

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB
CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

April 2024 No. 407



GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 8TH APRIL

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Committee

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

Please address all letters for the Cruising Division to:

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Cover - *Arkaydes & Breathe shrouded in mist - Easter Cruise*



Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful Autumn weather. In my opinion it's the best sailing season as the air temperature is moderate but the water temperature is still great for a swim/paddle.

The air-force channel is silting up mainly due to reduced water flow so take care if you are using it. The main channel is also gradually silting up, in some places (watch adjacent to the Swansea boat ramp), on the edges of the dogleg marked navigation channel but if you stick to the centre of the channel, vessels drawing 2.5 metres should have no problem.

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.

Our new sun hats continue to sell 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.

Upcoming Events

The LMYC charity ball is on 13/4/24 and you still maybe able to get tickets. Its in support of Cancer Council Australia and Marine Rescue NSW both worthy charities that effect our membership directly.

A new calendar of events has been created. This will include cruises to Broughton Island in June, Newcastle in July and a coastal "hop" to Jervis Bay in November.

I hope that the more adventurous members can attend these offshore events but in order to cater for those who wish to stick to the lake we have included monthly events on the lake.

| | | |
|----------------------|--|------------------|
| Fri 12/4 to Sun14/4 | Onwater Event Sunshine / BBQ | Fred and Maureen |
| Fri 17/5 to Sun 19/5 | Onwater Event Crangan Bay / campfire | Fred and Maureen |
| Fri 7/6 to Mon 10/6 | Onwater Event Broughton Is / Port Stephens | Ralph |
| Fri 21/6 to Sun 23/6 | Onwater Event Croudace Bay / Soup | Marion and John |

Please come and enjoy the events that are planned as you are sure to have a great time and meet new friends with a common "yachty" interest.

At any time please feel free to use LMYC CD facebook to let other members know that you are cruising on the lake and would enjoy some company.

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.

Cheers and safe sailing. Ralph



April Outing - 12th-14th

Set Sail for Sunshine

Gather at Styles Point Friday 11th - on-shore for happy Hour at 1600.
Dinner on board own boats.

Saturday 0900 - sail from Styles Point to Sunshine for an early BBQ ashore.

Sunday a leisurely walk along the foreshore followed by a shared morning tea with neighbouring boats at 1030.

Cruise Co-ordinators - Fred and Maureen Seysener "STOKED" mob: 0438752561



Minefields - Hazards of Coastal Cruising

Brian Leonard, Lake Macquarie.



In 2023 the following letter from a former CD member appeared in the November edition of Afloat magazine -

"On a recent delivery from Airlie to Port Jackson of a 12M commercial sailing vessel with two onboard, we over-nighted in Shoal Bay, Port Stephens.

Early start next morning had us motor sailing thru the Heads, passing Point Stephens on a heading of 145degT, before turning more South for Port Jackson. Weather? Sea and sky very grey with passing showers so Nav lights on and constant lookout for vessels.

We were alerted, by another vessel ahead, that we were passing thru a minefield of fish floats, which heightened our close in watch and we were amazed to see the number of small fish floats, in pairs, across our path as we were now in 70 to 90 meters of water. A call to VMR Port Stephens was unhelpful as they had no real knowledge of size or location of the floating minefield which continued well past Anna Bay.

Looking up NSW DPI Department of Primary Industry, under Ocean Trap & Line Regulations, Sect. 11, Gear Marking, only requires a minimum 100mm float, positioned above the trap, with a height above water of 50mm.

This seems extremely inadequate for such hazardous gear to passing vessels, suffering severe damage that could result in sinkings and loss of life."

Recently when chatting with Brian he advised that by sticking closer to the coast when passing Anna and Fingal Bay they managed to avoid all the traps. Food for thought! Ed.

March Outing

Chris and Nikki Cahill



Easter Cruise 29th March-1st April

A great first day turnout for the Easter Cruise. The crews of 10 boats gathered on shore at Styles for a happy hour to welcome everyone - *Breathe, Jodi, 2Dream, Isla Breeze, Tethys, Arkaydes, The Merry Admiral, Moondance, Kombali 2 and Windsong*. *Renaissance* joined us later. A beautiful evening with sunset to match, and a quiet night at anchor.



2Dream and *The Merry Admiral* had to leave us the next day and *Tethys* too, but would join us again on Sunday. Thank you for coming along, it was lovely to see you.

