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newcastle cruising
yacht club journal

WINTER 2023

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Editor: Ethan Tucker

Design: Promocean Media

Cover: SailFest image by Salty Dingo

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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.





Well, it's been a busy seven weeks since stepping into the role of Commodore on May 1 – busy in a good way, but firstly I'd like to reiterate my message to members from then. I see two continuing principles to guide what we do:

- Financial success, and
- Investment of that success into Sailing and Amenities.

Simply put, we need the first to deliver the second. To deliver both we need good people who are proud and happy to be at NCYC. The Board is currently formally engaged with the CEO and senior staff to ensure the club offers what you want and need.

With respect to financial success, I am pleased to report that the last financial year (ending March 2023 for NCYC) has been a good one. The Club has continued to pay down the Stage 2 extension debt while delivering a healthy profit. More on that at the AGM.

We continued the engagement process with General Members at our meeting on June 1 and through the recent Members' survey. These results were presented at the May Board meeting and we'll be implementing where feasible, responsible and, dare I say, legal!

And speaking of suggestions, please submit them in writing to info@ncyc.net.au so we have a record of your suggestions and when they were submitted.

Moving back to financials, we saw some softening of revenue during May, and it could be that the Reserve Bank's monetary policy is effecting us. However, June showed some promise again. It's a reminder that our Club depends on you in two ways.

First, to take advantage of the restaurant and bar if you are able to – remember you get a member discount. Second, to let us know what we're doing right and where we can improve.

Like many of you, I also attended SailFest and Sail Port Stephens in April/May and was very impressed with the new format for the latter. Next year it promises to be bigger and better with NCYC hosting the TP52s, the Australian IRC Championships and SailFest all occurring in April; and then off to SPS.

During late May I attended the Australian Sailing Summit hosted by the CYCA. The one-day event was co-chaired by AS President Alistair Murray and AS CEO Ben Houston. It's important for us, as a Club, to attend these events to share and hear about what is new

in sailing. Topics were quite diverse and included the new AS Strategic Plan, emerging sailing technologies, sailing clothing, club insurance, SailPass uses, and RevSport. Overall, it was a very useful and interesting day.

Recently, we have been formally assessing the state of one of our key pieces of revenue generating infrastructure, the Marina and travel lift runways.

We have just received the first part of that – the condition report. The next part, the asset maintenance plan, is about to be delivered as I write (late June). Our marina is in and above a very corrosive environment and needs our attention throughout its life if we are to be able to use it safely into the future.

Inevitably it will need replacement and the purpose of this report and plan is to enable us to plan financially and sequentially – when, and in what order, this should happen. A similar process will be followed for our on-land assets.

I look forward to seeing you in our Club soon or at Presentation night on July 22. And finally, please see Page 21 for an acknowledgement to Steve and Maureen Rae for their ongoing services to NCYC.



– Barry Kelly

"The Board is currently formally engaged with the CEO and senior staff to ensure the club offers what you want and need."

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We have just completed an extremely busy Autumn, both on and off the water, at NCYC including a hectic regatta season and some great club sailing.

The Lasers returned for Friday nights in Newcastle and Sundays at the Bay. Inshore racing was extremely competitive on Thursday nights as always. The Offshore fleet was out Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons. Our Youth team posted great wins in the first two rounds of the annual interclub challenge.

Our main regatta, SailFest, was another huge success with the largest fleet of TP52s assembled in Australia. It attracted the top sailors in the country and raised the profile of sailing and the club within the Newcastle community. The Newcastle to Port Stephens event attracted another big fleet of 40+ boats. This year, NCYC co-hosted Sail Port Stephens over three weekends and helped deliver the biggest event yet.

The Tackers fleet and keelboat learn-to-sail continue to grow in popularity. The Cruising Fleet has some very enjoyable outings on and off the water. The Newcastle Game Fishing Club held its annual tournament.

Goodform and She's the Culprit represented the Club at the Middle Harbour Regatta. Congratulations to members of our She Sails program who also represented the club with a podium finish at the Australian Womens Keelboat Regatta in Melbourne. Good luck to Janease and Meika, also from the She Sails program, who will be competing in the 2025-mile Transpac race this July.

The Bay Sailing Centre proved a great hosting venue during the third weekend of Sail Port Stephens. It continues to be a hit with the locals enjoying their morning coffees and taking in the stunning view.

Off the water we have seen great growth in membership and a record trading year for the licensed club. We have also hosted a Founders/Life and Seniors Lunch, a General Members Update, and a new Members welcome drinks. We look forward to the Presentation night and preparations for the Founders Day Celebration to commence the new season on September 10.

All of this activity relies on a great team, so special thanks to all the staff and volunteers here at NCYC. Here's looking forward to our Annual presentation dinner on 22nd July to celebrate another great years sailing at NCYC.

– Paul O'Rourke

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Rear Commodore's Message



In the late 1960s, my grandfather gave me a book, *The Lonely Sea and the Sky*, by Sir Francis Chichester, the thrilling story of Chichester's adventurous, brave and amazing life.

Chichester (1901-1972) was a British businessman, pioneering aviator and solo sailor. He was the first person

to sail single-handed around the world by the clipper route (West to East via the Great Capes) and the fastest circumnavigator, in nine months and one day overall in 1966-67, with only one stop, Sydney.

He was also the first person to land an aircraft on both Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.

Perhaps we have a Chichester among us at NCYC. We certainly have some amazing, determined and courageous sailors who should inspire us all. From Sydney-Hobart two-handed crews to 26 young people in our Youth Squad, to our prestigious Hunter 100 sailors and to those who just love the Twilights, please know we're proud to have you as active members at NCYC.

