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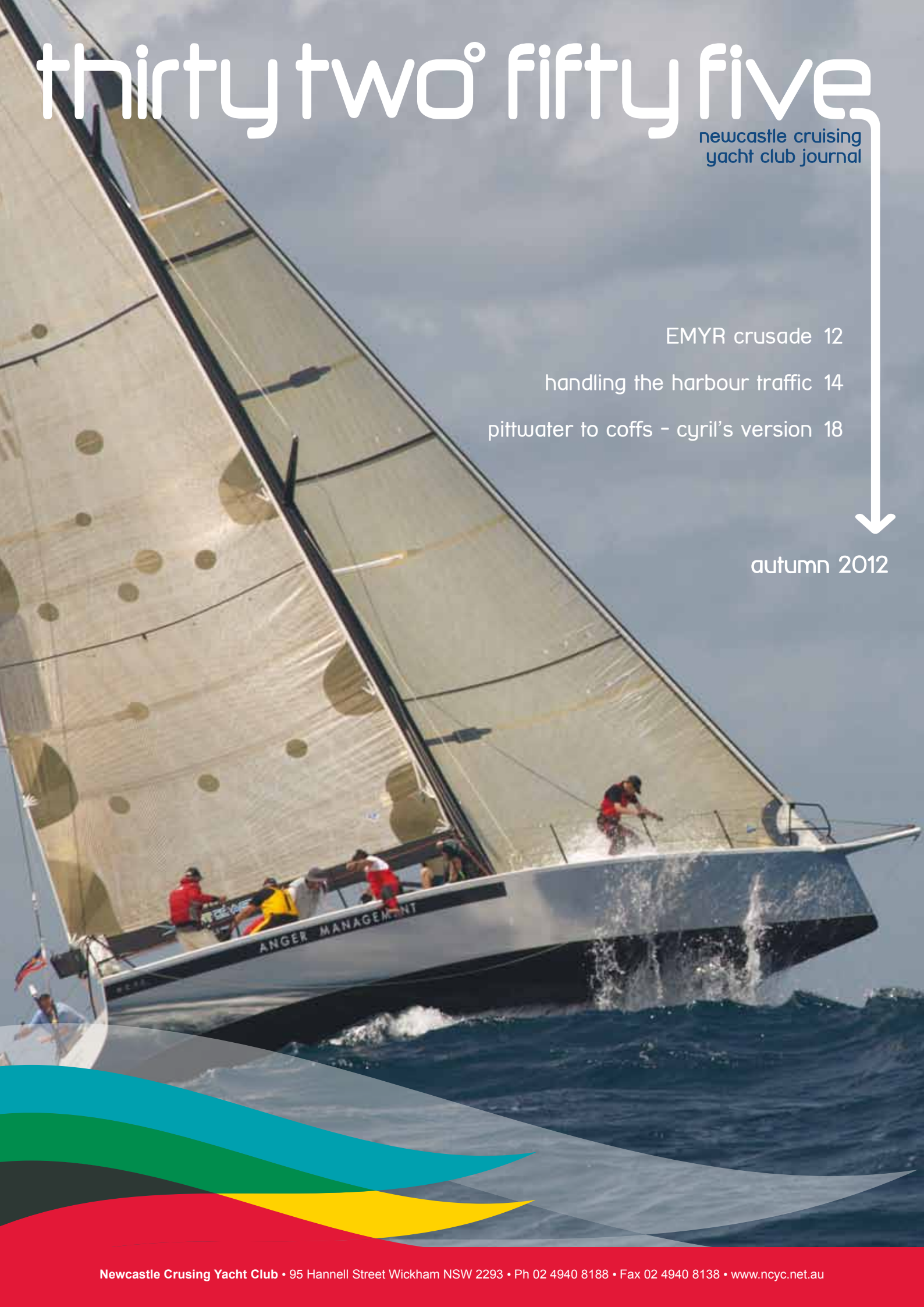
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autumn 2012



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Len Griffin

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Full directory: p 4 of this edition.

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.



NEWCASTLE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB

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Autumn 2012 Journal

A quarterly publication

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Editor: Gloria Thirkell

Sub-Editor: Rebecca Stuart & Jan Howard

Cover Photo: Summer Racing
By Craig Wakefield

Essential Information

EMERGENCY

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

CLUB DIRECTORY

- General Inquiries (9am - 4.45pm)
(02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
- Licensed Club (10am - 10pm)
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- Marina Manager (8am - 4pm 7 days)
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- The Galley (Noon - 2.30pm, 6pm - 8.30pm)
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- Administration (9am - 4.45pm 5 days)
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We are now well into our summer racing season and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. NCYC is pleased to welcome a number of new yachts to our fleet, including visitors from LMYC.

