

thirty two° fifty five

newcastle cruising
yacht club journal

Australia Day & Friendship Cup Races 13

Mermaid with a message 16

Sydney to Hobart 2015 23

autumn 2015

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)	Full Members & NGFC Members: 12% off the list price on total purchase. Non Full Members: 1 to 999 litres - listed price 1000 + litres – 12% off listed price



NCYC Members' Benefits

Galley Restaurant	Complimentary sourdough bread for dining when membership card is produced at time of ordering at the Galley Restaurant
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Auto Advantage	For any NCYC member who purchases a vehicle through Auto Advantage, Auto Advantage will pay for that member's next NCYC annual membership subscription
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Phone: 1300 653 119
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NCYC Members' Non-Club Discounts

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Rocksalt	Complimentary glass of wine for each guest who is a member of NCYC when dining
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Cheery Lane Cottage – Gulpong	10% discount on accommodation to NCYC Members
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Subject to change without notice. Memberships cards may need to be shown to get a discount or benefit

Unwind | Share | Laugh | Enjoy



Laser Sailing Start
Image by Ray Blackburn



Remote Control Yachts



Laser Nationals
Ian & Lister
Image by Gloria Thirkell

NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

Incorporating:

MARINA; LICENSED PREMISES;

LEASED BOATYARD; COMMERCIAL CENTRE

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club
95 Hannell Street, Wickham NSW 2293
Ph: 02 4940 8188 Fax: 02 4940 8138
Email: info@ncyc.net.au
www.ncyc.net.au

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 2016 journal

A quarterly publication

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Editor: Di Hansen

Cover Photo: "She's The Culprit"
Startline at Sydney to Hobart

Commodore's Message



I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and the best of luck in following your new year resolutions and hopefully they are still intact as you receive this newsletter.

The Sydney to Hobart proved to be one of the tougher races in recent times, the TV coverage lived up to its reputation in telling us nothing about the boats other than the Maxi's. Despite the long lag time, from the original weather report that suggested it would be heavy going, there was still an astonishing rate of over 30 retired boats. Unfortunately "Dare Devil" with rudder damage and "Frantic" with mainsail damage was amongst them. Joe de Kock from Midcoast Boat Yard and Marine was the sailing master on "Rags 52" which had an excellent race and came second. Unfortunately due to some altercations at the start line which resulted in the retirement of one of the Chinese boats, the protest against "Rags 52" was upheld in controversial circumstances and they were relegated to the back of the field. It was a tough race and well done to "She the Culprit" who got through the heavy weather and finished in a very credible position.

In late February, the Sydney to Newcastle Race was sailed in boisterous conditions, this race was won by "Balance" (the "TP 52" which won the Sydney to

Hobart Race) in a record time in just 4.5 hours. The brisk southerly helped all of the boats along and most of them recorded their best times for this race. The bar filled quickly, the stories of daring-do kept up with the rate of the consumption of copious supplies of rum and coke. The initiative of the staff and board members (Barry Kelly and Adrien Kiely) kept up copious supplies required. At one stage the mutable law of supply and demand looked set to be overturned but the staff rallied and at the end of the night we saw everybody exhausted but with economic theory intact.

Within the Club, the lasers and the F24s are having a great season. The Sailing Academy goes from strength to strength with many people experiencing their introduction to sailing.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support for the 2015-2016 Season; Enviropacific Services, Auto Advantage, Strata Worldwide, Club Marine, Midcoast Boatyard and Marine, Laser PSA and NCP Printing.

The Clubhouse trading received great support over the Christmas period and at times stretched the exceptional abilities of the staff.

You would have noticed the much greater ease in which you can find a car park during the day or night and this is due to the introduction of monitoring that has kept illegal parking to a minimum.

The Newcastle Game Fishing Club recently held their East Coast Classic Tournament which brought an exciting hive of activity to the Club. Congratulations to all participants and to the Tournament winners!



Jim Holley, Commodore



NEWCASTLE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB

NCYC IS DEVELOPING
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& Newcastle Game Fishing Club Members
receive a 12% discount on all purchases,
when using their discount card.



NEWCASTLE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB

Rear Commodore's Report



Welcome to the Autumn edition and now with Summer officially over, a lot has happened since my last article in November. We have resumed Harbour start and finishes for our keel boats. This raises the profile of the Club on the foreshore and provides us with

options when we are limited by weather, people or equipment.

The acquisition of our new Optimist dinghies is underway and the planning for the marina reconfiguration on F arm is progressing. Bringing a new generation of sailors through the doors at NCYC and configuring the marina to better meet their needs, while allowing "Tackers" parents to watch over their children, and enjoy the Club's hospitality "ticks all the boxes". Optimist dinghies and our youngsters are a very important part of the picture, but are just part of our future.

None of this can be effectively implemented and managed without motivated staff. NCYC has begun interviewing, after a widespread advertising process, for a Sailing Manager. He or she will be responsible for managing all our sailing activities and will report to the CEO.

I spoke recently at our Members' Forum and discussed Tackers, but I also spoke of the decline in our keel boat race entrants. We ignore this at our peril and it's foolish to discount the effect that the general decline in the mining industry has had on our local economy. I hope you understand the logic and benefits of our direction with dinghies. There was also a suggestion at the forum that the Club facilitate groups of members pooling funds to purchase a keel boat. If this is something that interests you, can you email NCYC at

info@ncyc.net.au please? We are a club of members, run for the benefit of all members. So if you are passionate about joint ownership of a yacht, please let us know so we can put you in touch with like-minded people. Remember, we also have NCYC Cruising if that better suits your needs as a new owner.

The Laser Spring Twilights finished with Michael Babbage taking the Silverware ahead of Jeffrey Robinson in second and Graham Baxendale rounding out the top three.

The Spring Ocean Pointscore finished with Steve Rae (Marta Jean) taking the IRC honours, with Phil Arnall (Anger Management) and Rob Howard (Schouten Passage) in second and third. PHS Div 1 results had Vaughn Stephens (Novocaine) first, followed by Phil (Anger Management) and Tim Gleeson (Summer Salt). PHS Div 2 was taken by Ross Knights (Tamarillo). Ross's consistency paid off with Valda Johnston (Scots Wha Hae) and Robin Hillery (Warrain) rounding out the places.

The Spring Twilights win belonged to Robin (Warrain) from Justin Gleeson (Summer Salt) and Steve Rae's (Marta Jean).

