

# thirty two° fifty five

newcastle cruising  
yacht club journal

Farr 40 Regatta 12

Sailors with DisAbilities 18

NCYC Cruising Division 19

summer 2017







NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

# Corporate Sailing

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**Six boats available - Four crew per boat - 24 guests on-water**  
**Qualified Instructors & all Safety Equipment supplied**

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[www.ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy](http://www.ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy)

Please be aware that as sailing is an outdoor adventure activity we are governed by the wind and weather. We will do our best to ensure your sailing activities go ahead as planned however please understand that on occasion we may need to cancel, modify or offer alternate activities. Safety of your guests is our primary concern.



Unwind | Share | Laugh | Enjoy



Melbourne Cup



Founders Day



Newcastle Game Fishing Club

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**Summer 2017 journal**  
**A quarterly publication**

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Editor: Di Hansen  
 Cover Photo: "Summer Salt"  
 Spring Short Ocean Pointscore (Sunday race)  
 Photo by Shane Williams

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NEWCASTLE CRUISING  
 YACHT CLUB

Opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Board or the Club.  
 While articles and correspondence are welcomed, the Editor reserves the right to decline to publish.

## Commodore's Message



Some members may already be aware I have stepped down as NCYC Commodore and have now moved to a Director position on the Board. Steve Rae has taken the position as Commodore and Valda Johnston will be taking dual roles of Treasurer and Vice Commodore.

Being in the Commodore position for the past 3 years I have witnessed the Club in times of difficulty to times of growth, which we are experiencing now.

Our Sailing Academy is now well established and thriving with the Schools Learn to Sail programs right through to Corporate Sailing, Sailing Experiences and our very popular Women's Sailing programs.

Our Cruising Division is now picking up momentum with a committee now formed, already with a cruise under their belts and as I write this report, I hear of a Christmas cruise planned.

The Club is in a good position with Paul at Rocky's looking after the Hooked Restaurant, numerous functions booked over the festive season and our new Foredeck Café which is building interest from the public walking along the marina foreshore.

Looking forward, I am excited to see NCYC continue in a positive direction and I thank you for your continued support in my role as NCYC Director.

I'm sure members will also join me in congratulating Steve and support him in the Commodore role.

Merry Christmas to you all and enjoy sailing!



Jim Holley, NCYC Director



## Thursday Night Members Draw

Permit LTPS/17/16772

Up to 4 draws per night:  
6.15pm, 6.30pm, 6.45pm and 7pm.  
Cash prize starts at \$200 - jackpots if not won.

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## Rear Commodore's Report



I've just walked in the door from finishing off another race weekend to Port Stephens for OP 1 & 2. It was not the sleigh ride we saw last year! Conditions ranged from a beat for 22 miles to the Port Stephens Light in 15-25 followed by some hard reaching and running in 15-30 on flat water..... the last 20 mins made up for the previous 5 and a half hours for me. Our experience also involved a 5 minute "unscheduled stop" on the sand just inside Tomaree at dead low water. While I guess I could look at it as a RE-learning experience, it re-enforces the variability of the Bay's (generally) sandy bottom and the need to have a plan to get your boat off it even if your chart indicates it's OK! The sand moves all the time and the steepness of the rise and fall of the underwater contours is affected by lots of factors. A lot of modern boats also have flat bottom bulbs that are great hydrodynamically and make them easy to stand in the shed, but present some issues to get off mud and sand. I comfort myself by remembering I'm not the first and won't be the last to learn or re-learn it. Happy to share the experience, have a few laughs and take the ribbing when you see me next. The trip home could not have provided a greater contrast with beautiful blue skies and a start in idyllic Shoal Bay in 5-8 knots with an outgoing tide. With the breeze down to 3-5 at times it was quite tactical to get to the light before the 20 odd miles home under spinnaker in 8-10 knots of breeze. If it sounds like I'm trying to entice you out of the berth, you're right – come and try it next year.

While I'm on the subject, please don't forget about NCYC Cruising if you want to get off the Marina and on the water. We had mix of 9 sail and power boats sign up for the Port Stephens trip in October. The fleet split in 2 groups for the overnight due to sea state with Power opting for Ash Island and Sail in Port Stephens. A great time was had by all with the next big trips planned for Pittwater and Easter in Sydney. Please contact our Vice Commodore, Valda Johnston or the office if you have an urge to join in.

We had 176 people attend our Discover Sailing day on 14 October in gusty & cool conditions. What an outstanding result! We are bringing Sailing to Newcastle as we promise and the success to largely due to all the work by Jacquie & Jack in the Sailing Office, and ALL our volunteers. This could have been helping organize food, marshal people onto the boat of their choice, providing a yacht and crew, briefing the "discoverees" or just showing the visitors the family atmosphere of NCYC. This day contributes significantly to our community standing and membership growth. Boat owners can help us build on this success next year if you can spare your boat, your time and a few crew members on 13 October 2018.

Another big growth area in our sailing is the "She Sails @ NCYC" series of races for all women crews on our Force 24 one design keelboats. The latest iteration of these events was in mid-November with the Open Regatta. The first event took place in in July this year and another series will be staged in March 2018. These events require a great deal of organisation and once again Jan Howard and Mary Holley can stand and take the credit with, of course, Jacqui coordinating the admin. Our first event in July saw Emma Gearing, Janease Graham, Belinda Davey, June Dawson & Oongah O'Donovan take the silverware. Our most recent (Open) event in November was won by Nina Long, Laura Parkes, Helen Griffin & Angela Brady with an enviable 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 4 record.

