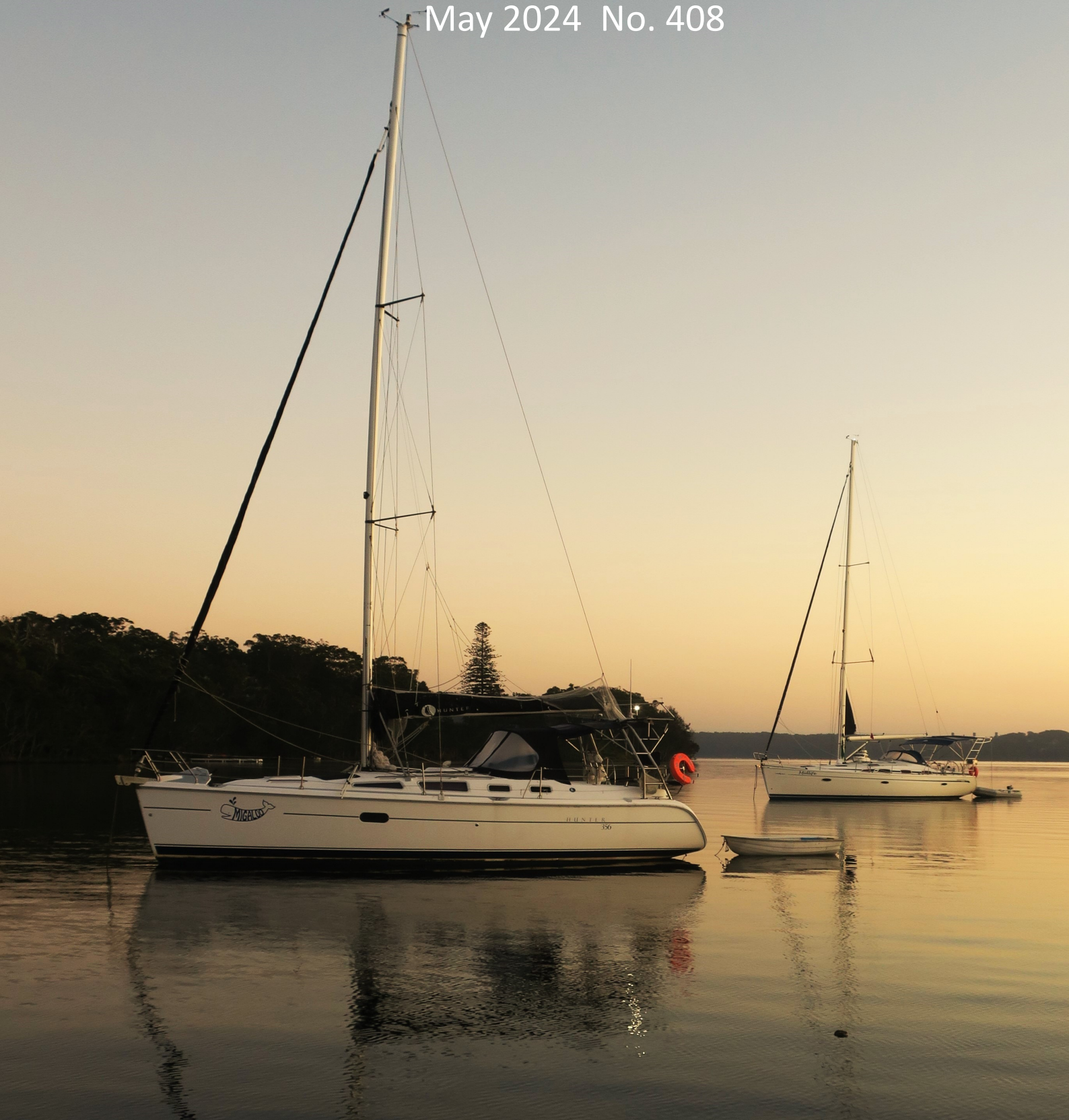


LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT
CLUB CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

May 2024 No. 408



AGM & GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 13TH MAY

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Contacts

Cruising Division Executive

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Secretary	Richard Masson	0422 347875
Treasurer:	Nikki Cahill	0410 982887

Committee

Committee

Geoff Edman	(Board Rep)
Tony Austin	0416 266947
Chris Cahill	0416 939546
Nikki Cahill	0410 982887
Marion Cotterill	0409 982535
Fred Seysener	0413 185907
Maureen Seysener	0438 752561

Cruising Division Editor:

Any articles for the Cruiseletter can be sent to the Cruiseletter Editor, Maureen Seysener, preferably in MS Word format. seysener@gmail.com (0438752561) by 25th of each month.

