

# thirty two° fifty five

newcastle cruising  
yacht club journal

Yachting Australia Awards 13

Newcastle Game  
Fishing Club Competition 16

Decisions – Fiji/New Caledonia  
to Newcastle 22

summer 2015

# NCYC Member's Discounts & Benefits

## NCYC Members' Club & Fuel Discounts

<b>NCYC Bar</b>	10% discount for Full Members 5% discount for Social / Crew Members (Membership card must be shown at the Bar)
<b>NCYC Marquee Hire</b>	10% discount for Full Members 5% discount for Social / Crew Members
<b>Fuel (Diesel + PULP)</b>	Full Members & NGFC Members: 12% off the list price on total purchase. Non Full Members: 1 to 999 litres - listed price 1000 + litres – 12% off listed price



## NCYC Members' Benefits

<b>Galley Restaurant</b>	Complimentary sourdough bread for dining when membership card is produced at time of ordering at the Galley Restaurant
--------------------------	--



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

Phone: 1300 653 119  
[www.autoadvantage.com.au](http://www.autoadvantage.com.au)



## NCYC Members' Non-Club Discounts

<b>East Coast Marine &amp; Sail</b>	10% discount to NCYC Members on selected items
-------------------------------------	--

Phone: 02 4961 1663  
[www.ecmarinesail.com.au](http://www.ecmarinesail.com.au)



<b>Rocksalt</b>	Complimentary glass of wine for each guest who is a member of NCYC when dining
-----------------	--

Phone: 02 4961 1676



<b>Heliservices</b>	10% discount for NCYC Members
---------------------	-------------------------------

Phone: 02 4962 5188  
[www.heliservices.com.au](http://www.heliservices.com.au)



<b>Cote D Azur Accommodation</b>	10% discount on accommodation to NCYC Members
----------------------------------	---

Phone: 02 4984 9595  
[www.cotedazurnelsonbay.com.au](http://www.cotedazurnelsonbay.com.au)



<b>Cheery Lane Cottage – Gulgong</b>	10% discount on accommodation to NCYC Members
--------------------------------------	---

Phone: 02 6374 2289  
[www.cherrylanecottage.com.au](http://www.cherrylanecottage.com.au)



<b>Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Gardens</b>	10% discount off best rate available advertised by Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Gardens
---	---

Tel: 02 4998 2000

[www.mercurehuntervalley.com.au](http://www.mercurehuntervalley.com.au)



Subject to change without notice. Memberships cards may need to be shown to get a discount or benefit

Unwind | Share | Laugh | Enjoy



Start Crewing  
Course  
- Sunset  
October 2015



NGFC member  
Benny Lowe



Passage to Australia  
- Arriving in  
Newcastle

#### NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

Incorporating:

MARINA; LICENSED PREMISES;

LEASED BOATYARD; COMMERCIAL CENTRE

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club

95 Hannell Street, Wickham NSW 2293

Ph: 02 4940 8188 Fax: 02 4940 8138

Email: [info@ncyc.net.au](mailto:info@ncyc.net.au)

[www.ncyc.net.au](http://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

### In this issue

### Summer 2015 journal

### A quarterly publication

#### EVERY ISSUE

Commodore's Message .....	4
Rear Commodore's Report .....	5
CEO Report.....	6
Our Club.....	7
Social Highlights.....	8
Sailing .....	12
Laser Sailing .....	14
Newcastle Game Fishing Club.....	16
Docklines .....	18
The Mission to Seafarers .....	19
Where in the World is Our Burgee Competition.....	26

#### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Member Discounts and Benefits .....	2
Security Phone Numbers.....	27
Coming Events.....	27

#### FEATURE ARTICLES

Yachting Australia Awards 2015 .....	13
Boat Profile .....	15
Around the Harbour .....	20
Passage to Australia .....	21
Decisions.....	22
Learning to Sail.....	24
Newcastle Maritime Museum Society .....	25

Editor: Di Hansen

Sub-Editor: Bronwyn Hoffman

Cover Photo: Laser Sailing at NCYC  
Photo by Ray Blackburn



## Commodore's Message



Welcome to the last edition to this year's club magazine. We continue to have a good and varied program and the last race before Christmas is the Christmas Pursuit followed by the Christmas party for members and their families on 20th December.

During the year the extensions to the clubhouse have mightily occupied your board. If we are able to achieve our goals it will result in a great addition to our assets and great facilities for our members. Obviously this requires the coordination of Roads and Maritime, Newcastle Port Corporation, the Newcastle City Council and the Hunter Development Corporation and that is just the planning stage before we can look forward to commencing the building. At this stage we hope to start building in March.

The Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club hopes the Game Fishing Club East Coast tournament, which is to be held again in March 2016, will be as successful as the 2015 event.

The Sailing Academy continues to hum along and rarely is there a day when the F24s are not on the water training children or holding advanced courses. The graduates from the advanced courses are beginning to filter through to our yacht fleet increasing our crew base. So if you are looking for crew, please contact the Sailing Office.



NEWCASTLE CRUISING  
YACHT CLUB

**NCYC IS DEVELOPING  
NCYC CRUISING,  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT THE MARINA  
MANAGER ON MOBILE  
0412 143 925**

Nina Long who has been one of the mainstays of organising the Sailing Academy training program is off to Canada at Christmas to continue her studies at University. She will be gone for several months and we wish her well and assure her that on her return that the protocols she has helped establish will be working like clockwork.

We are hoping to hold a forum for members in the first weeks of December to enable a two way communication between the Board and the members. Firstly, the Board would like to hear members views on the progress (or otherwise) the Club is making. Secondly, we would like to relay to the members our thoughts and intentions for the future. The time and place for this forum will be published on the website and the Club notice boards shortly after the November Board meeting.

Welcome to the Down Under Rally from Noumea which has chosen Newcastle as its home base. We held a welcoming dinner at which the historically close ties between the French and the British explorers of the Pacific were discussed. A continuation of those was looked forward to by us all.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and good sailing especially to those doing some character building in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and the Pittwater to Coffs Race.



Jim Holley, Commodore



## Rear Commodore's Report



Well it's been busy on the Sailing Committee! We all see the events take place but I don't think that we all appreciate the amount of behind the scenes time that our committee devote to organizing them. A good example was the changes that RMS applied with very

little notice to the renewal of our aquatic licence; and the effect that would have on our racing. The Sailing Committee responded to the challenge of re-writing and publishing amendments with no fuss. I'm very grateful to the Sailing Committee and our office staff for getting this done. I'd also like to acknowledge our CEO's role in the negotiations with RMS that have resulted in NCYC being able to start and finish races within the Harbour once again. This comes with the condition that motors must be running IN NEUTRAL within the Harbour and 500m to seaward on approach / departure. I ask all skippers to take special note of this along with your COLREGs imposed obligation to remain clear of a vessel constrained by draft. The in Harbour starts for club pointscore will resume when the Sailing Committee has properly considered our options. The Lion Bird Cabbage races will start and finish in the Harbour.

We successfully staged our Inner Spring Regatta in late August with 20 boats from 7 clubs competing. This regatta is sailed under PHS, IRC and ORCi handicap systems and attendance is bucking the trend on the yachting scene by increasing this year. Stand out NCYC performances were "Schouten Passage" winning IRC Div 1, "Scots Wha Hae" 1st PHS Div 2, "Marta Jean" 5th in PHS Div 1 and "Anger Management" 3rd in ORCi. Congratulations to Will, Valda, Steve and Phil.



NCYC IS NOW ACCREDITED AS  
A DISCOVER SAILING CENTRE

Both the Spring Short Ocean pointscore and the Spring Twilights are underway with very close series scores. There is only one race day to go in the SpSOP, so I expect there will be some close racing on 29 November.

The first two races of the Combined Ocean Pointscore are happening in the near future with 6 NCYC boats and 3 LMYC boats entered for the Redhead to Soldiers Point and return on 21st and 22nd November. These are not simple events logistically so my sincere thanks to our volunteers and the crew of Wombat. RCV "Wombat" and her crew led by Ernie Thirkell provide start, finish and communications support for our COP series.

Our Lion Bird Cabbage overnight Cat 3 series of races begins on Saturday 5 December with a race that rounds Bird Island (off Norah Head) and Cabbage Tree Island (off Port Stephens) before finishing back in Newcastle. This is a good race to practice and hone skills required for the Sydney to Hobart and Pittwater to Coffs races that start in December and January. I encourage all owners and crew to take part in this series if your goal is to accrue the experience needed for Cat 1 & 2 races.

