

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB
CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

December 2024 No. 415



CD CHRISTMAS PARTY MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER

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Committee

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Cover - Midlife - Jervis Bay Cruise



Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



November was another great month of sailing & socialising. It's getting close to Christmas!

Our on-water event started with members from eight yachts at Bonnell's Bay (Shingle Splitters) enjoying an Italian dinner theme night on board host boats. Saturday morning had us all boarding 2Dream (with tenders in tow) for morning tea whilst we cruised up Dora Creek to the bridge where we anchored. We then we boarded the tenders, motored up to the Swinging bridge and went for a casual stroll around the Avondale university walking trail. Back to Dora Creek for lunch and then a cruise down the creek to Shingle Splitters. Saturday afternoon saw a brisk sail through to Sandy Beach (Summerland Point) followed by a delightful dinner at the Olive Tree restaurant. Sunday morning most boats left early to beat the expected hard NE winds.

It was pleasing to see the Jervis Bay cruise participants arrive home after being delayed by weather. Again, thanks to Tony for organising this event and its definitely on the radar for future years.

Great news on the Swansea channel with the federal government reconfirming \$10 mil in funding for a new dredge and pipeline across to Blacksmith Beach, the State government tipping in a further \$6 mil to operate the dredge over the next 10 years and the Lake Macquarie City Council firmly onboard with the project. It's great to see all levels of government co-operating to ensure that this vital part of our Lake Macquarie's infrastructure is kept in a navigable condition. Big thanks to our Commodore Geoff Edman who has worked tirelessly on this issue to push it through.

At our general meeting, Simon Turpin (LMYC Sailing Manager) gave a talk on what he is doing at the club to train and promote the next generation of sailors. He has loads of experience having spent 10 years at Southport Yacht Club (SYC) as Sailing Operations Manager. We are looking for ideas on how we can get younger people involved in some of the cruising division activities.

We are in the process of organising other technical sessions -

- Measuring and recording mast heights to enable safe navigation under bridges and power lines.

- How to use DSC on your radio.

- Fibreglass repairs.

- Fire prevention, safety and fighting (especially lithium batteries)

The committee will be working on these issues and do not hesitate to contact Tony or myself if you have any further suggestions.

Our next on water event will be the New Years eve fireworks hosted by Richard and Jen. Information will be posted on facebook (please ensure you are older than 16 before using! [🔗](#)). We will also be holding a Australia Day event hosted by Marion and John.

Please note that the Pittwater Cruise has been scheduled for Sunday 2/3/25 to Friday 14/3/25 (weather permitting).

Don't forget we have our Christmas Party on the 9th of December in the Bayview area of the club at 17:00. Please attend as it should be a fantastic night. Last minute booking still available!

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/club's safety and education objectives. New members are asked to please arrange an audit of your vessel.

On a personal note Angela and I will be overseas in the UK from 15/12/24 to 8/1/25 spending Christmas with our son in London. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Party.

Cheers, enjoy the warmer weather and safe sailing.
Ralph



November Outing

Shingle Splitters Sandy Beach and Dora Creek Run — 16th-17th November

With the weather looking less than inviting it was fantastic to see nine boats roll up to enjoy this novel weekend on the water.

Friday night crews gathered on board host boats (*Yorkshire Relish, Jodi and 2Dream*) for a yummy Italian meal, then on Saturday morning it was all aboard 2Dream for a run up Dora Creek to the bridge before hopping into tenders for the run up to Cooranbong and a walk along the creek and bushland that surrounds Avondale campus. The run back to Dora Creek shopping centre for lunch didn't seem half as far (were we all a bit hungry?) then it was back to boats for an enjoyable sail to Sandy Beach.

After a bit of down time a short walk to Summerland Point took us to the Olive Tree Restaurant for a delicious meal thus finishing off a long but interesting and fun day.

