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Image by Glenn MacFadyen



Image by Crew of "Aktio"



Image by Peta Broadbent

NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

Incorporating:

MARINA; LICENSED PREMISES;

LEASED BOATYARD; COMMERCIAL CENTRE

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club

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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.



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| A quarterly publication |

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Cover Photo: Glenn MacFadyen

NCYC Member's Discounts & Benefits

NCYC Members' Club & Fuel Discounts

NCYC Bar 10% discount for Full Members

5% discount for Social / Crew Members (Membership card must be shown at the Bar)

NCYC Marquee Hire 10% discount for Full Members

5% discount for Social / Crew Members

Fuel (Diesel + PULP) 10c discount per L 0 – 1,999 L for Full Members

15c discount per L 2,000 + L for Full Members 10c discount per L 1,000 + L for Crew / Social /

Non-members



NCYC Members' Benefits

Auto Advantage

Phone: 1300 653 119 www.autoadvantage.com.au

For any NCYC member who purchases a vehicle through Auto Advantage, Auto Advantage will pay for that member's next NCYC annual membership subscription



NCYC Members' Non-Club Discounts

East Coast Marine & Sail

10% discount to NCYC Members on selected

items

Phone: 02 4961 1663 www.ecmarinesail.com.au

Di Morrow Method 10% discount to NCYC Members

Phone: 02 4962 3100 www.dimorrowmethod.com.au

Complimentary glass of wine for each guest

who is a member of NCYC when dining

Phone: 02 4961 1676 www.rocksaltnewcastle.com.au

Rocksalt

Heliservices

10% discount for NCYC Members

Phone: 02 4962 5188 www.heliservices.com.au

Cote D Azur Accommodation 10% discount on accommodation to NCYC

Members

Phone: 02 4984 9595

Cheery Lane Cottage -

Gulgong

www.cotedazurnelsonbay.com.au

10% discount on accommodation to NCYC

Members

Phone: 02 6374 2289 www.cherrylanecottage.com.au









Commodore's Message



Our Club was extremely busy over the holiday season and congratulations must go to our hard working staff who received many compliments on our service and atmosphere from the many visitors - Well done! It is shaping up for a tougher 2013, so I ask all members to support your Club when sailing, dining or socialising over the coming months.

We were well represented in the 'blue water' races over the break and we were especially proud of Aurora and Frantic who flew our burgee in the Sydney to Hobart race this year. The Holleys went out on a successful note finishing a creditable 30th overall on IRC and we wish them a happy retirement [we think!] from this iconic race. Following the Sydney Hobart, Frantic went on to compete in the 2013 Audi IRC Australian Championship at Geelong and the TP52 Southern Cross Cup at Sandringham Yacht Club in Victoria. Mick and the crew have been very busy and we look forward to welcoming them back to club racing on their return. The Rear Commodore's Report covers yachting in more detail, later in the journal.

In very sad circumstances we needed to make changes to responsibilities on the Board and I am pleased to advise that Kym Butler has accepted the position of Rear Commodore [Kym has outlined his approach to this role in his report] and Larry Curtis has agreed to step into Kym's shoes as Treasurer. I am also very pleased to advise that Steve Rae has accepted the casual vacancy on the Board and has indicated a willingness to stand at the next election. Steve has had a successful career in manufacturing both in Australia and overseas and is the skipper of Marta Jean.

The Board has decided that, for the third year, there will be no increase in membership subscription fees for the coming NCYC financial year. We of course keep a close eye on Club finances and membership numbers and this practice may not necessarily continue.

In relation to the Club's social calendar we are currently arranging NCYC's inaugural end of summer 'Up the Creek BBQ' to be held on Sunday 28 April 2013 on Ash Island. Further information to follow but NCYC will provide a BBQ at the picnic area on Ash Island and boat owners can take their boats up the North Arm of the Hunter River for the event.

There is a floating pontoon at which boats can drop crews off at the picnic ground. Boats can anchor in the river which is pretty wide, and the George Keegan can ferry members to the shore. Boats drawing more than 2.4 metres may have difficulty getting up the River so for deep draft yachts, early planning to go on an alternative boat may be necessary. Schouten Passage (2.4 metres) has been up there before. Cricket for the kids will be organised and a few lasers will also be sailing. High tide is at 10am and the intention will be to have an early lunch (12.30pm) so boats can start heading back by about 2.30pm (low tide 4pm).

All the best for the remainder of the Summer Season.



Phil Arnall, Commodore

Vale: Paul Cleeson



It is with a heavy heart that I pass on the sad news that immediate past Rear Commodore Paul Gleeson passed away on Christmas night.



Paul was an outstanding Club member and as a Flag Officer, made a significant contribution to the development of the NCYC in recent years. As Rear Commodore, Paul was responsible for promoting all aspects of yacht racing

and in that capacity, represented the Club on various yachting councils including the Yachting NSW Advisory Committee, in an exemplary manner.

Paul was a stalwart of NCYC's fledgling keel boat fleet, sailing his Beneteau 36.7 "Summersalt" with his son Tim.

Paul and Petro have been loyal and energetic members and significant contributors to NCYC over the years. They were good to be around and the Club "lit up" when Paul and Petro were in attendance.

Paul's good humour, friendly nature, big smile and stewardship will be sorely missed around the Club. His wise counsel and good humour will certainly be missed around the Board table as he had the simple but rare gift of judging people by what they can do not by what they can't do.

Phil Arnall Commodore

Chief Executive Officer's Report



The Christmas and New Year period has been hectic as ever at NCYC and many of the staff, and no doubt members also, are enjoying the regularity that comes with returning to work as well as getting back into NCYC Sunday sailing.