The Sailing Season is in full swing with the Lasers having completed 21 races and the Spring Short Ocean Pointscore finished for the yachts. There is the usual Summer hiatus to allow our yachts and crews to participate in the Rolex Sydney Hobart and the Club Marine Pittwater to Paradise Race and Regatta (Southport). NCYC wishes you a safe and fast race. Our Spring Series results were announced and trophies presented in mid-November with Andrew Miller's "Red Dog" taking the honours in PHS D2 from Col Peebles ("Stray Away") and Mary Holley ("Aurora"). PHS D1 went to my own "Concealed Weapon" narrowly from Phil Arnall ("Anger Management") and Steve Rae ("Marta Jean").

We are also continuing to improve the education opportunities for our RO employees and volunteers with Jack Buchan, Alyson Gearing, Andrew Buchan and Peter Lovell participating in, and passing the initial or renewal Australian Sailing Race Officers' course. Thank you all for your time and commitment. I'd also like to acknowledge Ian Humphries for his services to NCYC, Australian Sailing and World Sailing. Ian has been invited to US Sailing's World Cup Series in Miami in late January 2018 where he undergo the final stage of his preparation to become an International Judge. This a great achievement by any measure – well done Ian!

One area I have concerns about is safety. It begins and ends with us. Procedures, rules and courses all help but it is people making choices to comply with those rules and procedures, and using common sense that will ultimately determine our record. It can be a simple unintentional error – deciding late to take a starboard tackler's stern and your main sheet getting stuck OR not avoiding a collision because you were the right of way boat OR deciding to cross a shipping channel inside the stipulated distances from a ship underway. Either way; intentional or unintentional the results can be devastating for people and our club. We haven't had a serious incident yet BUT the signs are there and tragedy has already occurred recently in Pittwater (please read RRS 14 "Avoiding Contact"). Please know your rules and obligations as a skipper; the decisions you make can have consequences far beyond a yacht race.

Have a wonderful Christmas surrounded by those close to you.



Barry Kelly, Rear Commodore



## Chief Executive Officer's Report



The boating season is in full swing and there is plenty happening at your club. There are club boats on the water 7 days a week! The Academy is flat out with an extended range of courses appealing to everyone from 10-year-old primary kids to city dwelling corporates.

There is club racing on every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sundays. The Cruising Division had their first trip away of the season with more are planned for next year. The social committee organised another great night with the Seafood and Semillon Dinner and have exciting plans for the club Xmas party on December 17th.

The Game Fishing club had their Presentation night and a successful Sportsman's Lunch held at the club last month and they have already started planning a bigger and better tournament for March 2018.

Members would have already noticed we have begun a freshen-up of the clubhouse facilities which will include a space that can become a private room for meetings and dinners. We will also re-establish access to the front balcony area.

The marina team have been flat out with record occupancy and fuel sales - and that was even before the Supercars came to town!



### NCYC's Trivia in the Marquee

EVERY TUESDAY AT 7PM  
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FREE ENTRY • BUILD A TEAM • WIN PRIZES  
GALLEY RESTAURANT MEAL SPECIALS FROM 6-8PM

Bookings: 4940 8188

Email: [functions@ncyc.net.au](mailto:functions@ncyc.net.au)

We are very excited to have three boats representing the Club in the Sydney to Hobart and two boats representing in the Pittwater to Coffs Race, with a selection of club members competing on several other boats. I hope everyone can find time to get out on the water over the Summer whether it be racing, cruising or enjoying a sunset cocktail.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe festive season.

Paul O'Rourke, CEO



## Cruising Division

NCYC Cruising caters to the boat owners who enjoy the water at a leisurely pace, relaxing in an idyllic location and appreciating the occasional sundowner. Participation in organised boating and social events is encouraged with the aim of sharing interesting, topical boating information and experiences.

Social dinner meetings are held in the NCYC Club each month with varied on water activities planned for a mix of sailing and motorboats on a monthly basis.

The Cruising Division met for their first meeting of the season in August and elected the following sub-committee:

Valda Johnston – Board Representative

Brian Gardoll – Motorboat Representative

Colin Peebles – Sailboat Representative

All are welcome to attend the next meeting on

12 October at 7pm in the Club to plan the Port Stephens trip.

First cruise will be on 21 October 2017  
for an overnight stay at Port Stephens.

For further information Tel: (02) 4940 8188 Email: [sailing@ncyc.net.au](mailto:sailing@ncyc.net.au)



## Marina & Assets Manager's Report



As I write this article we are heading into Newcastle's 500 Supercars weekend with most of our visitors already arrived. The dockmaster team has been extremely busy with berthing enquiries leading up to this weekend and the recent offloading of 23 international vessels from a delivery ship in the Mediterranean. A huge acknowledgement to Marine Rescue's relentless efforts to ensure the safe handling and mooring of those vessels loading and unloading from the delivery ship. On behalf of the NCYC, it was a truly great effort. Fuel sales have been exceptional with a turnover of 30,000 litres in less than a week, so word is getting around with regards to our revised market competitive pricing and the 24-hour self-serve facilities.