There will be a number of our members participating in both Hobart and Coffs as well as cruisers departing on voyages over the next few months. On behalf of NCYC I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

In my last report I mentioned that we see our youth as the future of our Club, and indeed our sport. We also have a strong Laser fleet and I'm keen for that to continue and to grow. To that end, the Club is looking to acquire a number of dinghies under the auspice of YA "Tackers" program. My vision is that a fleet of Optimists crewed by primary aged kids will launch and recover from a pontoon on F arm while parents observe through the open windows of the clubhouse enjoying our hospitality.....watch this space!



Barry Kelly, Rear Commodore

facebook



Like Us On  
facebook 

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

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



## Chief Executive Officer's Report



Dear Members

Welcome to the Summer edition of NCYC's journal. It's exciting to see the 2015/16 sailing season underway with great racing ahead!

Melissa Nelson's gold medal performance in the Cal 20 class at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles in July was acknowledged at the

recent Yachting Australia Awards 2015. Melissa was nominated, along with her sailing partner Alyse Saxby in the Sailor of the Year with a Disability category. Unfortunately for Melissa and Alyse, the very strong Paralympic Champs and dual world cup winners in the Skud 18 Daniel Fitzgibbon and Liesl Tesch, took the annual award.



NCYC is also very pleased to welcome the 2015 Down Under Rally to our Club. You may have noticed participants gradually arriving ahead of the official Welcome Week events commencing mid-November. I hope you find the opportunity to extend a personal welcome to 2015 Down Under Rally participants, they are all wonderful people and very deserving of Newcastle hospitality. NCYC hopes to arrange informal social events for NCYC members and 2015 Down Under Rally to attend jointly and you will hear more on this shortly.

John Searl recently resigned from the NCYC Sailing Academy position of Sailing and Training Coordinator. We hope that John remains in Newcastle and continues to sail with NCYC and wish John every success in his future. The Sailing Academy remains strong thanks to John's efforts and the ongoing hard work by instructors. 2016 is forecast to be a stronger year for the Sailing Academy with key schools in the region committing students to four terms plus strong interest in the school holiday programs we are planning.

NCYC Sailing will be further bolstered in 2016 with NCYC running a "Discover Sailing Tackers Day" ahead of the Tackers program roll out in Term 1. The Tackers program is produced by Yachting Australia and has been highly successful for early adopting clubs. The program incorporates Optimist dinghy's over three levels with the intention to get more primary school aged kids sailing. This is an exciting time for NCYC and one aimed at creating a sailing pathway for junior sailors toward keelboat sailing at NCYC.

Sailing in general at NCYC is benefitting from strengthened relationships with stakeholders in Newcastle Port. RMS have recently formed the Newcastle and Hunter Area User Group with the intention of improved relationships generally within the Port. During the initial meeting, NCYC was promoted by RMS as a responsible and considered port user to other attendees. This is obviously encouraging and allowed for renegotiations on conditions applied to the current NCYC Aquatic License. Considering this, I ask all skippers and/or owners to remember NCYC Sailing Instruction 15.2 and remain clear of commercial shipping at all times.

The NCYC Licensed Club has faced the regions ongoing financial challenges and the unfortunate decision to make the position of Club Manager redundant was recently made. This is a proactive step to reduce wage costs which are improving in-line with forecast expectations. Michael Thrift successfully managed the Licensed Club for a number of years and his hard work and dedication was front of mind throughout the decision making process. It isn't easy to make these decisions and ongoing improvements in the Licensed Club are required to keep that component of the NCYC business viable and competitive.

To assist the NCYC business aims, effort is being applied to raising the NCYC profile in the region and you should notice increased NCYC presence within local media. We all know the NCYC is fantastic club with a lot to offer the community at large and we need to remind the community that we are here and accessible.

Lastly, I wish all those competing in Blue Water yacht races or Australian Dinghy Championships over the Christmas period all the very best and for those cruising; safe passage and plenty of downwind sailing! To our members not sailing over the Christmas period, have a wonderful festive season.

Aaron Harpham  
Chief Executive Officer

**PLEASE NOTE:  
NCYC CLUB WILL BE  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY**

### STAFF PROFILE Ashely Jones



Hi I'm Ashley and known for my bubbly and outgoing personality!


I've been working as a bartender at the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club for the past six months and I have been helping out as the Functions Coordinator in Administration for the past month.

I have been working in hospitality for the past five years, coordinating functions, handling administration and working as a bar supervisor. I have also worked as a Tourism Officer and Dental Nurse - very multi-skilled!

In January I moved to Newcastle from Scone to undertake further study at TAFE, completing my Diploma in Events in July and now in my first year at the University of Newcastle doing a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Tourism and Marketing.

In my spare time I love to go for jogs with my beautiful puppy – a Koolie Cross cattle dog named Lily, who is a real character. I also love to socialise with friends and eat good food. (Sushi is a must!)

Next time you are in the Club please come and say Hi – I love a good chat!



**NCYC's Trivia in the Marquee**  
**EVERY TUESDAY AT 7PM**  
**IN THE MARQUEE**  
**FREE ENTRY • BUILD A TEAM • WIN PRIZES**  
**GALLEY RESTAURANT MEAL SPECIALS FROM 6-8PM**  
**Bookings: 4940 8188**  
**Email: [functions@ncyc.net.au](mailto:functions@ncyc.net.au)**



20 December  
NCYC Christmas Party  
With Santa arriving  
at 2pm



**Join NCYC**  
**in celebrating**  
**the New Year**  
**with live music & a**  
**relaxing atmosphere**



## AUSTRALIA DAY



**Celebrate**  
**@NCYC**



## Social Highlights

Images by Gloria Thirkell







Images by Gloria Thirkell





## MEMBER PROFILE

### Steve Rae



Steve has been a member of NCYC for the past five and a half years, which is essentially when he and his family moved to Newcastle.

Steve took on a volunteering role at the Club after being elected as a Director two years ago and more recently Treasurer, following the retirement of Larry

Curtis. Steve elaborated saying: "I enjoy having this opportunity to contribute to corporate governance and strategic direction of the Club. On the face of it, ...you would think this would be a simple task considering we have such great facilities and we enjoy wonderful sailing and Club events, ...but as with any business, there are always some interesting opportunities to consider and challenges to be managed. We certainly plan to get more people on the water and more members enjoying what the Club has to offer."

Steve is not a native Novocastrian or even a native Aussie, as he was born slightly east of Sydney, ... in Auckland. His family are all still there, with the exception of his mother (Marta Jean) who passed away 20 years ago from breast cancer, ...hence the name of the Rae's boat.

The opportunity to start sailing on Auckland Harbour arose when one of Steve's mates from uni invited him to join the crew on his family's yacht for weekend club racing, which was all very social with drinks and lunch on board. Their challenge was always, 'not to come last'. This gave Steve a taste of sailing, and in the following years he learned more about how to sail with various dinghies he got his hands on, although he never progressed to racing any of these. Steve commented: "Our NCYC sailing training courses would have been ideal for me at this stage."

Steve left NZ in 1979 after finishing his engineering degree, as he longed to travel. His first ever plane flight was from Auckland to London and his first visit home was 9 yrs later. Steve reflected: "Looking back now, as a parent and a grand parent, I would have to say I should have made more effort (especially as this was before mobile phones and internet and my record at replying to letters wasn't great".

In Steve's words: "I came to Sydney in 1982, after spending all my money backpacking in Europe for 6 months, and feeling that I was loosing mental capacity quickly, from not working or doing anything else that exercises brain cells. At my interview at an employment agency (on Melbourne Cup Day),

I commented on the photo of a sailing boat in the office. This was owned by the interviewer, who raced his boat on Sydney Harbour. He offered to give me a call if he needed crew and 6 months later he did. I sailed with him for two years. Unfortunately I also had the job of jumping over the side and cleaning the bottom of his boat with a snorkel and a sponge before each race, ...which didn't excite me then, and even today, it remains my least favourite job – especially in winter."

Other than a one week sailing holiday in 2007 when he lived and worked in Europe, Steve hadn't sailed at all between 1984 and returning to Australia at the end of 2009. His comment that: "It certainly feels great to be here and to be able to sail at NCYC now!" comes as no surprise to his fellow sailors.

p.s. from Steve: "I also have a loving wife, five wonderful kids, four cute grandkids and a lazy dog, ...but that would be another story which my wife can tell you about when she does her member profile!"



# happy birthday

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







“Thank you to our volunteers for making the NCYC's 2015 Discover Sailing Day such a great success.

With your help, we provided over 170 sailing experiences and showed just how fun sailing can be”.



## The idiots' guide to the racing rules of sailing #1

This new addition to our magazine is to help demystify the rules that commonly cause confusion. All the situations discussed will have happened locally, but the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

### Situation 1

Two boats, W and L, are sailing downwind on the SAME tack with spinnakers. L, the Leeward boat has an Asymmetric Spinnaker and W, the Windward boat has a Symmetric Spinnaker and is on a traditional square run. The next mark is directly downwind from their current positions.

