



NEWCASTLE
CRUISING
YACHT
CLUB

NCYC

NEWSLETTER

February 2011



Image by Mike Eggleston

NCYC

9/91 Hannell St Wickham NSW 2293 – Ph 02 4940 8188 – Fax 4940 8138 – www.ncyc.net.au

CLUB DIRECTORY

Contact	Phone / Email
Marina Inquiries/ Dockmaster 8 am – 4 pm 7 days	0408 299 512 dockmaster@ncyc.net.au
Administration 9 am – 4.45 pm	02 4940 8188 admin@ncyc.net.au
General Inquiries 9 am – 4.45 pm	02 4940 8188 info@ncyc.net.au
Licensed Club 10 am – 10 pm	02 4940 8188 info@ncyc.net.au
The Galley Noon – 2.30 pm 6 pm – 8.30 pm	02 4940 8188 info@ncyc.net.au
Functions 9 am – 4.45 pm	02 4940 8188 functions@ncyc.net.au

SECURITY

Contact	Phone
Police	49190760
Water Police	4984 9012
Fire Department	000
Power failure on marina	Dockmaster 0408 299 512

Concessions to NCYC Members

NCYC Bar —with membership card

When purchasing cold beverages:

- * 10% for Full Members
- * – 5% for Social and Crew members

Cote D Azur

Excluding any pre-advertised item:

- * 10% discount to any NCYC member staying with them,
www.cotedazurnelsonbay.com.au

East Coast Marine and Sail

- * 10% discount on selected items.
- * 02 4961 1663.

Cherry Lane Cottage, Gulgong

- * 10% accommodation discount to NCYC members.
<http://cherrylanecottage.com.au/>

Board of Directors

Flag Officers	Commodore Phil Arnall
	Vice Commodore Jim Holley
	Rear Commodore Paul Gleeson
	Club Captain Ernie Thirkell
Treasurer	Kym Butler
Director	Tony Lobb
Director	Larry Curtis

Dear Member,



Commodore's Message

"A members briefing night was held at the club mid January and whilst attendance was disappointing a number of comments and suggestions "from the floor" were constructive and will be taken on board by your Club Directors, sailing committee and management. The opportunity was taken to update the meeting on the performance of the club.

In summary the club continues to trade well and has improved on the same period last year. Members will notice that our marquee and paving has been extended to provide for larger numbers. Nina Langley[Functions Manager] is confident of increased bookings as a result of this.

On behalf of members I would like to congratulate our various members who have been campaigning their yachts recently. Among them, Vice Commodore Jim Holley and his hard working wife Mary on yet another successful Sydney to Hobart race on their yacht Aurora. This was Jim's 23rd race and Mary's 14th and they assure me they have many more in them flying the Club burgee. I would imagine Jim would say it's not about Jim or Mary or the boat it's about the team. We would agree so well done team! Read more about these yachts on p5.

The bi-annual "My State Financial Australian Wooden Boat festival" will be held in Hobart 11-14 February, and the Club has five yachts making the trip to participate, all had departed Newcastle by the end of January. Leading the fleet is "Frejya" [owners: Dick and Margaret Lees and; Victoria and Drew Carr] together with "Woodstock" [Len Croft] who will be part of the exhibit. Our three non-wooden construction yachts attending the festival are: "Taratibu" [Bruce Bragg]; "Far Niente" [Hugh Williams] and "Starship" (Lorraine McCann & Ross Duncan)

Club Captain Ernie Thirkell will be "honorary Admiral" of the fleet is aboard "Frejya". We wish them fair winds and a following sea." There are more details about the festival on p6.

The new year brings new activities at the club for active sailors and social members so be sure to consult the club website or visit the club and sample the new menu."

Phil Arnall, Commodore

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

Editor: Gloria Thirkell

Graphics: Michael Eggleston

In this issue

A bi-monthly publication

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Cover photo - by M. Eggleston | 6. Wooden Boat Festival |
| 2. At the Helm – Commodore | 7. National Maritime Festival |
| 2. Directory | 7. Pooch Parade |
| 3. NCYC, Your Club | 8. Newcastle Port Corporation |
| 4. Social news -Vice Commodore
& Social Committee | 9. NSW Maritime |
| 5. Sailing -Rear Commodore
-Sailing Office | 10. Move over Coal —C.Griffiths |
| 6. Safety /Community Support
- Club Captain | 10. On the Bridge Answers |
| 6. On the Bridge problem
- Paul McGrath | 11. Thrifty State Etchells
Media Release |
| | 12. Sponsor acknowledgement |
| | 13. Coming Events |

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club

MARINA - COMMERCIAL CENTRE - LEASED BOATYARD - LICENSED PREMISES

OUR PEOPLE

Nyrie Eggleston is a born and bred Merewether girl who has been working in the hospitality industry for about seven years.

