

# FORECAST

Monthly Newsletter from Lake Macquarie Yacht Club



## COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

### JUNE 2025

Quite a lot going on around the Club this last month.

Immediately prior to the AGM we had the naming ceremony for our two training yachts. Life Member & retired Commodore Albert Mitchell christened the yachts 'RIVAL' and 'PICCOLO', being the first, & only, LMYC yachts to win the Sydney to Hobart.

The AGM was well attended where Members were given the Auditors report, along with the Flag Officers reports, and the results of the Board Elections. I congratulate all Board Members on being elected or re-elected to the Board. In particular, a warm welcome to new Vice Commodore Garry Van Dijk, new Rear Commodore Phil Cunningham & new Club Captain Mark Holmes to their new roles.

Final item on the agenda at the AGM was the proposal for Life Membership be given to Pam Parker. The Members present voted unanimously in support of Pam, who now joins husband Roger & becomes the first female Life Member. Read about Pam's contributions to our Club in this Forecast.

Unfortunately, we also had had sad news with four Members or former Members passing away in recent weeks. Early in May Noel Richardson, who was a long time Member & Life Member of the Cruising Division passed away. On 29<sup>th</sup> May, also a long time Member of the Cruising Division Margret Blakewell passed away. Also in May, Ray Kiely passed away. Ray served many years on the Board as Director, Rear Commodore & Commodore. Ray was rewarded for his service with Life Membership. Ray was very active in both racing & the Cruising Division. I asked a few Members to give me a short paragraph to include in this Forecast. I must admit I received more than I was expecting. See separate contributions to Ray in this Forecast.

More recently, & quite a surprise, long term Member & supporter of our Club, Bryan Phillips, passed suddenly. Bryan was a Member for over forty years & worked right up until his passing. Bryan's funeral was well attended with family & friends, including many Club Members, travelling from all corners of Australia to attend.

See you 'round the Club.

GEOFF EDMAN, COMMODORE

Email: commodore@lmyc.com.au

## SETTING SAIL

### MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Hi to All,

A month ago it wasn't in my wildest thoughts that I would become a journalist, writing for a world famous publication - the LMYC Forecast.

Being the dead of winter now, things are still happening sailing wise.



PHOTO BY VICE COMMODORE, GARRY VAN DIJK  
From left to right: Brad Quiggin, Dave Anstey & Andrew Poynting



### **2XCESS (MUMM 30) CREW MEMBERS CLEAN SWEEP WIND WARRIOR SEASON.**

Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> was the Wind Warrior Presentation Day, the premier day of the Wind Warrior calendar. Everyone gets dressed up, holding the Gun Trophy is Brad Quiggin (main sheet '2Xcess'), most firsts. In the middle is Dave Anstey (Saturday Skipper of '2Xcess'), first scratch point score; & on the right is Andrew Poynting (anything you ask him to do '2Xcess'), first handicap point score & in his left hand is the Orrel Cup, first Pursuit Series.

Our old mate Jim Orrel donated the trophy years ago to start the Pursuit Series. Jim was then a Wind Warrior Skipper himself. Jim's son Richard brought Jim down to the Club recently to watch a few races from their car. The Wind Warriors race 3 Pursuit races for the Orrel Cup every second week.

Wind Warriors (remote control yachts) sail Saturday's on the northern side of the Club house from 13:30-15:30 during the other racing fleets "off" season, & in the "on" season Thursday afternoons from 17:00-18:30. They finish just in time to be able to enjoy the Thursday Night Raffles, hosted by Vice Commodore Garry Van Dijk & myself. Come & have a look, a refreshing beverage & enjoy the fun. I'm the 'Race Officer' (because they can't get anyone else), so you may even hear my whistle, should someone break the start. Sometimes they might even disagree with me, adds to the flavour of the day. You might even get the bug, or stay for the Raffles!



PHOTO: JIM ORREL & SON RICHARD, NOV 2019



## WINTER SERIES 2025

Also happening on Sundays (or not, 2 races abandoned) is the Winter point score, sponsored by On Point Shipwright Group Pty Ltd. At the time of writing, another 'SHIP MATE' of the 2Xcess team (Wednesdays) Richard Martin, 'NEFERTITI' is first, Paul Hanan 'ANARCHIE' second, and Ian Murray 'ARUNA' third.