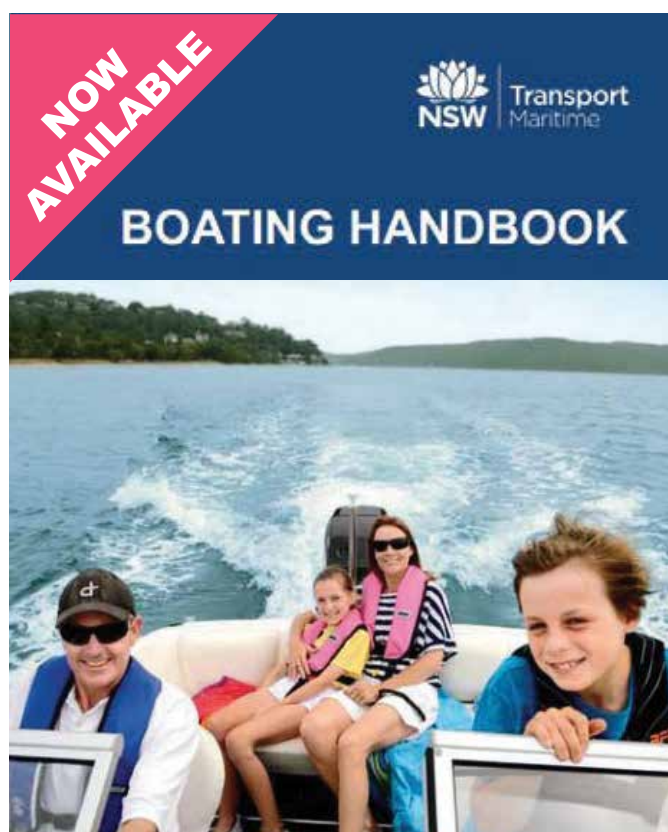
The Lion Bird & Cabbage series, Summer Short Ocean Pointscore, NCYC Ocean Pointscore, Combined Ocean Pointscore (with LMYC) and the Summer Twilights are all underway and almost all are very tight.

My congratulations to all the skippers, and of course the crews of the keelboats that contribute to the success of their team.



Barry Kelly, Rear Commodore

Gift Vouchers are now available from the Club or Administration Office



Chief Executive Officer's Report



Dear Members

Welcome to the Autumn edition of NCYC's journal. It's been a long Summer of hot and unusual weather!

During February, NCYC again played our part in a highly successful 2016 CYCA Ocean Pointscore Sydney to Newcastle Race. With near ideal weather conditions, Paul Clitheroe's TP52

"Balance" completed the 63 nautical mile distance in 4 hours 34 minutes 26 seconds! This time smashed Dick Cawse's "Vanguard" 2006 time by almost an hour.

Most of the fleet crossed the Harbour finish line before 4.00pm and the NCYC Licensed Club was overflowing with tall-tale-telling sailors reminiscing on a quick trip North from Sydney.

March heralds the arrival of the newly acquired Optimist Dinghy fleet purchased by NCYC for the YA Tackers program. The NCYC Dockmaster team will modify the northern side of F arm to accommodate a rigging, launching and storage area for the fleet.

Recent position changes to the NCYC Dockmaster team introduces Ben Herington to the position of Marina and Assets Manager for NCYC which has allowed Howard Keegan to move into the newly created role of Marina Development. These changes reflect succession planning goals and are intended to generate more consistent marina occupancy during the "off-season" months.


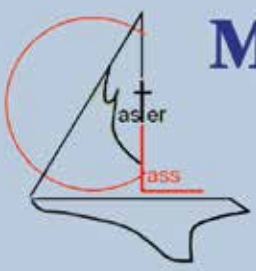
Howard Keegan is also continuing efforts to establish both NCYC Cruising and NCYC Radio Control fleets. I would encourage all NCYC members to consider becoming an active participant within these groups, not only for the obvious benefits but also the social aspects which should make them very popular. Howard is however only the leading light and needs enthusiastic NCYC members to participate in respective sub-committee and volunteer roles.

The NCYC Licensed Club has enjoyed strong Summer trading. A new menu brings old favourites back to the table and these are clearly popular with families and value conscious patrons. Unfortunately, NCYC Bar Manager, Ben Roffey, after reflecting on the challenges of the role, decided to seek opportunities elsewhere. We wish Ben good luck in his future and his successor will be announced shortly.

I wish all members a safe and enjoyable time while on water, whether that be racing or cruising and especially over the Easter period.


Aaron Harpham
Chief Executive Officer

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Email: functions@ncyc.net.au

NCYC - Our Club

Clean Up Australia Day

On Sunday 6 March a group of Year 11 students, primarily from Merewether High School and some of their friends, gathered at the NCYC Club at 8am to participate in Clean Up Australia Day.

After a few hours and lots of laughs the students collected 17 bags of rubbish from the rock wall in and around the Club and along the piers.

A huge thank you to Jacob Gamble for coordinating the Clean Up Australia Day at NCYC and to all the students and friends who participated.



Image By Sarah Gamble

NEW GALLEY MENU

BOOKINGS: 4940 8188

happy birthday

Keep an eye out for your special
Birthday letter to receive your free gifts

\$5 Bar Credit

\$10 Raffle Tickets

Free Bottle of Wine

Looking for a way to show mum you
really care this Mother's Day?

NCYC is the perfect location...

Mother's Day

Sunday 8th May

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (02) 4940 8188



NCYC Members enjoying Christmas Drinks - Santa had left the Building

MEMBER PROFILE

Ernie Thirkell



NCYC Club Captain Ernie Thirkell was born in Stockton, learnt to sail at Port Hunter 16ft Sailing Skiff Club, rode race horses for their morning beach exercise and was the local paper boy. On a less positive note, he ran away from home at 14 to join the circus! He was soon located and brought home

in time to sit for the Intermediate Certificate at "the highest school in Newcastle". Not to be deterred, with parental agreement this time, he left home to join the Navy and had two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Ernie had a widely varied career. Apart from his years in the RAN, he has owned and managed both retail and agricultural businesses successfully. Within the Cashmere industry he was a qualified Fine Fibre Classer/ Judge and TAFE Fine Fibre Lecturer. He has years of experience as a Coal Miner and Miners Federation Representative.

Ernie's sports have been as varied as his working career. He was a short term member of the Rough Riders Association and enjoyed competing in cattle drafting events while still a member of Newcastle Neptunes Spearfishing Club. Although not spearfishing any more he still holds an Australian record. He was also a member of both Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens / Newcastle Game Fishing Clubs. Ernie is a past member of LMYC where he sailed Diamond class. At Teralba Sailing

Club he sailed skates and on Sydney Harbour he sailed as a member of RANSA during his years in the Royal Australian Navy. Ernie also proudly states: "I've played on the same Union and Cricket teams as my sons."