Please address all letters for the Cruising Division to:

LMYC CRUISING DIVISION
Ada Street
Belmont NSW 2280

Cover - Early morning light - Migaloo & Midlife anchored at Sunshine - April Cruise



Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



We have had a wonderful run of great weather for our events over Easter and mid-April. Hopefully the weather gods will continue to be kind as we have scheduled a Broughton Island Cruise for June and a Newcastle Cruise in July. I hope we get a good role up for these more adventurous activities. I'll be issuing a plan for the Broughton Is cruise by email/facebook next week.

We continue to press for the Swansea channel to be navigable both through the temporary short term dredging program and the longer-term solution. It's important to remember that we need a PERMANENT solution to the channel silting problem, and we need to maintain the pressure on the politicians and government officials. Please contact the minister for transport using the following link <https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-transport>. Emphasise the need to permanently keep the channel navigable. Copy to your local member and me so that I have a record.

Our new sun hats continue to sell at the bargain member price of \$5 (\$10 for non-members). We still have hats left so if you would like a sun hat, please email me with your size (medium 58/large 60) and choose of (colour grey/navy blue/bone). They are designed for sun protection and sailing in a stiff breeze. Member feedback has again been very positive. Payment can be made by EFT to the CD account with a description of Hat/Your name.

Upcoming Events

Our AGM is on Monday 13th May. This is a "non voting" AGM but we have a number of presentations so I encourage members to attend. The water police will also be giving a presentation at the meeting.

Our next on-lake event at Crangan Bay is scheduled for 17-19 May and will feature a campfire night hosted by Fred and Maureen Seysener. Should be fun!

The June general meeting has been rescheduled to 3rd June to avoid the public holiday and fit with current club room bookings. We have decided to incorporate a strategic planning session into this meeting in order to incorporate the views of members into our future plans.

The Broughton Island cruise will be held on the King's birthday weekend 7-10th June. Details will be posted next week and a briefing delivered at the June general meeting.

Safety Audits

Safety is one of the key objectives of the LMYC CD and therefore, we are asking all members to participate in the audit process to help identify any safety related issues on our yachts. Our auditors are experienced yachtsman who provide this valuable service free of charge to the members, and I thank them for their service, and encourage all members to participate. The audit process is being reviewed, with the objective of alleviating any disputes by putting the responsibility for safety in the hands of the owner/skipper of the vessel whilst fulfilling the divisions/clubs safety and education objectives.

Cheers and safe sailing.

Ralph

Up-Coming Coastal Cruises 2024

Save these dates for some fantastic sailing

June 7	Broughton Island / Port Stephens
July 12	Newcastle
Oct 14	Jervis Bay <i>(Extended Cruise watch this space!)</i>



LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB CRUISING DIVISION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - 08/05/23

The Annual General Meeting of the CD was held at LMYC immediately after the General Meeting.

MEETING OPENED: 7.30 pm

ATTENDANCE: As per attendance book – 21 members attended

APOLOGIES: As per general meeting; Ralph and Angela Asquith, Ian Gilkes, Scott and Jenny Thomson, Julie Edman, Mark Norden

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES of AGM (including Skipper's and Treasurer's Reports) as held on 9th May 2022 and circulated by email. Accepted: Proposed: Mark Clement; Seconded: Ross Shirtley

SKIPPER'S REPORT – Gordon Butler See attached Skipper's Report at the end of these minutes Gordon spoke to the highlights of his report. Report to be accepted at the next AGM

TREASURER'S REPORT: - Nikki Cahill for Ralph Asquith (absent) LMYC CD Financial Statements audited by Pacer Accountants. Thank you to them. Nikki read the report (see attached at the end of this report). \$4393.95 was the closing balance at the end Feb (end of financial year). Report to be accepted at the next general meeting.

