



Commodore's Report

We can see the light at the end of the tunnel with regard to Covid lock down of PSYC sailing & social activities, at the September Board Meeting Directors voted unanimously that the club premises opening would be based upon NSW Health orders and likewise participation in community sport (sailing) we would be guided by advice provided by Australian Sailing. Differing (public) views on vaccination, is not a matter for PSYC to judge or police and we will open once all members and visitors can attend our club and sailing programs in line with NSW Health Orders

80 PER CENT ROADMAP

Reopening NSW roadmap at 80 per cent & persons fully vaccinated, the following applies:

1. Community sport permitted – sailing 4sqm rule applies to vessels.
2. Hospitality venues can operate with one person per 4 sqm inside and one person per 2 sqm outside, with the requirement to be seated while drinking indoors removed.

Our Treasurer Ann Evans has submitted her resignation from the PSYC Board, having held this position for many years, Ann with her accounting background was instrumental putting in place controls, procedures and reports that provided the PSYC board and its club members with an accurate understanding of the club's financial position. Ann actively contributed at board meetings, often providing an alternative view and balance across all matters related to the functioning of PSYC, thankyou Ann for your service over the years.

With the club's income negatively impacted by "shutdown" Ann arranged a once off grant of \$15,000 plus ongoing support of \$2,000 each which so far we have received a five (5) payments. Likewise, we have applied to Port Stephens Council for a rent relief to offset our reduced income.

Club members with business and or a financial background who would be interested in joining the PSYC Board and the role of Treasurer please contact me via e-mail commodore@psyc.com.au or mobile number located on the PSYC website.

Following the recent Skipper's Zoom meeting, the Board received written correspondence from three (3) members relating to social (cruising) sailing, membership, transparency and governance of PSYC activities. A special Board Meeting was called to review the correspondence and formulate a response and give an opportunity for these members to further elaborate "face to face". I can summarise as follows:

Two (2) members participated in Zoom meetings which generated the following outcomes.

- A "cruising co-ordinator" was appointed to work with the Vice Commodore and Club Captain, details to follow.
- It was acknowledged that Covid-19 prevented several social functions proceeding and that these would be re-instated once Covid restrictions allowed such events, of note is the postponement of the 50th PSYC anniversary which now looks more likely in December 2021.
- A member (password protected) only section of the PSYC website is being considered as a location for PSYC documents for members.
- Member participation in non-sailing related forums will be extended to include the AGM and a Mid-Year meeting where members can ask question of the PSYC board related their club not necessarily sailing related matters.
- An audit of governance based upon "Not for Profit" guide-lines was conducted, highlighting some areas for improvement but generally scoring highly against the guidelines.

All three (3) members have thanked the board for their prompt response, the matter is now finalised, with actions in place.

Vale – club member Barry Edward Sainsbury passed away on the 24th September 2012, "Bazza" loved his participation in all things Port Stephens Yacht Club. At the time of writing this report, the family have not been able to advise of a funeral date and location. They advise its more likely they will hold a memorial for Barry in Port Stephens towards the end of the year without Covid restrictions. Barry was a friend of the Kirby family and we thank members for their kind words at this time, he will be surely missed!

Michael Kirby, Commodore

Secretary Report & AGM News

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into the role of secretary. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all better when the club is able to reopen - please come and say hi.

I'm sure you're all excited by the prospect of the upcoming PSYC AGM. Given the current NSW Health orders, the Board is planning around holding the meeting on Friday 3 December 2021. A formal notice will be sent out closer to the date and details will be noted on the website. The meeting will be held at the club and we are looking into including the capability to attend via video conference, depending on confirmed numbers and the NSW Health orders at that time.

For now, I'm ever hopeful for an uninterrupted upcoming sailing season!

Penny Meakins - Secretary

Vice Commodore's Report

Hello all, the lockdown continues and sailing remains on hold until safe and we get the guidance we need from the Government and Australian Sailing. Hopefully you have been able to get an exercise in or two when possible during this time.

Despite the lockdown, there has been plenty going on in the background in preparation for next season and next month based on the assumption that we will be out there again in some form or another.

These things include:

- The Club Captain, handicappers and I are finalising last season's results in preparation to run a virtual Presentation night early October to be announced shortly. Stay tune for the link details. Of note, as discussed at the Skippers Meeting the final results are being scored to the number of boats that actually competed. This reduces and improves the range of scores and eliminates the need for entry forms for boats on the club register. As suggested it has remarkably little effect on the final results. Bottom line is you can't win from home. The NORs for next season will reflect this approach and some minor tweaks to the Club's SIs which will be released shortly.
- *On Covid, we are holding back till there is some certainty on a way forward for organised sport and what that may mean. That said we are ready to go with an interim COVID Cup Series for anything we can save out of the Spring season and have a full Summer Programme ready to go if it can happen. Again, stay tuned for the details when we have some certainty.*
- As part of the upcoming season we are to trial a Wednesday twilight as is held by most clubs. The format is a combined start at 6:00pm, no extras course followed by an evening BBQ at the Club. I will send out some advertising or NOR in Oct/Nov. Other initiative is to fit more offshore races in the calendar as with the interest shown to the Race Committee via Julian Bell.
- *The other big news is the standing up of our Cruising Coordinator, Robin Foley. We have had our inaugural meeting and have a range of activities included in the Summer Programme. You will hear more directly from Robin.*

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

Rick Pacey – Vice Commodore

Membership Matters By Peta Oliver

Thank you for keeping the membership payments rolling in. If anyone has queries about their membership, their invoice, lack of invoice, or need assistance logging in to My Sailor (link below) to update their details please email to director1@psyc.com.au or call Peta – 0435 206 650.