## KEEPIT KOOL 2025

On the King's Birthday long weekend, the annual Keepit Kool Regatta was held on Lake Keepit. Over the years members of LMYC have competed in the Regatta. This year LMYC was represented by

- Peter (Ginge) Watkins - 'SPICE' Corsair
- Michael McDonald - 'RUN AMOK' Laser
- Dave (Hilly) Hill - 'LONGBOARD' NS14
- Robert Jarvie - 'CAT' Nacra 5.2
- Wade Morgan - 'RELEASE THE HOUNDS' Boatspeed 23 flush deck
- Michael Graham - 'TWINKLE' Star Boat

Competitors came from all over, one even representing the London based Royal Ocean Racing Club - Mark Graham 'MALAHIDE' Laser.

Results can be found at <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/news/il1dcgdelsfhhbk1a.pdf>

I asked Michael Graham (another of the '2Xcess' team) to fill us in on his adventure. See his article 'A Star is Born (Again)' below!

PHIL CUNNINGHAM, REAR COMMODORE

Email: rearcommodore@lmyc.com.au

## A STAR IS BORN (AGAIN)

Many of you would know what a Star class yacht is.  
Many of you would know who Alastair Leask is.  
Many of you would know about his Star class yacht in his backyard in Walter St.

Even if you didn't know. I did. That's important for this story.

Years ago the Club had a big fleet of Stars on the hardstand. They were very popular yachts because they were an Olympic class & the opportunities they presented were obvious. Our dearly departed member Tim Owens certainly through so, as he represented Australia at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo & managed to get a 10<sup>th</sup> Place. I think his Olympic jacket is displayed at the Club. He knew Dennis Connor (a world star champion) on a first name basis.

Sadly the popularity of the Star waned after it was excluded from the Olympic class in 2012, however the remain an extremely popular class in Northern America & Europe & attracting fleets in their hundreds.

The Star class was originally designed in 1911 by a guy called Francis Sweisguth & known as a bug star yacht. They were designed to sail on the fjords in Scandinavia, flat water, light winds & lots of rig fiddling etc. All this got me thinking (a very dangerous activity!). What if I spoke to Alastair about his Star? What if I was able to get her to Lake Keepit (flat water, light winds) for the Keepit Kool Regatta? & what if we could win it? SO...

The condition of my acquisition of Alastair's Star was "Michael, she is beautiful, however if you take her she is yours, you can't bring her back". I think my father-in-law said something similar. After a bunch of phone calls to the Lake Keepit Sailing Club Office it became apparent that she could be left on the hardstand for an annual fee provided that I joined the Club. The gateway opened!



PHOTO: '2Xcess shipmate Richard, 'TWINKLE', & in the background the TARDIS, which was used to bring 'TWINKLE' back from the past! Thank you Dr. Who!

### **A STAR IS BORN (AGAIN) cont.**

With a worthy & hurriedly gathered team consisting of Alastair & David Leask, Hilly, Richard Martin & his mate Dennis, & all of a sudden she emerged onto the LMYC causeway. A quick repair job on the keel, jet blast & a decal rebadging plus a short dip in the Lake for good measure 'TWINKLE', as I renamed her, was ready. Oh, & Scott Hammo re-welded the trailer. The masts were 'walked' down to the Club.

A Star was born (again)! We took her up to Keepit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June & across the Breeza plain with Hilly, my son James & Alfey the dog. We dropped her at the Keepit Sailing Club & I was considered it was necessary that we stop for a refreshment break at the Curlewis Hotel (about 20km out of Gunnedah) on our return journey, which turned out to be most interesting.

There was two people in the Bar when we walked in, the Bartender & a bloke with a hat on looking into the middle distance & drinking schooners. We started banging on about our trip & so as not to be rude I showed the bloke at the bar a photo of 'TWINKLE'. I thought I would get nothing back except a shoulder shrug & a vacant look. The following took place:

**Bloke w/ Hat:** 'That's a Star, isn't it?'

**My (edited) response:** 'How in the world do you know that?'

**Bloke w/ Hat:** 'I used to sail one'

**Me:** 'Where?'

**Bloke w/ Hat:** 'Lake Macquarie'

**Me:** 'All right, who with?'

The conversation then really teed off! He knew Tim Owens, Albert Mitchell, even my own brother, plus a lot more. Alan was the real deal. Who would've thought it?

The adventure continued a few days later when David Leask & I went back up to Keepit to have 'TWINKLE' re-rigged & ready for her first outing in about 20 years. She presented as a bit of a challenge, however Mr. Knox the rigger emerged from somewhere & the mast was in the air & after a very short christening ceremony using the very best Ginger wine (Thank you Nicola) we were in the drink & underway. We missed the first start of the day by about a minute, which we thought was fine given the whole 'let's get the yacht to Lake Keepit plan (if you could call it that) started about 10 days before.

