

The Bilge

August -September 2022



I did but see her passing by. Well may we remember her!

Thanks Judith Plante for the above picture taken in Soham, Cambridgeshire, UK where her daughter lives. Taken on the day of the platinum jubilee celebrations. There were many other tributes all over the country.

Commodore's Report

With the sailing side well under control, excluding the weather gods that continue to interrupt our sailing program in recent months and if you believe the BOM into the future. The social side of PSYC has stepped up a gear with our Friday night "Hearty Meal", having now completed three (3) such events, the last being fully sold out and feedback generally very positive, as we work out the best combination of food, drink, and entertainment. A big thanks to "Two Bobs Bakery" for their professional service and quality offerings, likewise the Tall Timbers and Lotha for keeping the joint jumping on various occasions and our volunteers for setup of tables and bar service. Members Gavin Walmsley & Wendy Mountford for their generous donation of Sailing Gear for our Auction night, yours truly conducted the Auction a great lot of fun for all, with \$400+ donated to the club. Our most recent meal event combined with Clive Jones the "Trivia Man" testing the skills & knowledge of attendees with team "No Friends" coming out on top, well done Pete! With attendance of members at the club, down post racing due to weather and or abandonment of races, these social events make a small profit which keeps your club functioning and able to provide the services expected by members, thanks to members supporting these functions.

The PSYC presentation for season 21/22 will be held at the club Friday 21st October at 6:30 to 10:30 this is a ticketed event at \$25.00 per head, catering by Two Bobs – gourmet BBQ Proteins and Veg, Sourdough and Salads (buffet style), music via Spotify Play List and held downstairs so we can enjoy the sunset. Please book your tickets early as we are confirming catering numbers by 5.00 pm 17th October.

PSYC will hold its Annual General Meeting at 6.00pm on Friday the 25th of November at the club, the formal notice to members advising them of the AGM will be issued 21 days prior to the AGM. The board has been advised that Directors – Peta Oliver and Jan Payne will be retiring at the AGM and not seeking re-election to the board of PSYC. Nomination forms will be available at the club shortly, all positions will be vacated as per the PSYC constitution, and eligible members can then nominate persons, completed nomination forms can be placed in the sealed nomination box located at the bar. You will be nominating for the following positions:

1. Commodore
2. Vice Commodore
3. Rear Commodore
4. Club Captain
5. Treasurer
6. Secretary
7. Director (1)
8. Director (2)
9. Director (3)

As this is likely my last "Bilge" report to members prior to the AGM, a big thanks to retiring and board members seeking re-election. The last twelve months have certainly been jammed packed at PSYC – 50th Anniversary, a full Sailing Program, Members area website, the Six-Month GM update to members, volunteers supporting Sail Port Stephens and Australian Sports Boats, Training, Women's Helm & She Sails and monthly social events to name a few!

I'm sure I have missed something or someone but as is the norm with PSYC, solely run by volunteers a big thankyou to all of you who have dedicated their time, money, and energy to making PSYC the best volunteer sailing club. Likewise, to our sponsors who have been and continue to be very generous with their contributions to PSYC a big thankyou and appreciation from all members for your support its much appreciated.

Michael Kirby - Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

Hello all

As our Spring season kicks off as always, challenging weather and fun had by all. Our numbers are down a bit these days, but that's understandable, with people catching up on travelling and testing weather. With some luck we will move into the expected north easterlies.

Things on the go are:

- Our presentation event is on at 6:00pm with music and food, come along to support all and have a couple of suspect stories.
- Newcastle have confirmed their offshore series with us racing on Friday 11 Nov, overnight (complementary) race back with their fleet and joint presentation event on Saturday 12 Nov.

A special mention goes out to James Quinn, a long-term Club member who has been on the starter caravan for many years. Unfortunately, he is in poor health and no longer able to assist. The club really benefits and appreciates the time and commitment of our many volunteers.

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 back at the club for one of our fantastic Winter sunsets!

Club Captain's Corner

Help Needed Please Contact Rossco.

If you have reasonable computer skills, please volunteer them to help out with the results from races. Currently we are short handed in this area and would appreciate some back up for when the regular people can't make it. It would take only half an hour occasionally after a race and maybe half an hour through the week to set up new races. Training provided for this much sought after role!!

CLUB MOORING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE !! **Contact Rossco** 0438 288 684

Rear Commodore's Report

Nothing to report at the moment.



Membership Matters

All membership renewal fees were due by 1 September. However approximately 30% of invoices remain outstanding at 2 October 2022. Please contact Peta Oliver if any of the following apply:

- you cannot find your invoice. Invoices were emailed approximately 7-9 August. If you are searching for your invoice please note that it was sent from the email address: Port Stephens Yacht Club [no-reply@revolutionise.com.au](mailto:reply@revolutionise.com.au). Reminders were sent out approximately 30 days later;
- believe you have paid but not received a receipt;
- your membership card is not in the box at the Club but you have paid. All cards were printed for all fully paid members on 1 October. Cards are being printed every 2 weeks and membership payments are being checked and receipted weekly;
- You wish to discontinue your membership for any reason. Please let us know so we can keep the membership list accurate;
- you would like to make individual arrangements for your circumstances to pay by other means or over time.

