



LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB  
CRUISING DIVISION



# CRUISELETTER

June 2023 No. 398



GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 5TH JUNE

# Contents

Skipper's Report	3
2022-2023 Outgoing Skippers Report	4
2023 Committee	5
Life Members	5
Safety Officers	5
Report on Previous Outing	6-7
June Outing - Lake Cruise	7
A Glimpse Back in Time	8
5 Minutes in the Spotlight	9-10
Calendar of Events	11

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### Cruising Division Editor:

*Any articles for the Cruiseletter can be sent to the Cruiseletter Editor, Maureen Seysener, preferably in MS Word format. [seysener@gmail.com](mailto:seysener@gmail.com) (0438752561) by 25th of each month.*

*Please address all letters for the Cruising Division to:*

LMYC CRUISING DIVISION  
Ada Street  
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# Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



## Incoming Skipper's Acceptance from Ralph Asquith

*(As read by Gordon Butler at AGM)*

Dear Fellow Members of the LMYC Cruising Division

Thankyou for appointing me as your new Skipper.

I apologize for not being there in person to speak to you directly but unfortunately our trip to Europe had been arranged prior to being approached to take up the position. Also, despite the world health organisation declaring the COVID pandemic over, I managed to contract it on the day of that announcement but feel reasonably fine now.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our retiring committee members, Gordon has done an excellent job of steering the division through the choppy waters created by COVID and the Swansea Channel debacle. Our retiring Secretary Trudi has provided the power from the engine room for the division over the last 5 years - a truly magnificent effort. Greg has provided his unique and detailed perspectives to many matters confronting the committee.

Secondly, thanks to the members continuing on in the committee and our new member. (Hopefully I'm not circumventing due protocol) Nikki has agreed to take up the position as treasurer. This is the second time she has undertaken this position and a big thank you for volunteering. Richard will be our new Secretary and I'm confident he will be more than competent. Richard will also chair our meetings until I return on the 26th June. Chris and Marion have also agreed to remain on the committee. It's great to have their experience moving forward. Geoff will also remain as the primary LMYC board representative however he will be arranging for other members of the board to participate. Tony has agreed to join the committee and brings a wealth of experience.

Thirdly, a thanks to our other volunteers. Maureen has agreed to continue as the Cruiseletter Editor. There is a lot of work involved in sourcing material and producing the Cruiseletter. A big thanks. Angela has volunteered to be the raffle coordinator. Mark and Carolanne will continue to coordinate the suppers and Jen Masson has agreed to provide a backup. The Safety officer will be appointed by the committee. Both Tony and Ross have served our interests well on the Aquatic Services committee. The LMYC board appoints the representative. Our equipment auditors continue to be Tony Austin, Ross Shirtley, Hilton Jones, Eleanor Cunningham, Phil Cunningham, Geoff Edman and Mark Clement. Thanks again for your assistance and I look forward to working with you all. History Committee CD reps Ross Shirtley and Mike Collins.

### Future Plans

I hope to build on the foundations laid by previous skippers - i.e.

- \* Fulfil the Skippers position as outlined in our Charter.
- \* Maintain and develop the social and sailing events for members.
- \* Represent the division on relevant important matters (e.g. Dredging the channel)
- \* Continue developing a culture of practical safety amongst the members.
- \* Effectively communicate to all members,
- \* Maintain the ongoing good relationship with LMYC board and Management.
- \* Add some more adventurous activities (e.g. Broughton Island).

I'm looking forward to catching up with members when we return towards the end of June but in the meantime feel free to email me at [ralph.asquith@pceng.com.au](mailto:ralph.asquith@pceng.com.au) (mobile is offline at the moment) if you have any pressing matters and I will attempt to respond as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Ralph Asquith, Skipper LMYC CD

## Out-going Skipper's Report 2022-2023 AGM

Gordon Butler



The Cruising Division continues to show strong membership, with 99 boats on the current membership register, which is the same membership as at this time last year. We welcome all who have joined the Cruising Division over the last 12 months and extend our best wishes for the future to those who have not renewed membership. The last year has been the first year since 2020 where our activities have not been impacted by forced shutdowns due to COVID, so it has been great to have a full year of activities, including extended on lake cruises in October 2022 and March 2023. Both the extended cruises were well attended, with a mixture of on water and land activities allowing for those not able to be on the water to participate.