Apparently before you start any regatta it's a good idea to know what Division you are in & what course you are supposed to sail. I thought David was at the briefing & he had the same thought about me...never mind, I think we formally completed one race out of four. We didn't win, but we will next year. She sailed brilliantly!

In concluding, it ought to be noted that the Yabby racing on Saturday night at the Lake Keepit Sailing Club was up to its excellent standard. The kids had a great time, no yabbies were harmed & a lot of money was raised for charity.

So go & get a Star & join us next year, you'll be very welcome!



*PHOTO: 'TWINKLE' heading for Keepit Kool regatta, Breeza Plains. Where else would you expect to find one of Mr Sweisguth's Star boats?*

*PHOTO: 'TWINKLE' in action!*



SUBMISSION BY MICHAEL GRAHAM  
14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025



## PAM PARKER – LIFE MEMBER NOMINATION SUBMISSION

As we all know, Life Membership of any Club is a prestigious honour, only bestowed upon special members who are recognised to have made substantial & valuable contributions to their organisation. I am indebted to past Commodore Paul Hannan, Life Member Ray Kiely & Life Member Roger Parker for providing the following information in support of this nomination.

- Pam has been a Member of LMYC for 50 years.
- She started sailing at LMYC with Paul and Carole Hannan on Bill Hannan's 'TERN' (a Bluebird, M15) in 1965.
- Pam & husband Roger raced 'TERN' after Bill Hannan launched 'SKYE' (a Clansman, M5) in 1968.
- Roger & Pam bought a Contessa 25 called 'RUFFIAN' & fitted it out at home. Pam crewed 'RUFFIAN' for some years.
- She then crewed on 'SKYE', which Paul Hannan campaigned on Lake Macquarie & offshore after Bill Hannan died in 1972. 'SKYE' sailed for many years with a predominantly female crew, including Pam, Kim Mitchell (Albert's daughter), plus Paul & Carole's daughters Selena & Anne Maree.
- During this time & for many years, Pam also assisted Bob Torr, then Roger as a handicapper & starter/judge.

Pam also ran many Regatta's at the Club for class boats such as Sharpies & OK Dinghies. Pam's children (Kylie & Greg) also helped out in the judge's box & a couple of times over-enthusiastically discharged the shotgun early as the boats finished. Although the gun was loaded with blanks, there was still sufficient force to put a hole in the ceiling on one occasion & shatter a window on another. Paul Hannan was accused of being a 'spoil sport' when as Rear Commodore he changed to using a horn to replace the gun as a 'cost saving measure'.

Pam was elected Vice Commodore in 1988-89 & also 1989-90 (under Commodore's Bob Powys & Ray Kiely). Pam was also elected Vice Commodore again in 1991-92 & 1992-93 (under Commodore Paul Hannan). Pam was the first female flag officer at LMYC & was often referred to socially as 'Madam Vice'. Her unfailing good nature & popularity with Members & staff alike was invaluable in the smooth management of the Club during that period. During her terms in office, Pam was responsible for many improvements to the Clubhouse, in particular, & the promotion of female participation in sailing at LMYC.

Not long after Paul & Carole bought 'CIEL' (a Beneteau First Class10, M159) Pam joined the crew, which also boasted four other regular female crew members. When Paul & Carole launched 'ANARCHIE' in 2009, Pam again joined the crew & continues to sail on her, together with six other women today.

Pam has also sailed 'THE SHED' (J24) in the Lake Macquarie SheSails Regatta's, along with her daughter Kylie & granddaughters Georgia, Elle, Alex & law Matisse (an article about the Parker Dynasty competing was published on the AS website).

As evidence of Pam's continued commitment to the sport, every boat that she has crewed on has won many Lake & offshore races, & a number of annual point scores.

I invite you all to acknowledge Pam's contributions to our Club.

SUBMISSION BY ELEANOR CUNNINGHAM

## *Congratulations to Pam Parker on her LMYC Life Membership, awarded at LMYC's AGM May 2025*



PHOTO: Commodore Geoff Edman with Pam Parker



PHOTO (from left to right): Roger, Pam, Kylie & Greg Parker



Photo: (from left to right)  
Keith McCord (Rear Commodore), Pam Parker (Vice Commodore)  
& Paul Hannan (Commodore) | 1991-1993



# LMYC DISCOVER SAILING FOUNDATION LAUNCH



Lake Macquarie Yacht Club is excited to announce the official launch of our Discover Sailing Foundation! In 2024 LMYC developed & became an accredited Australian Sailing Discover Sailing Centre (DSC), providing clear pathways for new & existing members into keelboat racing, with additional development & training programs.

