

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB
CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

March 2025 No. 417



GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 24TH MARCH

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Committee

Committee

| | |
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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 (0438752561) by 25th of each month.

Please address all letters for the Cruising Division to:

LMYC CRUISING DIVISION
Ada Street
Belmont NSW 2280

Cover - Windsong, Migaloo, Give & Take and 2 Dream return from 2025 Pittwater Cruise



Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



As I write this 2 Dream and 13 other boats are currently enjoying the 2025 Pittwater Cruise. Many thanks to Maureen and Fred Seysener for organising the event. We have been blessed with fine weather, despite the forecast and crews are taking full advantage of their time here to explore this beautiful cruising ground.

Our February lake event was disappointing only attended by 3 yachts probably due to the fact that many members were preparing for Pittwater. Friday night was spent at the club and the ladies enjoyed sipping a few Valentines Day cocktails. Saturday was spent urging on the "Heaven Can Wait Fleet" and then in the afternoon/evening we moored off Speers Point to take in the music from the Red Hot Summer Concert. A few of the younger generation were certainly rocking and rolling with the music from bands like Killing Heidi, Icehouse and Noiseworks.

We will hold our March lake event at Browns Bay on Saturday 28th March. Keep a sharp eye on the CD Facebook page for more details closer to the day!

Work on the Swansea channel is continuing with plans to dredge a further 20,000 cubic metres of sand latter this year. A request for tenders for the new dredge has also been released which will make ongoing dredging maintenance of the channel more reliable.

We are in the process of organising other technical sessions :-

- Measuring and recording mast heights to enable safe navigation under bridges and power lines.
- How to use DSC on your radio.
- Fibreglass repairs.

The committee will be working on these issues and do not hesitate to contact Tony or myself if you have any further suggestions.

I posted on facebook a photo of catamaran "Wander Ring" which was washed up on Eleebana Head after breaking its mooring at Croudace Bay during the strong winds which occurred 15-18 January. Unfortunately, the vessel sunk during salvage attempts and have been told it's been written off by the insurance company. If you know of anyone wishing to buy this vessel please contact me.

LMYC CD Sun Hats are just about sold out, but a few are still available at the bargain member price of \$5 (\$10 for non-members). 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.

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/club's safety and education objectives. New members are asked to please arrange an audit of your vessel.

Cheers, enjoy the hot weather and safe sailing.

Ralph

Vessel Fire Safety Presentation

Monday 24th March 1630-1730 @ LMYC

Practical demonstration on the safe use of fire extinguishers.

Special focus on fires on board a vessel.

If possible extinguishing of various types of fires will be demonstrated.

This practical demonstration will be followed by a short 20 minute theory presentation at the start of the General Meeting at 1900.



CRUISING DIVISION ANNUAL FEES

The Cruising Division's Annual Fees for 2025 are due on 1st March. If you're unsure whether or not you're due to pay this year please text me on 0410 982 887 and I will get back to you when I can.

I will be sending out a reminder email after our return from the PWC to those whose fees are due this year.

Annual \$22 or \$60 for three years.

CD bank details: BSB 112-879

Acc No 482585899

Many thanks,
Nikki Cahill Treasurer



Report - February Outing — 14th -16th Set Sail for Some Red Hot Summer Fun!

With varying winds predicted for the weekend, numbers were down on usual attendance - or perhaps more romantic interludes were more appealing - it was Valentine's Day after all! Cocktails were enjoyed at the club before an extended gathering on board Isla breeze where we savoured the coolness of the evening and some light refreshments.

A brisk southerly change early Saturday morning sent some to more protected anchorages whilst others dropped anchor off Speers point and enjoyed the music!



CD 2025 Pittwater 'Tropical Island Cruise'

2nd March -14th March



Participating vessels - Beyond Cool, Breathe, 2Dream, Elara, Equinox, Give &Take, Kimberly Dreaming, Migaloo, Mika, Nightingale, Reverie, Rio, Saaremaa, Stoked and Windsong.

Our Tropical Island Cruise kicked off with a gathering of crews on-shore at Coaster's Retreat on the 2nd March. Whilst most of the fleet had sailed south over the previous three days the fleet was made complete with the arrival of the last four boats late Sunday afternoon.



Despite dire warnings of rain Monday morning dawned fine and clear, with a cool breeze and some light cloud cover making for a very convivial (if not challenging!) games session on-shore which consumed most of the morning.

A restful afternoon followed before the pot-luck dinner aboard host boats *Equinox, Nightingale, Reverie* and *Stoked*. This allowed crews to get together for a wonderful evening of good food and excellent company!



Once again we woke on Tuesday morning to clearing skies after light overnight rain. With a free morning at their disposal some opted to take their boats across to Palm Beach for a walk up Barrenjoey whilst others caught up with friends or visited Newport chandlery for the obligatory maintenance. During the afternoon the fleet reconvened at Hallett's Beach for a Happy Hour ashore in the afternoon. Once again we were blown away by the beauty of this iconic cruising ground and enjoyed the time ashore to simply relax, chat and watch the sun set.



