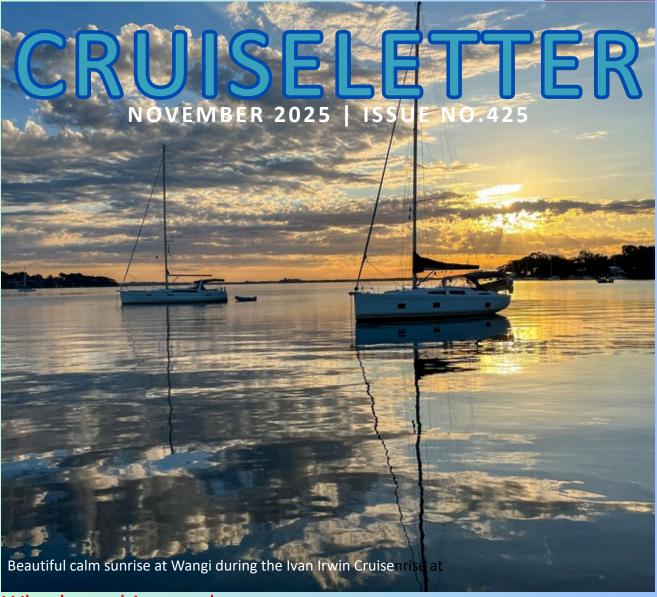


CRUISING DIVISION





What's on this month

Sydney, Port Hacking Cruise: 2nd November. Details p 14.

Lake Cruise 21-23rd November 2025 - Note change of date. Details p 14.

General Meeting: 17th November 2025; Pavilion - (Note change of date).

Guest Speaker: Boating Safety Officer, Marine Rescue.

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SKIPPER'S REPORT

Greetings CD Members,

October has been a rather interesting month for the yachties living around Lake Macquarie. The weather has been amazingly variable with quite a few days of gale force winds mixed with some delightfully spring-like calms. These strong winds have either sunk or beached a large number of moored vessels and many have yet to be refloated or removed. The prudent owner will make the effort to regularly check their mooring tackle and make sure that sails are secured. It can be very expensive if you don't!



TONY AUSTIN

Despite the weather we had an excellent Ivan Irwin Cruise under the skilled directorship of Phil Cunningham (ably assisted by Eleanor). Phil's 'Eat the Lake Cruise' was quite a deviation from the traditional plan and proved to be a real success, albeit our waist lines did take a beating. The group got a chance to visit quite a few new anchorages and eateries and I am sure we will be back to many of them (see detailed report p. 4).

The guest speaker at the October general meeting was Greg Hodge who presented a fascinating, and thought provoking, presentation on the Australian Shipping Industry. It is not a 'good news' story at many levels and highlighted the Australian vulnerability to anything that disrupted the foreign-flagged fleets that move vital cargoes into and out of Australia (see report p. 9).

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the CD and we plan to celebrate this milestone in a suitable manner. The highlight will be the Christmas Dinner which will showcase a wide range of CD history and memorabilia. We would love to use this opportunity to get together with old CD members who no longer have boats but helped to make the CD what it is today. We ask that you reach out to these people and invite them to come and join us. We will also showcase our new CD commemorative polo shirts and a new CD flag.

Finally, don't forget that we have a Maritime Boating Safety Officer (Nick) as our guest speaker at the November general meeting. This should be a great session so come along with your questions.

We wish you safe and enjoyable sailing,

Tony



Christmas is fast approaching, and we look forward to celebrating both Christmas and the 40th Anniversary of the Cruising division in a combined celebration on Monday the 8th December in the Bayview Room at LMYC. We are using the same format that has been used over the last two years, that is platters of finger food (vegetarian platters included) which allows people to mingle and this year view the historical display that is being prepared for the anniversary. Two drink tickets per guest will be included for use at the bar. Cost is \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members.

Past members of the CD are welcome to come and join in the celebrations, so if you know of any please pass this information on to them.