Marina gates have been serviced and the closing mechanisms are now user friendly again.

There have been a few new faces in the dockmaster team, including Shane Dates who apart from marina duties, has been working within the club and completing some exceptional carpentry work as well as painting. James Waldron is a trainee with a wealth of maritime attitude and it's refreshing to see a young person so interested in the industry.

Sandy Hapgood, Marina & Assets Manager



## MARINE RESCUE SMART PHONE APP

**The *MarineRescue* App makes it easier than ever for boaters to stay safe on NSW waters. It's the only App that connects you directly to Marine Rescue NSW.**

In just a few minutes, you can Log On with Marine Rescue NSW and be on your way, knowing someone's watching out for you.

When you Log On with us, we know where you're heading and when you're due to return, so we can quickly start a search if you're not safely back when expected.

You can choose for us to track your journey so we know where to start looking in an emergency. The App is a great addition to your marine radio and EPIRB in your safety toolkit.

The *MarineRescue* App also gives you:

- Local tide, weather and sea conditions
- Your latitude/longitude position coordinates
- Boat ramp locations and popular fishing spots
- A safety checklist for before you head out
- Emergency call procedures
- Allows the skipper to create a profile of boat and contact details for search and rescue
- Minimal input is needed to log on & off when leaving port & arriving at your destination
- Information on Marine Rescue NSW



For further information go to:

[www.marinerescuensw.com.au](http://www.marinerescuensw.com.au) or telephone: **02 4927 8237**



## History of the NCYC Social Committee Tenacity Award

Images by Gloria Thirkell

The first of this series of articles regarding the History of this award appeared in the Spring 2017 issue. As was explained at that time, the Tenacity Award was to be a light-hearted recognition of effort, determination and dedication to task. The parameters for selection covered anything from the frivolous, through to some so serious as to be inspirational. They are all there if you read the "Why" behind the names on the Tenacity Award.

The Tenacity Award was first awarded after the Wednesday Sweepstakes Race on 6 October 2004. This was one of the light hearted fun occasions in our first year of sanctioned racing at NCYC. The award was made to "Sienna" skippered by Colin Jordan, after a series of very trying events, frustrating to Col and the crew, but which the rest of us thought hilariously funny:

- Sienna attempted to leave the wharf for the 5pm race start, but the engine would not cooperate.



- Eventually the persistent crew got moving, crossing the start line as the winning boat was already back in the harbour. They were going to race no matter what.
- Convinced that the Gods were definitely against them when 100m from the "Gravel Patch Mark", they were becalmed, the crew almost mutinied when Col refused to give in and start the engine.
- Sienna eventually arrived back in the Marina well after dark.
- The barbecue was packed up;
- The food was all gone;
- Only half a dozen people still partying remained to welcome the weary crew back to the Marina. To add insult to injury, when Colin arrived home, there was no dinner! - Sandy's comment: "You were going to have a barbecue")

To be continued in the Autumn 2017 issue (Second awardee – "Warrain" Skippered by Robin Hillery.



An advertisement for a pasta night event. The background is a close-up of a plate of spaghetti with a tomato and meat sauce. The text reads: "tuesday night hooked" in a small font, "\$15 Pasta night" in large, stylized green and red fonts, and "Select from three kind of pasta created by our chef" in a small font at the bottom.

An advertisement for a yoga class. The background is a woman in a white tank top and leggings sitting in a yoga pose on a wooden deck overlooking the ocean. The text reads: "YOGA @ THE YACHTIE" in large blue letters, "Thursdays 7am-8am in the marquee \$15", "Mats and equipment provided, suitable for everyone, no need to book.", and contact information for Louise O'Connell: "Louise O'Connell M: 0477 666 819 W: youryogatime.com.au Venue: 95 Hannell St, Wickham". The Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club logo is in the bottom right corner.

# NCYC Members Christmas Party

Sunday 17 December  
2pm to 5pm

Face Painting & Jumping Castle  
Visit from Santa

**We hope to see you all there!**

Email: [functions@ncyc.net.au](mailto:functions@ncyc.net.au)  
Tel: 4940 8188



Learn to Sail  
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Christmas Ham  
Raffles on  
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\$5 PER CLASS  
7-7:45AM  
**TUESDAYS**



## NCYC Social Committee

By Jane Hunt

Founders Day was well supported by the Social Committee and all club members and Staff.

Congratulations to all involved as there was many hours of organisation involved.

Special thanks to Peter Middleton and Garry Dodd from Mission to Seafarers blessing the fleet.

After a successful Rum and Ribs night held in June where we tasted many Rums and enjoyed the sensational Ribs from the Hooked kitchen. A few fundraising games were played and a raffle held which in total raised over \$600 on the night. The social committee were able to donate the money to the Club to buy life jackets for the popular Tacker's sailing program.



Our Seafood and Semillon Dinner hosted by Wine Selectors in November was very popular and tickets selling out early, an excellent selection of seafood (4 courses) and matching Semillons were enjoyed along with a raffle. Thank you to everyone for supporting the event. As it was great to catch up with old friends, make new friends and a bit of sailing networking on the side! So, what's next? Perhaps Steak and Shiraz!