Two NCYC Members are currently in the middle of the Pacific Ocean in the Transpac Yacht Race. Transpac is the longest of the big four ocean races and goes from Los Angeles to Honolulu at 2225 nautical miles. Well done to Meika Wright and Janease Graham for embarking on this epic adventure.

Look out in the next edition for their perspective of this endurance race. Thank you for your commitment to sailing, to safety and to ongoing adventures.

Our Strategic Plan has been presented to members and the hard work of turning goals and ambitions into actions and outcomes has begun. The Board would love for you to make suggestions and share your ideas by sending an email to our CEO.

As our Commodore, Barry Kelly says in his introduction to the Strategic Plan: "This Strategic Plan, 2023-2028, outlines how NCYC will provide club and supporting facilities that enable Members to enjoy and successfully participate in yacht racing, cruising, general boating, and other water-based activities.

Your Board and I trust that you find the Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2028 interesting and informative as we refine and execute the plan for the next exciting chapter of NCYC history."

I look forward to seeing you in the Club, on the dock and most importantly, on the water.



"Perhaps we have a Chichester among us. We certainly have some amazing, determined and courageous sailors."

The following is the poem by John Masefield (1878-1967) that inspired the title of Chichester's book.

Sea-Fever

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,

And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;

And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,

And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide

Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;

And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,

And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,

To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;

And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,

And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.



– Robert Logan

Club Manager's Report



We began the season with the highly anticipated SailFest Regatta, where skilled sailors from near and far gathered to compete in thrilling races. This event showcased the remarkable talent and passion of our members and sailors from all over Australia, as well as the breathtaking beauty of the open water.

Next on the calendar was the Newcastle Fishermen's Co-Op Seafood Festival. The festival offered a mouth-watering array of freshly caught delights, from succulent prawns and oysters to delectable fish dishes. Our bar expertly paired these seafood delicacies with a selection of fine wines and craft beers, creating an unforgettable dining experience for all.

During Newcastle Food Month, our club actively participated in celebrating the vibrant culinary scene of the city. We were proud to present our signature dish, the highly sort after – Coconut Laksa

In addition to our culinary achievements, we are thrilled to introduce the new Cafe Corsica menu, available from Monday to Wednesday. This menu showcases the diverse and vibrant flavors of Mediterranean cuisine.

From tantalising pasta dishes to fresh seafood and vibrant salads, every bite is a culinary journey through the Mediterranean. What's more, we are proud to be the first venue in Newcastle to offer Gordon Ramsay's new wine selection, curated to perfectly complement our exquisite cuisine. Elevate your dining experience with these fine wines, handpicked to enhance your enjoyment.

He also held the Winter Solstice party. We celebrated the longest night of the year with a hearty winter fare, and a warm and festive atmosphere. It was an evening filled with merriment and camaraderie, perfectly capturing the spirit of the season.

And let's not forget our highly anticipated NCYC Presentation Night, where we will recognise and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our members. This event is open to all members and serves as a culmination of the sailing season, honoring those who have excelled on the water and contributed to the vibrant sailing community of the NCYC.

On the following page, I've also included our mulled wine recipe that we are now serving in the bar for you to try at home – Enjoy!

– Matthew Stamp

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Welcome to another edition, it brings me great pleasure to introduce you to our latest culinary endeavour: Cafe Corsica. Operating from Monday to Wednesday throughout winter, this Mediterranean-themed shift will transport you to the sun-drenched shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

We build a new menu each week highlighting the best of Mediterranean cuisine, with a particular emphasis on delectable pizzas and pastas. Indulge in thin-crust pizzas topped with a medley of vibrant flavours, and savour the rich, homemade pasta dishes that will warm your hear.

While I have you, allow me to highlight one of our standout dishes, the Perfect Plate: a tantalising combination of flavours that will leave you craving for more. Featuring pressed Berkshire pork shoulder accompanied by prawn wantons, radishes, shallots, shimeji mushrooms, and a delectable master stock, this dish is a symphony of taste and texture that will captivate your palate.

As many would remember, last year our Barramundi dish claimed the Perfect Plate award. This year, we are determined to retain, and we need your help! By ordering our dish and casting your vote, you can contribute to our mission of keeping the title within our club. Let's rally together and support our exceptional culinary creations.

Reflecting on past successes, let's not forget the extraordinary triumph of our April food month dish: the coconut laksa. This creation garnered immense



popularity, attracting food lovers from all corners of Newcastle. Its unique blend of fragrant spices and rich coconut broth made it an absolute hit. We express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us.

And that's not all! Our April food month also featured a seafood degustation event, which proved to be yet another sold-out success. Building on the triumph of the previous year, the event showcased the finest treasures of the sea, expertly crafted into a series of exquisite dishes that delighted every palate. We thank all those who joined us for this unforgettable seafood journey.

Now, let's shift our attention to our Winter Solstice event. Initially, slow sales caused a touch of concern. However, much to our delight, the event experienced a sudden surge in popularity. We appreciate your support and enthusiasm in making this event a memorable one; the spit-roasted pigs were a hit amongst Members.

Lastly, I want to remind all our Members that we strive to provide exceptional service and experiences. While we hate to disappoint, our cut-off times for event numbers are strict as they allow us to order and prepare enough food to cater to everyone's needs. We are always able to extend the catering in advance, and so ask our Members not to leave bookings to the last minute.

We look forward to seeing you throughout Winter.

– Luke Carpenter

From corporate conferences to party celebrations!



We are thrilled to witness the incredible transformations our beautiful club undergoes, seamlessly transitioning from a corporate conference to a lively party celebration. It's a testament to the versatility and charm of our venue.

