

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB
CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

June 2024 No. 409



GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 3RD JUNE

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Cruising Division Executive

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Treasurer:	Nikki Cahill	0410 982887

Committee

Committee

Geoff Edman	(Board Rep)
Tony Austin	0416 266947
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Nikki Cahill	0410 982887
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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 - Midlife - north side of Pulbah Island May outing.



Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



LMYC Cruising Division Annual Skipper's Report 2023-24

Introduction: Welcome to the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club Cruising Division Annual Skipper's Report for the year 2023-24. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of our Division's activities, achievements, challenges, and future outlook.

Executive Summary: In 2023-24, the Cruising Division continued to thrive, fostering a vibrant community of sailing cruising enthusiasts on the beautiful waters of Lake Macquarie. Despite the challenges posed by delays in dredging of the channel and emergence from the COVID epidemic, we remained resilient and committed to promoting the joy of sailing and camaraderie among our members.

Division Overview: The Lake Macquarie Yacht Club Cruising Division is dedicated to promoting safe cruising and social sailing activities among its members. With a diverse range of vessels and skill levels, our division offers something for everyone, from leisurely lake sailing to offshore cruising events.

Highlights and Achievements:

- Introduced our new logo **SAFE SOCIAL SAILING**.
- Advocated for the dredging of the Swansea Channel.
- Successfully organized and hosted monthly on-lake cruising events.
- New look Christmas Party implemented and enjoyed.
- Defibrillator obtained for use at our on-water events.
- Division Sun Hat designed and distributed to members.
- Pittwater Cruise successfully reinitiated after a 3 year "lockdown".
- Introduced new cruising destinations.
- Continued with safety and training programs to ensure the well-being of our members and promote responsible sailing practices.

Membership and Participation: Our division experienced a small decline in membership throughout the year and member participation in cruising events and social activities has also been below expectations although the strong sense of camaraderie and shared passion for sailing remains within our Division. The committee are undertaking the following to address this issue

- Contacting members who are not regularly participating in on-water events, by mail and inviting them to join in our activities.
- Introducing new more adventurous destinations to excite new members whilst maintaining our traditional on-lake activities.
- Holding a members strategic planning meeting at our June General Meeting.
- Provision of our new Sunhat embossed with our **Safe Social Sailing** logo to existing members to help advertise our Division. Free to new members to entice membership.

Financial Review: The Division maintained a stable financial position. Financial Resources were prudently managed to fund division activities, purchase and maintain equipment, and support community outreach efforts. A copy of the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 29th February 2024 is available to members. Many thanks to our Treasurer Nikki Cahill and our auditors Pacer Accountants who provide their services free of cost.

Community Engagement and Support: The Cruising Division actively supported the local community through donations to Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie and the Wangi Fireworks Committee and participation in Lakefest. Our Division's presence and contributions were recognized and appreciated, further strengthening our ties with the broader sailing community and fostering a positive reputation for the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club.

Challenges and Opportunities: Whilst we faced challenges such as delays in the dredging of the Swansea Channel, inclement weather, and emergence from the COVID epidemic, these obstacles were overcome through effective planning, communication, and collaboration among Division members. Looking ahead, we recognize the opportunities for growth and innovation in expanding our sailing programs, attracting new members, and promoting sustainable practices within our Division.

Future Goals and Objectives: As we look to the future, the Cruising Division is committed to building upon our achievements and striving for excellence in all aspects of our operations. Our goals for the coming year include:

- Expanding our cruising itinerary to explore new destinations and engage with other sailing clubs.
- Enhancing member services and amenities to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all sailors.
- Investing in training and development initiatives to empower members with the skills and knowledge to enjoy sailing safely and responsibly.

Conclusion: In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our division committee, members, and supporters for their dedication and contributions to the success of the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club Cruising Division. In particular

Our Commodore Geoff Edman and LMYC Board for their ongoing support
Richard Masson (Secretary) for dedication and support
Our Treasurer Nikki Cahill
Safety Officers Tony Austin and Chris Cahill
Maureen Seysener for our informative and entertaining Cruiseletter
Other Committee members Fred Seysener and Marion Cotterill
Yacht auditors Tony Austin, Ross Shirtley and Hilton Jones
Lake Macquarie Aquatic Services participants Tony Austin and Ross Shirtley
Our meeting supper organisers Carolanne and Mark Clement
My dear wife Angela for her ongoing support and raffle organisation

Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and created lasting memories on the water. I look forward to another year of adventure, camaraderie, and shared passion for sailing.