Please email Ralph and Angela on ralphasquith60@gmail.com if you plan on attending and for any questions or dietary requirements. Payments can be made to the CD account:BSB: 112879 Account No: 482585899 Ref: Your Name and Xmas party. As part of the 40th Anniversary we have CD sailing shirts available to purchase on the night. Cost of these shirts is \$30 each, or two for \$50, (modelled below) If you would like to purchase beforehand please send an EFT to the above CD account with ref being your Name and Shirt.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards Ralph and Angela







Ivan Irwin Lake Cruise: 5thOct - 12thOct, 2025

This year's cruise was organised and coordinated by Phil and Eleanor Cunningham who dubbed it the "Eat the Lake" Cruise, as most evening meals were enjoyed in restaurants at various locations around the lake. The program was outlined in last month's Cruiseletter, and was essentially followed as planned, even though the weather was sometimes challenging.

The week kicked off with boats gathering at Rathmines for a meal at the Catalina Bowling club. The initial fleet included 15 boats: 2Dream, Beyond Cool, Breathe, Double Fun, Elara, Equinox, Give and Take, Isla Breeze, Midlife, Migaloo, Moondance, Saaremaa, Sereia, Wind Chill and Yorkshire Relish. Stoked joined in the following day, and some boats dropped out as the week progressed. Other members often joined in by road for some meals during the week. On the first night at the Catalina Club, 38 members attended, and we were pleased to see past members, John and Raewyn, who were visiting the area.

Weather conditions were unpredictable and variable during the week which made planning and decisions by individual skippers a bit testing. The second day saw very strong westerly winds during the afternoon which deterred some boats from joining the fleet at Kooroora Bay. However, a good sized group braved the conditions, and took to their dinghies to explore the creeks around Fennell Bay, and then were grateful for the offer from John and Marion (Moondance) to have the on-shore barbecue at their house on the foreshore of the Bay.



Phil and Eleanor - Cruise Organisers



Our first night at the Catalina Club with 38 attending (above) and the at John and Marion's the following night (below).





Dinghying up into Fennell Bay

On day 3 (Tuesday) the fleet headed south, all the way down to the bottom of Bonnell's Bay. Unfortunately, light winds were not conducive to hoisting the sails so most boats motored down. Some members took the opportunity to have a bit of exercise, and everyone then went ashore around 5 pm to catch the local bus to the Bay Hotel in Bonnells Bay shopping centre.



Fred SUP boarding at Bonnells Bay.

Attendance was again made up of boat crews and drivers, so we managed to fill a very long table at the hotel for a great evening meal, before most walked back downhill to the lake to return to the boats.

On day 4 (Wednesday) the breeze came up to around 5-8 kt from the E/SE and many skippers took the opportunity to sail back up the lake to Cockle Bay, with 12 boats anchoring near the Speers Point Sailing Club.







Enjoying a meal at the Bay Hotel.



Late afternoon and crews jumped in their dinghies for a motor up Cockle Creek to the surprisingly nice Teralba Bowling Club and Mr Zhou's Kitchen, for dinner. Few members had visited this venue before and found it to be very nicely situated alongside the creek with direct access by water to the club's verandah (picture opposite). About 25 members attended to enjoy the excellent Chinese food.

Day 5 (Thursday) was planned for a return to Bonnells Bay near the entrance to Dora Creek for a dinghy ride to the village for a meal at the Workers Club. However, strong westerly winds over 30 kt caused concerns and the fleet was reduced to 7 boats anchoring on the western side of Myuna Bay. Some boats anchored off Wangi for coffee before continuing on to their anchorage. However, due to the threat of rain and more winds, only three crews decided to make the trip to Dora Creek (Equinox, Wind Chill and prospective new members from Midlife -Joanne and Mick Jones). Other crews stayed on-board or shared a curry with another boat.





Great sunset picture at Speers Point.

Day 6, Friday. Boats retraced their course in quite strong NW winds to 20 kts back north to anchor on the western end of Wangi Bay near the Wangi Workers Club and Marina. This again proved to be a great protected anchorage and dinner venue. Boats at this stage included Double Fun, Migaloo, Beyond Cool, Moondance, Breathe, Yorkshire Relish, 2Dream, Stoked and Equinox. Saaremaa had to return to their mooring due to mechanical issues. We were also joined by Chris and Nikki, courtesy of Beyond Cool, and 24 members attended dinner at the Club, again a very good venue. Surprisingly, few of our cruises have visited this location before.