My Sailor link <https://www.sailing.org.au/login/>

Please take some time to login to check that all your details are up-to-date.

Introducing **SailPASS**

By Peta Oliver

What is a Sail Pass?

Sail Pass is a means by which a person who is not a member of an Australian Sailing (AS) affiliated club can go sailing at our Club – it's a form of day membership.

Why do we need Sail Pass (day membership)?

It is best practice to know who is on the water racing as Clubs have a duty of care for those partaking in the races they organise. To this end AS has paved the way for clubs to have an easy-to-use tool to manage the process thus mitigating some of the risks involved in club racing.

Also, the changes to Rule 46 of the Racing Rules of Sailing dictates that non-members must obtain a Sail Pass:

From 1st January 2022, all persons on board a boat while racing shall be members of a Club affiliated to Australian Sailing and have an Australian Sailing number, or hold a valid Sail Pass, or if an international competitor, be a member of club affiliated to a World Sailing recognised Member National Authority.

Having a Sail Pass allows casual and introductory sailors be members of a club is not too different to registering entry for another sport (e.g. casual golf, casual gym class etc); or signing on and off as dinghy sailors do. It also brings sailing into line with other sports in that all competitors are registered.

So what will be different?

Until now, skippers have been able to invite non-members to race anytime and the only concern has been that after three (3) races they either decide to continue sailing and become members of PSYC or don't sail.

With Sail Pass in place more choices are available to the new recruit.

- If they are **not** a current member of an AS affiliated Club with an active AS number they will need to obtain a Sail Pass for their very first sail (nb free for the first three (3) Sail Passes at PSYC).
- After the first three sails if they are still not decided whether to take up sailing and become a full member then they have the option of purchasing a Sail Pass for any subsequent days they would like to race at ten dollars (\$10) per sailing day.
- If they are already a member of an AS affiliated club then there is nothing to do but head out for a great day on the water.

Ten dollars is still a cheap day out on the water! (certainly cheaper than buying a boat!!!)

Benefits to the temporary member

- It provides membership to PSYC for the day of the Sail Pass
- It comes with personal injury insurance cover that they would not otherwise have had for the day they are sailing (details can be found [here](#))
- They will receive correspondence (similarly to other members) informing of upcoming events etc enabling them to engage with the Club whenever they want
- It offers a flexible introduction to sailing at clubs for people new to the sport
- It offers safe, quick, easy and affordable access to sailing
- Technology – it's mobile friendly & integrated

Benefits to the Club

- Sail Pass breaks down the perceived barriers to sailing - sailing is expensive and inaccessible.
- It is a simple way to get more people, having fun in boats and connecting with our club.
- It has potential to target new markets and offers you a marketing database
- It improves the Club's risk management and ticks a number of compliance boxes
- Addresses the use of the Club by non-members
- Typically, over time Sail Pass has been an effective tool to increase club membership numbers.

So how can new crew get a Sail Pass?

In theory it is as simple as clicking the button and following the prompts. You may have noticed the logo is now on the homepage of the Club's website, so it is quick and easy to access.

Peta Oliver will be conducting some training, likely online and at the Club (COVID permitting) during October so there is no need to be an expert on it just yet. Date(s) will be emailed out well in advance.

What if I've paid for Sail Passes but later decide to join the Club?

No problem, any payments for Sail Passes go directly to PSYC and hence towards membership fees for that same membership year. Fill in a new membership application and forward to the Membership Officer. The Membership Officer will then invoice you for the remainder of the fees owing.

PSYC is introducing Sail Pass now so that by January all members have had the opportunity to learn how it works and will be able to provide guidance to new sailors.

This information will be posted on the website so you can refer to it at any time. It will be under the Sailing menu. The Board wants all members to be supported as we transition to the Sail Pass system. So please keep an eye on your emails for information about the upcoming training.

If you would like further information please see the Australian Sailing website, their [FAQ – Changes to Rule 46](#) is a good place to start.

Captain's Corner

Now an official start to racing is on the horizon, please keep rolling those Equipment Audits in! Remember the club will accept audits for one month after the start of racing before excluding those that have not submitted them. It's a risk mitigation thing!

There have been some exciting developments regarding the cruising fraternity lately, so I've changed the Boat Register application form to accommodate cruising as well as racing entry to the club. I have also taken the opportunity to make it a little simpler as well. It will hit the website in the next few days.

On the subject of the website, there is more and more information being added to it weekly. If you are seeking any information regarding the club, please peruse the site first – your answer may very well lie there!! If not, please feel free to contact the applicable director for further information.

Club Mooring Available for Lease!!

Best protected place in the Bay!!

Contact the Club Captain

Equipment Audits

Equipment Audits are now due but COVID rules are hampering the carrying out of same but when rules change you will need to get them done post haste.

Some things you will need to consider are noted below:

1. Compliance with section 2 of the Sailing Instructions need to be in place for the Audit namely:
2. Yachts must carry a serviceable motor
3. Cat 6 yachts must be fitted with a bilge pump of 25 mm diameter in lieu of a self draining cockpit
4. All yachts must carry a radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF Ch 77
5. All yachts to have their sail number on their mainsail (overlapping head sails should also have the yachts sail number)
6. Forms have changed from last year make sure you have the most recent form; they are available to be printed from the PSYC web site
7. If you intend competing in Sail Port Stephens or participate in club offshore races you will need a Cat 5 Audit
8. Make sure you check expiry dates for:
 - a. Aspirins, Paracetamols and Sunscreen in your First Aid Kits
 - b. Sensing Cartridge in Self Inflating Life Jackets
 - c. Flares for Cat 5
9. Inflatable life jackets owned by crew members must be on the boat at the time of audit, if subject to self check this must be done prior to the audit inspection
10. To arrange an inspection you will need to contact one of the clubs Australian Sailing Accredited Auditors, they are listed in the Club's Web Site to organise a suitable time and place
11. All items must be checked, non-complying items rectified and **Forms completed** prior to Audit

John Coonerty - Equipment Auditor

Honorary Treasurer Position

Club members interested in joining the PSYC Board in the role of Treasurer are invited to contact Michael Kirby via e-mail commodore@psyc.com.au or mobile number located on the PSYC website.

