

thirtytwo° fifty five

newcastle cruising
yacht club journal

A Shark Scare 12

2016/17 FARR 40
Australian Open Series 14

Australian Sailing Review
Tackers Program 17

autumn 2017



NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

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www.ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy

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

Unwind | Share | Laugh | Enjoy



Harry Miller
NCYC Junior Sailor



Sail Port Stephens
2016 IRC Winners



Sailing Academy
Tackers

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Autumn 2017 journal
A quarterly publication

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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

Editor: Di Hansen
 Cover Photo: “Scots Wha Hae” sailing in the Inner Spring Regatta.
 Image by Wendy Crofts

Commodore's Message



We have had a great sailing season with one of the highlights being the Farr 40 Regatta which was well attended and impressed all parties involved. Several participants of whom needed help beyond the normal curtesy and a trip to John Hunter Hospital was required.

Our next Regatta is on the 18th March when the NCYC Skirts will be holding a women's only regatta in the F24 in the 'She Sails' event. This Regatta has been popular and I believe is already booked out. The TP52 already have heard of NCYC's reputation in holding good regatta events and as a result, have approach NCYC to run an annual event for their club, which will be held next season.

The Board is currently interviewing for a Marina Manager after Ben Herrington sadly left the role in February. We wish both Ben and James Perry all the best in their future roles. As you may also be aware we are currently seeking a suitable CEO to replace Aaron Harpham who has recently left.

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After much sole searching the Board has decided we should contract the restaurant to Rocky's Catering, with Tim and Paul who have recently launched "Hooked", their enthusiasm and willingness to innovate has already brought a great feeling to the Clubhouse precinct.

The old Rocksalt site has been taken over by Heather Swift heading up 'The Wickham Boatshed', which will be opening soon and we also look forward to their success.

There has been a great interest in leasing Level 1 of the Club and the Board anticipate this to be fully leased in the near future.

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

In more sailing news John Beach has successfully settled up a syndicate in bidding for the Australia II replica which won the America's Cup. This replica is now undergoing refurbishment in a shed over at Mayfield and John's Syndicate intends to have it displayed in the maritime museum in the next few months.

Finally we wish to say a sad but very fond farewell to Ernie Thirkell as he leaves the board and the position of Club Captain. Ernie and Gloria Thirkell hold the double privilege of being Life Members of NCYC and have spent many years devoted to the good of the Club, which we are very grateful for. We well understand their desire to step back and take a well-deserved retirement.



Jim Holley, Commodore

NCYC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

Renew your membership before 24 March 2017 to be in the draw to win:

- 1st Prize: Mixed Dozen Wine
- 2nd Prize: ½ Dozen Mixed Wines
- 3rd Prize: 3 Bottles of Wine

Congratulations to all participants in the NGFC East Coast Classic 2017



www.newcastlegamefishingclub.com.au

Rear Commodore's Report



Time flies when you're having fun they say, and I find myself wondering where the time went between the last time I sat down to write this update in late November, and now.....so I must be having fun.....right?

We all love to get out on the water and race but there is an element of risk associated with what we all love to do for leisure. At NCYC we take this risk seriously and we like to believe if the unthinkable happened, we would know exactly how many were on the boat or boats, who they were, and their NOK details. Don't think it can happen? Think again; it already has at NCYC due to a collision. Thankfully we only lost one boat (which was later recovered from the seabed) and no lives. The boat sank in approximately 5 mins. Skippers are responsible to ensure all crew know where life jackets are and how to use them. We also require SKIPPERS, to fill in ALL the details for ALL on board in TES for this reason.