NCYC had the pleasure of hosting Lisa Blair in September, sharing with us the trials and excitement of sailing Solo and Unassisted around Antarctica. The tremendous set back of de-masting off South Africa and how she overcame this disaster and after repairs continued on. But the story doesn't end there, Lisa is about to enter the first 'All - Female team' into the Rolex Sydney to Hobart race in 16 years. Lisa has a huge sense of adventure and many more accomplishments she wishes to achieve. To keep posted check out her Facebook page 'Lisa Blair Sails the World'.



Don't forget the biggest event on Australia's Sailing Calendar on Boxing Day where the NCYC will have a live footage on the big screen of the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Race and meals available from Hooked Restaurant. There will be many Newcastle sailors and yachts to cheer on the day. The yachts to follow include 'Triton', 'Dare Devil', 'Freyja', 'She's the Culprit', 'Dare to Lead' (Clipper) and 'CV5' or 'CV10' (Clipper).

Rumour has it there will be a talk from Dick and Margaret Lees about the North West Passage scheduled for in 2018!





Images by Gloria Thirkell





## Club Sailing

### Farr 40 Newcastle One Design Trophy

By Jack Buchan

We are pleased to be welcoming back the Farr 40 class for the weekend of 9th/10th December. After last year's red carpet event, our only hopes of bettering our event would be to see some great offshore racing conditions.

With an upper wind limit of 25 knots for offshore racing, the class will need to bring with it some ideal conditions if we are going to get all of the races completed in the two day regatta.

Last year saw us racing offshore in a strong 25 knots Easterly breeze accompanied by a big rolling Southerly swell with many sailors, used to in harbour racing, feeling ill and even one crew member suffering a broken rib from a slip during race three.

The Sunday however, a different story all together! A light and unstable breeze saw us shorten the first race of the day followed by hours under AP waiting for the breeze to come back in. The last race getting away only after a North-Easterly seabreeze had filled in across the course.

Of course, it can only be labelled as a red carpet event thanks to the great supply of keen and motivated members and volunteers who make the weekend happen. Again, we seek to replicate this show of hospitality to the group of keen sailors with yachts from as far as Melbourne competing as a part of their summer racing programme.

While of course, it's a chance for local sailor Joe de Kock to showcase his yacht 'Good Form', we also hope to see 'Mojo' make a guest appearance from Lake Macquarie to participate in the event.

With such a large group of great spirited sailors congregating at the end of each day, the Club has a great atmosphere – embracing the 'Regatta Hub' status that is usually associated with a much larger event.



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
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## NCYC INSTAGRAM COMPETITION

- ◆ Take a Photo
- ◆ Upload to Instagram
- ◆ Use #ncycsail to enter

Competition ends 24 December 2017



NCYC supports the responsible service of alcohol  
You must be 18 years or over to enter.

By Jack Buchan

The Ocean Pointscore for this 2017-2018 season looks a little different this time around! We are still keeping the popular Newcastle to Port Stephens weekend – but, for now at least, we have abandoned the Newcastle to Pittwater weekend.

## The Old

As per usual, on Saturday 18th November, the fleet raced from Newcastle up to Port Stephens – finishing at Soldiers Point. Welcomed by the Port Stephens Yacht Club clan, our sailors were invited to the Clubhouse for a well-deserved sausage sizzle after the race. No race is without mishaps, but the leaders managed to maintain a good pace against the 20 knots ENE breeze and scattered showers which were sure to put their wet weather gear to the test!

Crossing the finish line, "Anger Management" were fully powered up, in Go-Fast mode. The PSYC sailors didn't know what hit them as they crossed the line averaging over 15 knots!

The following day didn't provide any similarities to the day before however. With a light 5-10 knots ESE breeze just beginning to form ripples on the water the Race Management Team radioed the fleet to motor toward Shoal Bay where they would set up a start line. This reduced the distance to be sailed by more than 5NM. Meaning that everyone could get home an hour or two earlier that afternoon.

With the current series results seeing "Anger Management" leading the series in both divisions IRC and PHS, it will be up to the rest of the competitors to make gains over the remainder of the series if they want to take home the win. And this is where it gets interesting...

## The New

After dwindling numbers in the offshore series in recent years – with emphasis on the Newcastle to Pittwater weekend – the Sailing Committee endeavours to try something different. Rather than a couple of boats racing off to Pittwater on a Saturday and then racing back on Sunday, the Sailing Committee invites everyone to navigate their way into Lake Macquarie for two weekends of racing.

The first weekend of racing, Saturday and Sunday 17th/18th February 2018, will see us participate in LMYC's RTC Lakefest Regatta. This will involve two windward leeward races on Saturday followed by a Pulbah Island race on Sunday.

The following weekend is the Heaven Can Wait charity event. On Saturday morning, 24th February 2018, yachts will start in a round the Lake race with a few variable options – the one lap dash, the 12 hour race or the 24 hour race.

For the second half of our Ocean Pointscore series, we have abandoned the Pittwater weekend and will instead calculate results from participation in the RTC Lakefest regatta at LMYC and the One Lap Dash at RMYC Toronto's Heaven Can Wait.





# Founders Day 2017







Enjoying a formal dinner as a precursor to our annual Founders Day Parade and Blessing of the Fleet: NCYC Life Members Ernie and Gloria Thirkell, together with Club members Paul and Alison Lobb and Phil Unicomb.  
Image taken by staff member Matt Stamp.