The situation in Swansea Channel continues to frustrate plans for trips out of the Lake, with the channel being closed to deep draft vessels since around October 2021. The department responsible for the dredging has made numerous statements about when dredging will happen, however, there seems to be no commitment to meeting these dates and infinite excuses as to why dredging does not occur.

Cruising Division finances are healthy and the Division was able to make a significant contribution to the Christmas Function and donations to Marine Rescue. An agreement was made with the LMYC whereby the Club and Cruising Division would jointly fund two club moorings on the lake. However, we were only able to obtain approval for one mooring, which has been installed on the Southern side of Wangi Wangi. The club has fully funded this mooring and we thank the board for that. Funding remains available for the second mooring, and the second mooring can be re-visited at a future date.

The work of the Cruising Division cannot happen with-out the input of the members. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all who have helped with the running of Cruising Division events. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee, it has been a great experience working with this Committee over the last two years, all members of the Committee have contributed to the running of the CD and meetings have been enjoyable with contributions welcomed from all. There will be significant turn-over in the Committee next year, with a new Treasurer, Secretary and Skipper. I ask that all members support the new committee as they settle in.

As well as the Committee we have members who willingly take on other roles including Cruiseletter editor – David Baker then Maureen Seysener, Supper Coordinators – Carolanne and Mark Clement; Raffle –Maureen Seysener; Aquatic Services Committee – Ross Shirtley and Tony Austin; Safety Officer – Chris Cahill; Boat Auditors – Tony Austin, Ross Shirtley, Hilton Jones, Phil and Eleanor Cunningham, Mark Clement. Thanks to you all!

The Cruising Division is part of the LMYC. For the last year Geoff Edman has again represented the LMYC Board on the Committee, and attended our members meetings. Geoff gives a great perspective on what it means to be part of the wider club, and the opportunities that this provides to the Cruising Division. Thanks to Geoff for his contributions, and advice, which is always appreciated.

Gordon Butler  
Skipper – LMYC CD

## 2023 Committee



The recently elected CD Committee - minus Skipper Ralph Asquith and Marion Cotterill.

Chris Cahill, Nikki Cahill (Treasurer), Maureen Seysener, Fred Seysener, Richard Masson (Secretary) and Tony Austin.

## LMYC CD Safety Officers - Chris Cahill & Tony Austin

We are fortunate indeed to have two eminently qualified and committed members who have, over the past few years, filled the role of Safety Officer within the Cruising Division.



A special time is allocated at each General Meeting during which the Safety Officer either presents information, leads group discussions or displays a prepared presentation covering boating related safety issues. This has led to a heightened awareness within the Division of the need for boating safety and a constant reminder for caution against complacency when cruising.

Topics covered have ranged from dangers of hypothermia and sunstroke, safe and not so safe foot-ware, varying types of lifejackets, essential medical kits, effective nav lights, mast climbing apparatus, emergency cockpit knives - even how to survive nausea in a life-raft - no topic has ever been too big or too small to be considered.

We thank both Chris and Tony for their continuing dedication and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of safety awareness within our Division.

**Topic for June's Meeting - low voltage electrical systems and circuit breakers on boats.**

## Life Membership

At the May General Meeting Life Membership was conferred on long-term CD members Fred and Maureen Seysener. Both Fred and Maureen joined the Cruising Division nearly 20 years ago and have been active members, either in an organising capacity or through regular participation in events for most of that time.

In his acceptance speech Fred commented that it has been far more than the sailing that has meant so much to them both, as enduring friendships, forged through the Cruising Division have enriched their lives.