As we eagerly look ahead to the future, we are excited about the diverse range of events that await us. From elegant weddings that bring together loved ones in celebration to thrilling regattas that showcase the skill and passion of sailors, and from sophisticated corporate dinners that foster connections and collaborations to engaging conferences that spark innovation and knowledge sharing, our Club is poised to host it all.

None of this would be possible without the incredible efforts of our dedicated staff. We extend a heartfelt

thank you to each one of them for their hard work, commitment, and attention to detail. Their unwavering dedication ensures that every event is executed flawlessly, leaving our guests with unforgettable experiences.

And, of course, we extend our deepest gratitude to our valued Members and guests. Your presence and support are what make our Clubhouse truly come alive. Your laughter, smiles, and camaraderie fill the air with vibrant energy, creating an atmosphere of warmth, enjoyment, and togetherness. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our Club and allowing us to serve you.

As we move forward, we remain committed to providing exceptional service, creating magical moments, and ensuring every visit to our Club is filled with life, smiles, and good times. Here's to many more unforgettable celebrations and cherished memories in the coming months.

– Bec Frost

Mulled Wine at home

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 bottle of red wine (Cab Sauv, Merlot, Shiraz, or Malbec)
- ½ cup of orange juice
- ¼ cup of brandy (optional)
- ¼ cup of honey or sugar (adjust to taste)
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 4 whole cloves
- 1 orange, sliced

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Pour the red wine into a saucepan over medium heat. Add the orange juice, brandy (if using), honey (or sugar), cinnamon sticks, and whole cloves to the saucepan
- Stir the mixture gently to combine the ingredients. Slice the orange and add it to the saucepan
- Heat the mulled wine mixture, stirring occasionally, until it reaches a gentle simmer. Don't let it boil
- Once it reaches a simmer, reduce the heat to low and simmer for 15-20 minutes, allowing the flavours to meld
- Taste the mulled wine and adjust the sweetness by adding more honey or sugar if desired
- Once the mulled wine has infused with the spices and flavours, it's ready to be served
- Using a ladle, pour the mulled wine into heat-resistant glasses or mugs, making sure to include some of the orange slices and spices in each serving. Serve hot and enjoy!



STEPS TO STAY SAFE NEAR SEAGOING SHIPS

- Always keep a lookout for seagoing ships.
- Determine if the vessel is moving towards you or away from you.
- Always keep a safe distance away from a large vessel.
- From the ship's bridge it is hard to see smaller boats. Some ships will have blind spots ahead of up to 100 metres. Stay far enough away to be in sight.
- Act early so you can move away from these seagoing ships.
- Familiarise yourself with the shipping channels or fairways.
- Stay clear of the channels or fairways when seagoing ships are entering or departing the port and harbour.
- Be aware of wakes of seagoing ships, particularly when the large vessel is in relatively shallow water and moving at higher speeds.
- Always have your navigation lights on at night so other vessels can clearly see you.



- You **MUST** stay well clear of the shipping channels and large ships and only cross the channel when it is safe to do so.
- **DO NOT** anchor in a channel or fairway.
- **DO NOT** block a channel or fairway.

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Hello and welcome all to Winter and the latest edition of the Club magazine.

I must say, Autumn was quite busy on the marina, thanks to the success of SailFest Newcastle and the following lead-in race to Port Stephens in April.

SailFest is quickly becoming a highlight of the season and

the renowned premier event is drawing avid sailing enthusiasts from all over. The participation of the TP52 class this year added an extra level of excitement, with the line up looking fantastic along F-arm before they departed north for Sail Port Stephens.

The race to Port Stephens brought further visitors, with the night before the race resulting in the marina reaching capacity. It was great to see such a great range of vessels here from all over, a testament to our sailing department and their ability to continue providing great events.

In May, we welcomed the flotilla from Southport along with a fleet of Rivieras and Maritimos destined for Europe. Many more vessels came and went, most on their way north chasing an endless summer, and I expect there will be more as we head further into the cooler months.

During this quieter period, we will perform our usual scheduled maintenance items ensuring the marina is ready for next Spring and Summer. Elsewhere around the club, some works will occur to the kitchen servery, where the new coffee machine and baristas are pumping out the best coffee yet.



Image by Pannocan Media

"Many more vessels came and went, most on their way north chasing an endless summer"

A new restaurant shift known as Café Corsica is available Monday – Wednesday, I highly recommend checking out the pizzas and pastas, a taste of the Mediterranean right here in Newcastle – or try Luke's latest Perfect Plate creation or other winter menu items at Nautica Dining – all this and more waiting for you at your NCYC Clubhouse!

– Matt Williams

ALWAYS LOOKOUT FOR SEAGOING SHIPS

DO NOT pass within 30 metres of the side or stern of a seagoing ship

Before heading out check the Daily Vessel Movements at portauthority.com.au/lookoutnewcastle

Keep monitoring the safety broadcast from Newcastle Harbour VTC (24/7) VHF Channel 09

STAY FAR AWAY TO BE IN SIGHT

From the ship's bridge it is hard to see smaller boats. Some ships will have blind spots ahead of up to 600 metres. Stay far enough away to be in sight.

BE AWARE IT'S THE LAW

Under NSW marine legislation you are required to never obstruct, restrict or impede access to:

- any fairway or channel
- any wharf or other landing place
- the safe navigation of a vessel
- the handling of cargo or movement of passengers
- launching, removal, securing of a vessel.

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ON TAP NOW



Ahoy sailors! In the past quarter, we've seen a surfeit of sailing and regatta racing delivered both here at Newcastle and at Port Stephens.

It is a privilege to work with such an enormous team of passionate volunteers to deliver some of the biggest events in the Australian calendar in SailFest Newcastle and then again at the three weeks of Sail Port Stephens regattas.