50th Anniversary Shirts Update

Due to COVID there has been some delays in delivery. While we have received the majority of the orders the remainder are not expected to arrive until the end of October. The good news though is that due to COVID the celebrations have been delayed as well so we expect the shirts will be here in time for the big day! We'll keep you posted.

What's App Sail Crew

PSYC SailCrew was originally set up so that Club Members, skippers and crew could chat about sailing and provide a link for skippers and crew/potential crew to contact each other:

- to match skippers seeking crew and crew seeking berths on PSYC boats.
- as a means for skippers to stay connected with crew or other skippers to inform them of their sailing intentions on any race day. This is particularly useful when very light winds, strong winds or inclement weather are forecast and there is a risk of not enough starters to constitute a race.
- to share sailing stories, photographs and videos.

SailCrew acts as a conduit for keeping people informed or provides notice of and/or links to, information on what is happening at the club or relevant to Club Members, e.g., COVID bulletins, racing or social events, rule changes, community notices etc.

Since its inception, SailCrew has also attracted general banter, and while this is generally not encouraged it has been a valuable link in keeping the PSYC family in touch with each other, particularly during times of social distancing and NSW Health Order limitations, including the closure of the Club until further notice. All we ask is that people are respectful with their comments and posts and aware that the comment/post goes out to at least 85 subscribers, so please keep it interesting.

While SailCrew currently has around 85 group members, PSYC has around 250 members. For those wishing to sign up for SailCrew; all you need to do is first download the WhatsApp app to your mobile phone and then text your full name and phone number to Michael Kirby (0423 792 829) or Chris Bebb (0432 642 793) requesting your addition to SailCrew.

Once signed up, you will have access to all group members and can either send posts to the whole group or you can select individuals from the listing if you want to have a one-on-one chat.

Chris Bebb - SailCrew Administrator.

ALL BOAT OWNERS WELCOME TO JOIN PSYC

By Robin Foley

“Social and competitive sailing in a pristine environment”

As per our Club tag line, it occurred to me early in my membership that there appeared to be no (or very few) non-racing members at the PSYC. As a cruiser myself, I wondered why the people I knew who were boat owners and cruisers were not members of the PSYC. Fast forward to last week, and, following a meeting with several Board members and myself, we now have a new agenda to incorporate a cruisers' and boat owners' itinerary into our sailing programme!

I am delighted and honoured to have been nominated for and have accepted the role of Cruisers Coordinator for PSYC, and I welcome any questions and suggestions that members may have.

We plan to hold a combination Open Day and 50th Anniversary celebration at the end of November to not only celebrate the milestone of 50 years as a club, but also to create awareness of our Club within the community and to other boat owners in the Port Stephens area.

We also plan to hold a cruising/social event on the water once a month for members, including a Mystery Social Cruise in December, an Australia Day sail past in January, and a further social cruise in February. Details will be announced both in The Bilge and on the website well in advance! This is an opportunity to come out on the water with your families and significant others who don't enjoy the competitive aspect of sailing! It was proposed that the social cruising would be held on Sundays, leaving Friday evenings for other social occasions at the Club.

The inclusion of boat owners of all types will bring a new look to the Club, together with a larger membership and the benefits that it will create. I hope you will join me in greeting the new members as they come into our Club and making them feel welcome.



It is so exciting to be able to pen this update now that we know the detail of the NSW Government Roadmap out of the COVID restrictions! At last, we can plan the programs that we have been discussing for the last few months with at least some comfort that we will be able to execute them! All that said, all the on-water activities that I outline below are subject to community sport being able to resume in our area as planned on 25th October....

World Sailing Steering the Course Festival 1st to 10th October

Steering the Course is an international festival which will provide opportunities for women across the world to get into sailing, as well as encourage pathways into coaching and race management. This is a global initiative to bring together sailing communities, highlighting the achievements of women already within the sport, as well as attracting those who have never tried it before.

Unfortunately, due to community sport not being possible until at least 25th October, we have had to postpone the inaugural race in our Women's Helm series which we had planned to have on Sunday 10th October to coincide with Steering the Course (but more on that later!). However, in the circumstances the various She Sails committee's have pulled together, and the larger clubs will be running virtual events to celebrate women's sailing in the absence of us being able to be out on the water. These events will also be available for PSYC members to join online as detailed below, plus we will have our own fun event, an online virtual regatta! These regattas are great fun, I've been having a blast doing the training sessions and practice regattas, although I have to say I have been at present very unsuccessful... Hopefully Michael Kirby won't see my results and will let me back on She's the One once we are racing again 😊. As we are limited to 20 participants, initially at least we will limit participation to female club members, but if we have room, I will open out to all on a first in best dressed basis. Details are in the Steering the Course program of events below:

Steering the Course in Australia with She Sails Leadership Conference - webinar

When: 6pm (AEDT) Wednesday 6th October

How: Link for registration (free):

<https://www.sailing.org.au/events/102780/>

What: Designed to champion female involvement in sailing and empower them to reach their full potential. This special event will feature guest speakers and that will provide insights and explore the topic of leadership.



