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# FORECAST

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Monthly Newsletter from Lake Macquarie Yacht Club



## COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY EVERYONE! 95 YEARS OLD**

In September 1929 LMYC was formed at a meeting in Newcastle. That is 95 years ago this week. Over the last few years our History Committee have been gathering history details etc. Most Forecast issues have had a contribution from our history. This will continue while plans are made for our Centenary in five years time.

### **OPEN DAY SAIL PAST 'OLYMPICS' THEME**

The weather was good to us for our Open Day and Sail Past. Over the last few years we have had ordinary weather and have had to postpone the Sail Past and abandon sailing on our first day at least twice.

Many yachts and crew delighted us with dressing their boats and crew. There were some great and colourful interpretations of the Olympic theme.

Judging was close as there were many who were deserving of the prizes. It was pleasing to see several members of the Cruising Division taking part.

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAIL PAST WINNERS:

*So Farr* for Best Dressed Crew, who joined in even though they had no mast. Rumour has it they were representing the Para-Olympics!

*2Dream* had the rigging dripping in flags as well as a canoe, complete with canoeist, on the foredeck to win Best Dressed Boat.

*Willpower* dressed with Olympic rings and crew dressed in green and gold received a Highly Commended prize



Pictured:  
*2Dream* (above)  
*SoFarr* (top right)  
*Willpower* (right)

### TRAINING ACADEMY

Our second Farr 25 training boat has arrived and training program has been developed with the first youth training class signed up.

Plans are underway to form a 'Foundation' to support this very important initiative. More details to come soon.

We need to name our training boats. Members are invited to submit suggestions to the Board for consideration.

### **DISTRESS FLARE PRACTICE**

Our Cruising Division have organised a distress flare hands on practice at their next monthly meeting on 14 October. All members are invited to come along and watch or have a go at using a flare. There will be a demonstration of a parachute flare as well as the flare practice. See more details in this Forecast.

### **VOLUNTEER CALLOUT**

Making Waves Foundation are calling for volunteers to assist with their 'Wright Of Passage' initiative program. See the flyer in this Forecast.

### **MAST CRANE**

The deck area around the new mast crane is now complete, widened by around two meters to accommodate masts, and two masts have been un-stepped for rigging replacement. At time of writing, they are waiting a weather window to be re-stepped. There are several yachts waiting in line for masts to be un-stepped then re-stepped.



See you 'round the Club.

GEOFF EDMAN, COMMODORE  
Email: commodore@lmyc.com.au

## **SWANSEA BRIDGE PHONE NUMBER CORRECTION**



It has been brought to our attention that the number for the Swansea Bridge that was printed in the 2024-2025 Whitebook is INCORRECT and is no longer in use.

The CORRECT number, which is operated by Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie, is:



**(02) 4972 7400**

# FROM THE CEO'S DESK

## MARINA BERTH HOLDERS

Some members have reported that their power leads have been unplugged and they have lost food. If you are a visiting boat, please ensure you do not unplug someone's shore power. For members who wish to monitor power there are devices available to notify you if power to your boat is lost.

Please visit <https://www.isocket.com.au/> for more information. Members are also reminded that their shore power lead must be tagged and tested and be in good condition.

Marina trolleys are also still being left on the marina despite this being brought to member's attention. Please ensure once you have finished with a trolley you return it before going out boating. It is a common courtesy!!! Further, please ensure no rubbish is left on any walkway on the marina. Walkways are to be kept clear at all times.

## MAST CRANE

The Mast Crane has been installed and deck widening has been completed. Following the June Board Meeting, pricing for the Mast Crane is as follows:

BOAT SIZE	MEMBER COST	NON-MEMBER	DISCOUNT
UNDER 28 FEET	\$350.00 EACH WAY	\$500.00	30%
28 - 36 FEET	\$450.00 EACH WAY	\$650.00	30%
OVER 36 FEET	\$525.00 EACH WAY	\$750.00	30%

***In order to qualify for the Member's discount, the boat must be on the LMYC Boat Register.***

MARK NORDEN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## SETTING SAIL

# SAILING SEASON UNDERWAY

The 2024/25 Sailing Season has commenced and we had a great turnout for the Open Day & Sail Past. Well done to those boats and crews that dressed up for the Sail Past. The weather has been kind so far, and the racing very competitive.

This year, there have been significant changes to divisional structure & the program, and the fleet had to be re-handicapped. Rest assured that the Sailing Committee is keeping a close eye on the changes to ensure that racing at LMYC is fair and enjoyable for all.

