

**Port Stephens Yacht Club**

**Ridgeway Ave.**

**Soldiers Point**



Photo by Jenn Hills

This Roll Cloud inversion formed over Port Stephens on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January, the afternoon of the Commodore's Trophy Race. Roll clouds form when a warm front develops ahead of a storm system. The cool storm air forces warm, moist air to rise and form this spectacular shape. They are quite rare.

## Commodore's Report

Firstly, a thank you to the PSYC Board Members for their efforts in 2020/2021, the AGM was held 3<sup>rd</sup> December with a strong representation from members at this meeting. Following the presentation of Flag Officers Reports, Auditors Report and the results of Board Nominations confirming there were no multiple nominations the following positions were confirmed at the meeting.

- |                                |   |                             |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Commodore - Michael Kirby   | 4. Secretary - Penny Meakins              | 7. Director 1 - Peta Oliver |
| 2. Vice Commodore - Rick Pacey | 5. Treasurer - (Vacant - nil nominations) | 8. Director 2 - Clive Jones |
| 3. Rear Commodore - David Simm | 6. Club Captain – Ross MacDonald          | 9. Director 3 – Jan Payne   |

The members confirmed the Auditors as in previous years - J W Morley & Co Pty Ltd (Nelson Bay) for financial year 21/22.

Congratulations to past board members for accepting their nomination and re-election to the PSYC board, to those new board members welcome as we look forward to your input and experience in helping PSYC grow its membership and sailing within Port Stephens.

On the social side we even managed to squeeze into December our Xmas Party which was well attended by members and a fitting way to close out 2021 with all its various challenges, in 2022 a major focus for the board and volunteer members will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PSYC formation.

December/January with somewhat eased Covid restrictions will be a time to spend with family and friends to celebrate Xmas, New Year and the summer holidays best wishes to all from myself and the members of PSYC board.

Unfortunately post AGM elections Clive Jones has resigned from the board but will continue to support PSYC via an active role in training as he has done in past years. Jan Payne has agreed to take on the Director 2 role of Communications (refer website details).

At the time of writing this report Covid has impacted PSYC with three (3) board members Penny, Ross & Peta isolating for seven (7) days I can report that all are out of isolation, recovering and keen to get back to their PSYC duties, the timing has postponed our 17<sup>th</sup> January board meeting. This meeting will likely be moved to late January via an online platform.

Covid restrictions still apply when attending “the club house” with the requirement to be double vaccinated, QR code sign in and wearing of face mask while moving within the club, masks can be removed while eating & drinking. A review will be undertaken at our next board meeting and advice to members sent via e-mail and PSYC website.

Stay safe and enjoy your sailing!

Michael Kirby, Commodore

## Vice Commodore's Report

Our Summer season started in earnest and as planned, which under the circumstances is a relief. Hopefully we can keep sailing and not shut down by the Covid monster again. The weather is still giving us a hard time, with a couple of race ABNs, and most events being held in Strong Wind Warnings, but I guess that's just sailing at this time of year.

Our first offshore race for the sailing year kicked off well in a sunny NE Strong Wind Warning, and was a great success with 9 starters; congratulations to place getters Jia, Kaos and Raptor. We also held our first Women's helm series with 6 starters, in brisk conditions, again well done to place getters Kaos, Raptor and She's the One. Also kicked off our Twilight series with 5 boats in the first race and mixed success with weather and numbers playing with the series. The series will continue through till the end of Daylight Savings and exploring other food van options to mix things up there.

Next big thing coming up is the Shoal bay cruise/race on Australia Day with sponsorship support provided from the council Australia Day Committee for the best presented. Thanks to Robin Foley who is organising the day.

Other things include the PSYC team entry in the Hunter Sailing League competition in Newcastle, Clive, Tim, Penny and I competed in sunny 10-12 Knot shifty conditions on the harbour. Both days provided close consistent racing between the 7 clubs with NCYC team victorious. Our boat suffered from too much crew mass on day 1 as the only 4 person crewed boat. Stepping aside for day 2 brought the boat back into the field as proven by a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the day. It was the inaugural event and a great success, so will be held again next year, with an invitation for the club to compete in the Thursday evenings E6 twilight series.



Ahhh what could have been!!!!



We also had Elusive and Kaos head south for the New Years Eve fireworks in Sydney Harbour with Kaos not quite getting there with weather window closing up on them.