AGM ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Geoff Edman took the chair
Geoff declared all positions vacant.

Committee positions nominations

- Skipper: Ralph Asquith
- Secretary: Richard Masson
- Treasurer: Nikki Cahill

As there was only one nomination for each of these positions, Geoff declared each of these filled.
Committee members: Chris Cahill, Marion Cotterill, Tony Austin, Fred Seysener, Maureen Seysener.

Other positions

- Cruiseletter editor – Maureen Seysener has offered to continue.
- Raffle coordinator –Angela Asquith has offered to pick up from Maureen.
- Supper coordinator – Mark and Carolanne Clement agreed to continue, but are expecting to be away for significant periods. Jen Masson has offered to cover this role when they are away, so it will be a shared arrangement.
- Safety Officer – was expected to be nominated by the new committee. However, Tony Austin has agreed to fulfil this role so Chris Cahill can have a break. Thank you to Chris for your efforts over the past few years. [Post meeting note] Chris writes that he “remains dedicated to the concept and promoting safe sailing in the division. I remain available to help/cover the role as required.”
- Aquatic services committee – there is now a single representative nominated by the LMYC Board. Tony Austin is our CD rep and Ross Shirtley represents MRLM. We thank them both for their continuing contribution.
- Equipment Auditors - Tony Austin, Ross Shirtley, Hilton Jones, Eleanor Cunningham, Phil Cunningham (AS Trained), Geoff Edman, Mark Clement.
- History Committee CD reps - Ross Shirtley, Mike Collins

Gordon thanked all those who have volunteered in the past and those who have offered to remain in or take on these positions.

NEW SKIPPERS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH from Ralph Asquith.

Gordon Butler read as Ralph was absent. Gordon will send a congratulations email to Ralph.

Tony Austin thanked Gordon Butler and Trudi Butler, who are both stepping down from the committee, for leading the CD through a challenging time with respect to Covid and Swansea Channel.

MEETING CLOSED: 7.50pm Supper followed

Treasurer's Annual Report Year Ended 28th February 2023

This financial year was again impacted by the dual circumstances of the COVID 19 pandemic and Swansea channel depth problem forcing us to cancel many of the planned regular events.

The opening cash balance was \$3938.29, and an operating surplus of \$405.66 was generated, which gave us a closing cash balance of \$4393.95.

Membership fees after refunds totaled \$1381. Membership fees from 1st March 2023 have been increased to \$22 per annum or \$60 for 3 years to compensate for inflation.

The Christmas party revenue was \$2140, and expenditure was \$2766.55 resulting in a net cost of \$626.55. This was done in accordance with the members' wishes expressed at our general meeting. Raffles raised \$569 for the year.

A donation was made to Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie of \$500 and the Wangi Fireworks Committee of \$200 to support the New Years Eve event which many of our members enjoy.

The CD accounts were submitted to Pacer Accountants for audit and were approved. The Cruising Division are fortunate to receive this valuable service free of charge and I will issue a letter of thanks.

I thank the rest of the Committee for their support in dealing with the Divisions finances in this difficult year.

Ralph Asquith Treasurer

Skipper's Report 2023-2024

The Cruising Division continues to show strong membership, with 99 boats on the current membership register, which is the same membership as at this time last year. We welcome all who have joined the Cruising Division over the last 12 months and extend our best wishes for the future to those who have not renewed membership.

The last year has been the first year since 2020 where our activities have not been impacted by forced shutdowns due to COVID, so it has been great to have a full year of activities, including extended on lake cruises in October 2022 and March 2023. Both the extended cruises were well attended, with a mixture of on water and land activities allowing for those not able to be on the water to participate.

