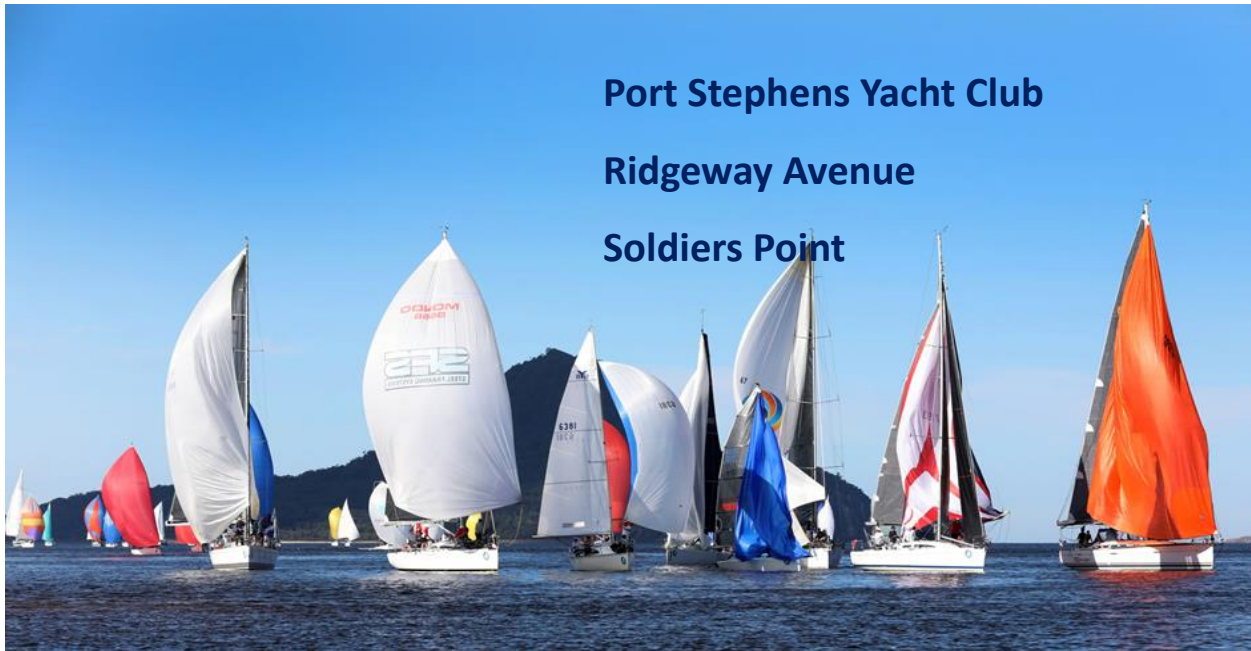


# The Bilge - April May 2023

## *Special Sail Port Stephens Edition*



## Commodore's Report

The month of April was:

### 1. NSW Sports Grant

- a. Redesign the renovation layout, discussion with Sorenson Design to eliminate “structural changes” which would trigger a DA, whilst maintaining the overall features of the original grant submission.
- b. Site visits with builder & plumber to confirm best practise and cost-effective redesign and obtain new quotation.

### 2. Sail Port Stephens

- a. Proposed that PSYC yachts participating in SPS are entered into a NOR Sail Port Stephens Regatta PSYC Entrants 2023 to recognise the best performing PSYC yacht.
- b. Promoted hospitality for visiting yachts at Soldiers Point Marina.
- c. News of the Area – prepare article PSYC yachts competing in SPS.

3. Resignation PSYC Secretary (Deb Wellwood) effective 30/6/2023, work and family commitments, thank you for your efforts over the past twelve (12) months.

## **The month of May was:**

1. Confirmed my attendance at Pete Symes memorial service Stockton RLS on 16 May.
2. Attended Australia Sailing Summit at CYCA with Vice Commodore.
3. Emergency Services Regatta
  - a. Confirmed dates 23 & 24 July 2023 and PSYC supporting with race management, hospitality, and bar.
  - b. Meetings with race officer (RO) David Blakemore
4. PSYC Bar Management.
  - a. Meetings with David and Wendy.
  - b. Liquor & Gaming Self-Assessment for compliance.
  - c. Arranged with treasurer and bar manager credit account for alcohol purchases to streamline process.
5. Australian Sailing – Emma Humphries.
  - a. Problems with Sail Pass.
  - b. Advice as to automation of membership renewal via Rev Sport for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 issuing invoices to members.
  - c. Membership issues and housekeeping.

## **NSW Sports Grant**

- d. Advised Sport NSW Grant panel “We have not received Port Stephens Council “landlords’ consent” as of 25/5/2023, interactions with PSC, previously indicated in writing (e-mail) that DA approval wasn’t required based upon the submitted renovation design as submitted, now when seeking “landlords’ consent” we have had to tweak the renovation design to eliminate structural changes triggering a DA, whilst still maintain all the elements of our original submission to Sports NSW. The updated drawings are attached.”
  - e. NSW Sport - Proposed an amendment to the funding agreement. I’d like to add in an additional milestone which will be ‘confirmation of landowners consent’. This will allow us to execute the funding agreement now and then review the landowners consent as part of milestone 2. We have however reduced the amount paid upon executing the funding agreement to 5% of the grant amount. PSYC agreed to the amended milestone dates.
6. Stronger Communities Programme Round 8
  - a. Successful application (\$8,000) - Your Stronger Communities Programme Round 8 application was successful, and your grant agreement will be ready for you on the business.gov.au portal soon.

