



Picture taken from the Stockton ferry by Bruce Statham.
Bruce loved getting up nice and close but the ferry captain
was not amused

Commodore's Report

Port Stephens Yacht Club and its volunteers “can hold their heads high and stand proud” in supporting Sail Port Stephens (SPS) Regatta, our SPS Liaison Officer, Director Peta Oliver did an outstanding job whilst many of the PSYC flag officers were active competitors throughout the weeklong event. Peta brought together approximately twenty-four (24) of our club’s volunteers active across the entire week, our club was open at various times from Monday through to Sunday as well we provided “on-water” support for the Australian Sports Boats. A big thankyou to all our volunteers was received from Paul O’Rourke (CEO Newcastle Yacht Club) and Jen Hughes (SPS Regatta Chairperson).

In this month’s report PSYC is seeking volunteers to fill recently vacated positions, if you have interest, please speak to myself or Peta Oliver at the club or give us a call or e-mail.

1. Bar Manager.
2. Assistant Secretary.
3. Secretary.

The following members have come forward filling the following roles:

4. Licensee in Charge – Michael Kirby.
5. Website – Clive I Jones (Cool Runnings).
6. Facebook co-ordinator - Melissa Radcliffe.
7. Marketing – Toni Fox.

PSYC Secretary - Marina Budisavljevic submitted her resignation to the PSYC Board. Marina supported the PSYC Board and various Commodore's for several years and in particular her work experience in planning and interaction with councils assisted the club with negotiating our new lease. As with all members who offer their time and energy in volunteering roles, especially at "board level", a big thankyou especially so when one is in full time employment.

Rear Commodore David Simm and his "leasing team" have had fruitful meetings with Port Stephens Council's – Mayor, General Manager and Executives and a follow up meeting is scheduled for Friday 7th May 2021, when a completely revised lease will be presented to PSYC.

PSYC has agreed to terms with "Top-Yacht" to supply us with their handicapping system, I understand this has been a long time coming (4+ years) and a big thankyou goes out to all members that have participated in the various review sessions of available handicapping systems over the years. Implementation of the trial begins from May 2021.

Upcoming events at PSYC, include Christmas in July and in September we will have our 50th Anniversary celebrations to coincide with the commencement of the new sailing season. Director Steve Plante is seeking members assistance in planning and organising these events, so if you have ideas or available time speak to Steve at the club or give him a call or e-mail.

During May 2021, we will update ourselves with the latest NSW Government and NSW Health Covid-19 requirements, until then we will maintain our existing Covid-19 plans, QR code sign-in and attendance numbers in various areas of the club.

Michael Kirby Commodore

Vice Commodore Report

Hello all and happy sailing. We had a fantastic week with Sail Port Stephens and congratulations to all 8 boats that competed, representing the Club. I suspect that's our best attendance so far, with Xena, Friends, Elusive, She's The One, Una Vita, Troppo, 51st Project, competing and a number of boats finding their way onto the podium. I thought we would have been a shot at the clubs Trophy! Well done to the volunteers that made our hosting of the Sports Boats regatta possible and for keeping the Club open across the week.

Our TopYacht trial is in full swing with the system used for our Winter Saturday races. As you saw on the Website we used the last Spring and Summer series results to determine the opening handicaps.

Other news is the posting of our Winter Session and supporting Notice of Race and updates to the SIs. Key elements of the updates was the Rules Change to 2024 series, reducing the sign off time to 15 minutes and some clarifications around course usage. Mostly minor, but suggest a quick review read is worth the time.

You will notice that the winter Season includes 2 off shores and 2 cruises, a sprints day and sternchasers, with the aim of keeping it as interesting as possible. As discussed at the Skippers Meeting staying with the 1:00pm starting times, retaining the 2 Divisions and focus on 2 hour races.

Happy sailing, stay away from the hard bits and see you out there on the water.

Rick Pacey – Vice Commodore



Top Yacht Implementation at PSYC

PSYC is in the final stages of Top Yacht trial and implementation. As of 1 May the Saturday series races will be based on Top Yacht rather than our Sail 100 system. The system utilises a CLUB HCP 'receipt' recommended by Top Yacht following their review of our 2020 Spring Season results.