It would be great if we didn't have any collisions, so what can you do to ensure you don't? There are two main areas that sailors racing at NCYC need to be extra vigilant – around commercial shipping plus your rights AND obligations under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). As far as shipping goes, all owners sign a declaration with the sailing office that we have read and understood our obligations in a narrow shipping channel when encountering a vessel limited by its draft and manoeuvrability – basically you don't have any rights and that is why your engine must be running (in neutral) in the harbour and 500m to seaward out and in. That leaves the RRS.....I can hear the sighs from here, but the new rules have been in force since January 1. While we strongly encourage a detailed knowledge, it's inevitable that there will be a wide spectrum of understanding. As a skipper and a crew you MUST at a minimum understand the Definitions (particularly with respect to "keeping clear" and "proper course"), Rules 10 through 20 (most of the Right of Way stuff), and the last 3 pages that explain all the flags. If it's all new to you, there is a book called "The Rules in Practice 2017-2020" that Bryan Willis writes every three years; and it has lots of pictures! A free copy of RRS is available here <http://www.sailing.org.au/sport-services/racing-rules/> and the NCYC SI

are here <http://www.ncyc.net.au/wpcontent/uploads/2012/11/Combined-Copy-to-Upload.pdf> So what else has been happening at NCYC sailing? The Sailing Academy has been very busy during summer with both kids and adults enjoying the school

holiday break down at NCYC. We hosted nearly 30 children for a variety of weeklong activities in our Tackers dinghies and the Force 24s. During this time we also conducted 4-day Women's Sailing and Start Crewing courses and a very popular Discover Sailing Experience - our biggest one day enrolment yet! We also had a visit from Australian Sailing staff to assess our course delivery and I must say a huge thank you to our instructors who do such a fantastic job, as we received great praise from the Club Services Officer.

Now into school term time we are again running Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning Tackers. Our keelboat courses are continuing to build in numbers and we will host three Scout groups in the next few weeks with more children having the opportunity to experience our wonderful sport. None of this happens without the dedication and constant effort of our Sailing team Jacqui Ellis and Jack Buchan.

Jacqui, Jack and I would very much like to thank members, Jan & Rob Howard who are providing an extremely valuable link between our Sailing Academy and our club racing by offering "Schouten Passage" as Wednesday Twilight "Sail Training" for academy graduates. This is a very generous offer and most appreciated by the Club. As a final note on our womens' sailing, look out for the "She Sails" fleet racing in our Force 24s coming up on 18th March.

The Lasers finished up the Spring series since my last update which saw Joe de Kock, Michael Babbage and Paul Beath take the top three results in Off The Beach racing. The Handicap hours went to Michael while the other podium positions were filled by Dean Nissen and Ben Rigby.

The Pittwater to Southport Race saw fast and wet conditions for all the entrants with Phil Arnall's "Anger Management" finishing in just under 40 hours and taking 2nd for Line Honours just behind our friends from LMYC, on Doug Coulter's Rogers 46, "Shakti".

The COP series will conclude with two races to and from Pittwater on 4th and 5th March. "Anger Management" is leading the series but nothing is a certainty in yacht racing and crews on all the boats in the hunt will be sailing hard to grab what they can.

Enjoy what remains of the Summer and remember that Sail Port Stephens celebrates it's 10th year the 3rd to the 9th of April with our race to Port Stephens on the 2nd. It promises to be a great regatta.



Barry Kelly, Rear Commodore

**Gift Vouchers
are now available
from the Club or
Administration Office**



Chief Executive Officer's Report



Dear Members
Welcome to the Autumn editions of NCYC's journal. It has been a long, hot Summer!

As many of you may have already heard, I have resigned as Chief Executive Officer with NCYC. I have provided

NCYC an extended notice period in order to assist with recruitment of a Marina and Assets Manager plus the soon to be vacant CEO position. I am departing NCYC after a busy and productive tenure and have reflected briefly on the achievements over this time.

Sailing at NCYC has grown to include a fleet of twelve Optimist Dinghy's conducting the Sailing Australia Tackers Program which required two new safety boats, work to reconfigure the F-Arm marina, boat storage and a new pontoon. Another new and popular activity has been the Twilight Development Series on the Force 24's and most recently, She Sails Regatta. The Farr 40's enjoyed a spectacular one-design regatta in January and there is already talk of their return to NCYC in 2018. Jaqueline Ellis and Jack Buchan were recruited to the Sailing Academy and NCUC Club sailing respectively and they have proven themselves from their first days. The relationships that NCYC has with stakeholders within the port have developed favourably after continued efforts which align with NCYC's Aquatic Licence.