Michael Kirby Commodore

# Acting Director 1 (Membership) Report.

1. PSYC Membership including - yacht owners, grew, junior, youth, life members, social, non-racing, and country now stands at 354 as of June 2023.
2. April 2023 new members fifteen (15).
  - a. Social (3)
  - b. Crew (1)
  - c. Non-Racing (1)
  - d. Sail Pass (10)
3. May 2023 new members eleven (11).
  - a. Social (1)
  - b. Crew (4)
  - c. Yacht Owner (1)
  - d. Sail Pass (5)

## Vice Commodore's Report

We have had the busiest sailing period on Port Stephens for the year with the popular Sail Port Stephens series held over the past month and as we finish off another season we brace ourselves for the onslaught of winter. Sail Port Stephens saw a new format this year where SPS was broken into three separate events to enable more visiting boats to compete by freeing up marina berths for the Commodores Trophy through moving the TP and IRC/ORC event to a separate weekend. Hosted this year by Newcastle Yacht Club with Dennis Thompson as Principle Race Officer SPS was as always a well-run regatta providing an economic boost to the region and promoting sailing locally as a terrific spectacle on the water especially on the downwind legs with colourful spinnakers filling the bay.

PSYC was well represented with Adios, Bellamy, Elusive, She's the One, Shere Khan, Smoke & Mirrors, Una Vita, Wubaray, and 51<sup>ST</sup> Project competing in the Commodores Cup. The conditions were one of the best I've personally experienced in the 8 years I've competed in this event with an afternoon sea breeze filling in most days to ensure racing got under way on all but the last day of the event where the wind failed to eventuate as per the forecast. Congratulations to the crew of 51<sup>ST</sup> Project for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 1 and Steve Liney and his crew onboard Bellamy for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 3.

51<sup>ST</sup> Project went on to compete in the Windward-Leeward Series held offshore under a ORC Club certificate the following weekend in perfect conditions until Sunday where a Westerly smashed the fleet with the local boat forced to withdraw due to equipment damage on the way to the start line.

The weather again behaved itself for two of the three days on the final weekend of SPS for the sports boats, off the beach dinghies and windsurfers. PSYC was again well represented in the sports boat division by Crazy Little Thing, Mr T and Wubaray. New PSYC member Nicky Bethwaite skippered her brother's boat Don't Panic a 89er a radical new design sports boat. Nicky was joined by her husband Keith and local PSYC junior member Arthur Bell on the foredeck with their team proving to be unstoppable taking out line honours in all races and winning 5 of the 6 races competed on corrected time to take out the series convincingly. Unfortunately, a strong westerly would see racing abandoned on the last day of this event.

Michael Kirby and I recently attended an Australian Sailing Summit held at the CYCA in Sydney. This was the first time I'd attended the Summit and it was pleasing to see how active Australian sailing were at ensuring the sport continues to grow. The summit included the following key topics:

- Sailpass,
- Strategic Plan to attract more members, and grow female members to 50% within 10 years,
- Speers Point Amateur Sailing Club's success in building membership after dropping to about 45 members,
- Technology in sailing including Boyzone and Countdown Management Timer,
- Yacht Club Insurance, and the importance of protecting volunteers and using a specialist marine insurance broker,
- Zhuk Clothing, Australian innovative design focusing on environmentally friendly sailing clothing and their commitment and sponsorship, including 15% off clothing for AS members,
- Revolutionise sport data analysis and upcoming development of surveys to help promote membership growth and their feedback on the success of Aus. Sailing compared to much larger sporting organisations within Australia.

The overall takeaway was the strong commitment by Australian Sailing to spend time assisting clubs with growth, we have already experienced this valued assistance at PCYS, I guess the message I'd like to share is Australian Sailing is very active and willing to assist us.

Handicaps... Tim Peachey and I have completed a review of handicaps, this has involved downloading all the Saturday races with the exception of the inshore stern chaser which provides too much variation due to the impact changing wind and tidal conditions have as a result of a staggered start. With the data downloaded we have compared the average for each boat's Allocated Handicap AHC against Back Handicap BHC (BHC is the HC the boat would have needed to have won the race, it is calculated after each race and displayed on all results). We have looked at each boat inshore and offshore and from these results changed handicaps based on each boat's average of the BHC for inshore and offshore results for the entire season. There are only a few anomalies where large variations exist with the majority of the fleet only requiring minor adjustments to the handicap which indicates the handicap program is working. The changes made are all based on the data within Topyacht rather than from an individual's opinion which we hope will see a further tightening of race results between the fleet through this analysis.

The race committee have prepared a lighter Winter calendar, based on the typical westerly weather patterns we experienced last year, this has led us to shortening the program to incorporate a lay day each month following the number of abandonments we experienced last winter due to either not enough or too much wind, us yachties must look like a very fussy bunch when looking in from the outside. We have also tried to align these lay days with the cruising calendar put together by Cruising Co-ordinator Philip Bendeich which will hopefully encourage more members to go cruising on our beautiful waterway.

**Julian Bell Vice Commodore**

## Rear Commodore's Report.

By now many will have seen the changes taking place in the clubhouse. Well - you ain't seen nothin' yet!!! We have just received confirmation of the grant for replacement of the carpet on the bottom floor and WHS-compliant carpet for the stairs, so the great carpet-change-event will now be very soon!!! Rest assured, people will come far and wide just to ooh-aahh at the new look bottom floor...!!

