

SAIL PORT STEPHENS ISSUE



Sail Port Stephens - Results

1. Commodore's Cup	2. Sail Port Stephens Trophy
51 st Project 2 nd Div1	Elusive 1 st Div 3
Rumbo 8 th Div 2	51 st Project 5 th Div1
She's The One 13 th Div 2	Rumbo 22 nd Div 2
Shere Khan 19 th Div 3	She's The One 20 th Div 2
Una Vita 11 th Div 3	Shere Khan 22 nd Div 3
Smoke and Mirrors 18 th Div 4	Una Vita 8 th Div 3
Wubaray 19 th Div 4	Smoke and Mirrors 14 th Div 3
	Wubaray 6 th Div 3

Well done to all those who participated and all the volunteers from PSYC

Three Sail Port Stephens Legends

Our “Madam Starter” Heather Atkins, was presented with a Ten year legends coat for her ten (+1) years continual service for Sail Port Stephens.

She has now joined Bill Haskell and Michael Kirby who received their Jacket previously.

This Year PSYC was to run the sports Boat series but when it was cancelled our team of Heather and Judy Plante joined Race Officer Andrew Buchan in running the Taser and Fin Class yacht series from the Bay Sailing Centre. Heather said they ran the eight races on Friday and nine races on Saturday in some challenging conditions but had to abandoned racing on Sunday due to lack of wind. Long days were worked.



Our Three Legends, Bill Haskell, Heather Atkins and Commodore Michael Kirby. (Michael is the shy bloke on the left.)



Sail Port Stephens – Dents and Bruises

By David Rundle



Smoke and Mirrors had an interesting week of racing, whilst we had a great time it wasn't all clean sailing. On Day 2 of the Commodore's Cup unfortunately we ended up in the protest room after being hit from behind by a competitor whilst rounding a mark near Pindimar. This was the first time I've been involved in a collision in a race and also the first time being involved in a protest since the early nineteen eighties in the high school sailing champs at Belmont. In that protest I had my trusty little dinghy in div 2 in a light breeze they shortened the course

for all the larger faster vessels but not the little boats. The smaller boats had less time to sail the same distance and I failed to finish within the deadline by only about 50 meters (as did most of our division which effected our chances overall). Frustrated I protested the committee and lost but the next race the small boats division 2 had their course fairly shortened so they could finish and I was awarded a prize for a very good protest despite losing! Sail Port Stephens protest I won and the prize a Hole in my hull!

The protest procedure was a stressful experience particularly given the hole my baby had received and despite winning the protest I felt it could have gone either way. This is even in a situation where you feel it's clear cut and you are in the right. In my case the competitor ran into the side at the back of my boat as I rounded the mark. Giving him Bouy room hadn't entered my equation as I was clear ahead leading into and rounding the mark. My competitor had a completely different version that they took that to the committee – fortunately, we won. Interestingly There were 11 protests at the event this year and basically only 3 were successful. Most failed because they never hailed protest or put their flag up so if you want to get some justice in the sailing court room you have to start with those first two things or you are wasting your time.



Whilst at the protest I was fortunate enough to have Matt and Sean from Dalbora Marina offer and do a temporary repair the next morning which enabled me to continue to sail in the series. (also had a kind offer from Hugo from within the club as well to assist)

David Rundle.

The secret string



When the wind drops out and comes from behind, 'She's The One' has a secret weapon. Secret no more! Look at the deployment of VB cord as spinnaker sheets, no-doubt at great cost to her owner.



PROTEST PROTEST PROTEST SPS by Denis Hume

On Saturday 9 Apr at about 10:20 am (with an 11:40 Start for Division 3) I received an SMS informing Wubaray that the Course had changed to 6A.

6A is 3 laps of a windward / leeward course.