She loves international travel and is looking forward to a week in Noumea with her Mum Maree in the near future.

Nyrie says she *"I love working at NCYC with its terrific atmosphere, great members and fantastic supportive staff."*



Image by Ray Blackburn

Bacon & Egg roll,
Hash brown &
Orange juice

Sundays
9.30 am
to
11.00 am

Fundraising Raffles
Ticket sales start 6.00 pm
Raffles drawn 7.00 pm

Club Open 7 Days:

10.00 am—10.00 pm

Bookings
Advisable

02 4940 8188

Coffee, tea & cakes
available from the bar

Thrifty 2010-2011 NSW Etchells Championship

Thurs arvo 10 Feb—Hugh Gordon

Friday night 11 Feb—Matt & Polly

Sat night 12 Feb—Matt & Polly



NCYC Marquee

where new family traditions are set, and
Old ones are perpetuated.



Well known NCYC members Ami and John Streeter chose NCYC as the venue for the Naming Ceremony for their daughter.

Sophie wore a Christening Gown that is very special in Ami's family. It was made in 1899 by Sophie's Great Great Grandmother, Clara Alice for her son, Sophie's Great Great Grandfather, Michael.

Since Michael another 18 babies have worn the gown, making Sophie baby number 20. It was great for Ami's family to see the tradition carried onto the next generation.

In the past few months our function Marquee has been booked for engagements, school reunions, naming ceremonies, retirement dinners, birthdays, family and corporate functions. NCYC does not accept bookings for 18th or 21st birthdays or for weddings.

Book early
Ph 02 4940 8188

for
Valentines Day
At

YOUR Club

Lunch—12 noon—2.30 pm

Dinner—6.00 pm—8.30 pm



FROM VICE COMMODORE JIM HOLLEY and SOCIAL COMMITTEE

NCYC Christmas party was once again a huge success. The Social Committee supplied the contents of Santa's sack—lolly bags for all the children—many of them not so young! Committee members worked tirelessly preparing the bbq and serving the great sausage and steak sandwiches for a minimal charge. The Committee also employed live entertainment for the night—The Hugh Gordon Duo, who performed a wide variety of requested songs to the delight of all, and in particular the dancers.



Mel & Rae catching up with Santa

New Years Eve

The party atmosphere was set by the music of The Hugh Gordon Duo



From the left: Denise Clifford, Maria, Helen Carol, Rae Hassell, Megan Hatting, Mel Ford, Petro Gleeson, Michelle Field.



Above—The “Gleeson group” was all formally attired for the evening.!

From the left: NCYC Treasurer Kym Butler, Terry Carol, Norm Clifford, Rear Commodore Paul Gleeson, Stuart, Bok Hatting, Grant.

Right—Or were they?

All of the men arrived in a jacket and tie, but ideas of what constitutes formal dress seem to have differed from that point on.



Getting to know You

Ray Blackburn and Lizzie Macey moved into the area about a year before our licensed premises were built, and seeing the potential, immediately joined NCYC.

Born in Taree, Ray didn't arrive in Newcastle until 1984 and now considers himself a Novocastrian.



Ray joined the Engineering branch of the Royal Australian Navy in 1968 and recalls the highlights of this time being the escort trips to Vietnam. Having left the Navy in 1974, Ray spent the next five years in the NSW Fire Service.

This was followed by 23 years in the NSW Police Force, some as a member of the Police Rescue Squad and Special Weapons & Operations Section (SWOS).

Ray was also a crewmember with the Westpac chopper in its formative years from 1986 to 1992. Most memorable among the many highlights of Ray's police career was the two months spent in the United States as part of the 1996 Olympics Security Team in Atlanta. During the opening ceremony Ray was part of the personal security team for Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, and after escorting them to the car at the end of the night, a cuddle and kiss from Demi as a thank you topped the list of highs.



Commissioners Commendation

During 1999 Ray was seconded to the Sydney Olympic security Command Centre as an Inspector. He was the Officer in charge - the Sydney Entertainment Centre which hosted the womens' indoor volleyball.