There has also been more positive movement on the grant for refurbishing the rest rooms, so they have taken a major step towards coming to fruition!! Exciting times!! Even the outside eaves might get painted within my lifetime (I was warned how painful/slow it is to push something through council and you know – they were right!!)

Again there will be some critical times when a few hands will be needed, so please come along when the call goes out. No particular skills necessary, but always welcome!!

After the dust settles, the committee will be looking at giving the bar a much-needed refurbishment. This will echo the theme of the rest of the ground floor and will also take the advice of the bar volunteers to improve the workability of the bar. This investment on the bar should see it through well into the future.

Cheers. Rossco. MacDonald

## Club Captain's Report

Dear valued members of PSYC, what a month of sailing we had with Sail Port Stephens 2023, we are seriously blessed with the waterway we have at our doorstep. If only we could get more members for all the boats that want to sail in our club.

Firstly I would like to say a big shout-out to Arthur Bell of 51 st project. This young man sailed in every race of every event of Sail Port Stephens 2023, which is pretty impressive, I myself sailed in every regatta, along with Clive Jones, Dennis Hume and Julian Bell, but not every race, so too young Arty, great work. He is a great sailor so if you can entice him on your boat, it will be sailed well and improved (Authorised) before your eyes.

I have been receiving yacht registrations and insurance renewals frequently over the last month, in fact, I can report there are no boats that are in the red for safety audits or insurance updates, the first time since I have been club captain. I thank all the skippers for being attentive in this area.

The Emergency service regatta will be fast approaching, PSYC will be hosting for the first time and looking to make this a regular event on our calendar, Sunday/Monday 23/24 July 2023, (on top of the normal Saturdays point score race) it will be a pleasure to sail in, but we will be looking for volunteers as well any help would be welcome:

BBQ operators  
Start/Finish officers  
Photographers  
Sailors  
General Volunteers

Cheers Tim Peachey, Club Captain

# Social Director Margaret Flockhart

## Report from PSYC Social Committee.

Dear Members,

The Social Committee is working really hard to organise events to suit all our members and to attract non-members to our wonderful club.

We would really appreciate it if you could support us by attending the events whilst encouraging your family and friends to come along too.

We have had fantastic feedback on the events we have arranged to date and we will strive to make each and every one a success. We are also committed to supporting local caterers and musicians for all our events where at all possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below if you would like to discuss any of the events in greater detail.

Please see the list of planned Social Events for the rest of 2023.

Planned Social Events from June to December 2023

DATE	EVENT
Fri 16/06/2023	Trivia Night
Fri 27/06/2023	Games Night - Pool, Darts & Cards
Fri 14/07/2023	Bastille Day Meal (French Theme) & Live Music by Rock Duty Duo
Fri 11/08/2023	Karaoke Night with table nibbles
Sat 2/09/2023	Start of Sailing Season - Social Event to be confirmed
Tue 5/09/2023	Games Night - Pool, Darts & Cards
Fri 15/09/2023	Trivia Night
Fri 13/10/2023	Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Tasting
Tue 7/11/2023	Games Night - Pool, Darts & Cards
Fri 24/11/2023	Trivia Night
Fri 8/12/2023	XMAS Dinner & Live Music

**\*\* SAVE THE DATES \*\***

Invites will be sent out prior to the events via EMAIL

**Margaret Flockhart, Social Director.**

# Sail Port Stephens Regatta 2023

This year was the biggest Sail Port Stephens Regatta ever with increased number of entrants, more race divisions and a different format. A far cry from the modest twenty-five yachts that participated in 2008 initiated by the Corlette Point Yacht Club. That year PSYC had their own race in the cruising division. Two years later in 2010 the regatta attracted yachts from as far away as Melbourne and boasted a reputable 85 entrants.

Now the regatta has expanded so much that the event has been spread over two weeks with a lead in race from Newcastle to Port Stephens run by the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club. The change of format came as entries of 107 yachts had to be catered for. Creating four divisions in the Main event, the Passage races (Commodore's Cup in past years) over five days, prevented a log jam at the start line. The event was scheduled over five days of racing but the last race was abandoned as all yachts were becalmed.

Encouraged by the previous impressive performances of Port Stephens Yacht Club members, nine local yachts were entered in Sail Port Stephens. Una Vita won in the performance Cruising division in 2021 and Elusive won her division in 2022.

## OVERALL race results for PSYC boats 2023.

Yacht name	Division	Points	Race 1	Race2	Race 3	Race 4
51 <sup>st</sup> Project	Div 1	<b>23</b>	6	10	2	5
Bellamy	Div 3	<b>19</b>	1	12	1	5
Wuburay	Div 3	<b>30</b>	13	2	8	8
Unavita	Div 3	<b>30</b>	7	8	4	11
Smoke & Mirrors	Div 3	<b>39</b>	2	4	19	13
She's The One	Div 3	<b>44</b>	8	5	6	25
Shere Khan	Div 3	<b>47</b>	9	3	12	23
Elusive	Non Spin	<b>27</b>	5	4	4	14
Adios	Non Spin	<b>32</b>	9	2	8	13

Congratulations to Steve Liney and his team on Bellamy for coming first just four points ahead of 51<sup>st</sup> Project. Division three had the most local entries with six yachts giving remarkable performances over all.

**See Race 2 & 3 stats below.**

### **Race 2 third division PSYC placings:**

Wubaray 2<sup>nd</sup>, Shere Khan 3<sup>rd</sup>, Smoke and Mirrors 4<sup>th</sup>, She's the one 5<sup>th</sup>, Una Vita 8<sup>th</sup>, Bellamy 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Race 3 third division PSYC placings:**

Una Vita 4<sup>th</sup>, Bellamy 5<sup>th</sup>, She's the One 6<sup>th</sup>, Wubaray 7<sup>th</sup>.

