
FORECAST

Monthly Newsletter from Lake Macquarie Yacht Club



COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

CLUB NEWS

As we close in on the end of the current term, I thought it a good time to report on some of the progress made on the LMYC Board's Strategic Plan.

- The Club has traded well over the last two years, with trading records broken a few times. This is particularly pleasing with the current cost of living difficulties effecting all our members.
 - The establishment of our Discover Sailing Centre including the purchase of two training yachts and the employment of a Sailing Manager to oversee and drive the process to attract new members.
 - Closer cooperation with other Sailing Clubs has continued with not only divisional interclub racing but also using our training yachts to further strengthen club ties.
 - Completed Phase 1 of the rectification of the Marina wave fence has resulted in the Marina now full, with a waiting list of yachts wishing to get a berth.
 - Completed the replacement of the kitchen floor including refurbished the kitchen.
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- The new mast crane was installed and has been very well used. The significant discount for Members has seen several new members join the club, as well as riggers from outside of the Lake using our facility. One rigger spoke about bringing boats down from Coffs Harbour for re-rigging.
- We have successfully lobbied for a permanent solution to dredging Swansea channel with all three levels of government having made commitments to a permanent solution. At this point calls for tender have been made for the supply of a dredge and sand transfer pipeline to Blacksmiths Beach.
- Our Waterfront Marquee has served us well but has its drawbacks in severe weather. In order to maintain our assets and secure our facilities, we have ordered a new Marquee, which will be more weatherproof as well as air-conditioned. We expect to have the new Marquee installed prior to September.

Over the next few weeks, the Board will be developing the Strategic Plan for the next two years

February is the end of the membership year with renewal of membership now due. At the last Board Meeting, membership fees were discussed. The board resolved that due to the current financial difficulties that many are feeling and the strong trading of the Club, the membership fees would not be increased this year.

LAKEFEST

Lakefest events are being ticked off as the weeks roll by:

- She Sails Race 1 ✓

Race two to be run by WASC on 23 February. Race three at RMYCT on 16 March.

- WASC Australia Day Regatta ✓

LMYC yachts Road Runner, Full Bore, Pacemaker, Arc and Spellcaster III competed with Roadrunner 3rd in division.

- Heaven Can Wait Regatta ✓

LMYC yachts 'Nefertiti' 1st in Division 2 & 3rd overall, 'Stampede' 3rd in Division 1, 'Full Bore', 'Intoxic8' 2nd 12hr race & 5th 24hr race.

Other LMYC entrants were 'Road Runner', 'Latitude', 'Carpe Diem', 'Blueprint', 'Flying Colours', 'Dirty Deeds', 'Quattro', 'DUET', 'Summer Wine'. HCW raised around \$85,000 with around \$8,500 coming from LMYC Yachts fundraising. Congratulations and well done to all involved.

- WASC Twilight Open ✓
- LMYC Lakefest Regatta Day One RKR series ✓
- LMYC Lakefest Regatta Day Two Windward/leeward races on 22 February.
- LMYC Twilight Open on 28 February.

OFFSHORE & FRIENDSHIP CUP

Our yachts will be heading out of the lake to race with Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club on the weekend of 1st & 2nd March as part of the combined offshore series. Saturday will also be the 'Friendship Cup', a friendly competition between LMYC and NCYC held every year.

Unfortunately, due to the condition of the channel, we have not been able to hold the event for several years. LMYC currently hold the cup and I am hopeful that our yachts can retain it again this year.

There will be no divisional point-score racing on Saturday 1st March but we do have a sweepstakes race scheduled if there are enough entries.

CRUISING DIVISION

Our Cruising Division are back in full swing with monthly meetings at the club and on-water events.

Monday 24 March, 2024 - Fire extinguisher training. All Club members invited.

The next CD General meeting will include a fire fighting exercise in our car park prior to the meeting. All club members are invited to participate in this display and stay after for the meeting.

The practical exercise will commence around 4:30pm with the general meeting at 7:00pm.

PITTWATER CRUISE

A significant contingent of our Cruising Division are heading off on their annual two week cruise to Pittwater and the Hawkesbury river at the end of February. Participants will be treated to a good mix of training and safety exercises intermixed with a fair slab of free time and plenty of partying planned.