The warning that strong NE's were predicted for the afternoon saw most of the fleet disperse to other anchorages on Sunday morning. Thanks to Ralph for organising this extended exploration of this lovely waterway and for ensuring no-one got lost or left behind!



CD Christmas Party - 9th December

See You There!

Our CD Christmas Party provides us all with a wonderful opportunity to gather and celebrate another fabulous year of sailing!

LMYC Bayview Area
5.00pm 9th December.

To allow for catering it is essential to book and pre-pay your tickets - this can only be done on-line.

Cost \$35 per person

Please ensure you record your name in the description

Acct 482585899

BSB 112879



Jervis Bay Hop 18th October - 4th November

Maureen Seysener



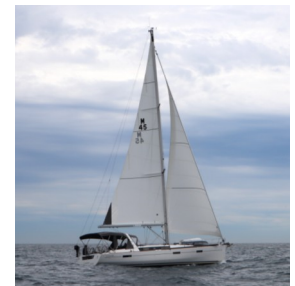
This first ever CD Jervis Bay cruise began at LMYC on Thursday evening the 18th October kicking off with a meal which gathered together those participating in this ground breaking cruise. It was a great way to get to know each other and discuss what we were going to do in the days ahead. Gathered that evening were Tony & Cath Austin-*Double Fun*, Geoff & Lisa Allen and Geoff's sister Pip-*Midlife*, Nigel & Bernadette Goddard-*Tenacious*, Phil & Eleanor Cunningham-*Equinox* and Fred & Maureen Seysener-*Stoked*.



Early the following morning we departed Lake Macquarie via a 7 o'clock bridge and had a good run down the coast to Broken Bay. Aware that southerly's were predicted for the next three days we hunkered down and decided to use the time to revisit some of our favourite spots, filling the days with gatherings ashore, bushwalks, sailing and lunch at Arkuna Bay, finally settling in at Coasters Retreat before moving on.

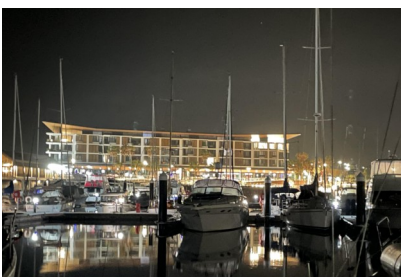


The passage to Sydney Harbour, whilst calm enough, was characterised by huge swells which, once settled, provided the fleet with some excellent sailing.



An over-nighter behind North Head or at Manly was all that was needed before sailing on to Shell Harbour. Having never sailed further south than Sydney Harbour it was fantastic to see the iconic beaches and famous landmarks from the water!

Once again predicted southerlies saw us delay our trip for four days but with excellent facilities and a welcoming staff at the fabulous new Shell Cove Marina - plus shops, cafes and beaches to explore - no-one was complaining.



The final leg of this passage south was to Jervis Bay. The coastal run to this beautiful bay takes you past sheer sandstone cliffs with distinctive layering and fabulously eroded caves.

On entering Jarvis Bay one is struck by the vast expanse of water and brilliant white beaches. Almost a perfect circle the perimeter is lined with stunning white sandy beaches and bushland. The bay is hugely deep with no hazards to cause concern to sailors - except the wind! Our first night was spent at



Long Beach on the eastern side of the bay but with the southerly coming through on Tuesday the decision was made to relocate to Hole in the Wall on the southern side. This anchorage derives its name from a beautiful sandstone outcrop which originally featured a perfect 'hole' however time and erosion have taken their toll. Good breezes saw us making a circuit of the lake the following day passing the Naval Training College at HMAS Creswell and visiting Huskinson for lunch before returning to the sanctuary of our southern anchorage. Northerly winds then moved us back to Long Beach for our last day before we made the return trip to Shellharbour.



Jervis Bay is huge and changing anchorages means a passage of 4-6nm however having to relocate was not an issue with good winds providing some excellent sailing and our crossings enhanced by whale and dolphin encounters. Whilst not the number one sailing destination on the East Coast the crystal clear water, brilliant white beaches, National Park surrounds and interesting villages certainly make JB an enjoyable destination.