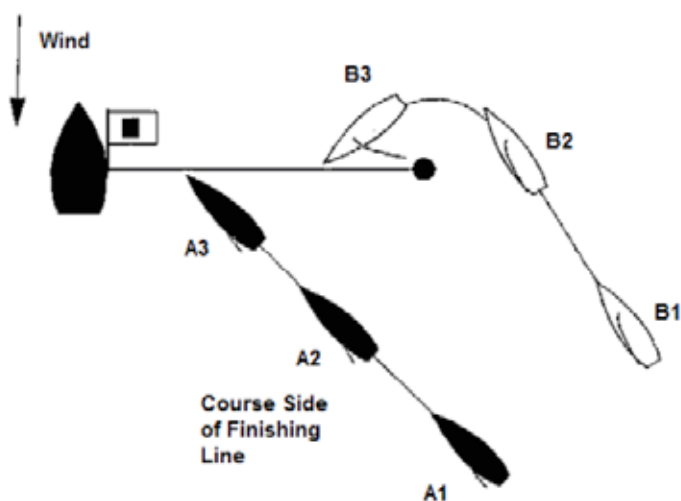
Both boats are sailing their best downwind angle (best VMG). Because of the differences in Spinnaker, L converges with W.

As the boats converge an overlap is established more than two boat lengths to leeward and L hails W to "Keep Clear". W believes L is the "Overtaking" boat and maintains his course.

Who is correct?

### Situation 2

The sailing instructions state that all rounding marks, including the windward mark, are to be left to port. Due to insufficient wind the race committee shortens the course by displaying flag S (with two sounds) from a staff on a committee boat anchored near the windward mark.



The committee sets the finishing line as shown in the diagram. At the time that flag S is displayed, the boats are between the last rounding mark and the finishing line. Boats A and B approach the finishing line, see flag S and sail the courses shown in the diagram.

After the race committee shortens the course, are boats still required to leave the windward mark to port and to 'hook round' it (as B does), or are they required to cross the finishing line from the course side (as A does)?

### Answer 1

Definition of Proper Course: The course a boat would sail to finish as soon as possible in the absence of other boats.

Case Book, Case 134: A boat's proper course at any moment depends on the existing conditions. Some of those conditions are the wind strength and direction, the pattern of gusts and lulls in the wind, the waves, the current, and the physical characteristics of the boat's hull and equipment, including the sails she is using.

Rule 11 requires a Windward boat to keep clear. If W believes L is sailing above her proper course she still must keep clear but may protest. Skippers need to understand that "Proper Course" varies with boat configuration and sails that are set. It is possible that every boat in a small mixed fleet has a different "Proper Course".

### Answer 2

After the race committee shortens the course, the windward mark is no longer a rounding mark. It becomes a finishing mark (see rule 32.2). To comply with rule 28, boats must finish in accordance with the definition Finish. Therefore, they must cross the finishing line from its course side. A finishes in accordance with the definition; B does not finish.

How did you go?

Your Friendly Sailing and Protest Committees

## SAILING PROGRAMS

NCYC is continuing Sailing Programs throughout 2016

- Accredited Discover Sailing Courses
  - Start Crewing
  - Start Helming
  - Start Skippering
  - Spinnaker Course
  - Start Racing
- Sailing for School Sport
- Youth Development Sailing
- Tackers Junior Sailing

For further information regarding these programs and to be included on the mailing list, please contact the Administration Office

**Tel: 4940 8188**

**Email: [sailing@ncyc.net.au](mailto:sailing@ncyc.net.au)**

**Website: [www.ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy/](http://www.ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy/)**



Article by Gloria Thirkell

Announcement of the winners of these awards took place on 6 November 2015 at a gala function held at Dolce House, Darlington Island Wharf, Pyrmont, Sydney. It was a wonderful night amongst truly inspirational people. NCYC congratulates Hunter sailor and NCYC Crew Member, Melissa Nelson, our nominated entrant in the "Sailor of the Year with a Disability" category.

Melissa's parents Annette and Garry were justifiably proud of the huge honour for the team of Melissa Nelson and Alyse Saxby to be selected as one of the five finalists. Melissa Nelson and Alyse have had an exciting sailing history together. Alyse from Pittwater Sailability bought a Spiral Sailing Dinghy to gain selection in level 3 after winning gold in 2011 in level 2. She teamed up with Melissa from Port Stephens Sailability to compete for selection in Melbourne for the NSW Special Olympics Sailing Team in October 2014.

The string of successes for this team began in Japan sailing in the 303 doubles in the Hiroshima Peace Regatta. The selection trials in Melbourne resulted in the pair achieving Alyse's goal, being chosen to contest level 3. They went on to win gold at the Special Olympic World Summer Games in Los Angeles, August 2015.

At the presentation night there was a lot of nervous anticipation while other awards were announced. Eventually Daniel Fitzgibbon and Liesl Tesch took out the prestigious trophy for "Sailor of the Year with

## Thursday Night Members Draw

Permit LTPS/14/05783

Up to 4 draws per night:  
6.15pm, 6.30pm, 6.45pm and 7pm.  
Cash prize starts at \$200 - jackpots if not won.

a Disability". The pair won gold at the 2012 London Paralympic Games and have since been unbeaten in their Skud18 class, notching up a win in the 2014 ISAF World Cup, and then again at the 2015 World Cup. They also won gold in the 2015 Delta Lloyd Regatta in Medemblik, The Netherlands.

Melissa hopes to progress her sailing further by learning on bigger boats with experienced NCYC sailors.

Explanation of the Levels of competition mentioned:

- Level 1: The athlete has to control the jib and help ballast the boat while the boat is skippered by a unified partner.
- Level 2: The boat must be skippered 100% of the time by the athlete.
- Level 3: The boat must be skippered and crewed entirely by the athletes. The onboard coach can assist by ballasting but must not steer or adjust the sails.
- Level 4: This requires a team of two athletes to race entirely unassisted.
- Level 5: Requires a single athlete to sail alone and unassisted.



Image by Ryan Osland - Newcastle Herald

## Laser Sailing

By Damien Boldyrew

With the arrival of daylight savings time affording us all more sunlight later in the day, the NCYC Laser Dinghy fleet has resumed Friday twilight racing. The popular windward/leeward short-course races starting at 5.30pm in the western end of the Harbour has enticed 29 entrants in the series so far this season, with more expected as school and work commitments subside for some. The Club can be proud to have fostered a class and format that has drawn so many. And what a diverse fleet we have. Every rig type is represented; the standard (suited to the 80kg+ sailor), the smaller radial (suited to 55-76kg sailors and those heavier ones that prefer not to lean out too hard or for too long) and the even smaller 4.7 (intended for 45-60kg sailors). Boat ages span 30 years and sailor ages span 60 years! Some sailors are new to the class and some have sailed Lasers for years with every level of sailor in the mix from beginner to National Champions. What it all boils down to is a bit of fun on a Friday afternoon. If this sounds like something you'd like to be a part of, there are boats currently listed for sale on various websites ranging in price from \$800 to \$5500. If you prefer a new boat, Performance Sailcraft, an NCYC sponsor located on the Central Coast, can assist. Of course, before you make a commitment to purchase a boat, you might like to get out on the water in a boat, so please contact the Club and enquire about hiring a boat for a few races.



As for results so far this season, in previous seasons the Club has run a single division regardless of rig type. This year, in addition to the mixed fleet results, separate results have been instituted for the standard rig and the radial/4.7 rigs. It's kept club handicapper, Mark Richards very busy on a Friday night as he collates the results and we thank him for his tireless effort!

At the time of writing, 5 weeks in and with 13 races completed, the standard rig fleet is led by Michael Babbage sailing 'It's 505 Somewhere', with Graham Baxendale on 'Here Comes The Boom' and Jeff Robinson on 'Friday', not far behind. The radial/4.7 fleet is led by Ruth Ballin sailing 'Ruthless', just 1 point ahead of Lucy Nissen on 'My Pony' who is just 1 point ahead of Emily Carstairs on 'Karma'.

The mixed fleet handicap pointscore has Adrian Kiely on 'Free Cuba' in first place ahead of Dean Nissen on 'Hail Mary Mum' and Grant Harland on 'Bazinga'.

Follow the fleet on facebook:  
Laser Dinghy Sailing at NCYC

## Belmont-Newcastle Laser Winter Series

By Damien Boldyrew

Winter is well and truly behind us, but before we focus on the spring season, let us acknowledge those that braved the cold in the inaugural Belmont-Newcastle Laser Winter Series organised by Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club in conjunction with Belmont 16ft Sailing Club.

27 boats from 4 different clubs entered the series held over 6 Saturdays, alternating between sailing on Newcastle Harbour, Belmont Bay and Lake Macquarie. NCYC was well represented with 12 of our members competing in the event.