As one of the first volunteer crew on our Committee Vessel “Wombat”, serving as both roster skipper and “maintenance man”, Ray became well known among the sailing fraternity.

One of the first functions to be booked into the Marquee was Lizzie's 50th birthday party.



Lizzie has been an active member of NCYC in her own right, assisting wherever she sees a need. She helps with the Friday night fundraising raffles, and is part of the regular roster preparing the Social Committee's \$6 bacon and egg roll/ hash brown breakfasts.

From the Rear Commodore

As we commence our Summer season, I would like to congratulate NCYC yachts and crew who participated in the following races.

Hobart:

- “Aurora” - Jim and Mary Holley completed their 23rd & 14th *Rolex Sydney to Hobart Race* respectively. 11th place in IRC Division 4, Crew: NCYC members Jane Woodward, Steve Hassell, Jeff Shute, and Bevan Box Plus John Whitfeld (Sydney), Steve Philips (Nowra) and Hobart first timer James Hall (Tasmania),
- NCYC's Chris Pritchard, “Raging Bull” crew participated on “Krakatoa”.

Coffs Harbour:

- “Anger Management”, skippered by NCYC Commodore Phil Arnall was placed 8th in IRC Div 1, Crew: Richard Arnall, Rob Howard, Rob Ferguson, Mark Skelton, Gary Marsden, Neil Kibble, Tim Vooles, Alex Machin. They crossed the line 10th in RPAYC's Pittwater to Coffs Harbour Race—226 nautical mile race from Broken Bay to Coffs Harbour.
- “Mister Christian”, skippered by NCYC Founding Member Tony Purkiss and crewed by Bob Jarvie, Simon French, Trent Butler, Jon Lattimore, and Bruce Dover was placed 5th in PHS Div 2.
- “One for the Road”, skippered by NCYC Treasurer Kym Butler placed 8th in IRC Div 2. Crew: Adrian Kielly, Anthony Butler, Regie Haynes, Glen Bulmer, David O'Dowd, Michael McDonald, Tom Clarke, Mark Graham, Luke Edmonds.

Geelong (20-26 January 2011—Audi Victoria Race Week)

- “Concealed Weapon” an Archambault M34 owned and skippered by Barry Kelly. Crewed by Ben Kelly and Elise Kelly (one day each), Wayne Izzard (Crew Manager), Mick Hinchy [Lake Macquarie]; Ian Short, Peta Short, Mathew Short, James Warner, Jensen Penny, Kurt Warner, [Sydney]. Competed IRC Div 2 for the first time raced. Next regatta is Sydney Harbour in March.
- NCYC's Stephen Mackay crewed on “Penfolds Audi Sports”, an Archambault A31 owned and skippered by David Ellis (RYCV). Competed in IRC Div 3—Result: 2nd overall.
- NCYC's Steven Hassell crewed on “Leeto” a 36.7 Beneteau owned and skippered by Kevin Bell (RGYC) for the prestigious passage race from Williamstown to Geelong. On Monday Steve crewed on “Extasea” a DK46 *Rolex Sydney to Hobart Race* campaigner owned and skippered by Paul Bucholtz. It earned 2nd in Div B? Steve's son Lachlan had the opportunity to crew aboard this yacht 2004 as it raced to Hobart.

STOP PRESS: Congratulations to LMYC on having won the Friendship Cup—hotly contested with NCYC only one point behind.

NOTE: to enter CYCA Cat.3 Sydney Newcastle Race 5-2-11 visit CYCA website (OPS No.7).

Paul Gleeson, Rear Commodore

From the Sailing Office

The Top Yacht Online Race Entry, Crew Registration and Race Results System is well and truly established at NCYC. This system allows all racing information to be stored on a data base for easy access and administration. It allows skippers to update their crew list from any computer anywhere. The Top Yacht system also provides for race result to be posted immediately to the web after processing the race.

Skippers, crew and members are invited to access these results. Go to www.ncyc.net.au click on Race Results and follow the prompts. You are also able to View Entrants in a Series.

Perhaps you are interested in knowing the weather forecast, the predicted tide or what the wind is recording at Nobbys. The NCYC web page gives you access to these sites. A useful tool for us all.

2011 is shaping up to be a busy sailing year. The number of club and inter club events is increasing in appreciation of the ideal conditions Newcastle offers.