We are implementing by converting our Summer Series opening handicaps to TopYacht then using them over the last Summer season first 5 races to give us a starting set of handicaps for our Winter Programme. This also includes using 6% and 4% clamps.

Hopefully this will provide an improved outcome for our fleet results including bringing the handicaps more in line with other clubs and regattas.

Please be patient as there will likely be some, hopefully, minor teething issues while we become familiar with the new system.

Wednesday races handicaps management system will not change at this time.

Tales from the Start Line - By Judy Plante

Heather and I were tasked with assisting the starter, Ted Anderson and his wife Sue for the sports boats and performance racing division 2. I went Friday, Heather Saturday and both of us Sunday.

Friday dawned bright and clear with a moderate Westerly breeze, so off I went to find our allocated vessel. It was a motor cruiser, very comfortable, and, joy of joys a proper loo with electric flush!!

We set our line opposite the Anchorage on the north side of the bay and waited for the fleet to arrive-----and waited----- and waited. With only 10 minutes to go most of them finally arrived--they had trouble locating us, but there was still no sign of Smoke and Mirrors. They just made it in time for the start, having run aground near the Anchorage.

We had a fair amount of work to do, taping flags to poles and getting the 'on station' flag into position. Valda, the boat owner's wife, spent some time multitasking on the deck, under multiple instructions from her husband Doug, much to our amusement!



The fleet all got away safely after plenty of argy-bargy on the line with several boats trying to barge in next to us and being shut out at the last minute. Most of them headed away on starboard, but a couple tacked away towards the northern shore----- and stopped! Oh dear they're aground, oh very dear, one of them is Smoke and Mirrors. It took them a while to get going again!

Almost the entire fleet arrived at the leeward gate en-masse, causing a bit of carnage when 3 of them had a coming together--- no we didn't see a thing, we were all tying our shoelaces at the time. I wished I hadn't seen a thing when one boat sailed past our stern with someone on the transom doing what boys do!!

The rest of the day was uneventful, apart from one general recall followed by an individual recall. Back to the marina we head, and here's Valda with a bottle of Champagne-- cheers to a great day.

Heather was not so lucky on Saturday. The breeze was very light and the passage race had to be shortened---- it was



a beautiful sight from the breakwall where 4 or 5 divisions went off under spinnaker and the whole bay seemed filled with sails. Troppo got off to a flier, and 51st looked pretty good too.

Meanwhile there was trouble in paradise with an engine failure on the start boat causing Doug a lot of stress and leaving everyone else wondering what we would do for our Sunday races. But never mind, there's more Champagne! We were very lucky to get hold of another vessel and set our line in a similar position to Friday as the breeze was still westerly. The first race was uneventful, but just after the second race started, the breeze shifted through 90 degrees so we had to abandon and call the fleet back--- they were all listening and aware of the situation and came back immediately.

We had to change our position, but oh no, the anchor wouldn't come up. A lot of heavy lifting had to be done, and eventually we set off and the new line was set.

Then we had a call on the radio-- the pin boat had run out of fuel and were drifting away, fortunately towards the land. They had to put their anchor down and wait for a can of fuel to arrive.

Fortunately, the course remained the same for race 3 as the guys were getting pretty tired from moving the marks around, the anchors were really sticking on the bottom and difficult to pull up.

Time to head home after a great 3 days on the water, lovely weather, good sailing and great company.

Membership Matters by Peta Oliver

From June 2021 a SailPass link will be added to PSYC website so that we can all practice using the link and have plenty of time to iron out any teething problems before Rule 46 comes into effect in January 2022. There will be some training available and help as required to assist all members to adjust to using SailPass.

From June 2021 all registrations via SailPass will be free. However, as the Board reviews the budget over the coming months they will determine a nominal fee for SailPass members which will be payable via the website by the new/visiting sailor.