There was seemingly confusion as to the course with considerable chatter on VHF Channel 77. Much of it was unintelligible to me but I clearly heard 3 times the Lady on the radio say ' It's Course 6, read the Sailing Instructions ', which I did. The Sailing Instructions state 'Division Three will sail course "B" of the numeral pennant displayed.' 6B is two laps of the aforementioned Course. That is what Wubaray sailed.

Rumba protested Wubaray. The Principal Race Officer was called to give evidence and it was his contention that the SMS changed the Sailing Instructions.

HOWEVER The SMS message did not change Sailing Instructions.

All boats in Performance Cruising Division 3 **except** for Wubaray sailed the incorrect course.

The rest of Division 3 were **Disqualified**, then granted **Redress** of points one less than that they were originally scored. A fortunate outcome for the Disqualified boats since:

Sailing Instruction 5. COMMUNICATION states ' The Race Committee may also transmit course information by Short Message Service (SMS). Any failure of, or defect in, such a broadcast will not be grounds for redress. This alters Racing Rule of Sailing 60.1 and 62. ' - but I'll let that go through to The Keeper! (but it does underscore the fact neither SMS nor Radio Broadcasts override Flags / Sailing Instructions)

To sailors Flags & Sailing Instructions are The Bible. Anything else is potentially the Devil's Work.

Fair Winds & Following Seas Denis Hume a.k.a. rhino 🐘 🚤

Another Protest

Yulunga volunteered as Sunday's mark boat. Before our morning briefing, we met a very disgruntled and angry crew returning from an early morning protest. On Saturday, they had been forced over the end of the start line by two port tack yachts and they ended up entangled in the mooring chain of the start line end buoy.

The result: They were disqualified for seeking assistance from the mark boat to get the mooring chain from their rudder before continuing on in the race. They said that after they called protest, one boat took two turns penalty but the second boat who did not, was not penalised because their injured/protest boat could not display their protest red flag immediately!! (They may have been a little busy at the time!!!) Not happy either. What do you think? (Ed.)



Bay Sailing Centre giving the kids lessons in sailing at Nelson Bay Marina during Sail Port Stephens

A good start



SPS Photos Thanks to Julian Bell. 51st Project



Sail Port Stephens 2022 lived up to its reputation of being one of 51ST Projects favourite weeks of the year. We sailed well and as always had a good time socialising afterwards. We achieved a 2nd in the Commodores Cup (Div 1) and a 5th in Performance Racing (Div 1) which we were very happy, thanks to the Projects crew for making it such a memorable week.





Wind Gods looked after the fleet on the Three Islands race, which has to be one of the best races on the New South Wales coast.



Left: While waiting for wind on the last day we thought it would be a good idea to make our youngest crew walk the plank! Una Vita swooped in to pick him up. We then realised we had lost our most valuable foredeck crew and had to lure him back with sausage rolls and chocolate milk, better luck next time keeping him Una!

Below: Rum Bunny's got the party started on the last day!



Some photos by Sail Port Stephens Photographers.

Commodore's Report

Preparing for Sail Port Stephens occupied much of your Commodore's time during late March and early April, She's the One participated in both the Commodores Cup and the Port Stephens Trophy in Division 2, with mid fleet results not the best outcome, but we did have fun over the six (6) days. A special thankyou goes out to those PSYC members who gave of their time as volunteers assisting across all facets of the SPS regatta. I have been in touch with Paul O'Rourke (SPS) to finalise the financial contribution SPS makes to PSYC, as has been the case in prior years.

Our race starter Heather Atkins was presented with her SPS legends jacket (10 years) Heather has been an active volunteer for SPS and the presentation of the jacket is an appropriate recognition of her support over the years.

Hospitality was provided during SPS at our clubhouse with Bar Service, "free BBQ's" and amenities, which further enhances our club's reputation in the sailing community, we are seen as generous, friendly, and prepared to go that extra mile.

Upcoming events included:

1. Australian Sports Boat Association Regatta.
 - a. 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. Our member Clive Jones is co-ordinating with ASBA's Andrew York to make this event a success, so look out for requests for volunteers coming from Clive.
2. 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.