6.00 – 6.10pm: Welcome and introductions from Australian Sailing and World Sailing

6.10 – 6.40pm: She Sails Around the grounds: Inspirational SheSails stories from around Australia

6.40 – 7.25pm: Sarah Styles, Director of the office for Women in Sport and Recreation will present: "Establishing a stronger, inclusive narrative for women – why gender diversity is so important, covering a women's journey to the top of the table and how women offer a different set of eyes and different skills as well as how to navigate it all"

7.25 – 7.30pm: SheSails resources and wrap up

Middle Harbour Yacht Club – Inspirational Women in Sailing – Virtual Breakfast

When: 8.00 – 9.15am (AEDT) Friday 8th October

How: Link for registration (free): <https://www.mhyc.com.au/events/latest-news/1763-inspirational-women-in-sailing-virtual-breakfast-with-mhyc>

What: From conquering the Southern Ocean to competing at the top levels of elite sailing and everything in between, these four women are blazing trails and setting new records in the world of sailing. Join us for the MHYC Steering the Course Women's Sailing Festival breakfast to hear from Nina Curtis, Lisa Blair, Alice Tarnawski and Bryony Gregory.

Nina Curtis: Olympic silver medallist, Nina has previously competed in the Ocean Race, and is currently representing Australia in SailGP.

Lisa Blair: With three world records already under her belt, Lisa Blair is preparing to set off again in December with the aim to set the solo unassisted record to sail around Antarctica

Alice Tarnawski and Bryony Gregory: The first ever all female double-handed entry in the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Hear how the pair are planning to tackle the notoriously challenging race with the added difficulty of trying to prepare during COVID lockdowns.

Port Stephens Yacht Club SheSails Virtual Regatta followed by Virtual drinks on Microsoft Teams

When: 6.30 – 8.00pm (AEDT) Friday 8th October

How: Email: SheSails@psyc.com.au to register your interest, first in best dressed (by COB Wednesday 6th October). Event is free of charge.

What: I will organise a series of short regatta races on the World Sailing Virtual Inshore Regatta platform (you can play on your computer, smart phone or tablet). Please log into <https://www.virtualregatta.com/en/inshore-game/> in advance to take the sailing school lessons and do some practice regattas. If you are anything like me, you will need it! We can follow this up with virtual drinks to wind down into the hopefully last weekend of lockdown! Calendar invitations and access codes will be emailed to the first 20 applicants.

Women's Helm Series

I'm really excited to share that we have now scheduled the two races in our first ever Women's Helm series! Our inaugural race will be on Sunday 5th December (delayed from original schedule of 10th October), to be followed by the last race on 13th March, to coincide with International Women's Day. To help with the organisation of this series, could all women who would like the opportunity to helm in this series please email me by COB Friday 15th October, at SheSails@psyc.com.au. If you have your own boat or have already aligned with a boat owner that you can helm their boat for this series, please share the detail of the boat. If you would like to helm but don't have a boat lined up, then I will help match you with a boat owner. I would really encourage as many of you as possible to come forward for this, I thoroughly enjoyed the Women's races in which I helmed at RMYC Broken Bay and learned so much from it!

Sunday Soak Up Sessions

Another temporary victim of COVID restrictions has been our planned Sunday Soak Up Sessions. As a reminder, the intent of these sessions is to help upskill our crew base in a no-pressure, non-racing environment. While these sessions will be open to both males and females and are aimed at novice sailors and those whom would like to brush up on their theory and practical application it is hoped that skippers and support crew would join us in the Club for a coffee too. The sessions would start at 10.30am with a coffee, a chat and some theory in the club, passed on by our more experienced sailors. Followed by practicing what you have learned out on the water under the guidance of skippers and their crew.

Subject to COVID restrictions lifting as anticipated, we have rescheduled the to the following dates:

31st October

7th November

21st November



Deb Wellwood

When planning these sessions as previously scheduled we had very generous support from our boat owners. Now it's time to work out what the demand for the session is from our crew base and social members/ locals! If you think that these sessions would be of benefit to you, at a cost of just \$20 per session for PSYC funds, please email me at SheSails@psyc.com.au by COB on 15th October and I will set about making sure that we can match demand of crew with supply of boats!

To close, it's been a lengthy update, but I am sure that you are all as happy as I am that we have an exciting program ahead, and can't wait to get back out on the water!

ROB EDWARDS - YACHT BUILDER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Peter Chappelow writes.....

Rob was one of those rare people you meet once in a lifetime - a real "doer" and someone who thought nothing was impossible- just get on and do it, whatever the odds. While not well known by most PSYC members today, we all owe him a huge debt for a clubhouse on the waterfront in probably the best mooring area in Port Stephens. I first met Rob in about 1982, just after I joined the Club (or Squadron, as it was called then).

As time went on I found that he was a builder and very much the coordinator and manager of enthusiastic tradies, retirees and volunteers engaged in building the Clubhouse as we see it today. Around about this time I realised he owned and lived aboard a 48ft ketch (named Spirit of Fame) moored about where our Club mooring is today. I then found that he had built this yacht in the mid 70s on the rocky isthmus within Fame Cove! Absolutely amazing feat and I believe that it was a wooden boat so even more amazing. It was well finished and by far the largest yacht in Port Stephens and Rob lived aboard for many years before moving ashore, to a property out at Bobs Farm.

"Restless Rob" then decided to sell Spirit and build a bigger yacht. In about the early 80s I had heard rumours of a 50ft cat being built in aluminium at Bobs Farm - obviously the new project! Everyone wondered how and where it was going to be launched.....! In about 1984 the answer came with Rob, catamaran, police and convoy trailering down Soldiers Point Rd at 0300 in the morning, moving guide posts, trees, power poles and power lines to get the massive boat to the water. It was eventually launched off a low loader at the old Soldiers Pt ramp.