The Strategies for LMYC's DSC include:

- Purchasing of assets & resources for the DSC, including suitable keelboat training yachts (x2 Farr25 Platu yachts), support RIB boat, safety equipment, including life jackets, VHF radio's, First Aid kits, fire extinguishers, etc.
- Hosting DSC Programs, which include accredited national & specific tailored keelboat programs, including Discover Sailing Experiences, OutThere Sailing Courses for Youth, Start Crewing, Start Helming, Start Skippering & SheSails Programs.
- Developing a Youth Sailing pathway into keelboats, which include some of the above programs, Secondary School holiday keelboat experiences with development courses & eventually Combined High School keelboat racing.
- Implementing an Asset ongoing & preventative Maintenance Program to ensure the DSC assets & resources are maintained & are in good working order at all times.
- Develop & implement LMYC's Traineeship Program, which will provide quality trained & accredited personnel for LMYC DSC, Development & Race Management excellence programs.

The LMYC Discover Sailing Centre Foundation has a principal objective of enlisting the financial support from Members of the Club. By making a tax deductible donation to the LMYC Discover Sailing Centre Foundation, you will ensure not only the future success of our DSC, but you will also cement our culture of community & inclusion by making the great sport of sailing accessible to all!



***LMYC's Sailing Manager Simon Turpin will be hosting an information night about LMYC's DSC & the Foundation on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 in the Waterfront Marquee from 5:30pm. All are welcome to attend.***

**Donate: <https://asf.org.au/projects/lake-macquarie-yacht-club/lmyc-discover-sailing-centre-foundation>**

## VALE

# RAYMOND BEDE KIELY

29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1928 – 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2025

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Past Commodore & Life Member of Lake Macquarie Yacht Club – Ray Kiely.

Ray was one of Nature's gentlemen, a loving family man, gifted writer & man of sharp intellect. He was also an avid pool player, & he appreciated a drop of good red wine.

For many years Ray was a committed Rotarian who selflessly served his community. He believed in making the world better through small, consistent acts of kindness and dedication – he lived a life of purpose.

A man of faith, Ray lived his values authentically; he did not just speak them. He embodied humility, compassion and strength, all in equal measure.

No one knew more about the history of Lake Macquarie Yacht Club than Ray. His knowledge was encyclopedic & his recall inspirational. He wrote numerous articles for the Cruising Division Cruiseletter, as well as the LMYC Forecast. Many were tales of his impressive sailing adventures. The LMYC History Committee is indebted to Ray for his astute guidance & valuable contributions.

Ray had a rich sailing background. He sailed a VS called *Rendezvous* in 1949 & was a regular competitor in the annual point score at LMYC for many years. LMYC Member Terry Carruthers recalls that his father raced against Ray in those early days.

'VIGIL', 'LEGEND', 'INTERCEPT', 'ACCOLADE' & 'CAVATINA' were some of the yachts that Ray owned & skippered during his competitive sailing years.

Ray competed in multiple Sydney to Hobart yacht races in the 1980's & 1990's on 'LEGEND'. He also competed in the Gosford to Lord Howe Island yacht race many times (again on 'LEGEND'). Ray & his crew were the overall winners in 1979 & 1981. Quite a feat!

When sailing became too difficult for Ray, he purchased a power boat/cruiser called 'WARIALDA' & had many enjoyable cruises with the LMYC Cruising Division. The hospitality of Ray & his great mate Bob Pascoe is legendary & remarked upon to this day.

Until his death, Ray was the longest continuous member of Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. He was always interested in Club activities & only quite recently enquired about the then up-coming Board elections.

Ray was a wonderful example of 'A Life Well Lived' & he will be sorely missed by many.

The Board, members & staff of LMYC send their sincere condolences to Ray's family.

***"...So I leave my boats behind, leave them on familiar shores  
Set my heart upon the deep, follow you again my Lord"***

SUBMISSION BY ELEANOR CUNNINGHAM

## FROM THE CRUISING DIVISION

Ray (with Bob Pascoe) was very active in the CD over many years. They were enthusiastic participants in the CD events, especially the Pittwater Cruises & the Ivan Irwin Cruises. We have many wonderful memories of Ray's kindness & generosity during these events. Always happy to host & entertain, & share a glass of red. Ray was a gentleman in the true sense of the description.

We have particularly fond memories of the Ivan Irwin Cruise to Sydney via Pittwater in 2011. A group of 6 boats, 13 people (including Ray) & a wealth of fun & good social gatherings. 'WARIALDA' often became the tour boat & social hub during that trip.

Ray & Bob are both fondly remembered.

