

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT
CLUB CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

April 2023 No. 396



GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 17TH APRIL

Contents

Skipper's Report + Upcoming Events	3-5
Easter Lake Cruise	5
AGM Nomination Form	6
Report on Previous Outing	7-10
5 Minutes in the Spotlight	11-12
Calendar of Events	13



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Please address all letters for the Cruising Division to:

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Ada Street
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Skipper's Report

Skipper: Gordon Butler



From late last year, with advice from MIDO that the channel would be dredged by Christmas, we had planned to hold a cruise to Pittwater, and an on-lake cruise for boats that are unable to leave the lake. We were extremely disappointed that the dredge failed to materialise. Initially the alternate Airforce Channel seemed to be viable for many, however, we were extremely disappointed, again, to find that depths at both ends of the Air Force Channel reduced as we approached the cruise, so were forced to cancel the Pittwater cruise. However! Marion and Tony arranged great weather, and lots of enjoyable activities for the lake cruise. Trudi and I were unable to attend, but it looked like all who attended had a great week. Thanks to Marion and Tony for coordinating the week.



CD boats at Frying Pan Bay

With the expectation of a two week cruise to Pittwater, we did not plan a March members meeting, however, a number of CD members had dinner at the club and attended a talk by local professional sailor and race boat project manager, Wade Morgan. While Wade's experiences in the preparation of high-end race boats greatly differs from our typical experiences in preparing and maintaining our cruising boats it was interesting to hear about the processes that are followed by the race teams.

Upcoming activities

Our normal schedule is:

Members' meetings – Second Monday of the month, 7:00 pm at the Club.

On water activities – The weekend following the members' meeting.

Please note that there are a few upcoming changes to the schedule, so see below for details.

7-9th April – Easter Cruise

Details have not been finalised, but we will hold a cruise over the Easter weekend. Please note that this is not the usual week end for the on-water activity, as we do not want to hold a member's meeting on the Easter Monday. [Please see Facebook for details as we get closer to the date.](#)

17th April – Members Meeting

Our discussion topic for the April members meeting will be lithium batteries, and several of our members will share their experiences in changing out their batteries to lithium.

Please note that this is not the usual date for the General Meeting, as we do not want to hold a General Meeting on Easter Monday.

8th May – Annual General Meeting and Members Meeting

Our AGM is held in May, and at that time all positions are vacant. We should all thank those who have contributed over the last year, and members are encouraged to think about how they can assist in the running of our wonderful cruising group next year. The opportunities to assist are many and varied and include serving on the Committee, helping to arrange events, provision of supper at meetings, arranging the raffle, safety officer, boat auditors, representing the CD at outside bodies etc etc.

One role of need is that of Secretary. Trudi has filled this role for around 5 years, and will not be available next year. Please consider assisting with the operation of the CD by offering to take up the role.

A copy of the nomination form for the committee has been attached to this Cruiseletter.

13th May – Soup Day

We will be holding a “bring and share” soup day on Saturday the 13th May, at a park somewhere on the lake. Sunday the 14th is Mother’s Day, so the format will allow people to attend either by boat, or car.

5th June – General Meeting

Rod Mackay, who is an agent for Club Marine Insurance will talk about boat insurance at our June Members meeting. Rod will talk about what to look out for when deciding where to place insurance, what to do if you need to make a claim and will be available to answer questions about insurance related matters.

Other News

Annual membership for the club, and Cruising Division are now over-due. Ralph has sent out emails with the fee amounts that are due, and bank account details for payment by EFT.

The Channel continues to cause great frustration to all of those who have been unable to leave the lake for such an extended period.

Dredging of the Channel is an NSW State Government responsibility, with responsibility held by the Minister for Transport. Dredging of the channel is managed by The Marine Infrastructure Development Office (MIDO), who are part of Transport for NSW.

There will have been an election held after I write this Skippers Report, so now is an appropriate time to voice our concerns about the situation.

Suggested contacts for contact include;

At the Political Level

The Minister for Transport - Letters to the Minister are lodged via a portal.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers>

Local Members - Both our local members are supporting of dredging, but should be informed that the issue is of concern to their constituents.

Swansea Channel is within the seat of Swansea. The local member is Yasmin Cattley. Letters can be sent via email to swansea@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Many of us live within the seat of Lake Macquarie. The local member is Greg Piper. Letters can be sent via email to lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au

At the bureaucratic level - You can contact MIDO at the following.

Phone: 1800 271 000

Email: SwanseaChannelDredging@transport.nsw.gov.au

[Emails and calls to MIDO generate a proforma reply that does not address the questions you ask, so consider making contact at a higher level.](#)

[To contact the head of Transport for NSW you need to write a letter, and post, to](#)

Rob Sharp
The Secretary of Transport for NSW
PO Box K659
Haymarket NSW 1240

I know that letter writing can seem like a waste of time and that all we generate is excuses for non-action. However, we can be certain that making no comment on the current situation will reinforce the view that there is no consequence to ignoring those who care about the channel.



