
FORECAST

Monthly Newsletter from Lake Macquarie Yacht Club

THE TEAM AT LMYC
WISHES YOU ALL A



SEE YOU IN 2026! ★

REAR COMMODORE REPORT - DECEMBER 2025



WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING A LIFE JACKET?

I must apologise for the men of 'UP SHIP CREEK' for my sign off at the end of last month's report looking as though I was accusing them of not wearing life jackets. An unfortunate misplacing of the words '**WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING A LIFE JACKET?**' made it look this way. Sorry to Mark and Chris.

FURTHER SAFETY ISSUES



Last month I pointed out how Farr 31s are particularly vulnerable to getting a sheet wrapped around the propellor. It seems my warning should have been heeded by the crew of a certain Farr 30. Thanks to our for'ed hand Mr PAG and our new crew Benny, it was fixed up with good speed. Many of the division 1 boats would have also noticed a couple of sharks (Hammerheads) in the vicinity of the start for the Div 1 Windward/Leeward races at Toronto this time. We noticed them after the errant sheet was freed from our prop. Some people reported White Pointers in the vicinity of Cardiff Point too.

ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE - SANTANA



Michael Graham is in the news again (as far as my report goes). Michael's boat 'SANTANA' M236, has just crossed the finish line in Hobart after banging and bashing their way down to Hobart with his bruised and battered comrades, minus one. Scott Ferguson is about to leave Bega hospital as I write this. Scott (LMYC Sailing Committee Member and Race Officer) was injured at 72 nautical miles east north east of Bermagui. After a call to deck, Scott was sitting up doing his life jacket zipper and thus his hands were busy and not able to grab anything and he was thrown across the cabin. Scott suffered concussion, broken ribs, soft tissue damage and there was concern about vertebrae damage. Fiancée Kim told me that he has a bulging disc and the vertebrae is ok.

'SANTANA' sailed to Bermagui, where they transferred Scott to Marine Rescue off Bermagui. After 3 hours 'SANTANA' improved with a northerly wind that enabled 'SANTANA' to run south until about 10:00 hours.

Then another high-pressure system came through. 'SANTANA' was between Schouten and Maria Islands when the wind dropped off and then came from the south. Back on the nose at 25 knots and to top that off, they had the current against them too. A beautiful way to spend 16 or so hours till they rounded Tasman Island! I wonder if Scott was the lucky one. It's all over now with the only bragging and celebrating to go (and the trip home). They're better men and women than I am.

Crew: Michael Graham (8) (owner/ skipper), Michael McDonald (6) of Stampede (navigator), Todd Cherry (1), Brett Date (1), Scott Ferguson (injured), David Hill (7), Kathi Johnson (1), Dwayne Minch (1), Jesse Morrow (2), Chris Scanlon (2), Jeffrey Shute (8), Peter (Ginge) Watkins (2).

'SANTANA' in Hobart - Photo thanks to Simon Frendo ('Willpower')

SYDNEY TO HOBART RACE - MILLENIUM FALCON

Robert Griffiths previously owned and raced the Etchells 22, 'GO WITH THE FLOW' back in halcyon days of Etchells 22s at LMYC & now owns Sparkman and Stephens 39, 'MILLENIUM FALCON' which sports Doug Reed's ('LOVE UNLIMITED' - Northshore 340) old sail number M888 (lucky number). 'MILLENIUM FALCON' has the dubious honour of bringing up the rear this year, maybe not so lucky, but they finished the race.

SYDNEY TO HOBART RACE - RALPH CARLIER

Ralph Carlier sailed on various boats owned by the late Doug Coulter (past LMYC Commodore and Life Member). Ralph, a member of LMYC since 1980 has just completed his 40th Hobart race on 'ANTIPODES' a Santa Cruz 72 competing under the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club banner.

Ralph's brother Graham donated the much-cherished LMYC 'Gun Trophy'.

WINDWARD/LEEWARD - TORONTO

After the December 13 Combined Windward/Leewards, the Division 1 guys were very impressed at the attention to detail by the RMYC-Toronto race officers. Between races they had to reset the marks as the wind had swung the North East. Not an easy job on that side of the Lake due to Bolton Point getting in the way. The LMYC Sailing Committee wishes to thank the RMYC-Toronto race officers for great racing.

WIND WARRIORS AND DRAGON FORCE 65S



Wind Warriors and DF65s are remote-controlled yachts. Wind Warriors race most Thursday afternoons during daylight saving from 5pm till 6:30 and Saturday afternoon through winter from 1:30pm. The racing is on the northern side of the LMYC Club house.

The DF65s use this area too.

Mark Long heads up the DF65s. They start with coffee at 9:30 then race 10:00 to 12:00 with beers and lunch afterwards. Some weeks it could be Thursday depending on the weather. Mark communicates via a WhatsApp group.

Contact Mark Long if you're interested - 0438 692 627.

DF65

Grunta - designer and manufacturer
of Wind Warriors
AKA Grant McKinnon



2026 DF NATIONALS - GRAHAMSTOWN DAM

Mark Long - 0438 692 627 - has just informed me of the nationals event he is running from 21st to 28th March 2026 on Grahamstown Dam.

The event will feature two classes of remote-controlled yachts:

Dragon Force 65 currently 21 entries

Dragon Flite 95 currently 24 entries

<https://www.2026dfnationals.com>

WIND WARRIORS "WORLD" TITLES - NEW ZEALAND

Really, it's the Wind Warrior Interdominion Challenge but some people call it the "Worlds".