After 15 races, in the standard rig division our former CEO Richard Howard sailing 'Itchy Ritchy', won the series ahead of Rod Gardiner (B16FSC) on 'Shadrack' and David Sullivan (B16FSC) on 'The Phat Hippy'.

The radial rig division podium was fully occupied by B16FSC sailors Bruce Taylor, 'Strumpet', Janease Graham, 'Acme Laser' and J Makin on '#178646'.

The mixed fleet handicap pointscore was won by Brian McKevitt (B16FSC) sailing 'Too Much Tape', followed by Rodney King (NCYC) on 'If Not Now When' and Bruce Taylor (B16FSC) on 'Strumpet'.

Congratulations to all the sailors and thanks to the Race Committee and volunteers from each club that gave up their time to run an event that was enjoyed by all. Next years series is already pencilled in!



## Boat Profile – She's The Culprit

Glenn Bulmer (Tac), Glen Picasso (Cyril) and David (two dogs) O'Dowd own the well-travelled and well-named She's The Culprit.



### Boat Specifications:

Name:	She's The Culprit
Design:	Balsa Core Ingles
Built:	1994
Length:	39'

A 39' Balsa Core Ingles design, built in 1994 and launched as Top Cat for the Melbourne Osaka Yacht Race, the yacht was sold to a Tasmanian and renamed 42 South. Her next owner, Todd Leary, changed her name to "She's The Culprit". Leary and campaigned her regularly, including three Hobart's (from 2008-2010).



The Culprit Syndicate Purchased the Yacht in Hobart in 2012. Since then the Syndicate has had great success winning their division in Pittwater to Coffs, Sydney to Southport and Sydney to Hobart races. In 2014 they not only won their division outright, they were the first boat in their division to finish, beating all the division 1 boats to the post. Trophy's from these races are proudly on display in the NCYC trophy cabinet.

2014 Rolex Sydney to Hobart race also saw "She's The Culprit" winning the much coveted Corinthian Cup. This division was open to all yachts with no professional crew on board and consisted of half the fleet. The crew are very proud to have a major Trophy on permanent display at the CYCA with their name on it.

"She's The Culprit" has a mix of experienced and inexperienced sailors and the priority on board is to have fun safely and feel good when you step off the boat, regardless of the result.

To keep up to date with "She's The Culprit" visit the yachts Facebook page "She's the Culprit".

### WANTED Boat Profiles

Email an image & a specification profile of your boat to be featured in upcoming editions of this magazine.

**Email:** [info@ncyc.net.au](mailto:info@ncyc.net.au)

**Subject:** Boat Profile

Time to drop in to the club  
to try on some new NCYC / Gill gear?



Gill Cotton T-shirts (M & F)  
\$60



Gill Long Sleeve Race Shirts  
(Unisex / UV) \$65



Gill Hats \$25



NEWCASTLE CRUISING  
YACHT CLUB

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

**PLEASE CONTACT THE MARINA  
MANAGER FOR DETAILS**

**MOBILE: 0408 299 512**

**EMAIL: [dockmaster@ncyc.net.au](mailto:dockmaster@ncyc.net.au)**

## Newcastle Game Fishing Club

By **Scott Morris**  
Vice President/Secretary

Newcastle Gamefishing Club had a few boats venturing out a few weekends ago before the weather moved in with mixed results. "Spaniardo 2" went out on Saturday 31st October with no luck however, they managed to tag & release the first Marlin of the season for our club a couple of weeks before that! Sunday 1st November seemed to be the best day with "Ningaloo" tagging 2 x Striped Marlin. "Eagle VI" caught some nice Mahi Mahi & 2 x Yellowfin Tuna (48kg & 55kg) all caught just over *The Shelf* East of Newcastle. The 48kg Yellowfin was caught by Max Hardy and is a pending Small Fry NSW/Australian record!

The boys on "Seawandra" caught a nice 226kg Mako Shark and they also caught a 349.8kg Tiger Shark a couple of weeks ago out near *The Shelf* off Newcastle.

The bait is starting to gather out the front in water depths from 140m through to 220m with the warm currents coming from the north & the early run of Striped Marlin is continuing. I have heard reports of some nice Mahi Mahi & Short Billed Spearfish making an appearance, so I think it is time to get out there & try your luck!

See you on the Water!

### Coffs Harbour Hot Current Tournament Update:

As I write this, Day 3 (final day). NGFC boats are doing well up to this point! "Hot One" is currently in 2nd place with "Gringo" running 3rd. "Sea Baby IV" has had some mechanical problems on the first 2 days but will pushing to make up for it today! Good luck boys!

### Final Result for the 2015 COFFS HARBOUR HOT CURRENT TOURNAMENT

NGFC Boat "HOT ONE" skippered by Ryan Faulkner & crewed by Billy Gray & Paul Edwards won 1st prize in Tag & Release !! NGFC Boat "GRINGO" skippered by Mick Zontos & crewed by Carl Twaddle & Matthew Pitman came in 3rd tag & release.



## A COMPETITION FOR NGFC MEMBERS

NGFC have an exciting new competition in conjunction with

The Great Northern Brewing Company.

Simply post your photo of a pelagic fish with a carton of Great Northern Super Crisp Larger in the photo somewhere (caption optional) to our Facebook page Newcastle Game Fishing Club to go in the running to win a Fully Stocked Great Northern Eskey including Stubby Holders & Shirts.

**NOTE:** Photos with any "other" brand beers/paraphernalia in background won't be eligible.

Get out there guys, buy a carton of Great Northern, put it on your boat & get snapping those photos!!!

Great prizes to be won, plus it's a good drop!

Available on tap at the NCYC Yacht Club, so support our sponsors so they can continue to support us.



### Terms and Conditions:

- We will run monthly competitions; November 2015, December 2015, January 2016 & February 2016. Prizes to be won for each month.
- You may enter as many times as you want.
- The winner will receive a Fully Stocked Great Northern Eskey including Stubby Holders & Shirts.
- Only entries posted on the NGFC Facebook page will be eligible.
- You must be a financial member of Newcastle Gamefishing Club to be eligible.
- No photo-shopping.
- The prize is not transferable and not redeemable for cash.
- The best entry will be selected by the Great Northern Crew. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered in to.

**GOOD LUCK!**



# NGFC EAST COAST CLASSIC GAME FISHING TOURNAMENT

The NEWCASTLE  
GAMEFISHING CLUB  
2016 EAST COAST  
CLASSIC GAMEFISHING  
TOURNAMENT

**March 12th & 13th 2016**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

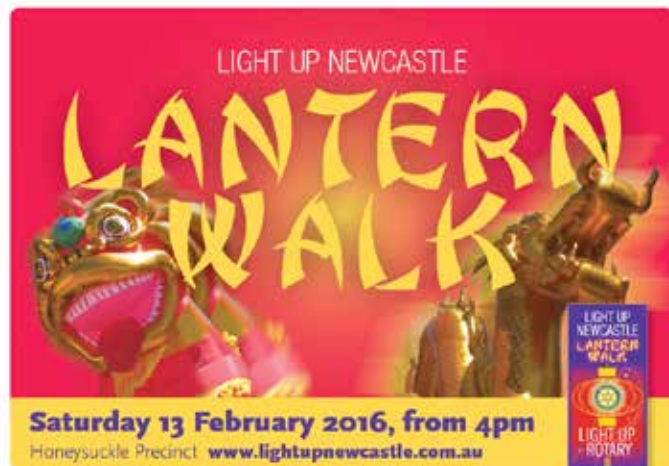
To be held in conjunction  
with the NEWCASTLE  
CRUISING YACHT CLUB

Any sponsors that would  
like to be involved, please call  
**Scott Morris - 0412127400**

NGFC will be  
actively promoting the  
tournament shortly.



**NEWCASTLE**  
GAME FISHING CLUB



#### **180 Berth Floating Marina**

Casual and permanent berths available  
Water, power, laundry and private showers  
Fuel, boatyard, sailmaker, chandlery  
and broker on-site

#### **The Perfect East Coast Stopover**

Open for lunch and dinner 7 days  
plus Sunday breakfast  
Easy access to train and airport transport  
Weekend or weekly packages available  
for cruising clubs or groups

**SAFE ALL WEATHER  
DEEP HARBOUR ENTRANCE**



E [dockmaster@ncyc.net.au](mailto:dockmaster@ncyc.net.au)  
P 02 4940 8188 • M 0408 299 512

## Docklines - Howard Keegan

Our marina activity has been quite hectic of recent with many visiting transient vessels. When you combine this with our 25 International guests in the Down Under Rally, our occupancy has been running consistent over 95%. Being near full with constant daily enquiries has been quite challenging with many berths vacated in the morning then filled again in the afternoon just like a motel. We have even had to obtain the assistance of Hunter Development Corporation to use the large wharf at Honeysuckle when we were given short notice of 3 Superyachts coming off a ship in mid-November (one vessel at 114', another at 100' and a 95' Superyacht).



