

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT  
CLUB CRUISING DIVISION



# CRUISELETTER

February 2024 No. 405



**GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY**

## Contents

Skipper's Report	3-4
Pittwater Cruise Planning	4-6
A Look Back in Time	6
CD Christmas Party	7
New Years Eve	8
Australia Day	9
Calendar of Events	10



## Contacts

### Cruising Division Executive

Skipper:	Ralph Asquith	0409 318230
Secretary	Richard Masson	0422 347875
Treasurer:	Nikki Cahill	0410 982887

### Committee

#### Committee

Geoff Edman	(Board Rep)
Tony Austin	0416 266947
Chris Cahill	0416 939546
Nikki Cahill	0410 982887
Marion Cotterill	0409 982535
Fred Seysener	0413 185907
Maureen Seysener	0438 752561

### 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  
Belmont NSW 2280

Cover - *Osprey, Windsong and Breathe enjoy the serenity of Crangan Bay*



# Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



## **Happy New Year!**

The channel dredging was finally completed the week before Christmas (a great present for all members with deep drafted yachts). So we are now (hopefully) cleared for our first voyage to Pittwater in 3 years.

It's important to remember that we need a PERMANENT solution to the channel silting problem, and we need to maintain the pressure on the politicians and government officials. Please contact the minister for transport using the following link <https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-transport>. Emphasise the need to permanently keep the channel navigable. Copy to your local member and me so that I have a record. We are receiving encouraging news that a long term plan is being implemented.

Feedback from members attending the new format of the Christmas party was very positive. Members enjoyed the informal atmosphere that allowed more social interaction and the added comfort of air conditioning of the main Bayview club area. The food platters were satisfactory, but we will work to improve this for next year. I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Party and I welcome any suggestions to improve the event.

Our new sun hats also sold like hotcakes during the Christmas Party, at the bargain member price of \$5 (\$10 for non-members). We still have hats left so if you would like a sun hat, 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.

Our on-water event was a meet up with Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club members (13 yachts) onshore at Styles Point on 30/12/23. The crews enjoyed sundowners on the foreshore near in near perfect conditions. I officially welcomed the RPAYC members and presented their rear commodore with one of our new sun hats. The following day we sailed down to Pulbah and then back to the southern side of fishing point to view the Wangi fireworks (another great show). We enjoyed a breakfast BBQ together at Kilaben Bay park (as the Wangi BBQ facility was broken).

Australia Day event was hosted by Richard and Jen Masson but unfortunately due to a 40+ heat wave it was decided to cancel the event on Australia Day. We all (30 members) enjoyed the much cooler Saturday lunch at the Olive Tree restaurant. The fleet then retired to the duck hole for a relaxed evening before sailing home on Sunday.

## **Upcoming Events**

Lakefest events have also been scheduled for Jan-Mar 24. Please refer to the schedule at <http://www.lakefest.com.au/>

Pittwater "Freedom Cruise" is on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb - 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 2024 so mark the date in your calendar. Details of the event will be posted in early February. Please complete Coastal Passage Audits and consider getting a Covid vaccination booster before attending. We will be reviewing navigation of the channel and Swansea bridge at the February general meeting.

I have just been out at Broughton Island for the last few days. Met up with Peter Bakewell (Margarita) as well as a few other LMYC members. This is one of our hidden treasures and I will arrange a voyage to Broughton Is/Port Stephens in April for those members interested.

## 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. The Short Coastal Passages audit form is available for download here:

<https://lmyc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Coastal-Passages-Audit-Form-rev-2-2024.pdf>

Cheers and safe sailing  
Ralph



*2 Dream and Margarita at Providence Beach (North side of Broughton Island).*



# Pittwater Cruise '24

**25/2/24 - 9/3/24**

**Our long anticipated escape from the Lake to enjoy the freedom of the open seas is fast approaching!!**

**Are you checking your boats ... stocking up on good things to eat and drink ... loading up the paddleboards and servicing your outboard, lifejackets and tender?**

**Come along and once again sail the beautiful waters of Pittwater and soak up the peace and beauty of the lower Hawkesbury.**

### **Facts crews should know:-**

There is a **NPWS fee** (\$3 per person per day) to go ashore at The Basin – it is your responsibility to pay this fee.

