

thirty two° fifty five

newcastle cruising
yacht club journal

SailFest – Newcastle Regatta 2020 21

Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 22

BIC Nationals – Green Fleet 35

autumn 2020





NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

Corporate Sailing

Team Building - Conferencing - Christmas Parties
Force 24 Keelboats



Six boats available - Four crew per boat - 24 guests on-water
Qualified Instructors & all Safety Equipment supplied
It's social - It's challenging - It's fun!

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1.5 hour

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\$269.00 per boat (max 4 per boat)
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www.ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy

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

Unwind | Share | Laugh | Enjoy



Farr 40 One
Design Trophy.
Image by
Jack Buchan



Cruising Fleet.
Isabella Blue



Marine Rescue
Tow from Glenrock

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Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club

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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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A quarterly publication

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Editor: Di Hansen

Cover Image: Kim Pollock, She's The Culprit
Delivery Hobart to Sydney
Photo by Glen 'Cyril' Picasso

Commodore's Message



Welcome to all our readers. I hope you enjoy this Autumn Edition of our NCYC Journal 3255. Despite the fact that we are currently experiencing some relief from the hot, dry weather, I'm sure the devastating bushfires are still fresh in our minds. Our thoughts go out to those whose family or friends may have suffered, and our heartfelt

thanks to all those involved in the firefighting efforts.

The big newsworthy sailing event we have to report on, is the 75th Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Many NCYC yachts competed, and our sailors (both first time and experienced ocean racers) crewed on a multitude

of other yachts in the 160 boat fleet. There are separate articles in this magazine with contributions from many of our Sydney Hobart crews, and I'm sure you'll enjoy reading about their experiences. It was great to see so many NCYC competitors in Hobart, who were all fantastic ambassadors for our club. Congratulations to everyone who completed the race. I would also like to thank Peter Thornton for volunteering his services to the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, and this was greatly appreciated by their Commodore Tracy Matthews.

Our club sailing has resumed in 2020, with a full program for in harbour and offshore events already underway, including lots of opportunity to race our new Elliotts. Planning is already underway for this year's SailFest, which promises to build on the success of last

year's event both on the water and off. We are hoping for an amazing show case of sailing in Newcastle Harbour on 18th and 19th of April.

I hope you all enjoyed the members Christmas party. A big thank you to our bar staff for their thoughtful and 'fun packed' addition to the program. If you have any feedback, we'll be happy to take it into account for future events.

We have had a great response to our recent members survey, so thank you to everyone who has provided us with feedback.

I would like to thank everyone who has written articles, sharing their news for our collective enjoyment. Well done also to our editor, for her hard work in collating our input and presenting it so professionally!

...and finally, I would like to advise that Phil Arnall has retired as a Director of Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club. On behalf of the Board and our members, I would like to thank Phil for his tremendous input to the club as a Director and a past Commodore throughout the past 12 years. The Board have appointed Ken Semple to fill this casual vacancy, and Ken will be up for election at the next AGM.



Steve Rae, Commodore



Image: Andrea Francolini

17-19 APRIL 2020

ALL CLASSES WELCOME!

City of Newcastle TP52 Gold Cup
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City of Newcastle



A FESTIVAL OF SAILING FOR NEWCASTLE HARBOUR



Rear Commodore's Report



Welcome back one and all to club sailing for 2020. The summer keel boat series is underway, the Force 24s are off to LMYC later in March to do some sailing culminating in the Friendship Cup, the Optimists have been very busy with "Tackers" and "Green Fleet", the Lasers... well you get the picture; there is now

sailing every day of the week at NCYC!

The Rolex Sydney Hobart had a recent record number of participants with 119 on the start line. The experience varied markedly for everyone depending where you were on the race course, and when. Some were in plenty of breeze at the same time that others were becalmed - it was a race about getting through the transitions. Below is the list of our yacht's results. To finish Hobart is an achievement that puts them in a

Boat	Line Honours	IRC	ORCi	PHS	Corinthian IRC	Corinthian PHS	Money's Worth
Frantic	30th	11th Div. 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	03d 01h 53m 27s
Mako	76th	13th Div. 4	15th Div. 3	NA	17th	9th	03d 06h 47m 39s
Dare Devil	98th	13th Div. 3	17th Div. 2	NA	36th	NA	03d 16h 03m 18s
She's The Culprit	110th	NA	NA	11th Div. 2	NA	25th	03d 18h 30m 31s
Santana (LMYC)	139th	IRC Div. 7	6th	NA	27th	NA	04d 00h 31m 04s
Wonderland	147th	NA	NA	14th Div. 2	NA	NA	05d 05h 17m 45s
Maserati (CYCA)	12th	9th Div. 0	15th Div. 1	NA	NA	NA	02d 06h 31m 54s

Steve Rae sailed on Maserati with a Polish Crew. Wonderland got the most hours sailing per dollar and arrived just in time to celebrate New Year – great timing!

special club; well done!

It's very busy ahead too – Lots of women's sailing in the first half of March with the She Sails development regatta. While I'm talking about She Sails, I attended a fund raising dinner at RMYC Toronto where we were represented by a panel of 5 of OUR women sailors (Jan Howard, Peta Norris, Courtney Smith, Jacqueline Ellis and Rebecca Connor) discussing their experiences in the Hobart and in general. How good is it to sit and listen to them talk to others about our programs that Jan, Mary & Jacquie started and are now national? We also had the Friendship Cup on 4 April with LMYC, a bigger Sail Fest on 18 and 19 April with the TPs joining us again followed by the Sail Port Stephens lead in race and regatta.

I'd like to emphasise to all that we consider an accurate crew list essential and that the Sailing Committee through the RO will enforce these rules and penalties.

We don't say this just because we can, but because we care about our members. For the smaller boats, please ensure you sign on and off the water. If the worst happens, we need to know how many we are looking for. On the same subject, you must be an Australian Sailing member to sail competitively in any event. The rules with respect to this (RRS46) will change on 1 January 2021 requiring

you to be a member of a sailing club regardless (no "free" 3 races). Ask about Sailing Pass; it is an economical way to try sailing if you're not sure it's for you.

Finally, let us know how we're doing. We know we will not be able to please everybody, all the time out there on the water but we are always after your feedback about how we could be doing better.

"I am interested but it all depends on terms and conditions." Grant Dalton OBE (Whitbread, Volvo & America's Cup sailor, skipper and TNZ leader)

Let us know if there's a "term or condition" we could change to make sailing better.

\$20

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- A Sail Pass allows a non-NCYC club member to go sailing at our Club.
- It's a form of introductory or short term membership for 2 months.
- It offers safe, easy and affordable access to sailing and our club.
- It's a safety improvement and complies with sailing regulations.
- Mostly – it is a simple way to gain access to sailing activities, and join the fun, at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club.

Forms are available at the bar
 Sail Pass Members must also sign the register.



Barry Kelly, Rear Commodore

Chief Executive Officer's Report



The Club has enjoyed a very busy summer both on and off the water.

Club sailing has been well attended over the summer. We have had offshore racing on Sundays, twilights on Wednesdays and Lasers on Fridays, along with our Cruising Fleet get-aways.

Summer sailing finishes on Sunday 29th March with the Summer Short Ocean Pointscore. The club will be hosting an End of Summer Party, so please join us.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the 75th Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and to those who also delivered the yachts. Congratulations to all our members who crewed going south, we had a record number of members and yachts representing our club. There are some great articles and images throughout the magazine, which I am sure you will enjoy reading.

The licensed club hosted some great member events recently including the Member Xmas Party, New Year's Eve, Sydney to Hobart Dinner - sell-out events. The

team have been flat out with a big increase in function business and lunch trade is surging along. All staff are currently preparing for our SailFest – Newcastle Regatta event which will be hosted over the weekend of the 17-19th April. We encourage everyone to get involved and contact sailing if you have time to volunteer over the weekend.



SailFest Newcastle Regatta will be a major event for the club from 17-19 April in conjunction with Port Hunter 16ft Sailing Skiff Club, Newcastle City Council and RMS, we hope to fill the Harbour with sails and sailing vessels showcasing our sport to the community. I encourage all to visit the club and foreshore that weekend.

Paul O'Rourke, CEO



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Marina & Assets Manager's Report



Welcome to the Autumn Edition 2020 with best wishes for the new year to all readers.

Firstly, a shout out to Paul Booth, the Grounds and Maintenance guru, who is a regular face around the place. Paul clocked 14 years of loyalty to the Club on 16 January

2020. Before this, he was actually employed in the boatyard, so has certainly seen the evolution of the Club and marina precinct.

It's been fabulous to see so many boat owners using their boats over the Summer. This then gives the illusion (albeit, false) that the marina is empty. Casual occupancy has been steady as the transients ebb and flow traversing the East coast. Also, several 'local' boats participated in the Sydney-Hobart, which is covered elsewhere in this edition.

Thank you for your cooperation during the Level 2 water restrictions, we are now at Level 1 and appreciate your continued support. Thank you to the Contractors, Tenants and Operators who have been vigilant applying for exemption to Hunter Water direct. Our efforts to minimise water wastage has resulted in changing out 47 dock taps that had a constant drip since late 2019. The main supply to B Dock has also been overhauled to stop the small leak.



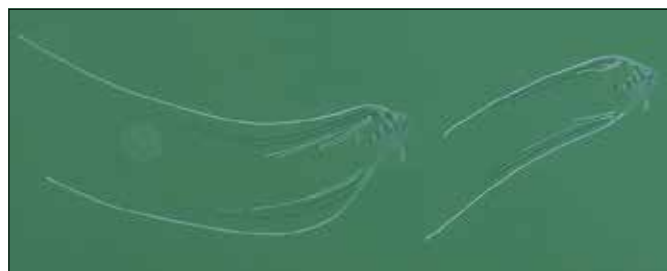
The waterfront strip of the Club and beer garden adjacent to the marque, has been given a makeover. The transformation from dry, dusty areas that grass would not grow in, is now the perfect backdrop to



functions, gatherings and casual dining. The local contractor took just 2 days (per area) to complete the excavation and installation of the artificial turf. The before and after photos say it all.



There's been a sightings of some unusual and beautiful fish in the marina. I was fortunate enough to snap these shots when out and about on my daily rounds. The Department of Fisheries advised they are juvenile Pennant fish. It is a tropical species that is found in southern waters when fry of the species (as well as many other tropical reef fish) are swept south in the "EAC" (East Australian Current). For those fish enthusiasts, you would have also noticed the abundance of Mullet. Fisheries advised it's not uncommon for such numbers in the Hunter River. The Mullet are usually attracted to the calmer waters and protection that a marina provides.



Svitzer (tug operators), commenced refurbishment of some of the dock and wharf facilities late 2019. Two berths on B dock have been used as a temporary alternative facility during this time. The crew working on these boats enjoy being alongside at NCYC. No exact length of time for their stay has been

confirmed. Thank you to any boat owners that may be affected when the lines boats start their shift in the early hours of the morning.

We welcome Catalyst as a new tenant in the Commercial Centre. They took up ground floor tenancy between the Wickham Boatshed and Borelli Quick, where Sticky Advertising were once. Catalyst are a project management company. Sticky advertising have relocated their office to Level 1 of the Clubhouse.

History of the NCYC Social Committee Tenacity Award

By Gloria Thirkell, Life Member

The reason for Len Croft becoming the 10th recipient of this coveted award was two-fold. The first part falls in line with the many occasions it has been given in a light hearted vein.

