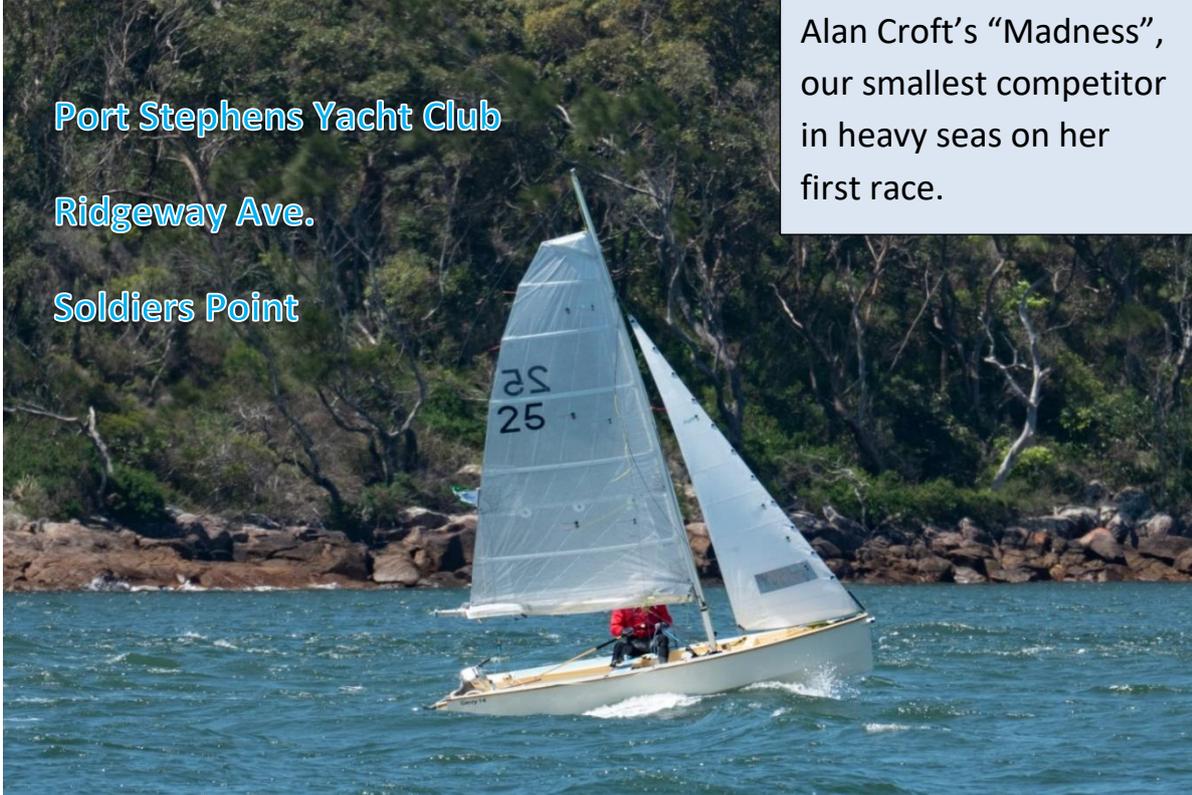


Port Stephens Yacht Club

Ridgeway Ave.

Soldiers Point



Alan Croft's "Madness", our smallest competitor in heavy seas on her first race.

50TH

ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

Port Stephens Yacht Club
Saturday 19th March 10:30am - 4pm
All Visitors Welcome

Commodore's Report

With the silly holiday season well and truly over, the board and committees are focused on the significant upcoming events, being hosted by our club:

1. Saturday 19th March 2022, PSYC 50th Anniversary celebration at our clubhouse,
 - a. Preparing & publishing of the PSYC 50th Anniversary History Book
 - b. Sail Past – club yachts and crews.
 - c. Invitations to:
 - i. Dignitaries (Politician's, Mayor and Councillors), PSYC Life Members and past Commodores.
 - ii. PSYC Sponsor organisations.
 - iii. Marine Authorities – Marine Rescue, Water Police & Maritime.
 - iv. PSYC Members
 - v. General Public
 - d. Hospitality, Displays, Prizes, Entertainment (band) and everything else!
2. Sail Port Stephens Regatta (SPS) 4th through 10th April 2022.
 - a. This year the Australian Sports Boats will not be participating in SPS, this significantly reduces the requirements of our volunteers during the regatta.
 - b. However, with some thirty (30) yachts berthed at Soldiers Point Marina we will have PSYC open for BBQ's, Bar Service and Hospitality - Friday through Sunday to provide a "local" activity base in Soldiers Point.
3. Australian Sports Boat Association Regatta.
 - a. Port Stephens Yacht Club has agreed to act as the organising authority, in conjunction with the Australian Sports Boat Association (ASBA) running the Australian Sports Boat National Titles to be held on the waters of Port Stephens NSW on 26th to 29th May 2022.
4. Soldiers Point Marina Lagoon Catamaran Event – 3rd & 4th of June 2022
 - a. Liaising with Carmen from Soldiers Point Marina.
 - b. Racing, Management & Hospitality at PSYC.

Thanks in advance to our PSYC volunteers working on, preparing, and generally helping make these events a success, too many people to name individually but you know who you are, thank you!

We are still seeking expressions of interest in the following vacant board positions:

1. Treasurer
2. Director 2

Skippers are reminded that Australia Sailing (AS) Rule 46 became effective from January 2022, so race sailing participants must be a member of a AS affiliated club, so even casual sailors need a Sail Pass on the day. It's the skipper's responsibility to ensure compliance otherwise they face being protested for non-compliance, information has been distributed and is available at the PSYC bar on a printed and laminated flyer. Compliance will be enforced!

Dianne and I tested positive to Covid -19 and isolated for seven (7) days, not much fun, but thankfully all good now, so thanks to those offering assistance during our isolation.

On the matter of Covid-19 we have announced that previous restrictions for accessing PSYC clubhouse have been removed and we now only require visitors and members to comply with current NSW Health guidelines.

An Extra General Meeting (EGM) is scheduled for June 2022 at the PSYC clubhouse, which is the half year opportunity for PSYC members to be provided with an update on the clubs, plans, financial position, membership and for members to submit questions, with notice in writing and receive response from board members. This was previously agreed to at the AGM and will provide members with transparency of PSYC activities, an actual day date and time will be provided in due course.

Stay safe and enjoy your sailing!

Michael Kirby - Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

Our Summer season draws to a close and notwithstanding the weather 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. While it has affected some members, at least the COVID monster has not shut us down this year and pleased that we had a successful season of sailing.

The Autumn Program is up on the Website and we look forward to a good mix of racing in perfect conditions.

The big events for the upcoming season will be the:

50th Anniversary Sail Past on Saturday 19th on March.

The key details are:

- ***Meet at the club*** around midday and dress you boat in your finest flags including flying a club burgee. Wear team or club shirts or something equally appropriate.
- ***Proceed to pre-Sail Past assembly point*** by 12:45. This will be advised on the day depending on the weather but likely to be behind Boondabah Island or south of Soldiers Point.
- ***Proceed under motor*** or with sails if permitted past the Club Start Finish Line, from 1300hrs following the Commodore with about a 30 second separation. The direction is likely from east to west but to be confirmed on the day and weather dependent.
- ***The Race Officer*** will announce the name of the boat and interesting details to the assembled crowd of guests and visitors. Hooters or lights, waving etc highly encouraged to draw attention to your boat. A prize will be awarded to the best presented boat.
- ***Return to Soldiers Point Marina*** where temporary berths may be provided or your home port and attend the club following to support celebration activities.

We encourage as many boats as possible to support this great initiative and to present the fleet in the best possible light and the promotion of the club.



Other recent happenings included the PSYC participation in the Hunter Sailing League and the upcoming **Sail Port Stephens regatta**.