There has been no 'end of summer' cooling-off period for our sailors and volunteers. As soon as our summer pointscores ended, we were on the water launching regatta season at SailFest, which then continued back-to-back straight into a month-long suite of Sail Port Stephens regattas that continued through to the middle of May.

Then when we packed up our regatta kit and rushed straight back to Newcastle to launch the beginning of our Winter Short Ocean Pointscore by the end of May.

Meanwhile, the Sailing Academy never stopped. While I've been away, and engrossed in the delivery of our gargantuan regatta season, our academy and instructor team have continued delivery of our discover sailing and learn-to-sail courses as normal.



The launch of our Winter Short Ocean Pointscore also coincided with the first of a series of regattas that our Youth Squad will go on to contest over the coming months. The club housed a proud atmosphere after racing that day as we announced the offshore race results together with the results of the Youth Interclub Challenge that raced at Honeysuckle at the same time that day.

Our NCYC teams placed 2nd and 4th overall in competition with teams from CYCA, RSYs, and RPAYC – putting our squad teams into the lead in the club vs club competition as they go into the next round and defend the Interclub Challenge trophy that has belonged to NCYC the past two years running!

As we look ahead to the coming months of the next quarter, there are several exciting events lined up for us. The remainder of June-July will see us complete the Winter Short Ocean Pointscore as the final series of the clubs overall Annual Pointscore for 2022-2023. Then our focus will turn to celebration as we officially end the boating season.

Beyond that, we're looking forward to announcing a

members getaway weekend at our Bay Sailing Centre later in the year where we'll provide expert coaching for Lasers and other private off the beach dinghies and club Pacers, as well as partnering with local operators to offer try wing-sailing experiences throughout the weekend.

Looking further ahead, I'm again looking forward to returning to my race management team role at Hamilton Island Race Week in August and reuniting with all our Newcastle members at the iconic regatta destination. We can also pencil into our calendars a Founders Day celebration and Blessing of the Fleet on September 10 followed by the beginning of our Spring Short Ocean Pointscore a week later on Sunday, September 17.

As always, we encourage all members of the club to get involved in our upcoming events, whether as participants or volunteers. Please contact me if I can help you become involved or if you have some time to volunteer to help us deliver any of our racing or regattas.

We look forward to seeing more members on the water, in more ways, more of the time!

– Jack Buchan



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We shall fight off the beaches ... and we shall never surrender may well have been the catchcry of David Doherty's TP52 *Matador* as it charged like a bull towards its second consecutive TP52 Gold Cup victory at SailFest Newcastle Regatta in April.

Racing in Stockton Bight, with sand and surf stretching beyond sight, the CYCA entry took home the TP52 series by 8 points, the IRC title by 4 points and also the scratch results.

"The secret was no mistakes," Doherty said modestly. "Everyone has been working well together and we're gradually updating the boat and changing our systems. It all panned out well."

Finishing second overall on TPR and IRC was *Gweilo*, and skipper Matt Donald was pleased with the results, given it was such tight racing among the 10 boats.

"It doesn't get much better than that, and we thoroughly enjoyed it," he said. "Our boat prefers to stretch its legs on the passage races, and we had a cracking result on day 1, but day 2 was pretty good."

Minor placings went to *Smuggler* (TPR) and *Secret Men's Business* (IRC).

Secret Men's Business had a Man Overboard situation in the first windward-leeward race while rounding the bottom gate, mild swell conditions and a 12-knot northerly prevailing. The NCYC mark boat was able to quickly retrieve the for'ardhand and deposit him safely back aboard in less than a minute.



Images by Sally Dingo

"The kite came down, then the jib flicked from one side to the other and took him with it," skipper Geoff Boettcher explained. "He did a somersault into the water and the boat swung on top of him, but luckily there were no injuries."

Boettcher was more jovial about the fact that *Matador*, his previous boat, had beaten him: "I should've charged him more," he joked.

Meanwhile, Darryl Hodgkinson's *Victoire* did what few other yachts have managed, which is to account for the Farr 31 *So Farr* on IRC – both posted two firsts and two seconds, which meant the result in the final race was the decider. The Carkeek 40 was also the PHS victor, while *So Farr* took ORC Club.



"We had to work hard for it but we really enjoyed the racing and came through on countback," a delighted Hodgkinson said. "Our IRC rating is pretty terrible but we sail to it and the flat conditions helped us too."

The Division 2 passage series was won by the NT30 *Neverland* on PHS and *Concealed Weapon* on ORC Club, both representing NCYC.

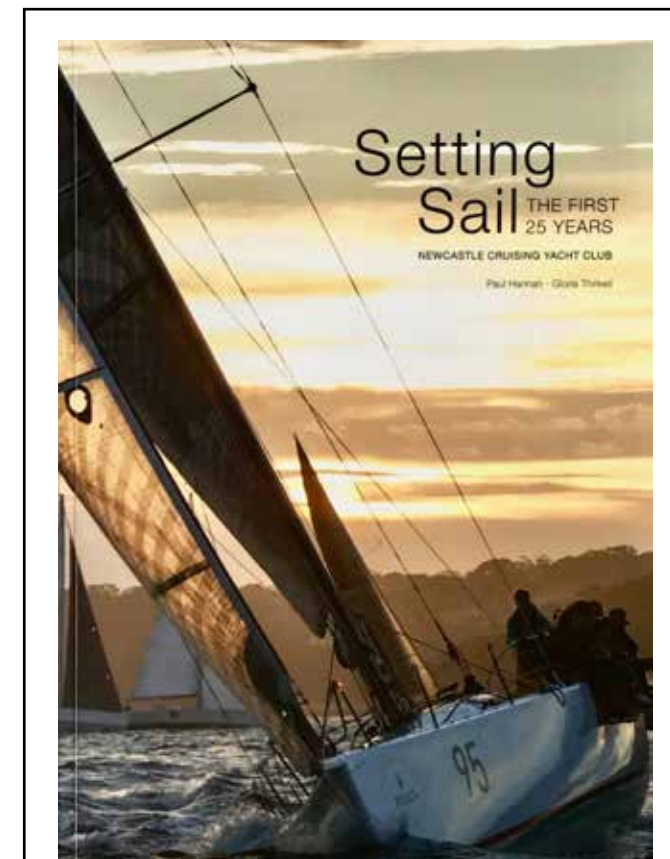
Inshore, after two days of tight match racing, the NSW Sailing League finale was won by Woollahra Sailing Club, represented by Jack Ferguson and his team India Gilbert, Brooke Wilson and Ethan Lozevski.