ADAMS 10 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONS

Two of our yachts, 'Tenacity' and 'Backchat', sailed down to Sydney Harbour last week for the Adams 10 Australian Championships.

'Backchat', with Belinda Braidwood helming, were defending their win last year with Tom Braidwood on the helm.

Congratulations go to 'Backchat' for winning for the 4th year in a row, 6th over the last 10 years. I have been told that Belinda has won the event on the same boat 25 years after her father, Tom first won the title.

'Tenacity', skippered by David Young finished a creditable 6th overall and 4th on handicap. See more regarding the regatta on the next page.



See you 'round the Club.

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

REGATTA REPORT

ADAMS 10 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

The 2025 Adams 10 Australian Championships was sailed at Middle Harbour Yacht Club (MHYC) on 14-16 February 2025. Two local boats travelled to MHYC representing Lake Macquarie Yacht Club (LMYC), being Belinda Braidwood & her crew onboard 'Backchat' & David Young & his crew onboard 'Tenacity'.

Ten competitors competed in the 9 race Series held over the 3 days which saw varying conditions from flukey rainy weather to exhilarating 25+ knot winds. With the combination of ferry traffic, other harbour racing fleets, gusty winds, and a big southern swell allowed at least one boat to hit 16 knots on the speedo downwind! The high-speed jostling made for some real exciting and very close racing.

After a massive effort, team Braidwood took the Podium, winning the Adams 10 Nationals for 2025. This was the first time Belinda took to helming 'Backchat' and she certainly led her team and upheld 'Backchat's' reputation in winning their 6th Nationals Championships (2018, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025).

Congratulations must also go to Tracey Richardson & her team on 'Artemis' from MHYC in placing second overall and to the other seven boats who also had ladies onboard crewing. It is great to see that our sport of Sailing is having more ladies involved and female skippers dominating the Podium with 1st & 2nd place finishes!

Final Results:

1st - BACKCHAT (LMYC) - Belinda Braidwood - 18 points

2nd - ARTEMIS (MHYC) - Tracy Richardson - 20.6 points

3rd - GEZZEBELE (RPAYC) - Allen Stormon - 22 points

Corinthian: EXECUTIVE DECISION (RYCV) - Will Shears

Masters: GEZZEBELE (RPAYC) - Allen Stormon

Wooden seat: JAZZ BAR (CSC) Jared Macquart

Video recap links:

<https://www.facebook.com/Adams10m/videos/934092592259587>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2650264258496265>

Full Results can be found at:

<https://app.sailsys.com.au/club/173/results/series/4196/pointscore>



**Click here for more photos
by Beau Outteridge**

SETTING SAIL

SAILING SEASON ALMOST OVER



The 2024/25 Sailing Season is now only a few weeks away from conclusion, but we still have plenty of racing between now and the end of March. We have had a great turnout on Wednesdays, Fridays twilights and Saturdays.

Just a reminder about a few things still to come in season's program -

- **Offshore Racing** – The next race will be on March 1st & 2nd with the final race on March 30th. Sweepstake races are scheduled at LMYC on the Offshore weekends.
- **Interclub Racing** – the RKR series is also in full swing and will be completed on 22nd March.
- **Lakefest** is on again in February with events across all Lake Yacht clubs.
- **She Sails** – The She Sails series kicked off at LMYC on Sunday 12th January with 20 boats and over 120 sailors. The next race will be hosted by WASC on Sunday 23rd February and then RMYC Toronto on Sunday 16th March.
- **NSW Police and Emergency Services Social Day** is on Sunday 23rd March. We need boat owners who would like to host these service people on their boat. Please contact our Sailing Manager Simon Turpin if you can help out.

Our LMYC Discover Sailing Centre is now fully accredited with Australian Sailing, and we are delivering a variety of Learn to Sail courses, from our Friday Twilight Sailing Experiences to our Start Racing Keelboat courses and our Ladies Learn to Sail program. Courses and additional information can be found online on our website at <https://www.lmyc.com.au/sc>.