Our club was well represented in the "blue water" events over the holiday season, run by CYCA and RPAYC respectively.

Jim and Mary Holley's "Aurora", Kym Butler's "One For The Road" and Mike Martin's LMR Solar" represented us in the Rolex Sydney to Hobart and did us proud. It should be noted that in Mike's case it was dual representation for both NCYC and LMYC.

During the race, Mary also accepted the role of assisting the radio relay vessel, her exemplary seamanship and professional approach to this, earning her a prestigious award from CYCA. You can read more about this in a page 9 article by fellow Rolex Sydney Hobart veteran of 14 years, NCYC member, Jan Howard. I am sure I speak for the entire membership when I say "Well done Mary!"

Three NCYC vessels competed in the 226nm Pittwater to Coffs race. These were "She's the Culprit" (see page 18), Mike Hinchey's Wizzard" (both NCYC and CPSC) and my own "Anger Management". Congratulations to "She's the Culprit" and "Wizzard" on their podium finishes in this regatta.

In terms of blue water races we are becoming well represented and punching above our weight in results.



As reported in "Docklines" (page 10), in February we were pleased to welcome vessels competing in the Lake Macquarie Game Fishing Club's "Big Fish Bonanza". Director Larry Curtis has been working on securing a closer relationship between this sport and our club, and this is the first tentative step.



Phil Arnall, Commodore.



Santa arrived by RIB - Image by Richard Howard

It has been a busy start to 2012 at the club, on the Marina and out on the water.

The club had a bumper November and December in terms of bar and restaurant sales, functions and NCYC events including the beer dinner and Christmas party. Thanks go to our staff who did a great job coping with the demands placed on them over the "silly" season. The Social Committee ensured the Christmas party went off without a glitch apart from Santa being held up and a few of the poor kids starting to think Santa was a 'no show' this Christmas. Their concerns were quickly put to bed with Santa's arrival by water.

Just prior to Christmas, NCYC lost longstanding tenant, Peach Advertising, which moved offices, having been bought out by STW Group. We have secured a new blue chip tenant in Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) who are due to move in to level 1 of the Club Building in the next couple of weeks. This has been a great outcome for NCYC and is indicative of the calibre of tenants interested in being part of our precinct.

There is new signage in NCYC's car park in terms of tenant parking arrangements, speed humps and give way signs. Some of this aimed at enhancing the safety of the car park. Please respect the directions of these signs so as NCYC's car park can most adequately meet the needs of all NCYC members and tenants especially during the midday period where our car park is in peak demand.

We have had a few staffing changes over the past few months with some of our team moving on to other venues or towards their chosen career and we wish each of them good luck in this regard. We also have a few new faces so please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to NCYC's newer staff.

Finally, a reminder that to obtain member discounts in the club it is a requirement that you provide your membership card to the staff member serving you. This is aimed at ensuring that the benefits of being a member of the club are appropriately distributed. I would also



like to remind members that they should comply with club dress regulations. They include no hats inside the club and no rubber thongs/flip flops after 6.30pm, neat sandals are acceptable after 6.30pm. It would be appreciated if you could remind yourself of our dress regulations next time you are entering the club.

Richard Howard, CEO.

NCYC – Our Club

STAFF PROFILE Gabriella Sanderson

Gabriella Sanderson, is a local girl who was born in Newcastle and went to school at Grammar. She has been working in the bar at NCYC for the past eighteen months, while completing the first year of a five year architecture course at the



Image by - Ray Blackburn

University of Newcastle. Gabriella is really looking forward to an imminent three week study tour to Paris and Barcelona in association with the course.

As well as a love of reading, Gabriella is an outdoor girl, who has grown up spending a lot of time on the large family cruiser, with weekends and holidays on the Myall Lakes, at beautiful Port Stephens, Broughton Island and on Lake Macquarie. Nowadays, her sporting interests are concentrated on caring for and riding her three horses.

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with sunshine & smiles*



*To be sure of a
table book early*

Mothers Day
Sunday 13 May 2012

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ANZAC DAY 2012

An informal get together over lunch at the Club, traditional over the past few years for NCYC Service personnel, families and friends.

Normal menu and prices again apply. As you know, it gets busy so don't forget to contact the Club to book a table: 02 4940 8188 or functions@ncyc.net.au



Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club

Black Tie Ball

7pm for a 7.30pm start
Saturday 14 April 2012

Canapés
3 Course Dinner
Wine & Beer

Jazz Band to the wee hours!