Kind regards
Ralph Asquith
Skipper
LMYC Cruising Division
SV Leopard 40 "2DREAM"
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Nikki Cahill - Treasurer



**CRUISING DIVISION
LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 29 FEBRUARY, 2024**

	February 2024 \$	February 2023 \$
MEMBERS FUNDS		
Opening Balance	4,394	3,938
Add: Net profit for the year	971	456
Closing balance	<u>5,365</u>	<u>4,394</u>
Represented by:		
ASSETS		
Cash at bank - St George Acc 482585899	5,365	4,394
LIABILITIES		
The division has no liabilities at balance date	0	0
	<u>5,365</u>	<u>4,394</u>

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY, 2024**

	Note	February 2024 \$	February 2023 \$
INCOME			
Donations received		0	4
Flags		0	15
Hats		275	0
Interest received		0	3
Membership fees		1,944	1,431
Social activities and fund raisers	2	<u>3,121</u>	<u>2,979</u>
Total income		<u>5,340</u>	<u>4,432</u>
EXPENSES			
Administration costs		93	20
Donations	3	700	700
Equipment		30	53
Membership Refunds		0	50
Social activities and fund raising costs	4	3,015	3,153
Hats		<u>531</u>	<u>0</u>
Total expenses		<u>4,369</u>	<u>3,976</u>
Net Profit (Loss) for the year		<u>971</u>	<u>456</u>

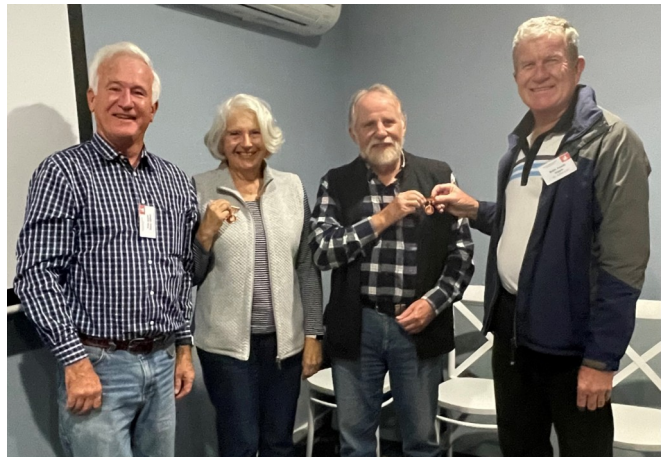
CD Members Honoured!

Life Members

At the May General Meeting Life Membership was conferred on long-term CD members Chris and Nikki Cahill. Both Chris and Nikki joined the Cruising Division nearly 20 years ago and have been active members, either in an organising capacity or through regular participation in events for most of that time. In his nomination speech Tony Austin acknowledged the huge contribution Chris has made over the years as Safety Officer in his presentation of Safety Talks as well as practical workshops and demonstrations.

Both Chris and Nikki are current members of the Committee and have previously served in the roles of Skipper (Chris) and twice as Treasurer (Nikki). As well as their service on Committee Chris and Nikki have been heavily involved in organisation of numerous monthly on-water events and longer CD Cruises and their warm hospitality and willingness to assist whenever possible is well known. Members voted unanimously for Life Membership to be awarded and warmly congratulated both Chris and Nikki as truly worthy recipients of this honour!

Congratulations Chris and Nikki!



Hitchcock Perpetual Trophy

Recipients of the 2024 Hitchcock Perpetual Trophy are Tony and Cath Austin. Since joining the CD in 2009 Tony and Cath have thrown themselves into every aspect of the CD serving multiple terms as Committee members as well as holding executive positions - Tony as Skipper and Cath as Secretary.