I also encourage all members to log in to Australian Sailing and **check/ update their personal details** especially their emergency contact details, email, postal address and date of birth. Many members still have a date of birth showing as 1 January 1900. This is a product of having not had full details when we moved the membership records to the new database. I am certain no one in the Club is **over 120 years old** and would very much like to have this information recorded accurately so there are good records of the Club's true demographic.

To Log In To Australian Sailing

Your login username is printed on your PSYC membership card. If you have forgotten your password you can click the "forgot password" button to reset it. If anyone has any difficulties with this please contact me.

The link to log in to AS is <https://www.sailing.org.au/login/>

Welcome to New Members . . .

Crew Members . . . Philip Bendeich, Margaret Flockhart, Geoff Jessup, Peter Spencer & Victoria Stewart

Yacht Owner Members . . . Ray Tolcher & Graeme Ellis

Social Members . . . Genelle Pacey & Susan Robson

Junior Member . . . Heather Liney

NAAB Not another abandoned Race

Saturday 6th August You beauty, The Commodore's Trophy; two races on the only sunny sailing day for a month and the first in ten possible sails this season!!

We expected moderate winds from the West, perhaps 15 knots gusting 18knots. We can handle that alright with four crew and a furling headsail. Perhaps not a spinnaker.

BUT it was not to be. Yulunga headed to the start line fifteen minutes early and then we got the full force of the strong wind funnelling between the Island and Soldiers Point. We could not see the course flags because of the trees on shore but suspected that we would be sent into the breeze to Garden Island. We flew back around the headland into shelter with the other boats, all trying to put up storm sails and reef their mainsails. We tried again with a two-thirds reef in the headsail. Going across near the Island a Division Two boat was closing and we were forced over closer to the Island. Ok Crew let's see you tack though the wind. Ah But I underestimated the wind against tide effect. The sharp short waves being kicked up into the outgoing tide was too much. Quick let's have another go, but NO! The windward sheet has let go through the block and we cannot pull it in. Nothing for it! Ok I am going to jibe around downwind away from the rocks. Riko you start the motor just in case.

Club starter Club starter, this is Yulunga abandoning the race!

BUT there is often a silver lining for someone. When coming back to our mooring we missed the dinghy pick up in the heavy chop and had to go around again passing behind other moored yachts. We passed astern of TANGIA and the head of Doug Cross appeared then a hearty yell. "Help, I am stranded, my dinghy broke loose and has gone ashore".

"Ok we will tie up and come back for you".

Ashore, there was the dinghy; it's towing ring-bolt had broken away.

Sprints racing Saturday 17th September. Fun and disaster

Another eventful event if ever there was one. The forecast was for some blustery winds, and that's what occurred. Nine boats started in race one but by the third race only five finished!

There were four races run, each race to be two laps being start then round a buoy to the East then a buoy to the West and back to the finish. Often boats finished only seconds apart on corrected time.

Winds gusted up to 34 knots and the big boats dominated. With 51st Project, Bellamy and Exulte vying for the placings each race.

The sports boats ventured out but were met with mixed success or retirement. No Division 2 boats entered.

In the wash up 51st Project and Bellamy came equal first over the four races. The race however was marred by two collisions in which one boat hull was damaged and another retired with a broken mast and another to check for any damage whilst a fourth yacht retired after a crash-jibe sent a crew member overboard.

Can you spare some time to help out at PSYC?

- **WORKING BEE** Sunday 30th October 2022
Clean out of club office and sheds
9am to 11:30am - finish in time to join the programmed Social Cruise and raft up
Please register <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/psyc/events/159736/>
- Set up Christmas decorations (possibly 4th Dec TBC)
- Plan a Christmas Party (date TBA)
- Pull down Christmas decorations (date TBC – suggest first 2 weeks of Jan)

If you can assist for any of the above please contact director1@psyc.com.au

Diesel Engine Maintenance lecture.



Recently we hosted guest speaker Mr David Giddings who presented us with a plethora of information regarding troubleshooting and maintaining diesel engines. He passed on some of his considerable knowledge of small boat diesel engine problems on how to avoid them and how to fix them when they do occur.