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Kevin Abrahanson, Les Handicott and Dick Lees
enjoying traditions of mateship at NCYC, Anzac Day 2011

From the Rear Commodore

CYCA's Annual Sydney to Newcastle OP Race in February occasioned a long night for the fifteen NCYC volunteers who had their own race the next day.

Two vessels were on the water from 3 pm. Our Committee vessel "Wombat" had a crew of four (Dianne Fitzgerald, Faye Chiswick, Ernie Thirkell and Mick Eggleston). Jim Holley and Kym Butler looked after the skeds on Jim's "Aurora".

Yachts arriving at the marina were met by our "Inner Circle rum runners" (Robin Hillery, Neil Kibble, Wally Amos, Richard Arnall, Col Peebles, Frank Jackson and his non-sailor mate from Darwin, Rod McAndrew). They gave directions to berths, caught lines where needed, and dispensed the welcoming "tot" for each of the crew. Richard also used his own RIB ferrying meals out to the race officials. After the Galley closed at 8.30 pm, Bar Manager Michael Smyth cooked up a massive 250 sausage sandwiches. With all yachts safely finished and accounted for, there was still a happy (if tired) crowd when last drinks were called.




Paul Gleeson Rear Commodore

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From the Sailing Office

The close finish for Sunday 4 December's Lady Skipper Race with only 7 minutes separating the fleet was a spectacle for diners at restaurants along the harbour. Maree Edwards on "PT73" took line honours. On handicap, "Tracey P Lady Skipper Race Trophy" went to Kelley Murphy on "Winifred". 2nd was Julia Wilkes, "Warrain" and 3rd Mary Holley, "Aurora".

On 28 January 2012, the coveted Friendship Cup returned to NCYC after a great day of racing in the Club Team event for NCYC and LMYC. The presentation was made by LMYC Commodore Doug Coulter to NCYC Commodore Phil Arnall. The score to date is: LMYC 4; NCYC 3.

Congratulations to the winners of NCYC's Australia Day Trophies: "Endeavour Marine PHS Trophy" - winner "Menace" skipper N James, LMYC; "Australia Day Gleeson Civil IRC Trophy" - winner, "Strewth" skipper T Freeman LMYC; "Australia Day Coulin Marine Trim Ocean Trophy" - winner, "Long Time Dead" skipper M Fensom NCYC.

The "Rick Bowker Junior Sailor Trophy" Race on 8 February was the exception to the rain rule. Ten Port Hunter Juniors sailed the Twilight Race in ideal conditions. The Trophy was presented to "Aurora", Junior Sailors Greta Rigby and Naomi Dingle.

Race 2 of "The Lion Bird Cabbage Series" was held over the weekend of 11 and 12 February. Yes, it rained. "Strewth" rounded the Lion Island mark at approximately 4pm, 6 hours after start time. However, the breeze dropped down to 4 knots in the early evening, so it was an 8 hour ride home. "Anger Management" finished at approximately 2am on 12th, the remaining fleet, between 7am and 9am. To find out who won the series go to the NCYC home page and click on "The Lion Bird Cabbage Series" icon.

Congratulations: "Marta Jean" 7th IRC, 5th PHS, and "She's the Culprit" 11th PHS in the CYCA Newcastle race held on 19 February 2012.

Dianne Fitzgerald

NCYC Treasurer Kym Butler's 'One for the Road', was first Hunter yacht across the line in the 2011 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, having led the ORCi division for part of the way. The yacht finished up 14 of 33 in ORCi (the "cream" of the fleet), and 32 of 61 in IRC. Congratulations to Kym and his Crew from NCYC Members - Image by Daniel Forster



Social Highlights

From the Vice Commodore
and the Social Committee

1. The crew of 'Blu Notte' after her final race for the Amos brothers, Wally (Warren) & Greg - Image by Robin Hillery
2. Social Committee Treasurer, Petro Gleeson and Santa - Image by Richard Howard
3. Social Committee Secretary, Kris Rickard and grandchildren - Image by Richard Howard
4. Inner Circle Rum Runners greeted the LMGFC competitors - Image by Craig Wakefield
5. Rear Commodore Paul Gleeson - Image by Ray Blackburn
6. Mark Sheedy - Image by Kaz Crump



Where in the world is our burgee???

The new competition for members only.

The Task: Select the correct locations from the options.

The Winner: The first correct entry drawn from the barrel.



We invite members to submit a photo of our burgee flying. Send it to info@ncyc.net.au - subject "burgee competition".

The Prize: A bottle of wine and dinner for two at the "Galley".

To Enter: Four simple steps.