Good to see Cherylle back on the water following the dismasting and Julian with 51<sup>st</sup> Project back after finally being able to rescue the boat out of Queensland.

Upcoming events to look out for will be the Sydney Harbour Regatta 5-6 March, an offshore race to Newcastle and the NCYC SailFest at the end of March and Sail Port Stephens in early April.

As always keep looking at the website for any updates, happy sailing, stay away from the hard bits and hopefully see you out there.

Rick Pacey, Vice Commodore

## Membership Matters and Sail Pass

As of the start of January it became compulsory for all race participants to be a member of an Australian Sailing affiliated Club or register for a Sail Pass for every race. Information can be found under the Sailing menu on the Club website and the link for a Sail Pass can be found both there and on the homepage. I still intend to get the presentation up on the website as soon as I can and apologise that I have not been able to do so yet.

However I have noticed an increase in the number of Sail Passes being booked and thank all the skippers and boat owners for embracing the Sail Pass system. If anyone has any questions or problems registering for a Sail Pass please contact me on 0435 206 650 or email [director1@psyc.com.au](mailto:director1@psyc.com.au).

A QR code for a quick link to the Club's Sail Pass page was developed and a laminated copy is available for skippers to pick up at the Club. Alternatively, there is a copy on the last page of this newsletter.

See you on the water or at the Club,

Peta Oliver, Director and Membership Officer

# Volunteers

If you would like to enquire about or register your interest to assist with any aspect of the following please email Peta Oliver at [director1@psyc.com.au](mailto:director1@psyc.com.au).

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Day – now firmed up for weekend of 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> March. Volunteers needed now as well as on the weekend. Further details can be found in the orange box below
- Sail Port Stephens (SPS) 4-10 April 2022 – see further details in the blue box below
- Seeking members with RSA or willing to gain RSA and go onto the roster for bar shifts on race days and for social events

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Seeking a number of volunteers to form a committee as soon as possible to assist with

- Researching and putting history into a booklet.
- Especially seeking skills with document design and layout.
- Video editing
- In the days leading up to the event assistance will be needed to set up tables and chairs and displays in the Club

Please contact Peta Oliver [director1@psyc.com.au](mailto:director1@psyc.com.au) or 0435 206 650

## Sail Port Stephens

PSYC will be involved in Sail Port Stephens 2022 hosting the Sports Boats over the weekend 8-10 April. SPS has again offered to contribute funds to PSYC for their role in supporting SPS.

Similarly to previous years volunteers will be needed for

- bar duty
- driving pin and mark boats
- on water mark laying
- on water starts
- competitor registration
- preparing marks and tackle kits
- to open the Club for daily briefings and presentations

If you are able to assist over the weekend or in the lead up please contact Peta Oliver [director1@psyc.com.au](mailto:director1@psyc.com.au) or 0435206650

# Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race



ROUGE WAVE with Kevin Le Poidevan and Darrell Greig aboard in the double Handed division.

Sadly they were part of the third of the entrants to retire. Kevin says:

Well I certainly don't want to experience pre-race preparation like I did for this race ever again. I was months ahead of schedule until the mast came down. Parts were sourced from Sweden, UK and USA and it all came together in a frantic few days. Roger and Neil volunteered their time to help me and that was very much appreciated. Sean and his team at the Boatyard Nelson Bay Marina helped get the mast off the boat so I could start repairs. Timing had to be pretty good as I didn't want to clog their yard up with a 15m mast. Port Stephens cranes stepped the mast back in and Kev tuned the rig for the delivery sail and we were back in business.

Kev and Daz finally set sail for Newcastle as a mini shakedown prior to attempting the 150nm qualifier/delivery sail to Sydney. After a week in Newcastle many jobs were ticked off. The day before departure, Kev noticed the steering pedestal binding and had developed significant play....sure signs of bearing failure. The lads pulled the pedestal and completely overhauled the bearings in the Whitlock steering pedestal.

We set off on the qualifier and routed south of Sydney to get the most out of the wind direction. As we turned past South Head on our way to the CYCA, Sean Langmans's Moneypenny came alongside and any breeze we had quickly disappeared! Our VHF radio lost the plot and would not receive so a quick trip to Whitworths and some adaptation and we were back in business. Food and water on board, weather forecasting and a plethora of admin completed all with an extra few layers of admin due to Covid and entry into Tasmania. Covid testing 72 hours prior to departure saw our results come in about 0100h Boxing Day.