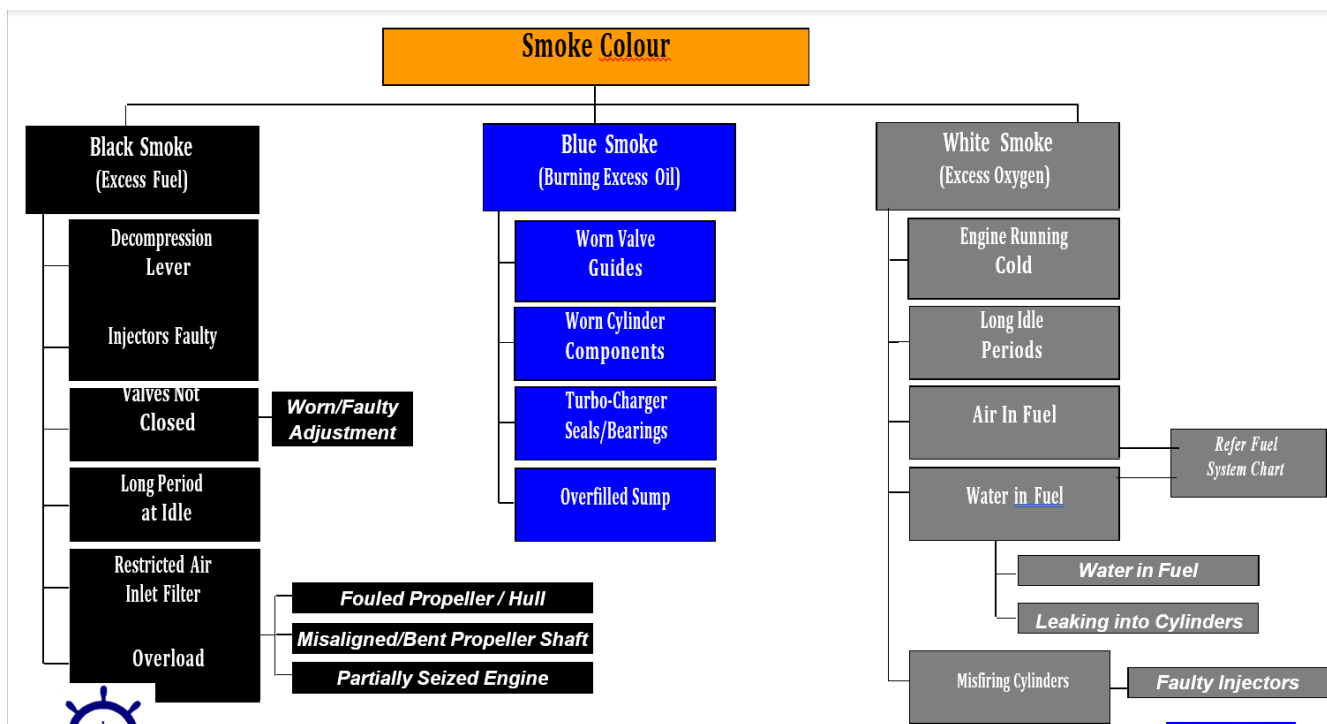
He also presented the small crowd with excellent checklists for packing spares for cruises,

David Giddings explaining some of the issues with crevice corrosion to members.

trouble shooting flow charts, provided examples of parts that had suffered damage and a brief introduction to some very interesting products that were much more environmentally friendly to both humans and nature than the usual range acquired through the marine industry. The feedback from the night has been excellent with even some of the more seasoned sailors picking up great tips. Many thanks to Bev who ran the bar as a very late replacement!

I'll endeavour to post his presentation on the website shortly.

Rosco MacDonald



Safety When Charging Lead Acid Batteries in Confined Spaces.

The following summary is a layman's interpretation of information on batteries and the risks associated with battery storage and charging, taken from the Health Safety and Environment website noted at the bottom of this article.

- If you use vented lead-acid batteries on your boat, (i.e they are vented to atmosphere and sometimes require topping up with distilled water), they should be stored in a well-ventilated area. The gasses (hydrogen and oxygen), produced and vented during charging are flammable and can reach an explosive concentration in poorly ventilated, confined spaces. All it takes to ignite the gasses is a flame or spark, which can come from a hot objects or electrical equipment, including mobile phones.

Why is this relevant? Last month in Lemon Tree Passage a man was injured when a battery exploded, showering him with acid and debris and necessitated emergency evacuation to hospital. I am pleased to report that after treatment, including 14 hours of continuous eye irrigation using saline solution, he is expected to make a complete recovery over the next few weeks.

The exact cause of the explosion is unknown and there was no known specific event that could have sparked the explosion. It is understood that all reasonable safety precautions had been taken leading up to the event.

The website link below to Health Safety and Environment, is just one of many websites providing information on battery storage, charging and risks of explosion. If you have any doubts regarding your battery set-up or ventilation, please see an appropriate professional for advice.

[Battery Charging Safety - Health Safety & Environment \(hsewebsite.com\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/batteries/)

The above article was kindly written by Chris Bebb at the editor's request.

Upcoming Events



PORT STEPHENS
YACHT CLUB

Presentation Night 2021-22

MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME

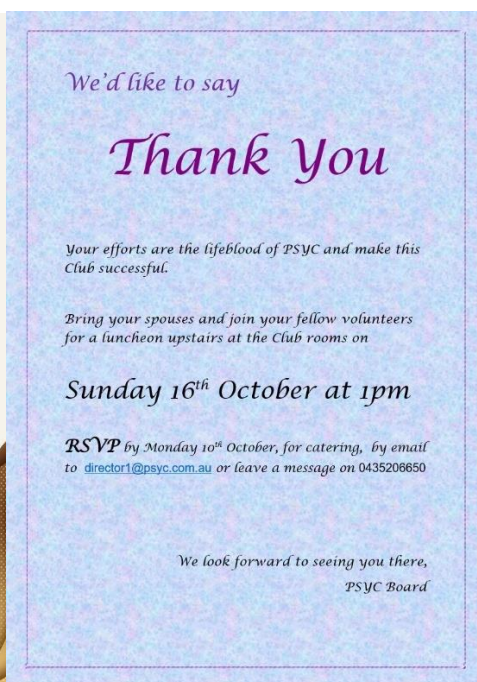
BAR OPEN
DINNER AVAILABLE - TWO BOBS CATERING
(SEE BELOW)

FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER

6 - 9 P M

RSVP BY 16TH OCTOBER FOR CATERING
(SEE BELOW)
[BOOKINGS HERE](#)

PORT STEPHENS
YACHT CLUB



We'd like to say

Thank You

Your efforts are the lifeblood of PSYC and make this Club successful.