Happy diners and beautiful anchorage.



Day 6, Saturday, our final day. Due to the number of members having to depart early, the program was changed to have a meal ashore, and with the very generous offer of Russell and Kate, we held this at their beautiful house on the nearby Wangi foreshore. Remaining boats included Give and Take, Migaloo, Beyond Cool (with Chris and Nicki), Breathe, and Moondance.

Given the uncertain wind predictions, boats headed back to their mooring early on Sunday morning. The picture (right) was taken about 6:30 am as we headed off back home. It was a very enjoyable week, with many thanks and appreciation to Phil and Eleanor for their planning and leadership. While the weather was challenging at times, and made booking and planning difficult, it all worked out extremely well. Thanks again to the crew of

Equinox!! Ed.







Coffee ashore at Wangi.

Lake Matters

The next LMCC Aquatic Services Committee meeting is scheduled for 20 November. Maritime have been kept very busy managing the large number of moored vessels that have either sunk in place or been blown ashore during our recent series of storms. They are also starting to tag derelict vessels that really should be removed from the lake (see below). Hopefully this will create more vacancies for the boat owners who want to bring the vessels onto the lake.

The work on the replacement of the Belmont Jetty seems to have come to a halt and I have not yet heard why this is so. Hopefully it will start again soon, as it is an important resource for boaters wanting to access the Belmont shopping centres and the public sewage pump out.

The channel appears to be relatively stable lately and most vessels are able to safely navigate from the bridge to the Dropover. I understand that there may be another limited dredging program before the new 'permanent' dredge starts work, but have no details at this stage.

Regards, Tony

The photo of a "Notice of Disposal" was taken on the small yacht (pictured) near "Migaloo" in Croudace Bay recently. On the right is a photo just taken at Croudace Bay of an old wooden trawler which sank on its mooring. It was recently observed to have a lot of rotten timbers topsides, so not surprising that it sank! (Ed).







Marine Rescue Exercise with RAAF

MRLM held a rescue exercise with the RAAF rescue helicopter on Lake Macquarie on Monday 27th. A couple of great videos have been posted on the MRLM Facebook page. Ross Shirtley provided the photos below.





Safety Snippet

This Safety Brief has been prompted by the tragic death of a Sydney yachtsman, whose body was found on his boat alongside at Cremorne Point at the end of September.

The 61 year old, who was in relatively good health, died alone on his boat and was only discovered after he failed to return home as planned. Although the Coroner is investigating, preliminary findings suggest he died of carbon monoxide poisoning believed to be due to fumes from a generator onboard.

We all spend time on our boats, often alone, doing maintenance and DIY projects. There are many risks and the potential for serious injury or even death is always there. These risks include, but are not limited to:

Toxic Fumes - (Carbon monoxide, solvents from glues and paints, cleaning agents). Boats are full of tight enclosed spaces which are poorly ventilated. The tale of a man, who, anxious not to get lint on his varnished brightwork, decided to varnish in the nude with all the hatches and ports shut. He was overcome by fumes and fortunately found unconscious but alive. He was lucky only to be embarrassed and not dead.

Drowning - Folk still get complacent and either fail to wear a lifejacket or remove it before boarding the boat. Falling off a boat or out of a dinghy whilst alone has resulted in a number of deaths around the Lake, one less than a year ago in Croudace Bay. Whilst trying to recover his yacht that had run aground, the 60yr old became separated from his "tinny" and drowned.

Falls - Trips and falls are an ever present risk onboard. Major injuries can result and if you are alone, getting help and arranging rescue can be very challenging. Many CD members have relayed stories of falls onboard resulting in anything from cuts and bruises, to fractured ribs and head injury.

Entrapment - There are many tight spaces onboard boats and often the system/ part you wish to work on is in the most inconvenient or inaccessible place. Personal experience of nearly becoming wedged head down in the engine compartment of a small yacht in a deserted boat yard late in the afternoon has resulted in much caution on my part. A number of friends have had near miss experiences in lockers and bilge spaces too.

Medical Emergencies - As we age the chances of a cardiac or neurological event, such as a heart attack or stroke increases. These are a challenge when with others, but with potential for a good outcome. The chance of disaster is much greater if you are alone on your boat.

