S/R Flour. Brown Sugar, Butter, two eggs, Bicarb of Soda.

**Utensils:** On board, you only get one mixing bowl one stirring spoon and a drinking mug.

Oh and an oven-proof dish. Cannot be too hard, can it?

**Method - Jamb** some pitted dates into your large drinking mug (about 180 gm worth) now take out and **cut** each date into three pieces and place into small saucepan with 1 1/4 cups water. **Boil** one minute, then **Stir** in half teaspoon of Bicarb soda. **After** it **fizzes** up turn the heat off before it foams over. (stir with your wooden leg or hook if you must), then put all the brown gooey stuff aside.

Turn **oven on** to 180 degrees while mixture is **cooling** down.

Melt 60 gm butter to 3/4 Tea-cup of brown sugar then heat it **stirring** until melted. **Throw** in two eggs (without shells) and **whisk** with the spoon. The shells go over the side.

That's all except a cup of S/R flour. Now use the spoon to stir S/R flour into the mixture.

Then **add** the cooled fizzed dark brown date stuff; until it all goes tan-brown and **gooey**. The G Kids will love making it. So, **easy!**

**Next:** Line ye old oven-proof dish with ye baking paper. Hint: **Tear** the paper off a little longer than the oven dish and then **scrunch** the paper up into a small ball. Unwind the paper and **mold** it into the dish tray and stick it down the edges with some butter.

**Chuck** the whole bowl of brown stuff into the papered dish (it will self-level).

**Shove** the dish in the oven for 30-35 mins. **So Easy**

Let cool and lift out with the paper before slicing into portions. Can be frozen for weeks if required. **That's it folks. Voila, Finis!!**

**Ahh! the Caramel Sauce:** While the pudding cooks. Melt 25 g butter added to 1/2 cup Brown sugar then add 1/2 cup cream, heat until hot. (Roughly a third of each).

**IMPORTANT:** (Send me a baking picture and or suggestions to C Crook at Mobile 0429842476 (Ed.)

The best response will be mentioned in dispatches.

**Cheers from Captain the Crook Cook.** Aka John Grainger.

# PORT STEPHENS YACHT CLUB

## BOARD MEMBERS

Commodore	Rick Pacey	<a href="mailto:commodore@psyc.com.au">commodore@psyc.com.au</a>	0438 406 855
Vice Commodore	Richard Kerr	<a href="mailto:vice.commodore@psyc.com.au">vice.commodore@psyc.com.au</a>	0490 459 926
Rear Commodore	Steve Thomas	<a href="mailto:rear.commodore@psyc.com.au">rear.commodore@psyc.com.au</a>	0403 269 116
Club Captain	Vacant	<a href="mailto:club.captain@psyc.com.au">club.captain@psyc.com.au</a>	00
Treasurer	Michael Schneider	<a href="mailto:treasurer@psyc.com.au">treasurer@psyc.com.au</a>	0414 874 007
Secretary	Peta Oliver	<a href="mailto:secretary@psyc.com.au">secretary@psyc.com.au</a>	0435 206 650
Director 1	Roger Dunwell	<a href="mailto:director1@psyc.com.au">director1@psyc.com.au</a>	0403 754 390
Director 2	Peter Saxon Williams	<a href="mailto:director2@psyc.com.au">director2@psyc.com.au</a>	0414 498 720
Director3	Margaux Everett	<a href="mailto:director3@psyc.com.au">director3@psyc.com.au</a>	0400 492 100

### Other Committee Contacts

Newsletter Editor	John Grainger	<a href="mailto:gringoig@yahoo.com">gringoig@yahoo.com</a>	0429 842 476
SheSails Rep	Peta Oliver	<a href="mailto:sheSails@psyc.com.au">sheSails@psyc.com.au</a>	0435 206 605
SheSails Rep	Deb Wellwood	<a href="mailto:sheSails@psyc.com.au">sheSails@psyc.com.au</a>	0400 193 461

# Club Sponsors



d'Albora Marinas