Bring your spouses and join your fellow volunteers for a luncheon upstairs at the Club rooms on

Sunday 16th October at 1pm

RSVP by Monday 10th October, for catering, by email to director1@psyc.com.au or leave a message on 0435208650

We look forward to seeing you there,
PSYC Board

AND MORE . . .

- Twilight Sailing – Every Wednesday
- Soak Up Sunday – Learn Sailing Sessions Oct-Nov
- Working Bee – 30th Oct
- Trivia Night 18th Nov
- AGM 25th Nov

Visit psyc.com.au for further info

UPCOMING AGM

All Board positions can be nominated for in the coming weeks and we would all like to see a minimum of 2 nominations for each position. Anyone who is considering nominating is encouraged to chat to Board members if they would like to know more about what is involved. We also encourage individuals to talk to members they think would be good candidates before nominating them.

While the Board and sub-committee roles may appear to have discrete responsibilities there are many times when there can be considerable cross-over to cover activities as needed in circumstances where an individual becomes, ill, travels or has family or work commitments.

Board Positions

Commodore – the Front person of the Club and chairperson of the Board meetings.

Vice Commodore – Responsible for the Sailing Instructions, Notice of Race, Protests, Course selection and Presentation Night. Works closely with the Club Captain with regard to race management and chairs the race sub-committee. Updates race handicapping system, Top Yacht.

Rear Commodore – Responsible for building maintenance and coordinating with the council to facilitate needed maintenance and upgrades to the Club.

Treasurer – looking after the Club's accounts, paying bills and balancing the books. Working closely with the Commodore, Bar Manager and Club Captain.

Secretary – Tracking all incoming and outgoing correspondence. Writing the Agenda and minutes for all board meetings. Works closely with the Commodore and Treasurer with regard to maintaining compliance.

Club Captain – Looks after the maintenance of the moorings and marks, training, race management and assists the Vice Commodore.

Director 1 – This director typically acts as the Membership Officer and coordinates with She-Sails sub-committee and the Volunteer Coordinator being the conduit to the Board for those sub-committee roles.

Director 2 – Social and cruising activity coordinator. This role has been vacant for some time and we are look forward to someone stepping into the role and really making a difference. This role would be the conduit to the Board for the social sub-committee and Cruising coordinator roles. Also responsible for sourcing/ordering Club Merchandise as and when needed.

Director 3 – Responsible for coordinating Club communications via website and social media with the sub-committee members who carry out these activities.

Yacht Name	Surname	Name	Yacht Type	Sail No.
51st PROJECT	Bell	Julian	Beneteau First 50	7109
BELLAMY	Liney	Stephen	Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 45.2	6063
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
GUILTY PLEASURES 8	Peachey	Tim	Sayer 7	58
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
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
SERENITY	Tolcher	Ray	Northshore 27	
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 1250	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

Welcome to new Yachts, Bellamy, Guilty Pleasures 8, La Sonrisa and Serenity.

A Holiday West and North.

With Covid restrictions lifted in WA and NT it was a chance to catch up with Relatives in WA and celebrate our Daughter's birthday for the first time in three years.

September and October is the time to see the wild flowers in the west and at the same time celebrate a 90th Birthday.

We visited farmland North of Perth in the New Norcia area. The oranges were out in the flooded upper Swan River area and we sought out road verges further north and some reserves sporting the huge variety



of wildflowers. We did not see the carpets of colour you see in the tourist brochures but hundreds of tiny individual plants sporting sometimes only one delicate flower. The variety of tiny native orchids and the variety of shapes and sizes of plants and foliage is amazing.



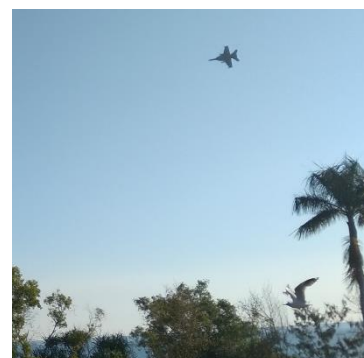
These sandy conglomerate soils are harsh as is the climate, deficient in trace element supporting plants which have adapted and evolved and found nowhere else in the world in type or number of species. Many plants have symbiotic relationships with neighbouring plants even getting nutrients from fungi around their roots. An example is the native Sandalwood species which relies on acacia wattle species as companion plants.

Modern farming techniques have changed all this and thousands of hectares of crops are now planted. This has been achieved by the addition of the trace elements, molybdenum, zinc, and copper, together with Nitrogen and Phosphorus at planting. Alas many trees are gone and with it the bird song.