1. Collect an entry form from the bar.
2. Select the correct answer from the four options:
 - a. Phananga Bay (Thailand)
 - b. Marlborough Sounds
 - c. Halong Bay (Vietnam)
 - d. Whittsunday Passage.
3. Fill in your membership and contact numbers.
4. Put the form in the box provided.

Closing Date: Saturday 31 March 2012.



Jim Holley Vice Commodore

From the Club Captain

One of our yachts recently had a man overboard at sea during a race and although the crew member was recovered uninjured. The incident highlighted once again the risks associated with sailing and Yachting Australia's stand regarding man overboard drills.

The Special Regulations handbook (R.R.S. 6.012) recommends that crew members be trained in man overboard drills, and that these drills be carried out at reasonable intervals. Information on Quick stop and Life Sling (Seattle Sling) can be found in Part 1 Advisory, Appendix C of this volume.

Doing a web search will locate a long list of sites with relevant points and valuable information. I was particularly impressed by the following site which contains clear, easy to follow step by step instructions, as well as simple clear diagrams.

http://spinnaker-sailing.com/lessons/keelboat/k_lessonf.htm

I am calling for expressions of interest for a YA Safety and Sea Survival course to be run on consecutive Saturdays, rather than for two days on a single weekend. If I have sufficient numbers I will proceed with organizing this. Please contact me on 0402 945 224.



Ernie Thirkell Club Captain

Prestigious Award for Mary

The 2012 'Rani' Award for Outstanding Seamanship in the 2012 Sydney to Hobart Race has been awarded to Mary Holley. Mary is the navigator and co-owner of 'Aurora,' NCYC's most frequent participant in the race.

Having competed in her 15th consecutive Hobart Race in 2011, Mary received the award at the Presentation Ceremony for this year's Sydney to Hobart Race, held at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania on New Years Day

Mary was awarded the trophy for her outstanding efforts in assisting the Radio Relay Vessel JBW in the radio skeds for the race.

The award is named after the yacht 'Rani,' winner of the first Sydney to Hobart Race in 1945. 'Rani' was built




Mary Holley

at Speers Point and was skippered by Captain John Illingworth. It was the smallest boat in the 9 boat fleet. It took 'Rani' 6 days, 14 hours and 22 minutes to complete the 680 nautical mile race.

Everyone at NCYC congratulates Mary on this wonderful achievement!

Jan Howard


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Docklines

December was relatively quiet on NCYC's marina (many long termers chose to visit other destinations for holiday plus our usual monthly delivery from the USA was delayed until January 2012). The new year started with a proverbial bang as we had many visiting vessels from Lake Macquarie and Pittwater sampling the hospitality of our facility and enjoying the harbour entertainment and fireworks over the New Year's Eve weekend.

January remained strong all month. Many coastal cruisers stopped over and even extended their stay to enjoy our facility and Newcastle. We have also had a number of racing yachts stop over on their return trips from the Hobart and Coffs Harbour races. We were glad to berth the IMOCA 60 "Hugo Boss" while she prepared for a promotional trip to China and thank Simon and the Hugo Boss crew for the very successful open day during which NCYC members and the general public could inspect the yacht.

Other notable visitors during January included the two old Americas Cup 12m yachts KA 5 "Australia" and KA14 "Steak N Kidney" plus 100 footer "Wild Thing" (24' draft) on the end of C finger, the Warren 90 "Kalm" on the end of A finger plus the beautiful Shipman 63 on the end of D finger which was waiting to be loaded on her ship back Europe.

During late January we had 22 boats arrive by ship from the USA which saw A finger full as well as other club berths being utilised to accommodate the imported vessels. Some of these boats stayed for a while to take advantage of the marine services offered on our facility before they headed for their home port.

On Saturday 4 February 2012 we successfully hosted a large fleet of game boats who were contesting a fishing tournament run by the Lake Macquarie Game Fishing Club. The boats arrived late evening allowing the crews a chance to relax and refresh at NCYC before departing early on Sunday morning for another days fishing. The feedback from fleet regarding NCYC's facility and hospitality has been very positive.

Our marina has a premium listing in the Australian Marina Guide (www.marinaguide.com.au). This is aimed at promoting our facility to the many coastal cruisers who travel around our country. The site has over 110,000 individual users each year who use it to plan their coastal trips and choose ports at which to stop. Thank you to all the boat owners who have tidied up around their berth and kept their hoses along with other equipment on their boats. There are still a few to be cleaned up, but overall our marina looks much more presentable and is safer to walk along. Your assistance in keeping our marina safe, clean and tidy is much appreciated.