The marina has a new high profile tenant – Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 2016, Line Honours winner "Perpetual Loyal"! "Scallywag" also spent time at NCYC before heading departing for an extensive international regatta and passage race program. Pleasingly, both

supermaxi's engaged local trades to undertake repair and maintenance work soon after their arrivals. The new fuel bowser system was brought online and several teething problems rectified ahead of an upgrade to the fendering in the fuel berths plus also security and emergency response hardware upgrades. Importantly, NCYC has been subscribed to the Marina Industries Association Clean Marinas program which will assist NCYC in managing its environmental responsibilities.

The Commercial Centre has experienced tenant changes which should deliver improved street appeal and renewed enthusiasm within the precinct. There has also been a significant change to the NCYC lease which allows for a more durable composition of tenants for NCYC.

The challenges within the clubhouse have been ongoing however steps are underway to reduce management involvement of the restaurant and focused attention on the bar and functions business. Options to improve the NCYC carpark have been reviewed and a recommendation is currently before the NCYC Board.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for the opportunity with NCYC and to thank members for their support and encouragement also.

Aaron Harpham
Chief Executive Officer



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regalia & uniforms**

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ENTERTAINMENT

**SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS
LIVE MUSIC
@
NCYC**



Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club
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A MASTERPIECE IN EVERY ESPRESSO

NOW AT NCYC

**Thursday Night
Members Draw**

Permit LTPS/16/00316

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



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
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**happy
birthday**

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

\$5 Bar Credit \$10 Raffle Tickets Free Bottle of Wine

MEMBER PROFILE

Philip Unicomb

Since joining NCYC approximately three years ago, Phil Unicomb's regular patronage and outgoing friendly personality have ensured his becoming a well-known and respected member of the Club.

Phil could be described as being a local, having been born in Maitland and educated back and forward in the triangle of Maitland, Port Stephens and Newcastle.

People are surprised to find out that Phil originally trained at Royal Newcastle Hospital as a student nurse in order to get the money to learn to fly. He hated it but even so, eventually qualified as an RN, simultaneously training for and gaining his Commercial Pilot License.

Phil's interest was competition aerobatics at which he had astounding success, winning about 14 Australian Championships during the period 1984 to 1998. The list is so extensive and impressive that they have been attached to the end of this article. Phil commented that the apex of these achievements was winning the 1992 World Tiger Moth Aerobatic Championship in Bedfordshire, UK.

Phil's aeronautical achievements haven't been restricted to his flying ability. He has been heavily involved with Royal Newcastle Aero Club (RNAC) since 1978. He was RNAC Club Captain from 1984 – 1986 inclusive and served two separate terms on the RNAC Board of Directors from 1984 to 1987 and again from 1998 to 2003. He was the Corporate Pilot for Weldon International from 1988 -1993 operating a DHC-2 Beaver Amphibian (600 hours) and a PA31-350 Piper Chieftain – single pilot IFR (1052 hours) as well as vintage aircraft in the fleet including DH82 and SA4B Stampe.

Phil's has been instructing since 1993, beginning as a volunteer at RNAC. From 1994 to 1995 he worked as an Instructor and Charter Pilot for Professional Pilot Training at Cessnock, and then rejoined RNAC in 1995. All this before he and a business partner/close friend Squadron Leader Dave Freedman went on to form "Action Aerobatics" in 2000.

Their core business was two pronged: an advanced flight training school and; air displays. The air displays were national and international, mainly through SE Asia and Eastern Australia. During this period Phil produced approximately 30 State and National Champion pilots in various Aerobatic Categories including unlimited level.

Five and a half years ago, in June 2011, Phil's "world came crashing down" or at least he did! He was flying a "Pitts Special" biplane in an air show in country NSW and to quote him: "I had my prang – like a BANG". Phil had six months off work due to



the resultant fractured spine, but it seems nothing will keep him down (Pun intended). Whilst recovering he was approached by the Royal Newcastle Aero Club at Rutherford and offered the position of Chief Pilot/ Chief Flying Instructor. He has been there ever since. Phil's current title is Senior Pilot Examiner.