Together with his wife Gloria, Ernie spent a number of years cruising the East Coast on their sailing catamaran, wintering the boat in Port Stephens. He has also cruised the Australian coast extensively, and completed overseas Pacific cruises. During this time he has consistently and successfully promoted NCYC as a destination for cruising vessels and as an offshore venue for the racing fraternity. Whilst on consecutive cruises to Noumea he has worked toward establishing a relationship between the CNC and NCYC.

In 2004 Ernie joined the inaugural Sailing Committee, completed a YNSW Club Race Officer course and became a qualified YNSW Safety Auditor, currently our Chief Safety Auditor/ Safety Officer. Ernie has served on the YNSW Special Regulations Committee as NCYC representative for a number of years and still continues in these capacities.

He contested for election to the NCYC Board of Directors in 2006 and has been re-elected unopposed since then. Ernie became Club Captain in 2008 following the death of then Club Captain/Secretary George Keegan OAM, NCYC Life Member.

Apart from his position on the Board and the range of volunteer roles at NCYC, Ernie has a history of volunteer work for the community: coaching junior sports; Trees on Farms Group; volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and; a valuable contribution to the community during his term in office as the Secretary of the Newcastle TPI Association.



**NCYC IS NOW ACCREDITED AS
A DISCOVER SAILING CENTRE**

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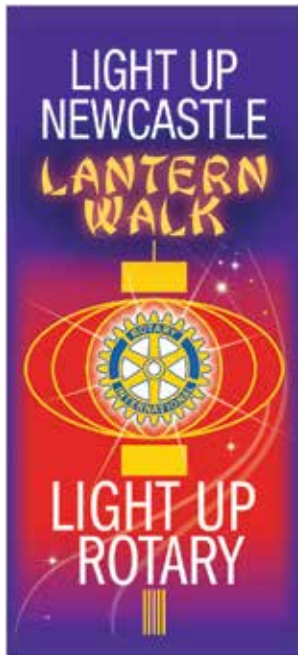


To receive up-to-date information on weather warnings, safety tips, boating tips and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/MarineRescueNewcastle>

Community Support

Images by Howard Keegan



Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club supported The Newcastle Rotary Club in raising money for the Mission to Seafarers and the Newcastle Maritime Centre. NCYC took part in the Lantern Walk and the Sail past during Chinese New Year which was held on Saturday 13 February 2016.



Santa Sails a Laser

Images by Alyson Gearing



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 or telephone: **02 4927 8237**

Laser Sailing Fun in the Harbour

Article by Phil Ashley-Brown & Damien Boldyrew
Photos by Ray Blackburn

Wind and lots of it has made for exciting Laser sailing since Christmas. In the lead up to Christmas the weather was quite light and the conditions were difficult but come January most of our races have been challenging, fast and we've seen a few people in fleet get very wet. We've been attracting around 16 to 20 boats each week with a bunch of new sailors joining us. We've had some spectacular capsizes, a few "man over-boards" and plenty of smiles.

Newcastle Harbour is a dynamic place to sail a Laser. When it's windy we often find the gusts scream through the buildings and then die off suddenly which means you're leaning out holding down a boat with a 15 knot



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Sea Hawk Tracking System

Marine Rescue Newcastle uses the Sea Hawk Tracking System, some of the benefits are:

- Alternative way to look after vessels on the water.
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- Essential to log off the same way when reaching the destination at or prior to the ETA.
- Log on to revise the ETA if you are going to be later than expected.
- If you don't log off by the indicated or revised ETA, emergency procedures will be put into action on your behalf.

For further information go to:
www.marinerescuensw.com.au
or telephone: 02 4927 8237



gust then the next minute you're in the drink desperately trying to lean back into the boat. We had a recent race where the tide was running hard into the basin, pushing the top mark over and making it very hard for us to make the mark. We all tacked across to the buoy and discovered we were being sucked upstream and had to retack several times. So the combination of tricky wind shifts, tide and gusts makes it a lot of fun.

At time of print Michael Babbage is winning OTB and PHS with Paul Beath on 2nd and Jeff Robinson on third. While in the class results the ranking is the same in Division 1 while in Division 2 Ben Rigby is leading followed by Lucy Nissen on 2nd.

But our Laser sailors aren't just staying in the safe confines of the Harbour. Well done to Michael Babbage, Paul Beath and Jeffrey Robinson who flew the NCYC burgee during the Laser Masters Nationals hosted by Port Stephens Sailing & Aquatic Club in mid-February. After 9 races held over the 3 days, Michael, sailing 'Ruthless', finished 3rd overall in the 11 boat Apprentice Division, never finishing outside of the top 5 in all races. Jeffrey, sailing 'Friday', fought it out in the Master Division, the largest of the divisions with 38 entrants. Paul sailed 'Slide' in the Grand Master division, and finished 19th overall. A great result amongst 36 entrants in that division.

If you want to come for a sail with us, the NCYC club Laser has been getting a good run and is available for \$20 a race. Book through the office and organise paperwork before turning up. It's a great way to try this fast little boat.



2016 CYCA Ocean Pointscore Sydney to Newcastle Race

Images by Louise Costello

NCYC enjoyed the spectacular view of CYCA Sydney to Newcastle Race competitors finishing at the Club.

Congratulations on a new record - Paul Clitheroe's TP52 "Balance" who completed the 63 nautical mile distance in 4 hours 34 minutes 26 seconds!



Australia Day and Friendship Cup Races

Article by Mary Holley

Images by Neil Pilz

This year's Australia Day Cup and Friendship Cup races were held on 23rd January between NCYC and Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. For the second time running NCYC has successfully maintained their hold on the Friendship Cup.