Wednesday again defied the weather predictions and despite scattered cloud cover the skies soon cleared and the sun shone! A free morning allowed crews to catch up on their reading, swimming, paddling or boat maintenance - remember cruising has been defined as "carrying out boat maintenance in exotic places"!

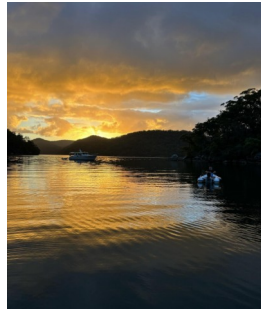
The evening however saw the beach come alive with colour as tropical shirts, sarongs and leis became the dominant fashion choice. Delicious food and good company guaranteed a wonderful night ensued! As dusk set in and the light faded people slowly dribbled back to their boats. As luck would have it we were all safely back onboard before the heavens opened! A perfect night!



Thursday morning dawned to the hammering of flags and digging of holes on the beach in preparation for the Royal Hallett's Beach Golf Championship. By 0930 crews were all again assembled on-shore, putters in hand, ready to take on the challenging greens and hazardous water traps. After three gruelling rounds the crew from Beyond Cool were just too hard to beat taking home the prestigious 2025 trophy, whilst Mike Barry scored Nearest the Pin thereby adding to the home trophy cabinet!



With the weekend approaching it was decided to give everyone a couple of days break to perhaps catch up with family, friends (... sleep!!) This also provided the luxury of time to explore the further flung reaches of the Lower Hawkesbury system and have a better chance of scoring a free mooring in the various bays and creeks in this beautiful NP. The Tropical Island Cruise WhatsApp page was well utilised with crews sharing some magnificent photos of various anchorages and sunsets.



Sunday afternoon saw the fleet regroup in Refuge Bay for a sociable afternoon onboard Rio and Give & Take with the ladies enjoying a fun crafty activity while the gentlemen solved the problems of the world as well as chatting about all things boaty!



Our second week began with a mid-morning gathering on board two host boats (2 Dream and Beyond Cool) for the long run up the river to Bobbin Head where a light lunch was enjoyed at the historic Bobbin Head Inn. Following lunch, Roland, the café proprietor, invited us all upstairs to see the beautiful dance hall with its sprung dance floor and original 1930's rest rooms.

A gentle walk along the mangroves boardwalk helped stretch the legs before returning to the boats for the trip home.



Tuesday morning we woke to grey skies and fine, misty rain and with the morning free a small group of adventurers decided to take the walk to the top of the waterfall at the end of Refuge Bay. (Perhaps scramble, or even clamber, would be a more accurate description as the track was not only challenging but elusive!) However the view from the top was exhilarating as, we believe, was the quick dip two of the gentlemen took in one of the deep rockholes!



The combination of an outgoing tide plus stiff NE made for an interesting ride around to Coasters with some vessels using the rough conditions to really strut their stuff!



By late afternoon, well rested and ready for fun, it was back on-shore for the Wine Whine event.

This was entered into with all seriousness and great gusto with some excellent wine and highly developed spruiking skills readily shared.



The fine weather returned on Wednesday as many took the opportunity to head across to Palm Beach on the ferry for a coffee, lunch, a swim at the beach or walk along the peninsula. Others - less energised - enjoyed the morning catching up on a more gentle wander along the southern point at Coasters or simply enjoying some quiet time on board.

At 4pm however the Tropicana Casino got into full swing and the peace of Coasters was shattered as bets were placed, cards dealt and the dice rolled! Some secret talents for shrewd investment were discovered as a few money purses grew fat whilst others threw in their chips!

As with all other activities during the cruise it was not only people's willingness to get involved, but their enthusiasm and sense of fun that made the afternoon such a great activity.



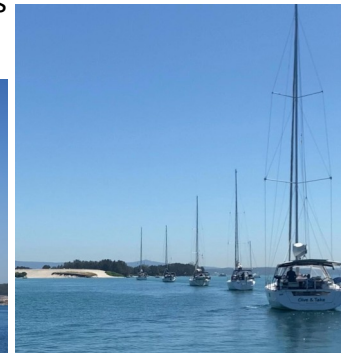
As in previous years, Thursday being the final day of the cruise, a final celebratory lunch was organised at Broken Bay RMYC. This involved a bit of boat hopping as we gathered 28 people on board three vessels but it also allowed for one final get together before we headed back to the Lake.



Once back in Coasters it was all hands on deck as crews prepared for the return trip up the coast the following morning. Those few who decided to stay on for a few days relaxed as the rest of the group stowed tenders, checked safety gear and moved onto outer moorings before settling in for an early night. Friday dawned, the seas were calm and, despite the lack of good breezes, a pleasant day was enjoyed by all as we made our way back to the Lake.



The 1200 bridge was a busy affair as eight boats manoeuvred into position to facilitate a smooth transit through the bridge and the stately armada that slowly made its way down the channel turned more than a few heads!



