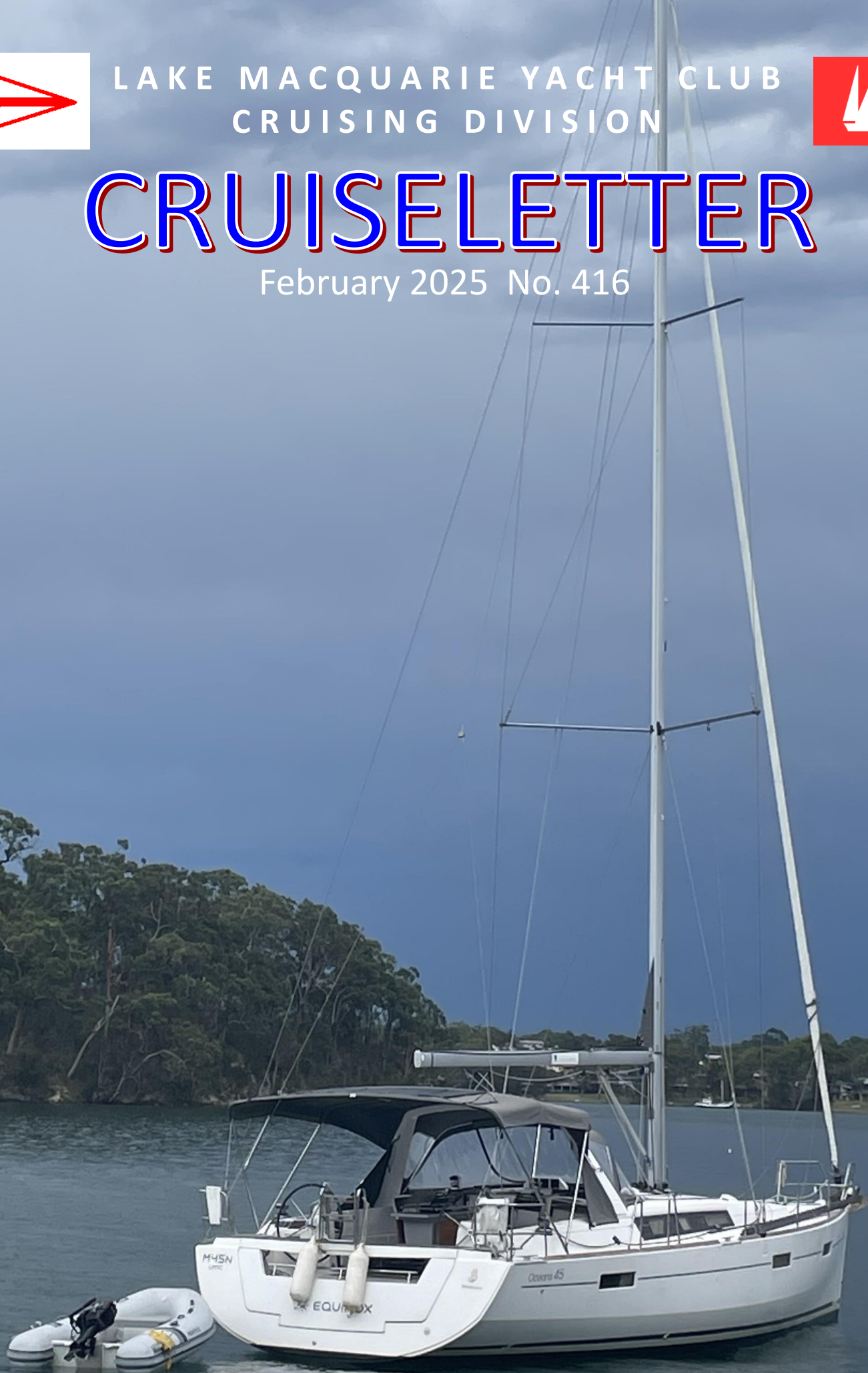


LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB
CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

February 2025 No. 416



GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

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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 - *Equinox - Browns Bay*



Skipper's Report

Ralph Asquith



Happy new year and welcome to another exciting year of sailing adventures at LMYC Cruising Division.

I do hope that everyone enjoyed the Christmas Party but as always, I welcome any feedback and suggestions to help improve the format.

Unfortunately, (probably the wrong word) I was in cold old London visiting my son over the Christmas/New Year period so missed the New Years Eve Fireworks but from all reports the fireworks and weather were excellent.