The cat (name unknown) was moored almost directly off the Marina (which was much smaller than today) and lived aboard while fitting it out. I went aboard one day to view progress and he proudly showed me the cavernous main cabin which was some 8m wide, more than my Boomerang 20 trailer sailer was long! Rob did a simple but very neat fit out (including an inbuilt electronic organ in one corner) until the cat was ready for its first trip north. He was a relatively quiet character and after saying his goodbyes, sailed off to Queensland for a well-earned retirement.

I did hear, much later, that he had sold the cat and decided to settle in Qld permanently.

Peter Chappelow Commodore 2002-2004

That Box is Mine, A poem by Chris Bebb.

I've lost four winch handles overboard, over the past three years,
three of which have been returned so I didn't shed any tears.

I had written on my phone number, hoping the finder would ring.
We'd then agree on where to meet so they could return the thing.

One was found at George Reserve, another at North Arm Cove,
the third it got to Tea Gardens and was found in the sand by Jove!

But these paled into insignificance in September of '21,
when I lost a bag overboard, when the tether came undone.

I didn't know I'd lost it till I was motoring down the creek,
I hadn't a clue when it had gone or where to start to seek.

So, enter Yulunga to the tale as her mooring she did near, "What's that black thing floating there, my word it does
look queer!"

Is it some navy secret or a box that's taken a hit, or a bag holding wallet and keys, phone or other kit?

The race was on to catch it as it started to drift away. "Row faster" said the skipper before it goes astray.

The thing bobbed around the moorings and was almost out of reach. "Quicker" said the skipper "before it hits the
beach."

In the final burst they caught it, a camouflaged bag with zip, it must be navy secrets and fallen off a ship!

But when the bag was opened, it touched their very soul, they had been chasing a banana skin and very wet pork
roll!

They put their find on WhatsApp and that's how it came my way; but this is not
the end of the tale as the navy arrived next day.

They sent out a minehunter, HMAS Yarra was her name, had she too lost a black
box or was looking for mines to tame?

She stayed around for a couple of days, I don't know what she found, or if she
looked on the surface or was looking on the ground.

So, if you find a black box don't poke it with a stick, as it could be a wet pork roll
or something that just might tick!



The "Kaotic" Naval search!



HELP NOTE: Chris Bebb suggests we all put our mobile number on our floating winch handles. He was delighted to receive three of his returned.

MEET THE MEMBER By Robin Foley



You will probably have seen Peta around the Club – she’s the quietly-spoken and unobtrusive woman with the long dark hair (usually tied back into a pony tail). But this ‘tour de force’ is no shrinking violet – she has been a member of PSYC for just over 2 years and already juggles a number of roles. Mostly behind the scenes, whether it be volunteer coordinator, breakout regatta committee member, Board member, or skipper, Peta has taken on each job with determination; something she has learned from her varied and experienced life.

Listening to bedtime stories from her Dad about his sailing adventures on an off-the-beach catamaran, the seeds of interest in sailing were planted. At the age of eleven, Peta’s father took her sailing for the first time, “flying a hull” on Lake Illawarra about which, she says, “I was terrified and loved it”.

Peta joined RANSA (Royal Australian Naval Sailing Association) in Sydney at the age of 19, a year after her father became a member; she sailed with him on a friend’s Clansman 30 and learned to crew from scratch. The sailing was Friday night summer twilight sailing and the odd regatta, and Peta continued to sail through RANSA for 16 years. Membership at RANSA also introduced her to her future partner, Ross MacDonald (also a member at PSYC) and he in turn introduced her to Tasar sailing.

When Ross was moved to Adelaide with his work in the Air Force, Peta and Caitlin (their daughter, 1 year old at the time) went as well and purchased their first yacht, “KAOS”, a Cole 32. When asked why they chose that particular boat Peta answered “she had everything I didn’t want”. Peta had a definite idea of what she was looking for in a boat: full length keel, fibreglass hull, and a stern drive. KAOS has a fin keel, is a timber boat and has a sail drive. “But,” Peta adds, “she handled really well and didn’t need any work.” At the time, there were not many boats to choose from in the price range they were looking at, and most were in pretty poor shape. Peta and Ross chose not to change the name KAOS mostly because they couldn’t agree on an alternative! In addition, because the boat had been around and racing for 27 years, it was well known.

Peta moved to Port Stephens in January 2019 when Ross was relocated to Williamtown AFB for work. It took several stages of sailing KAOS from Adelaide to Port Stephens over 7 months to bring her here, and Peta and Ross joined PSYC in May 2019. They began racing immediately with friends John and Charmaine Marshall, also from the AFB.

In May 2020, Peta put her hand up to be the Volunteer Coordinator, an important and valued position in the Club – she was also involved in the Breakout Regatta subcommittee. In November 2020 she was nominated to the Board of PSYC where she has been active with membership as well.

When Peta is not sailing, she loves to spend time at Birubi Beach with her daughter and the dogs. In fact, she says “I’d rather be **in** the water than **on** the water”, and loves being in the energy of the waves at the beach, although she is not a surfer. It is no wonder then that she also loves SCUBA diving and snorkelling, a passion that stems from the 10 years she spent as a member of the dive Club at the University of NSW while living in Sydney as a young adult.

Although Peta is not employed at the moment, she is looking to get back into project work in the field of engineering. Amazingly she has a BSc in Zoology and worked as a vet nurse; started a degree in engineering; did an apprenticeship in fitting and machining, and worked part time labouring for a yacht rigger. We are fortunate indeed to have such a talented person as a Board member of our Club.

Peta loves getting to know people which is why she took on the membership role. She says “I like listening to people and giving them a voice.” Do have a chat with Peta the next time you see her at the Club – there’s so more to her than you might think!