To quote the nomination Tony's outstanding leadership was acknowledged through his 'tireless work as safety officer, boat safety auditor, as a representative on Aquatic Services Committee, CD Rep on the LMYC House Committee and the months spent rewriting the CD Charter and deep involvement with LMYC management'.

Cath's involvement has not been limited to serving on Committee. She was also thanked for her willingness to roll up her sleeves to assist with all social events and to share her professional knowledge through presentations on provisioning for long passages, preservation of food and understanding the labelling on LL foodstuffs. Both are sailors at heart and were thanked for their total involvement in monthly on-water activities and for the numerous cruises they have so ably led. Add to this their hospitality and great sense of fun and it's easy to understand why this award was so readily endorsed by members!

Thankyou Cath and Tony!



May Guest Speaker

Sgt Jon Clarke - Marine Area Command NSW Water Police

At the May General Meeting members welcomed Sgt Jon Clarke from Newcastle Water Police to speak on boat security and essential reporting of incidents when on the water.



Jon's presentation was not only concise and to the point but reassuring that the support was there for us as sailors when things go terribly wrong.

Jon began his presentation by outlining the various branches within the NSW Water Police both at a regional and State level - defining their specific areas of responsibility and expertise.

Regarding boat security - Jon reinforced the importance of ensuring our vessels are well secured when berthed or on the mooring and of the effectiveness of modern devices such as solar powered motion sensor lights and blue-toothed cameras in deterring criminals. He recommended these be mounted inside the boat facing the entrance hatch in order to prevent accidental activation caused by boat movement or birds.

Jon also explained the importance of leaving the crime scene intact on board vessels following a break-in or vandal attack as forensic evidence is vital in securing evidence to be used in apprehension of perpetrators.

Members questions were succinctly answered and Jon reiterated the importance of immediately contacting the police in event of break-ins or dangerous activity on the water.

Contact numbers he provided are :

Break-ins - ph : 131 444 / direct mobile : 0428 282 988

A huge thank-you to Sgt Clarke for his professionalism and reassurance of assistance when on the water.



June Outing

Set Sail for Soup! 14th -16th June



Chase away those winter blues!

Get out on your boats and sail to a beautiful location for an onshore gathering with good friends to enjoy a warming bowl of nourishing soup!

Friday - Styles Point for Happy Hour at 1530

Saturday - Sail to either Croudace Bay or Sunshine for a shared lunch - venue decided dependant on prevailing winds.

Sunday - enjoy being on the lake - lets see what the day brings!

Co-ordinators Marion and John Cotterill– mob. 0409 982535 Watch Facebook for updates!

May Outing

Maureen & Fred Seysener

Campfire at Crangan - 17th -19th May

Despite dire weather predictions for strong winds and heavy rain on the Saturday the four crews that set out for this monthly outing had a lot of fun!

Mid-afternoon Friday saw *Midlife*, *Double Fun*, *Windsong* and *Stoked* drop anchor on the western side of Crangan Bay and head ashore for a campfire gathering and happy hour. They say a warming fire draws people together and



this proved to be true as we were joined by another yachting enthusiast who came over to see who we were! Needless to say he was made more than welcome and stayed for the rest of the afternoon. As we sat there enjoying the calm, balmy conditions under the waxing moon it was hard to believe the weather that was supposed to come later in the evening!



However as predicted a strong southerly front came through early hours, hitting around 30 knots and lasting well into the Saturday morning. By mid-morning the front weakened to around 20 knots which made for a thrilling sail downwind as we made our way north to shelter behind Pulbah Island. *(The magnificent thing about Lake Macquarie is that no matter what direction the wind is coming from there is always a safe anchorage where you can hide safely away!)*



By lunch time the promised rain also arrived however determined not to let this spoil our day we happily accepted Tony and Cath's kind invitation for a gathering on board *Double Fun* and as always conversation flowed and laughter abounded before the cooler evening saw us all returning to our boats for a quiet night on board.



Sunday morning dawned calm, bright and sunny and after a relaxed morning tea together we threw up the canvas and enjoyed a gentle sail downwind back to our moorings. Thanks to all who weren't deterred by the predicted challenging conditions and came out and made the weekend such a pleasant gathering!
It was all great fun!

