

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT
CLUB CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

October 2024 No. 413



GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER

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Committee

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Please address all letters for the Cruising Division to:

LMYC CRUISING DIVISION
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Cover - 2 Dream LMYC Sail Past



Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



Pack away those winter blues the sunny sailing season has officially arrived!

Our September outing was incorporated into the LMYC Sailpast on Saturday 7/9/24 12:00. After taking the salute we sailed to Pulbah Island for lunch before returning to the club for free pizza at 16:00 to 17:00. The crews of *Migaloo* (Ken and Libby) and *Isla Breeze* (Graham and Linda) opted to stay overnight a Pulbah as it was a beautiful calm evening. Great day was had by all.

Plenty of on water fun and action with two fantastic events - *the Ivan Irwin and Jervis Bay Cruises* - coming up in in October. Details of itineraries and planned activities can be found on LMYC CD Facebook page and pages 4 & 5 of this Cruiseletter.

Following on from the strategic review the committee will be organising some hands-on technical sessions over the next few months. A few of the topics that we are considering include:-

- use of flares
- measuring and recording mast heights to enable safe navigation under bridges and power lines.
- how to use DSC on your radio.
- fibreglass repairs

Whilst the committee will be working on these issues please do not hesitate to contact either Tony or myself if you have any further suggestions. We will also be holding a flare practise session immediately prior to the general meeting in October and have invited LMYC racing members to attend.

Without trying to be political, it's good news that Adam Shultz has been voted in as the Mayor of Lake Macquarie as he has been a strong supporter of aquatic services. LMCC has decided to "spearhead" the action on the channel dredging. Further information available at <https://www.lakemac.com.au/News-articles/Council-set-to-dig-deep-for-long-term-Swansea-Channel-solution>. We still need to maintain the pressure on the politicians and government officials.

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for Monday 14th October at 19:00. A slightly different format for this meeting, as we are having flare practice at 17:00 followed by dinner (for those wishing to participate) and then holding a practical session on provisioning for longer voyages. Dinner has been booked for 18:00.

LMYC CD sun hats still available at the bargain member price of \$5 (\$10 for non-members). 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.

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, enjoy the warmer weather and safe sailing.

Ralph

October Outing

Ivan Irwin Lake Cruise 5th-11th October

This week long cruise kicks off Saturday 5th October - finishing up Friday 11th October.

The plan is to meet up at Wangi on Saturday - north or south side of the Point depending on the breezes.

You might like to drop anchor early and take a wander along the foreshore.

Interested in a bit of history? Why not call in and visit William Dobell's studio?

Dinner will be at the Wangi Hotel - please let Marion know if you will be attending this gathering.

This is a Cooks-on-Strike type of cruise - making it easy for the chefs on board!

There will be approximately 4 nights out for dinner on-shore so provisioning will be light — you'll only need to plan and bring supplies for 3 meals on board.

Be prepared for a BBQ on-shore a shared dinner on board a host boat and a curry night. *(Also don't forget your own supplies for breakfast/lunch and happy hours!)*

Bring your walking shoes, kayaks, SUP's, games for free times on boats or on-shore.

There will be sailing each day as we explore the many areas on our beautiful lake - listen in on Channel 72 for morning updates at 0900 to hear the plan for the day.

Cruise co-ordinators are Marion and John Cotterill—please contact Marion if you intend participating in some or all of the Cruise. Mob: 0409 982 535



Flare Demonstration

Monday 14th October 1700-1800 LMYC

Come along to this practical demonstration of the safe storage and deployment of safety flares.

Please bring any flares that you wish to use in this organised practice session.

Safety glasses and leather gloves are strongly recommended for your protection.

Meet on the LMYC jetty at 1700. See you there!

(Full details and further information on pages 7 & 8)



Jervis Bay Coastal Hop - 19th October

Join us for a coastal cruise to Jervis Bay - one of the finest cruising grounds in NSW - with its crystal clear water, some of the best beaches in the world and National Parks galore!



The cruise has been planned as a series of short day sails from Lake Mac:-

Day 1	Swansea Heads to Broken Bay	(37NM)
Day 2	Broken Bay to Port Hacking	(34NM)
Day 3	Port Hacking to Shell Harbour Marina	(35NM)
Day 4	Shell Harbour to Jervis Bay entrance	(35NM)



Obviously participating in each leg will be at the discretion of each skipper, subject to weather and sea conditions. The total distance is 141 NM and for those skippers happy to travel at night the trip could be done in just over 24 hours.

The plan is to spend about a week at Jervis Bay (there is just so much to see there!) and then return to the lake spending a few days exploring some of the great cruising grounds along the NSW coast on the way home.

If you are interested in participating in this cruise or have any questions please contact Tony Austin mob: 0416 266 947.



Guest Speakers

Those members who regularly attend General Meetings (*held on 2nd Monday of the month*) will attest the high quality of Guest Speakers who regularly grace our gatherings.

The Guest Speaker is always invited to address the Meeting immediately following the welcome from the Skipper and usually speaks for approximately 30-40 minutes.

October 14th: Ralph Asquith and Cath Austin will lead a panel discussion regarding **provisioning of vessels for longer passages**. There are so many great ideas that can make provisioning your boat less of a drama! Come along not only to learn but to share your experiences and handy hints!

November 11th: presentation from LMYC newly appointed **Sailing Manager, Simon Turpin**

Looking forward to catching up with you at our next General Meeting — Monday October 14th 7pm in the Bridgedeck Room LMYC.