Woollahra was later joined by Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and Lake Macquarie Yacht Club at the SAILING Champions League – Asia Pacific Finals at Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, May 20-21.

Port Hunter 16ft Sailing Skiff Club's 'Cock of the Harbour' race, was won convincingly by Brett White and Kevin Winchester aboard the all-carbon Nacra F20 *Thunderbolt*. The cat hit speeds of 19 knots in around 12 knots of breeze and averaged almost 11 knots.

A two-handed 16ft skiff with Danny Hore and Anthony Johnson was first of the monohulls. Yardstick results were dominated by VS dinghies, *Firestorm* grabbing the first of the top four placings.

SailFest Newcastle is generously supported by Transport for NSW and City of Newcastle.



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Images by Promocan Media

PASSAGE SERIES

Perfect sailing conditions under clear autumn skies set the tone for a glamour opening day of Sail Port Stephens with crews aboard the record fleet of 108 yachts enjoying some of the best and most scenic in-harbour racing on offer in Australia.

Port Stephens delivered an ideal week of racing with sunshine, moderate breeze, and both the sky and the water gleaming bright blue all week long! The only exception being the final raceday where racing was finally abandoned due to lack of wind.

On the opening day of race week there were some close calls but no paintwork scraped as Division 1 got away to clean start. The intricacies of racing on a waterway over twice the size of Sydney Harbour with strong tidal flows and shifting winds is one of the great levellers in this extremely popular regatta and ensured close action as spinnakers were deployed for the run to a mark in Salamander Bay.

Later in the week, a solid 20-knot north easterly led to a number of round-ups, but that wasn't a problem for *Fourth Dimension IV*, a Hanse 575 ... at 17 metres and 25 tonnes the biggest and heaviest boat in the fleet. Now berthed at the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, Adam Griffin has brought the family cruiser all the way from Europe via the Caribbean and the Pacific, so knows when *Fourth Dimension IV* is nicely in the groove.

The Passage Series ultimately came to an early conclusion on the final day, as mentioned, but it was a stark contrast to the previous four days which featured the sort of conditions sailors long for but rarely get.

Crews then assembled at Broughtons at the Bay for the

prize-giving ceremony across six divisions, with visiting boats dashing the locals' hopes of homegrown glory.

Jon Linton and his crew aboard *Llama II*, a Dehler 46 from the Middle Harbour Yacht Club in Sydney, started the regatta with a first and proved the boat to beat in PHS Division 1, finally finishing seven points clear of their closest rivals.

"It's always a treat to sail up here," Linton said. "Even though it was probably a bit lighter than we would have liked, we worked hard to take the gains where we could and sail our own race against some very good competition."

Second-placed Julian Bell's Beneteau 50 *51st Project* from Port Stephens Yacht Club were carrying local hopes and said they enjoyed the close racing in the big fleet on their home waters. *Indi*, an immaculate Farr 40 owned by former Cruising Yacht Club of Australia Commodore Noel Cornish, was third on a countback.

Despite the sails being hoisted for the first time on Day 1 of the regatta, *Sunfish's* scorecard (2,4, 1, 5) ensured Lee Condell's new Jeanneau Sunfast 3300 was top of the podium in Division 2 with Justin Mitchell's *Rant &*



Sail Port Stephens is supported by the NSW Government via Destination NSW

Rave from the Royal Motor Yacht Club at Toronto in second and *Nocleks*, a Farr 30, in third.

Condell, a well-known sailor from Pittwater, said he was delighted by the win, adding "it's hard to beat the welcome we receive from the Port Stephens community, the friendly atmosphere dockside, and the ideal variety of sailing conditions on offer in a stunning location."

He also echoed the sentiments of many in the fleet in praising the switch this year to five days of passage racing with a lay-day on courses both inside Port Stephens and around its scenic offshore islands.

"The decision to change the format for this year was a very good one and well received and I have no doubt that the event will continue to grow," Condell predicted.

Division 3 evolved into a contest between the Gosford Sailing Club and the locals from the Port Stephens Yacht Club with the visitors from Gosford securing the silverware thanks to a very consistent performance by Mo Goodship and his crew on *Animal Farm*, a Foundation 36.

Steve Liney and his crew of enthusiastic local sailors aboard *Bellamy*, a Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 45.2, were a strong second, while fellow Port Stephens boat *Wubaray* rounded out the podium.

Chris Laughlan's Hanse 370e *Trim* won Division 4, the skipper quick to acknowledge his crew's sail-handling and improvisational skills: "We had a core crew with visitors each day and all meshed into an excellent team at short notice," he revealed.

"Running the asymmetrical and symmetrical spinnakers

"We're pleased that competitors were able to experience the best of what this stunning location offers sailors and families"

offshore for different legs worked particularly well. We also had some urgent repairs carried out on the bow under very difficult conditions when gear failure occurred on several occasions," Laughlan said.