Is that not Port Stephens Yacht Club showing the way?

# Sail Port Stephens summary

by Clive Jones

So the new dates new format SPS is done and dusted. Not originally planned – but I competed in all the events, firstly with Una Vita, then a Middle Harbour YC yacht Stormaway, and finally on our Crazy Little Thing. (CLT).

It all started with Una Vita and 51<sup>st</sup> Project joining the feeder fleet from Newcastle on a beautiful sunny day with a fast 2 sail reach across Stockton Bight.

The new expanded date format over two weeks provided the opportunity for more entries due to the restricted mooring availability if everyone came here at once.

The passage race series for all the club racers and luxury cruiser racers with the Commodores Cup and Port Stephens trophy up for grabs ran over the 5 days from 24<sup>th</sup> April (with the 27<sup>th</sup> being a lay day).

With 5 divisions including 1 non-spinnaker fleet, 107 entries were on the start lines, with PSYC holding their heads high throughout. The winds overall were perhaps better than often seen, so there was some excellent close racing keeping all on their toes. The final day was a glass out when the lightweights were hoping to get one up over the heavier boats – alas that didn't happen as racing was abandoned.

51<sup>st</sup> Project finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Div1 and didn't they party well!! Div 2 saw at one stage all PSYC boats in the top 10, while in the end Bellamy came 2<sup>nd</sup>. wubaray and Una Vita on equal points in 3<sup>rd</sup>, Smoke & Mirrors in 7<sup>th</sup>, She's The One 9<sup>th</sup> after a day to forget on the last race with a story that suggests they were giving it everything they could, and Shere Khan just missing the top 10 in 11<sup>th</sup>(out of 25). Our Commodore sailing She's The One, can tell the story but I think he had a hand in making sure the locals were allowed free short-term parking. The Non-spinnaker division saw Elusive in 7<sup>th</sup> and Adios in 9<sup>th</sup>.

## The Big Boats

The following weekend brought the “big keel-boats” that like to race around the buoys offshore, for a 3 day regatta starting 5<sup>th</sup> May. A fleet of 23 yachts across 3 divisions, TP52s, IRC and ORC campaigners all with the go-fast gear.

Clive (CJ) Jones called me and said, can you sub as crew on Stormaway for me on Friday – so of course I jumped at the chance. Stormaway is a well campaigned Sydney 36 and we earned a hard-fought 2<sup>nd</sup> place, having lead the way after a 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 wins on the Friday.

CJ called me again Sat night after the day on the water saying he couldn't move, so I jumped in again for the Sunday. I think he had a premonition as we got 30+ knots (not forecast) and racing was abandoned after 1 lap of the first race. With something caught around the prop we needed a tow from Khaleesi to get back in the bay, which our Club Captain Tim Peachey kindly dived and retrieved it when we docked.



**The two Clive Jones' C.J left and C I on right.**

Julian Bell's “51<sup>st</sup> Project”, backed up again having just gained a rating certificate but not being in a podium spot, wisely bailed on the last day to avoid major damage.



Last, but not least – the fun boats were in the Bay – 12 Sports-boats, 7 J70s and 5 International Canoes, plus 20 Windsurfers and 42 Off the beach boats, for the final weekend starting 19<sup>th</sup> May.

A total of 215 entries across the whole regatta with all their crew and supporters – a solid event for Port Stephens again.

The three PSYC Sports Yachts entries were wubaray, MrT and Crazy Little Thing (CLT) all out to try and serve it up to the hot shot skiffies coming to town. Three races on the Friday were in 10-12kt westerly and some exciting and close racing with CLT leading the way for the PSYC entries.

MrT had a slow start but sailed well for the rest of the regatta to be our top boat in 8<sup>th</sup> at the end.

wubaray battled all the way but ended up 10<sup>th</sup> while CLT missed day 2 all-together. Day 3 was Abandoned with a gale blowing.

Our young member, Arty Bell, crewed on the winning boat “Don’t Panic” the all new Bethwaite 89er with Nicole Bethwaite and family winning 5 out of 6 races – a boat in a class of it’s own.

CLT is now heading north to join her sisters in Bundaberg.

## The Bethwaite 89er.

Julian Bethwaite, a legendary 18ft Skiff sailor comes from a famous yacht designing and Olympic sailor family. He designed and built several innovative skiffs including the Australian design 49er; (the first Olympic skiff for the Sydney Olympics) and the 29er class for youths which are both now sailed throughout the world.

Julian’s latest design the 89er, which he has built the first boat for himself, is called Don’t Panic. It is a larger version of the popular 29er and 49er skiffs, the innovative design’s hull uses basalt instead of carbon fibre and is possibly the newest and most radical sports boat design for International sailors.

Julian’s sister and new PSYC member Nicky Bethwaite an accomplished former two time Olympian and world champion skippered Don’t Panic at Sail Port Stephens in the Sports Boat regatta with local junior sailor Arty Bell on the foredeck. The 89er proved to be very competitive taking out the regatta by claiming first over the line in all 6 races and winning 5 of the 6 races on handicap to take out the regatta.