# Laser Sailing



## The Laser Twilight Series

Enquiries  
4940 8188  
[sailing@ncyc.net.au](mailto:sailing@ncyc.net.au)







Yachting Directions

# Navigational Courses Ashore/Online



Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club is now the venue of the **RYA Sail Training Scheme**. Under the brand of **Yachting Directions**, club members & non-members, can enjoy navigation training for Day Skipper through to Offshore Yachtmaster certification.



The **RYA Sail Training Scheme** offers both theory (shorebased) & practical components. Shore based classes are available immediately.

Practical courses will commence January 2018 on catamarans & monohulls.

Course	Assumed knowledge	Course content	Ability after the course	Minimum duration
<b>Essential Navigation &amp; Seamanship</b>	None	Charts and publications, safety, buoyage, tides, navigation, pilotage, rules of the road, anchoring, weather, passage planning	Basic knowledge of navigation and safety	16 hrs
<b>Day Skipper</b>	Some practical experience is desirable	Coastal navigation, pilotage, chartwork, electronic charts, position fixing, plotting a course to steer, weather forecasting and meteorology, collision regulations, tides, maintenance and repair work, seamanship	Background knowledge to skipper a small yacht in familiar waters by day	40 hours plus exam
<b>Coastal Skipper/ Yachtmaster Offshore™</b>	Knowledge to Day Skipper shore-based standard	Position fixing, course shaping and plotting, tidal knowledge, use of almanacs, and admiralty publications, electronic position finding equipment, taking and interpreting forecasts, plotting weather systems, weather predictions using a barometer	Background knowledge to skipper a yacht on coastal passages by day and night	40 hours plus exam

0427 333 353

[yachtingdirections.com.au](http://yachtingdirections.com.au)



# Sailors With disAbilities in Newcastle 2017

Written by Skippers Kathy Veel & Mike Muir

Newcastle was the final port in our Northern Outreach Program, which, this year, included Southport and Coffs Harbour.

In our two-week stay we provided a sailing experience for children, young people and older adults on board our 54' yacht 'Kayle'. Our guests came from Newcastle Middle School, Francis Greenway School, Woodberry Public School, Shortland Public, Hunter River High School and the Lakeside School as well as Youth Off The Streets, One Door Mental Health, Families Supporting Families, The Samaritans Foundation and New Lake Peer Support.



We love coming to Newcastle. The NCYC is welcoming and supportive, and the marina facilities are great. We were fortunate to have several members of the NCYC as part of our volunteer crew, and thank Mary Anne and Tony Purkiss, Sarah Gamble and Jan and Rob Howard in particular for their kindness and enthusiastic support.

Sailors With disAbilities is a non-profit organisation which exists to offer opportunities for people facing disability or disadvantage. In our Winds of Joy programs we engage our clients in teamwork, personal challenges and sensory experiences as we share with them our love of sailing. In the supportive inclusive environment on board our specially adapted yacht with the care of our skilled volunteers our guests express joy and confidence and feel valued. This has been shown to act as a catalyst for change, where individuals develop a more optimistic outlook and enjoy personal growth and improved life outcomes.



Since 1994 SWD has worked with over 42,000 people with disability and disadvantaged youth. We rely on generous donors and sponsors and a platform of skilled



volunteers to run our programs. Through participation, everybody wins. Volunteers raise their life satisfaction and wellbeing while learning new skills and giving back to society.



Thank you Newcastle for your hospitality and generous support! We'll be back next year in September, and if you'd like to be a part of it, please contact SWD.

P: 0421 725 170.

E: [info@sailorswithdisabilities.com](mailto:info@sailorswithdisabilities.com)





## It's 5 o'clock somewhere

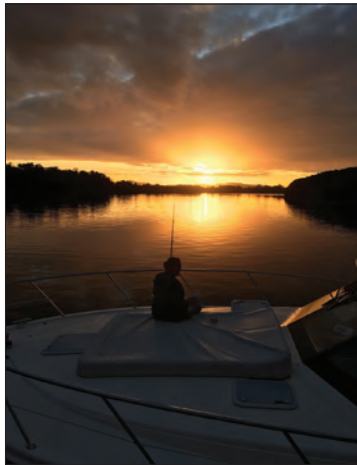
Article by Valda Johnston

Images by Trudy and Paul Wootten

The Cruising Division is together again! This time we will keep up the momentum and stick to our adage "Pentas Vespera Colloco" OR "It's 5 o'clock somewhere"!!



This can be evidenced by the below photo, which was taken up the Hunter River near Ash Island, on our 21/22 October 2017 Port Stephens weekend getaway. The weather got the better of these guys so about an hour and a half into the journey they turned back and instead headed up the river in calmer waters (much to Trish's relief who could be heard screaming out on the ocean, so much so that Rod feared for his life).



The two participating yachts, however, did manage to get to Port Stephens without fear or damage, but found swing moorings in two different spots. Needless to say, the weather had improved greatly and we both woke up to a serene morning, Kris and crew at Shoal Bay and 'Scots Wha Hae' at Fame

Cove. Delightful. The weather had improved to the point where we both motor sailed all the way home.



What a welcome we received when we arrived! The "Pentas Vespera Colloco" crowd were in full swing and fine form to our delight, so we finally got together and enjoyed our getaway, even if it was only to E arm on the dock!