Achievements

- 1983 - Royal Newcastle Aero Club Aerobatic Champion
 - 1984 - Australian Light Aircraft Championships Formation Champion
 - 1984 - Royal Newcastle Aero Club Aerobatic Champion
 - 1985 - Royal Newcastle Aero Club Aerobatic Champion
 - 1985 - Royal Newcastle Aero Club Senior Club Champion
 - 1986 - Australian Light Aircraft Championships Formation Champion
 - 1986 - Royal Newcastle Aero Club Aerobatic Champion
 - 1986 - Royal Newcastle Aero Club Senior Club Champion
 - 1987 - Royal Newcastle Aero Club Aerobatic Champion
 - 1988 - Australian Bicentennial Tiger Moth Aerobatic Champion
 - 1992 - Australian Sportsman Aerobatic Champion
 - 1992 - Australian Aerobatic Club Highest Percentage Scorer
 - 1992 - World Tiger Moth Aerobatic Champion UK
 - 1993 - Australian Intermediate Aerobatic Champion
 - 1994 - 1st Place Great Australian Tiger Moth Air Race
 - 1998 - 1st Place Great Australian Tiger Moth Air Race
- (plus several other titles)

hooked

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weeknight specials

kids eat free **Sunday**

1 free children's meal with each adult meal

t-bone **Monday** night \$20

400g Riverine T-Bone Steak grilled to your liking & served with chips, salad and your choice of sauce

pasta **Tuesday** night \$15

A selection of pasta and rice dishes that change weekly

seafood **Wednesdays**

\$1 Oysters + 3 Market fresh fish of the day specials

schnitzel **Thursday** night \$15

Huge 300gm Chicken Schnitzel crumbed in house and served with chips & salad



Social Highlights

NCYC Members Christmas Party Photos by Gloria Thirkel





NEWCASTLE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CPR AND DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING NIGHT



*The NCYC's Social Committee
would like to gauge an*

EOI from NCYC Members

*for CPR & Defibrillator Training \$80.
If you are interested, can you please
call or visit*

*NCYC's Administration / Marina
Office so your details can be taken.*

Telephone 4940 8188

Email: info@ncyc.net.au

Cheese & Wine Night

COMING SOON



Organised by NCYC's
Social Committee



Above: Summer Salt
Crew Enjoying the
Xmas Jumping Castle



Left: The Years
Entertaining NCYC
Guests on Australia Day

Tales of life aboard a family fishing boat/cruiser

By Linda Hall

Life aboard "The Doctor"

Our family has always had an interest in fishing. As a child I watched my father catch huge Tailor off the beach and I have wonderful memories of the whole family fishing from our old boat cruising up and down Swansea Channel.

Even though my parents have passed on I still enjoy fishing off the back of a boat. These days it's the boat owned by my husband Darrell, myself and our daughter Brooke. Of course, when our dog Kenny was alive she was always part of the team.



Darrell with Brooke and her flathead.

Tale one: A shark scare

Our favourite boating ventures these days are to Broughton Island. The surrounding water is full of crevices, reefs and bomboras which are home to a huge variety of fish including our favourite fish, the Snapper.

One day when the water was as flat as a pancake, with no wind, we left the Riv on a mooring at North Beach and decided to fish over the "bommies" nearby in our tender. We took some bait, gear, drinks and radio and

were anchored over some smooth rocks. The sun's rays were beaming through the crystal clear water onto the rocks. It was beautiful, calm and shallow.

I began to pull in my line and just happened to look over the side of the tender. There was a huge "white pointer" shark, beautiful in a shark sort of way, just slowly gliding beside us, so close that I could have touched it. The sun made its skin glisten. The shark was about twelve to fourteen foot, twice the length of our tender. I'm glad I didn't see its eyes or teeth because even its gill slits were longer than a ruler!