This year the bright yellow of Canola crops as high as the fences contrast with the deep green serial and lupin crops which the current high rainfall has brought for the second year in a row. West Australian farmers have ironically benefited from the Chinese ban on the import of malting barley and many chose the alternative of growing more lupins. The latter now fetching the lofty price of \$As 1,000 per ton!

Darwin

Next stop was to visit our Daughter Sally who is working as a nurse educator in the top end. We arrived at the time of the 14 Nation Airforce exercises held in Australia's North every two years. We witnessed the fly past of the many jets from various nations attending the war games. The planes flew low and sometimes even slow over the water's edge at Darwin's Mindle Beach, witnessed by thousands of onlookers. The display concluded with the ground-



shaking roar from our RAAF Hornet fighters from 77 Squadron, based at Williamstown NSW. (Yup, your taxes at work.)

Two days before leaving, Darwin Sherril and I took the Cooroboree Creek tour. The tour is famous for the scenic cruise on the 20 km lagoon complex left after the monsoon flooded Mary River recedes during the dry season. Birdlife and fish abound and are surprisingly easy to spot. Birds such as Brolgas, white breasted Sea Eagles, egrets, various ducks, kingfishers and even the “Jesus” birds which can walk along the lotus leaves floating on the surface. A twitter’s paradise. Oh, and I didn’t mention the crocks!!!



A note from Director Peta Oliver

With the AGM fast approaching I wanted to let all members know that I will not be nominating for the Board at the upcoming AGM. Overall I have enjoyed my time on the board and while I feel there is still much more I would like to achieve as Director I have family commitments pulling me away. I look forward to devoting more attention to She-Sails activities at PSYC in the coming summer season. I am more than happy to continue to support the Club’s activities from behind the scenes and any members who would like to be on the Board. If anyone is considering nominating for the Board and would like to know more please feel free to contact me by email or phone or any other Board member. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank fellow Board Members and all those who have supported me in my various roles as director, volunteer coordinator, membership officer and in starting up the She-Sails initiative at PSYC. I am sure whoever steps into these roles in the future will be equally well supported by you and in turn support the needs of the members.

BELLAMY - Another Big Boat Added to the Club's fleet.

Steve and Dani Liney have purchased a 45 ft Jeanneau named Bellamy, with the intention of doing extensive cruising over the next few years and have just started racing her in our club. Steve is an experienced yachtsman and Master 4 Mariner.

Steve was brought up learning to sail a Heron dinghy with his dad on Narrabeen Lake in Sydney. He then sailed competitively with Middle Harbour Yacht Club in Sydney. Progressing from the Cherub class to S80's, he then campaigned a 505 that he received sponsorship for, winning the 1996/7 Nationals. Steve then purchased a new Beneteau 361 to do charter work on Sydney Harbour.

Steve worked as master Mariner on a variety of charter vessels, then at Sydney Ferries before taking on a role in Western Australia, as a Port Operations Officer.

Returning to the East Coast, Steve decided to semi-retire and joined Port Stephens Yacht Club racing Clean Sweep, which was sponsored by his wife's cleaning business.

Clean Sweep was an Elliott 780, a sistership and rival for Troppo. Steve often sailed with his young daughter Heather. Now Steve and Dani have Bellamy so the whole family can join our yacht racing. They even tempt crewmembers from other yachts onto their boat with hot sausage rolls! (Saturdays only)

It was great to see the rivalry of the big boats in our recent sprints races where Bellamy took equal first place with our biggest yacht, 51st project. Steve said he had a great crew and thoroughly enjoyed the blustery conditions.

Notes from the Bar

We are still experiencing very low numbers at the Bar and are hoping that the warmer weather will encourage you all to come out and support the Club.

We have a new Sauvignon Blanc called Street Talk which is a really nice Australian wine I'm sure all of the white drinkers will enjoy so please let us know if you would like to keep it as part of the range priced at \$18.00.

We have been lucky enough to source some more Dark Corner by popular demand so get in while you can.

November and December will trial Aperol and Campari Spritzers which are really refreshing and too easy to drink 🍹

CHEAPEST Drinks in the Bay

Cheers from the Bar Team

We have the Covid. By John Grainger

We arrived home on Friday 2nd of September after boarding our aeroplane at 2am at Darwin Airport and flew to Brisbane and waited two hours for the Qantas Link to Newcastle.

Prior to then, we did all we could to avoid crowds, shun indoor functions and even kept out of supermarkets at busy times. Our Daughter who is a Darwin Nurse, assured us that Darwin had very little Covid Virus because of the extended lockdowns needed to protect the indigenous communities.

But My friends, things have changed.

We only went on one bus tour, an hour each way to the Lagoon Cruise. The bus also carried a Victorian bird watching group! We were positive three days later! Thankfully we got home in time to isolate.

So, what are we dealing with. The government assures us that everything is under control. But is it! Dr. Norman Swan, Medical Journalist, in his ABC Corona Podcast, tells us that the Omicron variant of Covid 19 is twenty times more virulent in transmission than the original Wuhan strain: that 25 percent of people are infectious after 7 days isolation (Albeit a lowered virus load) and that we are recording 50 deaths a day due to the virus. Two thirds of the deaths in nursing home facilities have occurred since January this year. In short, there is more Covid 19 around than there ever was. In NSW only 70% of eligible people have received their third vaccination.