I can announce the date of the Extra General Meeting (EGM) of PSYC, to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 20th June 2022, this meeting will replace our Directors June Board Meeting and is being held at the PSYC clubhouse, members with questions are encouraged to submit your questions directly addressed to PSYC Commodore via e-mail commodore@psyc.com.au

The cut-off for questions with notice will be 13th June by 5.00pm and an agenda for the EGM meeting will be sent out on the 6th June, via e-mail to all voting PSYC members.

I can report Beta testing of the "members only" page on the PSYC website is well underway and will be available following the EGM in June.

Next month I will be representing PSYC at the Sailing Australia (SA) 2022 NSW & ACT Club Conference to be held at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, Covid-19 prevented these face-to-face meetings for two (2) years, so it will be great to meet SA management and NSW & ACT club Commodores and officials for the first time.

Michael Kirby

Vice Commodore's Report

Hello all

April has been a great month for sailing with the Sail Port Stephens Regatta. It was great to see such strong PSYC participation in the regatta. Competing boats included Wubaray, Shere Khan, Cipriani, 51st project, Smoke and



Mirrors, She's the One, Una Vita and Elusive. This included some good results to the club in a wide range of conditions.

Congratulations to Elusive 1st place in the Div 3 Performance Cruising, Port Stephens Trophy, and 51st project 2nd place Div 1 Commodores Cup.

Great to see the club continue to be up in the results again following the successes last year.

Also well done to our volunteer starters, boat drivers, bbq and bar support. Great to see the club so involved and represented in what is arguably one of the premier port Stephens

events.



We also held the Max and Edna Berman trophy race in perfect conditions on Easter

Saturday followed by a presentation

BBQ and the Berman history from

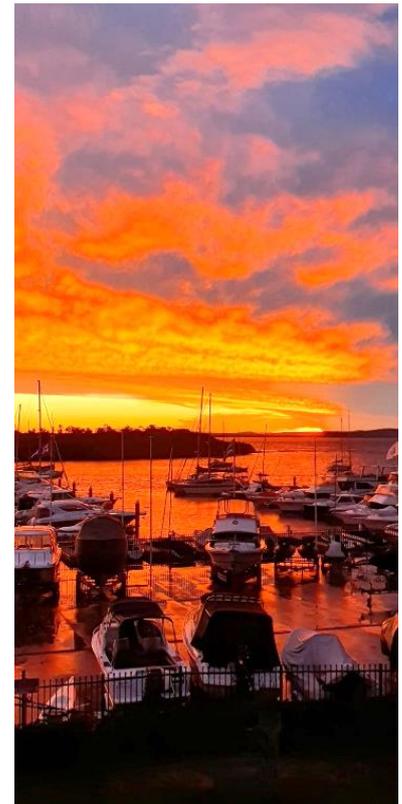
Robin.



On the failure side interest, competing priorities and the weather for the Port Stephens to Newcastle Offshore race not eventuate. Maybe next time, otherwise the Offshore series continues to be a success.

Next things coming up is the Skippers Meeting on Tue 17th May in preparation for putting the Winter Programme together.

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, or at the club for one of our fantastic Autumn sunsets!