(Of course the heavy rain also provided some crews with ample water for an impromptu boat wash. As the old saying goes ...'never let a chance go by'!)



Anchor Alarms

Fred Seysener



When looking to anchor anywhere overnight there are a few things to consider. After careful consideration of the weather, wind direction, type of holding and whether you're on lee shore, you put down the anchor hoping all will be fine.

However sometimes that quiet, peaceful anchorage turns out to be a little more challenging than it first seemed. This is why employing an anchor watch app comes into its own as it alerts you to the fact your anchor is dragging and your vessel is on the move!

Whilst there are several anchor watch apps available such as Anchor Watch, Anchor Alarm, Anchor Pro - for us Zenkou has proven itself on many occasions.

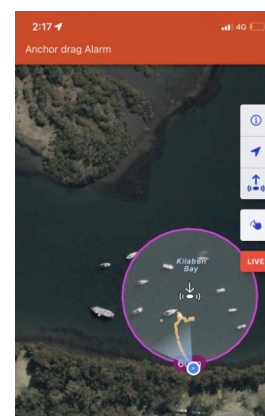
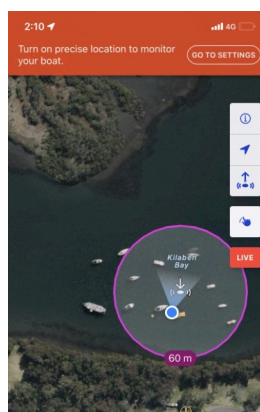
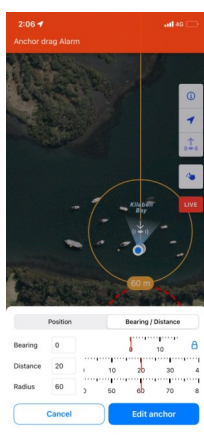
After laying the anchor this app allows you to position your boat relative to your anchor in regard to distance and compass bearing and to build an imaginary circle around that anchor point which will produce an audible alarm alongside the visual display when your vessel moves outside the established safety zone.

It may be worth noting that in order to gain an accurate distance and bearing from your anchor it is worthwhile to reverse gently against your anchor (especially in light conditions) to establish the full extent of your chain.

If using a phone app to monitor your position a certain amount of battery is required therefore it is advisable to plug your device into a charging port whilst using.

As stated earlier, whilst this is not the only anchor watch app available it has proven easy to use and effective, providing a certain amount of confidence when anchored in unfamiliar waters and/or challenging conditions.

And remember although the electronic media is a very convenient tool it is unwise to trust any such device totally. Nothing gives greater reassurance when concerned than a visual check on both the lee shore and adjacent boats!



To demonstrate the process the anchor watch was set whilst Stoked was on her mooring (please disregard surrounding vessels). The first photo shows the set up with the anchor set due north at a distance of 20m and a comfortable 60m diameter safety zone. The second shows the established safety zone whilst the third photo shows the alarm activated as I rowed to shore — with the phone in the tender!

For Your Calendar

Next Three Months Outings:

June 7th-10th Broughton Island Cruise

This long anticipated off-shore Cruise will depart the Lake (weather permitting) on the 7th for a run up the coast to this beautiful destination. Skipper Ralph Asquith will share details of this cruise at the General Meeting on the 3rd.



June 14th-16th Set Sail for Soup!

This fave Winter event is on again! Gather at Styles Point on Friday afternoon for a happy hour before sailing to a protected anchorage for this culinary delight! Put the Winter blues to bed by getting out on our boats for a day on the lake!



July 12th-15th Newcastle Harbour and a Night at NCYC

Mark this one in your diaries and keep your fingers crossed for fine weather deep water in the channel! This is always a great weekend — don't miss it!



3rd June - General Meeting – Bridgedeck Room

Our June meeting for 2024 will start at 7pm. A table will be booked for dinner from 5.30pm onwards for those wishing to share a meal prior to the meeting.



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

Tony Austin

Nikki Cahill

Chris Cahill

Fred Seysner



"If we took the boat out, it might get dirty or scratched. Can't we just sit here for the next several hours and talk about why you accused me of being paranoid?"