Firstly, I would like to thank Michael, Sarah and the whole team in the Club (bar and kitchen staff) for working hard

over the months of November and December to meet the demands placed on them by members and local businesses who enjoyed celebrating the festive season at the Club. It was great to observe a level of organisation and preparation in the lead up to and over the Christmas period when trade is at its peak and the professionalism generally showed by the staff in the Club was pleasing. The dock staff have been busily carrying out some repairs and preventative maintenance on the marina following the late January storms and further to my comments in the last edition of NCYC's journal, I cannot stress enough the importance of regularly checking boats mooring lines, especially prior to adverse weather. NCYC's marina is most exposed to waves in Easterly to North Easterly winds but is also quite exposed to wind, and waves to a much lesser

extent, in Westerlies which are generally stronger in the

winter months.

in the sea.

changed the outlook at NCYC and potentially provided a little more manoeuvring room and sailing area directly to the North of the marina. It has also meant that the marina is more exposed to a sea breeze which will demand additional concentration from sailors when entering the marina following a long day's racing. I was pleased to be invited to Jim and Mary Holley's 'final' Sydney Hobart lunch at Constitution Dock following this year's (Jim's 25th) race. The 2012 Sydney Hobart marked a special year for Jim, Mary and Aurora and it was great to be able to celebrate a number of milestones and potentially the hanging up of some Sydney Hobart 'seaboots' with them. For the sake of clarity that's Jim and Mary's' sea boots that may be hung up, not mine. I have a few more left in me yet! Michael, and Head Chef Amanda, have come up with

The removal of the Floating Dock has significantly

I recommend you get down to the Club and try out some of these new meals as they are introduced in late February and March.

some interesting new Specials for the Galley Restaurant

Tuesday night meals in the coming weeks, the produce

for which will be sourced from both off the land in and

and will be re-introducing some great Monday and

Richard Howard, Chief Executive Officer



Aurora - 2012 Rolex Sydney Hobart - rounding Tasman Light. Image by John Geurts - "Kioni"

NCYC - Our Club

STAFF PROFILE William (will) Brownlow

Has held the position of Bar Tender at NCYC for approximately six months.

Will who moved to Newcastle four years ago, is currently starting his second year of a four year Construction Management at the University of Newcastle.



A regular beachgoer

who enjoys body boarding, Will's sporting interests also include tennis, both competitively and on a social level.

Book early!

Mothers Day

Sunday 12 May 2013

P: 4940 8188

E: functions@ncyc.net.au



"UP THE CREEK BBQ"

Sunday 28 April 2013 Ash Island. From 11.30am All members and guests are invited

Coming by Boat?
A Flotilla will depart approx 9.30am.
Voyage to disembark at the floating pontoon at Ash Island picnic ground.
Yachts & motor boats drawing less than 2.4m Yachts can anchor in the River NCYC's RIB "George Keegan" will take you to shore.
High tide 10am. Low tide 4pm

Coming by car?
Access off Maitland Rd
(near Shell Petrol Station)
onto Schoolhouse Rd.
A fun family day. No cost.
Bookings essential, so all have enough to eat! 4940 8188.



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.

It gets busy so don't forget to book a table: 02 4940 8188 or functions@ncyc.net.au

A day to enjoy traditions of mateship at NCYC!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Proceeds to Cancer Council Australia
Wednesday 13 March 2013
7pm in the marquee.

A round of drinks for the winning team.

Raffle drawn on the night.

Contact Sarah to register your team or to donate any prizes for the evening.

- 02 4940 8188 E - functions@ncyc.net.au

Sailing

Rear Commodore's Message



Taccepted the appointment of Rear Commodore of NCYC with mixed emotions. The passing away of Paul Gleeson, Rear Commodore was felt by all members of the club who knew him. Paul's joviality and intellect will be missed. It is hard to see things as being quite

the same after Paul.

I do however, take Paul's place feeling very privileged to be involved with this club. Compared to our sister clubs, we are relatively new but our club has been punching above its weight with its participation in ocean racing. A significant proportion of our fleet compete in world class races such as the Rolex Sydney to Hobart, the Audi Sydney to Gold Coast race and the Melbourne to Osaka two handed race.

Further to the mention of Jim and Mary Holley on pages 5 and 6, Mary also joined an elite list of members of the sailing community with her 16th race, a record surpassed by only four other women.

Another club boat Michael Martin's "Frantic" represented the club well with another credible finish of 41st in IRC overall. "Frantic" also went on to represent the club at Geelong Race Week.

In the Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race this year, both "Anger Management" skippered by Commodore Phil Arnall and "She's the Culprit" of the She's the Culprit syndicate, represented the club with "She's the Culprit" finishing 3rd in its PHS division to Peter Hewson's "Storage King Wallop". The latter is one of the many lake boats that have joined us in Newcastle to sail in our Sunday races. We look forward to extending our renowned hospitality to "Storage King Wallop" and other boats from local clubs who join us in sailing on

our marvellous "race track". The 2014 Audi Australian IRC championships have been awarded to NCYC to be run next Easter. The races will follow the NSW IRC championships which are a regular part of Sail Port Stephens.

The Audi Australian IRC championship will enable us to showcase the club to the Australian sailing community as well as lift our local profile. The flow on from the successful staging of these championships should lead to greater participation in regattas run by the club, such as the Inner Spring series which was a great success in 2012.

The annual Friendship Cup was another successful event run and organised by the club on the Australian Day weekend. Despite the weather and the loss of the Cup back to the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, it was billed as a great success by our sailors and our visitors. This Cup and our combined offshore races ensure that the bonds between the clubs will remain strong.

The 2013 Summer Short Ocean Pointscore has commenced with a very competitive fleet racing in two divisions.

RPAYC's "Pittwater to Newcastle" on 13 April and NCYC's "Auto Advantage Newcastle to Port Stephens" 14 April, are feeder races to the "Sail Port Stephens Regatta", 15-21 April 2013.

It is expected that our fleet will be joined by many boats from both Pittwater and Sydney Harbour as the popularity of this event continues to grow.

We have had good feedback regarding "Sailing @ NCYC", the newly weekly e-newsletter from the sailing office for all club members.