Every second Sunday Len in his typical good humour was on the run, somehow managing to prepare Woodstock for the race, organise and register his crew for the day, and cook bacon and egg rolls in "The Galley" from 8:00am to 10:30 am! Amazing. Amazingly entertaining. And there were an amazing number of extra sales just to see Len run some more! What's more, the smile didn't leave his face as he persevered for the main game – racing!!!



Social Committee rostered team for the day,
Len with Petro Gleeson, Hugh Williams and Kris Rickard
Photo by: Mike Eggleston

The second part was in a much more serious vein.

At the end of the 2011 MyState Australian Wooden Boat Festival Len found himself and his yacht in Hobart with no crew to help bring her home, a situation that didn't look like changing any time soon. Len's article on p14 of the Spring 2012 edition of our "thirty two fifty five" describes the factors contributing to his next decision and the ramifications of his having done so. Len's decision: to bring Woodstock home single handed. This was the start of a steep learning curve as Len spent the last 48 hours of his Bass Strait crossing not only awake, but at the helm after the automatic pilot stopped working in some rather unforgiving weather conditions. Len's tenacity brought him through.

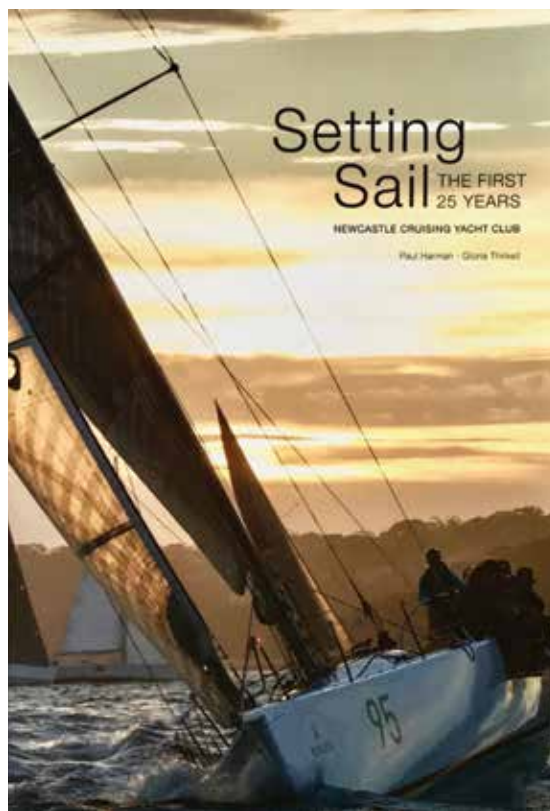


Woodstock berthed at
Constitution Dock.
Photo by Mike Eggleston

First Aid Training



During February NCYC staff attended a two-day First Aid training course conducted by Absolute Survival



AVAILABLE NOW
for \$30 from the Club
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Trivia Night

NCYC's Trivia in the Marquee

EVERY TUESDAY AT 7PM
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happy birthday

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Let the celebrations begin
and see you in the club soon!

happy hours at NCYC

4PM-6PM

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THE FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLES



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Darrell and Linda Hall



Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club Social Committee's

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TIX ON SALE : 6PM - DRAW : 7PM



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Sunday
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Sailors Share Specials: 3pm – 4pm
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Membership Renewals are now due.

**Please make your payment
by 31 March 2020**



NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

Social Highlights

NCYC Members Christmas Party Photos by Magnetic Shots



NCYC and Nor East Christmas



Rev Gary Dodd announcing
the Winner of Light up
Your Boat Competition



Hannah Elfing Around with Santa



Not Your Average
Run of the Mill



Oh Deer - Meet the Thirkells



Miss Naughty and Miss Nice



Kris and Petra



Santa and His Little Helper



Santa and the Woottens



Elfy only wanted
Champagne on Ice



Santa has Sandra and Sarah Sorted



Santa Hands it to
Golud and Rickard



Simon Says - Oonagh
and Santa are Jolly



Look whose Hunting for their Xmas Pressies



Mako Christmas



Baza - Naughty or Nice

Light Up Your Boat @ NCYC Marina

Images by Neil Manson

Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to our winners of the Light Up Your Boat Competition leading up to our NCYC Member Christmas Party. Winner was 'Scots Wha Hae' and runners up was 'Red Dog' and 'Marlena'.



Marlena



Red Dog



Champagne on Ice



Brigus



Georgia



Mako



Scots Wha Hae



Third Line



Marlena

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AND JOIN US FOR THE

END OF SUMMER PARTY

Sunday 29th March
with
Trophy Presentation

NCYC Wishes everyone a
Happy & Safe Easter!!



Easter Sunday 12th April
Entertainment from 2:30pm



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Mother's Day

Sunday 10th May

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Club Sailing

She's The Culprit wins NCYC Spring Short Ocean Pointscore



Rear Commodore Barry Kelly presenting trophy to
Shes The Culprit Winners



Shes The Culprit - Winners are Grinners



Twilight Sailing at NCYC Dec 2019 Image by Glen Hickey

Thank You to our Sailing Club Sponsors



Special Eyes By Susan Walton
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ICOM – Ocean Pointscore Sponsor



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Sailing Managers Report

Jack Buchan

It's Official! We have well and truly made it through our biggest summer yet – again!

First of all, I'd like to take a moment to congratulate all of our members who participated in the 75th Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and turned South from Sydney on Boxing Day. Congratulations on making it there safely, congratulations on a successful result, and congratulations on picking a superlative year to be a part of the race.

In those final weeks before the holidays, we had a few exciting moments for the Sailing Office. From hosting another successful round of the Farr 40 One Design Trophy, and conducting our biggest SheSails Open Regatta to date, to running our first Development Regatta targeted specifically at graduates of the Sailing Academy. A lot of time and logistics has been involved in delivering the biggest season on record for the Sailing Office this year.



Farr 40 Regatta. Jenn Hughes Photographer

We kicked off the new year at Newcastle with an active Sailing Academy – as usual! The Tackers (kids learn to sail) program was completely full for the two weeks that it was offered, and the adult learn to sail was a big hit as well with all of our Force 24 training yachts full as well. Our team had a mammoth task accommodating up to 60 kids and adults learning to sail on any given day.



Sailing Academy - Tackers kids learn to sail.
Images by Jack Buchan

As we entered February, we also kicked off the next installment of the Newcastle Sailing League in our Olympic fleet of Elliott 6m yachts. This type of League Sailing saw a Youth League race on Monday nights, Open League on Tuesday nights and Women's League on Thursday nights throughout the four weeks of February. Enhancing the racing format, we also had Damien Boldyrew (International Umpire) on the water enforcing the rules and providing an educational analysis back in the bar after racing each day. We've got a detailed analysis of the Sailing League in a separate article deeper in this magazine.

Also in February, following suit with the upcoming Olympic Games, the CYCA and global trends, we had our first 2 Handed Series each Saturday of the month. A simple course up to the Sygna Mark in Stockton Bight and back, the 2 Handed Series offered smooth seas and light winds to those who participated. With a lot of Division 2 interest in particular, we're currently seeing Summer Salt and Uprising Bakery (formerly Red Dog) on equal points after two races with a 1st and a 2nd place on each of their scorecards.

On Monday 2nd March, we hosted the NSW Emergency Services for a 'Mini-Regatta' in our Elliott 6m yachts before we craned them out of the water later that same week. The event welcomed teams competing for Police, Fire & Rescue, RFS, Maritime and QANTAS. After a great day on the water and a refreshing evening in the Club, the organizers are very keen to turn this into an annual event at Newcastle.

We're now approaching the end of our Summer sailing season and will be focusing on the few remaining races in the Special Eyes Summer Short Ocean Pointscore, Club Marine Twilight Series, DFK Crosbie Laser Twilight Series, and then the Friendship Cup.

The Friendship Cup is penciled in for 4th April as a friendly rivalry between Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. This will see us tow our fleet of six Force 24 training yachts down to the Lake to be used for the Friendship Cup. Each Club will be represented by three teams each and they will race up to ten windward/leeward races on Belmont Bay to decide the winner of the Cup.



Friendship Cup - Towing to Lake Macquarie.
Jack Buchan Photographer



She Sails Regatta.
Glenn Hickey Photographer



Natalie Butterworth, Tracey Hansen, Sarah Gamble.
Glenn Hickey Photographer

Also, whilst our boats are based at Lake Macquarie, we've setup a Women's Learn to Sail event followed by a Youth Training Squad. This new addition of a women's learn to sail is an initiative that has been requested and supported by a growing body of women between Lake Macquarie Yacht Club and Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto.

Later in April, we're looking forward to SailFest again with another strong TP52 fleet on the entry list as well as our offshore fleet joining the competition again. We're also getting behind Port Hunter 16ft Sailing Skiff Club again to deliver a vibrant Off the Beach race programme again as well as welcoming the Women's and Youth Finals of the Sailing Champions League Asia-Pacific (SCL). The SCL will be bringing their one-design fleet of RS21s to conduct the Finals League in the Basin.

SailFest will see the Basin, the Harbour and offshore littered with an abundance of sail racing activities.

We'll also have the Sailing Academy offering FREE try sailing activities off the beach near the Carrington Boat Ramp! Be sure to bring the kids along to play in the water and try sailing – April 18th & 19th from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Following SailFest, we roll into Sail Port Stephens for the Cruisy Commodores Cup, then a racing filled weekend with Performance Racing and the NSW IRC Championship. As always, the action never stops at Newcastle. We'll have a busy winter – both racing offshore, and training with our Youth Squads inshore as they prepare for fleet and match racing regattas between here and Sydney.

As always it is the time and dedication of our volunteer teams that allows the Sailing Office to continue to deliver the extensive and award-winning sailing programme of the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club.

See you on the water,
Jack Buchan



Sailfest Newcastle - Hooligan.
Mark Rothfield Photographer

Skipper's must stay under the 0.05 alcohol limit

Know the Rules. You're Responsible.



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Newcastle Sailing League

Article by Jack Buchan, Sailing Manager
Images by Mark Rothfield and Jack Buchan



Newcastle Sailing League - Shield - Photo by Jack Buchan

The Newcastle Sailing League was launched at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club in October of 2019 on the Club's new fleet of Olympic one-design Elliott 6m yachts. The racing concept is simple –

On Monday nights, the Youth League races x3 races every week.

On Tuesday nights, the Open League races x3 races every week.

On Thursday nights, the Women's League races x3 races every week.

Each League consisted of eight teams who were all eligible members of the Club, competing to identify the fastest crews on the water. This was the Club's first instalment of the Newcastle Sailing League and, following its resounding success, will offer another instalment in February 2020.



From 25 year anniversary regatta.
Mark Rothfield Photographer

"This is the realisation Grandstand Sailing" says Sailing Manager Jack Buchan "...we position the racecourse literally meters from the balcony at Honeysuckle Hotel and as the contestants fly-by you can hear the cheers and the whoah's emanating from the [waterfront pub]!"



From 25 year anniversary regatta. Mark Rothfield Photographer

The 'Grandstand,' as Jack puts it, has been utilised at recent regattas including the all-female 'She Sails Regatta' with spectators and excess teams changing on/off water based from the Honeysuckle Hotel balcony which offers a birds-eye view of the racecourse on their deck that extends out over the water.