The return trip to Shell Harbour was uneventful if not a bit lumpy with developing swells and light winds. However hot showers and a catch up at the laundry washed any grumpiness away as did the celebratory gathering at the Waterfront Tavern.

Two weeks away was enjoyable for many reasons. It was wonderful to get out of the lake and sail on the ocean again. It was interesting to travel further down the east coast, past Sydney Harbour and view the beautiful beaches, landforms and well-known iconic Australian landmarks from the water. It was also good fun to shake out the canvas and enjoy long passages when the wind was in the right direction but perhaps the most enjoyable part of the experience was the company of interesting, energetic and fun-focussed people.

A huge vote of thanks to Tony Austin for his enthusiasm in promoting this cruise and for his energy and dedication in bringing it together and making it such a resounding success.



Safety Officer's Report

Tony Austin



In his safety report, Tony challenged members to share what they would do given the situation of sighting somebody in the water, having just sailed past under full sail, doing 8-9 knots, off-shore - something that he and Cath recently experienced on a trip up the coast from Pittwater.

The ideas came thick and fast of various actions that could be taken.

The challenge to us as off-shore sailors, as Tony explained, is that no matter how well we can prepare for the unthinkable, when it does occur - in a totally different environment - how well will those well rehearsed routines kick in?

It behoves us as yachties who frequently sail on the lake and occasionally take those longer runs up and down the coast to think of the dangers and possible situations that could arise and be well prepared.

- Do all crew members know where the MOB button is located and how to activate it?
- Are life bouys and dan bouys out and easily deployed?
- Are all crew familiar and confident on how to call a Pan Pan or Mayday?

Such simple things - let's make it our New Year resolution to be water aware!



Guest Speaker - November LMYC's Sailing Manager Simon Turpin

At the November General Meeting LMYC Sailing Manager, Simon Turpin, shared his vision for the development of a program of fully accredited sailing courses to promote member participation and incentivise new members and boat owners at LMYC.



Whilst other sailing clubs are also running various development programs around the lake, LMYC's development program will focus purely on keel boat sailing for both men and women between the ages of 21 through to 40+ years. The initial program, already in action, is engaging students from Belmont HS who, under the guidance of trained instructors, are learning all facets of sailing on two recently purchased Farr 25's. These keelboats are well known for their stability, safety and competitiveness.

Simon's enthusiasm was obvious and his desire to promote and grow this program can only benefit the club. Anyone keen to become involved will be warmly welcomed!



2025 Pittwater Cruise!

It's on again!

Mark these dates on the calendar and reserve your spot for a fabulous , fun-filled two weeks on the water!

2nd March-13th March



2024... What a Year it's Been!



NY Day; Pittwater Cruise; Easter Cruise; Sunshine and Broughton Island Cruise....





Crangan Bay; Newcastle Cruise; Sail Past; Ivan Irwin Cruise; Jervis Bay Cruise; Bonnells Bay; Dora Creek Run.



For Your Calendar

Next Three Months Outings:

December 9th - CD Christmas Party -

Save the date - Time to Celebrate!

More details on p4



December 31st - NYE Celebrations on the Water



January 26th - Australia Day



February 15-16th - On-water Event

March 2nd-13th - Pittwater Cruise

March 28th - On-water Event



General Meetings – Bridgedeck Room

The November General Meeting will start at 7pm in the Bridgedeck Room. A table will be booked for dinner from 5.30pm onwards for those wishing to share a meal prior to the meeting.

Dates for 2025 General Meetings:-

February - 10th

March - 24th

April - 14th

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

New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members -

Cole and Sue Butterworth *Allaban* Nordic 44

We look forward to seeing you at our General Meetings and catching up on the water. We hope your time in the CD is both rewarding and fun filled!



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, Eleanor Cunningham