Insurance Package

Personal Injury Insurance –Is an automatic Cover for members of Australian Sailing affiliated clubs.

John Nederlof has kindly written about his experience with the Club's insurance when he claimed for an accident incurred while Club Racing in a Port Stephens Yacht Club event.

My mind had to go back many, many years, in order to make a comment about the AYF insurance policy. Having served many years on the board of the Hawkesbury River Yacht Club in its heydays, I was always against the insurance part of the AYF, as it really was a cover of last resort , and was very expensive in my eyes.

When I moved up to Port Stephens, and become a member of PSYC, there was no option, so I ended up being insured, against my better judgement. So fancy my surprise when I got hit by my boom, I was told that I could possibly have a claim on the clubs insurance.

Still not convinced, and after being told they would only pay, AFTER all other claim possibilities (i.e. Medicare , private insurance etc.) were taken into account. I did fill out a claims form.

They then send me out a stack of forms to be filled out by both me and my dentist and a note that the maximum claim amount was \$ 5,000.00, which is not hard to achieve in dental work.

Anyway I passed all the paperwork to my dentist, who successfully got the whole \$ 5,000.00, the HCF also paid about \$ 5,000.00 and then a lot more (about double that) from my pocket.

The irony of the story is off course that the most negative person, with regards to the club insurance part, ended up getting all his money back and more.

Hanini Bay

GRAINGERS ALL AT SEA. By John and Sherrill Grainger

In 2008 Doug and Marg Mieyers invited us to sail in the Sail Indonesia Rally from Darwin. We had sailed in company with them in Yulunga, our 27ft Spacesailer on our Whitsunday Cruise and told them about the yearly rally to Indonesia and on to Singapore. They had purchased "Tonic" in Australia, a Cavallier 375 and they wanted to see Asia before returning to NZ. **Here is the story.**

I began writing this on the New Zealand boat "Tonic". We were approaching an island off Lombok after a slow start and an even slower crossing from Darwin to Kupang. We started with the fleet of 120 yachts then turned back after two nautical miles!!



The electricians were supposed to be fixed!! It took four more days to get the expert (The only one in Darwin, does not have to hurry or promise in time) to fix it. At last we had our auto-helm steering working with the radar, chart-plotter and depth sounder all OK. Off we sailed. The accompanying poem describes the first leg of the trip.

Arriving in Kupang four days late proved to be a bonus. All the other yachts were impounded and the authorities were demanding a 47% value of the boat as a bond!! Repayable when you leave Indonesian waters!!!

The real reason most yachts joined the Rally was the promise **not** to have to pay this exorbitant bond. (Like who can deliver \$100,000 or much more from their bank card!!) Some boat owners intended to sail their own course to Singapore without joining in the rally other than to get this clearance and the 60 day cruising permit that went with it. Were they mad?

Nobody had informed the Customs at Kupang and there was nearly a riot until the Sail Indonesia Rally people flew in the boss from Jakarta. Resulting in instant permits for us all. (The day we arrived.) It turned out that all that was required was a form signed promising not to import or sell the yacht while in Indonesian waters.

Mind you we were so glad to see the other boats at anchor at Kupang. Especially since we got within 500 meters of the anchored yachts and the engine stopped. I mean really stopped and refused to go! We of course, set the sails and dropped anchor under sail as if nothing had gone amiss! Our fuel pipes blocked up with grunge!!

The first day was thus spent getting fuel pipes unblocked obtaining filters ashore, the diesel decanted, the fuel tank sponged out with meths and the engine re-bled. The next day we joined in the celebrations. Kupang has changed little over the years and reflects the neglect the Far eastern islands receive from the Jakarta Administration. These islands are dry and infertile, receiving rain for only four months of the year. Basically ugly, but the people were friendly and helpful and we found them trustworthy.

After the organised closing ceremony we headed for the island of Alor but the wind and tides were so strong, we only made it to the next stop, Lembata island. This leg proved to be the stiffest head wind and tide wracked part of our trip. On the way in the stiff tides, one yacht (Aqua Magic) radioed that they had just mysteriously "LOST" their propeller. Fortunately after four years at sea they had a spare! We were so glad the motor problems had been fixed safely at anchor a few days before.

In Lembata Doug and Marg climbed a steep volcano. (Which cured the Kiwis of rough Indonesian travel ashore in an uphill direction). Two other less strenuous tours were organised. One to a quaint traditional village which kept all the old handcraft skills. The highlight was a fishing demonstration where they netted an inlet and the whole village were allowed to rush into the sea and catch the confused fish, but only by scooping them up by hand. We tried too, it was great fun.

In town, I tried the only internet outlet. The "Telcom" office. They only had one computer and it proved to have 12 viruses and one wormy thingy. I declined their kind offer to ignore such warnings and send emails regardless! And that was the capital town!! How sorry I felt for the young students of that locality.

More dancing ceremonies and some Bintang beer saw us through Lembata and off to Maumere on Flores and day sailing in the calm seas to Labuan Bajo on the eastern tip of Flores.

Hey that place {L/Bajo} has not changed in twenty years, but it has the tourist goodies. Offshore, Komoda Dragons on Rinca and Komodo, some of the best snorkelling and sandy beaches on deserted islands. All within a days sailing.





Alas the town possessed hardly a restaurant and very little western accommodation, the rusty roofs of the town giving it a country town feel. However it was great sitting in the harbour at anchor behind the high rugged hills seeing the traditional prahus sailing past with their three or four tourists out to see the dragons .