Why has this come about?

One reason is that fewer Australians have bothered to boost their vaccination and the many of these were many months ago. Another is that the new variant strain Omicron is far more infectious and the current vaccines are based on the early strains. Interestingly Dr. Swan says that the 1.5 metre isolation is based on the guess that the most spread came from heavy moisture droplets laden with virus coming from the sneezing and coughing of infected persons.

Now we know that the virus is also carried in normal breath vapours which can linger in the air for a long time. Super spreading events occur indoors in poorly ventilated spaces, he said. Hence the cruise ships, dance floors and in restaurants people were infected many tables away from the positive person. Dr.Swan does not agree with the five day isolation as in USA.

What is being done.

From this week, Pfizer and Moderna will roll out a new multi-valent vaccine with the new omicron as well as the old strains in them. Laboratories are also working on a nasal spray vaccine for Covid. The hope is to get one which will produce antibodies in the epithelial lining of the nose and throat in addition to the normal blood serum antibodies. Ie. A no jab option.

The Danger.

Dr. Swan says that while many people around the world are unprotected. There is a real danger that the Covid 19 Virus will continue to re-invent itself into yet another variant.

It may be some time until we have true Herd Immunity to Covid 19.

Ventilation seems to be most important. Airconditioned buildings full of people, buses and aeroplanes will continue to a hazard but complacency on our part will keep it spreading.

Seagull Droppings



Spinnakers can be flown sideways it seems.



She's The One now has a functioning Propeller. Don't ask the Commodore for a beer just at the moment.

What the Seagull didn't see. Solanda

Was: Solanda running aground.

Where: Soldiers Point East of the port marker.

When: Weds. 10th August 2022

Why: In last place but trying to finish by sunset against the tide in a dying breeze in order to get 3 mins off start time.

Who was to blame: was it the skipper, was it the helmsman, was it the look out at the mast.? Consensus eventually prevailed which the blame was shared by all.

Worth it: a big **no**.

THE FULL STORY:

Gliding along at about 1 kt, closer to shore than ever, there was a slight bump, then another which stopped all forward motion, not that we were going fast. No panic, tip it on its side, and all lean over and motor in backwards. Didn't happen, could not go forward or back. S - - t.

Visions of Solanda laying on its side at low tide, in darkness, prompted more effort. Skipper then went out on the end of the boom to provide more heel, still no movement. He looked down and realized how shallow we were. He immediately dropped into the water up to his thighs. Soon felt how cold it was. S—t again.

Head went under to reveal the keel was wedged between two rocks, fore and aft of the keel which meant the boat had to be twisted sideways. With the **dry** crew on deck rocking profusely, and the skipper pushing the stern around to have the bow pointing towards the tide and deeper water. More rocking and pushing, finally, after 20 minutes or more we were afloat again. The skipper, once on board, had uncontrolled shivers which soon abated when the next incident occurred. In the hast of starting the motor, the recoil did not rebound. Started drifting in the eddy back towards the shore. Finally able to partly rewind the cord, started the motor and back to the mooring just on dark.

Next morning, out to the boat, checked everything, found a broken nut in the cowling, nothing worked, Motor off the boat for repairs. Unfortunately, broken part found due to corrosion.

Comment by repairer was : *"You old blokes with old motors are in too much of a hurry to get back to the club for a few beers and you never wash the motor out with fresh water"*.

The truth hurts. Peter Ballard, Captain.

Sailing the Med. (As you do, of course)

Folks don't expect to be sailing against Rhythm any time soon. The skipper Ian Barnard has realised his lifetime dream. He is sailing in the Mediterranean Sea area crewing on a luxury yacht. He reports having just sailed 700 nm from N/W Greece to Fethyrie Turkey. He says sailing though the Ionian Sea was calm but the passage in the Aegean was challenging!

Some Marina costs were costing \$350 a night! (Well it is a big catamaran!)

I bet he was glad he's not the owner. No-doubt he will come back with plenty of stories.



The VC went to Yamba. The Plante's went to Victoria and The Mountford's went to New Zealand; others went elsewhere



The result is the great yacht club What's App SELFIE competition.



Stay glued for next Bilge edition to see what the results are.

The Plantes also went to England



Judy and Steve Plante just spent 3 months in the UK, the first time they've seen their families for 3 years.

They enjoyed the best Summer weather they've had for a long time and managed a tour of the country, visiting Yorkshire, Shropshire, Liverpool, Hampshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.



All had a great network of public footpaths through fields and along rivers. They visited many village pubs which have fantastic new outdoor areas using money given to them during Covid.



Thanks Judy for the pics particularly the banner pic of the Queen. (Ed.)