**Rubbish disposal** facilities are available at The Basin only.

### **Water and Fuel is available from -**

Brooklyn  
Cottage Point (fuel only)  
Akuna Bay

Bobbin Head  
RMYC  
Church Point







At a General Meeting a few years ago there was a discussion regarding the tricky business of provisioning for a long cruise. Whilst the Pittwater Cruise only runs for a couple of weeks the ideas below may be of interest. Below is a short summary of items discussed by the panel with 'added extras' supplied by members at the meeting.

**1. Shopping List** - Draw up a comprehensive list of the food you like to eat then head off to the shops!

Tinned food (fruit, vegetables, soups, sauces) / pre packaged food (Tacos, Burritos etc) / dried foods (peas) / frozen foods (vegetables, fish portions, meats) / foods with long shelf life (LL milk /cream / custard)

Space Savers - sauces for stir fry mixes / chilli con carne / spag bol - saves packing lots of, ingredients such as herbs, spices

Fresh - purchase at the last minute unless you intend cooking / freezing

Don't forget eggs - perfectly packaged to last for weeks without refrigeration - just find a secure storage spot and remember to rotate the eggs about once per week to maintain freshness

Emergency meals - nothing wrong with a tin of Baked Beans when the chips are down!

**NB** - The meaning of '**Use By**' and '**Best Before**' dates -

Food marked as '**Use By**' must be consumed by the date shown otherwise there is a risk of the food being spoilt and if eaten possibly causing illness. Foods marked as '**Best Before**' will still be quite safe to consume after the shown date but possibly be less palatable having been kept past their best by date.

**2. Cooking extravaganza**

Cook up meals that can be quickly thawed, heated and bulked out by adding to dried food such as pasta / rice (curry/spaghetti bol sauce / stews / soups / meat balls casseroles ..)

Cook - freeze and cryovac. When packing divide up into small portions - e.g. serves for two to prevent waste. These smaller packages also save room in the fridge (shorter cruise) or the freezer (for a longer cruise).

If you have a freezer but no cryovac machine try freezing foods in clean 1 litre milk cartons. Compact, cheap, easy to pack and disposable after use.

**3. Alternatives**

Look for alternatives e.g. instead of bread-use Wraps / Vita Weets / Saos / Corn Thins etc

When fresh meat is running low and the fish refuse to bite - tinned salmon/tuna is a great stand by for either salads, patties or mornays

Look for healthy snack alternatives - nuts / dried fruit / trail mix etc take up less room than chips and muesli bars and better for you!

Living food - herbs / sprouts last well under the dodger - don't forget to water regularly! Good alternative to lettuce .

## Fresh Food

Always the dilemma!

How to preserve?

Fruit - apples, pears, oranges - wrap in tissue paper - keeps skin dry and prevents mould.

Even carrots, onion and potatoes last longer if kept separate and dry.

Try using butchers paper to separate the layers.

Finding the best dry storage spot on board for vegetables is vital - just don't forget they're there when you get back home!

Bread - some say wrapping in Alfoil will extend shelf life - best kept in fridge if there's room.

Keep Fresh bags - these work! You'll find them in major supermarkets near the clingwrap and alfoil.

It is also important to have enough food for those times when weather conditions prevent your passage to the next port. Always ensure the pantry has a healthy supply of tinned/dried food which can be easily converted (with a bit of imagination) to a wholesome meal.