We prepped the trysail and storm jib the night before given we only had a couple of hands. We headed out early to parade the committee boat with storm sails flying and logging in with two POB. (Persons on board)

Boxing Day and the weather forecast all the way out to Tuesday evening did not look flash. 25-30 and 3m seas from SE In fact more like 3-5m sea, extremely short and steep with bonus cross-waves and a constant 35 knots gusting 40k. Rogue Wave drives through these conditions really well so after starting with a single reef and full #2, we were quickly changing down to 3rd reef and #3 furl. Green water came into the boat from Boom height at times and a couple of times un-seen cross waves abaft abeam almost knocked Daz off his feet. The cockpit seats were covered in water for almost 30 hours! The autopilot controller is located in the seat backrest at around knee height so that gives you an idea of how much water was in the cockpit.

As conditions deteriorated during the night with blinding rain and increasing seas, the autopilot would randomly disengage or give an erroneous heading making for interesting times. We opted to stay inside the continental shelf until conditions moderated on Tuesday night. This was also a safety decision since my confidence in the pilot was diminishing with every system reset I performed.

At approximately 0005h on Tuesday 28 Dec just south of Batemans Bay, we informed race control Rogue Wave

would be retiring to Jervis Bay in an attempt to repair an autopilot issue that could not be rectified in the rough conditions offshore. Whilst only 7nm distance, attempting a night entry into Batemans Bay with dodgy data on your nav system is far from ideal, so we tracked north through the night to pick up a swing mooring at Jervis Bay. After a sleep and a pizza, we tried to repair the system and even put the controller in the oven....after the pizza in the hope it would dry out enough to get us back to Sydney. No such luck so the next day we had steered the 15h back to CYCA. I arranged a replacement controller sourced through Marketplace and Daz's brother picked it up and dropped it to us next day. Within two mins the system was fixed.

Not the way we wanted to play the game but will take away many positives: so many people dug deep to help me get to the start line after the series of unfortunate events....thank you so much. Brain Tumour Alliance Australia and Soldier On scored great media coverage in print and video on national and international broadcasts; we raised just under #3K for BTAA and a few hundred for Soldier On; and I was able to mentor and pass on skills and knowledge to Daz to help develop the next group of shorthanded sailors.

Rogue Wave is ready to go again. The clock starts now for 2022.

Cheers, Kevin



I am sure that you were all as transfixed to the coverage of the start of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and subsequently the yacht tracker as I was. What an amazing spectacle once again to see all those yachts approaching the heads under spinnaker (although maybe some left the drop a little late....)! It was a race of high drama, weather extremes, equipment challenges, but mostly a supreme demonstration of skill, grit, determination, resilience, and hunger to succeed, all characteristics which have been key in each of the 76 runnings of the S2H. Whilst the skills and traits needed to arrive safely in Hobart have not changed significantly since the first race in 1945, the gender composition of the crews most certainly has. I was so thrilled to read that in the latest Hobart, we celebrated 75 years of female participation, with 87 women competing across the 93 crews due to start the race. This is quite a development from the 2 women who started the 1946 race. What is even more astonishing is that had the 2020 race taken place, there would have been 160 women in the 76 crews!

We already have the supremely talented Penny Meakins with several Hobart's chalked up as a highly active member of our club. How wonderful would it be if some of the programs that we have at PSYC, such as Women's Helm and Soak Up Sunday Sessions were able to inspire some more local women into our sport and towards their own S2H adventure?!?!?

Well, that was a shameless plug, as we have our next batch of Soak Up Sunday Sessions running on January 30<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. If any of you would like to be involved, either as participants or boat owners, you know where to find me.... 0400 193461 or [SheSails@psyc.com.au](mailto:SheSails@psyc.com.au)

The next Hawaiian Heart Women's Helm race is on 13<sup>th</sup> March so some practice on a Soak Up Sunday could be good too!

Happy Sailing! Deb Wellwood

# Hey who want's to be a starter??



**RECALL!!** Chaos without “Kaos”!



Judy and Heather at the start van.



Well that's a better Start!!



**Team Port Stephens** one of seven teams competing at Newcastle in the Hunter Sailing League. All are racing in the one design Elliot 6 Yachts. One day of racing to go at time of publication – results to be published later.

(Pictured L to R) Penny Meakins, Rick Pacey, Clive Jones and Tim Peachy.