Marine Rescue Port Stephens

Volunteers saving lives on the water

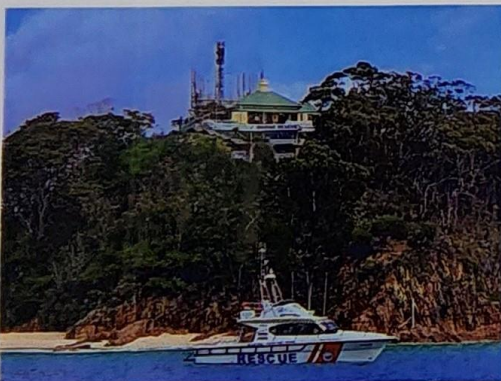
In Appreciation

This Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to

Port Stephens Yacht Club

on behalf of all the Volunteer Members
of Marine Rescue Port Stephens,

In recognition of your help in raising funds to enable us
to serve the community and fulfil our motto
“Volunteers saving lives on the water”



1st August 2022

Ben van der Wijngaart

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Unit Commander

Cruising to the Whitsunday Islands

Cherylle Stone is still cruising to our North flying her new Screecher/headsail near Percy Island, heading for Mackay Qld.



Sub Zero lying off Cid Harbour, Whitsunday Islands, Mike taking it easy at low tide.

Long Time members David and Patty Bowden

By David Bowden.

In the mid 1970s with a young family in tow, we bought a Hood 20 Shoal draft yacht and joined the fledgling Soldiers Point Yacht Club. There was no Club House so meetings were held in garages, homes or in the Park. These were the days when everything was self help and the focus was on cruising and social events. Racing was frowned on and member's yachts were required to have live aboard facilities so sailing dinghies were excluded. I used to produce Club Minutes and other printed matter courtesy of a RAAF gestetner. Trips up to the Myall Lakes were a highlight as it was like adventuring into a foreign country.

In 1978 I was posted to Malaysia, sold the Hood and work and family priorities put an end to our links with the Club for many years. During this period the Club changed its name twice- becoming the Port Stephens Yacht Squadron then the present name of the Port Stephens Yacht Club. By this time the Club had a lease and the Clubhouse was built.

Work and family continued to demand our attention until retirement in 1999 although we were always walking Marinas and yacht building sites examining all types of yachts. By the late 1990s I was convinced that a catamaran was the way to go as it provided space, stability, two motors, beachable with mini keels and easy dinghy stowage. There followed many weekend trips to Queensland to look at

prospective catamarans. In late 1999 we settled on a Grainger 430 called This Way Up. This became our magic carpet for the next 22 years as we travelled further afield than the traditional winter cruise to the Whitsundays as our experience grew. Having seen so many yachts firmly attached to a mooring or marina for months at a time without being used, we planned on living aboard for several years. This required us to store the furniture, rent the house, cancel the Reader's Digest (!), redirect mail to family members and put all accounts on auto debit.

In 2002 we became aware of a plan by the Coastal Cruising Club of Australia to conduct a cruise in company around Australia to commemorate the Bicentenary of Matthew Flinders circumnavigation in 1802-03. About 9 yachts completed this whole journey although a number of other yachts participated in various legs. Geoff and Cherylle Stone were also participants in this journey in Willie Wagtail. The finale was a colourful entry into Sydney Harbour on 9 June 2003 complete with many water craft, ferries, TV coverage and celebration dinners,

Having blooded ourselves with this cruise we continued to travel to more distant and exotic places such as Tasmania, the Louisades in PNG, New Caledonia and Vanuatu. We started to talk to yachties who were planning on cruising through Indonesia to South East Asia. This sounded like a good idea as the Sail Indonesia Rally which terminated in Singapore, linked up with the Sail Malaysia Rally which continued on up the Malacca Straits to Langkawi. In 2006 we began this voyage out of Darwin along with about 88 other yachts many of whom were world circumnavigators. A family illness caused us to return to Darwin after a month and subsequently back to Port Stephens. By 2008 family health had recovered so we joined the Sail Indonesia Rally and spent the next 3 years cruising Malaysia, Thailand, Borneo and the Philippines. By 2010 we were ready to return to Australia although we had completed a couple of yacht deliveries for friends from South East Asia to Australia in that period. In late 2013 we settled back in our home and modified our sailing to winter cruises to the Whitsundays, Lizard Island, Lake Macquarie, Sydney Harbour and local waters. While I never anticipated such long distant cruises, I now find I have rounded Cape York 9 times either in This Way Up or with yacht deliveries.

My interest in sewing developed after we made our first dinghy cover using my wife's domestic sewing machine with our RIB sitting on the front trampoline while anchored in the Airlie Marina pond before the fingers were installed. Thereafter I bought a commercial walking foot sewing machine and started sewing sail covers, clears, dinghy covers etc for ourselves and friends. I enjoy the sense of creativity in turning material into something very useful and practical. Now that we are without a yacht I have more time to help with member's sewing projects.



David says he will do most canvas or small sail repairs for \$35 an hour plus material costs. Visit the Club web site under News then buy and Sell for more details.

Or ring him on 0414013657 email: dandpbowden@gmail.com

Antarctic Sailor, Lisa Blair Speaks at Port Stephens Newcastle Yacht Club function at Soldiers Point.

Lisa Blair is currently doing a speaking tour along the east coast of Australia. In May of this year, she completed her unassisted circumnavigation of Antarctica in record time, and she is the first solo woman to do so. Lisa's first attempt was in 2017. However, she was dismasted off South Africa and had to limp in to Cape Town for repairs. She then continued on with the voyage to set a record anyway, circumnavigating Antarctica with one assist.