Pinta Bay from the Woody Point Yacht Club on Pittwater had one hand on the trophy with three second places before Race 4 when they slipped back to 13th, but they had done

enough to claim second from Toronto boat *Barney Cools* in third.

The Non-Spinnaker Division was keenly contested with Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club entries *Transcendence Crento* and *Trilogy* filling first and second respectively, while Rod Wills's well-campaigned X-43 *Great Xpectations* from the CYCA claimed third.

Indi added a Division 1 ORC win to her quiver while *Young at Heart*, Simon Prosser's Young 88, secured ORC Division 2 honours.

Regatta Director Paul O'Rourke said it was heartening to see the record fleet of 107 boats reveling in the mix of conditions at Sail Port Stephens.

"We're very pleased that competitors were able to experience the best of what this stunning location offers sailors and their families," he said. "We hope they will be back next year for what has become a 'must do' event on many sailing calendars."

Passage Series dates for 2024 are 15-20 April.



**NCYC IS AN ACCREDITED
DISCOVER SAILING CENTRE**

WINDWARD-LEEWARD SERIES

The weather gods continued to gleam over Sail Port Stephens as the regatta kicked off with more sunshine and moderate breeze.

The three-day event comprises the NSW Yachting Championships (IRC), Pallas Capital TP52 Gold Cup, and the inaugural Rob Hampshire Trophy (ORC), raced as part of the new regatta format that splits it into three distinct events.

The three days are made up primarily of windward-leeward courses with at least one passage race; points are scored under IRC, ORC and TPR, and yachts can choose to record multiple scores in whatever category they are eligible with six races the event goal.

After three windward leeward races on Friday, Saturday brought the passage race. A brand-new course was selected with Division 1 and 2 heading up to Broughton Island, before turning back south around another mark, then the Boondelbah, Little and Cabbage Tree Islands, and onto the finish line inside the bay. Division 3 had a slightly shorter course.

The forecasts for the third and final day of the NSW Yachting Championships and Act 3 of the TP52 Gold Cup at Sail Port Stephens was an exciting one for competitors, and for the race team. "I was watching the weather models all night and we were not expecting the weather to get fresh until around 1pm," said Denis Thompson, Principal Race Officer.

All involved geared up to complete two quick races. Mains were being 'feathered' and crew hiking for all they were worth as the conditions continued to get stronger. PRO Thompson again: "We had a good course set and we sent them away. Just as they started, we recorded 20-22 knots, and then after the start we were getting gusts of over 30 knots."

At over 30 knots of wind speed boats start to broach, sails start to tear, and gear starts to break. Thompson called it a day. All three divisions got a race start. They punched through the chop to the top mark, rounded, then it was a spinnaker run back to the finish line.

The TP52s were recording over 20 knots of boat speed on the way home to the finish. Some of the smaller boats decided to run with headsails rather than spinnakers, and a few crews had a bit on their plate as sails blew out. A good call from the race committee, and a lot of sailors with tales to tell.

The final presentation was a crowded affair as the sailors gathered with their war stories.

IRC Division 3 winner was the consistent *So Farr*, the Farr 31 of Dale Sharp out of Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. Sydney 36 *Stormaway* from Middle Harbour Yacht Club took second place, with another Sydney 36, *King Tide*, rounding off the podium. ORC results were almost the same with *So Farr* on top, then *Stormaway* and *King Tide* swapping places.

IRC Division 2 was claimed by Sail Port Stephens stalwart Gerry Hatton's Mat 1245 *Bushranger* from Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, closely followed by *Nine Dragons*, the DK46 from Middle Harbour Yacht club. Neal Farquharson's *Khaleesi*, also from Middle Harbour, came third. The ORC results featured *Bushranger*, *Soozal*, *Nine Dragons*.

The TP52s conducted the Pallas Capital TP52 Gold Cup Act 3, *Matador* securing first place in both IRC and the class TPR rating, Matt Donald's *Gweilo* also took second in both. Third under IRC was Geoff Boettcher's *Secret Mens Business* from South Australia, and third place in TPR was Craig Neil and his crew on *Quest*.

Windward-Leeward dates for 2024 are 26-28 April.



Images by Sally Dingo



Images by Promocan Media

OFF-THE-BEACH BAY SERIES

The closing weekend of Sail Port Stephens 2023 was the Bay Series comprising sports boats, J70s, International Canoes, RS Aeros, Finns, OK dinghies, Windsurfers and a smorgasbord of other classes, competing on three race tracks.

Hosted by our Bay Sailing Centre, and under the gaze of spectators relaxing on deck chairs provided by Port Stephens Council, the sailors were treated to a 15-knot westerly breeze on both Friday and Saturday.

Intent on not wasting the champagne conditions, the race management teams pushed to get an extra race ahead of schedule off-the-beach classes and the Windsurfers before going into the final race day.

There were some tired bodies feasting on free pizza and enjoying the apres-sailing hospitality of event sponsor Bannisters Port Stephens on Saturday evening.

The Sports Boat and J70 fleets resumed their racing after completing three windward-leewards on the Friday. *Don't Panic*, helmed by Nicky Bethwaite and designed and built by 49er designer Julian Bethwaite, led Malcolm Dean's Shaw 650 *Black Betty*.

Steven Proud's *Swish* was the overnight leader. Also consistent was *Joust70*, helmed by Rod Warren. Those results remained the same after a further three races on Saturday, *Don't Panic* winning all three on line and handicap honours to step further clear of *Black Betty*, Brett Davis's *The Cube* moving into third.

Joust70 reeled in some points, while Karyn Gojnych steered *Jabiru* into third overall.