The sailing committee's focus is to further lift the level of sailing in the club. This will include the encouragement of more boats to sail on a Sunday and the running of more regattas. The involvement of the Etchells and Laser fleet should further stimulate the club.



Kym Butler, Rear Commodore



NCYC race start 29 Oct 2012. Image by Alyson Gearing.(PHSSC)

Social Highlights

Sunday 2nd December 2012 Farewell Offshore Sailors Informal members BBQ

Images by Brooke Hall





Members Christmas Party



Lunching at NCYC





Sunday 9 December 2013 Christmas Pursuit Race Trophy Presentation

Dressed appropriately for the day, Steve Rae skipper of Marta Jean accepted Independent Dental's trophy from Commodore Phil Arnall.

There had been great crowd participation from the Christmas party for the exciting

The finish line extended from a pole displaying the NCYC burgee onshore to the black mast of Ichi Ban on the opposite dockside and as this was a pursuit race, there was no waiting for handicapped results. First across the line won the race. Well done crew of Marta Jean and congratulations to newly appointed NCYC Director Steve Rae.

Laser Sailing at NCYC

By John Searl

aser sailing
has been
"stop – start" over
the Christmas
break with the
last "official" race
being held on the
7th December with
6 boats circulating.
Since resuming
sailing on the 18th
January we have



Images on this page by Ray Blackburn.

had one incomplete race, and one "no start" due to wild weather intervening.

Notable events over the Christmas break

- Laser veteran Phil Ashley Brown went to Antarctica for some secret high altitude Laser training only to find out that the south pole is actually at sea level. Some great photos according to Phil, with plans for a slide night for those who have trouble sleeping.
- Richie Arnall broke the Guinness Book of Records for most number of capsizes in a Laser in an hour in one of the abandoned races after Christmas. After multiple capsizes going to windward Richie believed all the hard work was done as he rounded the top mark only to double the speed and number of capsizes on the downwind leg.
- Sad news was received by all with the passing of NCYC Club stalwart and chief Laser supporter, Rear Commodore Paul "Gleeso" Gleeson. Paul's original boat is still circulating in the fleet and sailed by Sam Ryan (No 33861).

Sam provided one of the more memorable moments at Gleeso's wake at the NCYC, by entertaining the crowd with a sail past in front of the marina in blustery North Easterly conditions in the 40 year old Laser. Several old timers from the club were heard to mention it was lucky the big blue floating dock was gone, giving one of our more gifted Laser sailer's a bigger runway to manoeuvre the out of control "Bleu". Great gesture Sam and warmly received by the Gleeson family!

Regular racing has resumed on Friday nights and everyone is encouraged to get down and have a sail. Unfortunately there has been a delay with the planning approval and the proposed Forgacs launching site. We may be launching off the marina for the remainder of the summer. "Nothing worthwhile was ever easy" is the motto for those doing the Friday night "dance" to launch their boats.

We hope to get some consistent numbers during March to round off the season.

Message from Tim Gleeson (on behalf of the Gleeson Family)

The Gleeson Family would like to give thanks to all those involved in the scattering of Paul's ashes at the Spoil Ground off Newcastle on Friday 1st February:

- The NCYC club and volunteers and in particular Richard Howard for their support and help in organizing the afternoon;
- Noakes boatyard for going to extraordinary lengths to have Paul's boat "Summer Salt" ready to go to sea;
- Those who watched from shore and joined us in the club afterwards;
- The eight boats and crews that joined us in the atrocious sea conditions. (One could be forgiven for thinking that Paul had a hand in testing us out, with the blinding rain storm that hit just as the boats were coming back through the heads.)

Your participation was truly appreciated. Definitely a memorable occasion!

We would also like to thank all our club members who have and continue to support our family through this difficult time.

Following is a link to the movie played at Paul's Funeral service, a poem by Jan Howard and a video of the scattering of Paul's Ashes. https://vimeo.com/album/2254270



NCYC Photo Competition

Judged by Peter Field.

Newcastle School Portraits

Category: "Maritime"

All NCYC members are invited to submit an image for the Winter 2013 competition.

Conditions of Entry:

- Photographer must be a current member of NCYC.
- One high resolution entry per person per issue.
- Send electronic format to: info@ncyc,net.au.
- Deadline for entries Wednesday 1 May 2013.

Winning entry: By Mike Egglestone. Mick will receive a 12x18 inch colour print of his photograph from Newcastle School Portraits.

Highly Commended:

- 1 Ken Mastop
- 2 John Curnow
- 3 Ray Blackburn
- 4 Margaret Lees











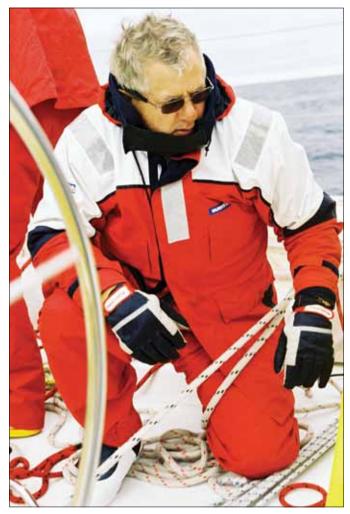
funnelweb set for major challenges

During the past ten years, Funnelweb skippered by Ivan MacFadyen has represented NCYC in some of Australia's major yacht races including the Rolex Sydney to Hobart, and the Audi Sydney to Gold Coast as well as the famed Melbourne Osaka Yacht Race.



Funnelweb's Owner/Skipper, Ivan. All images on this page are by Glenn MacFadyen of "Second Sight Images".

Skippering his Hicks design Open 50, Funnelweb, Ivan is about to represent NCYC in his second challenge for the Melbourne Osaka Cup. Funnelweb was originally launched only two weeks before the 2003 race. The boat was holed on a reef near the finish, but they managed to cross the line in 7th place.



A crewman for Funnelweb's 2004 challenge, NCYC member Col Jordan (Independent Dental) is at home on a yacht or a power boat.



On board Funnelweb in the 2004 Rolex Sydney to Hobart.