The proverbial red carpet was laid out to welcome our international visitors participating in the Down Under Rally 2015. With over 50 people here from all around the world it has been an interesting experience in the planning & organising of such an event. We have learnt a lot from the exercise & stand in readiness to offer an even better event next year should it go ahead. Our guests have been most impressed with the warm welcome to our facility and great city and they are already spreading the news to fellow world cruisers to come to Newcastle and enjoy.

In regard to marina care, thank you to all who have removed their equipment from the walkways to ensure it is safe and trip-hazard free. You will also notice that we have installed a safety ladder on each marina arm out near the end berths, this allows for the safe retrieval of anybody who falls in the water. We are also in the process of water blasting all of the walkways on the marina to keep a clean & tidy presentation of our facility.

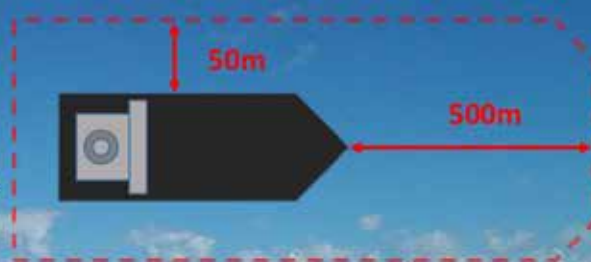
We have more visiting vessels over the Christmas period with RPAYC bringing 21 boats for their annual Christmas cruise. The fleet arrive on December 27 and will stay at NCYC until Jan 1, when they then head for Lake Macquarie. We very much look forward to making them feel welcome.

The new year brings even more marina events including the Newcastle Game Fishing Club's annual tournament in March followed by the feeder races to the Port Stephens Regatta in April.

Safe Boating & Merry Xmas to all!

Crews are reminded that Newcastle Harbour and approaches are a restricted navigation zone. Recreational yachts need remain clear of commercial shipping. Sailing Instruction 15.2 provides the ability for race yachts to use their engines to move away from commercial shipping without incurring a penalty.

### Minimum Distances





# The Mission to Seafarers

Article & Images by Rick McCosker

The bulk of 2015 is behind us and already summer and Christmas are drawing near, and all that this time brings into our lives. Maybe some “normal” time before the hustle and bustle of Christmas parties and family gatherings.

We live in a great country generally speaking, a wonderful climate, conducive to outdoor living and water sports in and around our harbour and beaches. We are lucky, the question is, do we make our own luck, or do we take it all for granted?

We have recently been to John Hunter Hospital at different times visiting ill and injured seafarers. Bernardo, a Filipino 2nd Engineer, had been feeling chest pains while at berth in a Chinese port but preferred to wait until arriving in Newcastle before seeking medical attention. He was fortunate to make the full journey of eighteen days as he was diagnosed with a serious heart condition and almost immediately had a triple bi-pass operation. His shipping company sought his immediate return to the Philippines but he was in no condition to undertake the arduous flight back home to Manilla. As a result of intervention by the International Transport Federation and our local Filipino community Bernardo was allowed to stay for a short while, long enough for his wife Roslyn to be flown out to join him. Having his wife here was very important to Bernardo as the thought of a long recuperation in a strange country was not appealing.

Ronillo is another seafarer admitted to JHH after a fall on board his vessel, resulting in severe injuries to his shoulder, hip and ribs. It is anticipated that his stay in Newcastle will probably be a lengthy one, depending on whether he'll be given a medical clearance. In the meantime, he will be looked after by members of the



Bernardo & Roslyn

Filipino community and our hospital chaplains.

The third recent incident occurred when a seafarer committed suicide at sea. The life of a seafarer can be a lonely one, living and working so far from home for nine to ten months at a time, sometimes it can become too much.

These incidents highlight the dangers and problems facing seafarers and the ship owners who contract the crews. This is why our Mission Centre is so important, when we can help at least some crew come ashore and allow them the freedom to wander around our foreshore, go sight-seeing if they have time, or to shop at Marketown. They are almost always in a group so if you see them give them a welcoming smile, that speaks all languages.

Our Senior Chaplain, Garry Dodd has again been overseas in his capacity as Executive Officer of Mission to Seafarers throughout Australia. This time it was a regional Conference in South Africa and he is able to share with us the knowledge and experiences of representatives of other Centres throughout the Pacific region.

Our Mission Centre was recently the venue for an Information Evening when we were hosts to thirty visitors who were interested in finding out what we did and why. This function was the brainchild of Karina, a young person who had spent some time volunteering at the Centre as part of the Catholic Diocese Pastoral Placement Programme. She enjoyed her time here to the extent that she chose our Mission Centre as a project. It was a relaxed, informative evening with some quiet music and excellent food provided by AJ, a young Filipino chef from Sydney and a team of helpers including some of our faithful volunteers. We were able to host the recuperating Filipino seafarer, Bernardo and his wife, Roslyn (pictured) who enjoyed some relaxing time before preparing to return home.

Our volunteers will soon be preparing gift packages to be taken on board every vessel that will be in our port in the days leading up to Christmas. These packs will contain personal toiletries for the seafarers and donations of these items can be left at the Mission Centre at any time day or night.

It has been a very busy, but rewarding year and as it comes to a close, our chaplains and volunteers would like to wish members and their families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



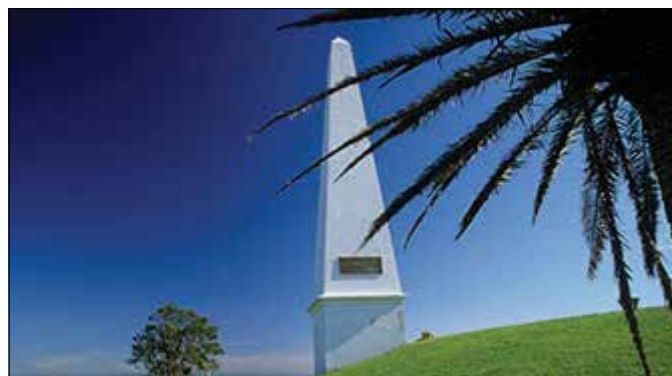
## Around the Harbour The Obelisk

### Information provided by Alan Fairhall

The Obelisk marks the location of Newcastle's first windmill erected on Shepherds Hill in 1820. It was also used as a navigation reference for shipping approaching Newcastle.

After demolition in 1847, The Obelisk was erected in 1850 as a guide for shipping. Beneath the Obelisk is one of Newcastle's first reservoirs, built in 1884.

[Newcastle Symphony of a City by Allen Fairhall, NCYC Member]



# Trusted to protect your boating lifestyle

Australia's No. 1 provider of boat insurance for more than 40 years

1300 00 CLUB (2582)

clubmarine.com.au



Insurance is issued by Club Marine Limited (Club Marine) ABN 12 007 588 347 AFSL No. 236916 as agent of the insurer Allianz Australia Insurance Limited (Allianz) ABN 115 000 122 850 AFSL No. 234708. Club Marine is a related body corporate of Allianz. Before making a decision, please consider the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) available by phoning 1300 00 2582.

## The cruise ships are coming...



The Port of Newcastle will welcome 11 cruise ships and nearly 18,000 passengers between November 2015 and May 2016.

Highlights of the 2015-16 season include five maiden visits and the return of the high-end luxurious cruise line, *Silversea*. The economic value of cruise shipping to the region has been estimated at around \$11 million\* per annum.

Visiting cruise ships dock at the Channel Berth at Carrington, which offers deep water berthing, a panoramic view of Newcastle's skyline and plenty of parking for coaches to transport passengers to and from shore excursions and the Newcastle CBD.

Port of Newcastle has arranged for each ship to receive a traditional three gun salute from Fort Scratchley on departure which will occur 15-20 minutes after the ship leaves the berth. Why not head down to the Newcastle or Stockton foreshore and welcome the ships to our region.

Further information is available at [www.portofnewcastle.com.au](http://www.portofnewcastle.com.au).