As co-ordinators of this year's Cruise we would like to wholeheartedly thank all who participated in the twelve days of planned (and impromptu) activities. Your gracious hospitality, generosity of spirit and carefree sense of good fun and craziness all combined to make the 2025 Pittwater Cruise a memorable experience for all involved.

Thank you! *Maureen & Fred*



Why is a Ship's Speed Measured in Knots?

Knots is the unit of speed historically used in navigation, tied to the maritime tradition. The term originates from the method sailors used in the past to measure speed at sea.

The History:

- Sailors used a device called a log line, a rope with evenly spaced knots tied along its length.
- The log line was thrown in the water, and as the ship moved, the number of knots that passed through a sailor's hands in a specific amount of time (usually 30 seconds) was counted
- This count determined the ship's speed in "knots".

Why knots?

- A knot is equal to one nautical mile per hour.
- Nautical miles are based on the Earth's circumference and are more practical for navigation because they are tied to the planet's geography (1 nautical mile = 1 minute of latitude = 1.852 kilometres).

Using knots allows for consistency and precision and aerial navigation, making it the standard unit for measuring speed at sea and in the air.



Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club Luncheon **22nd March**

You are warmly invited to attend the SICYC Lunch to meet the new Vice President — Paul Dwyer.

Where: Club Catalina 1 Stilling Street Rathmines

When: Saturday 22nd March

Time: 1200 -1430

'Shaggers' encouraged to wear your Club Polo Shirts!

Paul will address the group re :-

Recent changes in management

The vision for the future of SICYC

Future dsupprt for local 'cells' like Lake Macquarie

An update on plans for the Rendezvous 2025

in Gloucester Passage.

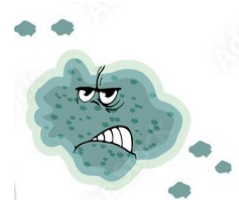
Please register your interest as there is limited capacity at the club.

Contact Geoff King (VC No Particular Harbour)

Mob 0415 181 290 / svbluglass@gmail.com



Mould No-ones Mate!



In Answer to a Common Question:

How do I keep my boat from getting mouldy?

Keeping your boat mould-free involves regular inspections and preventive measures.

Follow the Mould & Mildew Environment Checklist, paying special attention to areas prone to mould.

What causes mould in a boat?

To make it simple: Moisture... Food... Oxygen.

Mould in a boat is caused by a combination of factors, including water accumulation, lack of proper ventilation, and conducive temperatures. Understanding these factors is essential for effective prevention.

Mould & Mildew Environment Checklist:

Check for leaks: Regularly inspect your boat for leaks to eliminate potential water sources for mould. Inspect seals around windows, hatches, and ports.

Examine the hull for cracks or damage that may allow water ingress.

- **Identify musty odours:** Unpleasant odours can signal mould growth; investigate and address them promptly. Use your nose as a valuable tool to pinpoint potential mould locations.

Inspect scuppers: Ensure scuppers are clear to prevent water accumulation.

Check scuppers regularly, especially after heavy rain or washing your boat.

Maintain air circulation: Keep the air flowing throughout your boat to discourage mould growth.

Use natural and mechanical ventilation techniques.

Avoid sealing the boat completely when not in use.

Check plugs for solid seals: Ensure that all openings are sealed to prevent water intrusion.

Inspect plugs and seals for any signs of wear or damage.

Open all drains and ensure thorough water drainage.

Address extended storage considerations: If storing for a prolonged period, take measures to pull moisture from the air.

Use dehumidifiers and moisture absorbers in enclosed storage areas.

Proper ventilation for boat & seat covers: Adequate ventilation under covers helps prevent mould growth on surfaces.

Use breathable materials for covers.

Elevate covers slightly to allow air circulation.

Surfaces containing mould and mildew: Make sure to use a safe and high quality mould remover. Once removed, then applying a mould prevention application to help with mould control, especially on organic matters like seat upholstery, lines, and fenders.

For Your Calendar

Next Three Months Outings:

March Outing - 28th-30th

Set sail for Browns Bay for a social weekend-time to kick back & **RELAX!**

- Perfect bay to explore on your kayak or SUP.
- Enjoy a coffee or pizza at the Nord's Wharf Cafe and if the weather's fine maybe tender across for dinner at the Gwandalan Bowling Club.
- Watch our CD Facebook page for more details closer to the date!



April - Easter Cruise on the Lake 19th-21st April



May - On-water event - TBA

General Meetings – Bridgedeck Room

The March General Meeting will start at 7pm in the Bridgedeck Room. A table will be booked for dinner from 5.30pm onwards for those wishing to share a meal prior to the meeting.

Dates for 2025 General Meetings:-

March - 24th
April - 14th
May - 12th

Our meetings are a great way to find out what's happening and to get to know your fellow CD members a little better.

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

Photographers—Shulan & Gang Li, Carolanne Clement, Russell Williams, Ken Archer and Eleanor Cunningham.

Hopefully there will be a short video showing some of the events enjoyed at the recent Pittwater Cruise at our upcoming General Meeting!



love