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

Rick Pacey - Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

Clubroom Awning

Over the last 12 months I have been getting quotes for an awning to go across the end of the balcony on the western side at 7m in length. The board had approved a quote of approx \$8500 plus electrical installation which would have made sitting outside much more comfortable for our members BUT. After I submitted a works request with council their Assets section were not able to support the installation of external awning due to council would need further determination by an engineer to ensure that the mounting brackets and method of installation would not have an adverse effect on the structure of the balcony. Council have also noted concerns about high wind in the area and further damage that installation of an awning of this type may have on the balcony and the building. With this reply from council and the added expense of an engineer the board decided that the costs were getting too high and that even if I did get a determination by an engineer there was no guarantee that council would approve the awning.

The only alternative was a structure that did not affect the structure of the building and did not need foundations to be dug, hence the board approved a cantilever umbrella 4m x 3m from Bunnings which cost approx \$750 including drills and installation bolts, which was installed by Bill Haskell and myself. The main downside of these umbrellas is that they cannot handle wind of any strength so all members must be vigilant for an increase in wind and fold them up which is a simple process. I have received positive feedback from members who utilized the umbrella.

Caravan

It was very disappointing when it was reported to me that the caravan had been vandalized by unknown persons who had thrown stones at the caravan breaking two windows and dinting the side, this is the first time to my knowledge that damage of this kind has ever taken place with the caravan. With the assistance of Bill Haskell and Gavin Walmsley we repaired the damage making the caravan once again safe for our starters.

Car Park

A number of members have brought to my attention their concerns that our car park is being used more frequently by nonmembers and that when a member brought to the attention of the owner of an unauthorized vehicle that owner argued and had been belligerent to our member. This issue unfortunately seems to be getting worse as the car parking in the area is not adequate for the demand.

In response

1. Spoken to the owner of the local business and informed them that the carpark is for members and not his employees or customers.
2. Informed council rangers of our problem and asked for their assistance to issue an infringement notice to any owner of unauthorized vehicle, their response was positive but stated that all authorized vehicles had to be clearly identified eg. have a club sticker clearly identifiable (all members need to get a sticker)
3. The club has a flyer which informs the owner of an unauthorized vehicle that the car park is for PSYC members, copies are kept under the bar (any member can place these flyers on the windscreen)
4. There is a sign near the entrance to the car park warning that a unauthorized vehicle may be towed at owners expense (hope it never gets to this).

Upstairs Fridges & Cool Room

I had the fridges serviced and repaired the repairer stated that two are nearing their end of service life and that when they do eventually fail it would be cheaper to replace with new ones, the cost of new one would be approx \$2600 each

Cool room was icing up and not keeping the beer cold (can't have that), sensors replaced, de-iced cooling unit and drain line replaced. All seems to be going ok now.

David Simm - Rear Commodore

Club Captain Report

Good News!!

RMS has finally given us permission to move the Short Term Mooring out into deeper water. Watch out for this wondrous occasion – you'll know when it happens by the sound of cheering from Jia and Hanini Bay!!!

The temporary marks will receive a revamp of their systems very soon. With new, thicker rope the mark layers will have intact hands by the end of the day!!

The light on the Georges Reserve mark is being replaced, so no longer will the Club Captain have to peer into the night to ensure he doesn't ram it on the way to his mooring. Instead he will be blinded by the flash and thus ram it anyway....!!

Don't get caught out on your next equipment audit. There have been a few changes to the special regulations over the last few months, which goes to show that somebody does review them from time to time!! Make sure you read them and comply if needed before your next audit. (The auditors have been tipped off about the changes, and you know how tough they can be!! 😊)

Sunny days and lazy waves

Rosco MacDonald – Club Captain

Welcome to new crew members

Rowan McGregor Jo Lange Robert Lange

If you see a new face in the Club introduce yourselves and have a chat, invite the new members to join your crew table. Jo and Rob are looking to crew until they can find their next boat and Rowan has been out on "Shes's the One".

Peta Oliver - Director & Membership Officer

Seagull Droppings



The Masked Commodore



WHOOOPS!

Who was spotted flying their spinnaker upside down?

Better luck next time. It wouldn't be sailing if there wasn't one of us having a slight technical mishap!

50th Year Celebrations - 19 March



There are lots of activities being planned for the 50th Anniversary celebrations and many of you have already been able to pick up the 50th Club shirts which you ordered. We will take more orders on the day for anyone who missed out.