Welcome to New Members

John Payne

Jan Payne

Anthony Kyle Wallace

Matthew O'Keefe

Manuela Blankenhurn

Results of our Yachts

Commodore's Cup

Division 1	51 st Project	9 th place
Division 2	Elusive	3 rd place
	She's The One	20 th place
Division 3	Una Vita	8 th place
Division 4	Smoke and Mirrors	2 nd place
	Friends	4 th place
	Xena	23 rd place
	Troppo	24 th place

Port Stephens Trophy

Performance Racing	Division 2	Smoke and Mirrors	7 th place
Performance Cruising	Division 1	51 st Project	9 th place
	Division 2	Una Vita	1 st place
		She's The One	2 nd place
		Elusive	6 th place
	Division 3	Friends	4 th place
		Troppo	9 th place
		Xena	16 th place

SPORTS BOATS EVERYWHERE!



Sail Port Stephens at PSYC by Peta Oliver

Congratulations to all PSYC entrants who did a fantastic job representing our Club at the regatta! While you were all out working hard on the water there were 24 volunteers toiling away from Friday to Sunday of the Port Stephens Regatta to support the NSW Sports Boat Championships that were part of SPS. A total of 215 hours of volunteer time was contributed over the 3 days!

PSYC's sponsor Nelson Bay Marine arranged for us to borrow two boats to use as a mark and pin boats. The Club was open all week Monday to Sunday - thank you to all our RSAs who put in so much effort to do so many shifts during April. Volunteers were also running the BBQ Friday to Sunday with sponsorship from Pantaenius for drinks and food on Friday. Saturday saw the Club bursting with sailors and family! Thankfully COVID regulations had relaxed and mingling inside was allowable! It was great to see PSYC Club rooms abuzz!

I want to personally thank all the volunteers who offered their time over the regatta at the Club and on the water. The competitors from the sports boats, the on-water race officers and SPS organisers were impressed with our efforts. So much so that the Australian Sport Boat Association (ASBA) put some money over the bar for drinks for our volunteers on the final presentation night!

Thank you to one and all - you are all to be congratulated on doing a fantastic job representing PSYC!

It was wonderful to host the ASBA and we look forward to having them back next year!

Dinga's story – Ross Bell

There are many characters in our club and when I heard that we had two Bells in the club and one was called "Dinga" I asked him to tell his story. Below is the lovely note he gave me. (Ed.)

He told me over the phone that he moved to Boat Harbour two years ago from Sydney where he had his own Electrical Contracting business which he has now sold to a loyal employee who had been with him for 19 years. He has turned an older red brick house at Boat Harbour into a modern three storey home and has spent a deal of time watching the wild surf and debris heading North after our torrential storms.

When asked about his previous sailing experience he said he spent over twenty years with the Balmain Yacht Club.

He started in Sabots and worked his way up through 12ft skiffs and the 16s to 18ft skiffs. (Then he says the new fad of fitting foils came along). It was prudent to shift to Pittwater and sail on a Tiger 30 and the new McConaghy 38 class. Ross says he believes there are too many yacht types now, which limits the class numbers.

Now if you think all that is enough, he said. "I am off to Newcastle on Thursdays with Rhino (Denis Hume) and Alyson Barwood to sail on Elliot 6s!!" Wow with that racing experience.! No-wonder he is welcome to come and crew on our boats.



The photo is of 51st Project going south and the Sail Port Stephens Fleet going past Dinga's house on the way to Port Stephens.



Here is Dinga's contribution:

John, thanks for an adventure on Troppo, great boat and fun crew.

Thanks Ken from Una Vita who introduced me to the protest room. That gave us a night out at the Club.

Pete, thanks for the sailing lessons on Friends. Again, great boat and crew.

To Bill and captain "cranky", DFA. Thanks for welcoming myself and my wife, Maggie into the club.

Richard, Dave and Allison; again thanks for the sail and friendship on Raptor.

To all who I have sailed with I thank you for sharing your local knowledge on tides and winds with me as I go on a learning curve which never stops as my love affair with sailing moves from Sydney to the Bay.

To the Committee, starters, volunteers and sailors: Thanks for making my Saturdays up here so enjoyable.

Fairs winds,

Dinga (Ross) Bell

Ahhh yes, Sail Port Stephens. WHAT a spectacle.

By Melissa Radcliffe

As I settled Freda on her walker seat in the shade we remarked in wonder at the glorious colourful spinnakers bursting out in a huge group over the start line.