Rick Pacey

Captains Corner. Roscco Macdonald

UPDATED YACHT REGISTER

Yacht Name	Name	Surname	Yacht Type	Sail No.
51st PROJECT	Bell	Julian	Beneteau First 50	7109
CHILLI	Simm	David	Corsair 24	C750
CIPRIANI	Campbell	Geoff	Northshore 38	1164
COLORADO	Paradice	William	Hunter 39	H39
CRAZY LITTLE THING	Jones	Clive	Viper 640	AUS183
ELUSIVE	Pacey	Rick	Bavaria Match	6608
EUSEMERE	Miaskowski	Jack	Jeanneau 11	PS 207
EXALTE	Tucker	Craig	X-Yacht 332	5872
FRIENDS	Symes/Pacey	Peter/Rick	Etchell	1049
GIFT HORSE	Parsons	Andrew	Beneteau 18	PS18
HANINI BAY	Nederlof	John	Passage 33	4339
HERON	Jory	Steven	Hood 23	1348
JIA	Bebb	Chris	Swanson 32	259
KAOS	MacDonald	Ross	Cole 32	SA59
KARDINIA	Bowen	Edward	Hood 23	3769
LA SONRISA	Eguchi	Riko	Mottle 820	KA247
LIBERTY	Shepard	Shep	Jeanneau Sun Odyssey	
MADNESS	Croft	Alan	Gerry 14	25
NEIGHBOURS HOOD	Jeggo	Martyn	Hood 23	MH 126
NORA J	Chick	Cameron	Seawind 1000	1103
RAPTOR	Kerr	Richard	Elliot 9.6	6368
RYTHYM	Barnard	Ian	Adams 36	HKG7285
SERENADE	Manley	Stuart	Adams 21	39
SHERE KHAN	Kelly	Ross	Flying Tiger	FT77N
SHE'S THE ONE	Kirby	Michael	NSX 38	5713
SMOKE & MIRRORS	Rundle	David	Enigma 34	M7
SOLANDA	Ballard	Peter	Santana 22	649
SUBZERO	Stone	Cherylle	Grainger CAT	PS75
TANGIER	Cross	Doug	Noelex 30	73140
THIEF of TIME	Ramsay	David	S80	2725
TWITCHER	Plante	Steve	Beneteau 35	4944
TWO WAY STREET	Humphreys	John	Noelex 25	1000
UNA VITA	Peachey	Ken	NorthShore 11.2	MH 11
WUBARAY	Hume	Dennis	Melges 24	AUS19
YULUNGA	Grainger	John	Spacesailer 27	36

Any Cruisers who would like to have their yacht added to the register please email club.captain@psyc.com.au

Club Captain's report Con't

Good News - The Short Term mooring has been moved into deeper water! We can use it again without looking silly at low tide!!

More Good News - I've also refurbished the club's inflatable mark systems with new, thicker rope and an anchor retrieval system, all of which takes most of the hard work out of laying and retrieving marks.

Volunteers Needed! Saturday 14th May sees another edition of our sprints series being held. We need a couple of volunteers to lay marks/drive a boat for this fun (and fun to watch!) style of racing.

Volunteers Needed! 26-29th May. We are excited to be hosting the Australian Sports Boats Association national championships over those dates. Mark layers, boat drivers and start boat personnel are needed to run what's promising to be an awesome four days of fast-paced racing. Even if you can only do one day it will help out! Lunches provided!

Contact Rossco at club.captain@psyc.com.au or 0438 288 684 to get involved or for more info.

MAX AND EDNA BERMAN TROPHY RACE 2022

By our correspondent- Robin Foley

The memorial trophy race was held on Easter Saturday, April 16 this year. An outgoing tide to start helped the 12 boats get underway. It was a long and fairly slow race with a Soldiers Point start, round the mark at Shoal Bay and back again to Soldiers Point. The smaller boats were favoured in the race due to the light winds and no-spinnaker rule, and then aided by the incoming tide on the way home. In the end, it was the Hood's day with "Neighbours Hood" (Martyn Jeggo and Gordon Dyer) taking out the coveted trophy; "Two Way Street" (John Humphreys) came in second place and "Yulunga" (John Grainger) pipped by 90 seconds in third place. All winning boats were in Division 2, and while the fastest boat of the day was the Commodore's "She's The One", being a Division 1 boat and with a larger handicap, she only managed a 5th place. A celebratory BBQ was held at the clubhouse following the race, however, unfortunately there were few attendees due to the late finish by many of the boats. It is hoped that by holding the Max and Edna Berman Memorial Trophy Race on Easter Saturday in future, we might attract both cruisers as well as regular racing yachts to join on the day.