**“Don’t panic” the Bethwaite 89er with Nicky Bethwaite and Arty Bell aboard**



**Nicky, and husband Keith with Arty at the presentation after dominating the sports boat regatta**



**Wubaray - Dennis Hume**



**Crazy Little Thing - Clive Jones**



**Arty Bell at the presentation, recognised as 1 of only two people who participated in all 3 of the new format three regatta series of SPS.**



**Mr T, Tim Peachey**

## **Elliott Youth Interclub Regatta**



**NCYC team crossing the line in the final race. Photo Dennis Hume.**

**Local Sailor Arty Bell** has again been selected to compete as part of the NCYC Junior Interclub Regatta team to defend their trophy win in 2022. NCYC run a successful youth development squad in conjunction with The Hunter Academy of Sport. NCYC then select the best six to eight sailors to compete in a youth interclub windward leeward regatta hosted by each club, sailing Elliott 6's and 7's. They compete against Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron RSYs, Cruising Yacht Club of Australia CYCA and Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Clubs RPAYC. Arty was part of the winning team in 2022 and his team has gotten off to a good start in the 2023 series. On Sunday 28 May NCYC hosted the first interclub regatta, Arty's team came second to one of the RSYs boats after been a little too aggressive on the start line and having to do a few penalty turns, yet they recovered from their start line woes well, to place second overall. On Sunday 4 June they travelled down to the prestigious RSYs to compete in the second of the four regatta series where they improved their start tactics, their upwind legs were very fast in comparison to the 7 boats they were competing against with excellent kite sets and late controlled drops saw them dominate the regatta

to take out the series winning 5 of the 6 races and only narrowly missing out on the clean sweep.

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## Seagull droppings



**Commodore Kirby** made it to page 30 of the latest (June) addition of the Afloat magazine sailing *She's the One* in the Sail Port Stephens Regatta.

# Dinghy Gone East!

**Photo taken by the police vessel.**

I reported my story of a floating winch Handle in the February Bilge addition page 12. The winch handle went West literally and ended up at the far end of Port Stephens on the shores of Swan Bay.

This however, is another story of a floating article going the opposite way, from Little Salamander Bay, out through the heads and on to Boondelbar Island!!

Here is the story by Doug Cross. It highlights again the influence of tidal flows in Port Stephens.

The owner of Tangier (me) had a senior moment on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. After doing some boat maintenance, I motored my dinghy to the shore at Little Salamander Bay and then proceeded to carry the motor, Tools etc. to my car. I then became distracted having a chat with another boaty at the dinghy rack.

Next morning, I drove back to do more maintenance on my yacht and low and behold, my dinghy was not on the rack!! Then I realised that I had forgotten to move it from the beach to the rack. Another boat owner approached me and said he had noticed my dinghy on the beach yesterday morning. It was alone on the shore about to be sucked out to sea with the tide, so he dragged it up the beach but clearly not enough, as it was now missing!!

I immediately rang Port Stephens Marine Rescue to let them know that if a dinghy was reported floating with oars the owner is alive and well and could I have it back.

Shortly after, they rang back to say it had been found by the Water Police on Boondalbar Island (See above).

Doug said. "My little dinghy, decided to go for a late-night cruise to the Island! I believe it was irretrievable from its rocky cove. Apparently at the next high tide, it re-floated and began another nautical jaunt when the Maritime folk retrieved it and brought it to Nelson Bay Marina."

Unfortunately the dinghy has suffered, in Air Force terms, Category 5 damage; which is terminal! (Doug is now looking for a replacement.)



# Saturday Winter Race Abandoned



Pictured are the yachts, Jia, Hanini Bay and Smoke and Mirrors drifting in mirror like conditions at the start line on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The abandoned race was the first race for the Winter series. A hard decision for the Starters to make.

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## Crewing in Sail Port Stephens April 2023

By Neil McKay

This is a big event for Port Stephens with lots of local boats participating. A majority of the boats, though, come from near and far; Sydney, Pittwater, Newcastle and even Coffs Harbour. I was privileged to crew on a boat called Absolut that sailed up from Manly on Sydney Harbour. This is her story.

For many years now, this crew have come participated in the Sail Port Stephens Regatta. They rent a house big enough to sleep 7 or 8, as close to the Nelson Bay Marina as possible. Since only half the crew will have their cars with them, the other half having sailed here, walking distance to the boat works well. They try local shops, restaurants and bars, putting a lot into our local economy. Their beautiful old boat is called TenSixty, a 35 foot Radford design from the early 90's. Among other racers out of Manly Yacht Club, they race with Middle Harbour Yacht Club on Wednesdays. This is where I often join them when I am in Sydney. The regular crew have sailed since they were kids and are all brilliant sailors. I might add that now most of them are over seventy and still very fit and active. Our Bowman is nearly eighty, a thin and lively guy, who, as you all know, has one of the most difficult jobs on board, particularly at spinnaker time!. We have on occasions had "older" sailors join us just for the ride, their trimming "advice" based on their long experience can be very impressive.



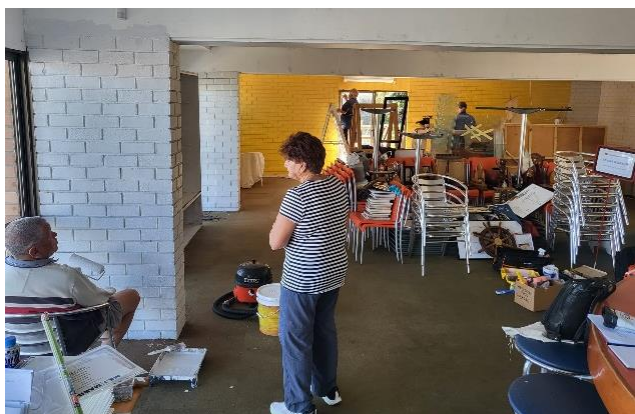
About 3 weeks before the regatta, the owners bought a new boat; a 4 year old French Archambault A35, classed as a Racer-Cruiser. Wider than TenSixty in the racer style, she is a fast boat. Having been basically neglected on a mooring for a couple of years, it was going to take a lot of work to get her ready for the regatta!