SUBMISSION BY CHRIS & NIKKI CAHILL



## VALE (CONT)

# MEMORIES OF RAY KIELY OVER 50 YEARS

I first got to know Ray in the mid 1970's & sailed with him 1979 when he asked me to be navigator on his LMYC currawong 30 - 'LEGEND' (M20) for the Gosford to Lord Howe Island race.

The 416nm race was rainy & quite rough for most of the time & we could only go on dead reckoning & RDF for bearings to the island. Even so, Ray won that race on handicap after a close-fought finish with another half tonner - the 2 smallest yachts in the race.

After the rough weather of the '79 Lord Howe race, Ray & the crew all said they would never do a Hobart in such a small yacht but Ray did just that, the very next year.

In 1981, on his second race to Lord Howe Island on his yacht 'LEGEND', Ray won again. A model of 'LEGEND' & a commemoration plaque for this double achievement can still be seen on the walls of the Club.

I became further involved with Ray over many years through our mutual interest in handicapping. When Ray was a handicapper in 1981, he started an historical year-on-year record of the handicaps & divisions & how they were determined in what became known as "the green book". These records were maintained for the next 40 years. I personally found his records an invaluable source of information for history on different yachts sailing at LMYC & other Clubs on the Lake.

In his role as Rear Commodore, Ray was instrumental in introducing, for the first time, a computerised program to process the race results in the 88-89 season. This heralded LMYC's transition away from the often time-consuming, manual processing of race day results & new handicaps.

I was appointed the handicapper in 1989. With Ray as Commodore & Paul Hannan as Rear Commodore, I received strong support to further improve on that initial program, in conjunction with Terry Dow, through the development of a new program that was customised specifically for LMYC. This program, called "Skipper", was developed to meet the Club's variety of racing across small & large divisions & was implemented for the first time in the 1990-91 season. It was used for the next 12 years before moving to the TopYacht program. TopYacht maintained the parameters & systems of "Skipper" but had the added functionality of being able to publish results to the web on the day of the race, as well as containing race management records.

Ray maintained a strong interest in handicapping over the years. We often had long discussions about the handicapping for LMYC & I'll miss that.

SUBMISSION BY JOHN MORGAN



PHOTO: LMYC Commodore Geoff Edman (left) with Ray Kiely (centre) and Albert Mitchell (right), at LMYC's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Sep 2019



PHOTO: Albert Mitchell (left) & Ray Kiely (right) cutting the ceremonial ribbon at LMYC's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Sep 2019

# Lake Macquarie Yacht Club's Wedding Open Day

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August  
11am - 2pm  
Waterfront Marquee

Canapes by Crusoe's on the Lake  
Sparkling on Arrival  
*While Stocks Last*

Featuring loved local wedding  
vendors!

PLUS - Book your  
Wedding on the day &  
receive **FREE Room Hire\***

\*Terms & Conditions Apply

**FREE ENTRY**



Lake Macquarie Yacht Club  
Ada Street, Belmont



Photo by Shani Wegner Photography



Come & see why LMYC  
is the Hunter Valley  
& Newcastle Best  
Waterfront Wedding Venue  
three years in a row!





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# Marathon & Sprint Regatta

**8-9th NOVEMBER 2025**  
**10AM START**

**24 NAUTICAL MILE CIRCUMNAVIGATION  
MARATHON PASSAGE RACE & SPRINT REGATTA  
AROUND THE PRISTINE WATERS OF PORT STEPHENS**

**3 divisions: trailer-sailers and keel boats up to 27 feet;  
sports boats; open division for all other boats  
including keel boats and multihulls.**

**\$30 per day/event**

**DAY 1:  
MARATHON**



**DAY 2:  
SPRINT**

**SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER**

**& find Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions**  
or call Rick Pacey on 0417 544 230 or email [commodore@psyc.com.au](mailto:commodore@psyc.com.au)



**Start from Soldiers Point.**

Presentation events will be held at PSYC  
on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.  
Great range of mooring, berthing, boat  
ramp and storage options available!

**[www.psy.com.au](http://www.psy.com.au)**



# WHAT'S ON @ LMYC

LAKE MACQUARIE  
YACHT CLUB

JULY COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

## FROSTY FRUIT

BACARDI | COINTREAU | PASSIONFRUIT | LIME



# \$16

## LIVE @ LMYC

**JULY 2025** Sundays 12:30pm - 4:00pm

SUN 6TH	SUN 13TH	SUN 20TH	SUN 27TH
 <b>ROMNEY WATTS</b>	 <b>SAM RUSSELL</b>	 <b>BERNIE</b>	 <b>BRENDAN WATSON</b>

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 - 2025 SAILING SEASON SPONSORS