It was held this year on the 28th, 29th and 30th of November at the Russell Boating Club, Bay of Islands, New Zealand. I was lucky enough to be appointed (by Dave Anstey, 2 IC LMYC WWS) as the "Shore Manager of the Australian Team" (as long as the Victorians didn't come). Most of the Australian (LMYC) Team are crew members of '2XCESS' (Farr 30 with above prop issues) or have been (Marshall sailed one Wednesday) except for LMYC's longest standing Immediate Past Commodore, William (Popeye) Chaseling. The team was led by the CO of Lake Macquarie Wind Warriors, Marshall Harper. The other members of the team are Adam (what's the "e" for) Cooke, Andrew (Ting) Poynting, Bradley (Oyster One) Quigginbottom and co-owner of '2XCESS' David (Blazer) Anstey.

Wind Warrior Interdominion Challenge - Teams Racing:

1st Lake Macquarie - 162 pts, 2nd Clarks Beach - 225 pts, 3rd Russell Boating - 307 pts

Clarks Beach on the South Western side of Manukau Harbour and Auckland Airport on the Eastern side.

Wind Warrior Interdominion Challenge - Fleet Racing, 25 races with 5 drops:

1st Brad Quiggin - 42 pts, 2nd Dave Anstey - 68 pts, 3rd Adam Cooke - 71 pts

Wind Warrior Interdominion Challenge - Match Racing, top 8 of the fleet racing paired off for a first to two set of knock out races:

1st Dave ("you're only as good as your last race") Anstey, 2nd Bradley Quiggin,

3rd Colin Cashmore (Russell Boating Club).

Australia versus New Zealand Challenge Trophy: top 5 from each country over the 25 fleet races

New Zealand - 525

Australia - 543

The Principal Race Officer and Judge, Paul (PRO) Davies did an outstanding job sorting these blokes out and at times they needed it. How many turns did he make you do Dave? I lost count.

Paul Ayers from Clark Beach organised the event. The location was terrific, the camaraderie great and we had a ball - too much of a ball in fact. They are going to race in Victoria next, then somewhere like Fiji or Vanuatu and in 2028, here in Belmont for LMYC's centenary year celebrations.

RUSSELL BOATING CLUB - NEW ZEALAND



The Russell Boating Club is a great old fashioned-type club, sitting on piles out over the water. What sort of club would do that? The Russell Boating Club is dripping with personality. To access it you can drive along the beach but if the tide is up, they unlock the chain and you drive along a very narrow causeway or walk. We parked under the tree (good job Phil) only to discover it was a Mulberry Tree and the white Mitsubishi Outlander was patchy pink. The rain fixed it, after all it is New Zealand.

Russel Boating Club website <https://russellboatingclub.org.nz>



Popeye Chaseling & Marshall Harper in the Russell Boating Club auditorium.



The competitors - except ones with tails.



Concentration plus - Adam Cooke



Men at work

VHF TRANSCEIVER - CAT 7



As of November 1st 2025, boats in CAT 7 races are required to have a VHF transceiver either a waterproof hand-held or a fixed transceiver. Special Regulation 3.25.1(b)(iii) MARINE RADIO.

Australian Sailing did an investigation into the Sydney Harbour Twilight Fatality. This Identified the need for good communication. Mobile phones don't provide the broadcast feature that a VHF does. Broadcasting alerts all boats in the vicinity. LMYC Sailing Instructions have required competing boats to have a VHF transceiver tuned to either channel 71 for LMYC races and when racing at Toronto, channel 73. Whilst reading Major Incident Reports on the Australian Sailing website, it becomes obvious that poor communication has hindered rescue efforts in many cases.

There are 3 other amendments that became effective on the 1st of November but this is the only one for CAT 7 (see following link) <https://www.sailingresources.org.au/safety/sr-amendments/>
The updated version of the Special Regulations can be downloaded from this link <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/94lsnbqhcpblfdoa.pdf>

PALM BEACH XI

With only 2 weeks to the Rolex Sydney Hobart, Palm Beach XI hit the water after a major redesign. At least the graphic they produced looked pretty cool.



Maybe we have to start the Friday Twilight Race earlier. It must be past Dale's bedtime!

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**LAKE MACQUARIE
SHESAILS
REGATTA 2026**

January 18th (LMYC), February 1st (WASC)
& March 1st (RMYCT)



FULL REGATTA & CASUAL RACE ENTRY OPTIONS

NoR & SI's on the link below
<https://www.lmyc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SheSAILS-Regatta-NOR-2026-V1-300724.pdf>



EARLY BIRD ENTRIES CLOSE 5TH JANUARY 2026

[SheSAILS-Regatta-NOR-2026-V1-131025-1.pdf](#)

Online Race Entry.

WHAT'S ON @ LMYC

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB
JANUARY COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

Weis Bar

Malibu | Vodka | Mango | Lime | Cream



\$18

LIVE @ LMYC

JANUARY 2026

FRIDAYS 6:30-9:30PM | SUNDAYS 12:30-4PM

 FRI 2ND LOUIS BURT	 SUN 4TH JAVIER	 FRI 9TH BRETT O'MALLEY	 SUN 11TH DOLPH SECCOMBE
 FRI 16TH CHERELLE	 SUN 18TH KYLIE-JANE	 FRI 23RD VERONIKA LAWSON	 SUN 25TH BRYCE HUTCHINGS
		 FRI 30TH EMILY A SMITH	

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