The Australia Day weekend event was an outstanding success. Around a dozen yachts arrived for Sundowners at Styles Point on Saturday evening and again the weather was perfect. I took a few of the crews out to view the 21:00 fireworks at Belmont/Toronto/Warners Bay onboard 2Dream. You could see all three from the centre of the lake. Sunday morning saw us move to Kooroora Bay/Bolton Point for a BBQ in the reserve adjacent to John and Marion's home which had been mowed the day before (I think they must have contacts in high places!) and provided an ideal location in the shade of the trees. We had around 30 participants at the BBQ which was great to see. Many thanks to Richard/Jen and Marion/John.

Following on from the Great news on the Swansea channel with the federal government reconfirming \$10 mil in funding for a new dredge and pipeline across to Blacksmith Beach, the State government tipping in a further \$6 mil to operate the dredge over the next 10 years and the Lake Macquarie City Council firmly onboard with the project. We will be keeping our eye on the progress of the project and understand that preliminary design work for the dredge has been completed and request for tenders for the construction will be issued shortly.

We are in the process of organising other technical sessions i.e.

- Measuring and recording mast heights to enable safe navigation under bridges and power lines.
- How to use DSC on your radio.
- Fibreglass repairs.
- Fire prevention, safety and fighting (especially lithium batteries)

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

The Pittwater Cruise has been scheduled for Sunday 2/3/25 to Friday 14/3/25 (weather permitting). Fred and Maureen Seysener are organising the event. Information will be posted on facebook and a briefing will be held at the general meeting on the 10/2/25. It's time to start preparing your yachts and completing the coastal passage self-audit form.

I posted on facebook a photo of the 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 I have been told it's been written off by the insurance company. It's a reminder to always check your mooring for obvious signs of damage especially after heavy weather.



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 yachtsmen 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

February Outing — 14th -16th

Set Sail for Some Red Hot Summer Fun!

Friday afternoon:-

Sail to LMYC for a meal ashore or happy hour on board boats

Saturday morning:-

Sail to Speers Point and anchor off for an afternoon and evening of live music finishing up the day if you wish with a shared meal on board enjoying the bands with other CD music junkies!

Sunday morning:-

Time to kick back and relax and enjoy the beauty of this lovely bay!



Read the Sign!

Just a warning to CD Members to be time aware when tying up to a public jetty.

Recently Council Rangers have been strictly enforcing the 2 hour limit on public jetties issuing infringement notices for vessels overstaying the allotted period allowed.

The fact that these signs often don't face the water is an issue to may need to be addressed!



2025 Pittwater Cruise

2nd-14th March

In need of a get-away?



Escape to Pittwater and the beautiful
bays of Kuringai Chase for a
Tropical Island Cruise!



Starting at Coasters on the 2nd March our days will be spent exploring the nooks and crannies, beaches and bays of this iconic cruising ground.

More details will be forthcoming via our CD Facebook page. Reserve your spot now – book in to enjoy the craziness of the legendary CD Pittwater Cruise!

Cruise Co-ordinators : Fred and Maureen Seysener — "**STOKED**"
seysener@gmail.com

Thinking of participating this year?

Let the Co-ordinators know and come to the February General Meeting for more information and good ideas!

CD 2025 Pittwater 'Tropical Island Cruise'

To help make the upcoming Cruise a great experience - as well as a fun time - the following information will hopefully answer any questions you may have and assist with both provisioning and preparation of your vessel.



In the interests of safe passage the Cruise officially starts in Pittwater - thus giving each Skipper the freedom to choose the best time, for them, to make the journey south. If you wish to depart the Lake prior to the 2nd March but would prefer to sail down the coast in company, we encourage you to contact other participants and organise a mutually suitable date and time. A list of CD members intending to participate will be advertised closer to the date.

TRANSIT

Vessels participating in the Cruise will gather on the 2nd March in Coasters Retreat or Towlers Bay for the official start of the Cruise. (anchorage dependant on weather)

- Transit from Lake Macquarie to Broken Bay at the discretion of each Skipper.
- Departure date dependent on weather and sea conditions.
- Remember to contact MRLM to book the bridge at least one hour before the desired departure time.
- Log on with MRLM.
- Crews are reminded that it is a NSW Maritime requirement that life jackets be worn by all crew members when crossing bars. This applies to the Swansea Bar.
- Crews are also reminded that it is a LMYC CD requirement that lifejackets be worn by cruise participants when travelling to or from their vessel by dinghy after dark.

Included in the following pages -

Information to assist in your preparation for the cruise / prepare your vessel

An **Open Waters Registration Form** - please complete, copy and email to Maureen & Fred Seysener - seysener@gmail.com

Remember to check your vessel insurance is up to date.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you need to know!