On Saturday 5 February the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA)'s Ocean Pointscore Race, Sydney to Newcastle, will start at approximately ten am in Sydney and Finish in Newcastle. Newcastle is expecting the fleet to arrive in the afternoon/ evening. Come along to the club and congratulate the skippers and sailors.

The International Etchells Class NSW State Championships are being held in Newcastle 11/12/13 February; keep a look out for this prestigious event. The Racing will be offshore and the socialising will be at the club.

LMYC and NCYC have combined their Ocean Races, called Combined Ocean Pointscore (COPS). Both NCYC and LMYC ocean pointscore fleets enjoy the healthy competition and the opportunity to race in a larger fleet. The fleet sails to Port Stephens, Bird Island and Pittwater in their race calendar.

Happy Sailing, Dianne Fitzgerald



The “MyState Financial Australian Wooden Boat Festival”

After a great deal of planning and preparation, the date for this huge festival of wooden boats/ music/ and food has finally rolled around. Two of the many Novocastrians who regularly visit this bi-annual event are NCYC members Mike Eggleston and Bill Quirk who each gave it rave reviews in the June newsletter 2009. [To read them again, Click HERE.](#) The Newcastle contingent has grown again, a number of them being NCYC members who will be flying to Hobart for the festival. As is usually the case, quite a few incorporate these four days into a longer visit to the Apple Isle. Plans are in place for as many as possible to get together for a “Newcastle photograph” to send to the festival organisers.

For the first time, NCYC has a fleet of yachts taking members to what promises to be a spectacular 4-day celebration of maritime culture and craftsmanship. Of the five vessels involved, *Freyja* and “Woodstock” are Official entrants and exhibitors in the event, joining wooden boats from far and wide displayed on the water and on the docks. Two new firsts for Newcastle and for NCYC.

This is the first long distance cruise for a very excited Lorraine McCann and Ross Duncan aboard their Pearson design yacht “Starship”. Bruce Bragg skippering “Taratibu” with his daughter crewing, left early with them as backup and mentor while they “got their sea legs”.

“Woodstock” is skippered by her owner Len Croft and crewed by Stewart Wheeler and Jon Boer.

First step on the way for “Far Niente” was a luxury cruise to the Jimmy Buffet concert —gourmet meals, sunbaking on the foredeck and a “swimex” 10 k to sea from Palm Beach. No one is telling who the thrill seekers were. In Sydney most crew jumped ship. Continuing to Hobart are the owner/skipper Hugh Williams, his cousin Peter Williams, Bruce Williams, and Jeff Dawson.

“Freyja” jointly owned by Drew and Victoria Carr, and Victoria’s parents, Dick & Margaret Lees is crewed by Club Captain Erne Thirkell (Skipper), Dick Lees, Mick Eggleston, Robin Hillery and Julia Wilkes (flew in from Canada for the trip). Drew Carr crewed as far as Eden—work called.

Progress Reports: 29 January- The five vessels sailed from Eden and Bermagui in the early hours. An American yacht not wanting to cross Bass Straight on her own joined them as prearranged months ago. 30 January “Freyja” [evening] reported it was level with Flinders Island. 31 January [night]—reports that “Starship”, “Taratibu”, *Freyja* and the American yacht all berthed at St Helens. “Woodstock” [evening] was in Wineglass Bay. “Far Niente” in Triabanna,

In 2009, the eighth “MyState Financial Australian Wooden Boat Festival” since 1994, there were over 500 boats – of all shapes and sizes – Tall Ships to model boats — driven by steam, sail, oar and engine. Japanese and Indonesian Villages are a feature of the 2011. There are sure to be stories and images to share in the April 2011 newsletter.

Macca’s live broadcast of “Australia all Over” - AWBF 2009

Image by Mike Eggleston



NCYC Fundraising Raffle on Friday 22 January 2011 was in support of the Queensland flood relief effort. Sincere thanks are offered to members and patrons for their

Our Rear Commodore mentioned NCYC participants in the Audi Victoria Week 2011. This event has high international status.

Some interesting facts about the Audi Victoria Week

- First held in 1844.
- This is Australia’s largest sailing event.
- The 2011 giant sailing fleet of approximately 420 boats is roughly 4 times bigger than the Sydney Hobart fleet.

Zhik 2011 Moth Worlds held at Belmont 16 Footers.