NCYC winners of the Annual Friendship Cup Race between LMYC & NCYC. Accepting the Cup Will Howard from "Schouten Passage", Steve Rae from "Marta Jean", Steve Buckingham from "Anger Management"



Iain Miller - Current Affair
Winner of Coulin Marine Trim Australia Day shield the Lower PHS Group



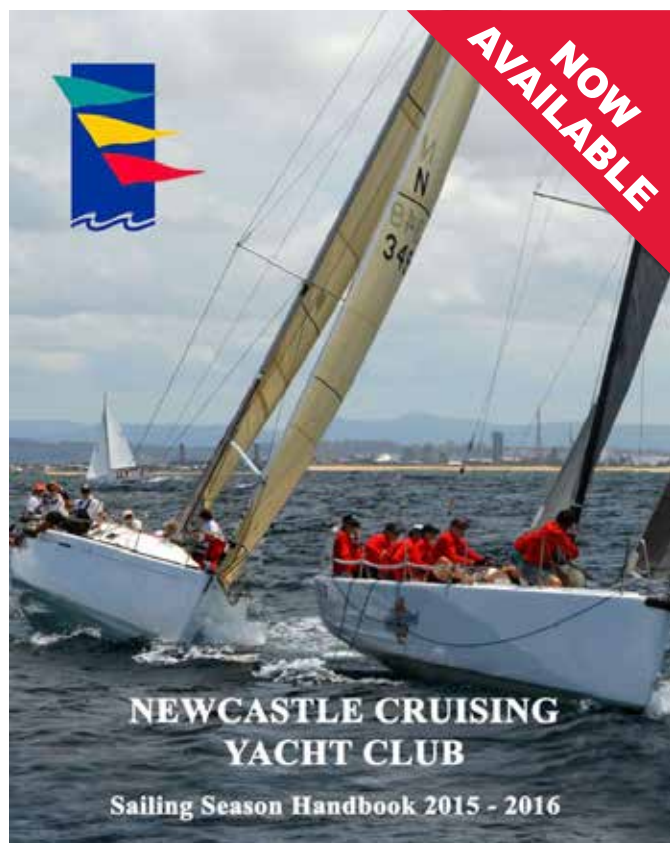
Rob Howard - Schouten Passag
Winner of Gleeson Civil Engineering Australia Day Trophy for IRC



Valda Johnston - Scots Wha Hae
Winner of Endeavour Marine Australia Day Trophy for PHS Div 2



Rob Howard - Schouten Passage
Winner of the Queens Wharf Brewery Australia Day Cup for the Higher PHS Group



Holiday Sailing Camp

We will be holding school holiday camps at NCYC Marina for ages 8-15yrs

Ring (02) 4940 8188 to be added to the contact list



Well 2015 certainly ended in true silly season style with the marina being at almost full capacity for the large portion of December. Throughout this period we had many visiting transient yachts from all over the east coast as well as some international visitors and also some friendly and familiar faces who have continued to return back to the NCYC marina after discovering what an excellent location we have here. One thing is common amongst our visitors... the majority of vessels leaving the marina go out of their way to comment on the excellent facilities and friendly atmosphere here at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club!

2016 is now well underway, and following a predictably quiet January with everyone recovering from the Christmas break, activity in the marina is really starting to increase. With recent visit from our friends at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club and Acuna Bay Cruising Club and an influx of yachts involved in the Sydney to Newcastle Race, the marina is once again seeing high occupancy rates.

The marina was at full capacity with the Game Fishing East Coast Classic Tournament Event that was held

on 12th and 13th of March, the marina was definitely overflowing!

We are also expecting a number of cruising groups to visit over the coming months which will see a great deal of activity around the Club.

There has been a great effort around the marina lately to clear the walkways of any trip hazards & debris which the dock staff appreciate very much, so thank you to all the marina occupants and visitors for keeping our marina tidy. I would however like to make a note about dinghy's, kayaks, canoe's and other watercraft associated with your vessels berthed in the marina. These items are to be kept on board your vessel at all times when not in use and dinghy's on davits may not overhang walkways.

Having repairs done to your boat or doing them yourself? Remember there are some important rules relating to what you can or cannot do whilst in the NCYC marina. Please contact the office for further information on the rules affecting both contractors and boat owners.

Happy boating everyone and stay safe on the water!



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

Subject: Boat Profile



NEWCASTLE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB

**WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PRIVATE LEASED
BERTHS ON THE MARKET AT THE MOMENT**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE MARINA
MANAGER FOR DETAILS**

MOBILE: 0408 299 512

EMAIL: dockmaster@ncyc.net.au

Mermaid with a message

Juliana Bahr-Thomson

In May this year I will complete a 1000km ocean board paddle from Newcastle NSW to Noosa Qld, this paddle is a solo charity mission I am doing, to raise funds and awareness for domestic violence.

No paddle this length has previously been done by male or female; it will double as a Guinness World Record paddle which will take over 1 month to complete. I am aiming to raise upwards of \$50,000, as well as completing the paddle I will be doing community talks and school education talks along the way north to educate and spread my message.



To assist in fundraising, we are holding a White Ribbon and Conservation of the Ocean Ball.

When: April 22nd 2016 at 6.30pm.

Where: Merewether Surf House

Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased online at Sticky Tickets.

Canapes on arrival followed by a 2 Course Meal.

This evening will help share my story and message with White Ribbon Ambassador Mark Weber.

There will be entertainment, live music, iconic sporting legends and raffles.

Please visit the below web page for further details and information. www.mermaidwithamessage.com.au



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Marina Development - Howard Keegan

Marina Development is a new & challenging role in NCYC created to build a stronger marina business. I have accepted the challenge of the role as I believe that there is much we can do to attract more boats over the short & long term to our facility.

Newcastle does not have the playground like Lake Macquarie or Pittwater to naturally attract boats so we need to provide the right incentives to attract long term vessels to stay at our unique facility. Long term occupants need a reason to keep their boats here besides the fact that the owner may live nearby. Hence we have a racing fleet & currently forming a cruising fleet. The aim here is to build an active boating club membership on the marina.

Short term occupancy is a different ball game, our facility is known by many as one of the most welcoming & hospitable marinas on the east coast. BUT there are still many more owners out there who do not know about us as we still get many arrivals who hop off their boat and say "I did not know this was here" OR "how long has this marina been here?" There are two strands in this market, the individual vessels who cruise our coastline and the cruising clubs & fleets who do the weekend rallies. Some of them already visit us but there are a larger proportion who have not sampled the NCYC hospitality as yet. My role is to attract these vessels & fleets to our facility.

I will also be involved in the formation of NCYC Cruising. This group of boat owners are looking for the gentler & more social aspect of boating other than racing plus it will include motorboats. I am also researching the possibility of forming a remote control



model yacht fleet which will be known as NCYC RC—stay tuned for more on this soon. If anybody is interested in either the cruising or model yachts and would like more details, please contact me.

The recent Down Under Rally from Noumea was most successful. Included in the fleet were some members of the Ocean Cruising Club (OCC) who were so impressed with our facility and the role I played in the event they initiated an application to invite me to be the Port Officer Representative for Newcastle to the OCC. I have accepted the voluntary role which fits perfectly within my new role of Marina Development because it gives NCYC access to the world cruising market.