Leading lights in the Windsurfer class, with 26 starters, were Mitch Cooper, Greg Kay and Josh Green, with skiff legend Andrew Divola holding fourth place.

Matt Visser showed exceptional consistency in the Finns, posting three 2nd placings and a first, rival Rob McMillan taking the first three heats then being deemed OCS in the last race of day one. Grant Wakefield led the OK class, and Gary Ratcliffe the RS Aeros.

On Sunday, the final day of racing, all racing was postponed and all classes remained ashore as an extreme westerly turned the racetrack from tough to dangerous.

By late morning it was clear that the regatta results would remain unchanged. The prizegiving ceremony was then celebrated at the Bannister Cheeky Dog bistro.

Bay Series dates for 2024 are 3-5 May.

Checking the weather

On the water, weather conditions can change very quickly. It's important to be prepared and keep a close eye on the weather forecast before and during your trip, particularly over these winter months, so you can get home safely.

Getting caught out by poor weather conditions when boating can result in safety incidents such as capsizing, swamping and people falling overboard. These incidents are often preventable, especially if you plan your trip safely. When planning your trip, check the weather conditions and select an appropriate area to go boating based on the conditions.

If in doubt, choose a more protected waterway to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable day on the water.

Weather conditions are highly changeable. Even if you have checked the weather before leaving, the conditions may change while you're out on the water. It's important to be prepared and keep a close eye on the forecast both before and during your trip.

Visit bom.gov.au for regular weather updates throughout your trip. You can also use the BoM app

on your phone to set up weather warning alerts, which warn when dangerous weather fronts are approaching.

No one deliberately wants to be out in a storm, and getting caught out by a sudden change in weather presents significant risks.

Over the winter months, water temperatures can drop significantly. Water temperatures below 15 degrees are considered dangerous. If you fall into cold water, cold shock can set in very quickly and you are at higher risk of hypothermia.

When boating in cold waters, plan your trip, wear appropriate clothing, and always wear your lifejacket. If you fall overboard, wearing a lifejacket helps to manage cold shock, conserve energy and gives you time to get back to your vessel or for help to arrive.

The winter months are a great time to enjoy our beautiful waterways. Always make sure that the conditions are suitable for a safe and enjoyable day.

"In cold waters, plan your trip and wear appropriate clothing"

Have you planned ahead for your day out?



You're the skipper, you're responsible. Visit lifejacketwearit.com.au to plan your day and prepare for common risks.



ARE YOU BOAT READY?
PLAN ○ PREPARE ○ PREDICT

Steve and Maureen Rae

It would be remiss not to formally acknowledge the contribution of Steve and Maureen Rae, avid sailors who race together on *Marta Jean* twice a week in Spring and Summer and every week during the Winter season. Maureen is actively involved in the promotion of women's sailing through the SheSails and Master Class programs. Both are very keen supporters of the NCYC social program.

Steve joined the NCYC Board on August 15, 2013, as a Director and has served as the Honorary Treasurer, Vice Commodore and Commodore; the latter commencing in late 2017 after Jim Holley stepped down, and ending on 30 April this year.

He was Commodore throughout the entire COVID lock down period and recovery, which included the phase two Clubhouse build. Steve continues to contribute on the Board, but I feel it is necessary to mark his 10 years of service to the Club ... including 6½ as Commodore.

Not only have they achieved and directed our Club with these significant contributions, they have done it with their trademark good humour, capable insight and competence. They are and will continue to be valued members of our NCYC community.

– Barry Kelly

Save the Dates

22 July Presentation Night
10 Sept Founders' Day

2024:

5-7 April SailFest Newcastle Regatta
15-20 April Sail Port Stephens Passage Series
26-28 April Sail Port Stephens W/L Series
3-5 May Sail PS Bay Series (Bay Sailing Centre)



To receive up-to-date information on weather warnings, safety tips, boating tips and more.
www.facebook.com/MarineRescueNewcastle



Image by Sally Dingo

Security Phone Numbers

Emergency

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

Club Directory

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



Whale rescue

Welcome back aboard Marine Rescue Newcastle.

Probably the biggest news to raise is that our new base at Stockton is almost finished,

with an expected completion date in July.

Anyone who passes by the site next to the south Stockton ramp would have seen it go through its build. It's looking great and we can't wait to move in.

Hot off the press as I write, NC30 has been involved in assisting NSW Surf Lifesaving's dedicated 'whale disentanglement crew' to free a humpback whale in difficulties off Norah Head.

A long trip for our boat, however, looking at the AIS tracker, Ron, Bill, and Stuart were able to make good speed to Toukley with speeds around 30 knots. Once at Toukley, with calm seas, they were able to nose up to the beach to pick up rescuers and equipment.