The owners and crew toiled long and hard for the 3 odd weeks before the SPS Regatta to make her ready. This included multiple rigging and electrical issues. It was never a foregone conclusion that she would be ready in time. They did however decide that she was good enough, sailed her to Newcastle ready for the feeder Newcastle to Port Stephens race then competed in every SPS race including the outside races around the islands where she performed well. For the couple of inside races, I was the token local knowledge “expert” able to point out the many interesting hazards that we at PSYC know only too well.



Absolut sailed in Division 2 without coming last in any races. A good result considering the skipper and crew were very new to the boat. We all know how long it takes to get to know a boat! It was a fun learning experience for all involved and I know we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. I’m sure they are already planning to come up for next year’s SPS Regatta.

## Renovating the Mariners Bar





Thanks to so many volunteers who helped to transfer The Mariners Bar room into a new look décor with new carpets, table tops, painting, washing, you name it, even, the entrance desk and bin woodwork etc. Come and have a look at the result.



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## Kevin Le Poidevin set to qualify for next year's Solo Global Challenge.



Kevin returned to Spain just before ANZAC Day to take part in the Azores and Back (AZAB) Race (from Falmouth, England, to the Azores and back) and will then complete his 2,000 mile solo qualifying sail.

To participate in the Global Solo Challenge, along with many other requirements, all skippers must demonstrate that they have completed a 2000-mile qualifying passage on board

the boat they will sail in the event. A small dress rehearsal before the big show to test the boat and their preparation.

We wish our club member Kevin well.



# Port Stephens Yacht Club Members on the loose





# Sunday Sailing Shenanigans

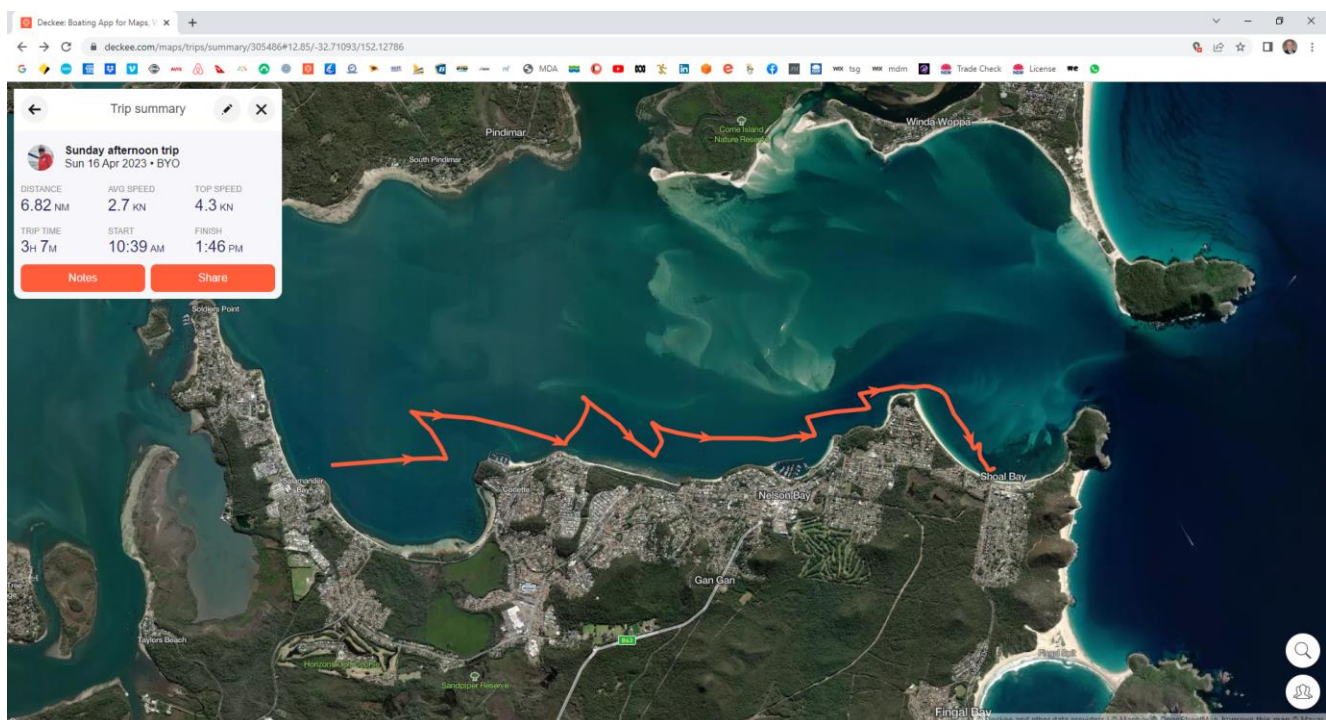
By Philip Bendeich

The weather delayed social sail from Sunday, 2 April was conducted 2 weeks later on 16 April with light north easterly winds easing our way to Shoal Bay. On board *BYO* was skipper Margaret and guests Anne and Kate, with Captain Philip helping where needed.