Maureen and Fred Seysener mob: 0438 752 561 / seysener@gmail.com

List of items needed to participate in events

The Cruising Division over the years have developed the habit of going ashore for many social activities. You will find it useful to bring along:

- lanterns / torches for night time events
- folding chairs and table
- small portable gas BBQ
- wet weather gear
- nibbles for morning/afternoon teas, happy hours (eg - chips, dips, cheese plates, vegetable sticks, fruit plates, slices, fruit cake etc..)
- Finger food for shared meal aboard
- Something to contribute to shared meal on shore - Beach Party
- Putter & golf ball
- Bottle of wine (camouflaged) for 'Wine Whine'
- Small sharp-nosed pliers for the 'Gals Afternoon'
- sense of humour!

To help you cope with those last few frantic days leading up to departure below are a few hints that may assist planning and preparation for various Cruise events.

The following events will happen sometime during the two weeks of the Cruise:-

Pot Luck Dinner - Host boats will be nominated - names will be drawn out of a hat for this event. This is shared finger food meal - always yummy and a great way to get to know each other.

Games Day – A mixed range of games will be held ashore. Bring your best throwing / bowling arm as we intend to include Kuub, Klop, Corn Throw and Boules. If you have a favourite outdoor game please bring it along.

Golf Day – A beach putt putt golf event will be held ashore, subject to tide and weather - bring putters if you have them (you can often pick them up cheap from Op shops.)

Beach Party – Prepare an easy tropical dish to bring ashore for this shared meal. Go for something tropical (think easy/ fruity/ fishy/ fun! - main, salad or desserts). Don't forget to dress accordingly – wear those leis, loud shirts and wiggle those hips!!

Tropicana Casino – try your hand at Black Jack, Roulette and Crown and Anchor - no formal dress code applies but if you want to be admitted a brightly coloured tropical shirt is essential!

Sailing – Sailing is always a part of the activities on a Pittwater Cruise. A sail around Lion Island or simply exploring Pittwater and the Hawkesbury River will hopefully be on the agenda.

Exploring Pittwater and the Hawkesbury ashore - For those intrepid souls keen to get ashore and walk there are several treks to explore on the allotted free days. This may be exploring the aboriginal artwork in Kuringai National Park, seeing the view from headlands around the park, climbing to the top of the waterfall at Refuge – up to each individual and totally dependant on weather and energy.

Final Day - Lunch at RMYC - To conclude the Cruise we traditionally go out to lunch - travelling to the Royal Motor Yacht Club in Newport on two host boats.

Facts crews should know:-

There is a NPWS fee (\$3 per person per day/ pensioners free) to go ashore at The Basin – it is your responsibility to pay this fee. This helps contribute towards the cost of providing showers, toilets, BBQ facilities and rubbish disposal.

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

Water and Fuel is available from

Brooklyn
Cottage Point (fuel only)
Akuna Bay
Bobbin Head
RMYC
Church Point

Limited basic supplies available from:-

- Patonga
- Cottage Point
- Akuna Bay
- Palm Beach
- Brooklyn

Be aware shopping in this area is very limited so it is wise to provision well!

There are two options if you desperately need to shop:-

You can catch the ferry from Coasters to Palm Beach then take a bus to Mona Vale (Pittwater Place Shopping Centre). The ferry runs on the hour and the bus every half hour. Round trip takes about 2 hours. The bus stops close to the shops - Coles Woolworths and also Whitworths nearby.

Or you can leave your boat on the courtesy mooring at Brooklyn and shop at Woy Woy - Coles and Woolies, K Mart, butchers, chemist et al. 15- 25 min. trip in the train (run every hour). All up the round trip takes about 2 hours. You can only bring back what you carry, about 4 green bags but it is only a short walk both ends. There are 4 courtesy moorings just outside Brooklyn.

Wine Whine - explained....



Participants have to bring a bottle of Australian Red wine (less than \$20).

Label and cap need to be covered.

Each boat nominates a speaker to regale the audience with the merits of their wine without revealing price or vineyard.

Presentations are judged for style and BS content by all participants (1-5).

Then have blind tasting of each wine - rated by each participant for quality and price (1-5).

Prizes awarded for presentation and most popular wine.



Pittwater Pennants under production!

Thanks to Fred - the pennants are ready to go.... how about you?

Time to start prepping your boat!



Prepare your Boat!

Robert Black

The CD Pittwater Cruise is coming up so what will make it a comfortable cruise?

Certainly food and drink are the creature comforts but there is nothing worse than the boat playing up. Ask anyone who has been on a cruise, they know the holiday soon becomes a horror when a "small" problem develops.

So before you head off.....

Check the motor.

Take a quick look at hoses, fluid levels, belts, coupling bolts etc. Check engine hours for an oil/filter change. You will probably motor down and back and as there aren't too many places to sail when you arrive, moving from place to place is generally by motor.

Even when charging your battery the motor is on - check the salt water intake strainer - there is a lot of weed on the lake.