Left to Right: Martyn Jeggo, Commodore Michael Kirby, Vice Commodore Rick Pacey, Gordon



Sail Port Stephens - Wrap Up

PSYC was asked to support the event in 2022, however as the week progressed COVID took out competitors and volunteers alike the involvement changed somewhat from the initial plans.

Thank you to our PSYC members who put their hand up to assist this year and for your flexibility. Both with the on water and Club volunteers, our wonderful RSAs and BBQ chefs. Your efforts are not in vain. Not only do they contribute to the success of the SPS event but they also build on the reputation of PSYC in the sailing community. SPS also pays PSYC for their volunteer contribution.

I hope our on-water volunteers learnt quite a bit about the other side of racing and on water set up. I know the Club Captain has mentioned learning new techniques that make pulling up the marks a lot less hard work. A new set up is almost complete ready for the next sprints day.

HELP NEEDED

PSYC is looking for a **Volunteer Coordinator** .

This Sub-committee position is a great way to get to know your fellow members and to be involved in many aspects of the Club's week to week and events. The time commitment required is approximately 2 hours per week. The person to take on this role would be a social person and would be working closely with the Membership Officer who is director, Peta Oliver. The position is also well supported by other board members.

Some of the responsibilities include organising working bees, seeking and allocating volunteers for various roles as they become known, or for special/ social events. For more information please **contact Peta Oliver** director1@psyc.com.au.

New Members

Crew - Alex Sharp

Social – Peter Edwards, Annick Hurtel, Ken White



Apologies for an omission from the November 2021 edition of *The Bilge*

Congratulations to Cherylle Stone of Subzero for her 1st Place in Div 2 Spring/Summer Sternchasers, MarineOutlet.com.au Womens Summer Series and Jack Hollman Trophy.

An Anzac Soldier to Remember -- By Chris Bebb

A brave soldier died on ANZAC Day in 1964, he'd been a Lewis Gunner on the Somme in the Great War

He was a quiet man, and few people knew his name, but everyone knew who his target was, the Red Baron in his aim.

The Red Baron seems immortal and is still spoken of today, in books, movies, and comics, and even by kids at play.

But few remember the soldier, **Robert Buie** was his name, who went to war, came home again and an oysterman became.

He was born and died in Brooklyn and rests in the cemetery, a short distance from the freeway once known as the old M3.

Few people heard what Robert had done or the lives his actions saved, by shooting down the Red Baron and sending him to his grave.

Buie was little recognised, he was just doing his job, defending the Empire for the King and the rest of that royal mob.

This soldier of the Great War who sailed across the sea, to fight for what he believed in, to fight for you and me.

He didn't get a medal, wasn't lauded during his life, but his tale is told on his gravestone, as he now lies cold besides his wife.

So next time you're passing Brooklyn, why not pay a call, say hi and thank you Robert for giving it your all.

And as you leave that hallowed ground remind yourself of who you found. A soldier who we have never met, who shot down the Red Baron, lest we forget.



Robert Buie's gravestone, Brooklyn NSW Cemetery.

Footnote: follow link below for full transcript of this historic event inscribed on a plaque on the Robert Buie Memorial Stone, which was added during the refurbishment of Brooklyn's Memorial Park around 2011.

[Robert Buie Memorial Plaque | NSW War Memorials Register](#)



Seagull Droppings

The Maxi yacht Black Jack is in the news having won line honours in the Sydney to Hobart, the Pittwater to Coffs and now the Brisbane to Gladston races. It does help to be 100ft long and few big boats competing but Ichi Ban at 52ft won the Coffs race on handicap.

Lisa Blair is half way around and ahead of time and further ahead than when she was dismasted in 2017 in her solo bid to circumnavigate Antarctica but not before reported sleepless days and some minor damage during countless knockdowns!! She started from Albany WA in her second attempt. What a girl?