Funnelweb's First Mate Will Parbury has recently returned from the Clipper Around the World Race. He has strong seamanship, navigation and heavy weather sailing experience in some of the most challenging oceans in the world. These include three Atlantic crossings, the Southern Ocean and the North Pacific crossings.

Ivan and Will hosted Japanese entrants in the race, Kiochi Mori, and Yasuyuki Natkaji, when they berthed at NCYC recently aboard Southern Cross, en route to Melbourne.

Sandringham Yacht Club (SYC) and Osaka Hokko Yacht Club in Japan will co-host the eighth Melbourne Osaka Cup Race, with the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria (ORCV) conducting all the on-water activities.

The race is from Port Phillip to the finish in Osaka Bay. The starting window is between 17 and 31 March 2013, with the slower boats getting away earliest. The main start will be on Sunday March 24.

The double-handed Melbourne Osaka Cup race is over a 5,500 nautical mile (approx. 10,200 km) course across the Pacific Ocean, and is held every four years to celebrate the sister city and port relationships of Melbourne and Osaka. Reputed to be one of the toughest short-handed races in the world, to date it has attracted over 200 entrants from many of the traditional yachting countries. The race is conducted nonstop by the crews, with a 30% elapsed time penalty applied to any boat receiving outside assistance.

Next challenge? Osaka to America for the famous Transpac Race, in July 2013, Eleven crew have confirmed for the various stages, from Osaka to NCYC, but if you would like to be the twelfth, contact Ivan, 0438 563 307.

Butcher Boat Wine Club

GRENACHE NIGHT

In view of our successful evenings to date, it is planned to hold another night on March 12th at the NCYC. Some of the wines for the night will be sourced from the Southern Rhone region in France. This region is the home of producers such as Domaine la Barroche, Châteaux Mont Redon, Domaine du Villeneuve and Domaine



du Pegau with wines from the Cotes-du-Rhone, Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Gigondas.

The Southern Rhone region produces, as described by acclaimed wine writer Jancis Robinson, "France's most user-friendly wines". The region of Châteauneuf-du-Pape is famous and some say the region's best wine. These wines are predominantly made from Grenache with a common blend being the GSM or Grenache, Syrah (Shiraz) and Mourvèdre.

These wines can be big, strong wines with lots of alcohol and should suit NCYC members' palates.

It has been decided to invite guest chefs on occasions, matching the wines with great food. On this evening we will have two guest chefs, Christopher and Andrew Coolahan, sons of former member Ralph Coolahan who unfortunately passed away in November 2011.

Chris is now highly regarded at Newcastle's Customs House but before that he ran the illustrious restaurant at the Republic Hotel in Sydney for eight years. Prior to that Chris was at M G Garage and Daphnes in London.

Andrew is a sous Chef at Bistro Molines at Mt View Estate working with Robert Molines. They have been awarded a Sydney Good Food Guide Chef's Hat for the third year running. Andrew started his career at Bayviews at Warners Bay working under celebrity chef Darren Ho. Andrew also worked with Darren at restaurants such as Terroir in Pokolbin.

The object of the NCYC Butcher Boat Club is not only for its members to enjoy good food and wine, but to further expand their knowledge by appreciating and learning about wine they would not otherwise experience.

Kym Butler, President NCYC Butcher Boat Club Rear Commodore NCYC

ON THE BRIDGE with Paul McGrath

Problem: Sporting contests often involve one side trying to push their opponents beyond their limits. In the present case East/West forced their opponents into what they hoped would be a hopeless 4S contract. Take up the helm in the South seat and see if you can manoeuvre your craft into a winning position. West leads the heart King and continues with a small heart to East's Ace. East cashes the club Ace and plays another club. You ruff with a small trump which wins this trick. You need to take the remaining nine tricks. What tack you will take to overturn your opponents' ambitions?

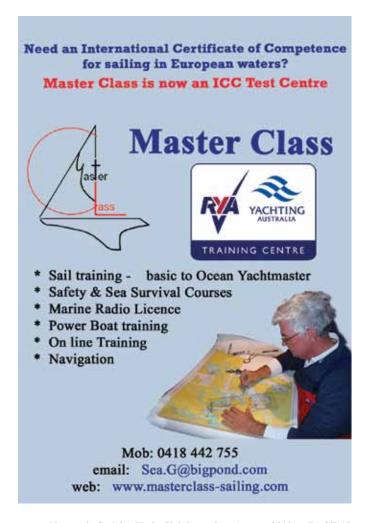
NORTH

- **♠** AJ7
- **y** J6
- ♦ AKJ6
- **♣** 9632

SOUTH

- **★** KT9832
 - **v** 72
 - ♦ 9532 ♣ K

Solution: page 16



I bought "Aktio" in Greece & sailed her home - part l

By Steve Girdham

suitable for my trip.

sailing solo.

After planning this adventure for over fifteen years and dreaming of it for much longer, I reached an age where this would possibly be the last throw of the dice. I had confidence that I could complete the trip safely having been sailing both competitively and socially since age fourteen in progressively larger boats, but starting with Hobycats. There was a TAFE sailing

course as well. I always think outside the square, trying

different settings rather than sticking to convention. Regularly comparing various designs for ones which best suited my needs, I eventually found my ideal boat on an overseas website. The ex-charter Bavaria 38 for sale in Aktio, sleeps 8 in three double cabins, has diesel power, gas for cooking, and a microwave oven. Within three days I was in Greece. The yacht, which I

then named Aktio, needed modifications in order to be

I took measurements and arranged for modifications and extras to be done in readiness for my 17,000 mile passage home. These included fitting solar panels and radar, having all lights changed to LED's as well as having new batteries and a 2000w inverter installed. An AIS (Automatic Identification System) and transceiver were added and jack stays were set up so that I could reach from the cockpit to pick up the safety line. Extra winches were fitted near the steering station. I intended

There was one cranking battery and two house batteries to run the three GPS's/Chart plotters. The extra two plotters were to be on two laptop computers each with three different navigation systems installed.