Several people have asked why we couldn't just roll the Saturday handicaps from last season to this season. This was not possible as last year's handicaps were adjusted week by week in accordance with the boat's relative performance against the boats they were racing against (ie: their Division).

The restructure of the divisions from four to two meant that these relativities were no longer valid and the whole fleet had to be re-handicapped. The handicapper reviews an enormous amount of data to initially seed the boats from fastest to slowest and the VMGs from last year were very helpful in this process.

However, VMG is not the only source of data. Starting handicaps are allocated based on the relative performance of the boats and the starting handicap is compared to the performance over the previous season. The handicapper's recommendations are tabled at the Sailing Committee and approved by the Sailing Committee. The process involves plenty of reasonableness checks and discussion. It is a robust a data-driven process – however, it is not perfect.

The Performance Handicapping System that we use is a best estimate of the relative performance of each boat and it moves from week to week based on the relative performance of the boat against all the boats that it is sailing against. Consequently, if the starting handicap is marginally wrong then the handicap will be corrected either up or down reasonably quickly and it evens out over the season.

We have looked at other performance handicapping systems and other fixed handicapping systems and each has their advantages and disadvantages. We use Top Yacht as it gives us the ability to tailor the week-by-week race management in line with what has been in use at LMYC for many years. Other systems such as IRC or ORC are fixed or don't move week-to-week, and other performance handicapping systems often use their own proprietary algorithm to adjust handicaps.



The system that LMYC uses is transparent and has the following elements:

- We use the Back Calculated Handicap (BCH) to determine the relative performance of each boat within their fleet. The BCH is a calculation of what a boat's handicap should be if all boats finished on the same corrected time as the base boat, which is the boat closest to the 45th percentile in the fleet.
- If you sail better than the base boat, then your BCH will go up and vice versa - if you sail worse, then your BCH will go down.
- The handicap for the next race is the CHC and this is the average of the boats last four BCHs. This helps smooth out the handicaps and does not penalise a boat for a good day and conversely it does not reward for a bad day.
- In previous years, the AHC was subject to caps and collars whereby the handicap would only move by a maximum of plus or minus 3%. This year we have implemented a plus or minus 5%, which will mean the handicaps will be a little more volatile than in previous years. Albeit, there is still a smoothing by using the average of the last four BCHs.
- If a boat doesn't race, its handicap doesn't move while the rest of the fleet does.

Just a reminder about this season's program-

- **Offshore Racing** - We will have a 5-race offshore series in conjunction with NCYC. The series will kick off on the 9th of November with a race from Newcastle to Port Stephens and returning to Newcastle on the 10th of November. The Friendship Cup will be held at Newcastle on the 1st of March, followed by a Bird Island Race on the 2nd of March. The series will wrap up with a Newcastle to Port Stephens Race on the 30th of March, which is a lead in race for Sail Port Stephens in April 2025. Separate Sailing Instructions will be issued shortly.
- **Sweepstake Races** - Will be held at LMYC on the Offshore weekends
- **Courses** - All courses for the Bay, Pulbah and RKR courses have been reworked. Thank you to Noel Jenkins, Bruce Dobinson and Ross Ahrens for their hard work on this. Please ensure you have the updated courses for the new season.
- **Interclub Racing** - The RKR Series will kick off on the 28th of September, followed by five more races over the remainder of the season.
- **Sprint Racing** - This year's Windward Leeward Series will be a sprint-style series with three short (20-30 minute) races per day. The series will kick off on the 12th of October. This will provide a great opportunity to hone racing and regatta skills.
- **RMYC 30 Miler** - The annual 30 Miler will be held on Saturday 23rd November.
- **Australia Day Regatta** - The Annual WASC Australia Day Regatta will be on Sunday 26th January, 2025. This will be the first Lakefest Race.
- **Lakefest** - Lakefest will again be on in February 2025 with events across all Lake yacht clubs.
- **Heaven Can Wait** - Will be held Saturday 15th February, 2025.

I will be away for the next six weeks on a long planned overseas holiday and in my absence David Young will chair the Sailing Committee. Thanks David for undertaking this role. See you all when I get back and I hope sailing is enjoyable for all in the coming weeks.

STEVEN FORD, REAR COMMODORE  
Email: rearcommodore@lmyc.com.au

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## 'SIRIUS' BUSINESS!

# LMYC SAILING CENTRE PROGRESS

The LMYC Sailing Centre is in full swing in being set up, with our accreditation happening in early October with Australian Sailing, final preparation of our boats including new LMYC branding & fit outs, tailored course lesson plans being developed, and all WHS policy and procedures being implemented.