It was a great weekend and I look forward to our next adventure.



## NCYC Cruising Division – Cruise #1

\*to be recited to the score of Gilligan's Island  
By Brian Gardoll

Just sit back and you'll hear a tale  
a tale of a fateful trip,  
that started from this working port,  
aboard 8 tiny ships.

The mates lacked sailin' knots,  
the skippers brave and sure,  
all set sail on that day,  
for the Cruisers first tour,  
yes the Cruisers first tour!

The weather started getting rough,  
the tiny ships were tossed.  
If not for the courage of the fearless crews  
The Champaign would be lost!  
The Champaign would be lost!

Six ships turned and headed home  
To save the bubbles and port,  
with two trusty sailing ships  
continuing to the north,  
their captains took them north!

By all accounts all hell broke loose  
whether you ended up north or south.  
That is to say either in Port Stephens  
or up the River mouth,  
or up the River mouth!

Now stories will be told  
and some will be left unsaid.

But rest assured more fun was had,  
when all ships were reunited in their pens,  
yes safe and sound in their marina pens!



# Sailing Academy Report

By Jacqui Ellis

As the weather begins to heat up, so does the activity at the Sailing Academy as more people are looking to the Harbour and getting out sailing!

We have introduced a number of new courses this summer and they are proving popular!

**WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY TWILIGHT** - Following on from the enormous success of our Women's Friday Sailing program we introduced a Wednesday Twilight course to cater for those who were unable to make the Friday morning time slot. This proved very popular with our first course attracting 13 participants. The 4-week course starts at 5:15pm and runs through to 7:30pm which then allows for an enjoyable meal in the club and socialising with our regular Club Wednesday Twilight sailors. Our new Wednesday Women's Twilight and the popular Friday Women's courses run right the way through summer.



**"YOUNG GUNS" YOUTH KEELBOAT SAILING** – Tuesday afternoons is for keelboat kids on the Force 24s! We continue to host the Newcastle Grammar School sailing program every Tuesday afternoon and we have also now introduced a "Young Guns" youth keelboat sailing program for all kids. This program is a stepping stone for our older Tackers sailors, so they can continue to develop their sailing skills, it also caters for kids 11 to 17 years who wish to learn to sail (even as rank beginners). The program also aims to assist current dinghy sailors to become more familiar with keelboat sailing which can lead into our winter Youth Performance Program. We group the kids based on their skill level and continue to develop their skills at the level they are at. It is a 4-week program running from 3:45pm to 6:15pm and the children can continue from course to course to continue their development.

**FRIDAY HARBOUR SAILING** – being so close to the City, we wanted to offer a fun & social after work activity to wind down and lead into the weekend! An opportunity to walk down from the office, jump onboard

a Force 24, learn to sail and see our city from a new angle. This course is proving VERY popular with 11 having recently completed our first course and another 13 having just started last week. It runs for 4-weeks, 5:15pm to 7:30pm with the opportunity to dine in the club afterwards or simply enjoy the sunset and have a few drinks. Like the Women's sailing courses, it is a fun and social course, where you can continue to enrol course after course to continue your skill development.

**AUSTRALIAN SAILING COURSES** - We are also busy with our Australian Sailing accredited Start Crewing & Start Helming courses and we have a number of Discover Sailing Experiences coming up as a short 3-hour introduction to sailing. These are a great option to "try sailing".

We are also working towards introducing Australian Sailing Powerboat Handling courses in the new year. These practical courses will provide valuable powerboat driving skills as well as the knowledge required to gain your RMS general boat licence. Stay tuned for more details to come.

**TACKERS KIDS LEARN TO SAIL** – our Saturday mornings are busy with our Tackers Kids with another group of children participating in both Tackers 1 and Tackers 2 courses. We will run Tackers courses during the school holidays and these are filling fast!

We've also started a Monday afternoon Tackers course for the kids at Newcastle East Primary School and a Tackers Intro program for Newcastle Grammar on Thursdays. If you are interested in getting your child's school involved, please give Jacqui in the Sailing Office a call.



**DINGHY INSTRUCTOR COURSES** – we will also host Australian Sailing in December when they conduct Dinghy Instructor and Assistant Instructor courses at the Club. We are welcoming young sailors from our Club as well as Belmont16s and Toronto as they work to gain their qualifications.

For more information on these courses and details of course dates and prices, please check out the SAILING ACADEMY tab on the Club website – [www.ncyc.net.au](http://www.ncyc.net.au)





By Jacqui Ellis

Following on from the success from our She Sails @ NCYC Development Regatta we held our first open regatta on Saturday 11th November.

Whilst the development regatta was to introduce the ladies who had been learning to sail in the Sailing Academy to around-the-buoys racing, the Open Regatta was for skilled sailors to form their own crews and come together for a full day of racing on the Harbour. We hosted 5 crews, including a team travelling from Great Lakes Sailing Club, for six windward/leeward races on what turned out to be a beautiful sunny day with a nice 8-10 knot breeze.

Our wonderful She Sails Ambassadors Jan Howard & Mary Holley stepped up at the last minute to fill in as Race Officers for the day and they did an outstanding job. Women's sailing at our Club would not be as successful as it is without these two endlessly enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. Thank you Jan & Mary.