The old adage - 'the more you put in the more you get back' - certainly applies to the Cruising Division as both commented that it's been through their involvement in sailing events or as members of the Committee that friendships have deepened and even greater enjoyment followed. "Who could have predicted that by joining the CD you could be a pirate, jailbird, Mexican and dance on a secluded beach in the Hawkesbury? So much fun for so many years!" Maureen and Fred sincerely thanked members for their endorsement of life membership and said they were humbled to be so honoured by the Division.

# May Outing

Set Sail for Soup! - 12th-14th May



Despite a pretty ordinary weather forecast - 90% chance of 10-20mm! - six boats (*Migaloo, Double Fun, Windsong, Moondance, Beyond Cool* and *Stoked*) dropped anchor mid-afternoon on Friday 12th in the beautifully protected bay at Styles Point.



The sun shone down, tenders made their way to shore and a very pleasant gathering followed till dusk and cooler temperatures saw crews head back to the warmth and comfort of their boats.

What followed was one of those blissfully still nights when you begin to doubt you are even on the water!

Saturday dawned bright and clear - no sign of the threatened downpour - and with less than 5 knots coming in from the south-west the decision was made to depart at 0900 and motor to Sunshine Bay.



How sweet it was to arrive and be greeted with a welcome sign atop a table set with white cloth and flowers! Thankyou Linda! (*Isla Breeze*)

One by one members rolled in with tureens of steaming hot soup and lunch began. It's easy to see why this event is such a popular outing with members as it provides not only the chance to meet up with good friends but also provides the luxury of time to talk. A very pleasant afternoon ensued and despite the massive cloudbanks rolling up the coast we remained dry!

*Expecting 24 for lunch? No worries!*



Thankyou to all who made such a huge effort and contributed such delicious food - as always there was more than enough to go around! In addition to those who came by water (including *Lewcar*) we were joined by 'land-cruisers' *Jodi, Reverie, Breathe, Isla Breeze* and *Chandon*.



By mid to late afternoon those who either came by car or who had to return home for Mothers Day celebrations departed whilst the remaining five vessels (*Double Fun, Windsong, Migaloo, Stoked* and *Beyond Cool*) headed further south to Frying Pan Bay in search of protection from the cooling southerly.

Our great thanks to Tony and Cath on *Double Fun* for a very enjoyable and entertaining gathering for sundowners which was a perfect conclusion to a great day!

Sunday once again presented us with clear skies and mirror like conditions - still no rain! - and with the delicious goodies at Summerland Bakery beckoning a morning coffee and walk was a 'must do' prior to heading back to boats and the long motor home.



Once again a huge 'thankyou' to all who participated and so generously shared their time and talents to make for a memorable weekend!



## Let's Get to The Point!

King's Birthday Long Weekend Lake Cruise 9th-12th June



Not putting too finer point on it — what's the point of owning a boat if you don't go sailing you might ask?

None at all!

To ensure we never fall into that unthinkable scenario our long weekend cruise will make a point of visiting a few of The Points that grace our beautiful lake!

Starting with a gathering at Style Point we will wend our way up (then down) the lake visiting a few of our favourite Points along the way — during which we will endeavour to point out a few points of interest!

Mark the calendar NOW and come join us **9th-12th June** for a right royal good time!

## A Glimpse Back in Time

### Marmong Point

Given the protected nature of this area it is easy to realise why this would have been a favourite gathering place for the Awabakal people. After colonisation early industry included a market garden, a sawmill and an abattoirs

Similarly Marmong Point has also long been a desirable location for marine activities. Originally known as Marmong Cove, Marmong Point and its Marina have changed significantly from its first development.



The land for the marina was first leased on the 12th of October 1938 'for the purpose of boatshed, slip and boat repairing'. The marina development began on the 19th July 1940.

It changed hands in 1968 and again in 1977 during which some improvements were made, however the marina underwent significant expansion during the 1980s in response to the growing demand for boat storage. This reflected not only the population increase on the western side of Lake Macquarie but also increased demand from Sydney boat owners who were no longer able to obtain swing mooring licenses in Sydney Harbour.



One of the best protected bays in Lake Macquarie, the popularity of the marina can be seen in dock and berth increases. In 1984 there were swing moorings for 35 vessels, marina berths for 29 boats and dry boat storage for 40 vessels. After the expansion, the berths were increased to accommodate 160 vessels and in 2010 approval was given to expand the marina again when 85 new berths were added.