Belmont High School will also start their Term 4 sports with us, sailing each Thursday afternoon at LMYC over a nine-week period.



*Our second LMYC Sailing Centre Farr25 yacht being delivered to LMYC on 18th September from her long trip from East Fremantle.*

Further detailed information will be released in October for all of our upcoming Courses that we will be offering at our LMYC Sailing Centre – it is going to be a very exciting summer!

SIMON TURPIN, SAILING MANAGER  
Email: [sm@lmyc.com.au](mailto:sm@lmyc.com.au)

## NCYC SheSails Open Regatta 2024

**Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th November @ NCYC**

A message from NCYC's Sailing Manager, Jack Buchan:

It's that time of year again – we're now accepting entries for the eighth annual She Sails Open Regatta here at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club.

Join us on the water over the weekend of 23 & 24 November where we have scheduled another full weekend of women's racing on the Harbour.

Apply for an entry via the event webpage – <https://www.ncyc.net.au/inshore-racing/she-sails-open-regatta/>

Images supplied by Jack Buchan from the NCYC SheSails Open Regatta 2022



## HISTORY LOCKER

# LMYC CADET DIVISION VJ CLASS

*The following information has been compiled from  
LMYC Annual Reports.*

### **1938 - 1939**

During January, the Racing Committee decided, that as the junior membership was growing and several lads had already become owners of Vaucluse Junior Dinghies, to apply to the Management Committee for permission to create a Cadet Section under the control of the Racing Committee and to be amenable to the Rules and Regulations governing yacht racing.



Permission was readily granted, and during their small season, 12 races were conducted. The Point Score Trophy (donated by Mr. V. Toll) was won by Mr. D. Jeffries' "Pest" and the Sealed Point Score by Mr. A. Beveridge's "Volant" and MR. W. Robertson's "Little Audrey" dead-heated.

At the end of the season, nine Vaucluse Junior Dinghies were registered and the Cadets have requested that their thanks be extended to the following donors of trophies for their interest and support. Commodore F. Oughton, Vice Commodore D. Alexander, Miss H. Fulford and Messrs B. Young, C. Walsh, R. Beveridge, W. H. Lees, J. Johnson and Dr. R. Pittar.

- 1938-39 Cadet Point Score -- "Pest" D. Jeffries
- Sealed Cadet Point Score -- "Volant" & "Little Audrey" (dead-heat) A. Beveridge & W. Robertson
- LMYC Trophy -- "If" F. Oughton
- C. Walsh Trophy -- "Bobby" R. Beveridge
- R. Beveridge Trophy -- "Pest" D. Jeffries
- B. Young Trophy -- "Little Audrey" W. Robertson
- Commodore's Trophy -- "We 2" R. Welham & W. Nicholls
- Vice-Commodore's Trophy -- "Pest" D. Jeffries
- J. Johnson Trophy -- "Little Audrey" W. Robertson
- R. Beveridge Trophy -- "Volant" A. Beveridge
- H. Fulford Trophy -- "We 2" R. Welham & W. Nicholls

### **1939 - 1940**

The activity and expansion in the Cadet Dinghy Section is a credit to the leadership of Messrs. A. V. Toll and R. Beveridge. There are now nine dinghies on the register with a membership of 12 cadets.

During the season it was decided to affiliate with the Vaucluse Amateur Sailing Association and members have since had built five new dinghies conforming to the required specifications.

Representatives from this section of the club competed in both Commonwealth and State Championships, and it is with great pride that we record that the State Championship was won by Master R. Jeffries in "Ace" against a fleet of over 50 dinghies from all parts of the state.

The point score for the season was won by Master Alan Beveridge with "Volant".

The cadets have requested that their thanks be extended to the following donors of trophies: Commodore D. Alexander, Miss H. Fullford, Mr. M. Watson, Mr. R. Beveridge, Mr. R. Cant, Mr. R. Jeffries, Mr. W. Lee's, Mr. Les Steel, Tha Alliance Assurance Co., Mr. Mark C. Reid, Mr H. Bond, Vice-Commodore B. B. Young, Mr A. V. Toll, Messrs Paul & Grey Ltd.

### **1940 - 1941**

We have pleasure in reporting the expansion of the Cadet Dinghy Section. The club now has twelve boats on the register, mostly of recent construction and complying with V. A. S. A. measurements. During the season the racing was always keen and the following are the winners of the principal events.