Congratulations to NCYC Sponsor Scott Beeby of Eastcoast Sails for his 10th place in this recent event. The event was won by Lake Macquarie sailor Nathan Outteridge who also took out the 49er National title on the lake this summer.

ON THE BRIDGE

With Paul McGrath

Problem: There are in essence two forms of the game of bridge – one where it is paramount simply to make your contract and another, matchpoint pairs, where it is crucial to not only make your contract but to try to make extra tricks if at all possible. So, in matchpoint pairs it often pays to throw caution to the wind. On the deal shown South becomes declarer in 3NT in a matchpoint pairs competition. West leads the spade five – a normal 4th highest lead from West’s longest suit. For declarer to play safely and minimise the chances of being blown out of the water it would be right on the mark to duck one round of spades either now or later. But wait, will this maximise the number of tricks declarer can take?

NORTH

♠A93
♥KJT2
♦J76
♣AJ5

WEST

♠JT654
♥964
♦5
♣KQ43

EAST

♠Q8
♥873
♦AQ83
♣9876

SOUTH

♠K72
♥AQ5
♦KT942
♣T2

Solution: p10

National Maritime Festival

FORGAC'S Harbour Lights Boat Parade and Fireworks Display



NCYC was a proud supporter of this event. Our Sailing Committee, in particular Richard Arnall, Mary Holley and our Rear Commodore Paul Gleeson provided vital support (with the Parade organization and on-water synchronization) for the Event Coordinator Erica Townsend,

As twilight approached on Tuesday 25 January 2011, the harbor came alive with a huge variety of water craft, varying from SUPS (Stand up paddle boards) and Outriggers through to a Tug, all of them lit up for the occasion. Amazingly the small craft managed this feat in various ingenious ways including the use of glow sticks in rings surrounding wrists, paddles etc.

The importance of the occasion was enhanced by the wonderful performance from *The Christchurch Cathedral string ensemble* led by David Banney from the Newcastle

Conservatorium of Music (University of Newcastle). A barge secured by a small tug, (both supplied by Bill Johnson) provided a spectacular platform for the performance.

As the light faded the vessels moved in a parade past the Maritime Museum along the foreshore toward the Pilot Station, then milled around on the harbour during the fireworks based on Dyke point opposite the Maritime Museum, focus for the event. Following this the parade re-formed to wend its way back to our marina.

Numerous designated alcohol free zones along the foreshore encouraged large numbers of families with young children to take advantage of the spectacle being provided by the parade and the fireworks.

The enthusiasm and hype felt on the vessels was mirrored in the crowd on the shore, with people calling greetings from boat to boat, and between the vessels and shore based crowds. The frequent chant of “*Ausie, Ausie, Ausie*” from children ashore was taken up with the answering “*Oi Oi Oi*” from the water..

The stillness of the evening facilitated this interaction as vessels were able to safely pass close to each other, and to the shore, voices travelling clearly over the water. The excitement as strings of lights materialized out of the darkness into the shadowy forms of the vessels was catching. [Click HERE for more.](#)

Two Orcas “Cheffie” towed behind the outrigger caused a minor sensation coming out of the darkness



POOCH PARADE

My name is Kaiser Amos. I am a German Shepherd.



- K** Know my commands in German, English, Italian.
- A** Act as an alarm clock—6.15 EVERY morning!
- I** I am a personal security guard.
- S** Sleep with one eye open—day and night.
- E** Eat fresh chicken breast (fillet of course) daily
- R** Rescued from Hunter Rescue when 13 months old. Now I am 5 ½ and Greg and Maria say THEY need rescuing!

When John Reed moved into Kaiser's home as a companion during Greg and Maria's two month vacation in Italy, they

became best buddies.— despite the fact that if your name is not Amos, Kaiser is less than friendly! Whatever John cooked for dinner he shared with Kaiser.



Kaiser certainly has a strange choice of toys. When Greg bought Maria a new watch, Kaiser claimed, it parading proudly around the house with it in his mouth. Small wonder he is not welcome aboard “*Blu Notte*” owned collaboratively by Greg and his brother Warren (Wally). Without Kaiser's help this magnificent Italian Grand Soleil 40, has consistently achieved wonderful results within our sailing fleet. She was the only NCYC yacht to win the “*All Ports Regatta*” organised by Cronulla Sailing Club, “*Wallop*” from LMYC won in each of the first two years.