If you're up to it check the shell on the prop.

The all important fuel!

Firstly have enough.

Secondly how clean is it? It really can't be checked because you can't get into the tank.

If it has been in the tank a while without adequate treatment then a good shakeup on the way down to Pittwater might unsettle any sediment therefore carry a spare filter or two.

While you're filling your fuel tank check the seal on the cap.

The all important anchor.

You may not always pick up a mooring. If the anchor chain has been sitting in the locker unused - give it a run in and out to free up the links and check your depth markers.

Batteries.

Those batteries are going to get a workout over two weeks!

Check fluid levels and connectors.

How good is your Radio?

Do a radio check so if things go amiss on the run down you can let someone know - mobile phones are a substitute.

Remember the 12Volt charger!

Need Assistance?

When in need of help ask for assistance - you will be amazed at the combined contents of the yacht lockers of fellow cruisers! For some reason we yachties don't throw anything out.



"You say she's not handling like she used to!"

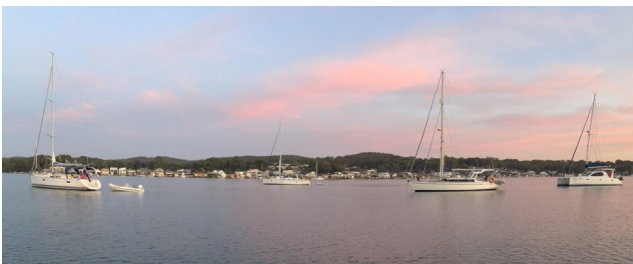
Australia Day on the Water!

26th January 2025



With the opportunity of a long weekend stretching before us crews gathered at Styles Point for the start of the 'Australia Day Weekend' outing.

Fine weather and a safe anchorage guaranteed a good roll-up and saw the crews of *Jodi*, *Yorkshire Relish*, *Double Fun*, *Migaloo*, *Beyond Cool*, *2 Dream*, *Mika*, *Saaremaa*, *Isla Breeze*, *Renaissance*, *Windsong*, *Midlife* and *Stoked* enjoy a convivial happy hour in the shade at this beautiful location.



A peaceful night followed and, with light breezes to take us north, most weighed anchor early and took the run up to Kooroora Bay for a lunch time get together at Marion and John Cotterill's home.

Here we were joined by Anne-Marie and Leigh off *Seriousleigh* as well as Ross and Anne, John and Liz and Paul and Glenda who came by car for the afternoon.

A huge thankyou to our hosts for this great afternoon - Marion and John - who opened their home (and front yard) to provide a great venue for a very enjoyable afternoon.



After lunch some crews took advantage of the freshening NE to shake out the sails and take the long run to Wolstencroft for a peaceful anchorage for the night which was a perfect way to wrap up a great weekend on the water!



Many thanks to co-ordinators Richard and Jen Masson and to all those who came along to kick-start 2025 with such a sociable and sailing-focussed weekend!



As always the annual gathering of members for the Cruising Divisions Christmas Party on the 9th December was a great event. Held in the beautiful Bayview area at LMYC members enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and celebrate another fantastic year of sailing. Thanks to the Committee for their organisation and to the Board of LMYC for their continuing support.



CD Christmas Party 2024



New Years Eve 2024

The afternoon of the 31st December saw five boats anchor off the beautiful shoreline at Murrays Beach well out of the strong NE's and in a great location to view the fireworks later in the evening.

After dinner on board a convivial gathering on board Double Fun saw crews while away the evening until the pyrotechnic displays from Wangi, Trinity Point and Swansea lit up the skies.

Thanks to the crews of *Double Fun*, *Midlife*, *Moondance*, *Yorkshire Relish* and *Stoked* for a fun get together to welcome in the New Year!



Safety Afloat!

On returning to their mooring on Australia Day Saaremaa's crew found the tether on their mooring bouy had been cut and the yellow bouy nowhere to be seen.

Michael's solution is simple yet effective - to protect the thin line that tethers the mooring lines to float - attach a short length of chain to submerge the line out of harms way!



For Your Calendar

Next Three Months Outings:

February 15-16th - Red Hot Summer Fun!

Meet up on Friday night at LMYC for dinner ashore or happy hour on board boats. Saturday sail north to Speers Pt for the Red Hot Summer Concert!



March 2nd-13th - Pittwater Cruise

See pp 5-11 for more details and keep watch on our CD Facebook page for up-to-date information and liaison with other participants.



March 28th - On-water Event

General Meetings – Bridgedeck Room

The November 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:-

February - 10th

March - 24th

April - 14th

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

Marion Cotterill

Michael Norwood

Richard Masson



*"Our boat is fine, and we're not stranded.
We just don't want to go back to that
crazy world."*