At the time I thought that the incident was a coincidence and we were just in its way, but when he came back the second time I thought: "Mm mm mm he has got his eye on us for some reason." I hoped it wasn't for a meal. Well, we cut the line, pulled up the anchor and left as quickly as our 3.3 mercruiser would carry us. Thinking back, we realized that we were in his territory and really should not have been there in such a small vessel. We haven't been back to that same spot since.

Broughton Island is a magical place to visit but it can be one of the most dangerous spots, especially when there is a southerly blowing. At those times the bommies pick up. When visiting, you need to take notice of the weather predictions because apart from becoming uncomfortable, it can be extremely dangerous.

To be continued ...



Linda and stingray caught at Broughton Island.



UP THE CREEK BBQ IS ON AGAIN

SUNDAY
23 JULY 2017

NCYC invites all members and guests to attend the "up the creek" start of winter BBQ.

Further details to be provided.

RSVP 14/7/17
functions@ncyc.net.au
Tel: 4940 8188



Congratulations to those who participated in the inaugural She Sails Force 24 Regatta held at the Club on the 18th March.

Harry Miller Junior NCYC Member

Images by Andrew Miller

Harry Miller is a Junior member of Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club.

He is 12 years old and goes to the Rudolf Steiner School in Newcastle and lives at Kotara.

He is often seen sailing on his father's yacht, "Red Dog" at NCYC which was named after Harry's Favourite movie.

Harry sailed as crew last season on a Manly Junior "Firepower" with Oscar Brownbill. They raced at State and National Titles with mid fleet results.

Harry now has his own Manly Junior "Toffee Apple" and has been Sailing every Sunday at Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club. He has competed in State Championships at Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Sailing Club and at Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Club.

His scratch results in the State Championships have been outstanding in the novice division at Ku-Ring-Gai he had 4th, 3rd and 1st (in 20 knots plus) and at Middle Harbour 1st, 1st and 2nd in not so much wind.

His crew, Luca had never sailed before crewing with Harry and Luca (aged 11) absolutely loves it.

Harry and Luca competed in the National Titles after Christmas at St George Sailing Club (December 27th to 30th) and came 14th out of 25 boats. They came 4th in the state titles novice division and they also sailed in the main fleet in the Nationals, so did very well for their first season. All the other kids at Manly do a mid-week training session which both Harry and Luca cannot attend, so it makes their effort even more remarkable.



Farr 40 Newcastle One Design Trophy - 21 & 22 Jan

By Jack Buchan

Saturday morning of the two day regatta began in the dark at 5.30am for Club Staff with the launching of race committee vessels, marks being inflated and flags being flown. In the Clubhouse, we had the kitchen in full swing priming for breakfast while the Club and Marquee were also being prepared for some 200 people who included sailors, officials and NCYC volunteers.

Principle Race Officer (PRO), Ted Anderson, arrived on scene to view the latest weather readings reporting 15 knot Southerly winds with an uncomfortable 3m Southerly swell. With consistent wind, the fleet vacated the safety of the Harbour and sailed into Stockton Bight where they experienced the idyllic offshore race track that we have to offer off Newcastle. Boat of the Day, "Estate Master", and six other Farr 40s could be seen launching off waves upwind and surfing waves downwind for the duration of the four windward/leeward races held that day.

The boat "Exile" had mixed fortunes when a crew member hurt themselves in the heavy swell and spent the rest of the day lying at the back of the boat – groaning as they leaped off every wave! He stayed there for the remainder of the day, allowing the team to steal a win in race three, until the end of the day where it was



discovered that he had broken 3 ribs in the fall that morning!

"Estate Master" took home the "Event Leader" flags with three out of four wins



on day one. Sunday started much the same for some, with plenty of action underway before sunrise. Competitors on the other hand, were treated with a relaxed start to the day with racing postponed for several hours while waiting for the wind to kick in.

With almost 5knts from the South-East, the PRO advised

the fleet that we would be sailing on the picturesque race course to the South of Nobby's. With a start just off Nobby's Beach, we got a one lap race away in light, diminishing winds. Shortly after the last boat finished, the wind dropped completely and left us awaiting a North-Easterly change.