News from **NEWCASTLE PORT CORPORATION**

Rejuvenating Port ‘Gateway’

Slowly but surely the ‘gateway’ to the Port of Newcastle is looking a lot better thanks to Newcastle Port Corporation sponsoring an environment project along Macquarie Pier at Nobbys Beach.

The Corporation has providing \$24,000 in sponsorship over a two year period to allow Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to undertake coastal rejuvenation at Nobbys.

CEO, Gary Webb, said volunteers completed a large amount of work along the pier in early 2010 with the start of the second phase being completed in January this year.

Gary said the sponsorship was enabling CVA to conduct intensive works periods in January, February, March and April.

The 2011 phase includes:

- removal of bitou bush (declared noxious weed species within Newcastle LGA)
- planting indigenous plant pioneer species such as spinifex and pig face to reduce the movement of wind blown sand and assist stabilisation of the dunal system
- removing any existing sand around fencing that poses a potential risk to public safety
- repairing blowouts in dunes using hay bales to prevent the inland movement of sand that may build on or

undertaking maintenance of fencing and beach access pathways to assist the preservation of revegetated areas of dunes

Gary said the current two-year sponsorship was an extension of a previous CVA sponsorship by Newcastle Port Corporation because of the success of a similar program at Nobbys in 2008 and 2009.

“In addition to weeding and planting the volunteers have been involved in protecting the historic rail line which runs through the sand dunes at Nobbys and undertaken tasks to stabilise the area,” said Gary.

“An innovative trial of hay bales to stabilise sand dune ‘blow outs’ has proved successful because native vegetation is visibly flourishing.”

Project statistics to date show:

- weeding and revegetation of more than 104,500m² of land
- planting of about 15,450 stems and trees
- construction and repair of nearly 2,000 metres of fencing
- collection of 471 kgs of rubbish
- a total of 94 volunteers dedicated to the project

Regional Manager for CVA, Leonie Winner, said the organisation was working in consultation with Newcastle City Council and Nobbys Dunecare Group.

She said local and international CVA volunteers would be working mainly beside the roadway at Macquarie Pier in each of the four work periods in 2011.



NSW Maritime

MEDIA RELEASE | January 20 | 2011

\$5 million to improve boating in NSW

Boaters across NSW will benefit from new and improved boating facilities across the state, with \$4.98 million in funding announced today by NSW Treasurer and Minister for Ports and Waterways Eric Roozendaal.

"More than ever, families are enjoying boating on our magnificent waterways, and the figures show that this continuing to grow," Mr Roozendaal said.

"That is why we are investing \$4.98 million to ensure local boating communities, now and in the future, have safe and convenient access to facilities to enjoy our waterways.

"Since 1998 the NSW Government has provided more than \$25 million through the Better Boating Program to help local communities upgrade boating facilities across the state.

"Improved maritime infrastructure not only benefits families and local boating communities, it helps underpin local businesses and tourism."

The Better Boating Program supports a range of projects such as boat ramps, public wharves, jetties, dinghy storage racks, sewage pump-out facilities and public moorings to provide improved access to our waterways.

"Many communities across NSW have already benefited from the program with new or upgraded facilities, improved disability and general access, and modern, practical and aesthetic designs," Mr Roozendaal said.

Mr Roozendaal said the \$4.98 investment through the Better Boating Program this year includes \$1.70 million for the full funding of five Sydney Harbour boat ramp projects and \$3.28 million which will support 56 projects across regional NSW.

Successful projects for 2010 include:

- \$539,000 for improvements to the Davidson park boat ramp at Killarney Heights;
- \$350,000 for an upgrade of the Blaxland Road Boat Ramp at Rhodes;
- \$350,000 for improvements to the Lyne Park Boat Ramp at Rose Bay;
- \$350,000 for the construction of new carpark at the Margaret Street Boat Ramp at Woolwich;
- \$230,000 for a upgrade to the boat ramp, pontoon and carpark at Bonna Point, Kurnell;
- \$200,000 for reconstruction of the boat ramp at Norah Head

Each year submissions for Better Boating Program grants are assessed by a selection panel that includes NSW Maritime and independent representatives from the Boating Industry Association, the Local Government Association and the Recreational Fishing Association.

More details on the grants are available at

www.maritime.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA CONTACT Anna Burns | 02 9228 3535 | 0438 379 784

Media Release - 19 January 2011

Capsize Danger When Boating Offshore

The heavy ocean swells of this week are a reminder to all skippers to always check the conditions before heading offshore, NSW Maritime Chief Executive Steve Dunn said today.