The second edition of the Newcastle Sailing League was contested in February 2020 – identifying the region's fastest teams on the water for Summer 2020! The Club will now be looking forward to our League Winners representing us at the upcoming Sailing Champions League Asia-Pacific tournaments.

YOUTH LEAGUE



Youth League - Sailing Shot.
Jack Buchan Photography

The majority of the Youth League races were conducted in a prevailing 8-12knts ENE breeze.

With a clear lead going into the last day of racing, the Belmont 16ft

Sailing Club's "Try Hards" featuring Thomas Steenson, Luke Sullivan and Darby Jones managed to hold onto their lead in front of second placed

"Ned's Harry Miller, Felix Prince and Callum Marsh. Team "Growler" with Griffin Suters, Rohan Perceval and Lennon Sullivan came in third

place overall with the team coming together from Port Hunter 16' Sailing Skiff Club, Stockton.



Youth League - First Place - Darby Jones, Luke Sullivan, Thomas Steenson.
Jack Buchan Photographer



Youth League - Group Photo at Prizegiving Ceremony.
Jack Buchan Photography

Fourth placed "Cascade Racing" only joined the series half-way in and team Hugo Hamilton, Matt Meaney and George Booth pushed the limits to get become the Boat of the Day today with a 1st, 1st, 2nd on their scorecard for the final day of racing.

In Fifth Place, Teralba Amateur Sailing Club's Craig Wright teamed with our very own Christian & Sebastian Spencer and we consider them a strong competitor as we enter our winter regatta season.

We're very proud of our all-girls team saw Georgia Steenson team up with our Sailing Academy graduates Waverley Mears and Eliza Kirby sailing their way into Sixth place overall ahead of a Seventh Team from Mannering Park that unfortunately couldn't participate in the latter half of the event.

OPEN LEAGUE

The Open League has met our expectations in becoming a strong competition between club members. February's month long battle for the podium has stretched twelve races in the Club's fleet of Olympic Elliott 6 class yachts with Damien Boldyrew chasing the fleet with his conduct of onwater umpiring - enhancing the enforcement and education of the Racing Rules of Sailing.



Open League - First Place - Joe de Kock, Julian Clements, Richard Hooper. Mark Rothfield Photographer

Joe de Kock, Richard Hooper and Julian Clements reunited as team "Good Form" and ultimately took home the gold as they managed to break away from rivals "Run Like the Winded."

Our very own Sailing Manager, Jack Buchan, strategically paired with our Academy instructors Thomas Steenson and Felix Prince to race under the banner "Run Like the Winded." The under 25s worked hard to secure second place overall - a proud achievement to have competed so strongly for their first appearance in the Open League.

"Always on Port" had two bullets last week helping to lock in their third place podium position with the team including Board Member Adrian Kiely, Kathleen Stroinovsky and Blake Robertson.

The Belmont 16ft Sailing Club's "Lakers" were made up of Michael Quirk and Jeffrey Quirk held their ground finishing 4th in the last race to hold onto 4th place overall on equal points with the next team.

"On Tuesday" were pushed to fifth place overall after the tiebreaker was applied to the team of Ken Semple, Jeffrey Robinson and Paul Beath.

In sixth place, Andrew Miller, Harry Miller and Jackson Clare came formed their "Uprising Bakery" team; and in seventh place, Stephen Suturs, Griffin Surers and Mark Lavers threw their team "Winx" into the mix.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

After twelve races over the four Thursdays throughout February, the five all-female teams have come to the closing end of the Newcastle Sailing League event.

After a strong scorecard of 1's and 2's it all came down to the final race when Nina Long, with Jan Howard, Georgia Steenson and Lia Grosvenor held onto the lead by just 1pt - securing the top of the podium for their team "Non-Stop".



Women's League - Second Place - Justine Gowland-Ella, Peta Norris, Kris Anderson, Sam Hickey. Jack Buchan Photographer

Just one point behind the leaders, the "Salty Sorts" ended the series

strong with a trifecta of first places in all races for the final day of racing. The team of Samantha Hickey, Kristen Anderson, Peta Norris, Claire Heenan and Justine Gowland-Ella ended their evening in the Club talking about their next racing venture together.

Jane Hunt and her team "Usain Boat" were an exciting wildcard ending with a 2nd place in the final race to put them in third place overall for the series. Jane was joined by her team Bronwen Crosby, Belinda Davey, Kim Pollock and Valda Johnston.



Women's League - First Place - Nina Long, Georgia Steenson, Lia Grosvenor, Jan Howard. Jack Buchan Photographer

In fourth place overall, Leah Suturs returned with Kate Lanzinger and Neroli Foster scoring a mix of 2's,



Women's League - First Place - Nina Long, Lia Grosvenor, Jan Howard, Georgia Steenson. Jack Buchan Photographer

3's, 4's and 5's throughout the series for their team "Golden Thread".

In fifth place, Kathleen Stroinovsky came along and sailed the last two weeks with her team

Kim Mears and Libby Helinski. Scoring a mix of 2's and 3's, the team were unfortunate to only join the series when it was halfway finished and will be sure to be in it early next time!



Women's League - Group Photo at Prizegiving Ceremony. Jack Buchan Photographer

Farr 40 One Design Trophy, 16 & 17 November 2019

Jack Buchan, Sailing Manager
Images by Jenn Hughes
(Farr 40 Australia Class Administrator)

It was a stunning weekend racing off Newcastle Beach, Even the dolphins came out to play, surfing on the bow wake of 'Edake' leading them all the way to victory.

Farr 40 racing doesn't get any closer than the final race day did – with just three points separating first, second and third before Jeff Carter's 'Edake' sealed the deal winning the final race of the series.



Outlaw Crew

The 'Edake' crew were fresh back from winning the Corinthian World Title at the Farr 40 Worlds at Long Beach, California. Skipper Jeff Carter showed experience and consistency over all eight races and a win in the last race won them the regatta.

Tom Quick's 'Outlaw' was just two points behind 'Edake' and once again found themselves on the podium in second place.

Joe de Kock's local 'Good Form' was looking like the hot favourite after winning the first two races on day two, however, 'Edake' and 'Outlaw' weren't going to



Goodform Crew



Ted Anderson
and Jack Buchan

give up that easily and it wouldn't be Farr 40 racing without an upset.

PRO, the legendary Ted Anderson and his race



EDAKE Crew

management team had a challenging day on the water with persistent wind shifts as the southerly moved in. They absolutely nailed it getting the final race away with just two minutes to spare before the 1500hr final warning signal.



Lining up for the Start of the Farr 40 Regatta

Kudos to Class newcomers Jason and Mary King's 'Solymar' and Janey Treleven's 'Finn'. There was absolutely nothing in it between first and last and well-done Janey for sailing all weekend with a severely injured elbow.

The Class offered a big thanks to the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club for the superb hospitality and another special thanks to PRO Ted Anderson and the race management team for getting the full eight races in over two days.



Farr 40 Regatta November 2019

Next stop on their calendar was the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Pittwater for the next One Design Trophy over the weekend 7 & 8 December 2019.



Edake Crew



Newcastle Harbour has been synonymous with sailing for many years, staging the first organised regatta way back in 1834. That is three years prior to Sydney's Australia Day Regatta – which is regarded as the world's oldest continuously-conducted sailing event – and a full decade before Geelong's Australia Day Regatta.

For the inaugural Newcastle Harbour Regatta, butcher boats competed in fun competition and a carnival atmosphere prevailed on the foreshore as the waterway abounded with sails. That vision for a fun, friendly and welcoming event remains today, with embracing this proud past while also showcasing the present and future stars of sailing.

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club invites you to SailFest – Newcastle Regatta 17-19 April 2020

Stroll the Foreshore and enjoy SailFest, incorporating the historic Newcastle Harbour Regatta and equally iconic 'Cock of the Harbour' race. Along with Olympic class lasers & keelboats at Honeysuckle, Flying Skiffs at Queens Wharf and TP52 and Ocean Racers off Newcastle Beach. For the Kids and family, we have Try-Sailing for Free at Carrington on Sat-Sun between 10am-2pm.

For more information on SailFest visit <https://www.ncyc.net.au/sailing/offshore-regattas/sailfest/> or call 4940 8188.



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Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race

Wonderland

By Aimee and Kyle Hancock

Boat Details

"WONDERLAND" is a 2006 Beneteau Oceanis 473. Her current owner Rebecca Connor bought her in 2017. Wonderland is the commodore edition and has the "race rigging", i.e. for this boat the rigging is taller than expected for her size. She has 3 cabins, 2 heads, 2 air conditioning units, 3 hot showers and a generator (very comfortable). Wonderland has done some travelling around the world by her previous owners. In 2019 she completed her first Sydney to Hobart yacht race with a crew of 8, completing the race in 5 days 5hrs 17mins (elapsed). She placed 147th in line honors.

Our Roles

Aimee's Role was pretty massive. It may not have seemed like this, but it did take up quite a lot of her time. Aimee is Wonderland's social media manager and grinder. For the 75th S2H, Aimee also helped out with all the administrative paperwork to ensure we could make it to the start line. Kyle however, had the biggest role of everyone. Kyle was officially 2IC for the race but on a regular basis when sailing outside of the S2H race, is also Skipper and basically boat manager to keep her in tip-top shape for racing/cruising.



Aimee and Kyle Hancock - Wonderland - Image by Aimee

Highlight of the race

Aimee had a number of highlights throughout the race. The biggest being early morning December 31st after the southerly storm had hit, as the sun was rising, we had a massive pod of dolphins playing around the boat for a good 1-1.5hrs.

Kyle's highlight of the race was coming down the coast of Tasmania on the 30th with the kite up, sailing across storm bay. "oh and the food Anne (Aimee's mum) had made us for dinner each night.

Most challenging moment

Aimee's challenging moment was 2 days in Bass Strait with no wind. "I found it very frustrating just sitting there in the heat of the blazing sun not going anywhere".

Kyle's Challenging moment was helming Wonderland at the start of the race and out of Sydney Heads.



Wonderland at the start.
By Jack Buchan

Wonderland Continued with Oonagh O'Donovan

Wonderland Skipper and Crew

Skipper is Bec Connor. Crew: Kyle Hancock, Meika Wright, Paul Flanagan, Craig Meiklejohn, Aimee Hancock, Oonagh O'Donovan

My Role on Wonderland was Trimmer

The trimmer works with the helm to keep the boat sailing as fast as possible, which means bringing the sail on and easing it off as required.

My over highlight of the race

Seeing the wind change from a NE to SW, and literally seeing it change on the water, followed closely by trimming the assy and getting 14.4knt boat speed.

My most challenging moment

Coming on watch for a third time only to see Flinders Island again - fell into a hole and couldn't get out of it, though on the upside got to swim in the Bass Strait.



Wonderland off Bondi Beach. By Jack Buchan



Wonderland Crew with Watch 1 and 2.
Image from Wonderland Facebook Page

A couple is seen from behind, standing on the deck of a boat. The man is standing and holding a rope, while the woman is sitting next to him. They are looking out at the ocean under a bright, hazy sunset sky. The water is calm with gentle ripples. In the foreground, the boat's deck is visible, featuring a large white rectangular hatch cover, a stainless steel railing, and some nautical equipment like a winch and ropes. The overall mood is peaceful and romantic.