TIPS -

- 1. Plan what you are going to do and make a risk assessment of what could go wrong?
- 2. Maybe ask someone to help you and don't undertake tasks when pressed for time or when you are tired.
- 3. Let someone know that you have gone to the boat and when you will be back or will be in touch.
- 4. Think about communications mobile phone, etc. Consider a smart watch that you can initiate a call from and has fall detection and auto emergency call features.
- 5. Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide monitor onboard.

Chris Cahill CD Safety Officer

Presentation at General Meeting A Quick Snapshot of Shipping in Australia Greg Hodge

Greg (pictured) has had many industry roles in shipping related businesses, and is currently Chair, Lloyd's Register Industry Advisory Committee. He is also a Community Representative on the LMCC Aquatic Services Committee, and a boat owner. This is a summary of his talk. A more detailed version of his talk has been posted on the CD Facebook Page.

Australia is heavily dependent on shipping, with more than 98% of Australia's imports and exports by volume moved by sea.

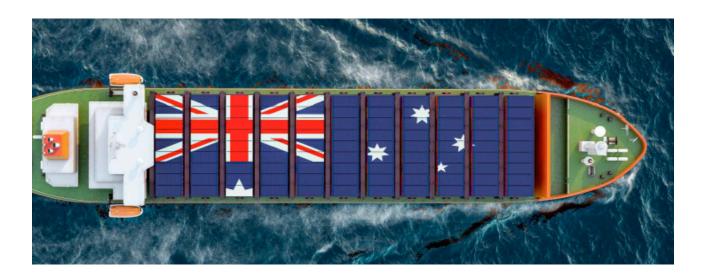
However, the number of Australian flagged ships has declined sharply over the last 30 years, and only about 15 large commercial ships remain on the Australian register. As a consequence, Australia has limited sovereign control over commercial shipping.

Vessels longer than 24 metres and over 500 tonnes are recognised as being defined as a ship. In the early 1980's Australia had around 100 major trading ships owned by a number of operators, and employing more than 10,000 Australian seafarers. We also had many commercial shipyards including Sydney, Newcastle and Whyalla, but there is now no large-scale commercial ship building undertaken in Australia. During the 1990's both Government policy and high labour costs caused a significant reduction in these operations.

One example of the impact of this downturn is that the last Australian fuel tankers were withdrawn in 2016, so that the fuel security in this country is severely exposed. Australia imports 90% of its liquid fuels, all transported on foreign-flagged ships. Almost all of Australia's exports by volume move by sea, entirely via foreign tonnage.

Risks to Australia are broadly categorised as supply chain disruption, fuel vulnerability, loss of maritime skills, geopolitical risks and environmental and regulatory compliance risks.

There is however, an opportunity to re-establish a Strategic Fleet and to undergo energy transition with a renewed maritime policy, which would offer a pathway to rebuild capability, resilience and national control. It's time to "carefully" reinvest, re-crew and reclaim Australia's place as a maritime nation.



Member Matters







The CD has long recognised the importance of, and service provided to our members, by Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie. While most of our members individually provide support through the MR Radio Club, the CD also makes a financial donation each year. Here our Skipper, Tony, is presenting a cheque for \$500 to Ross Shirtley in his role as representative of Marine Rescue.

Congratulations to Chris and Nikki Cahill who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with friends at the LMYC Pavilion. They are shown here cutting their beautifully decorated cake. Chris and Nikki are long-time members of the Cruising Division and their services to the Club were recognised with the award of Life Membership. It is with some sadness for our membership, however, that they have decided to return to England to be closer to family, and will leave us sometime in the New Year. Their party gave their sailing friends the opportunity to also thank them for their friendship and contributions, and wish them both all the very best for their future. They will continue to be involved in our Club until they leave.

Our very best wishes are extended to Anne Shirtley who recently suffered severe injuries to her leg, and underwent major surgery. We wish her a rapid and full recovery. The Club presented Anne with a bouquet of flowers, which she was grateful to receive. She is shown here making a recent presentation with Ross to the CD on their involvement in the local branch of Marine Rescue (MRLM), in which Anne is a very active and skilled radio operator, while Ross crews on the rescue boats.