Robin Foley has done an amazing job researching the Club's history from print and directly from many former, current and founding members and copies of the book will be on sale.



A Sail Past is being organised, so Skippers pull out your flags and dress up your boats! All members' boats are encouraged to join in the fun with assembly beginning around midday behind the island and Sail Past commencing at 1pm, progressing through the usual start area. Prize offered for the best dressed boat.



The Club will be open from 10.30am and raffles running all day! Pete Symes and his band will be playing and sponsors and guests will be attending.



We are also looking to hold stalls and there will be a brazilian BBQ catering along with a coffee van in the morning. Raffle prizes will be drawn at 3pm.



Marine Outlet will have a stall so anyone who has won a voucher in the Women's Series bring it along and pickup a bargain! Tynan Wines will be there offering wine tastings and have kindly donated to the raffle prizes.

We are seeking members who would like to contribute to the organisation in the lead up and on the day. All assistance would be greatly welcomed



Please have a chat with *Michael Kirby, Jan Payne or Peta Oliver* if you are able to assist.



On the Day.....

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 10.30am | Club open |
| 11.15am | Live Music |
| 12.30pm | Welcome & Announcements |
| 1.00pm | Sail Past with Commentary |
| 1.30pm | Live Music |
| 3.00pm | Prize for Best Dressed Boat and Raffle drawn |

Club Merchandise for Sale, History Display, Food trucks, Stalls, Live Music

TYNAN WINES

MARINE OUTLET STALL

MARINE RESCUE

A 50 Year History of PSYC

50 years of PSYC history captured in one booklet

A comprehensive history of our Club has been compiled by **Robin Foley** to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of PSYC. Information gleaned from past members, present members and back issues of The Quadrant and The Bilge has been included as well as some memorable photos of the earliest days. Robin has done a fabulous job!

The cost of the booklet is just \$10 and limited supplies of the booklet will be on sale at the Open Day on Saturday March 19th 2022; if you wish to reserve your copy in advance so as not to miss out, please text or call Robin: 0418114686 (email: robinluxor@gmail.com)

REMINDER SAIL PASS

Skippers,

Most of you have been doing well adopting the Sail Pass system, but in the rush to get the boat ready don't forget to check whether your new crew are current financial members of a Club. Racing Rule 46 states that all participants must take out a Sail Pass temporary membership for each race they enter.

You can always check your AS number by using AS Number Finder as it lists current numbers and active memberships for any AS club. Use the link here:

<https://www.sailing.org.au/member-finder/>

If anyone has problems registering please give me a call on 0435 206 650 as I would like to hear about any problems potential members may be experiencing.

Peta Oliver, Membership Officer

Working Bee

Thursday 17th March, 10am

Club room tidying,

window cleaning

and

preparing for the 50th Anniversary



Volunteers....Reach out to David or join us at the club on the 17th March



It's been really pleasing to see Women's sailing continue to build momentum in our club over the Summer. The Women's Point Score is now a year-round addition to our racing programme, it was wonderful to see skippers calling out for female crew to allow them to enter the series over Summer, lets see more of it across Autumn and Winter!

We are working hard to bring our boat owners new crew, and despite a challenging season for Soak Up Sundays (Weather, COVID), we have been very successful over Summer. Whilst we have only managed to run two of the planned four sessions, we already have three of the ten graduates of the course back sailing with us on a regular basis, and hope for more, so well worth the effort!



As we move into Autumn, I'm really looking forward to our Women's Helm on 13th March and hope to see as many boats as we did back in October, but maybe a little less wind! If any of our female members would like to helm in this race but don't yet have a boat to compete in, please reach out and I will do my best to match you up.

Remembering that Soak Up Sunday sessions are not aimed exclusively at women, but open to all, we will be changing our focus across Autumn and Winter, away from novice sailors, and towards upskilling our existing crew base. With a busy Autumn with Sail Port Stephens, Easter and a lot else going on, we will have just one session this season, on 22nd May. If any skippers or existing crew have any topics that

they would like to have covered, please reach out to me by phone, email or in the club. We do rely very heavily at the moment on a small group of boat owners, so if any of you have been thinking about supporting Soak Up Sundays, but haven't yet put your hands up, please don't be shy! Hopefully I can tempt you with a picture from last weekend's session!