Sherrill and I had done the same so many years ago. SO we took Doug and Marg to see the prehistoric monsters. (Or rather they took us in their boat). A couple of anchorages even had the Dragons come on to the beach about 4.00 pm. Obviously looking for sleeping tourists. We kept awake.

After circumnavigating Rinca Island we returned to Kupang for the Sail Indonesia festivities. Then we sailed eastward overnight to islands off Sumbawa for snorkeling, then on to Lombok. The waters here are crystal clear warm and wonderful. The creation of the world heritage area around Komodo has hopefully stopped the over fishing and bombing of reef fish. We even spotted whales on the way.

The yacht cruisers were now splitting up, (the race horses heading for Bali), so the anchorages are no longer crowded with no more than six yachts at any one anchorage. The faster keener sailors radioing back anchorage information and wind conditions. Doug and Marg were particularly interested in catching up with two British yachts which had gone racing on to Malaysia. They had been travelling in company all the way across the top of Australia.

The Sail Indonesia anchorage site at Lombok was near the famous Gili Islands near Singinggi beach and the city of Materam. Sherrill and I went ashore for two days R&R staying in a Posh seaside resort with all the West's accoutrements, STEAK and CHIPS etc. This was to give Doug and Marg some time to themselves as well as us.

Ashore we were lucky enough to chase down the whereabouts of our original Tourist guide in Indonesia 25 years ago, Mr Auiuddin. (Dien) He was no-longer a tourist guide, but turned out to be one of Lombok's most celebrated defence lawyers!

Dien immediately stopped work to guide the four of us around the tourist places in his private car. What an experience for Doug and Marg who had never experience the hospitality of a devout Muslim.

It was the month of Ramadan and it was hard to eat our delicious lunch in front of Dien. He could not eat until 6 pm, having got up at 5 am for prayers and Breakfast.

I was amazed when Dien said he had been to Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. How could you afford that. I asked.

You know I am also a teacher of the Koran he said. The government sent me to bring back our students studying overseas who were being influenced by extremist teachings.

I told them, Jihad means to help and protect our fellow Muslims. Not to kill people! Now I am a fat lawyer, he grinned tapping his stomach. My wife cooks so well he laughed. (By the age of ten Dien had been able to memorise the Koran.)

Dien took us to his house for coffee and visit his three children. His elder daughter now a 20 y.o.. university student, ran to her bedroom and produced a photo of herself (aged 5yo) in a wooden frame. We recognised it as one from our second trip to Lombok. We took the photo and sent it back as a memento of the day Sherrill and I had taken the family to the Gili Islands. The first tourist trip the family had ever been on!

Sail Indonesia festivities on Lombok were to be performed on the beach in front of the local village. A small feast was prepared for all the yachties including whole new coconuts for drinking. Many young men dressed in costume were running around preparing for music and dancing, but first was the speeches. Then



there was an announcement that the elders had forbidden the music and dance during the day because of the restrictions of Ramadan. Some yachties were angry. But we took it as a lesson in cultural difference. The whole reason for cruising Indonesia was to experience the culture and customs and perhaps understand our neighbours a little better.

Lombok has been particularly hit hard by the terrorist bombing in Bali and the people are very angry about extremist activities by radical extremists. Please come back to Indonesia, they pleaded.

From Lombok we had fair winds taking us just 23 hours to sail to the gathering anchorage at Lovina Beach North Bali. We passed many dolphins and a flotilla of outrigger sailing canoes with their colourful lanteen sails. They were way out to sea in their traditional Bali craft. They were such brave and skilled sailors with their unique construction to the rest of Indonesia.

Each island group seems to have developed their own designs of wooden sailing craft. Flores boats were thin and long often fitted with Chinese engines with long tail shafted propellers.

Sherrill and I were looking forward to spending a week at least in Bali as it is eleven years since we last visited. It is amazing how much of our Indonesian has come back to us. We have enjoyed asking the little boys how old they are and how many brothers and sisters they have etc.etc.

It will be a shock going home away from the lovely tropical heat and no rain. The seas are generally flat and when the winds have reached up to 25 knots we are generally going with the waves. Quite a bit different to the freezing waters of our winter. Hell I sleep out on deck at night with only a sarong over me. It is cooler than in the cabin quarter berth! For more information about Sail Indonesia visit www.sailindonesia.net.

Yours in travelling John and Sherrill Grainger. gringoig@virtual.net.au

Seagull Droppings

I remembered this incident with past Commodore John Herrick when Robin mentioned she is compiling some stories on past Commodores. Yes, you can publish in Seagull Droppings.



I recall a Friday night raft-up in Fame Cove after a night cruise. A Seawind 24 was the party platform. Herrick was about to be married. Some of his burly future Maori in-laws were with him. Five of them came aboard the Seawind adding to the 8 or so already on board. The poor little boat lost about 6 inches of freeboard. They were most welcome, though, because they came bearing prawns. All had a wonderful time eating prawns and getting pissed. The next morning the Seagull surveyed a substantial gathering of prawn shells and bits all over the boat. Drunks can't throw stuff overboard.

Herrick was a skillful sailor and craftsman who made and repaired sails for most members in his many years as a second generation sailmaker.

Cherylle Stone

Bird Dropping

Chris Bebb has had **three** floating winch handles returned. He writes.....

Are you using floating winch handles but never go back for them when they fall overboard? Simply write your mobile number on the handle and you greatly increase the chances of having them returned.

JOKE OF THE MONTH??