Welcome Aboard

A very big welcome to our newest members **Tony and Alison Steel** of Valentine, who are lucky enough to own a beautiful Hunter 36 "**Bula II**" (Sail No. M87). Great to have another Hunter in the Club, not that I am biased or anything! (Ed). Hopefully we will have photos for our next edition.

A Bit of Nostalgia

History of the Cruising Division

The 40th Anniversary of The Cruising Division will be celebrated in conjunction with the Christmas Party in December. Mike Collins was a long time member of the Cruising Division and he wrote a summary of the history of the Division, outlining its activities since its inception in 1985 until 2009-2010. The page below is Mike's outline of formation of the Division in 1985.

HISTORY OF LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB CRUISING DIVISION

1985

In September 1985 a group of people interested in cruising on Lake Macquarie decided to form a cruising group unattached to any specific club. It's aims were to bring together cruising sailers of Lake Macquarie to promote sailing skills, seamanship, safety and to encourage non-competitive coastal and offshore sailing.

As interest grew it was seen the possibility of an individual group was not practical, therefore the group approached the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club and asked if it could be the host club for the Cruising Group. Members of the Cruising Group had to belong to a club that was affiliated with the NSW Yachting Association. It was thereafter known as the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club Cruising Division.

First Function

The first function of the LMYC Cruising Division was a BBQ on Friday 27th December 1985 at the LMYC. Immediately following the BBQ a get to know you cruise departed to Browns Bay.

First Meeting February 1986

There were 30 persons present. The Cruising Division would be an autonomous body separate from the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club a proposed sailing program was presented, a flag selected of a white 30cm square having a red 15cm square in the centre, the annual fees \$10 per boat, a newsletter to be distributed, and a monthly meeting would be held on the first Monday of each month. A social meeting would commence with a BYO BBQ at 6.00pm followed at 7.30pm with the formal meeting, which would include a guest speaker, films, seminars or other special features.

Evolution of the Cruiseletter.

Below is the front page of the first Cruiseletter for which we have a copy. It is dated June 1987, but doesn't have an Edition number. The first Cruiseletter printed with its Edition number is number 38, dated May 1989. If 11 Editions are published each year, this copy could be about the 12th Edition. Does anyone recognise any names?

A representative number of old Cruiseletters will be displayed at the Christmas Party showing the evolution of the Cruiseletter over the years. The original Cruiseletters were commercially printed in black and white and mailed out to members. They contained very few photos until suitable software and digital cameras were readily available from about 2002. Even then, photos were printed in black and white. The first edition of the Cruiseletter to be delivered via email was in May 2008, but some were still mailed out to members who did not have access to emails. E-mailing also enabled photos to be displayed in colour.

The main computer software used to compose the Cruiseletter from 2002 was a Microsoft program called "Publisher" which was used until the July edition this year, but is no longer supported by Microsoft. A new software package called "Canva" is now used, which also provides more options for setting out the Cruiseletter. LMYC has a subscription to this software and has generously made it available to the CD.

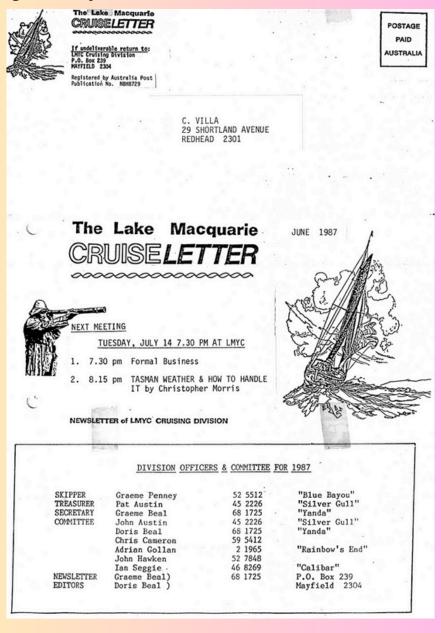


Photo Gallery

Recent General Meetings held in the Bridgedeck Room (left) and new Pavilion (right). Most meetings will continue to be held in the Bridgedeck Room, although our next (November) meeting will be in the Pavilion.





Some more pics from the Ivan Irwin Cruise













Dinghy Jockeys - Maureen and Fred, Libby and Ken, Angela and Ralph.