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My first Sydney to Hobart Experience – “Wings”

By Janease Graham

Images provided by crew of Wings

There are a lot of offshore races every year and I have always wondered why the Sydney to Hobart (S2H) Yacht Race is the focus (bordering on the obsession) of the Australian offshore sailing calendar. It seemed strange that keen offshore sailors keep coming back to do this race despite its tough reputation and the many miles of beautiful Australian coastline to sail elsewhere. Surely it must be a good race!? A navigation instructor told me that you had to be crazy to sail out of Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day and turn right. I felt that I fitted that qualification, so after a few short offshore adventures a few years back, I started to make enquiries as to how a keen sailor can sign up.

It turns out, getting a place on a Sydney to Hobart Race team is not an easy process. Potential crew need race time, delivery miles, connections and often a bit of luck before they are considered by S2H race teams. Team dynamic is critical to both race results and ocean safety, so potential crew are assessed not only on their sailing skills, but their competitive attitude, personality, mental and physical toughness and general “fit” with the skipper and rest of the crew.

The fleet at NCYC provides a lot of support, opportunities and great advice for aspiring offshore sailors such as myself. I was well advised by respected veterans of the race to gain as much offshore experience as possible on deliveries and train in the prerequisite courses requested by the CYCA (first aid, long range radio operators’ licence and safety and survival at sea). This not only helped me get invitations of race boats, but I enjoyed learning the new skills and it made me a better sailor. Although some sailors regard deliveries as a chore, I’ve found them an amazing experience and adventure. These longer passages provided different challenges to the day races and dingy regattas I was used to. Tasks like cooking, eating, getting dressed and even going to the toilet become hard work in rough weather and at first, I would get seasick. Fortunately, after lots of time on the water seasickness rarely affects me now and rough passages have become more



“Wings” Sailing Team prior to the 2019 cabbage tree race. Left front to right front: Paul Edwards, Katy MacDonald, Janease Graham, Ian Edwards, Elyse Guevara Rattray, Janelle Orth, David Hirsh, Jim Whittle, Mick Munroe, Karol Klich and Steven Prince. No after photos were taken, these would have been frightful!



Wings approaching the Organ Pipes. Image by Richard Bennett

comfortable. The clear nights full of stars, dolphins, whales, bioluminescence, sun rises, and sunsets are very addictive and are still just as spectacular.

I was fortunate to meet Ian Edwards the skipper of “Wings”, a race rigged Dehler 46, through a delivery crew register. After a brief conversation regarding passage plan and crew numbers, I bought a plane ticket to Hobart to help bring “Wings” back from Hobart to her berth at Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club (RPAYC). The delivery was a 5 ½ day bumpy ride against north easterly headwinds, but it was a great trip and I loved the “Wings” team philosophy and the boat. Ian invited me to race on “Wings” during 2019 and I was more than happy to travel to RPAYC to sail with the team.

Throughout the year on “Wings”, my race position has varied depending on crew availability, but my main roles are now: Pit, Helm, Sail trim and Watch lead (I can do bow, but rarely venture there unless our specialists are unavailable!). During race starts and all hands-on deck situations, my position is in Pit (managing halyard transitions during sail changes and sail controls at other times). I enjoy this role because it’s busy during sail changes and involves quick responses to make sure the trim and bow team have the halyard and control actions they need at key times. “Wings” has both asymmetric and symmetric spinnaker gear, a code zero, a stay sail and the regular selection of genoas so we have plenty of sail choices to keep us busy during weather transitions. Once we go into our watch system, I am often a watch lead and spend time on helm and sail trim. Helm time can be exhilarating, but at times, is exhausting and a bit nerve wracking. The margin for error between a broach and a Chinese gybe feels terrifyingly slim on some windy, dark nights with a complex swell pattern but it is great fun.

This year was also my first year as a competitor in the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia’s (CYCA) Blue Water



Wings dressed in her colours after finishing on 29 December



The Wings Hobart Girls (Janease Graham, Elyse Guevara Rattray, Janelle Orth and Katy MacDonald) and Kids Cancer Project Boat Mascots.

As part of the S2H campaign, Wings Raised \$25,000 for Medical Research related to providing better outcomes for Australian kids diagnosed with cancer.

Series (BWS) events (the lead up offshore races to the S2H race) and this series was a steep learning curve. Although so many people congratulated me on finishing the S2H race, I felt that a lot of the preparation this year was far more challenging than the race itself and was just as rewarding (I do admit, “Wings” did get a dream weather window this year and Bass Straight is certainly capable of throwing up a lot more challenges than we encountered in our 3 ½ day race passage this year!). Training with 7-11 other people provides a wealth of experience and knowledge to draw on and I am truly grateful for the willingness that sailors have for sharing their knowledge with others and patience that they have with others. When everything comes together, and the boat is sailing amazing it's great to have team mates to celebrate with (max speed records are always cheered even though we know that our goal is good VMG!). Conversely, when your skills don't meet expectations and things don't go as planned, it's great to have teammates that don't let you quit, regardless of how crappy you feel or how annoying it is to fix the screw up.

The cabbage tree island race was particularly memorable lead up race with a man overboard and grounding incident amongst the fleet and many prominent boats limping into Newcastle with structural damage. Unfortunately, Wings was part of the 1/3 of the fleet that retired in the strong southerly winds. About 7 hours into the race our fun came to a crashing end when the boat lost steering and was thrown into a sudden broach. With one reef in the main and the G4 the boat still had plenty of power but as the rudder ended up locked to one side the boat was propelled through crash tacks and gybes in continuous circles. All hands were called on deck and eventually the sails were wrestled down, while the trimmers attempted to keep the boat relatively upright and the boom under control during the mad circle work. The emergency tiller was fitted and control over the rudder was eventually regained. It was a long motor home on the emergency tiller and when we reached the dock, we ate the entire frozen and fresh provisions intended for the rest of the race in one



The elated Wings
S2H Crew at
Constitution Dock

breakfast sitting. The issue turned out to be loose screws on the rudder quadrant, a disappointing find as the owner had paid to have this serviced the week before. We learned a lesson in checking all boat work, including that done by professionals and our checks, preparation and offshore safety manoeuvre practice intensified in the following weeks to the Hobart start.

On boxing day, we were prepared for anything, but were pleasantly greeted with a forecast fit for a holiday cruise. There was the odd uncomfortable time during the race and we did have one bad night involving a spinnaker wrap, a crew member swinging from the mast and then a surprise gybe to shake things up again once we thought we were on track. All in all, we had a great race and were pleased to finish in the top third of our division. Looking back on the race, here are the things I found made the S2H race a great experience and the icing on the cake for this offshore sailing year.

- The buzz at CYCA on boxing day is incredible. The dock is full of beautiful race boats and many new and old sailing friends, some that I haven't seen in years.
- Sailing in a fleet of boats on Sydney harbour on boxing day was spectacular (from a visual point of view, I admit, not so great from a bad air, traffic and wash point of view).
- The scenery and time offshore are amazing. Once we cleared the turning marks and launched our kite we were treated to champagne sailing down the NSW coast in our favourite 15+ knot downwind conditions. The Tasmanian coast is stunning, and Cape Raoul, Tasman Island and Storm Bay are truly spectacular. I was glad I did the delivery back so I got to see them again in cruise mode (Disclaimer: passage comfort, shore visibility and smooth sailing is not guaranteed for future years!).
- The big fleet makes for an exciting race and keeps you focused. Once bad transition or tactical choice and lots of boats are lost. Even though we were along way offshore we had plenty of company in AIS range. We could see Mako hunting us down on the AIS every time we slowed up!
- It is awesome to race with a well-practiced team of people with the same crazy love for the sport.
- There is an amazing festival waiting at the dock and celebrations to be had with your crew and old and new sailing friends.

Shes the Culprit

By Glen 'Cyril' Picasso

Boat Details

She's the Culprit is an Inglis/Jones 39 with a Balsa/Glass construction and in 2010 was purchased by the Culprit Syndicate.

Skipper and Crew

Skippers, Glen Bulmer and Glen Picasso, Robert Jarvie was the navigator. Crew were D O'Dowd, R Hooper, T Buttler, S Gruber, K Hall, G Coulam, T Vooles and D Edwards.



Culprit crew. Image provided by Culprit Facebook page

Highlight of the race

Performing really well in the race out of the Harbour and going fast under kite the second night



Shes the Culprit off Coogee. By Jack Buchan

Most challenging moment

Positioning ourselves in the wrong location going into the first night leaving us wallowing the entire night and watching our group on the AIS sailing away averaging 7 kts. A very long painful experience.

Congratulations

Congratulations to two crew members, Georgie and Trent, while watching the New Year's Eve fireworks on the bow of She's the Culprit and getting engaged.



Shes the Culprit - Image by Jack Buchan

Congratulations to
Georgie Gruber and
Trent Butler on their
engagement aboard
"She's the Culprit"



Image by abc.net.au



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Sydney Hobart on 'Maserati'

By Steve Rae, Commodore

“It's not what you know, it's who you know” that is definitely what enabled me to race on the Volvo 70, 'Maserati'. I knew the guy who was arranging a Polish Team to compete in the Hobart race, ...and he knew I was close to Sydney so I could help on the ground with any local planning issues. I didn't know any other members of the crew.

This was my first Sydney Hobart, and the first time I had raced on a boat over 40'. We had 'Maserati' for 10 days before the race for familiarisation/ training, which was a great way to get to know everyone and the boat. The crew included 5 professionals, who filled the key roles and 11 amateurs.

We raced with 3 shifts – 2 hrs on, 2 hrs off, and 2 hrs stand-by. We had 4 on each shift, and 4 (professionals) floating. For example, we had 1 specialist bowman who took the lead with all bow work, and he was always ready to go when needed, otherwise

he could sleep - same with the navigator. On stand-by for example, we'd take the new sail up on deck, pull the old sail down, pack it up and take it below.

My primary role was 'runners' - which sounds easy enough, but I was often reminded that if I screwed up, either the main would be ripped or the mast would come down – so that was enough incentive to do my job right.

I found the shift roster a challenge, as I function much better on 8 hours continuous sleep, compared to many



Steve and Maureen Rae - Maserati in Hobart



Maserati Crew - Image by Maureen Rae

2 hr breaks with very little sleep. I did get better at the shift work overtime though.

The other challenge on a larger boat, is that everything is so much heavier – the sails take at least 4 people to move, and the grinders require more muscle power than I'll ever have! The highlight for me was the finish, ...the reception in Hobart was unbelievable (possibly because we arrived at the prime time of 7pm, and there was a



Maserati - from Wonderland Facebook page

huge crowd of well-wishers along the pier). Within our own team however, I have to say that the planning and organisation to bring a global team together was exceptional – with communications managed from Poland and the boat charter from Sydney, everything came together seamlessly!

It was a fantastic experience, not only to do the Hobart, but also to race on a Volvo 70.