The situation in Swansea Channel continues to frustrate plans for trips out of the Lake, with the channel being closed to deep draft vessels since around October 2021. The department responsible for the dredging has made numerous statements about when dredging will happen, however, there seems to be no commitment to meeting these dates and infinite excuses as to why dredging does not occur.

Cruising Division finances are healthy and the Division was able to make a significant contribution to the Christmas Function and donations to Marine Rescue. An agreement was made with the LMYC whereby the Club and Cruising Division would jointly fund two club moorings on the lake. However, we were only able to obtain approval for one mooring, which has been installed on the Southern side of Wangi Wangi. The club has fully funded this mooring and we thank the board for that. Funding remains available for the second mooring, and the second mooring can be re-visited at a future date.

The work of the Cruising Division cannot happen with-out the input of the members. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all who have helped with the running of Cruising Division events. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee, it has been a great experience working with this Committee over the last two years, all members of the Committee have contributed to the running of the CD and meetings have been enjoyable with contributions welcomed from all. There will be significant turn-over in the Committee next year, with a new Treasurer, Secretary and Skipper. I ask that all members support the new committee as they settle in.

As well as the Committee we have members who willingly take on other roles including Cruiseletter editor – David Baker then Maureen Seysener, Supper Coordinators – Carolanne and Mark Clement; Raffle –Maureen Seysener; Aquatic Services Committee – Ross Shirtley and Tony Austin; Safety Officer – Chris Cahill; Boat Auditors – Tony Austin, Ross Shirtley, Hilton Jones, Phil and Eleanor Cunningham, Mark Clement. Thanks to you all!

The Cruising Division is part of the LMYC. For the last year Geoff Edman has again represented the LMYC Board on the Committee, and attended our members meetings. Geoff gives a great perspective on what it means to be part of the wider club, and the opportunities that this provides to the Cruising Division. Thanks to Geoff for his contributions, and advice, which is always appreciated.

Gordon Butler Skipper – LMYC CD

Outstanding Cruising Division Fees

Reminder

In March I sent out email reminders to members who are required to pay their annual Cruising Division fees this year, to their addresses we have on file.

Many thanks to all those who responded with their payment or retirement notice. However, there are a few members who have not yet responded. Please pay promptly or let me know you no longer wish to be a member of the Cruising Division.

I will send a **final** reminder email in a few weeks' time.

Many thanks.

Nikki Cahill

Cruising Division Treasurer nikki.cahill26@gmail.com

CD Bank Details:

BSB: 112-879

A/C no: 482 585 899





13th May - AGM & General Meeting LMYC Marquee 7pm

The AGM will be different this year with **NO ELECTIONS** .

Our May meeting for 2024 will start at 7pm with a presentation from our Guest Speaker Sgt John Clark NSW Water Police.



This will be followed by a short General Meeting before we share supper as usual.

Two very special Awards will also be presented at this meeting - the awarding of **Life Membership** plus the presentation of the **Hitchcock Perpetual Trophy**.
Come along and celebrate our fantastic Cruising Division!

A table will be booked for dinner from 5.30pm onwards for those wishing to share a meal prior to the meeting.

May Outing - 17th-19th

Campfire at Crangan Bay

Drop anchor north side of Pulbah Island Friday 17th for a Happy Hour aboard host boats at 1600. Dinner on board own boats.

Saturday 1030 - set sail from Pulbah for Crangan Bay for an afternoon on shore around the campfire @ 1530. Those wishing to bring a light dinner (finger food) may enjoy extending the afternoon into early evening.



Sunday morning - time for fun - this is a beautifully protected bay so bring your paddle craft.

Come along have some fun and soak up the last of the Autumn weather!

Cruise Co-ordinators - Fred and Maureen Seysener "STOKED" mob: 0438752561

Please check Facebook on Thursday in case changes need to be made due to weather or contact co-ordinators on the above number.



April Outing

Maureen & Fred Seysener



Set Sail for Sunshine 12th-14th April

Really the name said it all ... Sunshine!