Womens Helm - Sunday 13th March

Dear Boat Owners,

On Sunday 13th March we will hold the second in our series of Women's Helm races, timed to celebrate International Womens Day. In the first race we had six boats out, this time it would be wonderful to have even more participation in this event which is so important to the development of our female members.

If any of you would like to join us but don't have a female helm in mind, please get in touch and I can help to match you up with a keen sailor!

As always, thank you so much for your continued support,

Happy sailing, Deb Wellwood.



Are Sports Boats Coming to PSYC ??

Every year PSYC plays host to the Sports Boat contingent for the Sail Port Stephens Regatta. In recent years we've had a couple of Elliott 770s in Troppo and Clean Sweep buzzing around us and now we're joined by more recent designs with Gift Horse and now Crazy Little Thing....and rumours are that more are coming.

What makes a Sports Boat? Usually they live out of the water on a trailer somewhere and are quickly rigged each week for race day. Mine is out the front of the house and we're rigged quicker than it took me to get the dinghy out to Cool Runnings and bring that in to get everyone on-board and rigged up.

Just drop it in the water and lower the keel, and away you go. OK - but that's a trailer sailor right? A Sports Boat is just a more racey or skiff like version and more for those that might be...let's say.. a little bit Crazy. They are flighty and exciting, and for the observer often provide some light entertainment to talk about back at the club. (I think we're providing plenty of that already).

My first experience was with a Thompson 650, racing against a friend's Thompson 7, on Lake Mac. and we had some awesome duels. Taking the boat easily on the trailer and doing fun things like the Manning River race and of course Airlie Race Week was the highlight.

The exhilaration as they take off in the breeze and jump easily on to the plane is what we all love about them - 19.5kts across the south side of Pulbah Island (Lake Mac.) as an example. Couldn't see where we were going though for the spray.

Buying a Viper 640 was an easy decision in the end but a couple of Thompson 7s and Shaw 650s had their appeal too. Cost of Ownership is another persuading factor and inviting for many to get into the sport as an owner. Pick one up for \$15-\$30K and apart from insurance (cheaper) and maintenance (low) you're on the water - what a great way to increase our fleet. 2 or 3 crew is usually plenty so with our little club in the Bay and it's shallow waters - an ideal way to grow. If you've not done much dinghy sailing perhaps the more conservative approach would be the older designs that don't push the boundaries, but after a few weeks you'll get the hang of it. I found the Elliot 770 gave the fun in perhaps a more controllable fashion and was able to mix it with the front runners. The Thompson's would be similar. I went for the Viper simply because I'm crazy - it's wild and exciting - and being 60 YO. now, I can't help thinking you're a long time dead - so why not!



I'm looking forward to some decent sails this summer with Crazy Little Thing - possibly a few trips to different waters for variety and experiences like the Wangi Australia Day Regatta we enjoyed recently. The Viper has a strong fleet around the country so will be seeking to catch up where they race where possible...Bundaberg's not a bad spot for a holiday is it?

Thinking about it? Try the Australian Sports Boat Association www.ASBA.org.au for a bit more back ground and their For Sale list. At least come and have a look at the visitors in April at Sail Port Stephens. See you at the boat ramp.



STOP PRESS – The Sports Boats might be a non-event at SPS because they are coming here instead for their Nationals 26-29th May.

Fair Winds Clive Jones

Highs and Lows on Crazy

By Melissa Radcliffe

Lessons

*Screaming home, tiller fails, then sideways,
Noooooo!!*

Upright ourselves, limp away deflated

Every week is better, next Saturday awaits.

Saturday again

Balance the boat! Muscles groan.

Wind pressure, skipper pressure, focus!

Jybe, look back, jybe, first over line.