Maserati - Steve Rae. Image Jack Buchan

2020 Australian Sailing Courses Held at NCYC

NSW - Club Race Officer Course	Tuesday 17 March 2020 6pm - 9.30pm
NSW - Club Judge Course	Saturday 28 March 2020 9am - 1.30pm
NSW - Keelboat Instructor Course	Saturday 4 July 8.30am - Sunday 05 July 2020 4pm
NSW - Assistant Instructor Course	Saturday 4 July 2020 8.30am - 4pm
NSW - Dinghy Instructor Course	Saturday 4 July 8.30am - Sunday 5 July 2020 4pm
NSW - Dinghy Instructor Reaccreditation	Sunday 5 July 2020 8.30am - 4pm

For further information visit our website
<https://www.ncyc.net.au/aust-sail-course-dates/>

Celestial

By Richard Howard

Images by Carlo Bolenghi

Boat Details

Celestial (TP52) – 16th on Line Honours and 14th overall on IRC (152 boats). Celestial is owned and skippered by Sam Haynes.

Skipper and Crew

Skipper Sam Haynes - Mainly Sydney crew (15 in total) – From Newcastle Lachlan Hornsby / Will Howard / Richard Howard.

D Palazzi, S Czlek, T Grafton, W Howard, R Howard, C Cecil, R Bott, W Keyes, K Groves, M Lawrence, D Rutherford, C Janes, S Haynes, C Miles, L Hornsby



Celestial.

Carolo Borlenghi Photographer

Your Role

This is my 13th Hobart and role was Helm / Trim.



Celestial. Carolo Borlenghi Photographer



Celestial. Image by Jack Buchan

Highlight of the race

Match Racing 2 other TP52s (Zen and Smuggler) around Tasman Island, then around Cape Rauol, then around Iron Pot and then up the Derwent River.

Beating both but only passing Smuggler with 2-3 miles to go. Short taking into Tasman was also a highlight – it doesn't matter how many times I have done the race looking up at those incredibly majestic cliffs and coastline is awesome.

Most challenging moment

There were plenty but sailing out the heads with a Main and Genoa Staysail up due us break our headsail tack line 50 sec after the start. Had to work hard first evening to get back to the TP52 pack who we effectively gave a 15 min head start to.



Celestial. Image by Jack Buchan



Rogue Wave

By Neil Pilz

Boat Details

Rogue Wave is a 1983 David Thomas designed Sigma 36 racer/cruiser and was one of the smaller boats in the 75th Sydney to Hobart yacht race.



Rogue Wave leaving the dock at CYCA heading for the start line - Image by Danielle Pilz

Skipper and Crew

The race was a first for all the crew - Air Force members Kev Le Poidevin (the skipper) and Darrell Greig; Port Stephens Yacht Club members Roger Yeo and David Simm; Neil Pilz (NCYC); and accomplished Polish sailor Asia Pajkowska.

The crew used the gruelling race to raise awareness for 'Soldier On' and 'White Ribbon'.

Roles

Because of my relative youth and agility (I wish), my primary role was foredeck work and I assisted with helming and trimming whilst on watch plus any other jobs the skipper passed my way.

Highlights

There were two highlights for me - firstly, the excitement of the start and the work out the harbour surrounded by competing boats and a flotilla of spectator boats of all sizes. And secondly, after crossing the finish line just after 7.30pm on New Year's Eve, sailing into Constitution Dock and being cheered by hundreds of spectators and the crews of the faster boats. We tied up just in time to watch the 9pm fireworks from Rogue Wave's deck with beers in hand savoring the fact that we had competed in and finished one of the best known ocean races in the world.



Rogue Wave Crossing the finish Line - Image by Kev Le Poidevin

Most challenging moment

There were a number of challenging moments throughout the race as a result of weather conditions. But for me, I found the most challenging to be maintaining the mental strength after four days when you are cold, wet, sick and exhausted from lack of sleep to complete what normally be a simple task.



Rogue Wave - Kev, Asia, Roger Neil David, Darrell. Image by Narelle Le Poidevin

Would I do it again?

Probably.... if it was the right skipper, the right crew, the right boat and I was the right fit for them.

Rogue Wave is a 1983 David Thomas designed Sigma 36 racer/cruiser and was one of the smaller boats in the 75th Sydney to Hobart yacht race. The race was a first for all the crew - Air Force members Kev Le Poidevin (the skipper) and Darrell Greig; Port Stephens Yacht Club members Roger Yeo and David Simm; Neil Pilz (NCYC); and accomplished Polish sailor Asia Pajkowska. The crew used the gruelling race to raise awareness for Soldier On and White Ribbon. Because of my relative youth and agility (I wish), my primary role was foredeck work and I assisted with helming and trimming whilst on watch plus any other jobs the skipper passed my way. There were two highlights for me - firstly, the excitement of the start and the work out the harbour surrounded by competing boats and a flotilla of spectator boats of all sizes. And secondly, after crossing the finish line just after 7.30pm on New Years Eve, sailing into Constitution Dock and being cheered by hundreds of spectators and the crews of the faster boats. We tied up just in time to watch the 9pm fireworks from Rogue Wave's deck with beers in hand savouring the fact that we had competed in and finished one of the best known ocean races in the world. There were a number of challenging moments throughout the race as a result of weather conditions. But for me, I found the most challenging to be maintaining the mental strength after four days when you are cold, wet, sick and exhausted from lack of sleep to complete what normally be a simple task. Would I do it again? Probably.... if it was the right skipper, the right crew, the right boat and I was the right fit for them.



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Mako. Image by T & L Dodds



Mako Crew. Image by Tim and Liz Dodds



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Frantic. Image by Jack Buchan



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Wax Lyrical. Supplied by Tubby Smith



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Cruising Fleet



So many of the Cruising Fleet have been cruising over the summer period!

Fleeters have been north to Queensland including the Gold Coast, Mooloolaba, Hamilton Island and the Whitsundays;

locally to Port Stephens, Broughton Island, up the Hunter River and down to Lake Macquarie; south to the Hawkesbury, Pittwater, Cowan Creek, Middle Harbour and into Sydney Harbour.

Much of this cruising has been captured in the photos below and shared with Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club to encourage even more boating action.



Sans Souci III - Checking out the sights in Middle Harbour



Marlena - Exploring Lake Macquarie



Jet takes the helm of Isabella Blue on route to Port Stephens



Isabella Blue - Moored up at Coal Shaft Bay Broughton Island



Champagne on Ice enjoying the delights of Cowan Creek



Cloud Catcher - Riving the Dream



A Princess enjoying the New Years Fireworks on Sydney Harbour



Left: Cloud Catcher - Living the life off Whithaven Beach whitsundays



Right: Georgia - Showing how to relax up the river

Images & article by Neil Manson

Even though Leith and Rachel from Scotland didn't get the opportunity to sample "Rocket Rod's" freshly caught mud crab (ultra-yummy) they kept saying over and over "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity".

For the Australia Day long weekend, we went to Lake Macquarie. With fellow boaties Alasdair and Lisa onboard we celebrated alongside ‘Champagne on Ice’. Early morning swims, lazy days, cool drinks, scrumptious food and far too much fun was had by one and all.

Needless to say, Charna and I can hardly wait till our next trip.



Rocket Rod and his mud crab



Sunset on Lake Macquarie



Scottish Friends
Plus the Lobbs



Rocket Rod and his mud crab

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Sailing Academy Report

By Jacqueline Ellis
Sailing Academy Manager

Summer is always a busy and fun time at the Sailing Academy as we see so many people wishing to learn how to sail! I love receiving the phone calls that start with "I've always wanted to learn to sail but never knew how"! It is a privilege to work with the wonderful band of instructors at the Sailing Academy to help fulfil these goals.

Our January school holiday programs were fully booked and we saw two weeks of Tackers dinghy sailing fun as well as our teen sailing program OutThere Sailing.

Most of the kids involved have continued onto our regular weekly term 1 programs on Monday & Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

We have introduced an additional

Tackers program from the April School holidays – from Monday 20th to Friday 24th April – bookings are currently open online.

The Women's' sailing programs on Thursday nights and Friday mornings continue to be our most popular keelboat courses. We are looking forward to many of our graduates sailing in their first "regatta" during March when our fourth SheSAILS@NCYC Development Regatta is held. It is always such a fun event with positive reviews about how much the sailors learn from being involved. We were also very pleased to host again the ladies from "Women Embrace Adventure" for a four week sailing program – albeit a bit disrupted and rescheduled several times due to some unfavourable weather!

It has been very busy the last few weeks as we have also hosted cub and scout groups from Merewether, Kotara, New Lambton and Maryland – Shortland for sailing programs on our Force 24s. We are also hosting folk from the University of the Third Age (U3A) for regular



U3A Sailors Enjoying time on the Harbour



Rigging the F24s



Lucy Nissen with Tacker Sailors

Through the initiative of our Sailing Manager, Jack Buchan, our Force 24's are moving out to Lake Macquarie Yacht Club during April for a series of Women's sailing courses, youth emerging talent coaching sessions as well as racing in the NCYC/LMYC Friendship Cup and the Combined High School Regatta. We are working closely with LMYC to encourage more sailing participation all round.

And finally on a sad, yet exciting note, our long term instructor Lucy Nissen has left our shores for The Netherlands to take up a position with Nacra Sailing. We will miss Lucy's sailing skill, happy disposition and welcoming smile but we wish her the very best in her new role.



OutThere Sailing Program kids



LEARN TO SAIL COURSES FOR KIDS

The NCYC Sailing Academy is a registered provider with Service NSW and accepts the \$100 ACTIVE KIDS vouchers.

For further information,
contact our Sailing Academy
Tel: (02) 4940 8188 or
email: sailingacademy@ncyc.net.au

Oh the Places You'll Go! ... and it all started with Tackers! By Jacqueline Ellis

This story highlights the wonderful opportunities that are available to kids when they embark on a Tackers sailing journey with the Sailing Academy. It also highlights some reasons why the NCYC Board supported the decision four years ago to introduce Australian Sailing's Tackers junior learn to sail program and purchase 12 Tackers dinghies.

Four young sailors, Keiley (13), Zoe (12), Emma (10) & Nicholas (7) have all recently returned from the OpenBIC National Championships held at Mordiallic Sailing Club in Victoria. Two other young sailors, Sebastian (14) and Christian (12) competed in the Flying 11 National Championship at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. Now that's not an unusual occurrence during an Australian Summer – however these kid's achievements are significant for the NCYC as they all started learning to sail in one of our "Tackers 1 – Having Fun!" courses.

Having little to no previous sailing experience, the kids all began their journeys in one of our little Tackers dinghies under the careful instruction of our skilled & fully qualified instructors. Keiley's first taste of Tackers sailing was at our 2017 Discover Sailing Day where he went out for a sail with instructor Nina.



Keiley Disc Sailing Day with Nina

Like, the other kids, Keiley's parents then enrolled him in our Tackers 1 course. He went on to progress through "Tackers 2 – Tricks & Techniques" & "Tackers 3 – Sailing Fast!" courses, moving from sailing two-up with another young sailor, onto sailing the boat himself with an increasing level of skill. Zoe, Emma, Sebastian & Christian have all followed this same path! Young Nic however, took on the BIC Nationals Green Fleet having only just finished Tackers 1 last December!!



Nic Drummond - BIC Nationals Green Fleet

Having completed the three learn-to-sail courses, the kids progressed to our Tackers Green Fleet on Sunday mornings to gain greater confidence and develop their racing skills & knowledge under the nurturing coaching of our Senior Instructor Andrew.



Tackers Green Fleet on Newcastle Harbour

During the winter months, most of the kids have also been a part of our Youth Development Program on the Force24 keelboats where they have further developed their sailing & racing skills through regular coaching sessions.