Just a few friendly reminders

1. It is illegal to use the fire hoses for cleaning boats and filling tanks. These hoses are on the marina as a safety requirement and should not be used for any other purpose than fire fighting. Heavy fines can be applied if you get caught using them illegally.
2. Could all yacht owners remember to tie their halyards away from the mast or run a mouse line to eliminate rattling. A little courtesy to the people sleeping on nearby boats and landlubbers in the marina apartments will be greatly appreciated.
3. Please keep the noise levels down if socialising on your boat overnight. We have had a number of valid complaints.
4. Following receipt of your certificate of currency of insurance please drop a copy up to the office or scan and email to dockmaster@ncyc.net.au. It is a requirement of our marina that you provide us with a copy of your insurance.



Once again, if you have any queries please don't hesitate to come and see me or the Dock Masters. All the best for the remainder of the summer boating season.

Howard Keegan NCYC Marina and Assets Manager



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Congratulations to Karen Crump for her winning entry "Out with the new, in with the old".



Highly Commended:

1. Greg Jackson
2. Doug Gould
3. Craig Wakefield
4. Keith Stronach

Category: "Maritime"

All members are invited to submit an image for the Winter 2012 competition.

Conditions of Entry:

- Photographer must be a current member of NCYC.
- One entry per person per issue.
- High resolution image to be sent in electronic format to info@ncyc.net.au, or to the editor.
- Deadline for entries: Friday 4 May 2012.

Winner and Highly Commended photographers will receive colour prints of their work, courtesy of competition judge, Newcastle School Portraits.



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Edition III – The transition from Lebanon to Israel and Haifa, Galilee

Len Griffin & Ian Harper

The EMYR Rally began in Istanbul 5 weeks earlier and visited 10 marinas in Turkey, Cyprus and Beirut in company with 50 yachts from 16 countries. Previous articles detailed the fantastic hospitality and organised tours to major historical and cultural sites.

Our next sail was 70 Nm as the crow flies but traversed some major cultural and political differences and a convoluted route as we travelled from Beirut in Lebanon to Haifa in Israel.

As usual, military precision was necessary to herd 50 private yacht skippers who were on notice that we were in a scenario that was not to be taken lightly. The rally was given a corridor to follow which headed straight out to sea to the 6 nm line then headed south outside that 6nm line and then turned into the designated corridor to Haifa.

To satisfy Lebanese officialdom all our documentation stated that we were sailing back to Cyprus. We may not have been allowed to leave had we indicated we were going to Israel.

In cruising mode it seemed it was a simple case of heading south to the nominated way-point except some skippers didn't consider that the land protruded out so several boats including 4th Dimension were mentioned in dispatches from the Lebanese navy about how they should rectify their position quickly.

As we crossed seaward of the border we noticed several patrol boats in the distance. One minute later the Israeli navy were alongside with the support of a fighter jet. On the patrol boat the forward cannons were not manned

but the aft gun was, with intent.

The question was asked whether we had guns on board. Deb thought that was slightly amusing which prompted the response "We are afraid of you – we do not know who you are – you may have bombs on board and be planning to blow us up" – the tone removed the grin from Deb's face.

They required everyone on board to line up along the gunwale facing them and place the boat papers and our passports into a netting scoop on a long pole extended from the patrol boat for review. They then came on board to search the boat. Unfortunately Deb (again) left the main door to the bathroom locked and exited through the cabin.

A locked door did not please the searchers and skipper Len had to go down below and explain. Deb was allowed into Israel this time on the basis she promised not to come back.

From Haifa the rally organised a day trip to the Sea of Galilee. There was an offer of a baptism in the Jordan River but all the yachties deemed they get baptised enough at sea. A home visit for dinner with a local sailing family was another great experience. As would be expected in a country that exports technology, the father was a rocket scientist with the military and all members of the family had university degrees or higher. Their home was modest by Australian standards as housing is extremely expensive in Israel. The discussions were open and gave a great insight into all aspects of Israel and their views of a future inclusive Israel for the benefit and security of all parties.

Our time in Israel exposed to us the complexity of issues that they face. When we travelled on buses and trains, there were always young Israelis doing their compulsory military service with their guns and bullet clips over their shoulders. It was a surreal reminder of a different world.

In the next edition we sail to Ashkelon Marina, 5 miles from Gaza.



Above: Israel's immigration office – coming out of the sun.

Page 3 image: NCYC 'Skirts' Helen and Deb looking for a sail on the Sea of Galilee

Wrapped to Return to NCYC

Following is some welcome feedback from a competitor in the CYCA race 18 February 2012. "Samarkand" crew were wrapped to be returning to NCYC once more. Walter Carpenter, chairman of Middle Harbour Yacht Club (MHYC) figure-headed a great crew that included local boy, Keith Stronach. The weather was fabulous and the food even better.