So far, we have had forty people go through courses, including ten ladies. Many of the course attendees are looking for boats to race on. Please contact Simon Turpin or Ross Ahrens if you are looking for crew.

At the recent Sailing Committee, the following matters were discussed –

- J70's Regatta to be held 5-7 April
- Chartered Accountants Day – while this race was undertaken with the existing strong wind guidelines for racing at LMYC, the committee will review these strong wind guidelines for these events where a large proportion of the crew are inexperienced.
- We have had a request to hold a Multihull regatta in November.
- The program for next year was discussed and we will work on this in the coming months.
- The annual survey will be held after the season finishes and a Boat Owners and Crew meeting will be scheduled in early May.

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

'SIRIUS' BUSINESS!

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS RACE DAY 2025

On Thursday 13th February 2025, LMYC hosted the 2025 Institute of Chartered Accountants Sailing Day. Eleven boats competed with their short crews and provided some awesome racing for over 80 guests onboard. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words:



Congratulations to Jeffrey Payne & his short crew onboard 'Carpe Diem' for winning the day. Thank you to all the Skippers and their short crews for providing a great day out on the water with some testing conditions. Full results: <https://www.lmycraceresults.com.au/results/2024/tyregattas/> with lots more photos available at <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1QnbH6hwFZ/> .

Just a reminder too that we also have our **Emergency Services Social Day** coming up on Sunday 23rd March 2025. Registrations are coming in quick with over 30 registrations already received and it would be fantastic if you could join us for another awesome day out on the water. VIP's have been booked and NBN will be down to capture the day as well.

If you are available with your short crew, please don't hesitate to let me know of your availability. It is only through your generosity that we can host these fantastic days in showcasing our awesome Yacht Club and our wonderful Sport of Sailing and who knows.....you may even get your next gun crew member.

See you on the water!

SIMON TURPIN, SAILING MANAGER
Email: sm@lmyc.com.au

2025 LakeMac *Emergency Services Social Day*

Sunday 23rd March 2025



\$40.00
per person

Ticket includes:

- Race entry fee
- LMYC Membership
- 2x Drink Vouchers
- Charity Donation

Scan for more info
and to register:



HISTORY LOCKER

'RANI' - The Little Boat That Could!

Lake Macquarie Yacht 'Rani' Wins First Sydney to Hobart Race

In 1945 after the war, a group of sailors from the Cruising Yacht Club discussed having a cruise to Hobart from Sydney. Capt. John Illingworth, the British Fleet Engineer Officer, stationed at Garden Island and a noteworthy yachtsman, persuaded them to make it into a race. And so, on Boxing Day, 9 yachts set out to traverse the 630 nautical miles in what was to become the inaugural Sydney - Hobart Yacht race, an icon of Australian sport. One of the smallest yachts was the "Rani", a double ended 35 foot cutter built by Les Steel at Speers Point. Capt. Illingworth enlisted a crew of Royal Navy officers, engineers and local amateur yachtsmen to fine tune, scrub and paint. "Rani" was made from Huon pine planking, copper nailed to the frame. The sails were made from hand stitched cotton; ropes - Indian hemp; mast of Oregon pine.



Most of the boats were heavy cruising yachts with deep keels. In the line-up was the 52 foot "Winston Churchill", patriotically named, and considered to be the foremost yacht in Australia; its hull was polished with floor wax so it would glide faster through the water.

Radios were not compulsory back then. "Rani" had loaned one, but 2 valves burnt out before they set out; so, they departed with no viable means of communication.

Safety controls were almost non-existent - no life rafts, rescue ships; no helicopters to rescue or guide. They sailed with only traditional navigational aids - paper charts, compasses for steering, sextants for position.

As often happens, the weather turned on the second day of the race and they had to battle against gale force southerly winds (force 9) and wild seas with waves up to 50 feet high in the Tasman Sea and across Bass Strait. The storm lasted for 36 hours and all the yachts hove to or sheltered, except for "Rani".

The men were exhausted as they worked hard to keep control of "Rani" as they headed vertically down waves, then popped back up. The main sail ripped, but was repaired by one of the crew.