Some wildlife - ducks and sharks!

Cruise to Port Hacking/Botany Bay and Sydney Harbour, 2 - 12th November, 2025

Co-ordinators Ralph and Angela assisted by Richard Masson have planned the following for the cruise as follows (subject to weather conditions). This is a summary of their detailed plans.

<u>Sunday 2 November</u>: Transit Swansea Bridge 8:00 and sail to Quarantine Bay and Anchor for the night.

Monday 3 November: Sail to Port Hacking and anchor at Jibbon Bay Port Hacking at midday. Explore Cronulla in the afternoon. Tuesday 4 November: Motor from Jibbon Beach to Deer Park and pick up a mooring for deep keel yachts. Explore Upper Port Hacking and National Park onboard SV 2Dream.

<u>Wednesday 5 November</u>: Motor to Southwest arm of Port Hacking and pick up moorings/anchor near Cogerlys Pt. Relax and Explore the area.

<u>Thursday 6 November</u>: Motor back to Burraneer Bay and then anchor Jibbon Beach.

<u>Friday 7 November:</u> Sail to Botany Bay and moor near Pelican Point <u>Saturday 8 November:</u> Explore Georges River area. Motor to La Perouse Point and Anchor for the night.

<u>Sunday 9 November:</u> Sail to Middle Harbour Port Jackson via The Spit bridge. Explore Middle Harbour.

<u>Monday 10 November:</u> Motor/Sail to Blackwattle Bay (under the Anzac Bridge) and anchor. Explore the area including the fish markets.

<u>Tuesday 11 November:</u> Motor to Ryde Bridge exploring the port on the way.

Anchor at Quarantine Bay.

<u>Wednesday 12 November:</u> Sail/Motor to Swansea. <u>Thursday 13 November:</u> Spare day in case of delays.

The full, detailed program, with approximate times and tidal information, is available on Facebook or by email, from the coordinators, Ralph, Angela and Richard.

November Lake Cruise - 21-23rd November

The November Lake Cruise will be held in addition to the Sydney Cruise. (Note that it has been scheduled a week later than previously advertised due to the Sydney Cruise.)

The cruise will commence on Friday 21st Nov 16.00 hrs, with Happy Hour either on-shore or on host boats, location TBA but probably south of Pulbah.

- Saturday night either on board shared meal or restaurant.
- Finish Sunday 23rd p.m.

Details are to be advised on the CD Facebook page and at the Nov 17th General Meeting.

Event Co-ordinator: Mark Clement (Beyond Cool), 0400 716756 and Channel 72 for 9am VHF check in.

Pittwater Cruise 2026 - 18th Feb - 2nd March, 2026

Preliminary dates have been set for next year's Pittwater Cruise. In a departure from previous PW Cruises, it has been decided to start the cruise on Wednesday 18th February and run until Monday 2nd March. This change from a weekend start to a midweek start is based on the best tidal conditions for exiting and entering the channel.

www.lmyc.com.au

Contact Details

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Marion Cotterill	0409 982 535	5
Angela Asquith	0408 479 228	3
Mark Clements	0400 716 756	ŝ



"Yorkshire Relish" anchored in Wangi Bay.

GENERAL MEETINGS - Bridgedeck Room

The General Meetings 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. Our meetings are a great way to find out what's happening and to get to know fellow CD members.

For your Calendar

November: - Sydney Cruise, Start 2nd Nov.

- General Meeting, 17th Nov. (Note change of date). Guest Speaker: Boating Safety Officer, Marine Rescue.

- Lake Outing: 21-23th Nov. (Note change of date).

December: - Christmas Party and 40th Anniversary 8th Dec.

- New Year's Eve Cruise - Wangi Fireworks - 31st Dec.

January: - Australia Day Cruise 26th Jan, 2026. Location TBA.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks this month to: Phil Cunningham for cordinating the Ivan Irwin Cruise.

CRUISING DIVISION EDITOR

Any articles for the Cruiseletter can be sent to the Cruiseletter Editor, Ken Archer, preferably in MS Word format at archerken90@gmail.com (M: 0428 785 459) by 25th of each month.

Please address all letters for the Cruising Division to:

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