\*Source: Australian Cruise Association



SHIP NAME	DATE	ARRIVE AT PORT ENTRANCE*	ARRIVE AT BERTH*	DEPART BERTH*	LENGTH (m)	PASSENGERS
PACIFIC DAWN	MON 23 NOV 2015	0700	0800	1700	245	2020
PACIFIC JEWEL**	TUES 24 NOV 2015	0700	0800	1800	245	1950
AZAMARA QUEST**	WED 13 JAN 2016	0700	0800	2200	180	688
PACIFIC ARIA**	WED 27 JAN 2016	0700	0800	1800	219	1258
SILVER WHISPER	MON 15 FEB 2016	0600	0700	2000	190	382
RADIANCE OF THE SEAS	FRI 19 FEB 2016	0700	0800	1700	293	2501
QUEEN ELIZABETH**	MON 22 FEB 2016	0700	0800	1800	294	2547
PACIFIC ARIA	WED 2 MAR 2016	0700	0800	1800	219	1258
CELEBRITY SOLSTICE	SAT 19 MAR 2016	0700	0800	1800	317	2850
INSIGNIA**	SUN 8 MAY 2016	0700	0800	2000	180	450
PACIFIC DAWN	TUES 31 MAY 2016	0700	0800	1600	245	2020

The Channel Berth at Carrington is the designated cruise berth.

\* Cruise ship arrival and departure times are subject to change, depending on shipping movements in the Port. The port exit time is approximately 30 minutes after the published berth departure time.

\*\* Maiden voyage.



## Passage to Australia

Taken from Lisa Dorenfest's Blog - 25 October 2015  
Article and Images by Lisa Dorenfest

While we were disappointed to leave New Caledonia ahead of schedule, our consolation prize was a great sail on "Amandla" to Australia and the promise of new adventure.

We estimated that it would take 8 days to sail the 990 nm from Nouméa to Newcastle, Australia, but we 'flew' here in 6 days. While it was a bit uncomfortable to live at a 15° angle due to boat heel, it was well worth a fast passage. We could have made it in 5 days if it weren't for an unfavourable current and no wind 350 miles out which had us motoring under 4 knots for 20 hours. But then the current turned, the winds kicked back in, and before we knew it, we were tying up at the lovely Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club.



Lisa and Fabio

As very satisfied participants in the Down Under Rally, we benefited from the Rally team's support before, during and after our passage. We were treated to a week's berth in the marina and received VIP Customs, AQIS and Immigration clearance upon our arrival. Howard Keegan, the Marina & Assets Manager, personally welcomed us on the dock and provided incredibly helpful local knowledge (including where to find the good street art). The officials were courteous and efficient. We felt very welcome!

After catching up on some much needed sleep, we enjoyed access to ample, affordable provisions at nearby stores, a few meals out in delicious restaurants, and some magnificent street art by both local and world renowned artists.



We'd hoped to stay longer as there is much to do in Newcastle, but a weather window once again presented itself, and so we sailed southward toward Sydney.



Newcastle City Clock Tower

Our first anchorage was in Coasters Retreat where we picked up a mooring buoy and were immediately invited over for sundowners by Effie and Alan, the friendly crew of "SV Kai Rani". They introduced us to a number of members of the Coastal Cruising Club of Australia and suddenly we were surrounded by new friends.

The next day, we sailed onward with our friend Stefano of "SY Novae" up Smith's Creek and discovered heaven on earth.

We've toured about by dinghy, rested, and enjoyed a few dinners with our new friends, the crew from "SY Mistyrell", a local boating family that is preparing for their own extended cruising adventure.



Amandla In Smith's Creek

We continue to relax here until the end of the month and then sailed onward to Port Jackson, also known as the famous Sydney Harbour.

## DECISIONS

### Sailing from Fiji/New Caledonia to Newcastle

Article and Images by Joe & Heidi  
Down Under Rally

Sometimes in life, you have to make some tough decisions! Fortunately for us, the decision to come to Newcastle was not a tough decision at all!

We had sailed our yacht “Huck” back up to Fiji from New Zealand in May of 2015. The beautiful islands, the outgoing friendly locals, and the nice warm clear waters of Fiji has made it one of our favorite destinations. We also have many friends that feel the same way, so it is always a very social and fun place to spend the cruising season.

As a cruising yacht sitting in the South West Pacific Islands, you are constantly making/changing plans. As the impending cyclone season approaches, we needed to firm up our plans to leave the beautiful islands, and head to somewhere safe. Our long term plans are to continue our journey around the world, but we’re just not quite ready to say goodbye to the South Pacific. Our original plan was to sail North, through Kiribati and up to the Marshall Islands. This location would put us North of the major storms and would also allow us to return to Fiji/Vanuatu/New Caledonia the following season. Unfortunately, as we continued to research these plans, the presence of an El Nino year began to drastically reduce the safety margins that the Marshall Islands would offer. As a fallback plan, we could happily return to New Zealand for a third time, but we were still looking for some new adventures.

We were sitting at a bar with some great friends, John and Leanne from "SY Songlines", when John asked if we’d considered going to Australia as part of the Down Under Rally. We had not seriously considered Australia, as we’d heard that the check-in process was expensive



and that the officials were difficult to deal with. It had also been rumored that “everything in Australia would kill you”. Well... we’ve now been here for several weeks and we’re still alive!

Planning for our passage from New Caledonia to Australia is a little



different from planning our previous passages down to New Zealand, although both passages are roughly 1000 nautical miles. When heading to New Zealand, you are basically waiting for a storm to cross over the North Island of NZ. As that storm moves North, it eventually loses power, so you try to meet it somewhere around latitude 30. This allows you to cross through a weakened front, and gives you enough time to get to NZ before the next storm comes across. Alternatively, when you are crossing from New Caledonia to Australia, you have a HUGE target to hit, and the weather window between weather systems is roughly 7-days. This means that with the right conditions, you can leave New Caledonia on the heels of a passing weather system, and hopefully arrive before the subsequent one crosses.

Our yacht “Huck” is an American built Shannon 43 Ketch. She is designed as a short-handed long distance ocean cruiser. While not quite slow, she is also not quite fast. The good news, is she takes very good care of us, when we make less than ideal decisions. When planning passages we conservatively estimate that we can always average 5 kts of boat speed, even in the lightest winds. We can obviously turn on the diesel, but our range under diesel is roughly about half the distance of the passage. With this passage, we knew we would need to keep our boat speed up. We had two sailing friends joining us on this passage, which definitely makes it easier to sail more aggressively, than when it’s just ourselves.

We departed New Caledonia on October 15 as the sun came up. Our forecast was for 20 knot winds, gusts to 30, and lumpy seas for the first few days. It was then supposed to calm down and give us a relatively smooth ride the rest of the way. Depending on our speed, we should arrive prior to the next storm coming across Newcastle. As often happens, things didn’t exactly follow the forecast. For the most part, the winds averaged in the low 30s for the first several days, with gusts to about 37. We were sailing downwind and making very good time, so it was all good. No worries. We were averaging close to 7 knots. This may sound slow to some of the racers but is comfortable for Huck to do 24hrs a day, day after day!

We continued to watch the weather around Newcastle as we got closer and closer. Unfortunately, we did not feel



like we could make it into Newcastle before the weather turned bad, and we'd also be looking at a night arrival. As I mentioned, Australia is a HUGE target. When were a few days out, we made the decision to redirect our arrival to come into Coffs Harbour (another port of entry for international vessels). This now meant that we actually had to slow way down to avoid coming in at night. We reduced our sail pattern to just a tiny headsail, and just loped along at 4 knots in calm seas. It was a very big change from trying to push hard to beat a storm in, to slowing way down and relaxing on a beautiful day.

We had previously emailed our pre-arrival information to the officials at Border Force, and had received a very nice and efficient reply. Now we were changing our arrival port and date, so we sent them an update to our plans. Again, we received a nice reply and were informed that they had forwarded our information to the officials at Coffs Harbour. Very easy! The next day, a Border Force plane flew over the top of "Huck", and hailed us on the VHF to verify the information we had provided. Again, extremely efficient and friendly! When we arrived in Coffs Harbour, we were boarded by a Border Force official named Anthony. Our check-in process was efficient, professional and very friendly. Obviously, our concerns about the officials being difficult to deal with were completely unfounded. In the end, it was AU\$380 for us to check-in to Australia and really could not have been more pleasant!

We enjoyed Coffs Harbour for a few days, and then departed for Newcastle where Howard had a berth waiting for us. The forecast for the overnight passage was for light winds, and with the wonderful effects of the East Australian Current, we'd be able to make the 170nm trip pretty quickly. However, forecasts are forecasts and ours was not quite accurate again. Silly us... we'd been looking at our normal offshore weather sources; whereas we really should have relied on local resources to see how the land effects are going to play into things. Our passage down was a bit more robust than planned, but again "Huck" took great care of us.

We sailed into Newcastle on the morning of October



26th letting a massive cargo ship clear the entrance before heading into the marina. We had radioed Port Control, who already had our details from Howard, and they welcomed us to the port. On our way in a Police boat came alongside to greet



us, verifying that we had indeed checked in at Coffs Harbour. All very pleasant and professional!