WHAT IS THE OCEAN CRUISING CLUB? It is a UK based International Club for blue water cruisers. With membership of over 2300 people it has no premises as such but regards the oceans of the world as its clubhouse. To qualify as a member you must have completed an ocean passage of no less than 1000 nautical miles on the rhumbline in a vessel no longer than 70' LOA, hence it is based on what you have done, not who you are! Members are people with a potent combination of qualities such as accomplishment, experience, idealism, eccentricity, generosity & humility. The distinctive blue & yellow burgee is a welcome and respected sight in any anchorage.

To compliment, aid & assist their members on the water, the OCC has near 200 Port Officer members representing various destinations around the world. This is an invited role where the Port Officer is the contact to the OCC vessels giving them information on their area of reference as well as any assistance in port entry, customs & AQIS requirements as well as organise events from dinners up to rallies similar to the Down Under Rally. This is a new & untapped market for NCYC which is promoted via the OCC website as the port officer maintains their own information page for their respective destination. I look forward with great anticipation to the challenges of this new role within NCYC.



Remote Control Yachts

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club is considering forming a fleet of remote control yachts to race on weekends & subject to demand may have a midweek twilight. There are about 20 clubs registered with the NSW Radio Yachting Association who race regularly with interclub regattas, state & national titles held annually.

There are a number of racing classes of yachts plus a lot of recreational classes so plenty of options to choose from. Obviously there is a huge price range starting at about \$250 for a small recreational class going up to the larger racing classes topping at prices near \$5000. Generally the dollars reflect the quality as well.

The two most popular classes are the International One Metre (IOM) class and the 10R class which start at about \$700 for a reasonable 2nd hand boat. A number of top name yacht designers have been involved with designing some boats within the rules of each class making for very keen competition at the top level.

Most clubs cater for the range of classes and levels of racing by running pursuit races and have point score races for the classes if they have enough boats to make a fleet of a class. NCYC would follow this trend with our main aim of allowing a low cost entry in buying a boat and maintaining a fun, friendly & social atmosphere within our group of owners. If you wish to be competitive then it is your option.

I have been liaising with the nearest club being Lake Macquarie Radio Yacht Club who have offered to visit our Club with the IOM & 10R classes and do an exhibition day for us. The boats are quite easy to sail, so after some short instruction you can test your skills on the day. I will organise the exhibition day and promote it through our usual channels so stay tuned.

If you are interested in joining up or would like more details please contact Howard Keegan in the marina office (mobile 0412 143 925 or email howard.keegan@ncyc.net.au)



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Drawn 26 April 2016

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Boat Profile – NCYC Vessels

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club owns a number of boats for different uses & purposes within the club. Following are NCYC boats along with their purpose.

“Wombat” is a Steber 36 motorboat, the perfect setup to be the club committee & start boat for racing offshore as well as some inshore use. Wombat has recently undergone a refit with Midcoast Boatyard & Marine to update some equipment & cleanup some of the old features to ensure she will be serviceable to the Club for many years to come.



“George Keegan” named after our founding & life member (now deceased), this boat is a 9.5m Protector RIB with twin 115hp Yamaha outboards. Since purchase it has benefitted from new Hypalon tubing & the engines have also been replaced. It is used as a mark laying vessel and due to its high speed potential in offshore conditions, it's ideal for rescues and rapid course changes. A sister ship was used to bring an injured crew member from “Wild Oats” off Newcastle – the integral inflatable tubing allowed that Protector to directly alongside “Wild Oats” as she kept racing & safely transferred the injured crew member ashore for medical treatment. “George Keegan” was the rescue boat first on scene to rescue the crew of “Woodstock” when it sank.



“Paul Gleeson” (also named after a hard working & popular member now deceased) is a 5.5m RIB used as rescue & committee boat for NCYC Laser racing. It is also the tender & safety boat for our fleet of F24 sailing boats. With a single 100hp outboard this boat is very quick and ideal for inshore rescue vessel duties.



Aluminium 3m punt (currently unnamed) was purchased as a work boat (with the 15hp outboard donated by Ernie Thirkell). This boat is used for marina maintenance & other small jobs around the marina. It has also been considered as the safety & mark boat for the proposed NCYC Radio Control fleet. This boat needs to be named so any suggestions would be welcome.

Force 24 Keelboats. NCYC own six of these MB&D designed keelboats which were purchased from RPAYC along with spare sets of racing sails. The F24's are a perfect sail training vessel for students of all ages including school children through to adults. They can also be used for corporate sailing and match racing events. The F24's are very active and the club intends to conduct more club based, inshore racing with them shortly.

Optimist Dinghy's. A fleet of 12 “Opti's” is on its way to NCYC in March. These boats will be used for the Yachting Australia “Tackers” program which is designed as the initial step for school aged children in their sailing pathway. The “Opti's” will also be highly active and create a visual spectacle on the harbour.

NCYC benefits greatly from our volunteers who assist in racing activities & sailing tuition. If you have a boating back ground and would like to be involved as a volunteer please contact the marina office for information. You will have the opportunity to have fun on these NCYC boats plus enjoy the fulfilment of supporting NCYC in its goal of promoting and growing the amazing sport of sailing in Newcastle.



Champion Angler - Max Hardy

Max Hardy who is a member of the Newcastle Game Fishing Club, recently received an Australian & NSW Record Certificate from the NSW Game Fishing Association Inc.

On the 25th October, Max caught a Yellowfin Tuna weighing 48.1 kg caught over "The Shelf" East of Newcastle.



Image by Paul Hardy

Thursday Night Members Draw

Permit LTPS/14/05783

Up to 4 draws per night:

6.15pm, 6.30pm, 6.45pm and 7pm.

Cash prize starts at \$200 - jackpots if not won.

NEWCASTLE GAME FISHING CLUB
Presents
East Coast Classic
March 12th & 13th

THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Raymarine, J&B Marine Electrical, Murrumbidgee Marina, For more information: www.newcastlegamefishingclub.com.au, Email: info@ngfc.com.au, Also look us up on Facebook

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The Mission to Seafarers

Article & Images by Rick McCosker

Happy New Year to all members. It seems we have just celebrated Christmas and New Year and now it's almost Easter already!

In December our volunteers spent much time sorting a host of personal toiletries, gifts, beanies and plum puddings into individual bags for delivery to all seafarers in our Port during the week leading up to Christmas, and on Christmas and Boxing Days. In all we were able to distribute four hundred and twenty individual gift packs which was a tribute to the generosity of people in Newcastle and the Hunter and to our volunteers who put the packs together. It's always wonderful to experience the joy on the faces of the seafarers when gifts are delivered on board. The giving of gifts, particularly at Christmas, to those who are away from home, families and friends is a joyful time for us.