The water tanks hold 150 L so an extra 150 L in wine bladders was stored in every convenient space. All drinking water was double filtered (going into the tank, and again at the tap) with a water trap with a big flow filter for raw water before it came into the pump and another after it. No problems from thrown impeller blades after that.

The CQR anchor was upgraded to the New Zealand Rocna anchor. Even so, while familiarizing myself with the boat, I kissed the rocks in a storm once. The only damage was to the rudder which was just a thin skin filled with foam. It was reinforced before starting my voyage.

There were other options for getting Aktio home but I had been planning this for too long and ultimately just did not want to give away the adventure to someone else! Decision made, I bought a spare hand held VHF radio and had the refrigeration, life raft, engine and outboard

on the RIB serviced. My main EPIRB, spare and personal one in my life vest were registered. I bought spare sheets then spent seven months sailing around Greece to get to know the boat.

Preveza is like Lake Macquarie in that it was a huge expanse of relatively shallow water, prone to strong winds from varied directions with islands and lee shores to hide behind. This was where Mark Anthony and Cleopatra used to battle. In fact, the channel between Preveza and Aktio which forms the entrance to the inland lake is an historic site. It was here, on the island of Zante, that I met future friends: a married couple and their 28 year old daughter. The daughter joined Aktio as crew to Gibralta.

After three months, as a visitor, I had to either leave Greece or pay 2111 Euros (based on the length of the boat) for another three month stay. I booked out of the country for a month then took one and a half days to sail to Italy to pick up some mates before sailing back to the island in the Ionian sea.

I nearly got arrested in Italy. It turned out that inadvertently I had been in the European Union longer than three months! I also found out the hard way that if you take people aboard in the European Union, it is more economical to list them as guests which costs nothing. For each crew to go ashore it costs the skipper 75 Eu as they are classed as tourists. The skipper also has to meet the cost of the travel agent you need to employ to look after all the tourist details.

To be continued.



Aktio' in Greece. Image by Steve Girdham. P3 image Steve at the helm of 'Aktio' near the island Zante.

Sailing the Southeast Wind - SYDNEY TO SINGAPORE APRIL/MAY 2012

Part 2 Sydney to Port Douglas in two weeks By Peta Broadbent (Passage Diary Extracts)

Delivery Skipper: Morrie Morgan **Delivery Crew:** Peta Broadbent

14th April

Depart RMYC at noon. Clear Barrenjoey Head at 12.45 and motorsail in 12-15 kt NE until evening. Dropped our main: motored through the night. Discovered that there is no inverter on board. Using Morrie's little inverter to alternately charge our computers is our only alternative until Mackay, which will be our first stop.

15th April

Noon position 32.00.6S. 152.42.8E - 24 hours: 25nm. Round Seal Rocks at 0700 pushing current. NE-NNE winds below 15 knots all day. Motorsail during the afternoon. Abeam Port Macquarie at 1800 hours. 1900 to 0200 we push 1.5 to 2.5 knots of current. Slow going. We can't get the genset to generate power.

16th April

Noon position 29.57.4S. 153.18.1E - 24 hours: 127nm. Abeam Smoky Cape at 0215. Finally have current with us and wind so sail for 11 hours. Abeam Yamba at 1745 and keeping a lookout for fishing trawlers. Still among fishing trawlers abeam Ballina at midnight.

17th April

Pass Cape Byron at 0230, enter the Gold Coast Seaway at 0950. Refuel at Southport Yacht Club. Got genset working. Good fuel consumption, 3.43 LPH for this 70 hour, 380nm leg. Reduced visibility (showers and sheet lightning) so both on watch to Cape Morton.

18th April - First night off for 540nm.

Round Double Island Point at 0720. Anchor at Rainbow Beach to wait for the tide to cross Wide Bay Bar. First hot shower since Sydney! Got the latest waypoints for the entrance from Coast Guard Tin Can Bay. Into the Sandy Straits by 1330. Better conditions than expected over the bar: no breaking water in the channels and seas only to 1m. We anchor at South White Cliffs.

19th April

Noon position 25.12.0S. 152.54.3E

Depart 0900. In Hervey Bay by early afternoon. Finally enough wind to motorsail. Dark night with no moon, seas are smooth and we still have favourable current.

20th April

Noon position 23.12.8S. 151.10.1E - 24 hours: 153nm

At 0915 we are abeam Cape Capricorn. Pass inside the Keppel Islands to Cape Manifold. We have been



Morrie's fish were big enough to freeze for a few meals.

motoring in less than 10 knots of variable wind with up to 2 knots of current pushing us since we left the Sandy Straits.

21st April - 7 days since we left Sydney.

Abeam Hay Point just south of Mackay. Pass very close to the bow of an anchored ship. We comment on how frightening it would be to have one of these bearing down on you. We are right on his bow when he sounds his horn, making us both jump. Arrive at Mackay Marina at 1445. The marina office has only basic chandlery items and toiletries. There is a bottle shop and small cafe, but no supermarket. The bus to Canelands shopping centre does not run on weekends, and a taxi ride costs \$20.

23rd April

Noon position 20.59.6S 149.13.1E

Topped up our fuel tanks and depart Mackay at 1100. We motor through the Whitsunday Islands in light SE winds. Morrie catches our first fish - a lovely dinner sized spotted mackerel. We freeze some for our Indonesia leg. At 1900 we are abeam South Molle Island, and are passing Gloucester Island at midnight.

24th April

Noon position 19.15.6S 147.26.5E. - 24 hours: 150nm. We motorsail with the genoa through the stillest night we have had yet. The sea is glassy. We are abeam Hinchinbrook Island at midnight.

25th April

Noon position 17.12.8 S. 146.04.2E. - 24 hours: 150nm. Pass Dunk Island just after 0400, get some wind and get our sails up. Anchor at Fitzroy Island just south of Cairns at 1445 with time for a swim and snorkel in 25deg water.