John and Leanne from "SY Songlines", as well as Robbie from "SY Mersoleil" were standing on the dock to welcome us to Newcastle and catch our lines. Soon we were tied up and plugged in for the first time since leaving New Zealand last May. Such a great feeling, and what a wonderful nights sleep that night!!!

As part of the inaugural Down Under Rally, we had been given a lot of information about sailing to Australia, about the friendly locals, and about how amazing Newcastle is for cruisers. Having a modern, well kept marina surrounded by the beautiful grounds of the NCYC, and all the amenities so close at hand is important to us since don't currently have a vehicle. From our berth, we can also step out onto the boardwalk and enjoy a beautiful short walk in to the heart of Newcastle with its many parks, museums, pubs, restaurants, stores, and services. It's quite amazing for us to have so much, so close. The locals have been wonderful and have made us feel completely welcome. We've only done a few rallies over the past several years and the Down Under Rally has been quite a nice surprise for us. Not only has it introduced us to an area that we would have otherwise missed, but it has also given us access to a lot of great resources as well as made it extremely easy to get ourselves oriented in our new hometown. In the coming months we will be exploring more and more of Australia by land. There are still more decisions to be made, like where will we go when we decide to leave Australia? For now we are just happy enjoying life and we will see where the wind carries us next.

About us: We retired from our careers in technology at the beginning of 2013 to pursue our dreams of circumnavigating. We purchased "SY Huck" in 2009 with this goal in mind, and worked diligently to ensure that both the boat and ourselves were ready. In the fall of 2011 we sailed from California down the Baja coast to Mexico. In the Spring of 2013, we departed Mexico for French Polynesia and have been sailing full time since. We have sailed through the Marquesas, the Tuamotus, Tahiti, Society Islands, Niue, Tonga, New Zealand, Fiji, and New Caledonia before reaching Australia.

## Learning to sail

### Article by Valda Johnston

Just a short note about the week beginning Saturday 10th October of which I spent only one of those days on land for the whole day. The rest of the week was "learning" to sail.

It started with the AMAZING Chris Griffiths who has nerves of steel considering it's his beloved Sea G being put through the rigours. Did I say rigours?? Chris, it's only a teensy scrape on her hull, "build a bridge and get over it" as you would say. Chris tolerated me for 5 days of a huge learning curve in navigating and manoeuvring under power AND sail. We also saw a huge whale outside Port Stephens performing its best tail slapping and high rolling – I looked that up and Wikipedia says it is a form of aggression – so believing Wikipedia as we all do, we departed the area.

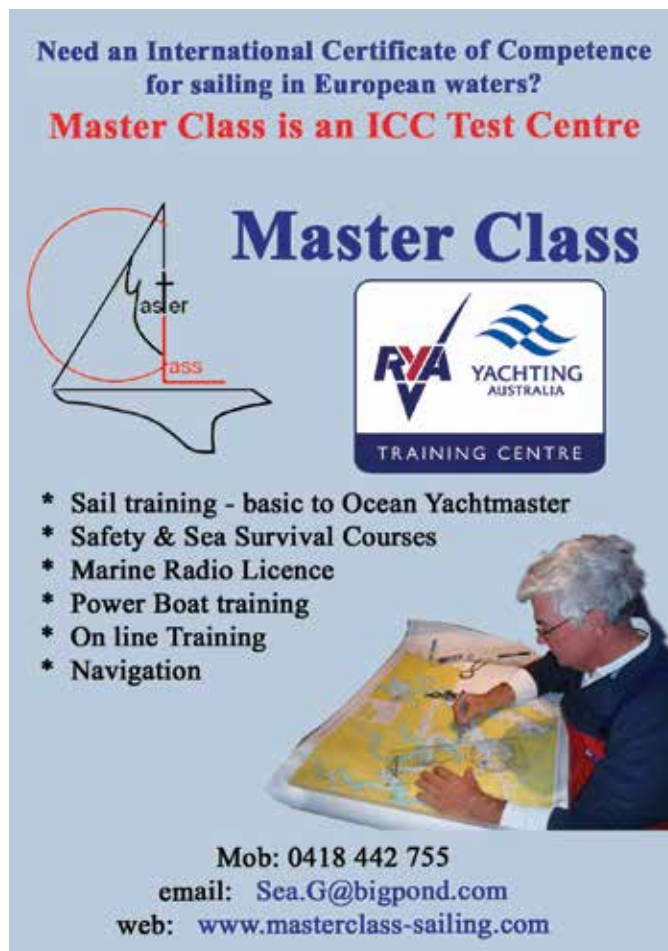
On Thursday I was again on land only to be cycling past our Club on my way to Honeysuckle and see the Clipper on which my mates Louise and Jane are training to sail in one leg of Around the World.

On Friday back on the water under the tutelage of John Searl, Nina & John, learning to use a spinnaker on the Club's Force 24s. Again, I appreciate expert knowledge and the imparting of same.

More sailing on Sunday in the Short Ocean Pointscore where "Scots Wha' Hae" was literally pipped at the post by the sailing prowess of the team on "Tamarillo".



I'll leave you with this little quote:-





Article by Bill Quirk  
Borrelli Quirk Newcastle Real Estate

A welcomed transformation process happening at the Newcastle Maritime Museum for the enjoyment and education of all the people of Newcastle and visitors alike. After a period of 'rudder damage' (like being becalmed on the Sargasso Sea ) and a slight change of crew on deck, we now look forward to fair winds and a true plotted course of new discovery.

This original Wharf Store circa 1910, houses but a small portion of the extensive and valuable Maritime Museum collection. The limited floor space has been opened up to allow flexibility and mobility of exhibits. New exhibits drawn from the Maritime Museum's collection of over 7000 historic maritime related objects, some never seen before will add a fresh and interesting experience for visitors. Newcastle State Dockyard is the subject of many planned exhibitions. This exhibition will be installed in December 2015. Specific exhibitions will change six times each year as part of the Maritime Museums policy as well as travelling exchange exhibitions with other Maritime Museum's around Australia. A revitalized School Education Programme is being developed to present a whole range of new information to Newcastle schools.

The Maritime Museum's volunteers make this all possible. Curators planning and installing exhibitions



and Guides welcoming and information visitors

Opening out onto the Port of Newcastle, the Museum's reformed Multifunctional Space has created a perfect venue for City Functions, Corporate Events, Weddings, Charity fundraisers and private parties. Breakfast and lunch meetings can be booked in the Maritime Museum's new Café. The Multifunctional Space can accommodate up to 200 seated and as many as 300 standing. The City's leading restaurants regularly cater for Maritime Museum events. The Maritime Museum Café will offer delicious light refreshments, close to the gift shop full of interesting and some handmade items.

**Newcastle Maritime Museum offers an interesting and 'quirky venue with a unique nautical theme.**

This New Years Eve 2015 will be a fabulous Gala Fundraising Event at The Newcastle Maritime Museum. Two hundred guests will be entertained and dance the night away in homage to ABBA's music as celebrated in the wonderful film "MAMMA MIA", The Greek inspired setting of the movie will be mirrored by the lights of the Port and a perfect view of the New Year's Eve Fireworks. The entertainment food & drink will be long remembered as the Museum bounces back to life. 'Mediterranean Chic' is the required dress code for the event that will be sure to make local Maritime history. Fabulous prizes are on offer including getaway Luxury Yacht Cruises on Sydney Harbour and the Whitsundays – just to whet your appetite!

Your Newcastle Maritime Museum donation is tax deductible.

For further enquiries and bookings please phone Damien Kolbas 0437 654 118 or 4929 2588 or email: [damien@maritimecentrenewcastle.org.au](mailto:damien@maritimecentrenewcastle.org.au)

NEWCASTLE MARITIME MUSEUM  
*invites you to*

**SPEND NEW YEARS EVE**  
— ON THE SET OF —

**MAMMA MIA!**

Thursday 31st December 2015  
at The Maritime Centre from 7pm to 1am

*A night of music, dancing, entertainment, NCC fireworks, fine food and wine.*

**Dress: Mediterranean Chic Price: \$190 per head**

**BOOK TICKETS:** Call (02) 4929 2588 or  
email: [damien@maritimecentrenewcastle.org.au](mailto:damien@maritimecentrenewcastle.org.au)

All proceeds go to the Newcastle Maritime Museum Society.



## Where in the world is our burgee?

A competition for members only.



**To Enter:** Four simple steps.

1. Collect an entry form from the bar.
2. Select the correct answer from the four options:
  - a. Guam Won Pat International Airport... transit bar at .0035 am.
  - b. In the bridge deck wheel house "Fujikawa Maru" at 45m... Japanese aircraft ferry sunk WWII 1944 Chuuk Lagoon Micronesia.
  - c. Blue Lagoon Resort "Truk Bar Deco Stop" at 2.27am.
  - d. In a cargo hold ...of the San Francisco Maru at 56m ...Japanese Passenger Cargo Ship sunk WW11 1944 off Urman in Micronesia.