I thought this would be a great opportunity to take my daughter, Heather to hear an amazing woman speak about her achievements. Some of you have probably seen Heather sailing with me, and at the club by now. She started racing with me when she was 7 years old on my previous boat, Clean Sweep. Heather is now 10 and honing her skills on our new boat, Bellamy.

We were both fascinated by Lisa's stories of challenges and adventure. One thing that stood out was her determination to achieve her goals. She is passionate and totally committed to protecting the environment and in particular, the ocean. Heather and I had a lovely chat to Lisa after her talk, and we both found her to be such an inspiration.



Steve and Heather Liney, Bellamy

Fellow sailors, here is a chance to help a Traditional Sailing School in PNG.

Thor Jensen has contacted me through a mutual acquaintance to see if our Club members are willing to donate their used and some abused sails to a sailing school mentioned below. You have all seen those outrigger sailing canoes of New Guinea and can recognise that the skills to build them are dying out with the old masters.

Here is how you can help.

PNG traditional sailing school seeks sails.

Pasana Group is the name of Papua New Guinea's first canoe building school, teaching traditional skills to the youth.

As master Sailor Sanakoli John, explained recently in an interview on ABC radio; The current living cost crisis has increased the demand for canoes, as they allow people to sustain themselves by going fishing and travel to the market for free.

The school, which is based on Nuakata Island in Milne Bay Province, is kindly asking NSW sailors to donate their used sails, so they can have a second life on a traditional sailing canoe in Milne Bay.

Specifically, Pasana Group is looking for sails that have at least a couple of seasons in them (ripped or not) as well as sail repair kits.

Here is a link to a short video: <https://youtu.be/sEJoiRf3J3U>

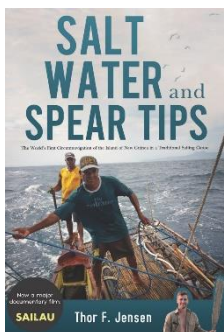
Thor is an author, adventurer and filmmaker and has just completed a circumnavigation of New Guinea in a traditional sailing canoe with two Papuan crew members. He has filmed and written a book showcasing these marvellous craft. (See below). He is currently living in Darwin.

Thor has organised a boat to call in to Port Stephens next month to take any sails that we come up with.

I have two old sails (one a little ripped) and another member has a couple, but surely there are more out there. Dacron sails are preferred because they cannot sew the new plastic type sails for the outrigger.

Thor F. Jensen

If you can help, please text or ring me on 0429842476 so I can coordinate pick up. John Grainger PSYC



For more info you can contact Thor F. Jensen in Darwin. thorfjensen@gmail.com

Tel. +61 421856266

Here is his book on his adventures circumnavigating New Guinea in an outrigger canoe.

Salt Water and Spear Tips. Expedition Book of the Year - NAFF | Bookawards

Find it at: pegasuspublishers.com Webshop: ThorStore

Currently Vacant Assigned Positions

[Apply to the Board via email to secretary@psyc.com.au](mailto:secretary@psyc.com.au)

Volunteer Coordinator – Organise 4 working bees annually and coordinate volunteer efforts for

She-Sails Sub-committee members (male or female – anyone who is keen to see more women more actively involved in sailing)

Marketing officer – assist with preparation and distribution of information and flyers/posters for the Club.

Social sub-committee for planning various social events throughout the year

Back-up Newsletter Editor (to generally assist with preparation and cover holiday periods)

Back-up Website & It Officer (to cover holiday periods)

Cruising Coordinator – to have more social on water cruising events/ raft ups

Currently filled Assigned Positions

Newsletter Editor – John Grainger

Club Upgrade committee – Rita Murray and Greg Cumberland

She-Sail Representatives – Peta Oliver, Deb Wellwood, Cherylle Stone

Bar Manager – Wendy Mountford & Donna Wilcock

IT and Website Manager – Paul Sinclair

Race Sub-committee – discuss and collectively make decisions around Sailing Program, SIs, courses and mark locations. Includes representatives from Starter team and She-Sails.

Facebook – Cherylle Stone, Mel Radcliffe

Yacaaba Centre
FUNDRAISER MOVIE SCREENING
Q&A with Director Catherine Hill and Kate Washington MP

"...a story of connection, perseverance, and community."
James Fletcher, Filmink

Some Happy Day
somehappydayfilm.com

Nelson Bay Cinema . Wed 26 Oct . 6pm

BOOK TICKETS HERE
Using the QR code
Online at trybooking.com/CCVDU
Call the Yacaaba Centre on 02 4984 2176
Ticket includes a glass of bubbles and bite to eat

PORT STEPHENS RAINES & HOME ROTARY CLUB OF SALAMANDER BAY BANNISTERS PORT STEPHENS

Also supported by . BYO Cellars . iGym 24/7 . Nelson Bay Cinema . Woolworths Nelson Bay Atmos Dining . Bare Beauty . TerryWhite Chemmart NB . K-Mart . Coles . The Little Beach Boathouse

You can help our local crisis centre and also entertain yourself.

Here is how to book your seat at the cinema.

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