'Oh look that's.. um, oh no I can't recognise that boat' was a common statement. And, sure, we were too far away and the sails in shadow to be able to read sail numbers but we were able to make out 51st Project and Troppo due to their distinctive colours.

An absolute highlight was the invitation to speedboat around the islands and watch in the gorgeous weather, Thankyou Penny Meakins for swinging that one! And TK (owner of TP52 Patrice) for the include. We got up close at the start and we're able to see the teams hard at work. We also saw the absolute hard-ass focus of the lead boat. I did think that would absolutely no fun whatsoever...

I couldn't help thinking Little Nicko may have felt bored and lonely so far out ahead every time. And getting the course right, rounding marks correctly, staying out of trouble... what's that all about? I'm sorry but that has not endeared them to me.

Stories about getting grounded, twice!, and trawling for prawns with a wayward spinnaker are far more entertaining don't you think?

Looking forward to being part of it next year, hopefully on our dream sports boat.

Even with perfect vision you can be still be blinded to what's in front of you. (and run aground) by David Rundle



Several months ago I was talking to a friend from LMYC Michael McDonald who owns an Inglis 39 called Stampede with Jon Lattimore about doing Sail Port Stephen's. They were struggling with how and where to birth Stampede so I said just come on my boat instead which was a bonus for me as they are way better sailors than I am. Michael also asked if he could bring his friend 'Biggles' (Tony Purkiss) along and warned me he was legally blind but also a good crew hand so I said why not.

In the Commodores cup we sailed with usual PSYC Members myself, Shep and Ian and LMYC sailors Michael, Biggles and his wife Marry-Anne. We managed to get under the handicappers guard for the first two races getting two wins. At the

presentation after race two we sent Biggles up to collect the prize with his walking Cane hoping our competitor's might not complain so hard about our handicap however it ended up working against us as his sailing skill and reputation preceded him and we suffered a large handicap adjustment for race 3 which put us back to 23rd and 2nd in the series. Race two was a highlight being a passage race around the island in which we sailed possibly one of those days that every decision was the right one.

Later in the week we entered the performance racing division and added to the crew Damien from PSYC and Jon from LMYC (losing Ian and Marry Anne) although Marry Anne sailed on the last day. Friday (day 1) was a shocker, I'd had the boat at Port Stephens now for two years and have only ran aground twice – both times was Friday the first day of the performance racing series, once before the start which we needed a tow to get off. The second was in the first of three short windward leeward races, so race one we came last. Race two we improved but one of our crew must have wanted prawns for dinner and flicked the kite halyard so the kite dragged for prawns for a while. Fortunately there miraculously was no kite damage – unfortunately there were no prawns either. Race three and we did better picking up a third. Saturday was the passage race was another great sail picking up 4th place and what would have been a much more pleasing result had we not had Troppo sail past us and leave us behind after starting 20 minutes after us. Saturday Troppo had the sail of the series only to manage a second place on handicap – let me say they were robbed they sailed so well that day. Final day Sunday and two more windward Leeward races and smoke and mirrors again got out classed but loved every minute of it to claim 7th in the series out of thirteen.

Most rewarding experience of the series was having Biggles and his wife on Board, Biggles is legally blind and is truly an inspiration , he memorises where the ropes are, he feels around the boat and uses his memory of where each rope is, this leaves him more mentally fatigued after a days sailing than physically.

He liked Smoke and Mirrors as there were less ropes than some of the larger yachts he has sailed on to memorise. He is so strong and pinpoint accurate on any rope's he pulls as is his wife also an extraordinary sailor. Biggles background is extraordinary and he is rumoured to have nine lives like a cat so far having survived the infamous 98 Hobart with a broken leg , and a heart attack after another Hobart race, he has also survived a plane crash.

Then he lost his sight along with Marry Anne (losing sight in one eye) as victims of the 2005 Bali Bombing He was with friends who lost their lives. Jon and Michael love sailing with him as they reckon he has currently only used 4 of his nine lives! He currently runs a marina and moorings at Iluka and if you sailed with him you would hardly know of his disability – a true inspiration and credit to his determination and persistence. They are very much a supporters of the making waves foundation for disabled sailors and a lovely couple and fantastic crew hands – It was an honour to have them on board.