Zoe, Sebastian and Christian have also gone on to complete the Australian Sailing Assistant Instructors course, the Powerboat Handling course and sit for their first aid certificates and are now fully qualified instructors working in the Tacker program at the Sailing Academy themselves.

During the winter months, most of the kids have also been a part of our Youth Development Program on the Force24 keelboats where they have further developed their sailing & racing skills through regular coaching sessions.



Emma Webb
- BIC Nationals

Zoe, Sebastian and Christian have also gone on to complete the Australian Sailing Assistant Instructors course, the Powerboat Handling course and sit for their first aid certificates and are now fully qualified instructors working in the Tacker program at the Sailing Academy themselves.



Keiley BIC Nationals

We have now seen well over 300 kids come through the Tacker's courses at the NCYC and many have continued onto our other sailing programs including the Youth Development Program, Young Guns, Sail & Play and now our OutThere Sailing options. The pathway for young sailors in Newcastle is looking good and we love to see the enjoyment and confidence developed along the way! We're sure it won't be long before we can report on one of our Tackers kids completing their first ocean race or maybe even a Sydney to Hobart ...

In the words of the great Dr. Seuss ...

**"You're off to Great Places! Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!"**



Zoe Webb
- BIC Nationals



BIC Nationals Fleet



Seb &
Christian

Harry Miller - Youth Sailor of The Year Award 2019

By Jack Buchan, Sailing Manager

Nominated by his peers and coaches, Harry Miller who sails 'Red Dog' was named Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club's 2019 Youth Sailor of the Year at the Club's annual Youth Celebration Evening in December.

Harry was notably present in almost every Youth Regatta that NCYC attended and stepped up from his traditional crewing position in recent years to lead his own teams as skipper for his first Match Racing events in that role.

Harry started sailing at the age of five when he and had his dad converted a tender into a sailing dinghy which he sailed in Middle



Harry Miller

Harbour and on Manly Dam in Sydney. In 2015 Harry started sailing as crew as a Manly junior at Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club with Oscar Brownbill. He competed in the Club Championship and State and National Titles.

Harry has been a member of NCYC since November 2016 and in the same year, he skippered his own Manly Junior "Toffee Apple" at Manly also competing in state and national titles. Harry did extremely well and won the Novice Division of the Manly Junior State Titles at Hornsby Ku Ring Gai Sailing Club and at Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Club.

In 2017 Harry purchased a 29er which he was racing with Angus Jones, and took on the Bow position on "Red Dog" in offshore racing at Newcastle. Over the winters of 2017 and 2018, Harry was crewing with the NCYC Match Racing Teams – training in the Youth Development Squad. Harry has also sailed on "X rated" which won the 24-hour 'Heaven Can Wait' event and also competed at Hamilton Island on the 26ft Sonata. Harry also assisted his dad, Andrew in delivering "Freyja" from the Sydney to Hobart, which included sailing through Franklin Sound, which is a narrow waterway between the two largest islands, Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island.

On receiving his award and reflecting on his 2019 year on the water, Harry exclaimed that "the goal next



Harry Miller - 2019 NCYC Youth Sailor of The Year

year has got to be to receive an invitation to the Nespresso Youth International Match Racing Championships sailed out of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron." He said, "it will take a lot of extra training, but we can get there."

NCYC Youth Sailing Academy Development Regatta

By Jack Buchan and Jacqueline Ellis

Following in the successful footsteps of the SheSails@NCYC regattas, In early December we introduced our first Academy Graduates Development Regatta.

We had 5 teams on the water participating on the Force 24s with each team made up of “Graduates” of a variety of the Academy courses. They were now taking the leap to experience keelboat racing for the first time! Onboard each boat, we provided a ‘mentor skipper’ who was able to guide each team around the race track whilst offering everyone an opportunity to get a taste of helming, trimming and spinnaker work.

Mother Nature supplied a clear, sunny day with a light, building ESE breeze which was ideal for our development-style regatta.

The first two races were non-spinnaker as teams became comfortable in their roles and became familiar with the racetrack before we allowed spinnakers for the remainder of the day.

The course configuration was windward/leeward style, alternating between two and three lap races as the day progressed - forcing teams to keep on the lookout for flag changes and listening out on the radio for updates from the Race Management Team.

Following six back-to-back races on the water, the novice teams retreated to the bar (in true sailor style) to ‘debrief.’



The Prizegiving Ceremony did not reward teams for overall points but rather focused on the improvement and skills development of teams and individuals as nominated by the mentor skippers.

James Murphy was awarded the title ‘Inflated Sense of Self’ after accidentally inflating his lifejacket while racing.

Best start of the day was awarded in Race 3 to the team of Scott Leary, Josephine Newton and Fiona Van Leeuwen after they crossed the boat end of the start line at full speed while the rest of the fleet were still trying to accelerate.

Best Dressed award was presented to Sarah Clements, Neil Clements and Jane Wilson who, along with mentor skipper Alyson Gearing, coordinated a Hawaiian shirt theme (as photographed).

A special mention was given to Josephine Newton as the ‘Most Excited Sailor’ on the day. Newton was commended for her enthusiasm given to attempting each role on the boat and for her teamwork when she was the first helming Academy Graduate to cross the finish line in Race #1!

We were delighted to be able to offer prizes from our sponsors East Coast Marine & Sail and Nor East Bistro and we can’t wait to announce our next Academy Graduates Regatta in the new year!



Academy Graduates Development Regatta



NCYC Youth Squad

Jack Buchan, Sailing Manager

As these up and coming athletes returned to their dinghy racing at other local Club, in November we acknowledge the conclusion of our Squads until next year.

From a pool of some x30 odd sailors in our Youth Performance Program in 2019 spread across the Development / Intermediate / Advanced Squads, we went on to compete in NCYC's first World Sailing Grade 4 ranked Match Racing Regattas (Crackerjack Cup & Thirkell Trophy) in our newly acquired fleet of Olympic Elliott 6m one-design yachts.

We also ventured South with our youth teams representing us at:

- Training regatta at RPAYC - (Fleet Racing)
- Interclub Challenge - a Fleet Racing regatta including NCYC/CYCA/RPAYC/RSYS
- Captain John Piper regatta - (Match Racing - Grade 4)
- Crackerjack Cup - (Match Racing - Grade 4)
- Club Marine NSW Youth Championship - (Match Racing - Grade 4)
- Thirkell Trophy Youth Championship - (Match Racing - Grade 4)
- 2k Team Racing Regatta - (Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania)
- Women's Match Racing Championship - (Mooloolaba Yacht Club)



Match Racing Team of the Year



Award Recipients

Match Racing Team of the Year was awarded to Craig Wright, Sebastian Spencer, Christian Spencer and Griffin Suters. It was announced that a large weighting in their nomination focused on their camaraderie in sticking together as they went on to compete in more and more events.

Concluding the night, local 'Red Dog' bow Harry Miller was awarded 2019 Youth Sailor of the Year. Nominated by his peers and coaches, Harry was notably present in almost every Youth regatta that NCYC attended and stepped up from his crew position in recent years to lead his own teams as skipper in his first Match Racing events in that role this season. On reflecting his year on the water, Harry exclaimed that "the goal next year has



1st 2nd and 3rd Placed Teams



Winners of the 2019 Youth Keelboat Championships

got to be to receive an invitation to the Nespresso Youth International Match Racing Championships sailed out of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron." He said "it will take a lot of extra training, but we can get there."

Belmont's Darby Jones also said "I'll be back again next year. The Elliott's a great boat to sail - just like a big Flying Eleven." He wants to pursue more Match Racing stating that "Match Racing has been really fun and with on-water umpiring we really need to know our rules."

We're looking forward to another big year on the water for 2020. As an Olympic Year, we'll be getting out those Olympic sails as much as we can to show off our fleet of Elliott's that were first debuted at the 2012 London Olympic Games to contest the Women's Match Racing Championship where Australia brought home a Silver Medal after the nail-biting Finals Racing.

To find out more about Youth Sailing at Newcastle, visit our webpage - <https://www.ncyc.net.au/youth/>

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NCYC Women of the 75th Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

By Peta Norris

The Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race is run over a 628 nautical mile course and often described as the most grueling long ocean race in the world. Starting on Boxing Day in Sydney Harbour, the fleet races out of the heads, south along the coast of NSW, across Bass Strait, down the east coast of Tasmania, around Tasman Island, across Storm Bay and up the Derwent River to finish.

NCYC women represented just over six percent of all women who competed in the 75th Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race in 2019. Of the 1,600 crew, 160 were women, ten of them from NCYC. Another three NCYC female sailors joined boats on the return trip. What an incredible achievement!

Kath Hall and **Georgie Gruber** were part of the “She’s the Culprit” team. “She’s the Culprit” is an Inglis/Jones 39 from NCYC. Kristen Anderson was lined up to crew for the race on ‘The Culprit’, but was sidelined due to a last minute illness. That didn’t stop her from joining the crew in Hobart to celebrate their race, as well as the engagement of Georgie and Trent on the bow on New Year’s Eve!



Georgie Gruber Culprit delivery by Kim Pollock



Kim Pollock Culprit delivery



Georgie and Laura Parkes Culprit delivery by Kim Pollock

Courtney Smith, a familiar face at the NCYC Sailing Academy and behind the bar, raced her first Hobart on “Frantic”, a TP52 from NCYC. After helping with Hobart deliveries after the 2018 race, Janease Graham

and Peta Norris sailed their first Hobarts in 2019: Janease on “Wings”, a Dehler 46 from the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club in Pittwater, and Peta on “Copernicus”, a Radford 12 from Manly Yacht Club.



Wings - Image supplied by crew

Rebecca Connor skippered her Beneteau Oceanis 473, “Wonderland”, for her first Hobart, joined by three other NCYC women: **Aimee Hancock**, also on her first race, and **Oonagh O’Donovan** and **Meika Wright** for their second.

Hobart always has its challenges. While conditions for the majority of the 75th Hobart fleet were ideal, “Wonderland” encountered challenges from both ends of the weather spectrum. From 40 hours with no breeze in Bass Strait to 42 knot winds in a lightning storm off the coast of Tassie.

Then there are the joys. Aimee recalls the spectacle of all the yachts dancing around each other before the start on Sydney Harbour, a massive pod of dolphins playing around the boat as the sun was rising on 31 December after a southerly storm had hit, and calling Hobart Race Control to inform them that “Wonderland” had finished. Meika and Oonagh were swimming in Bass Strait in a glass out and left wondering what might have been chasing the tuna jumping next to the boat when they got out. Bioluminescence from dolphins chasing baitfish was also a highlight. Oonagh recalls watching the wind change over the water from north east to south west, followed closely by trimming the assy and reaching 14.4 knots of boat speed.



Meika

And there are always lessons. Meika learned how the sea stands up entering Bass Strait when “Wonderland” experienced four metre seas with minimal period between waves. Aimee learned the she can do anything she puts her mind to with the love and support of her husband and family.