Easter Lake Cruise

7th-9th April



Join us for a relaxing few days on the water with this laid-back lake cruise to celebrate the Easter Weekend.

With the breezes as we know quite determined to be unpredictable the plan is to gather Friday afternoon in the southern part of the lake for a relaxed happy hour aboard boats - location to be advised closer to the date.

Then on Saturday morning a wander ashore for morning tea before setting sail for a safe anchorage to enjoy a shared meal aboard a couple of host boats (*this in envisaged as a 'pot luck' affair — preferably yummy finger food!*)

Sunday morning will be a day to rest and relax — time to enjoy this beautiful waterway — maybe even go for a swim, kayak, SUP or simply sit back and enjoy the quiet!

Hope to see you there!

Keep a lookout on the CD Facebook page or contact Richard Masson for further details.





Cruising Division of Lake Macquarie Yacht Club

AGM Monday 8 May 2023

Election of Officers and Committee Members

Nomination for: Skipper / Secretary / Treasurer / Committee_(please circle)

Name of person you wish to nominate:

Name of Proposer:

Name of Seconder:

Person nominated has agreed to be nominated: Yes/No/Don't know

Signature of Proposer: Date.....

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Please print off the above nomination form and bring to the AGM on the 8th May. There will also be forms available on the night.

Please ensure you ask the person you wish to nominate for a position if they agree before nominating.

All members are encouraged to consider becoming involved by nominating for a role either on the Committee or in one of the other vital roles — it's the best way to get to know other members plus really getting a sense of what our fabulous Cruising Division is all about!

February Outing

2023 Jailbreak Cruise 5th - 12th March



After weeks of analysing depths and best plans of attack there was, after all, no Get Out of Jail Free card for those wishing to sail to Pittwater this year.

With no possibility of any keel boats departing the lake the decision was made to condense the planned two week cruise into one and enjoy an intense week on the lake!

Day 1 kicked off at the delightful anchorage in Kilaben Bay with crews going ashore to share an extended happy hour and BBQ in the beautiful Kilaben Bay Reserve.

The depth of friendship was evident as the crews from *The Bach*, *Double Fun*, *2 Dream*, *Isla Breeze*, *Stoked*, *Windsong*, *Seriousleigh*, *Irish Mist II*, *Osprey*, *Moondance*, *Migaloo*, *Reverie* and *Chandon* gathered - all delighted to catch up in this lovely setting.

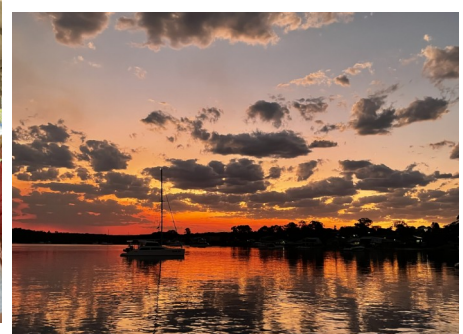


As dusk settled the bay was bathed in a glorious sunset. A great start to the Jail Break Cruise!

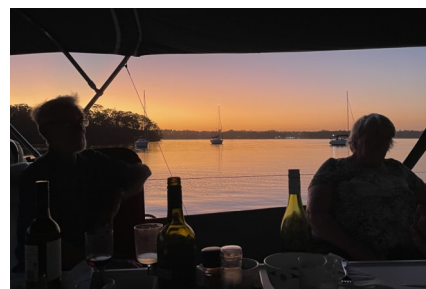
Day 2 - Despite the soaring temperatures promised for the day early morning saw the crews from *Osprey*, *2 Dream*, *Double Fun*, *Stoked*, *Seriousleigh*, *The Bach* and *Beyond Cool* front up with hand held compass, iPhones, (even old school pencil and paper!) ready to tackle the intricate navigation exercise around the park. Fortunately no boats ran aground or collided with sandbar or reef and at the end of the day *Osprey* (Anne and Ross Shirtley) returned safely to harbour thus taking out the prize.



The afternoon activities kicked off with sumptuous cocktails which saw all opposition blitzed by the bar staff from *Double Fun* (aided and abetted by Aunt Lucy) with their Pisco Sour concoction. This was followed by the usual fiercely contested Rat Races- ably won by Women's Champion - Angela (*2 Dream*), Men's Champion - John (*Moondance*) and taking out the new category of Crew Relay- Ralph and Angela (*2 Dream* again). *Angela did confess to having been in training!* The BBQ to finish off the day was a pleasant, if not warm end, to a full and crazy day!