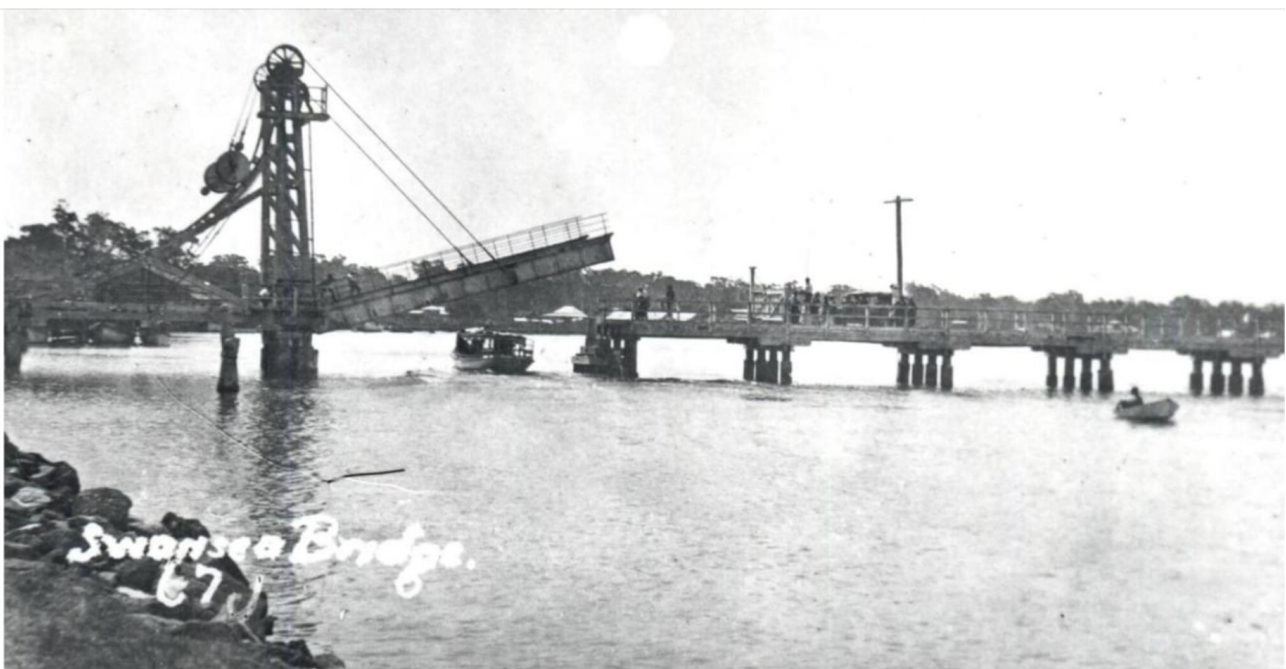
*Thinking ahead to our up-coming Pittwater Cruise — at the end of the day when cruising with friends there's very little worry of ever going hungry!!*

## A Look Back in Time

With our highly anticipated Pittwater Cruise less than month away it was interesting to see this pop up on the *Lake Mac Early Years* Facebook page.

Taken in the 1930's the photo shows Swansea Bridge slightly raised. You will note men on the platform manually operating the gear handle that was used to raise and lower the bridge. One can only imagine the line up of traffic in Swansea if this system was still in use today!

*Creator of the page - Mr John Hall - Lake Mac Early Years*





# CD Christmas Party



As has become the tradition in recent years the last General Meeting of the year gives way to the annual CD Christmas Party. This year, for a change, members congregated in the Bayview area of LMYC - a beautiful setting for our late afternoon gathering. Whilst the afternoon sun was initially a bit warm we were able to move into the comfort of the club until a late breeze cooled down temperatures enough to move back outside.

This event is always a great chance to catch up with friends and the new venue allowed plenty of opportunity to mix - the 68 in attendance having ample space and time to 'mix and mingle'! As always when CD members get together the conversation and laughter flowed freely and plans for more sailing adventures in '24 shared.

We are indeed fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful Cruising Division which is distinguished by strong elements of both friendship and fun. Here's looking forward to another fantastic year of sailing in the year ahead!

*(My thanks to Shulan for the great collection of photos below!)*





# New Years Eve!



With Christmas once more behind us it was time to get back on our boats and meet up with CD sailing buddies.

The weekend started with our usual gathering at Styles Point. This year, thanks to the recent reopening of Swansea Channel, our group joined up for a pleasant happy hour with crews from visiting RPAYC yachts.

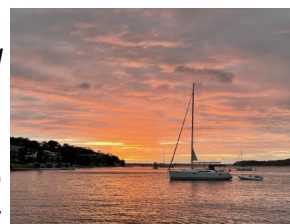


After a peaceful evening on anchor the fleet dispersed to various locations—some enjoyed the lively breezes by going for a sail whilst others headed off to pick up family and friends who were joining them for the night.

By late afternoon the fleet had reformed on the southern side of Fishing Point and settled in to wait for the 9pm fireworks. Again they didn't disappoint with a great display of colour and noise to welcome in the New Year!