Cynthia, Pit Chick



David O'Connor of North Sails during CYCA Sydney to Newcastle Ocean Race - Image by Ralph Pickering, MHYC

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DM it works...

Di Morrow and Linda her daughter, have worked together for almost 10 years at the same location on the waterfront at Newcastle Cruising Yachts Club's Commercial Centre. Their combined work experience in providing natural therapy services, spans fifty five years. Di and Linda provide various treatments including remedial massage, lymphatic drainage, natural face lifts and natural cellulite control.

"Di Morrow Method" is renowned for its natural face lift service offering which has been exclusively developed over the past 22 years. They also specialise in the natural treatment of arthritic pain, back pain, hip and knee complaints and tennis elbow as well as migraine, headache sinus, sore feet and many other ailments.

Di and Linda both live locally and support NCYC via offering a 10% discount to NCYC members.



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Handling the Harbour Traffic

There has been much excitement generated by the news that on Tuesday 27 March 2012, Newcastle Port Corporation Pilot, Captain Malcolm Goodfellow will present on “Safety Information for Recreational Boating When Operating in Proximity to Commercial Shipping at the Port of Newcastle”.

Following Captain Goodfellow’s presentation early in 2006, in September of the same year an invaluable A5 booklet was published: “SAFETY INFORMATION For Recreational Boating When Operating In Proximity To Commercial Shipping At The Port Of Newcastle”. This publication was jointly funded by Newcastle Port Corporation and NSW Maritime and included many clearly relevant illustrations making for interesting reading.

The booklet was prepared by the late George Keegan OAM, Club Captain-Secretary of Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and materials and information included in the publication was sourced from both funding organisations.

Valuable input was provided by former Harbour Master Captain Timothy Turner and Pilot Captain Malcolm Goodfellow, NSW Maritime Regional Manager Charlie Dunkley and Boating Services Officer Phil Howe, who has since retired. Since 2006, Phil has maintained his involvement with the local boating community, taking on the responsibility of on-water coordinator for the National Maritime Festivals.

The establishment of NCYC resulted in a significant increase in recreational boating in the port of Newcastle, necessitating further education of the boating public. Discussions between the Club, NSW Maritime and Newcastle Port Corporation resulted in the delivery of an outstanding presentation to NCYC members by Captain Goodfellow.

The excellent slideshow and accompanying commentary delivered by Captain Goodfellow caused many to be amazed by lack of clear vision that ship captains have, of yachts and power boats they share the harbour with.

Subsequent to the presentation, Harbour Master Turner made arrangements for a number of our skippers to separately be taken by helicopter to an incoming ship to experience first-hand the complexities of piloting a ship

Copies of “SAFETY INFORMATION For Recreational Boating When Operating In Proximity To Commercial Shipping At The Port Of Newcastle” are available from the NCYC Administration Office. The Document can also be downloaded: <http://ncyc.net.au/wpcontent/uploads/2009/07/safetyinfobooklet.pdf>



Image by Captain Malcolm Goodfellow

into the Port of Newcastle. Having gained first-hand experience of a ship Captain’s visibility from the bridge, Robin Hillery, owner skipper of “Warrain”, wrote an excellent article which was published in June 2006 and being still relevant will soon be published again in NCYC’s quarterly newsletter.

Captain Goodfellow will once again be presenting on the topic of safety on the approaches to and in the confines of Newcastle’s harbour at 7pm on Tuesday 27 March 2012. The presentation will take place in NCYC’s marquee. Attendance at what will be an informative and interesting presentation is a must for all skippers, sailors, other harbour users and the general public. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ernie Thirkell, Club Captain

ON THE BRIDGE with Paul McGrath

Problem: Playing a slam is something akin to sailing on a broad reach – it can be exhilarating but one false move can land you in the drink. So, how would you plan the play in 6S by South on the lead of the heart six from West. During the auction East has shown a weak hand with six or seven hearts. The lead sails around to your king. How will you play to manoeuvre your craft to remain on a winning course?