September Outing

September 7th kicked off the official start to the LMYC sailing year with a beautiful day, brisk breezes and a colourful display of decorated vessels taking the salute from LMYC officials.

Whilst early morning breezes initially looked like making the bay a less than comfortable destination, by mid morning conditions were perfect for the opening of the LMYC Sailing Season. The theme this year reflected the Olympics with green and gold dominating the colour spectrum.

Congratulations to Team *2Dream* for winning Best Dressed Boat Competition!



2025 LMYC CD Calendars

Miss out last year??

Next year's calendars are just about to be sent off to the printers.

If you would like to purchase one of these beautiful calendars watch this space!

For sale and distribution at the November General Meeting.



Safety Report

Tony Austin



LMYC FLARE DEMONSTRATION & PRACTICE 5pm, Monday 14th October

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

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR FLARES IN RECREATIONAL VESSELS NSW RMS (Open Waters)

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.

IMPORTANT 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).

Let's be prepared!



Navigation in Days of Old!

Today navigating the waterways - whether inshore or ocean passages - has never been easier.

Armed with global maps and GPS positioning, accurate electronic charts and up to the minute tide and weather information we set out confident that, all going well, our destination will be safely reached.

Spare a thought for those skippers from days of old.



In the western NSW town of Bourke there is the Back O' Bourke Exhibition featuring displays on the history of the town, the history and its peoples. One section is dedicated to the Darling River. Of course Bourke owes much of its former glory and wealth to the Darling River - the third longest river in Australia and one which still impacts a large number of Australians every day.

The Darling is part of a river system that drains an area of France and Spain combined and is part of a vital network of rivers that pump life into our major cities. Over 3 million people drink water from the Murray/Darling River system morning, noon and night, and almost all the oranges, lemons, peaches, rice, bread, wine, milk and honey on the tables of homes in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide have been nurtured in The Basin!

With the discovery of gold in the 1850's and the subsequent exodus of workers from country regions to the goldfields, remote outback sheep stations languished with no means of transporting their goods to the coast. The Murray, Darling and Murrumbidgee Rivers became the new inland highways.

Some three hundred paddle-steamers plied the Murray/Darling River during the main era of river trade. During 1864 -1914 these mighty vessels offered a service that delivered delicate and bulky cargo, mail and fresh food thus greatly improving living standards and reducing the isolation of those living in remote areas.

Enter the River Boat Captains!

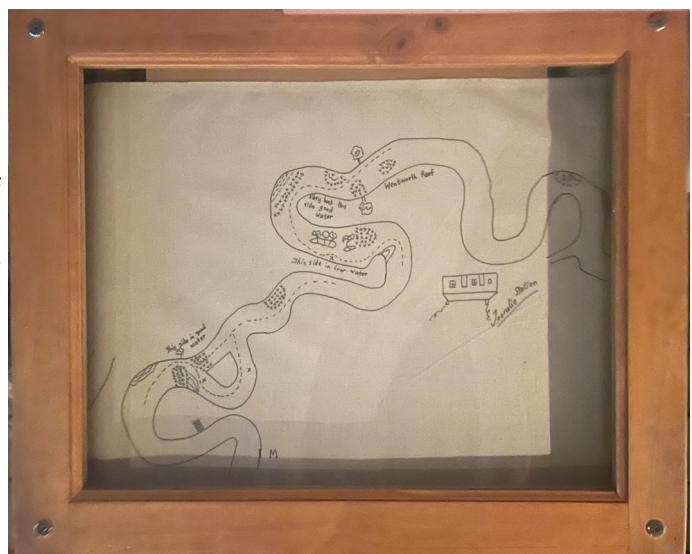
Apart from the need to source fuel (think of the prolific Red River gums that lined these waterways) and cope with the vagaries of the weather (floods and extended periods of low rainfall) there was the ever present threat of sandbars and snags to negotiate.

On display in the Exhibition was an original chart encased in a timber box with glass front. Encased within the box were two rollers - one on either side - on which a hand drawn chart of the river had been inscribed on a length of fine linen.

These highly detailed charts showed not only the safest course to follow but also highlighted areas of shallow water, snags, sandbars, shoals, significant landmarks as well as ports and places for provisioning.

Subsidised railway transport, unreliable rainfall, the Great War and the Depression all spelt the end of the end of the Riverboat era.

However it still remains one of the most romantic periods of our history and speaks of the skill, creativity and ingenuity of those who plied the waterways.



For Your Calendar

Next Three Months Outings:

October Ivan Irwin Lake Cruise - 5th-11th October -

Enjoy the luxury of a week spent cruising beautiful Lake Macquarie – no hassle of channels or bridges and always a safe anchorage to tuck into if the wind decides to strengthen. Sign up today for this relaxing and convivial week on the water!



October - November - Jervis Bay Hop October 19th

A Cruising Division first!



November - 15th - Bonnell's Bay & Dora Creek Dinghy Run

Mark this on the calendar and grab the chance to enjoy a fun weekend out on the water before the Christmas craziness starts!

December 9th - CD Christmas Party - *Save the date!*



General Meetings – Bridgedeck Room

The October General Meeting will start at 7pm, following the flare demonstration at 5pm. A table will be booked for dinner from 6pm onwards for those wishing to share a meal prior to the meeting.

Dates for General Meetings:-

October - 14th

November - 11th

Our meetings are a great way to find out what's happening and to get to know your fellow CD members a little better.

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

Marion Cotterill

Linda Newell