Meika helming Wonderland by Aimee Hancock



Oonagh and Flanno by Aimee Hancock



Wonderland crew by Aimee Hancock



Wonderland at Hobart
photo by Kim Pollock

Sibby Ilzhofer skippered her Farr/Cookson 47, “Dare Devil”, for her seventh Sydney Hobart race. “Dare Devil” and many other competitors found themselves in a no wind tussle battling outgoing tides across a not so stormy Storm Bay and glassed out Derwent River. “Dare Devil’s” initial estimate of an 8 to 9pm finish blew out to 5am the next day. The biggest challenge of the race for Sibby was instrument and electronic navigation troubles, including losing all the waypoints and weather routing in the early hours of the race. Eventually throwing all modern electronics aside, “Dare Devil” managed to overtake 38 boats in the 20 hours before Tasman Island.

Lessons from Sibby’s seventh Hobart include realising that her boat has what it takes in terms of speed and performance and foul weather endurance, relying less on digital aids and more on the sailing ability of her crew.

The sail past Taste of Tassie and the welcoming parties on Constitution Dock was undoubtedly a highlight for everyone. After several days at sea, it’s quite overwhelming to receive such a warm welcome, with cheers and standing ovations from friends and strangers alike.

After the race and the party at Hobart, delivery crews get busy to make the long trip home. Race deliveries are often as challenging, if not more challenging, than the race itself. Boats generally return with less crew, often with less experience, and can encounter extremely challenging conditions. The return trip from the 75th Hobart was no exception, with a number of boats sustaining damage in strong southerly winds around the south coast of New South Wales.



Dare Devil by Carly Hack



Dare Devil by Karl Olsen

Maureen Rae, Laura Parkes and Kim Pollock made the return trip this time around. Maureen on “Maserati”, a Volvo 70, and Laura and Kim on “She’s the Culprit”.

Maureen’s passage on “Maserati” was three days and four nights, mostly in light to moderate breeze with calm seas. They encountered some poor weather around Tasman Island and again crossing Bass Strait where they welcomed in the New Year, wet and cold with two reefs in the main and a storm jib.

Sailing on such a large yacht was an eye opener for Maureen, with everything so much heavier and larger than she is used to. Learning how to work the grinders was a lesson in itself. Each has six gears and up to three grinders could be linked to hoist a halyard or sheet the main. Feeling like a novice in that environment, Maureen tried hard to listen, observe, and look for opportunities to assist.

A highlight for Maureen was sharing the adventure with her husband, Steve, along with some hugely experienced sailors, including skipper, DB, who organises the maintenance for Jim Cooney’s “Comanche” and “Maserati”. Doing a delivery gave Maureen opportunities to do more than she would during a race, with expert tuition. Helming a Volvo 70 under full main and a code zero among them. That’s a serious amount of sail area! Maureen learned that she still has much to learn. She’s keener than ever to continue the journey.

The return delivery was a big challenge for Sibby on “Dare Devil”, with Sibby and the boat sustaining some injuries on the way home. Sibby highlights the difficulties of finding crew with suitable experience for the return trip and ponders how these might be overcome.

The experience inspired many sailing goals for 2020 and beyond. Meika wants to do more offshore racing as helm, and now that she’s moved to Darwin, she’s looking to participate in the Darwin Dili Yacht Rally and Groupama. Aimee would like to do some regattas in Queensland. Sibby aspires to do as many major offshore races as possible with her team, including Sydney to Noumea, Groupama and Sydney to Gold Coast. She also hopes to secure and retain a larger core race crew.

Wouldn’t it be great to see a SheSAILS@NCYC team head to Hobart one day?



Kim Pollock Culprit delivery



Maureen Helming
Maserati



Dare Devil
by Muomatsu
Satoshi

Article and Images by Peter Thornton

The amazing depth of wisdom represented by sailors with hands full of glasses precariously perched on high chairs clustered around the tall table at the NCYC was truly astounding. I won't provide all of the names of all those contributing to the collective wisdom, but suffice to say the usual Baz, Flano, Hoops and Craig were present. I was lamenting about my plan to drive my trusty (not rusty) old van to Hobart next year (December 2020) to watch the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race (RSHYR) finish, and then bum around in Tasmania for a while until the wooden boat festival kicked off. You are probably wondering why I was lamenting about such a good plan? Because so many NCYC boats and other friends were doing the 2019 RSHYR, and they might not do it next year when I was going to be down there. Well the collective wisdom sighed all together just once, then broke into several suggestions of varying usefulness, however, one was worthy of listening too; "I reckon, if you're going to do it, this is the year to do it."

So that night I started chasing down Spirit of Tasmania return tickets and through some amazing luck I managed to get the necessary tickets. Accommodation is not a problem, the 35 year old Hi-Ace van is a reliable campervan with a full camping fit-out.



The Trusty Van

There I was two weeks later parked behind the Triabunna pub, which was closed for the Christmas break (as only Tasmania would do), thinking about where to watch the RSHYR start on a big screen. Then I had a light bulb moment, where else would I find a collective wisdom of sailors like the NCYC crowd other than at a reciprocal club.

The next day I meandered down the road to Hobart to find the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania (RYCT), and I struck gold. Yes, they had showers (thought I would be polite and use one) tall chairs, a bar, a good kitchen, reciprocal member discounts and the typical collective wisdom of hand full perching sailors. They did look different to the NCYC crowd, but I promise you, the banter and collective wisdom sounded the same, and it felt like I was home. Like many viewers of the channel seven coverage I searched in the background looking for glimpses of the boats I might know, like 'Dare



Sydney to Hobart Ocean YR Trophy



Race Liaison Centre volunteers

the big boats left the harbour, then channel seven left the race, and then I left my chair to wander around the RYCT to admire their royal memorabilia collection. And up there upon a notice board was an invitation for members to volunteer to serve with the race committee. My logic said "since I was here for the big boats finish



Shes the Culprit

and our NCYC boats, I was here for a fair few days, so why not fill in some time being useful for the sport". My emotions said, "hell yeah, let's have some fun". Two text messages later I was organised to attend a volunteer briefing the next afternoon, and that was when the fun started.

I had become part of a group of volunteers provided with caps, shirts, carparks and free meals to work at the RSHYR in the liaison centre. The job was split into six-hour shifts with 18 to 24 hours in between. When on watch I was part of a team, led by competent experienced leaders. We were dockside within Rolex village right amongst the action, and we liaised with the public and interfaced with



Santana



Rogue Wave



MAKO

the finishing yachts and harbour movements. What I actually did was load trolleys up with beers, welcome packs and participation mementos. Then when a boat arrived we would monitor VHF radio and the rubber ducky communications, meet and greet the boat at the dock, give a welcome spiel about quarantine and the special competitor mementos, and then present the mementos, quarantine bags, and beers, whilst retrieving deactivating and packing away the trackers. Sometimes we would collect and send on protest claims, but most



Code Zero and Wild Oats

of the time it was just fun, and best of all was being engaged with beautifully proud and exhausted finishers. It is an amazing tribute to the human biology that people who are exhausted, physically and mentally spent and just simply totally hammered can just light up and re-energised with a simple hug and welcome chat (ok, maybe the free beers helped).

One of the things I proudly noted was that as each NCYC finisher arrived the greeting numbers swelled as members of previous yachts supported later yachts. I would have say, the last few NCYC boats had nearly as many supporters dockside as some of the earlier fancied boats did, it was simply great to be part of that enthusiastic and overwhelming crowd.

Some interesting statistics, from the RSHYR are; 157 entrants, 154 completions, 6 from Newcastle. 1755 competitors.

Front leader: 'LDV Comanche', 1 day 18 hours 30 minutes 24 seconds (average speed 14.8 knots).

Rear leader: 'Take Five', 5 days 23 hours 41 minutes 0 seconds (average 4.4 knots).

Liaison centre: operational for 107 hours with 54 volunteers.



Dare Devil

Each watch was six hours consisting of 4 to 10 volunteers (based on forecast arrivals).

Peak arrival tempo: Sunday 29 Dec 1200 – 1800 with 35 yachts, then 1800 – 2359 with 36 yachts

My view of the whole experience is; if I don't get a ride on a yacht to Hobart I will always go down and be



Frantic

a volunteer for the finish, and as long as you the reader don't steal my spot, I recommend any one to get down there and be part of the liaison centre volunteer organisation.

They are run and

organised brilliantly. Constant feedback over several years has been incorporated into a set of instructions, and just in case your shift finds a unique situation the senior decision makers are on call. Logically speaking "It is gratifying work being part of a well run team within the Rolex village itself which has a great atmosphere", Emotionally speaking "I had awesome fun with the team, the public, the sailors, the dockside entertainment and I'm going again.

See you there next year, and maybe we can share a watch together.



And that's a volunteers wrap

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Port Hunter 16' Sailing Skiff Club

NCYC Social Committee Community Support

By Alyson Gearing

Port Hunter 16' Sailing Skiff Club located on the shores of the Hunter River, Stockton would like to again extend our gratitude to Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club's Social committee for their continued support of local community groups through the fundraising efforts of their members and club patrons. Port Hunter has been the breeding ground of young sailors from Newcastle (including young Ernie Thirkell!) since the 1800s and strives to continue this tradition in today's hectic world.

NCYC Social Committee support has in the past assisted purchases such as Flying Ants club boats and junior safety equipment. Last year's assistance



Juniors Daniel, Griffin, Rohan and MG14 sailor Dave Brake giving the new trailer some TLC after a big day out on the water



The old faithful and the new ready for work (nearly, just before getting a good fish oil)

of \$2,000 presented at the Newcastle Sailfest was a major financial contribution towards replacing our Club's aging safety boat trailer which was purchased in 2006. It has seen major repairs over recent years by club members who are now breathing a sigh of relief that performing the near impossible won't be necessary again this year and hopefully not for many years to come.

PHSSC safety boat is used by the juniors on Saturday mornings, followed by the catamarans, MG14s and 16' skiffs in the afternoon which include both senior and juniors in their crews. It is available for other community groups and harbour events requiring additional safety boat support. PHSSC is pleased to be able to share our safety boat with NCYC and we are always grateful for the reciprocal loan of NCYC support vessels when we hold regattas.

Our thanks also to Port Waratah Coal Services who also generously contributed to the purchase of the trailer through their Community Partnership Program. Other funds were raised by senior division through raffles at the Boatrowers Hotel, Saturday bar sales and inter club regattas.

With thanks

Port Hunter 16' Sailing Skiff Club Committee



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Further details including course descriptions and course dates are available on the website or contact the Sailing Office for more information.

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From Hobart to Sydney, next... Sydney to Hobart!

By Eleonore Lorentzon – Swedish Viking, owner of Lorentzon Sports Massage and lover of the ocean!

Middle of Bass Strait, 50 knots on the nose and the waves were rougher than I've ever experienced!

Let me take you back to 2018 when I was laying on the roadway, after I was hit by a truck. From a place where I wandered whether I would ever be the same again, this trauma and injury gave me a new perspective on life and an opportunity to start fresh and to follow my heart. This was the start of my recovery and what would soon be the best adventure in my life to date!

I remember walking into Cruising Yacht Of Australia (CYCA) and I immediately got a sense of the incredible sailing community. It's great being surrounded by likeminded people, who all share the same passion for sailing and the ocean. I think most people would



Eleonore Lorentzon

agree that sailing is not just a hobby; it's a lifestyle. I have made some great connections through sailing and I am very lucky to have the opportunity to sail with amazingly and talented people, many of them being women!

It is so refreshing to see women sailing together and growing the female family within the sport.

As a female business owner in Sports Massage Therapy, I know the importance of being hands on and passing on the knowledge to the whole team. Women offer great attention to detail, resilience, problem solving and foresight. These are all valuable skills in offshore sailing.