In addition to the gifts, our Mission Centre was open all over the holiday period, providing food and refreshments to some seafarers who were able to come ashore. With assistance from the vessel's shipping agent we were able to arrange a Catholic Mass service on board the Kinko Maru for a Filipino crew on Boxing Day. Their joy and appreciation at being able to celebrate their faith in this way was expressed several times by the Master and his crew.

On the subject of church services we have commenced regular 5.30pm Thursday afternoon services with Fr. Andrew Doohan from the Catholic Cathedral presiding. Volunteers, local parishioners and visiting Filipino seafarers have formed a small community. This is a rare opportunity for seafarers to celebrate their faith in this way and for locals to mix with our overseas visitors.

Another joyful part of our ministry is to help arrange family reunions. Recently we were able to connect a Filipino chief engineer with his sister, and later a young seafarer from Myanmar with his sister and other family members who had travelled up from Sydney.



The holiday period often provides challenges for visiting crews. We received a call early on New Year's Day from a Ukrainian Master who needed to change his US currency urgently to purchase much needed provisions. He couldn't wait until the following week for the banks to open as their departure from Newcastle was booked for that afternoon. The Master, and his crew, was very appreciative as they had a long journey ahead of them.



The January wet and windy weather caused havoc with traffic in and out of the harbour. While this may have caused disruptions to scheduling and its associated financial cost, there was an upside. The closure of the port on one particular day provided a Filipino crew the opportunity to come ashore at the time they were originally scheduled to depart. They were so excited, laughing, joking and singing during the bus trip to our Mission Centre, just like a class of school children on the last afternoon before the Christmas holidays. Their officer explained that they had been at sea a long time and it was so good to be able to come ashore, change their money and visit Marketown for shopping and to connect with people of Newcastle.

A recent ship visit gave us an opportunity to share some time with a Chinese Master in his cabin. It was a sad conversation as he shared with us how lonely is the life of a seafarer, especially the vessel's Master. This is particularly so when there is a combination of different races and cultures on board, the Master has no-one he can comfortably connect with to help share his loneliness. These occasions remind us of why we do what we do.

The chaplains and volunteers at the Mission to Seafarers wish all members a happy and safe 2016.



2015 - 2016 Australian National Laser Championship Proudly Supported by NCYC

Article and images by Gloria Thirkell,
NCYC Laser Committee Secretary

The 2015 - 16 Australian National Laser Championship incorporated the Open, Women and Youth Divisions and was hosted by Belmont 16ft Sailing Club, from 28 Dec 2015 to 4 Jan 2016. This was a huge event with 26 international sailors among the 195 entries. The fact that there were forty one people on the event contacts list probably gives a further indication of the scope and organisation which were required for the successful running of these Championships.



James, Ernie & Kevin

The Organising Authority was NSW & ACT District Laser Association on behalf of the Australian Laser Class Association. The Event Director, Kevin Phillips, NSW Laser Association President, made a point of expressing thanks to NCYC for our valuable support. Two of the three NCYC Committee Vessels (CVs) were on loan to the 16's for this regatta. George Keegan, used as the Finish Pin Boat, was skippered by our Club Captain Ernie Thirkell. Wombat was skippered alternately by NCYC Volunteer Race Official Kevin Abrahamson and our Dockmaster / Race Officer James Perry who volunteered his services for this Regatta. They all combined driving, refuelling, daily boat maintenance etc with other various Race Official duties as needed.



Lasers



Mark & Ian

On the six man Jury panel (Protest Committee) which included one International and four National Judges, there were three NCYC representatives. These were Ian Humphries and Damien Boldyrew, both National Judges and NCYC Handicapper/RO/Club Juror, Mark Richards. The Jury Secretary was NCYC Life Member, Gloria Thirkell. There is a requirement for a National Jury to include members from at least two states. The Jury Panel for these Championships consisted of: the Jury Chairman John Middleton (Vic); Wayne Thompson (SA); International Judge Lister Hughers (NSW) and the three NCYC Jurors (NSW). Wayne Thompson is, by the way, President of Yachting South Australia as well as being Commodore and a Life Member of his local club. Protests were heard each night after racing. On water penalties were two turns for breaches of rule 42.

Winners of the 2016 Australian Laser Championships were: Standard- World Number 1 Ranked Tom Burton (Tom's 5th National Win); Laser Radial - Conor Nicholas; Women's Laser Radial - Manami Doi (presented by Jacqui Bell, Eight Times Winner of the Women's Event); Laser 4.7 - Rome Featherstone.

Full reports, photos and results are available at the event site: <http://lasernationals.org.au/>



Damo & Wayne

Sydney to Hobart 2015

The Little Blue Boats Tale

Images and Article by David O'Dowd

Any Sydney Hobart Race starts way before the starter's gun at 1pm on the 26th of December. Ensuring that the boat is ready for anything that Mother Nature can throw at you is a monumental task on even a small boat like The Culprit. Fortunately, The Culprit team, led from the front by Cyril (who really does most of the work) managed to get the yacht to Sydney, ready & raring to go well before Christmas Day, so that come Boxing Day, we were as ready as any team could be.

Start day found us all excited, about the prospect of a good breeze to start in & a great breeze to get us scooting down the coast, hopefully as far as possible, before the expected Southerly Buster. The pre-race circus at the CYCA, followed by the milling around prior to race time, is surely one of the greatest events to be a part of. From the multi-million dollar maxi's to the 30 & 40 footers, it is a sight to behold. The adrenaline builds & the excitement is overflowing. Everywhere you look, everyone has a smile like a split watermelon. Add to all this, a beautiful day & a building Nor'easter & the scene is set for a cracker start.



She's The Culprit crew

On the 3rd start line, way back from the television cameras & paid crews, the last 5 minutes to start is as tense as it is 500m closer to the heads. Everyone wants to get a clear air start without breaking the line & without breaking a boat. We hit the line with the breeze gusting to 30 knots with 2 reefs & a number 4 to make our way to the heads. It was like Pitt St on a Friday afternoon at knock off time, but with all the frantic tacking going on in the runway between the spectator boats. Add to this, several bigger boats that had come unstuck early & were simply running straight back through the smaller boats, with little or no care for self preservation & you have yourself a recipe for white knuckle, seat of the pants sailing.