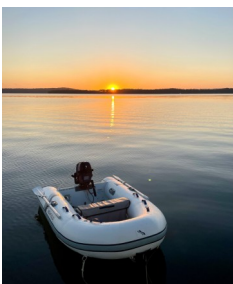
As *Stoked* dropped anchor off Styles Point mid Friday afternoon the day was warm and sunny, the breeze light and the temperature mild. The only thing missing - boats! Given it was the first weekend of the school holidays and many CD members were occupied either with travels, minding grandkids or antifouling it was not unexpected that the roll up would be smaller than usual. However being the solo boat was a bit odd! So it was a great buzz to see a tender approaching at high speed (what else!) and find Ralph on our doorstep for happy hour! Committed to the Charity Ball on Saturday night it was too big an ask to fit in the cruise as well but an hour over a cold beer was worth the trip from Belmont! *Thankyou Ralph!*



The light winds persisted on Saturday morning which gave us the chance to give the motor a run and charge up the batteries before gliding into Sunshine Bay around 100am. No sooner had we dropped anchor than the invitation came for morning tea on Graeme and Linda's (*Isla Breeze*) front deck - the weekend was looking brighter all the time! Then the boats started coming in and soon we were joined by Jenny and Scott (*The Merry Admiral*), Ken and Libby (*Mlgaloo*) and Geoff and Lisa (*Midlife*). The afternoon was whiled away over a long, relaxed BBQ lunch and lively conversation. These outings are simply the best way to touch base with good friends and get to know our newer members!

Typically for Autumn the night was mild and the lake like a mirror so all crews slept well and Sunday morning saw us all exploring the beautiful foreshore walk to Johnny's Point along an easy path with formed track, bridges and raised boardwalks. We also caught up briefly with Gordon and Trudi (*Breathe*) as they kayaked the bay. The cruise finished up with an extended morning tea (who really needs lunch?) before crews headed back to boats for a leisurely trip back home. Our great thanks to all who came along and shared the weekend at Sunshine — it was great to be with you all and have the luxury of time to catch up.

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Helicopter Rescue

Chris Cahill



An event on the Pittwater Cruise in Feb/Mar2024 prompted a number of questions about helicopter rescue and how it works.

What do we need to know about the process and how can we prepare for the unlikely event that we or someone in our crew needs to be rescued by helicopter?

Helicopters are fast, can get to distant places and access difficult rescue sites. But they are a limited resource with issues re availability, duration and capacity. Rescue helicopters in NSW are tasked by NSW Ambulance in conjunction with the rescue agencies (Water Police, AMSA). You can't just call in and ask for one to come to your assistance. Calls for help should be made through the usual channels – Channel 16 VHF, DSC, EPIRB, or 000 on the mobile phone network.



If a helicopter is tasked to evacuate someone from your boat they will have been given your location, the nature of the emergency, contact details, POB etc. The aircraft crew will attempt to contact you by VHF (channel16) or mobile phone before they arrive.

It is vital that instructions from the helicopter crew are noted and followed exactly. The helicopter crew will assess the situation and make decisions about how to best effect rescue/evacuation, eg Direct winch, high line transfer, winching from life raft, strop, stretcher.

Manoeuvre your boat as instructed by the helicopter crew. You may be asked to continue sailing (eg close hauled on port tack), or to motor on a specific course (eg into the wind at best speed), or to stop the boat. Use a designated helmsman if possible as autopilots may not be able to maintain a course with a helicopter hovering overhead or near-by. The helmsman must concentrate on helming the boat and not be distracted by the helicopter or the rescue activity.

Secure all loose objects in the cockpit, around the boat and on your person, including your dinghy - be aware of the likely effects of rotor-wash which can be equivalent to 60-70 knot winds.



Send unnecessary crew below. Everyone wants to be involved, watch, help etc but spare bodies are a safety risk, restrict space and complicate communication.

The helicopter will usually approach/stand off the port quarter, as this gives the pilot and aircrewman the best view of your vessel. Normally the pilot flies from the right-hand seat and the door of the aircraft and winch are on the right.

Once the helicopter is near your vessel communication becomes difficult due to engine noise and rotor wash.



What should we not do?