Submitted by one of our younger sailors

Two 90 year Old Gaffers, Mike and Joe, have been sailing all of their lives. When it became clear that Joe was dying, Mike used to visit him every day. One day Mike said, "Joe, we both loved sailing all our lives, and we sailed every week together for many years. Please do me one favour, when you get to Heaven, you must let me know if there's Sailing there." Joe looks up at Mike and says: "Mike, you've been my best sailing buddy for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favour for you. Shortly after that, Joe passes on. At midnight a couple of nights later, Mike is awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to him, "Mike... Mike..." "Who is it?" Asks Mike sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?" "Mike. It's me, Joe..." "You're not Joe. Joe just died." "I'm telling you, it's me, Joe." insists the voice. "Joe! Where are you?" "In heaven", replies Joe. "I have some really good news and a little bad news." "Tell me the good news first," says Mike. "The good news," Joe says, "is that there's sailing in heaven. Better yet, all of our old sailing chums who died before us are here, too. Better than that, we're all young again. And best of all, we can sail and race all we want and never get tired." "That's fantastic," says Mike. "It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what could possibly be the bad news?" "You're crewing for me this Saturday."



**Two way Street was not racing she
was exercising**

G'day from The Bay Sailing Centre By Dennis Hume

NCYC took advantage of an initiative from Australian Sailing / Whitworths to acquire 6 brand new Tackers Dinghies, based on the Opti, for BSC. The Board of NCYC has also approved the acquisition of a Smartwave 4200 safety boat.

When the CoViD-19 restrictions ease Tackers will be introduced to The Bay and Club Off-The-Beach racing will commence.

NCYC again featured in Australian Sailing Awards:

Instructor of the Year	Andrew Omotosho, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club
Official of the Year	Andrew Buchan, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club
Sport Promotion Award	Mark Rothfield & Paul O'Rourke, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club

All of them have been frequently involved with various sailing activities at BSC and the local dinghy sailors feel privileged to have their expertise available.

Local Laser sailors also revelling in coaching from Peter Heywood, 4 time World Grand Master Radial Champion. Up to 6 of us have been able to get on the water and Peter has been sending links to informative videos on YouTube. The boatshed has been reorganised to ensure sailors can launch and retrieve unassisted. 2 sailors, one at the stern and one at the bow, move the boats from the sand to the road.



Andrew Omotosho's daughter does a dry test on one of the Tackers Dinghies after Andrew & I assembled them.



A Smartwave 4200 to be used as Safety Boat / Committee Vessel at Bay Sailing Centre.

Fair Winds & Following Seas
Dennis Hume a.k.a. rhino 🐘

Yacht Register as at 10/01/2021

This represents the current boats registered for racing with PSYC. If you have any updates, contact:

Rossco MacDonald club.captain@psyc.com.au 0438 288 684

	Yacht Name	Name	Surname	Yacht Type	Sail No.	Length (ft)
	51st PROJECT	Julian	Bell	Beneteau 51	7109	50
	CHILLI	David	Simm	Corsair 24	C750	24
	COLORADO	William	Paradice	Hunter 39	H39	39
	CRAZY LITTLE THING	Clive	Jones	Viper 640	AUS183	21
	ELUSIVE	Rick	Pacey	Bavaria Match42	6608	42
	EUSEMERE	Jack	Miaskowski	Jeanneau 11	PS 207	36
	EXALTE	Craig	Tucker	E-Yacht 332	5872	33
	FRIENDS	Peter	Symes	Etchell	1049	22
	GIFT HORSE	Andrew	Parsons	Beneteau 18	PS18	18
	HANINI BAY	John	Nederlof	Passage 33	4339	33
	HERON	Steven	Jory	Hood 23	1348	23
	JIA	Chris	Bebb	Swanson 32	259	32
	KAOS	Ross	MacDonald	Cole 32	SA59	32
	KARDINIA	Edward	Bowen	Hood 23	3769	23
	LIBERTY	Shepard	Shep	Jeanneau Sun Odyssey	??	37
	MADNESS	Alan	Croft	Gerry 14	25	14
	NEIGHBOURS HOOD	Martyn	Jeggo	Hood 23	MH 126	23
	RAPTOR	Richard	Kerr	Elliot 9.6	6368	32
	SERENADE	Stuart	Manley	Adams 21	39	21
	SHE'S THE ONE	Michael	Kirby	NSX 38	5713	38
	SMOKE & MIRRORS	David	Rundle	Enigma 34	M7	34
	SOLANDA	Peter	Ballard	Santana 22	649	22
	SUBZERO	Cherylle	Stone	Grainger Cat.	PS75	43
	TANGIER	Doug	Cross	Noelex 30	73140	30
	THIEF of TIME	David	Ramsay	S80	2725	26
	TWITCHER	Steve	Plante	Beneteau 35	4944	35
	TWO WAY STREET	John	Humphreys	Noelex 25	1000	25
	UNA VITA	Ken	Peachey	NorthShore 11.2	MH 11	37
	YULUNGA	John	Grainger	Spacesailer 27	36	27

Port Stephens Yacht Club - Board Members

Commodore	Michael Kirby	commodore@psyc.com.au	0423 792 829
Vice Commodore	Rick Pacey	vice.commodore@psyc.com.au	0417 544 230
Rear Commodore	David Simm	davidsimm2315@gmail.com	0412 682 167
Club Captain	Ross (Rosco) MacDonald	club.captain@psyc.com.au	0438 288 684
Honorary Treasurer	VACANT		
Secretary	Penny Meakins	secretary@psyc.com.au	0416 357 357
Director	VACANT		
Director	Peta Oliver	director1@psyc.com.au	0435 206 650
Director	Steve Plante	essenjay1@tpg.com.au	0477 417 968

Other Committee Contacts

Newsletter Editor	John Grainger	gringoig@virtual.net.au	0429 842 476
SheSails Representative	Cherylle Stone	cheryllest@bigpond.com	0407 984 113
SheSails Representative	Deb Wellwood	sheSails@psyc.com.au	0400 193 461

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