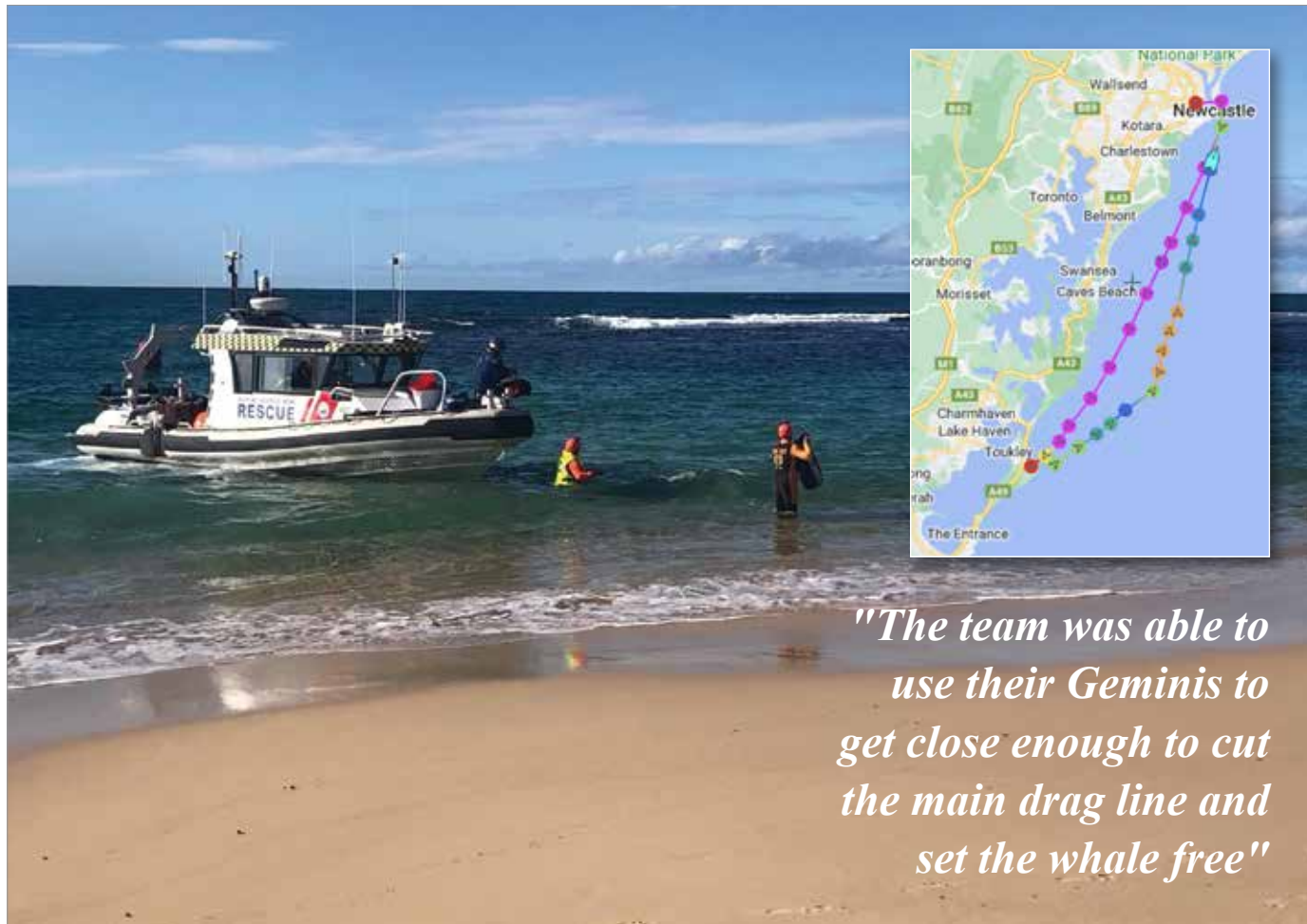
Once returning to the area of operation, NC30 was



tasked to have a line attached to attempt to slow the whale down to allow the 'drumline' cable to be cut.

I spoke to Ron Calman, coxswain for the event, who said once the line was connected to NC30, he had the whale run free and placed a little pressure to add weight to the line in an attempt to slow the whale down, as requested by the dedicated disentanglement team. With all efforts in place, the team was able to use their Geminis to get close enough to cut the main drag line and set the whale free.

Well done all!



"The team was able to use their Geminis to get close enough to cut the main drag line and set the whale free"



Fun courses to introduce your kids to sailing

Tackers 1 - Having Fun

This course aims to provide children aged 7-12 with a fun, safe and affordable way to get into sailing. Kids sail in pairs using our plastic training boats.

Tackers 2 - Tricks & Techniques

In this course, kids sail on their own as instructors deliver games and challenges to further progress sailing skills while having fun and forming friendships.

Tackers 3 - Sailing Fast!

This course completes the Tackers pathway and focuses on advanced sailing skills through games and adventures on the water. After graduating Tackers 3, kids are ready to join the Tackers Green Fleet racing squad.

Tackers Green Fleet

Still using the club's plastic training boats, kids learn to race and take responsibility for the setup and packup of the sailboat. Green Fleet prepares kids to be ready to use their own boat.

O'pen Skiff Squad

The O'pen Skiff Squad is designed to help kids and families into purchasing and sailing their first boat. Kids will work with coaches to refine their skills so that they are ready to train and race locally and at other clubs and regattas where they will improve their sailing skills and form a greater friendship network throughout the hunter and NSW. Activities will still maintain a focus on fun, friendships, and skill development.



CAN YOU HELP?

The Mission to Seafarers provide Care Packs for visiting sailors to Newcastle

- Books
- Men's Clothing
- Men's Jackets
- CD Music
- Souvenirs
- Toiletries



Any donation is appreciated and can be left at NCYC Admin/Marina office or dropped off at 96 Hannell St, Wickham





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Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club's renovated clubhouse welcomes members and guests

The venue has a relaxed and contemporary resort-like feel, unique for Newcastle

Call NCYC today to host your next event

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Members receive special discounts

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The NCYC's Nautica Dining is a fresh culinary experience in every sense, with award-winning Executive Chef Luke Carpenter leading an eclectic and dynamic kitchen crew

The restaurant offers a superb a la carte menu, bar and lounge classics and a selection of degustation packages for special family and work occasions

Book online at ncyc.net.au



ON THE RIGHT TACK

Looking at getting your kids into sailing? Tackers is the perfect pathway onto the water. We run programs throughout the school terms on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and condensed programs in the school holidays. Bookings are now open, so get in quick as they sell out fast!

sailingacademy@ncyc.net.au

ncyc.net.au/junior-tackers-sailing-7-12yrs