NORTH			
♠ KQ			
♥ A532			
♦ 262			
♣ QJ75			
WEST		EAST	
♠ 652		♠ 97	
♥ 6		♥ QJT9874	
♦ QJ94		♦ 73	
♣ T9643		♣ K2	
SOUTH			
♠ AJT843			
♥ K			
♦ AK85			
♣ A8			

Solution: page 16

Supporting Community

Local Maritime History



NCYC Club Captain Ernie Thirkell and Social Committee member Mike Eggleston with Tony Robinson (centre)

On 21st December 2011, the Maritime Centre was involved in filming a segment for a History Channel/BBC production with presenter Tony Robinson. On behalf of NCYC, prior to the day of filming, Ernie Thirkell and Mike Eggleston helped them with their butcher boat, which had dried out through being on dry land for a number of years. The historic craft was secured at NCYC marina, partially submerged (to allow the wood to rehydrate), and a watchful eye was kept on it. Committee vessel "George Keegan" was support vessel during the filming. The program is due to air in June 2012.

Forgacs Parade of Lights

In typical NCYC fashion, boat owning members once again got involved in this event despite the heavy rain, which kept the crowds to much lower numbers than for day one of the Maritime Festival twelve months ago. Owners went to great effort to light up their vessels, joining with commercial harbour vessels and the visiting "James Craig", to create a great spectacle of their own, before the 9 pm fireworks got under way. Participants reported having a wonderful evening on the water and being keen to enhance their already spectacular efforts next year. Event organisers thanked NCYC for our promotion of the Parade, in particular Sailing Committee member Mary Holley, who organised parade order, chart, registration and briefing. She also collected and forwarded information about the participants which was announced on p.a. systems at a number of locations along the route of the parade.



Image by Greg Jackson

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PORT TOURS A BIG HIT ON AUSTRALIA DAY

More than 1,600 happy people took advantage of free port tours by Newcastle Port Corporation when they celebrated Australia Day in January.

The Corporation provided regular tours from Queens Wharf throughout the day and most were full to capacity as the chartered Newcastle-Stockton ferry motored up to Kooragang Island.

The tours provided the opportunity to sail alongside bulk coal carriers and general cargo ships, and see the loading of ships. Passengers also learnt a little about the history of the port which dates back to 1799 when Newcastle was Australia's first commercial port. Newcastle Port Corporation said it received a lot of positive feedback on the day and we thank those who took the opportunity to make the tours such a success.

The Corporation was a major sponsor of the 2012 Australia Day National Maritime Festival, its sponsorship including the great fireworks display on Australia Day eve.

The wet weather on the evening did not dampen the enthusiasm of hundreds of spectators along the

foreshore. They gathered for the spectacular fireworks display at Nobbys and Dyke Point which illuminated the harbour to provide a great lead-in to the festival.

Other highlights of the evening were the tall ship, James Craig, berthed near the Maritime Centre at Lee Wharf, a light boat parade organised by Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and great live music on the Lee Wharf promenade.

ON THE BRIDGE with Paul McGrath

Solution: There are two different tacks that you might take to hopefully reach a safe haven. Both involve playing on diamonds immediately. You need to find the outstanding diamonds no worse than 4-2. So, play ace, king and another diamond. West will win and return a trump. Overtake dummy's queen with your ace and ruff (trump) your fourth diamond with the trump king in dummy. At this juncture you can either try cashing the heart ace or take the club finesse. Which should it be?

The club finesse is better as West's opening lead was very likely a singleton. After the club finesse you play your trumps from the top to come home with a wet sail.



Passengers prepare for one Newcastle Port Corporation's tours of the working harbour as a general cargo sails in the background

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Pittwater to Coffs –Cyril's Version

With two “rock stars” on board, and Glen “Cyril” Picasso as syndicate designated Skipper, “She’s The Culprit” lined up with 45 other yachts at the start of this year’s Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race.

The “Rock Stars” being Dave O’Dowd, and major partner in The Culprit Glenn “Tac” Bulmer, who did the Hobart race on “One For the Road” and flew home just in time to be on board for the Coffs race.

The forecast for the race was summed up in two words, North East. With 15 knots meeting the starter’s gun on Monday, the fleet headed for the western shore and the first series of tacks to clear Cape Three Points and began the trip north. What seemed like 500 tacks later, we turned left into Coffs Harbour. That pretty much sums it up... however I will elaborate slightly in the spirit of... umm, journalism.

Off Terrigal we saw a shark, not a big one, well fairly big, definitely not a small one mind you, but it was a shark! Hmmm... Oh yes, later on we had a very nice beef and vegetable stew for dinner supplied by Michael MacDonald, (who was steering at the time), and some rocky road for dessert. Tony Purkiss was too busy navigating to eat chocolate, so he had a beer instead.

Oh yes, the sailing, sorry! By 9pm on Monday we were in Stockton Bight with “Wizzard” and “Close Hauled” 3nm in front, and “Anger Management” a further 8nm in front of them.