26th April

Depart at 0300 for the last 40nm to Port Douglas. We hoist our sails at 0600 and motorsail all the way. We arrive at the marina at 0930.

TO BE CONTINUED

News from Newcastle Port Corporation

Maintenance Project for Navigation Towers

Members of the NCYC will see a lot of activity in the next few months, on the navigation aid towers located near Queens Wharf.

Newcastle Port Corporation is undertaking a maintenance program on a number of navigational aids located around the port. These include the Front Main Lead Navigation Towers on the foreshore near Queens Wharf and the Rear Main Lead Navigation Tower located off Church Street, Newcastle (behind the Tower Cinema building).

CEO of Newcastle Port Corporation, Gary Webb, says the aids are critical to the safe movement of ships in the harbour and the maintenance has been scheduled into a works program to ensure the assets are in good condition.

Work on painting and replacing some steelwork at the Rear Main Lead Tower has started as has the substructure remediation on the Front Main Lead Towers as of late January.

The Front Main Lead program is scheduled for completion by late April with the Rear Main Lead program due for completion in June.

Contractors are on site at the two locations and minor disruption to pedestrian traffic may occur during the maintenance period. Alternate access routes are being provided with appropriate signage being erected. Pedestrians are being advised to use the alternate access routes as safety is the main priority at the two work sites.



Navigation towers near Queens wharf. Image by Richard O'Connor

ON THE BRIDGE with Paul McGrath

Solution: At this point it is important that you draw the opponents' trumps. If you knew which opponent held the trump queen you could finesse against it and not lose any trump tricks. However, since you have no idea which opponent holds the queen the finesse is a straight guess. Another option would be to cash both top trumps and hope the queen falls either singleton or doubleton. With nine cards held in the trump suit this is the best option. If you lead a low spade to the ace you can also avoid a trump loser even when East holds all of the outstanding trumps. Having successfully negotiated the trump suit you need to turn your attention to the diamond suit. This time you hold just eight cards in diamonds between the two hands. The odds favour finessing the diamond jack (hoping that West holds the queen). Playing off the top two diamonds would be anti-percentage. Thus an old adage arose in bridge regarding finessing: eight ever nine never. Your opponents will be left in the doldrums.

| Full Deal: | NORTH ♠ AJ7 | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| | ♥ J6 | |
| | ♦ AKJ6 | |
| WEST ♠ Q4 ♥ KQT95 | ♣ 9632 | EAST ★ 65 ▼ A843 |
| ♦ Q84 | | ◆ T7 |
| ♣ QT7 | SOUTH | ♣ AJ854 |
| | ★ KT9832 | |
| | v 72 | |
| | ♦ 9532 | |
| | ♣ K | |



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2013 A milestone for NCYC

Were you there?

Twenty years ago, Honeysuckle Development Corporation outlined plans for the redevelopment of land on Newcastle Harbour. These plans included a site for a marina. George Keegan was then a Board member of HDC, and I had not long retired as Commodore of Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. For many years we had both experienced the frustration of ocean racing from the Lake due to ongoing problems with Swansea Channel and saw an opportunity to establish a base for offshore yacht racing and pleasure boating in a situation with easy deepwater access.

As there was little recreational boating on the harbour at that time, we decided that a club would be the only economically viable way to establish an ongoing market for such a marina.

It quickly became apparent when we spoke to a number of our friends that there was considerable interest, so a meeting was held at Queens Wharf Brewery on the 29th of November 1993 to discuss the formation of a Newcastle Yacht Club. At a subsequent meeting on the 8th of February 1994, the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club was formed, a constitution adopted and officers elected.



After a great deal of planning by the then board and a number of lengthy and detailed submissions to HDC, the Club was finally successful in its tender to develop the current site and the rest, as they say, is history.

This photograph was taken at the initial 'expression of interest meeting' at Queens Wharf Brewery in 1993. While many of the faces are of course well known to us, we would like to put names to all of them.

You are invited to help out by sending an email to <info@ncyc.net.au> subject: 1993 photo. Don't try and

name everybody – just one name may assist us complete our history. There will also be a photo and a couple of blank lists posted on Club noticeboards.

To mark the 20th Anniversary of this important meeting, it is intended to run the photograph again in the Spring issue (1 September 2013) together with (hopefully) the full list of names.



Our Floating Docks

History of Newcastle's Floating Dock By Ian Butler General Manager/Managing Director, **State Dockyard (1972 - 1978)**

he NSW Floating Dock Act was proclaimed on 24 November 1927.

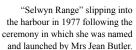
Our first floating dock (un-named), built on Walsh Island around 1928, was self-docking and built in two parts for ease of maintenance. However it was not joined for use at that site, instead becoming two separate docks of 11,000 ton lift and 4,000 ton lift respectively.

During WW2, in 1942, at Walsh Island the two sections were joined to become a single unit with the 15,000 ton lift for which it was originally designed. After the State Dockyard was established at Dyke End, the dock was moved to the Carrington site during 1943.

The dock was a fundamental factor in Newcastle's economy due to its broad based ship building, maintenance and repair programs carried out by the State Dockyard. After a working life of almost 50 years, a Government task force was set up to inquire into a replacement for the deteriorating dock. In 1976 I led a delegation which sought out a builder. Our new









dock, built by "Hitachi Zosen" was towed from Japan reaching Newcastle in January 1978. State Dockyard staff designed the new 15,000 ton lift dock with a wider beam to length than the standard design.

I contacted the local Aboriginal community for name suggestions for the new floating dock. The Aboriginal word "Muloombimba" which means place of edible sea ferns was chosen. The dock was officially named in February 1968 by Mrs Ferguson, wife of the then Minister of Public Works, the HON L. J. Ferguson M.L.A.

The ceremony was attended by a number of luminaries including Mr N. Jenner, Chairman, Australian Coastal Shipping Commission and a Japanese management contingent.