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

B. La Rochelle, France

Photograph by  
Adrian Kiely

Spring 2015 Winner:  
**Leigh Booker**

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

**The Task:** Select the correct locations from the options.

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

3. Fill in your membership and contact numbers.

4. Put the form in the box provided.

**Closing Date:** Friday 5 February 2016.

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

# WE CAN SAVE YOU TIME MONEY & STRESS *on your next car*



Simon

Gail

Kyle

Jordan

Khal

Brendan

Ben

By using the team at Auto Advantage you can **save big \$** on the cost of new and used cars. Your own personal Motor Vehicle Consultant will manage everything for you.

- Free car buying advice • Independent advice • Trade disposal • All makes and models
- New and used • Personalised service to your door • Business and Private • Fleet management • Finance options



4961 5200 | [www.autoadvantage.com.au](http://www.autoadvantage.com.au) |





## Coming Events...

### DECEMBER 2015

- Sunday 20 December  
NCYC Members Xmas Party with Santa
- Sunday 20 December - Christmas Pursuit
- Thursday 25 December  
Christmas Day - NCYC CLOSED
- Saturday 26 December  
2015 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race
- Thursday 31 December  
New Year's Eve at NCYC.

### JANUARY 2016

- Thursday 1 January  
New Year's Day, relax with the family @ NCYC
- Saturday 23 January - Friendship Cup
- Sunday 24 January  
Combined Ocean Pointscore Race.  
Newcastle Bird Islet to Swansea Race.
- Tuesday 26 January - Australia Day @ NCYC

### FEBRUARY 2016

- Friday 13 February  
Lantern Walk, Light Up Newcastle
- Saturday 14 February - Valentine's Day
- Friday 19 February - Newcastle to Sydney Race
- Saturday 20 February  
CYCA Sydney to Newcastle Race

### EVERY WEEK

- Monday and Tuesday Night Galley Specials  
6pm-8pm
- Thursday Night Members Draw [LTPS/14/05783]:  
up to 4 draws per night:  
6.15pm, 6.30pm, 6.45pm & 7pm  
Cash prize starts at \$200 and jackpots if not won
- Friday Night Raffles  
Tickets sale 6pm - Draw 7pm
- Sunday Breakfast - between 8am-10.30am

**PLEASE NOTE:  
NCYC CLUB WILL BE  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY**

## Security Phone Numbers

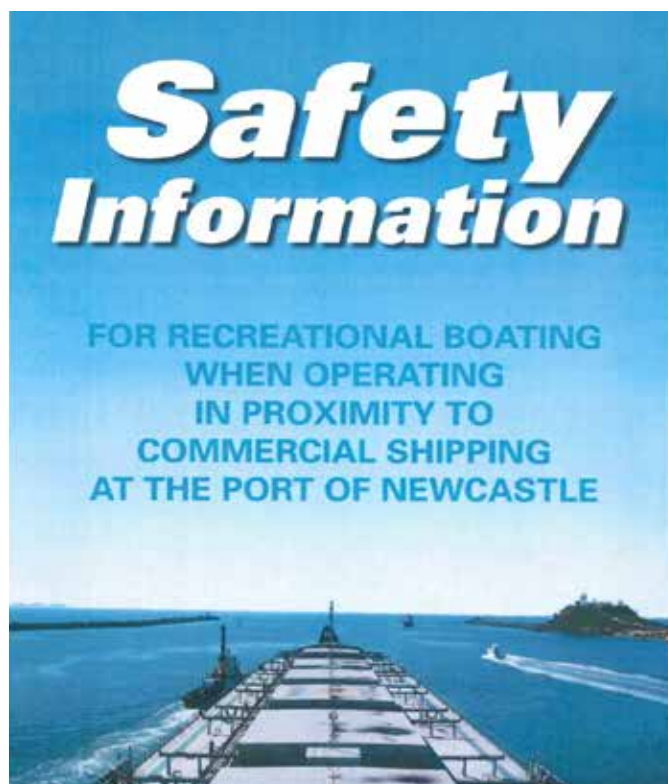
### Emergency

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

### Club Directory

- **General Inquiries** (9am - 5pm)  
(02) 4940 8188 – [info@ncyc.net.au](mailto:info@ncyc.net.au)
- **Licensed Club**  
(02) 4940 8188 – [info@ncyc.net.au](mailto:info@ncyc.net.au)
- **Marina Manager** (8am - 4pm 7 days)  
0408 299 512 – [dockmaster@ncyc.net.au](mailto:dockmaster@ncyc.net.au)
- **The Galley** (Noon - 2.30pm, 6pm - 8.30pm)  
(02) 4940 8188 – [info@ncyc.net.au](mailto:info@ncyc.net.au)
- **Administration** (9am - 5pm 5 days)  
(02) 4940 8188 – [admin@ncyc.net.au](mailto:admin@ncyc.net.au)
- **Functions** (9am - 5pm)  
(02) 4940 8188 – [functions@ncyc.net.au](mailto:functions@ncyc.net.au)

## AVAILABLE NOW!



**Pick up your free copy  
from the NCYC office**

# Leasing or Selling

**Borrelli QUIRK**  
NEWCASTLE REAL ESTATE

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WANTS TO RENT OR SELL THEIR PROPERTY?

**We have qualified tenants and buyers looking NOW!**

**Experience. Honesty. Energy. Teamwork.**

**"Committed to achieving the best results for Your Property!"**

**Phone 02 4961 5566    www.bqnre.com.au**

**PROPERTY OWNERS—LANDLORDS—ASK YOURSELF**

**DO YOU WANT MORE FROM YOUR PROPERTY INVESTMENT ?**

- NOT HAPPY WITH YOUR CURRENT RENTAL INCOME?
- NOT HAPPY WITH YOUR OR CURRENT PROPERTY MANAGER?
- DO YOU DESERVE A HIGHER STANDARD OF SERVICE/ ADVICE/ REPORTING/ MAINTENANCE AND ONE TO ONE "COMMUNICATION?" ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY?
- COME IN AND TALK TO THE TEAM @ BQNRE (SINCE 1962) AND BENEFIT FROM QUALIFIED, PROFESSIONAL, SENIOR MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE IN ALL FACETS OF REAL ESTATE /PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND SALES
- EXTENDED TRAVELLING OVERSEAS?.....GET YOUR PROPERTY WORKING FOR YOU , EARNING AN INCOME \$ WHILE YOUR AWAY !    GET THE DETAILS NOW !

**Ph 4961 2255**

**8 /194 THE ESPLANADE SPEERS PT**

**FOR SALE \$525,000 neg**



**Stylish Apartment opposite Sparkling Lake Macquarie!**

Large living 200m2 total  
3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, study,  
2 car spaces.

**CURRENTLY STRONG RENT RETURNS BEING ACHIEVED.**

**NEWCASTLE INVESTMENT**

**NEWCASTLE INVESTMENT  
Brand New Apartments**

**THIS OPPORTUNITY IS AVAILABLE NOW!**

\*Approximately 6.5% return, based on a  
\$335,000 purchase @ \$390 per week rental  
income and

a 4.78 % variable loan rate  
repayment of \$367 per week

\*A Comprehensive Depreciation Schedule for  
the property is included with this offer supplied  
by the developer.

There are Substantial Depreciation Claims  
available for this new property.

\*\$5000 NSW Government Grant for new  
property purchases is available.

\*Tax deductible allowances for any Repair/  
Maintenance/Property Management,  
indicates this is a **Positively Geared Investment**.

\*Ideal for the Astute Investor or

Self-Managed Superfund

**PHONE FOR DETAILS NOW!**

**Bill Quirk**

**0402 957 055**

Information acquired from sources deemed reliable. Interested  
parties should rely on their own inquiries.

**501/9 WATT ST NEWCASTLE**

**OFFERS AROUND \$600,000**



**"Tattersalls on Watt"**

**"IT'S BRAND NEW ... WAITING FOR YOU!"**

**HARBOURSIDE-CBD LIFESTYLE**

**Enviably 5th floor views**

High spec finishes, Air con, 2 beds,  
storage , 1 car, security building

**LIVE IN OR INVESTMENT!**

**(RENTS @ \$850 PW FF)**

When you need the right accommodation for your staff or crew see..

## Newcastle Hunter Tourism & Accommodation Centre

Newcastle's largest portfolio of fully furnished and self contained accommodation. Ranging from  
studio apartments overlooking the beach to 4 bedroom houses and everything in between.

Corporate & Tourism Self Contained Accommodation from \$550 per week

*Rent, sell & stay...with us!*

Located in the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club Commercial Centre 1/91 Hannell Street, Wickham