Day 3 -With a cooler day and quieter conditions forecast the fleet departed Kilaben Bay and made for Browns Bay. The anchors had just dropped when we were hit not only with a heavy rain squall but mini hail storm as well! Fortunately what followed was a peaceful afternoon under stunning skies as we prepped for a shared curry night on board *Beyond Cool*, *2 Dream* and *The Bach*. As always the food was delicious and the conversation seamless.



Day 4 -The seclusion of Browns Bay was much appreciated when it came to time to play Aquatic Netball! The frantic antics of both teams to gain possession (let alone score a goal) plus the fruitless whistle blowing by the frustrated ref was a sight to behold!! As someone who managed to remain dry commented — best entertainment on the water!



After a welcome shower and rest it was off to Frying Pan Bay for a fun game of team trivia aboard a clever raft-up of *The Bach*, *Beyond Cool* and *2 Dream*. The expressions on the faces of the winning team on board *The Bach* was a sight to behold as were those of second place getters on *2 Dream*!! Thanks to Carolanne and Mark for a great quiz and meticulous scoring!



The day concluded with a delicious meal in the delightful Olive Tree Café at Summerland Point and a serene dinghy run back to the boats under a stunning orange moon!



Day 5 - Mid morning saw the fleet disperse and head north, departing Frying Pan Bay for the airforce channel in a show of show support for Mark and Carolanne on *Beyond Cool* in their attempt to depart the lake. Despite making this attempt at highest water possible, with Marine Rescue and Maritime both in attendance, all Mark and Carolanne's preparation and planning to make it through were to no avail - disappointing and frustrating - but hopefully not futile as more than sand may have been nudged following NBN's report on the attempt.



The fleet returned to Pulbah island for the evening activity - a move that had to be aborted as the promised south westerly never arrived and a brisk north easterly was making conditions lumpy.

As one the fleet up-anchored and relocated to Murray's where the pot luck dinner was held on board host boats *Moondance*, *2 Dream* and

Windsong - another wonderful evening of friendship, food and magnificent sunsets!!



Day 6 - At last a chance to really get the sails up and enjoy the long, gentle run to Croudace Bay! An afternoon gathering on shore for games of KUUB, corn throw, bocce and croquet preceded an enjoyable meal at Valentine Bowling Club.



Day 7—the final day of this lake cruise began with crews choosing either to wander to Valentine cafes for a coffee, explore Shepherds Creek either by kayak, SUP or dinghy or simply head around to Kooroora Bay for the final two activities - the Golf Classic and the Jailbreak Party.



The finale of this Jailbreak Cruise took place in the lovely anchorage in Kooroora Bay. The foreshore was an ideal venue for the Beach Classic Golf Championship—not quite Hallett’s when it came to course challenges of sand bunkers and water traps - more akin to St Andrews with beautiful landscapes and finely mowed fairways. Trophies were awarded to champions John and Marion Cotterill and Nikki Cahill (Nearest the Pin).



As dusk settled the Jailbreak Party began and crews arrived carrying not only balls and chains but a delicious array of eats! The photos captured on the night said it all - lots of laughs and a great conclusion to a fun week on the water.

Our great thanks to Tony Austin and John and Marion Cotterill for organising this fabulous week - long cruise and for keeping this motley bunch of jailbirds under control!



MINUTES IN THE CD SPOTLIGHT.... continuing the adventure!

Q3. There're many in the Division who fondly recall times spent aboard 'Warialda' - what other boats have you owned?



After *Bluebird* I had another VS *Rendezvous* which I built, a bit rough but a lot lighter and faster, and I introduced a couple of innovations that actually worked.



*The frame just out of the jig. The same jig produced 3 or 4 boats and was made by Capt. Ernest Deed. Boat 1 was Wahine for Capt. Deed's son Michael. In the July 2022 #388 edition of CruiseLetter, Graeme and Sue Bishop contributed an article **Mapping the Lake** detailing the first known mapping (Charting ?) of the Lake by Capt. Ernest Snowden Deed the jig builders father.*



The cockpit is slightly narrower. This, with the bulkheads at frames 3&8 allowed the crew to right her, otherwise external assistance was normally required to right a capsized VS



The finished boat, measured and ready to go, centreboard up against the side fence.

After this I hit the pause button and from the time I was 23 (1951) until I was 43 (1971) I worked 7 days a week and during this time I married, started a family and then a business. It was hard going at times. I went for the odd sail, but this proved very unpopular at home. In 1966 as the family were getting big enough to have a boat, I bought them a Heron dinghy and trailer. We trailed it with us on annual holidays, including to the Tuggerah Lakes and Port Stephens.



First sail, centreboard up and no leaks.