All crews enjoyed a great day on water and lots of laughs were had back in the club house for the presentation. The crew of Nina Long, Laura Parkes, Helen Griffin & Angela Brady came away as inaugural winners with the team of Janease Graham, Belinda



Davey, Linda Winchcombe & Sarah Gamble taking out second. The Team from Great Lakes – Julie Castle, Emily deBerg, Magda deBerg, Lisa Pursch & Lily Smith placed third.

A big THANK YOU to our regatta supporters Robert Oatley Wines, East Cost Marine & Sail and Swell Café at bar Beach.

Our She Sails@ NCYC Development Regatta is scheduled for 17th March.

## FRIDAY HARBOUR SAILING

Come sailing with us! and join fellow city business people for an end of week wind-down Friday afternoons for a 4 week course 5.15pm to 7.30pm.

Walk down from the office, jump onboard and see our city from a new angle!

We cater for complete beginners, men & women, all ages - we'll help you to develop your sailing skills & knowledge.

We provide the boats, the lifejackets and the qualified instructors. Learn to sail with like minded people in a social & fun atmosphere.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**  
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NEWCASTLE CRUISING  
YACHT CLUB



# Discover Sailing Day 2017









## The Discerning Seafood Connoisseur

By Linda Hall

Non-boating people often think that animals would be terrified at sea. That's usually not what happens. Lots of families have four legged members who love their boat.

When our dog, Kenny, was alive she would travel with us everywhere. When we fished "outside" her spot was on the swim platform. She would be out there from dawn till dark. Her tongue used to get sunburnt! Kenny would often sleep on the swim platform and when she was awake, she would never take her eyes off the water. When the sea was rough it didn't stop Kenny, she would shake the salt water off and start again.



A very young Brooke Hall and her discerning mate, Kenny.



Kenny knew the difference between the good fish and the sh.. fish. We would say to her "Ken – get rid of that fish", then she would push it off the swim platform with her nose.

Kenny loved lobsters. One time, about to eat dinner, we had two lobsters on the table but went to help someone into their pen before we had time to eat it. When we came back there was not one part of any lobster left. She ate the whole lot in one quick mouthful and had the hide to burp. We think she was letting us know that she enjoyed them.

Apart from the swim platform, Kenny also loved to sleep on our bed. There wasn't much room left because she was a solid dog, but we didn't care. She was intelligent and smart and we gave her in return, the best life that any pet could have.

We miss her so much, but she enjoyed our boat (and our seafood dinners) until she succumbed to cancer at fourteen.



**OPEN**  
7.30-11.30AM

**foredeck café**  
NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB



thursday night  
hooked

**\$20**  
**Burger, Wing & Beer**  
Night



Beef or Chicken Burger with chips & wings + beer from the bar

## WANTED Boat Profiles

Email an image & a specification profile of your boat to be featured in upcoming editions of this magazine.

**Email:** [info@ncyc.net.au](mailto:info@ncyc.net.au)

**Subject:** Boat Profile



# Newcastle has been discovered

**By Bill Quirk**  
**Borrelli-Quirk Real Estate & Hunter Tourism**

As Novocastrians we have long known the beauty that is Newcastle and the Hunter and whilst some of us had hoped to keep this part of the world all to ourselves and the delights we are surrounded by, the secret is now well and truly out with Newcastle being one of the hottest destinations in NSW.

Newcastle has experienced a phenomenal 40% growth in Real Estate over the last 4 years with many investors and relocators having had their eye on our treasure for some time. That said, not everyone will rush to Newcastle to purchase property, most will put a toe in the water first to get a feeling for where it is they would like to settle, Newcastle is a large region that offers very diverse lifestyles.

Relocators in particular from Metropolitan regions in particular Sydney and Melbourne will look to base

themselves centrally whilst they explore the options for their future which may take several months to uncover. Short term self-contained accommodation is a very valuable commodity in Newcastle servicing corporations, tourism and relocators alike

Newcastle Hunter Tourism and Accommodation Centre (NHTAC) as part of Borrelli Quirk Newcastle Real Estate has been in operation since 1994 and we have built a solid base of Corporate clients that regularly require short term accommodation for relocating and contracted employees or annual events they host in Newcastle

If you are considering how to increase the return on your property contact Joanne, Renee or Bill on 4961 5566 for a confidential chat and unbiased constructive advise on your options. Newcastle is our home town too.



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Caring for seafarers around the world

### Article and Images by Peter Middleton, Mission to Seafarers Chaplain

The Mission to Seafarers aims to serve the visiting seafarers who come to Newcastle as crew on the bulk carriers working in our port. We do this primarily through providing free transport for seafarers from their ships to our Centre at Wickham and then back to their ships later on. We aim to make our Centre a safe place for crew to relax in during the time they spend ashore, and make every effort to make them feel welcome, accepted and well looked after. While at our Centre, seafarers can keep in touch with loved ones back home via skype and social media, which means a lot when you're away from home on contract for 9-12 months at a time.

Our work at the Mission is made possible by the dedication of 40+ volunteers. Some visit onboard ships in the port, while others organise transport for seafarers from their ship to our Centre, drive our transport buses, prepare gift packs, and cook nutritious meals in our newly-renovated kitchen. We make every effort to maintain our focus on the wellbeing of visiting seafarers. We have a great team of volunteers, but can always find a spot for new volunteers. Full training is offered to newcomers; just give us a call.