Because the winds were slight, another boat, *StevieNics* (Steve Willis) withdrew also with the prospect of crew not being available. Thanks for being interested Steve and see you on the water soon.

Our Deckie trip report below, shows the route and tacks taken to get to Shoal Bay. Both Anne (a graduate of the Soak Up Sunday sessions) and Kate took turns on the helm as we zig-zagged east. While heading east we saw *Smoke and Mirrors* (David Rundle) also enjoying the winds.

Thanks go to Graeme (Adios) who offered us his Shoal Bay mooring to take time to lunch and chat. While there we sat and enjoyed the calm conditions and shared a refreshment before gently floating back to our mooring off Wanda Beach.



Join us each month on the first Sunday of the month departing Soldier's Point Marina at 10:00 am. Bookings are required so log into RevSport via the link in the email you received, or contact Philip directly at [byosailing@gmail.com](mailto:byosailing@gmail.com)

# A letter of Thanks to Margaret and Philip for lunch cruise

Below are the comments from the winner of the mid-April Friday Night dinner from Lorna and Ed Davies.

Dear Margaret & Philip

Massive! Massive thanks to you both for an awesome experience.



We were two sailing virgins! No clue at all what's involved, it was exciting, exhilarating and fun!

Truly incredible! Thank you both so much. I'm so glad it was my name that got pulled out of the bag (at the dinner raffle), otherwise my fear would still be unconquerable:-)

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## Our last social dinner report taken from Face Book



Margaret Flockhart is 🙏 feeling thankful with Philip Bendeich and Margaret McKay at **Port Stephens Yacht Club.** ...

1 h · Nelson Bay · 👥

A HUGE Thank You to all our club members & Non-Member friends who attended our social event on Friday night. We had fantastic food prepared by Amanda Douglas catering and the sweet tarts prepared by 'A Sweet Ryde called Clyde'. The music by 'Let the MANGO' was absolutely awesome and the dance floor floor was packed 🕺💃

The social committee (including Rowan McGregor, Neil McKay & Rita Murray - newly joined) will be arranging other social events throughout the year and I hope you can join us as these events are only successful with the support of the club members and their friends and families. Here's a few photos from the night 😊



# Remember those sails we sent to the Traditional Sailing School in New Guinea?

Thor Jensen (who started the sail donation program for us) sent this message for the Club. Thor is currently in New Zealand at the premier launch of his Movie Film SAILAU; a documentary of his crews epic first circumnavigation of New Guinea in a traditional canoe. He writes:

I'm happy to tell you that Sanakoli finally was able to pick up the sails and transport them to his island, which included packing them on the roof of a local Public Bus for a 1.5 hour drive to East Cape from where he packed them into a dinghy and sailed them to his island.

Your sails came just in time, because Pasana Group will be hosting a canoe festival on the island in August, so they are all busy making canoes ready.

We'll get back to you with a video of the sails being sewn, but here are a few pictures for a start.

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. He has also attended a United Nations conference in Europe on traditional sailing craft in the Pacific Islands this year.

The sailing school, which is based on Nuakata Island in Milne Bay Province is teaching the building and sailing of Traditional Sailing Canoes.



The whole village gets involved.



# The West Coaster.

## The wrong way to Hobart from Melbourne!

I spoke with Graeme Ellis, the skipper of the Beneteau 31.7 Adios which just joined our sailing fleet with his team of bus drivers (formally mates) piloting Port Stephens Coaches.

“Have you got a story for the Bilge Graeme?” I asked. “Nah, but my mate Bill has just sailed the West Coaster, he will give you a yarn. Bill and his wife Julie are joining us on Adios in the commodore’s Cup.



Come down before the briefing and he will fill you in.” He said. ***This is the story Bill gave.***

Bill Newman owns a Sayer 50 in Geelong and showed me his special yellow cap upon which I was reading the words **ORCV 50th West Coaster**. “Only those that have done the race are allowed to wear these yellow caps.” He said, looking at my cream hat I wore from my boat Yulunga.

Every two years Bill circumnavigates Tasmania in the biennial event the VDLC (Van Diemens Land Cruise) and invites his mate Graeme Ellis along.

This year, he thought he might try the West Coaster which starts the day after the Sydney Hobart race from Queenscliff, inside the Port Phillip Bay heads. The Melbourne Hobart race starts off Portsea and straight out into Bass Strait then down the East coast, keeping Tasmania to starboard. The West Coaster, goes down the West coast around south west cape and Maatsuyker Island then past Cape Bruny before joining with the Sydney Hobart Yachts in Storm Bay entering the Derwent river and the finish 11 miles away.

The West Coaster is particularly hazardous being off a hostile rocky coast (Where there are few if any Helicopters), and it’s fully exposed to the South-Westerly swells (and winds) from the Antarctic.

Bill’s 50ft Sayer is named Goggo and was built at Mooloolaba QLD in 1993. Not quite your modern racer, however its sturdy wooden hull is built for such strong seas.

Bill said they started in a nice 11 knot breeze from Queenscliff and was seventh out of the heads. Soon the wind built to 20kts from the East but a Westerly change was forecast in the evening. Up went the first of the three spinnakers and after ten spinnaker changes they were off King Island about 4am making great time over the other more fancied race boats.

They were down to the small spinnaker when the wind shifted 180 degrees and came in as a strong 40 knot front. The Spinnaker pole downhaul (securing rope) broke and the pole skyed upwards. Bill says at this time there was somewhat of an eruption on board. The crew scrambled to retrieve the now flogging spinnaker then deployed the furled headsail and double reefed the mainsail: All in the dark!