- "Vici" I. Toll. Club Point Score 5 firsts
- "Ripple" W. Robertson. Club Championship 3 firsts
- "Velox" M. Heatherington. 3 firsts
- "Capto" R. Hargreaves. For'd hand race
- "Capto" A. Beveridge. 3 firsts
- "Volant" E. Hitchcock. 2 firsts
- "Ace" R. Jeffries. 1 first
- "Wahini" N. Elliott. 1 first
- "Aero Too" K. Jones. 1 first

In conjunction with Handicap Events, the Commonwealth Point Score was competed for and resulted as follows:

- "Swift" Vaucluse. 1st
- "Velox" L.M.Y.C. 2nd
- "Capto" L.M.Y.C. 3rd
- "Ace". L.M.Y.C. 4th

As this is a Commonwealth event and competed for by affiliated clubs, members are to be congratulated upon their performances.

### **1941 - 1942**

The season opened on the 11th October, but unfortunately, due to the demobilisation of boats, our programme was curtailed and the racing finished on the 15th March 1942. All events were keenly contested and members are to be congratulated upon the sportsman-like manner in which they were carried out.

Commonwealth Point Score - several members nominated for this event which is contested by all affiliated clubs over fifteen races and resulted in Max Heatherington's "Velox" winning the event and Alan Beveridge's "Capto" coming 4th. I am sure members are very proud of this achievement, and extend their congratulations.

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**1942 - 1943**

We miss the familiar faces of so many of our younger members, who are absent through war causes and it is our hope that before next year's report is issued we shall have the opportunity of welcoming each and every one back to our Club House.

**1943 - 1944**

We still miss the familiar faces of many of our younger members who are absent through various war causes, but let us all hope that the day is not far distant when we shall have the opportunity of welcoming each and every one back to our Club House.

**1945 - 1946**

It is pleasing to see so many of our Absentee Members once more returning from the Armed Forces and again taking their place in the Club. Altogether there were 55 members of the Club in the Forces.

*Article written by Terry Caruthers*

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# MELBOURNE CUP 2024

*Tuesday 5th November, 12pm - 4pm*

- ◆ 4-Hour Premium Beverage Package
- ◆ Two-Course Meal by Crusoe's
- ◆ Live Music by Niahm Watson
- ◆ Sweeps, Best Dressed & Lucky Door Prizes

**\$160pp**



**PURCHASE TICKETS FROM LMYC RECEPTION - PH 4945 0022**

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## **YOU'RE INVITED - TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!**

You got the crew together for the Sail Past, now gather the troops and book your table for Melbourne Cup!

Join us for what's bound to be a fantastic afternoon in our Waterfront Marquee! There will be delicious food, free-flowing drinks, fantastic live entertainment, and great company!

We'll have sweeps to purchase, and we'll be running competitions for Best Dressed Man, Best Dressed Woman, and Best Headpiece - winners will be decided by crowd vote!

Dust off your best outfit, gather your friends, and book your tickets today!

*Tables of 10. Please advise of any dietary requirements at time of booking.*

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# LMYC FLARE DEMONSTRATION & PRACTICE

5pm, Monday 14th October 2024

## INVITATION TO DEMONSTRATION & PRACTICE

LMYC Sailing Members are invited to attend the Cruising Division's Flare Demonstration & Practice on Monday 14th October, beginning at 5pm.

We plan to let off flares near the boat ramp at the northern side of the Club, but this is dependent on the weather. Please do not allow smoke to blow towards the club house or kitchen. Follow the instructions of supervisors.

## FLARE PRACTICE INFORMATION

Only use the following 2 types of flares (**NB: no parachute types**) not older than 6 years from date of manufacture:



**Orange Smoke Flare**



**Red Distress Night Flare**

Please ensure that you have the right personal protection gear:

- Gloves (preferably heavy leather as the red phosphorus flares get extremely hot)
- Eye protection.
- Closed in shoes.
- Clothes covering other parts of your body (including a hat).

As several different flare brands are available make sure you read the instructions for each type on your vessel.

## CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR FLARES IN RECREATIONAL VESSELS



Class	Orange	Red	White	Parachute Red
NSW RMS (Open Waters)	2	2	0	0
QLD MSQ (Beyond smooth water limits)	2	2	0	0
AS Category 7	0	0	0	0
AS Category 5	2	2	0	0
AS Category 4	2	2	2	0

# LMYC FLARE DEMONSTRATION & PRACTICE

## FLARE PRACTICE PROCEDURES

1. Stand 2 metres apart (just like COVID!).
2. Ensure no flammable liquids or substances are nearby.
3. Flare instructions are located on the side of the flare so read them first (some flares require extending the barrel before use).
4. Make sure the wind is behind you and smoke will not blow towards people near you.
5. Firmly hold the flare at the bottom of the handle with your gloved hand.
6. Use your other hand to unscrew the cap.
7. Pull out the yellow ignition trigger tab.
8. Extend your arm out and point the flare towards an open area (away from you and others).
9. The yellow tab will pop out and the flare will ignite.
10. Don't look at the red flare as they are extremely bright and may damage your eyes.
11. Once the flare is fully used dip it in the bucket of water to cool and place open end first in the bucket of sand.
12. Don't forget to replace all used (or out of date) flares on your vessel as soon as possible. Possession of out of date flares is illegal in NSW.

## OTHER FLARE CONSIDERATIONS

- In an emergency you have a limited number of flares so use them wisely. Wait for a vessel, aircraft or person (on another vessel or onshore) to be in sight.
- Flares can burn holes in inflated PFDs, life rafts and even boats. Keep them away from all materials and cool (or drop) in water after use.
- They expire 3 years after manufacture (NOT date of purchase so check date when purchasing).



# Wright of Passage



## NEWCASTLE

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**Wright of Passage** is an innovative program from Making Waves Foundation (MWF) for young people enrolled in Years 10-12 at school or aged 15-18 if not enrolled in school. We aim to support these students who struggle to progress through school or have left school and have difficulty moving into further education or the workplace. The program provides a safe space for participants to build the positive approach needed to maintain their education or pursue further training and employment.



Participants work for one or two days per week for up to 4 school terms with volunteer mentors. Together they construct small vessels such as dinghies or kayaks, assist with repairs and maintenance of MWF's sailing boats, and learn to sail. Three days per fortnight involves boat-work at our site in King Street, Newcastle. When sailing arrangements are finalised one day per fortnight will involve learning to sail. This offers growth in confidence as well as greater understanding of boats and possible opportunities for networking within the maritime sector.

Participants are coached and mentored as they undertake trade-based boat-building projects to gain workplace experience. Goals are set and progress is monitored with regular check-ins and end-of-term evaluations. This is a unique chance to make a difference.

We are looking for volunteers who are available one to two days per week during school hours to join us in either:



- **PROJECTS** - Share your skills (or learn some!) to support participants during each build.
- **SAILING** - Use your sailing qualifications and/or appropriate experience to safely supervise fortnightly sailing sessions.

For the building projects experience with boat construction/maintenance, woodwork or related trade-skills is helpful. However, it is not necessary, as long as you are keen to learn and can engage and connect with a diverse group of participants.

For more about Wright of Passage or other Making Waves programs, please contact:

Matt Smyth, Program Manager  
0438 676 984 or [msmyth@makingwaves.au](mailto:msmyth@makingwaves.au)

Sarah Gamble, Regional Manager – Hunter  
0427 880 840 or [sgamble@makingwaves.au](mailto:sgamble@makingwaves.au)

Or go to our website: [Making Waves Foundation – https://makingwaves.au](https://makingwaves.au)

0421 725 170

[info@makingwaves.au](mailto:info@makingwaves.au)

[www.makingwaves.au](http://www.makingwaves.au)



# Lake Macquarie

***SHE SAILS  
REGATTA***

***2025***

January 12th (LMYC), February 23rd (WASC) & March 16th (RMYCT)

Enter the tri-series or individual races

## **FIRST RACE**

Hosted by LMYC Belmont

Sunday

12th January, 2025



**RACE ENTRY HERE**



NoR & SI's on the link below

<https://www.lmyc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SheSAILS-Regatta-NOR-2025-V1-300724.pdf>

# WHAT'S ON

## LAKELIFE @ LMYC

The best Sunday Session on the lake!

Join us on Sunday 13th October for the first of our LakeLife series.

Enjoy live music, DJ, food & drink specials, and our gorgeous lake views.

This is a FREE event, so invite your friends and enjoy the chilled vibes!

Sponsored by Beckels Vineyard

# LIVE @ LMYC

## SEPTEMBER 2024

Friday's 6:30-9:30pm

Sunday's 1:30-5pm



BROUGHT TO YOU BY **BECKELS** vineyard

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER

# LAKE LIFE

LIVE MUSIC & DJ | **FREE ENTRY** | FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB  
ADA STREET, BELMONT



## THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 - 2025 SAILING SEASON SPONSORS