In contrast to the noisy celebrations of the previous night, New Years Day dawned calm and clear with the lake bathed in soft pastel tones. *(It must be noted that there weren't too many up and about to witness this gentle start to the New Year!)*



A motor around the Point to Kilaben Bay provided a good opportunity to recharge the batteries and a light breakfast in the park was the perfect way to kick off the day, but with a beautiful NE breeze beckoning it was soon back on board to take advantage of the chance to go for a long sail.



While family commitments drew some crews back home, four boats enjoyed the long run to Crangan Bay. Surely there is no better sailing than to set the 'headie' and sit back and relax with a steady 15+ knots taking you along!

New Years Day must be one of the busiest times on the water but this protected bay provided plenty of space and quiet to wind up a very enjoyable day with a fun gathering on board Osprey before heading back to boats for a quiet evening on board.

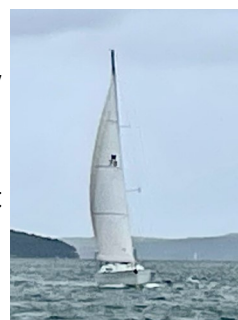


Thanks to all who were able to join us to welcome in 2024.

Let's hope this year we are able to not only continue to explore and enjoy our beautiful lake each month but also take full advantage of our re-opened channel to get

back out on the ocean to enjoy some coastal cruising as well!

Best wishes to you all for the year ahead!





# Australia Day



Richard Masson



Australia Day fell on a Friday this year, giving us an opportunity to extend the planned event into the weekend. However the weather gods did not smile on us, as the planned bbq at Kooroora Bay had to be cancelled due to a BOM "Severe heat wave" warning and Total fire ban for Friday. Just as well we did cancel, as it turned out to be the hottest day in Newcastle for four years, being fanned by warm NW winds.

Fortunately, the weather on Saturday was cooler, so the scheduled lunch at Olive Tree cafe at Summerland Point went ahead. We had 30 CD members join us, with crews from 2 Dream, Windsong, Margarita, Elara and Jodi anchoring in Frying Pan bay.

Tracy and her team at the Olive Tree really looked after us and the feedback was great. Suspect we will be back there again at some point.

Following our long lunch, the fleet moved across to the duck hole for a snooze, followed by a rather extended happy hour on board Windsong. Unfortunately for Chis & Nikki, nobody was rushing away to make dinner as we weren't hungry!

After a very calm night, most of the group enjoyed a relaxed sail home on Sunday morning with a steady SE breeze.



## Handy Hint

Over the New Years weekend we took the boat down to the southern end of the lake to explore some places seldom visited and dropped anchor for the night in Barden's Bay just adjacent to Trinity Point.

Protected from most breezes and blissfully quiet it was good to be tucked away from the maddening crowd and watch the comings and goings at Trinity Pt Marina.

Come morning light it was time to weigh anchor but lo and behold we found ourselves firmly attached to something very heavy on the bottom!

As luck would have it we had not inadvertently picked up a submarine cable as feared but the chain had obviously wound itself around an abandoned mooring block. As we discussed the best course of action *Stoked* slowly drifted forward and graciously unwound herself and off we went! Discussion followed as to what to do in the case of a snagged cable?

One possible solution is to swim down the chain (hanging on in water where visibility is poor) and pass a rope under the already lifted cable back to the boat. Once this is done the anchor can be lowered and gently removed from under the cable and the rope released thus allowing the cable to rest back on the bottom.

Happy days!

SV *Stoked*



# For Your Calendar

## **12th February - General Meeting – Bridgedeck Room**

Our first meeting for 2024 will start at 7pm. A table will be booked for dinner from 5.30pm onwards for those wishing to share a meal prior to the meeting.

## **25th February - 8th March - 2024 Pittwater Cruise**

Mark these dates in your diary for a fun-filled escape to one of the most beautiful cruising destinations in Australia!

Spend time with good friends exploring quiet bays and waterways; join in games, drinks and dinners ashore and indulge in free days to kayak, read, rest ..... Why wouldn't you spread your wings and fly!



## ***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*

*Shulan Li*

*Richard Masson*

*John Hall*