Drama Offshore and Inshore -- Sat 29th January 2022

What began as a benign sail out of the heads for the Islands Race at 12 noon in the moderate 15 knot breeze ended in something different. Yet, I suppose something different was what we have come to expect each week lately. By the time the inshore Race started at 1300 hrs the wind was up to 25 knots and soon built to 30 knots and the current was raging. The inshore stern-chaser course was set to round the Wedding-Cake mark into the wind twice.

“Yulunga” set off just after “Two Way Street” and “Sub Zero” and headed the fleet expecting to be overtaken by the faster boats, however gradually the waves against tide wave chop began to grow intolerable. We could see “Two Way Street” just behind us heeling over with her number two headsail and getting buffeted by the sharp chop whilst we had a reefed mainsail and a half furled, jib. The pressure on the tiller was dangerous as the wind gusts threw us over into the short sharp wave-tops. It was no place to push a forty year old rig and hull for the sake of ones ego. I radioed the Club Starter that we were withdrawing from the race, and all but two yachts to followed suit. Only the 40ft Catamaran “SubZero” and the ex -Sydney Hobart Yacht, “Rhythm” completed the inshore,-race coming first and second. “Rhythm” sustained some minor damage.

As we retired The 50ft, “51st Project” came swooping down the channel towards us with spinnaker still flying, however the massive low tide had dropped low enough to expose the sand bar build up outside the Anchorage marina. “She’s the One”, “Una Vita” “51st Project” and even “Kaos” touching the bottom. Meanwhile, John Nederlof on “Hanini Bay”, miraculously saved his mast and rig by quickly tacking and dropping the sails when a cotter pin let go from holding the upper shroud!!

Overall 14 yachts started and only 7 successfully completed the course. What a crazy day? (Ed.)

Below is the story from 51st point of view in the ocean race , by Julian Bell

Windy Conditions for January's Offshore Fleet

The new offshore race format has had great local support for the series and why wouldn't it when you get to sail around arguably the most scenic coast in NSW?

We saw 11 boats turn up to the start of January's offshore, which is likely a record for the PSYC Offshore series? Unfortunately a little too much wind also turned up to greet the competitors on the day.

Picture to the left of competitors lining up of the January Offshore race at Shoal Bay.

The building Nor'easter and runout tide resulted in moving the start line from Fly Point to the calmer waters of Shoal Bay, where the wind was already blowing around 20 knots.

A clear start was made by all, with the fleet making its way across Shoal Bay and out through the heads. As the fleet made their way through the heads to clear the northern head land of Yacaaba they were met with a distinct tideline generating choppy conditions from the wind against the tide combined with rebounding surge from the rock face of Tomaree and Yacaaba head lands in an area that's known to locals as the "washing machine".

Once east of Yacaaba the swell settled down and boats made their way around the three islands course before enjoying the long downwind passage back to PSYC's finish line at Soldiers Point.

Picture to the right of 51ST Project and Kaos heading across Shoal bay in a strengthening Nor'easterly.



Strengthening wind and shallow water forced the retirements of the majority of the fleet with only 5 boats recording a finish from the race. Una Vita took out line honours, despite bending their spinnaker pole into the shape of a banana.



Kaos collected the win on corrected time with the long spinnaker run back down the bay in heavy wind favouring the coastal cruiser. Thanks to all competitors who ventured out to support this series, hopefully we see favourable conditions and another strong turn out for the next offshore race on 26th February.

51ST Project reaching back into Port Stephens under spinnaker.

NCYC Hunter Sailing Regatta



Seven teams from clubs around the Hunter entered the inaugural Hunter Sailing League racing identical Elliott 6s. Fourteen races were run by the host club, NCYC over the 2 days, in the Newcastle Harbour basin, opposite the Honeysuckle Hotel.

Clubs represented were South Lakes, Port Hunter, Bay Sailing, NCYC, Lake Macquarie, Teralba and of course Port Stephens. In light to moderate winds the racing was very tight with hardly any time between first and last. PSYC struggled on day one with 4 crew – it seems these boats go pretty well with only 3. On day two, Rick decided to watch from the start boat

and with more consistent breeze the rest of the team (Clive, Penny and Tim) were in the mixer all day finishing 2nd in the last race. With 8 races on the first day, though the damage was already done. Those experienced in the Elliott were front runners in the end and the event was won by the home team with Lake Macquarie finishing 2nd. It was a fabulous 2 days of racing, extremely well run by Jack and his team. Further events are planned and I would encourage anyone keen on honing their skills to get involved. We'll be back.