First light however saw the wind ease. Up went the spinnaker to carry them further South to pass Cape Grim by mid morning. They later changed down to the small spinnaker but soon dark clouds loomed and the spinnaker was doused as 45 to 50 knot squalls swept in. Whipping up seas to three metres plus. Yachts racing beside them were not so quick and several were out of control with torn spinnakers. Goggo continued to speed ahead at ten knots again simply by rolling out the furled headsail.

As night came the winds remained at 45 kts and above and by evening, still with double reefed mainsail Goggo remained up with the serious racing boats.

At first light they rounded South-West Cape and as the wind eased they passed Maatsuyker Island. The crew jubilantly hoisted the mast head spinnaker and headed for Bruny Island. A few more miles and they could enter Storm Bay then head North towards Hobart.

By monitoring the radio skeds and position schedules for surrounding yachts they determined that on handicap, they were winning two divisions. The finish was still not in sight. They had to get to the head of the Derwent River, but first there was the Iron Pot rounding mark then the Derwent River. They were now sailing two nautical miles off shore as the yacht slowed to a stop and became becalmed. The sea was like glass. The entire fleet stalled for six hours!! What happened to that assured lead?

Gradually, Yachts which were positioned close inshore appeared from behind with full spinnakers drawing, catching up and inching ahead. Finally a Westerly breeze developed and they could tack inside the fish farms. Then the breeze dropped again to nothing, but only for ten minutes, before a sudden 180 degree wind shift favoured Goggo and allowed the large asymmetrical spinnaker to draw. They were away again after the boats just in front making up time all the way to Constitution Dock and the finish.

**The Result.** A well earned second placing in the Performance Handicap; but missing first place by just four minutes! They also missed out on third by two seconds in the Offshore series trophy.



The race was particularly memorable as Bill had his two sons and son-in-law as crew and with the rest of the crew being long-time friends two being first offshore racers.

Goggo was then loaded up with all necessary cruising equipment and Julie Bill's wife joined the boat for the trip home back across Bass Strait. That is another story altogether with lots of things going wrong, however they arrived back in Geelong safely after a very interesting trip.

**Goggo from Royal Geelong Yacht Club.**

## Emergency Services Regatta (Coming soon - July 23/24)

**Our new member David Blackmore explains the genesis of this event coming to Port Stephens.**

The NSW Police & Emergency Services Sailing Club has been running for over 30 years and we also operate under the NSW Police Council of Sport and NSW Police Games..

Previously we were the NSW Police Sailing Club for current and retired NSW Police members but over the last 10 years have had a large increase of involvement of current & retired members of other Emergency Services including but not limited to Federal Police, Fire Authorities including Rural/Bush Brigades, Ambulance, ADF Personnel, SES, VRA, Maritime Authorities, Marine Rescue NSW and Corrective Services.

Throughout these years a lot of our sailors have raced all around the world, quite successfully from Category 1 to Category 7 races.

To help unite our numbers it was decided to change our name from the NSW Police Sailing Club to NSW Police & Emergency Services Sailing Club.

We are a non-profit club and all our Executive Committee members are either serving or retired Police/Fire and ADF.

Our main goals are to provide an avenue for Emergency Service & ADF personnel to sail.

Every year we hold at least one Regatta for 2-3 days. Prior to 2012 it was run mainly out of the Middle Harbour Yacht Club with boats coming from as far away as Newcastle to compete and interstate competitors. Since 2012 we have concentrated our Regatta to the Hunter Region with our main Regatta sailed on Lake Macquarie from the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Toronto.

This has grown into a great event with over 25 yachts and 120 competitors on these boats. To facilitate the number of visiting competitors all our skippers or owners register at no cost and only the crew pays for registration. This allows us to get a greater number of boats and puts the burden on the crew.

**Some fun facts:**from our last regatta on Lake Macquarie:.

36% of the competitors come from outside the Lake Macquarie LGA.

70% of the competitors did not compete at the last Regatta.

Only 21% stated they had an affiliation with RMYC Toronto.

Our oldest competitor was 80 yrs and our youngest was 17 yrs.

Nearly half of the competitors were younger than 50 yr.

So, the NSWP & ESSC decided that with Port Stephens having a very large ADF & Emergency Service (Marine Rescue, NSW Police, SES, Rural Fire, NSW Fire & Rescue, etc) presence both serving and retired we approached the PSYC to assist us in running a Regatta on Sunday/Monday 23/24 July, 2023 This has been well received with 2 boats from Lake Macquarie saying they will attend and also a possible sports boat contingent. Your Commodore has stated that a number of yachts from PSYC will also compete.

With our regatta we bring a large social media presence plus mainstream media attention which will highlight your Club and Port Stephens. Very soon online registration for the event will be open. Everyone has to register online including the boat owner/skipper. The boat owner/skipper does not have to pay an entry fee. Crew members/competitors are charged \$20.00. We run our events at cost neutral, so for this \$20.00 it pays for Race Committee, Starter/Mark-Boat, a BBQ each day, Race Merchandise for participants.

You do not have to be an Emergency Service or ADF personnel to be involved as we also open these events also to any member of an amateur Sailing/Yachting Club

Feel free to pass this information onto anyone who might know is interested. Look at our facebook page at NSW Police & Emergency Services Sailing Club for photos/videos of last regattas. Any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me on 0409 743238 or at [nswpfsailing@gmail.com](mailto:nswpfsailing@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance for hospitality and involvement.

Regards David Blakemore (Race Coordinator)

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