To get out around the Inner & Outer marks was absolute relief & too then watch the spinnaker set & start scooting down the coast towards Hobart, hitting speeds of up to 15 knots, was absolutely sensational. To run like this for the next 7 or so hours was great, even if during this time we destroyed one spinnaker when the

kite pole unclipped & drove through the bottom of the sail, a second spinnaker when it tore after wrapping on the forstay, a windward brace that broke at the pole & finally the masthead halyard, that left us down to our fractional kites & making far less speed than hoped.

The Southerly hit with a bang as they always do & after some initial work to get everything settled, we settled in for what was a cold, wet & very windy (up to 45+knots) next couple of days. With up to 80% of the crew virtually disabled with seasickness & the rest of the team just keeping the boat pointing south, we were not exactly your highly functional sailing team. The 48 hours of hard southerly breezes never at any stage made us feel that either the boat or the crew (even the sick ones) were not going to get through the blow. So by the time we made it towards Eden & the sea state & seasickness began to abate, a much happier boat all round was able to head into Bass Strait.

As tough as the previous 2 days had been, the next day & a half was tough only in that we were struggling to find breeze most of the time & sometimes battling currents that at times tried to take us off between Tasmania & Flinders Island. The predicted northerlies finally came in on the morning of the fourth day, so after re-running the masthead halyard in the middle of Bass Strait the day before, we were able to set our last masthead kite & make up a lot of miles in a good 15 to 20 knot breeze that carried us all the way to Tasman Light.

But with the home stretch now in sight the breeze did a vanishing act & it took us at least the next 12 hours to sail from Tasman Light to the Iron Pot across this millpond called Storm Bay. At least all the amateur photographers got plenty of time to take some great shots of Cape Raul & Tasman Light atop Tasman Island. Fortunately around midnight on the 30th, we found ourselves on the right side of a freshening breeze from the nor'west (6-10 knots) that gave us a bee-line to the Iron Pot.

We passed the Iron Pot in pitch darkness with 2 other yachts hot on our heels at about 3am & spent the next 3 hours in a tacking duel up the Derwent in breeze that ranged from 3 knots to 25 knots. This part of the race was almost as tense as the start, with the whole crew on deck & instructions flying from the Nav to the Helm & on to the crew as if it was us that were racing for line honours.

We crossed the line in 61st position, at a little after 5.30am on the 31st of December with an elapsed time of 4 days, 16 hours, 30 minutes & 4 seconds and came in to Constitution Dock to be met by a very vocal group of family & friends that made for a very emotional finish. It is absolutely, the Everest of ocean sailing & we were so proud to have made it to the finish & to have placed 3rd on handicap in the PHS Division.

I'd like to thank the entire crew for a herculean effort in getting the boat to Hobart in one piece & in such good spirits. Cyril Picasso, Glenn Bulmer, Adrian Kiely, Bob Jarvie, Trent Butler, Dom Tanner, Kathy Hall, Kristen Anderson, Richard Hooper, Steve Robinson, Tristan Hough.

I hope you enjoyed the tale as much as we enjoyed the ride south.

South China Sea Scuba Dive

Article and Images Bill Quirk

We just got back from the opportunity to scuba dive on some of the 700 +islands surrounding the Philippine archipelago, South China Sea. In particular at 12.5 deg N /123.5 deg E MASBATE IS Donsal.

Vitton Resort is very basic, but will give you every opportunity to interact with the areas to find coral reefs, and marine sanctuary's and giant Whale Sharks. After 3 days of searching in the clear blue "for this needle in a haystack" ocean, it all happened in minutes, it was there! I spotted a dorsal fin, a bit overwhelmed, excited, I jumped out of our flimsy bamboo outrigger canoe, my native dive leader said "go! go! go!" it's sounding.

It was like bumping into a beautifully spotted unflinching tug boat cruising at 2 knots 1 meter below the surface. An in your face "surreal" memory never forgotten.



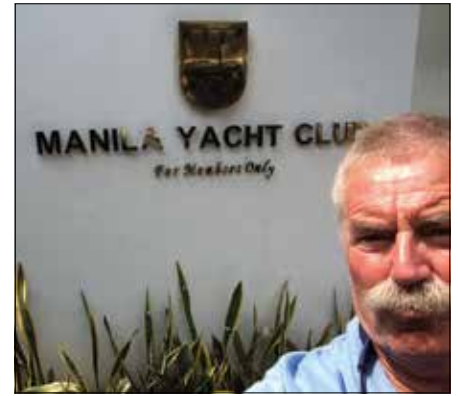
Then onto Busuanga, Sangat Island and Sangat Resort (google it!), natural hot springs, waterfalls, the pigs that swim in the ocean farm. 6 x Japanese navy ship wrecks , turtles, beautiful

colourful reefs and fish of multiple species, all a very comfortable 15m – 30m, there was some ocean current to contend with.

And then the 'Black Island Wreck' ! YES Portuguese/ Spanish/Chinese origin? 1600,s ? still standing upright on the bottom at 18m! No treasure left? Great fish life surrounding!

.....then there lots more to explore!

Were going back, more later!



MEDIA RELEASE



Monday 22 February 2016

Crowds welcome Queen Elizabeth to Newcastle Passengers and crew of the Cunard vessel Queen Elizabeth received a warm welcome this morning from hundreds of onlookers who lined the Newcastle Foreshore and Stockton Foreshore.

The red and black cruise liner arrived in the Port of Newcastle at 7.15am, sailing past Nobbys Headland with 1,956 passengers and 989 crew on board.

After docking at the Channel Berth, the ship's passengers had the opportunity to explore the Hunter region and take part in the many shore excursions planned, from food and wine tours in the Hunter Valley, dolphin cruises at Port Stephens and Newcastle city highlights tours.

A civic reception was held to mark the vessel's connection to the 450 Squadron, which sailed on Cunard's original Queen Elizabeth to serve in World War II. Queen Elizabeth's captain Alistair Clark, along with veterans, their families, RAAF personal and local dignitaries attended the commemorative service. A 'keys to the city' welcome reception was also hosted in honour of the cruise ship. Port of Newcastle's CEO, Geoff Crowe, acknowledged that Queen Elizabeth's visit was a highlight of the 2015-16 cruise season. "It was terrific to see the warm welcome that our community provided to Queen Elizabeth today, and it was a privilege for the

port to host Queen Elizabeth," said Mr Crowe.

"It is the first Cunard vessel to visit the Port of Newcastle since 1907.

"We appreciate the economic benefit that cruise ship visitors and crew bring to our region and hope that today is the first of many visits by Queen Elizabeth."