# Seagull Droppings



## Kevin Le Poidevan's Face-Book Tweet.

My autopilot is named "Eric" after the great French sailor, adventurer, design builder and Military man Eric Tabarly. The recent mutiny of "Eric" mid-race was unacceptable behaviour which has been dealt with under Maritime Law! "Eric" has been dismissed forthwith!!!. His replacement, "Eric 11" has yet to be full tested at sea!

## "A SMALL, BUT MAYBE USEFUL TIP" By Ian Barnard

We've all had the experience of installing deck fittings and it's always a two person job I've had lots of fittings to attach to Rhythm's deck and I can seldom get someone to give me a hand without considerable notice and planning. I looked on the net, YouTube, books etc. and except for holding the thread with vice grips from the inside, which butchers the thread totally, I couldn't find a one person solution.



Then I had an idea. Simply cut a slot in the end of the thread with a 1mm cutting disk on an angle grinder, and you have a perfect slot for a flat bladed screwdriver to hold the bolt while you do it up from the inside.

Drill the holes for the fitting, put your favourite brand of water-excluding goop on it (mine is Fixtech), push the bolts through the holes, put on the backing plate, then hold the thread with the screwdriver while you tighten the nut. A real issue becomes a simple one person job. It only takes seconds to cut the slot in the bolt, but leave the nut on while you cut the slot, it will deburr the thread when you unscrew it..

Cheers Ian Barnard."

## Our Club Mooring

Peter Ballard submitted this:

You might like to include this photo taken of the club mooring for the Bilge.

It was taken Tues. 4th January 2022 at 5.30 pm with a depth of 0.15 m at low tide. you could make up a caption as a warning to club members.



# POEM

***We forget that Christmas can be so different for people all around the world. Chris Bebb's brilliant and poignant poem reminds us of this. (Ed.)***

## Ypres Christmas 1914

T'was Christmas Eve in Ypres, the trenches cold and wet. I was roused by 'Fritzy' singing, a sound I'll never forget.

'*Stille Nacht*' were the words that drifted across the craters and the mud, a beautiful warble to a holy tune, by 'eck it did sound good.

The faint sound of harmonica and concertina too, aroused in us the same response, it touched us through and through.

So, we started singing, a Christmas song for all, two armies with voices raised, sharing a common call.

By now the guns were silent and both sides they did sing, '*Silent Night, Holy Night*', all was calm, and all was bright.

The smell of cordite, guts and gore that hung around the field, had been replaced by nicer things as both armies they did yield.

Soon Fritzy showed himself, their weapons left behind, and walked across to no-mans-land placing faith upon mankind.

We left our arms and joined them, they were men like thee and me, covered in mud and stinking, we are the same you see!

We shared our food and photos and swapped tobacco too, with one mob playing football, across that muddy goo.

We expressed common feelings for family and life at home, how much we miss the children and wives at home alone.

We both knew this could not last, once the brass became involved, "*Don't fraternise, don't talk to them, your acts won't be absolved!*"

We also helped each other to bury our glorious dead, '*Sleep in Heavenly Peace*' we sang as we returned to face the dread.

We stretched it out through Christmas Day and well into the night; both sides knowing when we meet again, it will be to stand and fight.

All to soon it was over as the guns again did roar, as officers screamed, "*To the tapes boys,*" we are back again at war.

Lest we Forget.

Chris Bebb December 2021

# PSYC CHRISTMAS PARTY

At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour a few of us got our heads together and the Christmas Party finally happened in December! Many thanks to Judy Plante who put in days of effort making puddings (best pudding ever!!), homemade cranberry sauce and turkey baked to perfection! Thank you to our volunteer bar people for the night too! By all reports everyone had a fantastic time and we look forward to another one next year with more certainty in the lead up!



Now we are nearing our 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations Robin Foley has researched many Newsletters and has referred this poem by Past Commodore Lindsay Cleland from the June 1992 edition. Lindsay usually joins the Hoodies on the Hood Table in the Club.

## DO YOU, JUST BELONG?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed  
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock  
Or do you stay at home and criticise and mock?  
Do you take an active part to help the work along  
Or are you satisfied to just belong?  
Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick?  
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?  
Think this over, member, you know right from wrong;  
Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

Lindsay Cleland (Past Commodore) *(Inspired by JF Kennedy's famous speech.)*

## Club Improvements

A Club Improvement Committee has been formed by interested members after calls to the membership during late 2021. All members are invited to attend the upcoming workshop at 6pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February to contribute to planning improvements and upgrades to Club facilities.