Mr Dunn reminded boaters to be aware of the dangers of capsize when heading out across coastal bars and when fishing on bombores and shallow coastal reefs.

"Long period swells from storms thousands of kilometres away can turn into large waves with absolutely no warning, even on what can appear to be a glassy calm sea," Mr Dunn said.

"We've had two incidents this week where large seas have swamped boats, at Swansea Bar at Lake Macquarie and on the South Coast," he said.

"Two people aboard a 5.2 metre open runabout Stacer capsized on Monday on Swansea Bar, Lake Macquarie, and four men were rescued on Sunday after their vessel was swamped on a bombora at Bellambi on the South Coast.

"Fortunately no one was injured in either incident but it's an important reminder to be wary on open seas – and to remember the importance of lifejackets.

"Boaters must wear a lifejacket when crossing ocean bars, when in ocean waters and at heightened risk. Children under 12 must wear a lifejacket at all times.

Mr Dunn said accident statistics clearly show small vessels are riskier and more likely to capsize than larger vessels, particularly in open waters.

"It's difficult to get back on board a boat once you're in the water, or after capsizing. So it's better to be safe and wear a lifejacket."

Media contact: Maritime Media Office (02) 9364 2422



Image by Doug Gould



Move over Coal

Here come the boats Part 3



Story and images by Chris Griffiths

There are a few things that need to be addressed with the boats – they are all 110 volt shore power, all the power outlets are US, all the appliances are US, invariably, they have been left idle for some time and therefore, engines need some ‘tinkering’, the ‘binnacle’ compasses are all northern hemisphere (now there’s a little trap that not many were told about!) but one consolation, at least the bottoms have been cleaned – otherwise they would not be allowed in to Australia.

The cost to convert from 110 volt to 240 volt can be quite hefty but there are ways to deal with this issue – buying a transformer can do the trick but you have another heavy ‘blob’ of machinery to stow somewhere out of sight – and low down (very heavy). My guess is that the Marine Electricians around Newcastle just love these boats coming in because they are certainly in demand once the ship has unloaded its cargo.

I delivered a number of vessels from the first ship to Queensland and Victoria. One was an Azimut 55 – very flash – delivered to Melbourne. It was the owner’s very first boat – no boat licence yet but he plans to get one! (No ‘GFC’ effect here). Fuel bill alone for this baby was over \$10K for the trip – and that was travelling at an economical speed. If I’d travelled at cruising speed of 28 knots – well, the fuel guzzling \$\$\$ just don’t bear thinking about!

But, they’re not all power boats coming in on the ships. There were four Farr 40’s on board the last ship so it looks like some stiff sailing competition coming up. Most of the yachts went to Sydney with a couple making their new home here in God’s Country.

Anyway, I understand that there is another ship load of boats coming in to Newcastle again in the near future – clear the decks!



Chris Griffiths was recently commissioned to look after the unloading of two vessels from a ship berthed in Newcastle Harbour after sailing from USA.

ON THE BRIDGE

With Paul McGrath

Solution to the problem posed on p6:

Solution: You can see that you must lose at least one diamond trick but if the card gods are smiling upon you your passage to a top-scoring twelve tricks may be realised. So, win trick one in hand with the king, cash the heart ace and lead a heart to dummy. Now, play the diamond jack. East can take the diamond ace whenever and will probably return a spade (it doesn’t matter whatever is returned). Win that trick in dummy and repeat the diamond finesse. A further heart entry to dummy allows you to cash the fourth heart and again take the diamond finesse. Now cash the diamond king and play your last diamond. Poor old West is up the creek without a paddle and will be feeling vice-like jaws closing around him – he is being squeezed in bridge jargon. West will have three cards left, the spade jack and the King/Queen doubleton of clubs. On this last round of diamonds if West throws the spade the club jack is discarded from dummy. If West throws a club the spade is discarded from dummy. Twelve tricks in the bag!



MEDIA RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL RACING SAILS INTO NEWCASTLE

Tuesday 25 January, 2011

International racing returns to the Hunter next month when Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC) hosts the Thrifty New South Wales State Etchells Titles. (11 – 13 February, 2011)

The three day tournament will see a fleet of at least 40 yachts competing off Newcastle, attracting more than 120 competitors and their families to the region.