In 1969 whilst still working 7 days a week the opportunity arose to fund the purchase of a yacht. I couldn't resist, probably never tried. I bought a well-equipped GRP Top Hat with a confronting Vire 2 stroke engine. The boat was named *Astor-iti* and had been built for Peter Warner by Geoff Baker in 1965 as a JOG racer, with sail number 88. Peter was the son of Sir Arthur and the Warner family were big in manufacturing and owned the magnificent stays'l schooner *Astor*. *Astor* (nee Ada 1924) gained line honours in 3 early Sydney-Hobart races, and I believe *Astor-iti* was Little *Astor* in Tahitian.



Astor, You can just read the sail number, 88.

It was ordained that Peter Warner would enter the family business but whilst they tried, every time they caught and caged him, he escaped away to sea. He achieved international prominence in 1966 when commercial fishing in Tongan waters, an archipelago of 170 islands, many of which are uninhabited. Passing one of these islands he knew to be uninhabited he noticed a wisp of smoke. Landing to investigate he found 6 teenage Tongans who had been there for 18 months and presumed dead. A real-life Lord of the Flies! Sadly last year (2021) a rogue wave washed Peter from the deck of a yacht off Ballina. He was 90 years old.

Despite the moment of her name, I renamed *Astor-iti* to *Vigil* to reflect my long, lonely wait.

Shortly after I bought the Top Hat, I bought a new GRP Sabot — which was a great hit with the family. If it wasn't being towed it was on roof racks, we called it *Vigil-Ant*.

In *Vigil* we cruised to Wisemans Ferry and twice to the Myalls, once to Bulahdelah and Bungwahl and once in a Club Cruise.

By 1973 I couldn't stand the Vire engine any longer. Another club member, who like all the others knew about the engine made an offer telling me "If its mechanical, it can be fixed".

I considered his offer and ordered a new Currawong 30 with a Volvo Diesel!

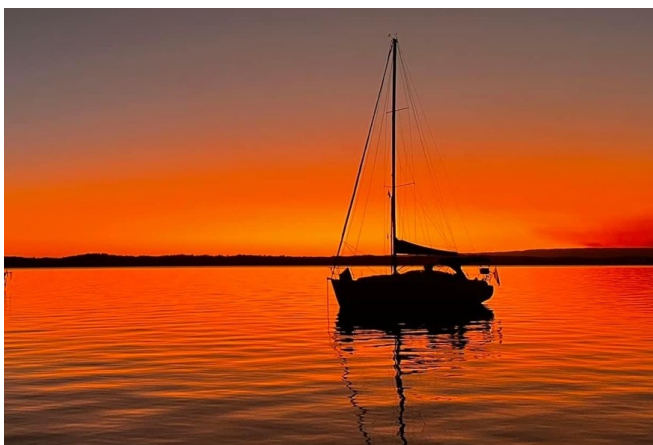
This boat named *Legend* was and always will be my favourite and was also built by Geoff Baker.

Some 8 or 9 months later the new owner of *Vigil* (now *Saracen*) came up to me in the bar and told me he had fixed the problem. How, I asked? His response I put a Yanmar diesel in!

Again my thanks to Ray for this wonderful reflection on his long association with sailing. Looking forward to even more memories next month!



Vigil leads Velsheda, Geoff Smith



Those participating in the Jail Break Cruise were treated to a week of absolutely magnificent sunsets. From the scarlet skies over Kilaben Bay (courtesy no doubt to the fires in western NSW) to burnt orange vistas in Browns Bay, to the gentle pastels over Kooroora Bay on the final night. We really are privileged to live in this beautiful place!

Handy Hint ...

Those who recently participated in the Lake Cruise would no doubt endorse the time and effort it takes to wash the sticky mud from the anchor and chain.

Whether you employ either deck wash or bucket the prime objective is to avoid water and mud in the anchor locker.

Whilst most modern yachts come with a raised platform to keep the anchor and chain above any water that gets in and sloshes around, those without can keep their chain dry by inserting a shelf made from an old milk crate cut down to size — works a treat!

For Your Calendar



April 7th-9th

Easter Cruise on Lake Macquarie
Details TBA - watch Facebook!



April 17th

General Meeting - LMYC Marquee
Guest Speakers - Lithium batteries - shared discussion

May 8th

AGM + General Meeting - LMYC Marquee



May 13th

Sail for Soup Day - Details TBA - watch Facebook!



June 5th

General Meeting - LMYC Marquee
Guest Speaker - Rod MacKay - Marine Insurance



Thankyou!

Ray Kiely

Richard Masson

Ken Archer, Carolanne Clement, Shulan Li, Marion Cotterill and all our other talented photographers!

Our Cruiseletter is enriched by your contributions — all items of interest or handy hints are always gratefully received! Ed.