It is intended to look at all aspects of possible improvements to the Club building and the thoughts and opinions of members are sought at the workshop. While there are many improvements that the Club can undertake independently it is noted that the lease places limits on some work, however, it may be possible to find grants and seek approval from the council for those works to be done.

From the workshop the committee will collate improvement ideas for presentation to the Board with a plan for immediate, mid-term and long-term projects that can be budgeted and possibly fundraised for.

Please look out for an email about the workshop closer to the date. We hope that many of you will choose to become involved in improving your Club.

# Photos by Tad Foley



Chaos Recall start.



Flying finish for the "Horse"



A little Crazy Stuff!



Flying Tiger. Shere Khan chased by a red Hot Chilli!!!



Raptor - Enraptured in racing



Sub Zero starting choosing the back Route.



The fleet is finally away.

# Yacht Registry 2022

Yacht Name	Surname	Name	Yacht Type	Sail No.	Length (ft)
51st PROJECT	Bell	Julian	Beneteau First 50	7109	50
CHILLI	Simm	David	Corsair 24	C750	24
CIPRIANI	Campbell	Geoff	Northshore 38	1164	38
COLORADO	Paradice	William	Hunter 39	H39	39
CRAZY LITTLE THING	Jones	Clive	Viper 640	AUS183	21
ELUSIVE	Pacey	Rick	Bavaria Match	6608	41
EUSEMERE	Miaskowski	Jack	Jeanneau 11	PS 207	36
EXALTE	Tucker	Craig	X-Yacht 332	5872	33
FRIENDS	Symes/Pacey	Peter/Rick	Etchell	1049	22
GIFT HORSE	Parsons	Andrew	Beneteau 18	PS18	18
HANINI BAY	Nederlof	John	Passage 33	4339	33
HERON	Jory	Steven	Hood 23	1348	23
JIA	Bebb	Chris	Swanson 32	259	32
KAOS	MacDonald	Ross	Cole 32	SA59	32
KARDINIA	Bowen	Edward	Hood 23	3769	23
LIBERTY	Shepard	Shep	Jeanneau Sun Odyssey		37.5
MADNESS	Croft	Alan	Gerry 14	25	14
NEIGHBOURS HOOD	Jeggo	Martyn	Hood 23	MH 126	23
RAPTOR	Kerr	Richard	Elliot 9.6	6368	32
RYTHYM	Barnard	Ian	Adams 36	HKG7285	36
SERENADE	Manley	Stuart	Adams 21	39	21
SHERE KHAN	Kelly	Ross	Flying Tiger	FT77N	32
SHE'S THE ONE	Kirby	Michael	NSX 38	5713	38
SMOKE & MIRRORS	Rundle	David	Enigma 34	M7	34
SOLANDA	Ballard	Peter	Santana 22	649	22
SUBZERO	Stone	Cherylle	Grainger CAT	PS75	43
TANGIER	Cross	Doug	Noelex 30	73140	30
THIEF of TIME	Ramsay	David	S80	2725	26
TWITCHER	Plante	Steve	Beneteau 35	4944	35
TWO WAY STREET	Humphreys	John	Noelex 25	1000	25
UNA VITA	Peachey	Ken	NorthShore 11.2	MH 11	37
WUBARAY	Hume	Dennis	Melges 24	AUS19	24'
YULUNGA	Grainger	John	Spacesailer 27	36	27

**Welcome Wubaray to racing – now we have 33 registered for racing!**

# Going Racing?

Are you a current member of an AS affiliated Club?

YES, then you're good to go.

NO, then use the QR code to get a Sail Pass.



- A Sail Pass will give you temporary membership for the day with PSYC. It provides personal injury insurance through Australian Sailing for the days you nominate to race. Although Sail Passes can be booked ahead of time it is recommended to book on the day of racing.
- Your first three Sail Passes are free, thereafter a \$10 fee will be incurred per sailing day or you can join the Club as a Crew Member.
- As of 1 January 2022 it is compulsory to be a member of a Club or have a Sail Pass for every date you race.

If you cannot scan the QR code then go to [psyc.com.au](https://psyc.com.au)  
and scroll down to click the Sail Pass button on the home page.

If you need any assistance please contact your skipper or the Membership Officer -  
[director1@psyc.com.au](mailto:director1@psyc.com.au) or call Peta Oliver 0435 206 650

## Port Stephens Yacht Club - Board Members

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