This was a particularly memorable day, as within five minutes of the dignitaries leaving the marquee, it was flattened by a sudden unexpectedly intense storm! Torrential rain had everyone drenched to the skin within seconds and the wind was so strong that it dragged the Muloombimba and its anchors. Just as suddenly it was all over with no property damage or injury to anyone.

The first ship to dock in "Muloombimba was the last big ship built at the State Dockyard. The 25,000 dead weight ton bulk carrier Selwyn Range, was owned by the Australian National Line. As a size comparison, some current ships entering Newcastle Harbour are

> inexcess of 150.000 dead weight ton. In a further article I will explain what may appear to be a discrepancy between the size of the ship and the capacity of the dock, the chain of ownership and other items of interest.

"Muloombimba" 1992, taken from the approximate position of the NCYC clubhouse. Image by Greg Chapello

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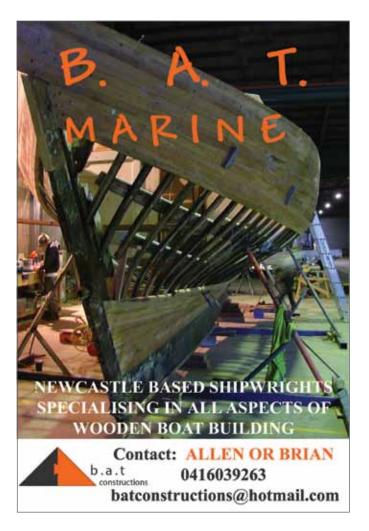
Supporting Community

Newcastle Division – Blasé Yacht Race By Garry Jones (Karité Consulting)

The pursuit race on Wednesday 28 November 2012, was a great networking afternoon and team building opportunity on the beautiful Newcastle Harbour and Stockton Bight.

Builders, Lawyers, Architects, Surveyors and Engineers formed teams of up to six people to compete for the inaugural Blasé Trophy race at NCYC. The race had previously been held at LMYC. Each yacht had a skipper and crew, so the Blaze team participation varied between yachts. There were 55 competitors contesting the race. The race start was staggered with the slowest yacht starting at 3.30pm and the fastest crossing the start line at 4pm.

It was an exciting and fun filled afternoon with all participants in the closely fought race crossing the finish line just before 6pm, in good time to enjoy the food, drinks, prizes and camaraderie at NCYC. The Lucky Door Prize: Crown Plaza Hunter Valley Bed & Breakfast and Dinner for Two. The prizes were donated as were use of the yachts and the time and expertise of the crews, so a tidy little sum went to charity.



Supporting Junior Sailors

Two Wednesday twilight races each year are set down as Junior Sailor Races. Juniors join regular crew for the events. Students from the Hunter Academy of sport participated on 13 February and on 20 February, PHSSC Juniors participated in the race for the "Ric Bowker Memorial Shield. NCYC supplied light refreshment while the handicap positions were calculated.

Competitors were:

EJE Architecture aboard "Anger Management" skippered by NCYC Commodore Phil Arnall (winners). Roberts Legal aboard "Aurora" skippered by NCYC Vice Commodore Jim Holley.

Karité Consulting aboard "Long Time Dead" skippered by Matt Fensom.

Planet B aboard "Marta Jean" skippered by Steve Rae. Butlers aboard "One for the Road" skippered by Kym Butler.

Plundering Planners aboard "PT73" skippered by Tony Lobb.

Doyle Partners Accountants aboard "Schouten Passage" skippered by Rob Howard.

John Saddington and Mark Scanlon aboard "Warrain" skippered by Robin Hillery.

Many thanks to all competitors, NCYC and AIA staff.



"Long Time Dead" heading to the finish line. Image by Kate Griffith from AIA.

Supporting Community

Mission to Seafarers, Newcastle By Rick McCosker

2013...... Christmas has come and gone and we're already well into the new year.



Caring for seafarers around the world

It was a very hectic week at the Mission leading up to Christmas, as our team prepared gift packs of personal toiletries, Christmas pudding and beanies for the seafarers. These items were collected by generous groups and individuals throughout Newcastle and the Hunter and delivered to our Mission during the year, and then distributed by our team to about 150 seafarers in the Port on the Friday before Christmas.

On Christmas Eve we took four Indian Christians from two vessels to the Cathedral for midnight Mass. They were in awe of the Cathedral and enjoyed the tradition and ceremony, sharing with us how important it was for them to be able to express their faith at that special time.

On Christmas Day many of our team were on hand to provide lunch and dinner at the Mission Centre for various crews. There was a huge smile and "thank you" from each one for the gift packs, hospitality and for the opportunity to contact their families back home. Boxing Day was "business as usual"!

At a prestigious Awards Dinner in Sydney, Newcastle Mission to Seafarers received the Highly Commended award for 2012 in the Lloyd's List Australia's 17th Australian Shipping and Maritime Awards in recognition of the services provided by the MTS team.

Members of our team were part of the recent Australia Day celebrations on the foreshore and received several enquiries into our work from interested people, before becoming swamped by the storm that drenched the harbour.

A major challenge for our team in 2013 will be to extend our facilities by taking up the whole ground floor area of our building in Hannell Street (opposite the Club). Completion of this project will allow us to greatly extend our shop, kitchen, communications and recreation facilities for the benefit of the seafarers.

Since the last edition of NCYC's Journal, our team has expanded a little and we now have a ship-visiting group, dedicated to visiting those crew who are unable to come ashore, in particular, the captain and chief cook. This is a very rewarding ministry, appreciated by the shipbound seafarers.