Moving through my injury recovery I dreamt of sailing the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. I knew I needed to gain more off shore racing experience so a Hobart to Sydney boat delivery would be perfect and would put me outside my comfort zone.

I was introduced to the Skipper and owner of "Dare Devil" (Farr47), Sibby Ilzhofer. Sibby was



Dare Devil by Muromatsu Satoshi

one out of five female skippers participating in the 2019 Sydney to Hobart race. As soon as we met, I knew I would be fortunate to be coached by a badass woman! It was a bonus that she would be helping me to build my confidence and sailing skills.

I arrived in Hobart, full of excitement! My recovery had

come full circle. After experiencing some last minute drop outs, our delivery crew consisted of Sibby, John, Glenn and I. With a positive outlook (and good food prep!), we were ready to go.

As we set sail early morning, the nerves cleared once I hit the ocean but at the same time, my anticipation of the journey felt exhilarating! It was amazing! We sailed out of the Derwent passing Cape Raoul and the incredible rock formations. Just as I thought it couldn't be more stunning, we were sailing along side dolphins! ... This was the calm before the storm!

First night, 35 knots, pitch dark with the main sail overpowered! The reefing became difficult so when sunrise came, we were relieved with the calmer conditions.

Day two, I was soaking wet and freezing cold. I quickly learnt that sleeping in wet sailing gear and a lifejacket was not the most comfortable sleeping arrangement, but this was exactly the experience I had asked for. I was in my element!

Sibby coached and challenged me in every sailing situation. Her mentorship was invaluable to me and the safety of the boat. I learnt to steer in massive waves, navigate from morning to night and have faith in the navigational instruments on our boat. The nights challenged me when the waves were up to ten metres high. I learnt the importance of team communication

as we kept the morale high by chatting and laughing about our life stories, our strong love for the ocean and sailing. Bliss!

When we hit a storm around Bass Strait, the wind started to pick up. It continued to build throughout the day peaking at 50 knots on our nose! I'm amazed how our team pulled together 'when the shit



Sibby on Dare Devil by Muromatsu Satoshi

hit the fan'. Somehow, we managed to get the main sail down and secure the boom to the boat during this crazy storm! I have to admit that this was probably one of the scariest moments I have been through, but as the saying goes, a calm sea never made a skilled sailor.

As we were riding out the storm we decided to recharge the crew in Eden. What should have been an oasis was actually a bushfire. The visibility was poor and the smoke was thick and consuming. The Australian bushfire season on land became a reality for our sailing crew. I was overwhelmed by the spirit of the locals. Their township was burning yet they were gracious in their hospitality.

Our journey over eight days was met with challenging situations. I not only expanded my knowledge on how to overcome the weather, but also appreciate the irrational charm of those rough seas.

I came out the other end as a more experienced and confident sailor. From laying injured on the roadway, my recovery journey lead me to my new life and one of the best adventures I've ever had! I continue to sail and improve my skills. I simply love it! I aim for my next goal and look forward to participating in the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 2020!



Dare Devil by Carly Hack



Dare Devil Crew by Carly Hack

Marine Rescue Newcastle

By Terry Reynolds



ON WATER

In early November NC30, with Ron Calman, Ian Morrow and Mick Quill aboard was tasked to assist the large racing yacht 'KOA' that was 8nm off Stockton. KOA was suffering delamination and taking on water.

NC30 attached a tow and safely towed the yacht with its 15 crew to NCYC. The yacht was immediately taken out of the water for repairs.



KOA and Ian

Sometimes, due to NC30 being required to be on standby for operational duties our crew are called to assist other units with various tasks. On December 7th Ian Morrow and Terry Reynolds embarked in Central Coast 30, travelled from the Central Coast to Norah Head to participate in the annual wreath laying ceremony for Merchant Mariners Memorial service.

Whilst returning to Gosford, CC30 was redirected to a 5.25 metre runabout that ran out of fuel some 3nm east of Broken Bay and returned to the ramp at Linton Street Davistown.



NR20 & CC30 off Norah Head

On December 13th, NC30, crewed by Ron Calman, Mick Quill & Stuart Lawson, we're tasked to assist a 30ft yacht travelling from Port Stephens to Sydney which started taking on water and engine failure. The DV was able to anchor near Horseshoe Beach where the crew were able to stop the leak however couldn't get engine going. Ron and crew towed the vessel, with 2 POB safely to NCYC for repairs.



30 foot yacht

The weird situations we put Crewies into. Whilst NC30 was patrolling the Newcastle waterfront crew noticed a thick hose, which ran under the walkway had parted. In an effort to get the hose out of the way of vessels, crew member Stuart Lawson was put onto a vertical ladder to attempt to secure both ends out of the way. As seen in the attached picture, Stuart was in somewhat of a tight situation and yes, cameras were at the ready just in case he went for a swim.



Stuart and hose

On New Year's Eve (day), two of our trainee crew members undertook their assessment for MR Crew. Both Paul Hardie and Warren Bramble successfully passed the tough assessment with flying colours. Well done to them both.

New Year's Eve fireworks seems to be jinxed over the past two years. Last year it was cancelled due to a severe storm and this year, although started, was shortened due to a southerly hitting Newcastle. That said, those present on the night enjoyed the event. NC30 was on task to assist Maritime with the event.



Fireworks - Newcastle

I was lucky enough to be asked to coxswain a Marine Rescue vessel on Sydney Harbour for their New Year's Eve fireworks spectacular. After a brief at the Maritime Headquarters at Glebe, 9 MR vessels, 16 Maritime vessels and a number of Police vessels went onto the water to 'police' the exclusion zone and lend any assistance to the boating public. Just as we passed under the Sydney Harbour Bridge the southerly hit. Our station aboard Norah Head 20 was off Garden Island where we had a relatively benign area as no vessels could anchor however some zones closer in towards Mrs Macquarie's Chair and Circular Quay had their hands full with anchored boats dragging anchors and hitting into each other.

Once all of that was settled down, the event went well with two spectacular fireworks sessions and one very experienced stunt pilot flying about half a dozen times under the Bridge.

Then off to Marine rescue Middle Harbour (next to the Spit Bridge) for a rest before back to Glebe, boat on the trailer and back home.

On 3rd January NC30 was a bit busy with two jobs. A runabout had electrics failure 6nm east of Glenrock. Under foggy conditions, crew of Ron, Lyn and Stuart located the boat and towed it safely to Carrington ramp. The same crew then assisted a 75' yacht off the mud near NCYC. Not a bad effort considering NC30 is less than 30' long.



Yacht off mud near NCYC

11th January saw NC30, with crew Ron, Mick and Bill, support the annual Outriggers race held between Horseshoe Beach to the harbour entry and return. NC30's task was acting as a safety boat. All went well albeit during inclement weather.



Canoe race

On 22nd January NC30 was tasked to assist a 4.2 metre runabout with a flat battery. Crew Ron and Stuart were able to jump start the vessel and escorted to North Stockton ramp.

The current stage of the new NC30, as of 24th January. The new 600 hp 10 metre Naiad is due in March. More on that acquisition in the next edition.



New NC30

Australia Day saw NC30 assisting Maritime patrolling the safety zone for the annual Stockton to Newcastle swim. About halfway through the event Newcastle's radio operator received a call to assist a vessel at North Reef (about 3nm out). The lady and gent aboard were happy to keep fishing until after the swim event.

NC30 was relieved of their duties as soon as Maritime could and out they went. Sea was a bit choppy with about a 1.5-2 metre swell.

Crewie Lyn Van Homrigh was at the helm with this being her first 'hook up' for a tow. Lyn did very well. Unfortunately, Michael, aboard the DV, had to cut his anchor loose. Once free all headed back towards Newcastle. Another hold up for the DV with a bulk carrier entering the Harbour. After that the crew were able to get Michael and Rebecca safely back to Carrington ramp.



Sunday job

NOT ON THE WATER

At Marine Rescue Newcastle's January mess meeting two members were presented with achievements. Pictured receiving his Crew certificate and epaulets from Regional Operations Manager, Steve Raymond is Warren Bramble. In the second picture is Rob Downie receiving his 5 year service pin from Unit Commander Ron Calman.

Well done to both members.



Rob Downie



Warren Bramble

Last but not least, please don't forget to Log on and Log off with Marine Rescue Newcastle.

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Mission to Seafarers



**By Bernadette Barry –
Stella Maris Chaplain**

Christmas 2019

The close of another year was celebrated with much joy at the Mission. We held a Christmas lunch to say thank you for the wonderful effort our volunteers gave to the Mission throughout the year.

Chinese New Year 2020

It is the Year of the Rat for Chinese New Year here at the Mission. On 25th January we celebrated with lanterns, traditional food, sweets, and fortune cookies. The Seafarers enjoyed a little bit of home and were grateful to have their traditions brought to them whilst away from home and away at sea.

Coming up

A celebration is in planning for the Centenary of the Foundation of Stella Maris/Apostleship of the Sea worldwide and in Newcastle. This celebration will be in conjunction with Sea Sunday in July 2020 and will be advertised in the coming months.



MTS Volunteer Christmas Party



Chinese New Year



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Coming Events...

MARCH 2020

- Sat/Sun 7-8 March - Newcastle Game Fishing Tournament.
- Sunday 8 March - Summer Short Ocean PS Race 6
- Wednesday 11 March - Club Marine Twilight Pursuit - Novice Helm Race
- Saturday 14 March - She Sails@NCYC Development Regatta
- Friday 13 March - Laser Twilight Series
- Sat/Sun 21-22 March - National Sailing League Finals for Youth & Women
- Friday 27 March - Laser Twilight Series
- Sunday 29 March - Summer Short Ocean Pointscore Race 8
- Sunday 29 March - End of Summer Party

APRIL 2020

- Sat/Sun 3-5 April - National Sailing League Open Finals at RSYS
- Saturday 4 April - Friendship Cup F24 at LMYC
- Sunday 5 April - Daylight Savings Ends
- Happy Easter 10-13 April - The club is Open
- Fri/Sunday April 17-19 April SailFest - Newcastle Regatta
- Saturday 25 April - ANZAC Day Clubhouse is open
- Sunday 26 April - Newcastle to Port Stephens
- Monday 27 April-3 May - Sail Port Stephens

MAY 2020

- Saturday 9 May - Newcastle Youth Keelboat Championships
- Sunday 10 May - Mother's Day
- Sunday 10 May - Newcastle Youth Keelboat Championship (Inshore)
- Saturday 16 May - Laser Winter Series Starts
- Sunday 17 May - Winter Short Ocean PS Races 1 & 2
- Sunday 24 May - Winter Short Ocean PS Races 3 & 4
- Sunday 31 May - Youth Interclub Challenge (Inshore)

Every Week

- Tuesday Night Trivia - 7pm in the Marquee
- Thursday Night Members Draw [LTPS/20/41608]: 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 Afternoon Live Entertainment from 2.30pm
- Saturday & Sunday Breakfast - between 8am-10.30am
- Monday-Friday Happy Hours - 4pm to 6pm

Security Phone Numbers

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- **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 – barmanager@ncyc.net.au
- **Marina Manager** (8am - 4pm 7 days)
0408 299 512 – dockmaster@ncyc.net.au
- **Administration** (9am - 5pm 5 days)
(02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
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