Fabulous weather with around 10 kts of easterly wind greeted us on Saturday morning making for a great, but gentle, sail down to Crangan Bay, our overnight destination. It was lovely to see *Seriousleigh* who joined us the the rest of the cruise. *Breathe, Windsong* and *Moondance* hosted a shared finger food meal with the crews from two other boats. Everyone reported that the had a fantastic evening with loads of yummy food served.



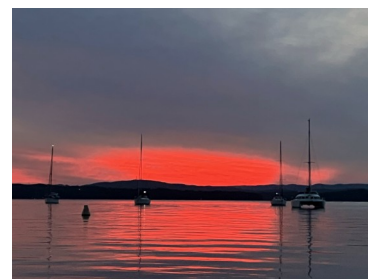
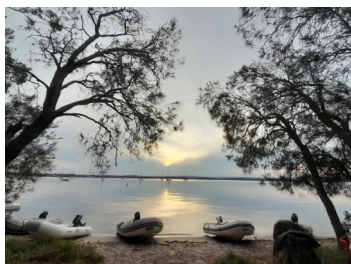
There was a very foggy start to Easter Sunday, however the Easter bunny found everyone to deliver a chocolaty treat! The conditions later in the morning proved perfect for a kayak or paddle board around the bay. Great fun!



After lunch we sailed around to Sandy Beach for a late afternoon bbq. *Tethys* joined us again. The foreshore park was not crowded and we found a shady spot for our happy hour and bbq with a lovely view of our beautiful lake and a very colourful sunset to end the day. It was great to enjoy the company of cruising friends in such a lovely place.



Another perfect autumn day dawned and several crews went for a foreshore walk around to Summerland Point shops for coffee and cake at the bakery. Later many of us enjoyed a great sail up the lake in a strong NE sea breeze.



William the Fourth

If you've even wandered the Newcastle harbour foreshore you would no doubt have noticed this gracious vessel docked by the quay. The William IV is an accurate operational replica of Australia's first steam powered ocean-going paddlewheel ship.



“When convict settlement was established at Newcastle from 1801, ships were the only form of transport. Within 30 years the settlement of fertile lands along the Hunter River and a growing coal trade – Australia's first significant export industry, enabled the era of steam ships. In 1831 – when the Australian Agricultural Company began to have a profound impact on Newcastle, a shipyard was established at Clarendontown, taking advantage of the excellent timbers, to construct Australia's first steam-powered ocean-going ship – **William the Fourth**, to operate between Sydney and the growing settlement inland from the ‘Green Hills’ now known as Morpeth.

There were almost no roads, and the graveyard of shipwrecks at the harbour entrance is testimony to the many hazards our local pioneers faced. The ship was a general carrier, transporting produce to the markets in Sydney and every product the settlers needed to live in the valley. It's hard for us to imagine the hardships they faced, but their enterprise and determination developed the characteristics that are still in our blood today. By its very unique nature **William the Fourth** still serves as a faithful testimony to that tough pioneering and maritime heritage

The replica **William the Fourth** was constructed as a community 1988 Bi-Centenary Project at Raymond Terrace, at a cost of \$1.5 million and was launched on 26 September 1987 by Mrs Hazel Hawke. During construction hundreds of people purchased engraved copper nails – still in the ship's hull, and since then thousands more have enjoyed the experience of the ship whilst learning of our maritime heritage.



The replica operated commercial cruises on Newcastle Harbour and the Hunter River for 14 years until a boiler leak put it out of service in 2001. It was earmarked to be dismantled.

In 2008 a community-based organisation, William the Fourth Inc. was formed to take ownership from Newcastle City Council and complete a total restoration of the ship and return it to service. Difficulty in raising funds delayed the restoration for 10 years but with generous public and corporate support, work valued at over \$650,000 was completed without incurring debt. As part of the full refurbishment a powerful diesel engine with propeller, as well as bow-thruster were installed to maximise availability and overcome the issues presented by steam and paddlewheel propulsion whilst retaining and simulating the steam experience.

Of local interest the Classic Boatshed Organisation in Rathmines was recently approached to build a timber tender for the William IV. This project is now well underway and when complete will hang from davits on the stern.



Information : williamthefourth.org.au William the Fourth Incorporated, Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle.

LMCC ASC - A Little Known But Useful Acronym

Tony Austin



Members who attend the CD General Meetings may have heard several of us mention the Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) Aquatic Services Committee (ASC).