Wubaray

In the Sail Port Stephens Regatta Wubaray got tangled on a rounding mark at the heads on the Saturday. "We misjudged due to tide and waves – way difficult to get off the mark due to the strength of the tide". Reported Rhino.

Yulunga's Saturday Win!

We prepared to get into the Dinghy at 11.30 but it started to rain and our secret tactician Doug When (Shangheid from Solanda) had not turned up. Within seconds a downpour of rain came sending us back into shelter for the next 20 minutes. An ominous start, bad luck ensured! We bailed out the dinghy got aboard and quickly motor sailed to the start.

Good luck descended and we were away with a magnificent start and then we proceeded to pick up all the wind shifts in the light fickle winds, shunning the calm Northern Shore; unlike the others in the fleet. By three o'clock we had just made it first around the Wedding Cake Mark and Madam starter called a shortened course. Whoo let's try a spinnaker! However the crew had no idea what coloured ropes to pull and I called for a spinnaker hoist calling the green rope: But I did not mean that green rope I meant the other rope, and hence the whole spinnaker was pulled under the bow!!! Doug and I hauled and hauled on the wet spinnaker leaving Riko our Lady helmsperson, who had never helmed with a spinnaker before, to steer. We eventually retrieved the sodden sock and set it shy. Just then, Crazy Little Thing (Who was not racing and just having fun in their Sports Boat) surged past and the sun was blotted out as their "humungus" blue asymmetrical spinnaker flew past with four on board; two of whom were ladies, Penny and Peta! The rest is history, no other yachts finished in time for the 5pm finish. Who said the girls cannot sail with the blokes?

BBQ Chefs Needed!

Thurs – Sun 26 – 29th May approx. 3-6pm TBC

Australian Sports Boat Association Nationals

Please contact Peta director1@psyc.com.au if you can assist

Club Pool table offered via Silent Auction

After discussions with various Club Members the Board has decided to offer the Pool table to any interested Member who is willing to remove the table at their own cost and perhaps want to make a donation to the Club by way of supporting the Club. To keep the process fair to all interested Members, the pool table will be offered to Members in the form of a silent auction.

The pool dimensions are 8ft long by 4.5ft wide and is 3ft high. We believe the legs can be removed, but suggest an inspection to ensure you are comfortable that they can be.

The Club will use the space freed up by the table and any monies raised to provide more seating for Members and their guests and hopefully provide a more welcoming environment that will encourage new Members to join the club. It will also provide more flexibility in how we configure the Club for social events.

Offers can be made to Director3@psyc.com.au

If you are interested in the pool table, please email the following details to Jan Payne the above email address.

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Silent Auction amount

The highest bidder will be notified by the Commodore on 31 May 2022.

Wednesday races can be just as exciting

Wed 20/22 Light breezes again with an outgoing tide "She's The One from Div 1 and six Div 2 boats entered. Yulunga rounded the Salamander mark heading for the finish with only Jia and Solanda in front and well ahead. Two Way Street and Rhythm were close behind. Solanda pointed high and caught up to Jia who had for the time dug a hole in a private wind. Suddenly She's The One came from behind in a secret gust at twice the speed of the stalled yachts. Her big black sails blanketing Solanda letting Jia edge ahead of Solanda.

Two Way Street and Rhythm sailed after Solanda. Yulunga then managed to get a lifting wind to almost get ahead but then had to tack away from the Island. THEN Rhythm found herself surging forward but also heading towards shallow water at Middle Island, and was forced to tack and just missed catching Jia on a Port Starboard clash. Two Way Street swung behind Rhythm and with good wind and a presumed clear run to the finish, looked to be a certain for second place only to find a fishing boat appeared ten meters from the Island dead ahead!! With flukey winds and a closing gap between the rocks and the fishing boat, she was forced to quickly tack twice more, dropping to fifth in a blink of an eye as Solanda slipped through

to claim third place. Yulunga's crew who originally had their sights on coming second, ended up sixth with Sub Zero seventh. Yulunga's crew thought that it was one of the most exciting races they have been in. Four yachts finished within one minute of each-other!