The Australian Cruise Association estimates that cruise shipping provides an injection of around \$11 million per annum to the Hunter region's economy.

Queen Elizabeth received a three-gun salute from Fort Scratchley as she departed the port.

Media enquiries: Lauren Eyles, Executive Manager Communication, via the Port of Newcastle media line: 4908 8214.



Image: Crowds welcomed Queen Elizabeth on her maiden voyage to the Port of Newcastle.

Article by Bill Quirk Borrelli Quirk Newcastle Real Estate

The New Year got off to a great start at Lee Wharf where the Maritime Museum played host to 180 guests at a sit down feast of Greek inspired food for those fortunate to attend

The party theme was the movie Mamma Mia which celebrated the music of Abba in a Greek island setting.

Guests were asked to dress the part and they did! You had to be there.....I'm glad we forget we are adults sometimes.

The entertainment was spectacular trapeze artists hanging from the beams a costumed Mamma Mia group had everyone belting out those favourite hits, other acts, a band and dancing made the night.

After a break to view the NYE Fireworks the party rolled on into 2016 with hopes high for the year ahead.

Many lucky guest departing with valuable auction prizes and thank you for your enthusiastic bidding.

The Maritime Museum had definitely sprung back to life and followed up with an Open Day and BBQ in conjunction with Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club on Australia Day and even more fun and games as Host Point for the Red Lantern Parade that attracted 25000 visitors to Honeysuckle for Chinese New Year, Newcastle Rotary and their experienced volunteers worked marvellously.

The Maritime Museum was represented at the Captains table for lunch on the Queen Elizabeth during a very brief visit to the Port of Newcastle. The Museum looks forward to hosting Cruise Ship Functions in the future and becoming a regular 'port of call' for the touring cruise ship market and employment and income for Newcastle.

If you have a related skill or talent that you feel would benefit the Newcastle Maritime Museum Charter contact Frank Elgar GM and inquire about our volunteer education programmes.

Yes its full steam ahead @ Newcastle Maritime Museum!



Sunday 3 April 2016
Time: 8 am.

NCYC Laser Working Bee

**Is your Laser, Dollie or Trailer in the Compound?
- you need to be there!**

Unclaimed gear - boats and all
stacked - stored - quarantined **YOU DEFINITELY NEED
TO BE THERE!**

- Have a current Hardstand Agreement?
- Need to arrange a Hardstand Agreement so you can still leave your boat here?
- Ooops has your pride and joy been slipping under the radar?

YOU NEED TO BE THERE !

**Enjoy a free sausage sizzle. Cold drinks and snacks for sale.
Have a laugh with your mates while you give them a hand**

Your job will be to:
Take your gear out of the compound;
Apply your new supplied ID stickers;
Put your boat and equipment back in the new space allocated to you.

Where in the world is our burgee?

A competition for members only.



To Enter: Four simple steps.

1. Collect an entry form from the bar.
2. Select the correct answer from the four options:
 - a. Port Douglas
 - b. Cape York Peninsula
 - c. Wilsons Promontory
 - d. Cooktown



"Where in the world WAS our burgee?"

B.in the bridge deck wheel house "Fujikawa Maru" at 45m.... Japanese aircraft ferry sunk WWII 1944 Chuuk Lagoon Micronesia.

Summer 2015 Winner:
Victoria Carr

The Prize: \$100 Dinner voucher for two at the "Galley".

The Task: Select the correct locations from the options.

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

3. Fill in your membership and contact numbers.

4. Put the form in the box provided.

Closing Date: Friday 20 May 2016.

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

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Coming Events...

MARCH 2016

- Thursday 17 March - St Patrick's Day
- Sunday 20 March - Summer SOP
- Friday 25 March - Good Friday

APRIL 2016

- Sunday 10 April - Sail Port Stephens
- Sunday 24 April - Up The Creek BBQ
- Monday 25 April - Anzac Day

MAY 2016

- Sunday 1 May - Winter SOP
- Sunday 8 May - Mother's Day
- Saturday 14 May
NCYC/B16s Laser Winter Series

JUNE 2016

- Monday 13 June - Queens Birthday

EVERY WEEK

- Monday and Tuesday Night Galley Specials
6pm-8pm
- Tuesday Night Trivia - 7pm in the Marquee
- Thursday Night Members Draw [LTPS/16/00316]:
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
- Sunday Breakfast - between 8am-10.30am

GALLEY

Lunch:
Noon to 2.30pm

Dinner:
6pm to 8pm

Available from the bar all day:
coffee, tea & fab desserts

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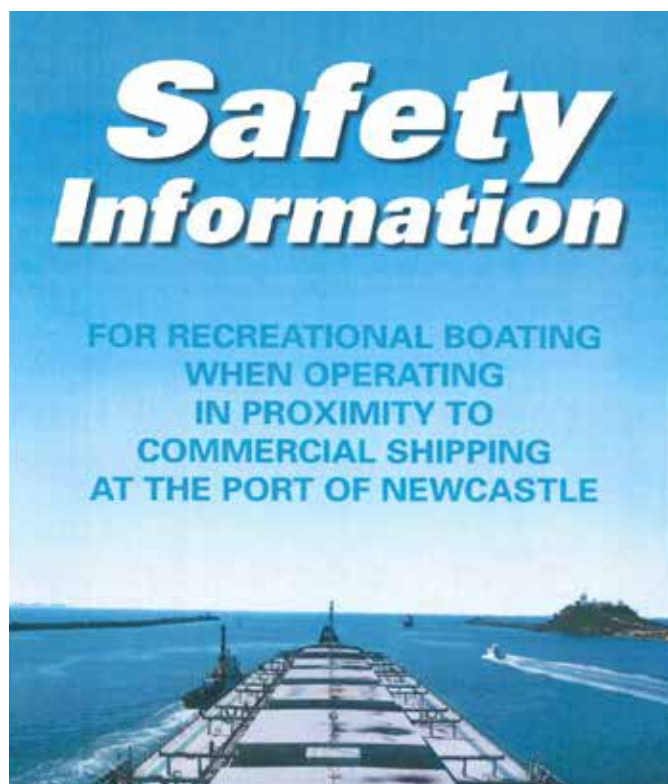
Emergency

- 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
- The Galley (Noon - 2.30pm, 6pm - 8.30pm)
(02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
- Administration (9am - 5pm 5 days)
(02) 4940 8188 – admin@ncyc.net.au
- Functions (9am - 5pm)
(02) 4940 8188 – functions@ncyc.net.au

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And sit on the chair of the REINSW HSTR Chapter since 2008.

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