In hopes of a North-Easterly change coming in, we moved the start line to Bar Beach and waited as several competitors took an opportunity to cool off in the lucid blue waters while skippers took the opportunity to share their "vote" as to whether or not it was worth waiting in no wind for another race. The PRO acknowledged the popularity votes which remained split 50/50 as to stay or to go.

Hours after the completion of the first race, there were significant signs of a building breeze. The fast efforts of volunteers saw a course laid and a start away in under 15 minutes with a growing crowd of spectators congregating on the ANZAC Memorial Bridge.

Martin Hill's "Estate Master" secured their scorecard with their fifth win out of the total six race regatta, which saw them return to the marina flying both the "Boat of the Day" and the "Event Leader" flags before taking refuge in the Marquee for presentation and prize giving.



Sail Port Stephens 2017

By Valda Johnston

This event was well attended in 2016 and NCYC made a significant contribution. This year promises to be bigger and better given the 10 year Anniversary celebrations.

Our Club had five entrants in the NCYC Lead in Race last year with thirty one visiting yachts providing strong competition. Of NCYC entrants, 'Schouten Passage' won IRC Division and 'Scots Wha Hae' came 2nd in PHS division. This is outstanding given the number and experience of participants including many Sydney boats.

Our Club is set to host a lot more visitors this year and we hope to match if not better our hospitality and quality service in the lead up to this high profile sailing event. There are divisions to suit every style and size of yacht.

Entry to the 10th Anniversary Sail Port Stephens 2017



race week has opened. The Commodores Cup, NSW IRC Championships, Port Stephens Trophy (PHS), Australian Sports Boat Nationals and Super 12 NSW

Championships will now be held from 3-9 APRIL 2017. The Junior Off-the-Beach regatta remains in the first week of the school holidays.

It's all part of a month-long 'Indian Summer' of sailing at Port Stephens throughout April 2017, so run to paradise.

Sail Port Stephens is now firmly established as an annual event on the national regatta calendar – organised by the Corlette Point Sailing Club in partnership with Events Port Stephens, an initiative of Port Stephens Council.

For further information visit:
www.sailportstephens.com.au

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Two NCYC Yachts Line Up For 2017 Sydney To Hobart

Farr/Cookson 47 "Dare Devil" owned by Sibby Iizhofer and timber build Atkins 37 "Freya" owned by Dick Lees and Andrew Carr took part in the 72nd running of the 2017 Sydney to Hobart.

Both yachts unfortunately had to retire with "Dare Devil" suffering a broken rudder and "Freya" with Headsail damage.



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Sailing Handbook 2016 - 2017

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- Minimal input is needed to log on & off when leaving port & arriving at your destination
- Information on Marine Rescue NSW

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

Super Sailing Academy Summer!

By Jacqueline Ellis

It has been an extremely busy few months for the NCYC Sailing Academy with significant growth in participant numbers as well as a number of firsts being achieved!

Our very first Tackers junior dinghy learn-to-sail courses went very well during term 4 of the 2016 school year with both the Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning programs filled to capacity. We rolled straight into two week-long school holiday programs which saw numerous kids join us for some January sailing fun!

We are now part way through our term 1 programs, again with great participation numbers. Our newly trained dinghy instructors and assistant instructors have been doing a fabulous job, all very willing to learn and improve their skills under the guidance of our Tackers Leader, Nina Long. During an Australian Sailing course delivery review



conducted in January we received very positive feedback and high praise for our Tackers program. This is a direct result of the wonderful efforts of our instructing team and I thank them most sincerely for their efforts and enthusiasm for this great junior program.

We have loads of junior activities happening on our Force 24s too . . . including our school holiday Sail & Play camps catering for our “Tween” sailors. During school term we host weekly school sailing activities three days a week and this term we are hosting four local scout groups . . . our largest being Kotara Scouts where we had 45 kids hit the water in our full fleets of Force 24s and Tackers dinghies!