In Late November we ran a "Ship Visitors Course" for established and new volunteers. This course provided an introduction to Seafarers' welfare issues and personal safety in port facilities and onboard ships, as well as maritime terminology, maritime organisations,

ship types, shipboard routines and protocols. Courses such as this help us to constantly improve the quality of the service we offer to seafarers.

Here is a photo of one of our new ship visitors enjoying the opportunity to support and encourage some international seafarers on their visit to Newcastle.



Each year we prepare Christmas Gift packs for every seafarer who comes to our Centre at Christmas time. This means so much to seafarers who are away from home at Christmas time and missing their loved ones. This year we are aiming to prepare 1000 Christmas gift packs, trying to beat our record last year of more than 800.

Here is a photo of some very happy seafarers receiving their Christmas Gift Packs last year.



In September Garry Dodd (our Senior Chaplain) and myself conducted the Blessing of the Fleet for the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club vessels. This was a fun occasion with the blessing delivered from the Honeysuckle Hotel verandah. Everybody was impressed by the turnout and the creativity shown by owners in decorating their yachts.



### Images and article by Scott Morris

Late last month NGFC held a Sportsman Lunch with Gareth Wasik as the Master of Ceremony. The lunch included a unique auction - what a great afternoon of entertainment, drinks, food & good company!!!

Firstly, we would like to thank all the NGFC Members & guests that came along to support this social function last month!



We would also like to give a big shout out to the sponsors that provided us with some awesome raffle prizes. Thanks to PENN, Pure Fishing, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, Jason Hewitt Fishing, Barracuda Big Game Lures & Murray's Brewery.

Michael O'Connor entertained the crowd and from what I saw, everybody enjoyed the drinks package and NCYC and the team at Hooked Restaurant laid on some awesome food!!

Keep an eye out for information regarding our yearly tournament to be held in March 2018 at NCYC Marina.

Enjoy your fishing over the festive season!





## Coming Events...

### DECEMBER 2017

- Saturday 2-3 December - The Cabbage & Bird Race
- Sat/Sunday 9-10 December - Farr 40 Regatta
- Friday 15 December - Santa Sails a Laser
- Sunday 17 December - Members Christmas Party & Christmas Pursuit
- Monday 25 December - Club Closed
- Tuesday 26 December - Sydney to Hobart
- Sunday 31 December - NYE @ NCYC

### JANUARY 2018

- Monday 1 January - Happy New Year - Club Open
- Wednesday 10 January - Twilight
- Friday 12 January - Laser Twilight
- Sunday 14 January - Summer SOP
- Saturday 20 January - Friendship Cup
- Sunday 21 January - Newcastle to Swansea
- Friday 26 January - Australia Day (Club Open)
- Sunday 28 January - Summer SOP
- Wednesday 31 January - Twilight Pursuit

### FEBRUARY 2018

- Sunday 4 February - Ladies Skipper Series
- Sunday 4 February - Summer SOP
- Sunday 11 February - Summer SOP
- Saturday 17 February  
CYCA Sydney to Newcastle Race
- Saturday 24-25 February  
Heaven Can Wait - Lake Macquarie
- Wednesday 28 February - Twilight Pursuit

### EVERY WEEK

- Tuesday Night Trivia - 7pm in the Marquee
- Thursday Night Members Draw [LTPS/17/16772]:  
up to 4 draws per night:  
6.15pm, 6.30pm, 6.45pm & 7pm  
Cash prize starts at \$200 and jackpots if not won
- Friday Night Raffles  
Tickets sale 6pm - Draw 7pm
- Friday & Sunday - Live Entertainment from 2:30pm
- Sunday Breakfast - between 8am-10.30am

**PLEASE NOTE:  
NCYC CLUB WILL BE  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY**

## Security Phone Numbers

### Emergency

- **Police** – (02) 4929 0999
- **Water Police** – (02) 4984 9012
- **Fire Department** – 000
- **Marina Power Failure** – Dockmaster 0408 299 512
- **Dockmaster** – 0408 299 512

### Club Directory

- **General Inquiries** (9am - 5pm)  
(02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
- **Licensed Club**  
(02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
- **Marina Manager** (8am - 4pm 7 days)  
0408 299 512 – dockmaster@ncyc.net.au
- **Hooked** (11.30am-3pm, 5.30pm-9pm)  
(02) 4940 8188 – bookings@hookedgrill.com.au
- **Administration** (9am - 5pm 5 days)  
(02) 4940 8188 – admin@ncyc.net.au
- **Functions** (9am - 5pm)  
(02) 4940 8188 – barmanager@ncyc.net.au

## AVAILABLE NOW!

# Safety Information

**FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING  
WHEN OPERATING  
IN PROXIMITY TO  
COMMERCIAL SHIPPING  
AT THE PORT OF NEWCASTLE**



**Pick up your free copy  
from the NCYC office**





## **NEWCASTLE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED**

**Managing the largest portfolio of self contained and corporate accommodation in Newcastle**

**Are the family visiting over Christmas and New Year and need accommodation?**

**We have a wide selection of accommodation available to suit your requirements**

**Speak to Joanne about your accommodation needs or the possibility of leasing your property as a short term rental option**



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