Do not fire flares or shine bright spotlights in the direction of a helicopter. If you can see them, they can see you. They may be using night vision goggles at night and bright lights can impair vision with potentially dangerous consequences.

Do not grab the winch wire, crewman or high line before it has touched the water or your boat. There is the potential for a serious static electric shock. Let the high line or earthing wire touch water or your boat before you touch it.



Do not tie off the high line. The aircraft needs to be free to move away at any time.

Do not try to help unless instructed to do so. Follow instructions from the helicopter crew closely.

Chris Cahill
Safety Officer



When is a Chart not a Chart?

Tony Austin



As sailors we pride ourselves on having a strong and enduring commitment to the safety of our vessel and our crew. To this end we willingly comply with the NSW Boating (RMS) requirements and often add additional safety equipment to comply with various boat audit programs. Few of us would ever contemplate venturing offshore without having immediate access to some sort of chart – ideally completely up to date and backed up either electronically or by paper. Despite this, I often hear it said that this is ‘overkill’ as the coastline never really changes so old charts are just fine! I think that this is a rather simplistic assessment – new rocks or obstructions are still being found, fishing grounds and Fish Aggregating Devices flourish and ports are always changing. Navionics (and similar charting software and apps) are an awesome tool for modern navigators but they don’t always tell the full story! Believe it or not, total reliance on these programs can cost you money – sometimes lots of money!

Why is this so? Well – the simple fact is that an increasing percentage of our coastal waters are now covered by some sort of regulatory protection. The number of Marine Parks has increased dramatically with attendant restrictions on such activities as fishing, transiting and anchoring. Anyone who has cruised within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park would be only too aware of the need to carry the GBRMP charts for every region and comply with these restrictions. Several years ago a cruising friend of the Lemberg’s transited a ‘Green’ zone with fishing gear aboard (but not in use). They were charged and fined several thousand dollars and had a criminal record!

So, what can we do to protect our wallets from these types of fines? While our navigation charts may show the boundaries for these restricted areas it is not always easy to see what they are indicating and what activity is prohibited. Clearly we need access to a different sort of chart that makes it much easier for us to ‘do the right thing’.

This is where the ‘Boating Maps’ produced by Transport for NSW (Maritime) come into their own. These ‘maps’ are available online (free) or on waterproof paper (\$8) for the major recreational boating areas in NSW. They are an excellent product that is updated every few years and provides a wealth of useful information for recreational boaters. In particular, they clearly show all restricted areas with explanations. I have always had a copy of the map for Lake Mac (Map 8A) and Pittwater (Map 9A) but have recently purchased the six maps that cover the coastal regions between Sydney and Jervis Bay (aka JB) in preparation for the CD cruise scheduled for the latter half of 2024. The map of JB is amazingly complex with many restricted areas mainly focused on preservation of the pristine aquatic environment. Needless to say, any breaches could result in hefty fines so rigorous compliance is not just the right thing to do it also protects your wallet and your reputation.



Link: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/using-waterways-boating-and-transport-information/navigation-communication-maps-times-and-restrictions/boating-maps>



For Your Calendar

May 17th-19th **Camp-fire at Crangan Bay**

This beautifully protected bay offers not only a safe anchorage but also a serene location! Hopefully we'll be able to gather on-shore for a campfire get together on Saturday night. See details on page 7.



June 7th **Coastal Run to Broughton Island**

Contact Skipper Ralph Asquith if interested in sailing to this iconic destination.



June 14th-16th **Soup at Taylors Bay!**

This fave Winter event is on again! Gather at Taylors Bay for a culinary delight and put the Winter blues to bed by getting out on our boats for a day on the lake!

July 12th-14th **Weekend in Newcastle Harbour @ NCYC**

Mark this one on the calendar folks! We have been hanging out for this cruise since Covid hit! Always a fun run up the coast and a wonderful weekend in beautiful Newcastle Harbour.



Thankyou!

Our Cruiseletter is enriched by your contributions — all items of interest or handy hints are always gratefully received! Ed.

My thanks this month to :-

Ralph Asquith

Chris Cahill

Tony Austin

Nikki Cahill



Speaking of charts....