Strong southerly current for the length of the race course rendered the Rhumb Line irrelevant, with the strategy being to stay right on the bricks, with small tacks to seaward.

From 0900 we took the inside route through Seal Rocks and for the next 12 hours we were engaged in a brilliant tacking duel with the Cookson 12, “Occasional Course Language”. When the sun went down we may have lost



NCYC members crewing “She’s the Culprit” as she battles it out to win her division. In the Pittwater to Coffs Race (race 1 of the new “Pittwater and Coffs Regatta”) - Image by Howard Wright/IMAGE Professional Photography - www.imagephoto.com.au

a little bit of focus as Cyril had prepared lemon chicken pasta with ginger, garlic and coriander.

John Lattimore, Trent Butler, Murray Shume, Bob Jarvie and Mel Horodam were kept busy through tacks, headsail changes and reefing during the race and the only respite from the headwind was the 500m dash from Coff’s Islet to the finish line.

Although it was hard work (between meal times) we all enjoyed the event, and to our surprise ended up winning our division.

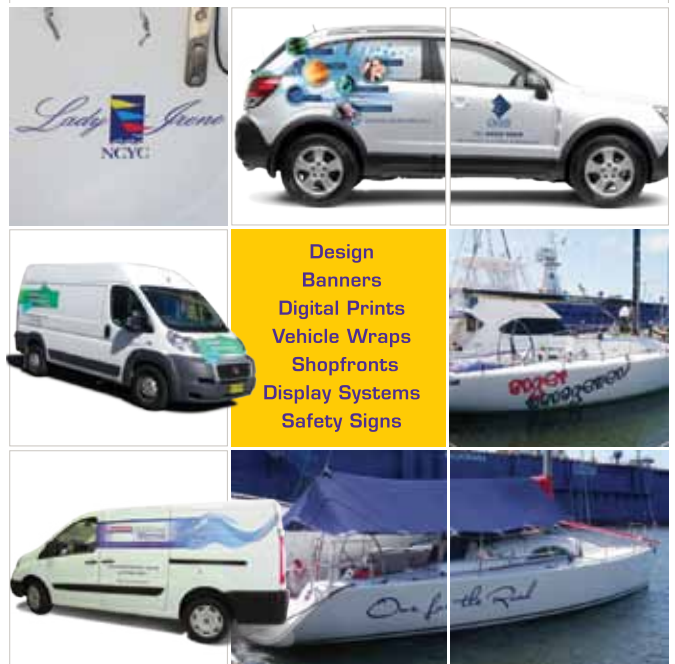
Glen “Cyril” Picasso



Mike Hinchey's "Wizzard".

A "podium" finisher representing both NCYC and CPSC in RPAYC's Pittwater Coffs Race. Photo taken in a NCYC Pointscore Race - Image by Greg Jackson

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Coming Events...

MARCH 2012

- COP Races LMYC & NCYC
Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 March 2012
Swansea to Newcastle & Newcastle to Swansea
- Handling the Harbour Traffic
Tuesday 27 March 2012
NCYC Marquee — 7pm
Free entry — All welcome
Presenter - Marine Pilot
Captain Malcolm Goodfellow
- Trivia
Thursday 29 March 2012, 7pm
Free entry & Jackpot \$\$\$

APRIL 2012

- Easter
Friday 6 April - Monday 9 April 2012
- Black Tie Ball
Saturday 14 April 2012
See page 6 for details
- Sail Port Stephens Feeder Race 1
Pittwater to Newcastle
Saturday 14 April 2012
- Sail Port Stephens Feeder Race 2
Newcastle to Port Stephens
Sunday 15 April 2012
- Anzac Day
Wednesday 25 April 2012
NCYC welcomes veteran members & guests
- Trivia
Thursday 26 April 2012, 7pm
Free entry & Jackpot \$\$\$

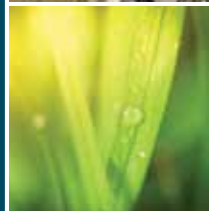
MAY 2012

- YA Safety & Sea Survival Course
Weekend of Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 May 2012
Contact: see Masterclass advertisement page 7
- Mothers Day
Sunday 13 May 2012
- Trivia
Thursday 31 May 2012, 7pm
Free entry & Jackpot \$\$\$

EVERY WEEK

- Friday Night Raffles
- Saturday and Sunday Breakfast, 8am – 10.30am

**The Directors of NCYC are inviting
“Expressions of Interest” in joining and
participating in the proposed Newcastle
Game Fishing Club (NGFC) in association with
Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC).
Forms with detailed information available
at the bar or from the Office.**



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