### Styles Point

Styles Point was named for a family member of the Thomas family who were one of the first white settlers in this area. John Denis Thomas purchased 35 acres in January 1900 which he called Styles Point. He built a holiday home for the family and retained this land for 20 years. It is thought that the name bequeathed to the Point commemorated his grandmother Mary Styles.



Styles Point then went on to play an important role as part of the maintenance area of the largest wartime flying boat base in Australia during WWII. [Ref: Lake Macquarie City Library](#)



Ray Kiely



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

### *Q4. Is there a favourite memory of your time spent in the CD?*

I bought *Warialda* in January 2008 and immediately renewed my CD membership and both Bob and I started attending the Division's meetings. We had a bit to do to sort out our first power boat. (Bob and I were both widowers and LMYC members, so we knew where to look for the right help.)

What followed was an amazing decade of complete boating fellowship, starting with the Ivan Irwin Cruise in 2008 with Alan Bristow as Cruise Master - it only got better!

*(I sold Warialda in 2019. I took the new owner and his family out for their first ride on Easter Saturday. The following day, Easter Sunday they took the 10AM bridge bound for Hobart. Brave or foolhardy or a bit of both. On arrival, he sent me some photos, told me everything worked as it should and there was not a thing they needed that wasn't on the boat. She is still Warialda and somehow still has the same rego number. The first thing he did was to buy and install a heater!)*

Bob and I often talk about how two male oldies were welcomed into the CD which was essentially a couple's club and once enjoyed the unwanted epithet of the "holding hands club". But we felt that we were fully part of the CD membership. In 2015 when accepting the JHPT I replied, "Your acceptance of us keeps us younger". I have been a party to a lot of groups, but never have I seen such goodwill among members. There was always someone to help.



Our first Pittwater cruise, and our first Raft up dinner where we were the host boat and Gail and Neil McBurnie were our guests (there may have been another couple, but the memory is vague). These dinners were where you really got to know people and I would rate as my favourite time spent in the CD. Later, pavlova and ice cream would become our usual culinary contribution.



*Petra Meiehofer (Raki) & Anne Shirtley (Osprey) show off their handiwork as does Selma Barry (Elara) below.*

Whilst it appears easy to select our favourite memory, there are so many other places and events, that as I write this, come flooding back.

Halletts Beach could probably stand alone as an answer. A seaplane arriving and making camp on the beach as we were setting up to play golf was interesting. A group of English people had chartered a seaplane to visit this hideaway only to find they had to share with a group of golfers. It could not have been worse, but it could have been.



Halletts Beach played host on this day to English visitors seeking solitude and the natural beauty of this renowned hide away. What a cultural shock to share the beach with golf playing colonials and on a beach!

But it could have been convicts, pirates, or motley and shifty looking Mediterranean types. Here Ross Shirtley plays to the gallery. Later we would have a shared meal on the beach with Heinz Brill playing soothing music on his accordion. Raft-up dinners just beat Halletts by a whisker, and with another whisker behind an Ivan Irwin cruise to Sydney in October 2011.



*Various Pittwater Cruises .....where anything goes!!*

*Thanks to Ray for these wonderful memories of the fabulous Pittwater Cruises!*



# For Your Calendar



## June 5th

General Meeting - LMYC Marquee

Guest Speaker - Rod MacKay - Marine Insurance



*With Winter upon us we will be meeting in the warmer confines of the Bridgedeck Room. If concerned you may feel more comfortable wearing a mask in this smaller space and if experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms or are unwell please consider the wisdom in attending.*

## June 9th-11th (long weekend)

On lake activity - Let's Get to The Point!



## July 10th

General Meeting LMYC Marquee

Guest Speaker Mike Smith - boat builder -Golden Globe Race

July 15th Outing....TBA

## *Thankyou!*

*Ralph Asquith*

*Gordon Butler*

*Ray Kiely*

*John Lemberg - cover photo*

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