The finishing times for the first six yachts were.....

She's The One	15.08.50
Jia	15. 16.10
Solanda	15.16.50
Rhythm	15.16.55
Two Way Street	15.17.10
Yulunga	15.17.45

PORT STEPHENS YACHT CLUB - The Start

The Brothers, Frank and Fred Seysener's donated Perpetual Trophy.

Below is a copy of their speech delivered on the day of the 50th Anniversary

"Thank you for the invitation to join you in celebrating your 50th anniversary of the yacht club.



Just a little history on the first sailing club in Port Stephens. Back in the early 1960's Fred and I decided to build a VJ sailing boat under the house of our parents place in Government Road, Nelson Bay.

We realised it was no fun sailing on our own, we decided to start a sailing club for some competition. At the ages of 20 and 18 respectively we started the Port Stephens Amateur Sailing Club.

With the help of a few others namely Frank & Elaine Argeat. Frank has sailed with your club for many years. He was the first president and his wife Elaine was secretary and I was treasurer. We got together and thought, where do we start, so we got in touch with the VJ club in Belmont who gave us advice and support in starting the club.

The club sailed from Kangaroo Point at Soldiers Point from a tent we set up each week-end. There was no funding, the club ran from volunteers who also looked after the rescue boat which was

supplied by members. Fundraising was the sale of BBQ-ed Sausages and Drinks on the beach.

Meetings were held at the then Salamander Hotel at the bar and in members homes.

The boats that sailed were only small boats like Sabot, Moths, VJ's and small catamarans. The sailing course would start a Kangaroo Point around a marker buoy at Little Salamander Bay then around the Wedding Cake Marker back to Kangaroo Point a triangle course. Small scale regattas were held at times with boats coming from Lake Macquarie. We also taught the kids the joy of sailing.

After some years with the bigger boats coming in it was decided to split into two clubs, then started the Port Stephens Yacht Club & the Port Stephens Sailing Club.

The rest is history. I'll hand you over to Fred who is going to make a presentation.

Frank Seysener"

The stargazer's SYZYGy BY Peta Oliver

It's 5am, get up!!

We all do it for a yacht delivery or to get out of the heads early, but to look at some stars? That's problematic!! **BUT** seeing a once in 1000 year heavenly event of Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Saturn in syzygy (Aligned) is not a thing to miss, so I was grateful for the reminders and discussion on What's App Sail Crew Group.

I dragged myself out of my warm bed to check the skies, semi-hoping that it would be cloudy and I could return to my doona. The first of the winter westerlies had arrived. It was a clear dry morning and above me a straight line of bright planets led upwards from the Eastern horizon – Venus, brightest of all of course, then fairly close was Jupiter, almost as bright, some distance further, was the small twinkle of Mars with the faint hint of red to it and finally much higher was Saturn and looking about the same size and brightness as Mars. I returned to the house to wake my family and retrieved the binoculars and the phone, just in case I could get a half decent photo for the Bilge.

With more enthusiasm, we watched the sky and listened to the peaceful morning. Slowly the horizon became lighter and as the stars faded ,Venus and Jupiter could be seen for ages after the others disappeared. I was pleased to have been witness to this event, even just one morning, **BUT there's more!**

On Sunday, Mother's Day, I did the same all over again hoping to see some meteor trails as well. Even colder on Sunday and just as clear, we were again rewarded for our early efforts. We counted 10 satellites passing in just half an hour (8 of them in about 15 minutes) 7 Aquiid meteors and of course the planets standing witness to all that passes. Most of the meteors were very small, appearing in a wide arc and you had to be lucky to spot them as they burned away very quickly. Between the family we saw a total of seven and only 2 of those left a longer blazing trail.

Well that's it for another 1000 years or so! Back on earth: Let's prepare for Junior soccer!! **Peta Oliver**



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