During the summer we also introduced our first Corporate Sailing activities on our Force 24s which proved very popular during December for end-of-year activities and Christmas parties. We worked closely with the Club functions team to ensure our guests were well catered for both on and off the water. We are still taking Corporate Sailing bookings with four more businesses joining us during March – one a repeat customer – they had so much fun the first time! Must have been that gold trophy they won!!

Our National Keelboat Program courses are becoming increasingly popular with the Start Crewing course attracting the most participants. We are aiming to work on strategies to encourage participants to continue on the pathway to Start Helming and Start Skippering courses. We increased the number of Saturday morning 3-hour Force 24 Discover Sailing Experiences on offer which provide an easy and inexpensive “taste” of sailing.

This initiative has proven helpful to wet the appetite of beginners for more of our sail training activities.

Women’s Sailing on Fridays is going from strength to strength . . . particularly under the enthusiastic guidance of volunteer instructors Jan Howard and Mary Holley. With assistance from our regular Friday instructors, Nina Long, Emma Gearing and Craig Lembke we have increased our numbers significantly over the summer. Not only do the women learn sailing skills, gain experience and meet new friends, they have fun along the way . . . and with the generous support from Robert Oatley Vineyards, all enjoy our Bubbles & Nibbles presentations at the end of the four-week program.

This growth in women’s sailing has led to the development and launch of our inaugural She Sails @ NCYC Regatta which will be held on Saturday 18th March. More details are contained in the specific report in the magazine.

With all of this increase in activity in the Sailing Academy we are now working towards creating pathways into our regular Club sailing activities. “Schouten Passage” and “Aurora” have been actively providing opportunities for our sailing academy graduates to sail during our Wednesday Twilight series. We are very keen to encourage more of our Club members to assist us with this key link into regular club racing. If you are short of crew and would like to offer a few places on your boat, please contact the Sailing Office and we can put you in touch with some very keen new sailors.

We did have a Sailing Academy Force 24 Twilight Series planned for March but unfortunately we have had to abandon this. We are however looking to run a Force 24 Saturday Series during Autumn & Winter to provide the opportunity for our graduates to learn the various skills of racing. We’ll get more details out to you as soon as possible.

The Autumn/Winter months will still be very busy with a number of instructor courses planned and we are also looking to provide Powerboat Handling courses to our race volunteers and members. Not to mention our Youth Performance Program will be up and running again offering inshore keelboat racing opportunities, in both fleet and match, against our friends from the major Sydney Clubs.

Sailing Academy information is constantly updated on the website, so please keep an eye on what we are up to! www.ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy



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Coming Events...

MARCH 2017

- Saturday 18 March - She Sails Regatta

APRIL 2017

- Sunday 2-9 April - Sail Port Stephens
- Friday 14-17 April - Easter
- Tuesday 25 April - Anzac Day
- Sunday 30 April - Winter Short Ocean Pointscore

MAY 2017

- Sunday 7 May - Winter Short Ocean Pointscore
- Saturday 13 May -
NCYC/B16s Laser Winter Series
- Sunday 14 May - Mother's Day
- Sunday 21 May - Winter Short Ocean Pointscore
- Saturday 27 May
NCYC/B16s Laser Winter Series

JUNE 2017

- Monday 12 June - Queens Birthday
- Saturday 24 June - NCYC/B1s Laser Winter Series

JULY 2017

- Saturday 1 July - The Lion Island Race (Cat 3)
- Sunday 23 July - Up The Creek BBQ

EVERY WEEK

- Tuesday Night Trivia - 7pm in the Marquee
- Thursday Night Members Draw [LTPS/17/00453]:
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

WANTED

Boat Profiles

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

Email: info@ncyc.net.au

Subject: Boat Profile

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
- **Licensed Club**
(02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
- **Marina Manager** (8am - 4pm 7 days)
0408 299 512 – dockmaster@ncyc.net.au
- **Hooked** (11.30am-3pm, 5.30pm-9pm)
(02) 4940 8188 – bookings@hookedgrill.com.au
- **Administration** (9am - 5pm 5 days)
(02) 4940 8188 – admin@ncyc.net.au
- **Functions** (9am - 5pm)
(02) 4940 8188 – functions@ncyc.net.au

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