Fair Winds...Clive Jones **0414 491977**

Jeanne Socrates

To sail solo around the world once is a remarkable achievement but Jeanne Socrates has done it four and a half times.



Commodore Michael Kirby presenting Jeanne Socrates with the PSYC Burgee

It was such a privilege to have met British sailor, Jeanne Socrates and to have her aboard Subzero for an Inshore Stern Chaser.

Jeanne remains the oldest person to have sailed around the world single-handedly, unassisted and non-stop via the Five Great Capes, which involves considerably more miles in the southern ocean than just going round three capes, completing her record around-the-world trip in 2019 at the age of 77.

Her father was an Australian serviceman who was killed in World War 11 when Jean was an infant only 5 months old. She has been in Australia visiting family and touring the country for nearly 2 years since Covid interfered with her original plan to only spend a year here.

She will fly home to England in early March and then to Vancouver Island to prepared her beloved Nereida for a passage back to Australia with the aim of circumnavigating the continent solo, perhaps in company with another solo heroine of mine, Kay Cottee.



Cherylle Stone

AUSTRALIA DAY SAILPAST 2022

It was a bit 'last-minute' in terms of organisation due to potential Covid restrictions, but the PSYC went ahead with the annual Australia Day sailpast. The Port Stephens Australia Day committee representative (and PSYC member), Doug Cross, generously donated a \$100 cash prize for the "best dressed boat reflecting our heritage". The boats were scheduled to gather at the Soldiers Point starting mark at noon on the 26th of January and then motor-sail to Fly Point where they would be judged. However, due to the Nelson Bay activities being cancelled, some club members took it upon themselves to vote for the best dressed boat!

Eight yachts took part in the sailpast, including a cruising guest. The parade was led by the Commodore's boat "She's The One", heavily laden with happy guests/crew, followed by "Subzero" (Cherylle Stone and crew) bedecked with a variety of courtesies and other flags, and crew dressed in burgee colours (orange and black); next in line was "Yulunga" (John Grainger and crew) whose theme was 'Yulungaroo' sporting a giant inflatable boxing kangaroo, and with crew dressed in green and gold with plenty of flags as well. "Two Way Street" also joined in, but both Yulunga and TWS 'retired' early on to Fame Cove for some fishing and relaxation. The remaining boats continuing on were: "Bella" (guests, Petra and Brian Hughes), "Pelorus" (Sue and John), "Kaos" (Peta Oliver and Ross MacDonald), "Colorado" (Wej Paradise and crew). After delighting shore-bound onlookers with our display, the boats scattered to various locations (Fame Cove, Roy Wood Reserve, etc.) to enjoy a beautiful sunny, if a bit windy, afternoon. The prize for 'best dressed' went to "Yulunga"! Congratulations John!



"Yulunga" crew saluting the start line



"Subzero" crew in burgee colours



Brian and Petra Hughes from "Bella"



John Cooper aboard Yulunga in Fame Cove with the (only) catch of the day, Australia Day.

Come to Pittwater I said, it will be Fun....By Julian Bell

The Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club's Offshore Coastal Passage Series had caught my eye some months ago, particularly the race to Pittwater and back the following day which would be raced with a combine Newcastle and Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club fleet. The thought of reaching down the coast with the sun shining in a building Nor'easter surfing the swell sounded like a buzz for the crew of 51st Project.



The call went out to our local crew and after a few regulars committed to the race we went looking for additional crew. Tim and Ken from Una Vita said they were up for the adventure and a mate Jarrod was keen for some excitement on the water.

Club members Riko, Pete S and Roger Y helped deliver the boat to Newcastle the Sunday prior under spinnaker with a light North East breeze. The plan was to take the opportunity to get some maintenance completed in Newcastle before the race. Originally our plan had been to take the boat down on the Thursday before the start, however as the week progressed we would all be pleased that the boat was already in Newcastle. As for the thought of reaching down the coast, sun shining in a

building Nor'easter was disappearing quickly when I took a look at the first long range forecast.