I suspect that many of you do not understand why this committee is important for not just members of the local boating community but also most Lake Mac residents. The ASC is one of many Council 'Reference' committees that are 'focused on addressing a specific action, project or deliverable, and provide insight or expertise to inform existing Council activities'. The ASC 'advises Council about foreshore aquatic facilities and discusses issues relating to lake usage'.

More specifically the ASC is to:

- Liaise with and provide advice to Council, Government Authorities and public bodies on marine recreational activities, public infrastructure, recreational marine environment, and aquatic development projects.
- Review marine environmental development proposals from an aquatic users' perspective
- Promote and enhance the image of Lake Macquarie City, and in particular, the aquatic tourism potential of the city and its quality lifestyle.

Membership of the ASC includes LMCC Councillors (3), Council staff members (3), Maritime Organisation representatives (up to 5), representatives of government statutory bodies (up to 4) and community representatives (2). Members are appointed for a period of four years and the committee meets three times per year. The current Chairperson is Diane Crosdale (past Commodore Wangi ASC and yacht owner/racer). Ross Shirtley has been a member for over 12 years as the LMYC & CD representative and continues on the committee as the Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie (MRLM) rep. I was appointed to the ASC as the LMYC and CD rep in June 2022. Most of the priority issues relevant to MRLM and LMYC are common so having Ross and I on the ASC has ensured that we are able to effectively champion them to Council and organisations such as Transport for NSW Maritime and the Maritime Infrastructure Development Office (MIDO).

Since joining the ASC I have undergone a steep learning curve on how local government works. Firstly, they are driven by medium to long term planning as the processes to get money for most projects is extremely convoluted. Much funding comes from State and Federal grants and these are all linked to Strategic Planning documents (such as the LMCC Lake Activation Strategy 2020-2030). There is always some flexibility in how projects can be managed but some things are 'set in concrete'. The most important 'set in concrete' for us is 'LMCC is not responsible for the navigability of Swansea Channel'. The bed of the lake and the Swansea Channel are the responsibility of several State authorities and LMCC has always been adamant that they will not accept responsibility for the dredging of the channel.

This mantra has been somewhat complicated by the recent political announcement that the Federal government had gifted money to LMCC to buy a dredge and achieve an 'enduring' solution'. Despite this the ASC has been very active in addressing the channel problems at every meeting. It will be fascinating to see how this conundrum is resolved!

On a more positive note, the ASC has had several major successes and most LMCC staff greatly appreciate the support that they receive from the specialist members. An excellent example of this has been the way in which the design of public jetties on the lake has matured over the past 10 years. Ross and his fellow members have worked hard with the design teams to ensure that all new jetties are optimised for use by recreational vessels. This includes such things as access to fresh water, spacing and design of mooring cleats and the fitting of rubbing strips below jetty deck level to ensure that dinghies cannot become trapped under the jetty when tied alongside. More recently a working group has been looking at the boat ramps around the lake making recommendations about improving their design and thus maximising safe usage by the trailer boat community.

Other topics that have been discussed and researched by members are the provision of pump outs around the lake, the placement of public and private moorings, the design of the Toronto baths and the protection of foreshore public facilities. Council remains keen to promote the boating amenity of the lake and is a strong supporter of public activities such as 'Lake Fest' and 'Float your Boat'.

If you would like to know more about the activities of the ASC or you have suggestions for future works around the lake please do not hesitate to discuss with Ross or myself. I would also strongly urge you to have a look at the complete 'Lake Activation Strategy' document – it is quite an interesting read:

<https://www.lakemac.com.au/Our-Council/City-strategies-plans-and-reporting/Lake-Activation-Strategy>



Our great thanks to Ross Shirtley and Tony Austin for volunteering their time to attend these meetings and for sharing the latest developments regarding this age-old problem.

For Your Calendar

Next Three Months Outings:

April 12th-14th Set Sail for Sunshine

Sail from Styles Point to Sunshine for an early BBQ ashore. Sunday will kick off with a stroll along the foreshore before a shared morning tea either on-shore or with neighbouring boats.



May 17th-19th Camp-fire at Crangan Bay

This beautifully protected bay offers not only a safe anchorage but also a serene location! Hopefully we'll be able to gather on-shore for a campfire get together on Saturday night.



June 14th-16th Soup at Croudace!

This fave Winter event is on again! Gather at Croudace for a culinary delight and put the Winter blues to bed by getting out on our boats for a day on the lake!



8th April - General Meeting – Bridgedeck Room

Our April 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.



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

Chris & Nikki Cahill

Tony Austin

Brian Leonard

Bob Cook -williamthefourth.org



Why we gave up dinghy sailing!