However, there is still a need for more team members, as statistics indicate the average monthly number of seafarers carried in our buses in 2012 was 878, an increase of 51% over 2011. The average monthly number of ships contacted in 2012 was 234, an increase of 73% over 2011. The registered ship movements in the Port for the whole of 2012 was almost 4500. This

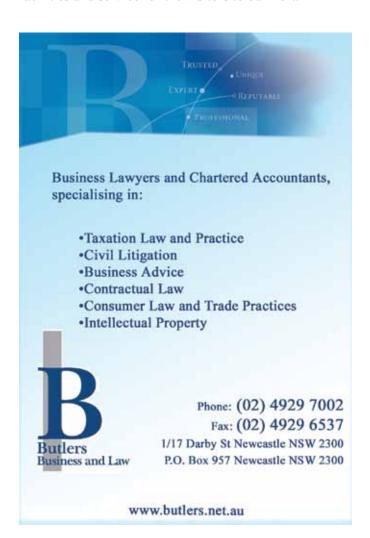


Using the free internet to Skype loved ones.

Image by Marion Willey

means that there is approximately one-third of the crews visiting Newcastle that we are currently unable to contact.

The extension of the facility, with its on-going maintenance, and the running of our two buses will require a good deal of funding. Any cash donations would be gratefully accepted, and any new team members are welcomed as we strive to improve our facilities and service for the visitors to our Port.



Supporting Community

Newcastle Gamefishing Club (NGFC) Secretary's Report



We are in the process of creating a Gamefishing Club to operate out of the port of Newcastle. It will become a proud partner of NCYC.

Since our inaugural meeting on 3 July 2012 significant progress has been made. Newcastle Game Fishing Club Incorporated (NGFC) is now registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. Registration was granted to the Association by NSW Fair Trading effective 12 September 2012.

The total focus of NGFC's committee at this stage is to obtain affiliation with the NSWGFA State body. The earliest opportunity available to us to present our case for affiliation is at the full council meeting on the weekend of 20 July 2013. As our club will meet all criteria as laid down by NSWGFA we see no reason for us not to be granted affiliation.

Memberships

If you would like to become a member or know somebody that would like to do so, please contact the President, Larry Curtis or the Secretary, Scott Morris. We currently have 91 Members confirmed & another 50 + who have indicated their interest. It is anticipated general club membership for the 2013/14 season will be \$80 for adult males and \$50 for adult ladies.

Foundation Membership

At the suggestion of a number of club members, a limited number of NGFC Foundation Memberships will be made available on a first-in basis at \$1000 per membership. These memberships will be made available on a one-off occasion, so for your chance to be identified as a founding member of the NGFC please advise us ASAP of your interest as these memberships are strictly limited. Details to be advised.

2013 Social Club Fishing

The club is currently proposing some social fishing days for the coming season. We envisage participants



Gametime Action. Image by Scott Morris

will fish Saturday and/or Sunday staying overnight on Saturday night and participating in a social evening at the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC). Boats will be accommodated as guests of NCYC on the Saturday night. It should be noted that these are strictly social fishing days for NGFC members and any guests that would like to participate.

Suggested social club dates: 9th and 10th + 23rd and 24th March. Contact any committee member to discuss.

Scott Morris NGFC Secretary



Where in the world is our burgee?

A competition for members only.





Summer 2012 Winner was:
NCYC member Ernie Thirkell.

"Where in the world WAS our burgee???"

Golden Gate Yacht Club. Photographed by Keith Roddom. The Prize: Dinner for two at

the "Galley".

The Task: Select the correct locations

from the options.

The Winner: The first correct entry

drawn from the barrel.

To Enter: Four simple steps.

- 1. Collect an entry form from the bar.
- 2. Select the correct answer from the four options:
 - a. Upper Irrawaddy River
 - b. Mekong River
 - c. Ganges River
 - d. Rajang River
- 3. Fill in your membership and contact numbers.
- 4. Put the form in the box provided.

Closing Date:

Wednesday 24 April 2013. To submit a photo of our burgee flying: info@ncyc.net.au - subject "burgee competition".





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Coming Events...

MARCH 2013

Tuesday 12 March 2013
 NCYC Butcher Boat Wine Club

Grenache night for members and guests

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm start

Ticket price: Members - \$105, Non-members - \$110

Reservations 4940 8188 - places limited.

Wednesday 13th March 2013
 Members and Guests Trivia Night.
 Proceeds to Cancer Council.
 7pm in the marquee.
 See page 7 for details.

• Friday 22 March 2013 NCYC Lion Bird and Cabbage Series Race 2.

• Weekend of 23rd and 24th March 2013 Yachting Australia Safety and Sea Survival Course. Conducted by: Chris Griffiths of Master Class. Cost: full course -\$465. Revalidation - \$350. To book: 0418442755.

Additional information: www.masterclass-sailing.com

Thursday 28 March 2013
 Trivia - Proceeds to SIDS and KIDS.
 7pm in the marquee.

 Friday 29th March 2013 - Good Friday Kick off the long weekend with Raffles @NCYC.

APRIL 2013

- Monday 1 April2013 Easter Monday Relax on the long weekend @NCYC
- Thursday 25 April ANZAC Day NCYC welcomes members, veterans and guests.
- Saturday 27 April 2013
 Club closed for NCYC Presentation Evening

Details: 6.30pm for a 7pm start Tickets: \$75

Dress: Smart/casual
• Sunday 28 April 2013

Inaugural Member's "Up the Creek bbq".

Ash Island - 12.30pm.

Keep an eye on notice boards for details.

MAY 2013

 Sunday 12 May - Mothers Day Come and spoil Mum @NCYC Early bookings are recommended - 4940 8188.

EVERY WEEK

 Monday and Tuesday night \$15 meals 6pm - 8pm.
 See page 7 for more details.

- Friday Night Raffles Tickets sale 6pm. Draw 7pm
- Sunday Breakfast 8am 10.30am

Security Phone Numbers

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) (02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
- •Marina Manager (8am 4pm 7 days) 0408 299 512 – dockmaster@ncyc.net.au
- •The Galley (Noon 2.30pm, 6pm 8.30pm) (02) 4940 8188 info@ncyc.net.au
- •Administration (9am 4.45pm 5 days) (02) 4940 8188 – admin@ncyc.net.au
- •Functions (9am 4.45pm) (02) 4940 8188 – functions@ncyc.net.au







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