The weather outlook the week before showed we were going to be heading out into a stiff Southerly combined with big seas of over 3 meters, quickly diminishing the idea of surfing our way down the coast in champagne sailing conditions.

So began the fixation on the weather updates each morning and afternoon. Wind and wave height limits that would force us to withdraw from the race were communicated to the crew and I eagerly continued to closely monitor the forecast.

The conditions improved slightly and fell just within our set limits, so it was on, we were heading to Pittwater. Thursday evening my family and I travelled down to the boat and spent the night prepping for the 9am start Friday morning.

That evening the wind left an uncomfortable feeling that tomorrow was going to be a tough day at the office, as it howled through the rigging and halyards.



The following day greeted us with rain and still a lot of wind while berthed at the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club. The adventurous Crew arrived with a sense of excitement and reservation. After blundering the start we played catch up overtaking the fleet with the exception of Concealed Weapon a Archambault M34 who had flown down the harbour in fluctuating conditions.

As we approached the end of the harbour break wall, we all stared at the awaiting swell in anticipation of what was to come. Finding ourselves parked out the front of the southern break wall riding over the 2 meter plus swell in a slow outgoing tide, sails flapping as the boat rolled over each wave waiting for the wind to fill in. In the distance we could see a disappearing "Concealed Weapon" hard on the wind making its way south, it had gone wider before an exiting ship from the harbour had forced the remaining fleet to hug the break wall and fall

into a wind shadow. Finally the wind filled and we were off, the waves while big, were long and allowed us to accelerate down into the troughs as we worked against the building Southerly.

That morning we lost count of the number of reefs we placed into the main as the rain squalls came and went with the wind building to well over 30 knots with each squall.

We caught Concealed Weapon somewhere off Swansea/Caves Beach and were starting to build a marginal lead. When somewhere south of Catherine Hill Bay, it was as if the wind called a lunch break subsiding to around 10knots and the crew quickly downed lunch and tried to keep the boat moving in the moderate conditions, with the light weight "Weapon " easing past us into the lead. Tim pointed out white caps in front of us and it wasn't long before we were greeted by a 20-25knots SSE breeze.

We set yet another reef and a course for Broken Bay, once again overtaking the Weapon and gaining distance on both them and the Sydney to Hobart competitor, Mako who had hung in the mix not far behind us.



Coming across Broken Bay the shallow water had the sea building as we surfed down each wave giving the crew a rewarding ride towards the calmer waters of Pittwater.

We cross the imaginary finish line off Palm Beach taking line honours and motored up to the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club where we enjoyed drinks dinner and catching up with fellow competitors.

The wind didn't let up through the night and we awoke Saturday to similar conditions with the wind swinging to the Southeast.



Due to the rough conditions the start was relocated from Broken Bay to the calmer waters inside Pittwater. We started well, but made the mistake of not following the majority of the local boats who had given Barrenjoey Headland a wide berth. We had height over these boats, however were met with bullets of wind followed by lengthy lulls for what felt like forever while the lead boats who had stayed lower avoiding the wind shadows steamed off into the distance towards the Central Coast.

Eventually we found our groove with Concealed Weapon and a modified Farr 40 hot on our heels.

Holding our own and making some ground on both boats until we were off Terrigal, the wind was at around 50-60° apparent when Concealed Weapon popped a kite and went flying passed us losing ground heading towards the shore but making a good lead on us. We weren't confident that we could hold a kite with the combination of a tight wind angle, gusting conditions and big swells.

We headed out further offshore and with the wind angle increasing to 70° apparent, it was time to at least attempt a kite run. We popped the kite and ran up the Central Coast to just south of Caves Beach where the wind was building and the wind angle decreasing making holding the kite challenging and the call was made to drop it.

Making our way into Newcastle reaching off the breeze up the harbour, crew all buzzing from the excitement of accomplishing both days of challenging conditions.

Thanks to the crew who joined in to make this a memorable race for all onboard.

JB

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

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Director	VACANT		

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