Attached is a link to Biggle's Story written by Mark Rothfield. **A must read.**

<https://www.clubmarine.com.au/exploreboating/articles/24-6-Unbeaten>

Regards, David Rundle



Even sailboards were included

Coming soon: Cruisy Sunday Sails

Come in to the Club for a coffee and a chat before heading off for a Sunday Sail on beautiful Port Stephens, without all the race tension!

This presents the ideal opportunity for new members to meet more people and social sail while improving skills. Interested members, skippers and crew, please contact Peta Oliver, director1@psyc.com.au for further details and be on the lookout for the updated sailing program out soon!

Sailfest Newcastle By Jules Bell

We decided to enter 51st Project in the Sailfest regatta for the first time, run by Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club in April.

Day 1 had us competing in 4 short races which kept all crew on their toes and building a thirst for post-race beverages. The racing was very different from the familiarity of shelter bay sailing with the race held off shore in a light to moderate breeze.

Day 2 saw us on a passage race with a brisk westerly breeze gusting to 40 knots.

Sailfest features as part of the TP52 series so you get to sail and have a front row seat to watching the TPS glide through the water. I'd encourage anyone who enjoys their sailing to get involved in this fantastic event run by NCYC.

and Sail Port Stephens

When can one have ever have enough sailing? A week on from Sailfest and we were back in the water with the lead race into SPS from Newcastle. This year marked the 6th year of SPS for the Bells and our third on 51st project. It was also the first year that we have had consistent crew join us for the entire regatta.

The crew had an enjoyable time being the only local boat mixing it in the division 1 fleet and while our results didn't show on paper we were happy with our performance and against competitors when compared to previous years. Neil Edwards positioned us on the start line just before the gun and in clear air on many of the days was a highlight especially when under spinnaker well before the gun or any competitors had hoisted theirs. Social events including our own dock side party were memorable and stirred those having to walk past Fred's mouth-watering ribs and pork belly and the snags cooking on the BBQ which we had dragged onto the dock from home. The most interesting move we witnessed was when our poor friends on Colortile tried to cut in front of us on the last day to and ran straight up on the sand bank off little beach. It was like a slow motion movie where we didn't have the time unfortunately to warn Bucko of what was coming as he softly came to a standstill and prematurely ending their race. This was a disappointing way to see Colortile finish their regatta as they have been a "colourful" part of SPS (pardon the pun) both on and off the water and the 2021 regatta is likely to be there last with the boat on the market.

Now the countdown to Sail Port Stephens 2022 one of our favourite weeks of the year.

Julian Bell

FRIDAY 7 MAY, 6:30 – 8:30 PM @ PSYC

WANT TO GO FASTER - ESPECIALLY UPWIND?

"Sail Trim – Beyond the Basics Upwind"

Training Session

\$10 members, \$15 non-members

Cash at the door, correct change appreciated

General Member News

Bar Price Increases

To keep up with increasing costs, bar prices will be going up this month. The increases will be minimal but are necessary to keep costs covered for the long-term survivability of PSYC. I hope all members will be understanding of the need to do this. Unfortunately, this needs to come into place as soon as possible and could not wait until the budget is done next month so there may be further marginal increases later in the year.

Survey

There will be a Club survey coming out this month so if you would like to see something improved at PSYC please respond to the survey and add general comments. They will be read and taken into consideration.

Website Calendar

Look out for the new website feature – a Club Calendar with all events listed is expected to be launched later this month!

Saturday BBQ Roster				
<small>(generated by random number corresponding to the boat in the yacht register)</small>				
If you can't make a particular week please arrange to swap duty with another crew				
May				
Sat	8	Century 21 Paradise Waters Winter Pointscore	Free BBQ	Troppo
June				
Sat	5	Century 21 Paradise Waters Winter Pointscore	Free BBQ	Cool Runnings
July				
Sat	10	Century 21 Paradise Waters Winter Pointscore Century	Free BBQ	Thief of Time
Aug				
Sat	7	Century 21 Paradise Waters Winter Pointscore	Free BBQ	2Way Street

Private Mooring/Pen

Available for Rent

at "The Moorings" Sunset Beach

10m yacht \$1500 per quarter including water and electricity

Contact Karina Gray 0414 777 125

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