Water below decks floated the labels off bottles and tins, which consequently choked the bilge pump; and left no clues as to the contents of the food containers, making meals a total surprise - baked beans or custard?

Memories of crewman Ray Richmond

Race officials and the RAAF were unable to make contact or locate them in their searches. "Rani" had disappeared from sight and contact; even the RAAF Catalinas despatched to track boats were unable to sight "Rani". It was presumed she was lost, and that in hindsight it was a mistake to let such a relatively small yacht join the race. The storm was followed by a calm, and the "Rani" crew despaired that they would be last as they seemed to be moving ever so slowly.

A RAAF Catalina eventually spotted them in Storm Bay at the mouth of the Derwent River. As they moved up the Derwent and came closer, messages began to be flashed in Morse Code using car headlights, to ascertain that it was "Rani" and she was safe.

Illingworth wanted to know how many boats were in; astounded by the answer that they were the first. They crossed the line and berthed at Sullivan's Cove to a hero's welcome at Constitution Dock, where they opened the bottle of whisky handed to them to celebrate their historic win.

"Rani" took both line and handicap honours in 6 days, 4 hours and 22 minutes; arriving on 1st January, 1946. (The record now is 1 day, 9 hours, 15 minutes and 24 seconds – "Comanche" in 2017).

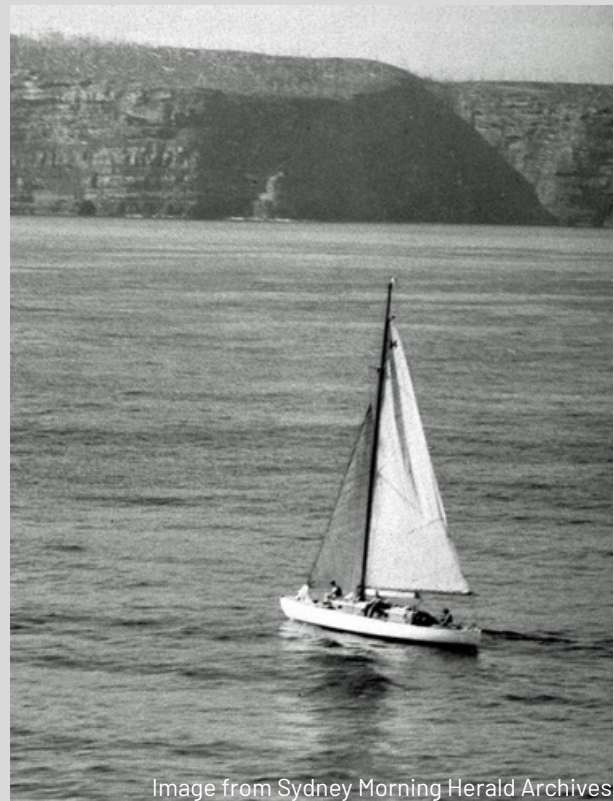


Image from Sydney Morning Herald Archives

Article prepared by HELM (Heritage of East Lake Macquarie) and published in the LMYC Forecast with their permission.

Renew your Membership!



**LMYC Memberships are due for
renewal by the 28th of Feb.**

Renew now at LMYC Reception!

Ph: 4945 0022 | Ada St, Belmont

WHAT'S ON @ LMYC

BROUGHT TO YOU BY **BECKELS** vineyard

SUNDAY 9TH MARCH

LAKE LIFE

LIVE MUSIC 12:30PM
DJ 4:30PM

FOOD SPECIALS | **FREE ENTRY** | DRINK SPECIALS

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB
ADA STREET, BELMONT

LIVE @ LMYC

FEBRUARY 2025 Fridays 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Sundays 1:30pm - 5:00pm

SUN 2ND BOBBY SAN JUAN	FRI 7TH LUCY WATSON	SUN 9TH CONNOR WINK	FRI 14TH DARREN ROLLING KEYS
SUN 16TH BRENDAN WATSON	FRI 21ST TED NASH	SUN 23RD AARON HOOD	FRI 28TH CLAUDIA MACKAY

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 - 2025 SAILING SEASON SPONSORS