"The Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club is proud to be hosting this major sporting event and we are extremely grateful to Thrifty Newcastle for making this possible," NCYC Rear Commodore, Paul Gleeson said.

"Etchells racing is internationally recognised as a showcase of the world's best skippers including sailing greats Dennis Connor and Australia II skipper, John Bertrand who we believe is hoping to compete in Newcastle along with reigning World Sailor of the Year, Tom Slingsby."

Other confirmed entries include Grant Wharington, skipper of Sydney to Hobart maxi, Wild Thing and current Irish National Champion and former Etchells World Champion, Peter McNeill.

Etchells are a strict one design, three or four crew keel boat with a length of 30'6". Uniformity is strictly controlled by an international association.

"Etchells sailing relies solely on the skill and experience of the skippers and their crew," Mr Gleeson said.

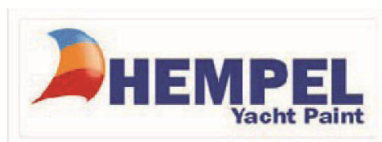
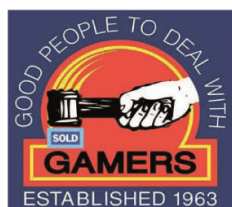
"The boats are identical, sails are identical, a crew weigh in is required before competition starts to ensure no vessels exceed the class weight restrictions and once the yachts are launched hulls are unable to be cleaned to gain a competitive edge."

A number of vantage points from Newcastle to Merewether will allow spectators to witness three days of racing and NCYC will be hosting a range of social events for competitors, families and spectators.

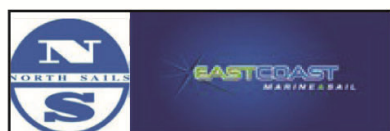
A daily media boat will be available for vision / photo opportunities throughout the tournament and regular racing updates will be distributed.

For more information or to organise an interview with club officials please call:

Stephen Mount (NCYC volunteer media / publicity advisor) - 0428 644 872
Paul Gleeson (NCYC Rear Commodore) - 0428 249 004



NCYC
thanks our
Sponsors
for the
2010 - 2011
Sailing Season



Coming Events

5 February 2011
CYCA Sydney to Newcastle Race
See p 5 for details

11- 13 February 2011
Thrifty 2010-2011 NSW Etchells Championship
See p 11 for details

11-14 February 2011.
Hobart Wooden Boat Festival
Held once every two years. Tall Ships to model boats.

- * **Five NCYC yachts have travelled to Tasmania for event.**
- * **Two NCYC yachts are entrants in the festival**
- * A number of **individuals** are flying.
- * **Novocastrian get-togethers** are being organised.
- * More Information?
www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au/html/boatreg.html
- * Interested in joining the group at the Festival?
Email info@ncyc.net.au Subject: Hobart Wooden Boat Festival

14 February 2011
Valentines Day
See p3 for details

21 - 26 March 2011
Sailors with Disabilities
NCYC will host "Kayle" in Newcastle for a week of sailing.

26 / 27 February 2011
COP Race 6 Swansea to Pittwater
COP Race 7 Pittwater to Swansea [to N'cle OP R6]

2 April 2011
HMRI Cup

Friday night raffles
Ticket sales start 6.00 pm
Draw starts 7.00 pm
In support of Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Junior Sailing

Sunday breakfasts
An NCYC Social Committee initiative
\$6 Bacon & Egg Roll, Hash brown and orange juice
9.30 am—11.00 am

HMRI Cup

History of the HMRI Cup

The inaugural 2010 sailing fundraiser for the Hunter Medical Research Institute was a huge success, hailed as "a one of a kind event for the Hunter that in years to come will be iconic for the region". "This was a fun, safe, exciting experience in support of life changing health and medical research. Eight yachts took to Newcastle Harbour in perfect weather conditions for a great day of sailing and racing in the inaugural HMRI Cup. Crew on the yachts enjoyed learning the skills of sailing from experienced sailors from the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club who kindly donated their yachts and time for the race. The day raised just under \$10,000! What a great result for our researchers!" - HMRI website.

The second HMRI Cup is scheduled for Saturday 2 April 2011. NCYC Rear Commodore Paul Gleeson will be contacting skippers towards the end of February to confirm participation.

Those interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor and having your team contest the HMRI Cup are encouraged to contact HMRI:

Lesley Morris, Development Manager, phone (02) 4921 4946



Image taken during the 2010 HMRI Cup