

# FORECAST

Monthly Newsletter from Lake Macquarie Yacht Club



## COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

### JANUARY 2026

Well that's 2025 ticked off. Christmas/ New Year break is over and we are all back to our normal racing.

Our club was well patronised over the last months with trading quite strong with many the visitors to our area as well as visiting yachts cruising our wonderful lake.

Although racing may have been quiet at LMYC over the Christmas break there was plenty of action in Belmont Bay, see Rear Commodore's report for comprehensive racing details both on the lake and away championships.

One event that slipped by almost unnoticed. As a lead up to the Sydney to Hobart race, CYCA held the SydneyHobart Classic Yachts Regatta over the weekend of 14/15 December. LMYC members Russell Cummings and Craig Butters crewed on Russell's brother Peter's Adam 10 in the regatta.

To be eligible to compete the boat must have completed a SH race. Apart from Peter's Adams 10, the only other Adams 10 to ever compete in a SH race was from LMYC and was owned by Peter Rundle. This occurred back in the early 1980s. I can't imagine racing to Hobart on an Adams 10. I understand the rules have tightened to the point that they would no longer be eligible to compete. Russell, Craig and Peter showed the strength of LMYC sailors with a first and second places for an overall win.

Over the last several race days I have been on the race control vessel (RCV) Sirius. Firstly, I must commend our race officers for their professionalism in running our races.

While on the boat I have the job of recording the number of crew on board each yacht. Most skippers are good, however there are a few who, well let's say, could be better. The process becomes exceedingly difficult when lots of boats pass at the same time. It is even more difficult with a higher risk of getting it wrong when in the countdown to the start. It really is a two-person job.

Please assist by sailing, or motoring past the stern of the RCV leaving it to starboard and doing so before the five-minute warning as everyone is busy with clocks and flags from that point. I draw your attention to clause 2.4.7 in the sailing instructions.

**2.4.7** When the LMYC Race Committee Vessel (RCV) is used for a start, all boats shall sign on to the race by sailing past the stern of the RCV on starboard tack, and hailing the boat's Sail number and persons on-board (POB) a MINIMUM of five minutes before the warning signal.

### LMYC TREASURER

At the last Board meeting Steven Ford was asked to take over the office of club Treasurer following Ed Hillier's retirement from the position in December.

Steven is a qualified accountant and comes with vast experience as a director of many business boards as well as having been a director of LMYC for several years.

The Board will now review and consider the need to fill Steven's position as a director.

SEE YOU 'ROUND THE CLUB  
GEOFF EDMAN, COMMODORE  
Email: commodore@lmyc.com.au



### RACING RULES OF SAILING (RRS) - RULE OF THE MONTH

#### 34 MARK MISSING

If a mark is missing or out of position while boats are racing, the race committee shall, if possible,  
(a) move it to its correct position or replace it with a new one of similar appearance, or  
(b) replace it with an object displaying flag M  and make repetitive sounds.

## INSTITUTE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS RACE DAY IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR **THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026.**

Please email [racing@lmyc.com.au](mailto:racing@lmyc.com.au) if your Boat and short crew are available for this awesome day out on the water.



## REAR COMMODORE REPORT - JANUARY 2026



### WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING A LIFE JACKET?

As we were leaving Speer's Point Park after the Paul Kelly gig at 21:30, the fibre glass dinghy in front of us just went propellor up. They did have nice automatic inflatable life jackets, which was good to see. Would have been better if they had had them on! More importantly, they would have been a lot better off if that dinghy had never been made. Absolutely calm conditions and over it goes. What good is a dinghy that won't stay right side up in a mill pond?

### 67TH SKATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - CEDUNA SAILING CLUB, SA - 30/12/2025 TO 08/01/2026

The SKATE is unique to Australia. Designed in 1956 as a performance development class, they are 14 foot long with a 1.8m bow pole and a mast head assy. There are a variety of hiking methods, but from photos the planks appear to be the most popular. A 10-foot sliding plank for the crew and an 8-footer for the skipper. The skate has evolved over time going from timber to fibre glass, gaining the mast head assy, also the enormous hiking planks and now some sport winged rudders. This year's entrants travelled from St George SC, East Fremantle YC and Toronto Amateur SC and meeting halfway at Ceduna for their National Championships.

67th SKATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Ceduna, SA - 30 December 2025-08 January 2026																
National Championship																
Boat		Points							Series Plc	Drop Pts	Result		Crew & Club			
		H2	H1R	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7			Plc	Pts	Skipper	Crew	Club	
986	Last Tango	8	2	1	2	1	4	1	19	8	1	11	Gavin Caporn	Matt Couch	STGSC	
987	Mystery Road	1	1	7	1	3	2	3	18	7	2	11	Steve Hudson	Bodhi De Freitas	EFYC	
937	Gobstopper	3	3	3	6	2	1	2	20	6	3	14	Silvio Fico	Mick Minutillo	EFYC	
969	Natural Juices II	4	6	2	5	4	3	6	30	6	4	24	Ken Davies	Lachlan Schroder	TASC	
977	Take it Easy	2	5	6	3	6	6	4	32	6	5	26	Mick Winney	Emma Edwards	STGSC	
980	Double Decker Dog	7	9	4	4	5	7	5	41	9	6	32	Ray Simpson	Peter Howard	STGSC	
978	Megasourarse	5	4	5	7	7	5	8	41	8	7	33	Paul Shiner	Phillip Shiner	EFYC	
973	On the Road Again	6	7	8	8	8	8	7	52	8	8	44	Peter Fannon	Brett Andrews	EFYC	



969 'NATURAL JUICES II' Ken Davies (Wednesday crew '2XCESS', wearing yellow) and Lachlan Schroder.



PHOTO: A long way to the top if you want to stop the roll. Hiking plank in action on a Skate.



Skate Photos by Brad Bowman from [14ft Skate Website](http://14ftskate.com)

**2026 SKELCON 13ft and 16ft SKILL AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - BELMONT 16ft SC - 4-11JAN**

With a few more entries than the SKATES, (13ft skiffs - 33 and 16ft skiffs - 74) Belmont Bay was brought alive. LMYC had a scratch race programmed for the Wednesday which was of much concern for some. The LMYC Sailing Committee was well aware of this potential clash, but as usual, we have a Pulbah course to use when Belmont Bay is busy. Our Race Officers set our start line to the west of where the skiffs line was and away we went with no incidents. Good job Race Officers.

After the LMYC Wednesday race '2xcess' crew went over to watch the 16s' race 5 at the top mark. To our surprise lots of 16s were heading back to the shore. 15 were ultimately Black Flagged with 'Lawconnect' being one of them. The rest of the racing I watched in comfort via the tracker on my iPhone, even though it was delayed a few minutes. My iPhone 15 was getting very hot while running the tracker. I had it on a freezer brick to try to cool it. I wonder if this is normal?

I watched the YouTube coverage but found it really didn't help. The commentators weren't privilege to any special extra knowledge from the start boat and were often just guessing as to what was happening. This was a shame really as they were buzzing about amongst the racing fleet in a boat that couldn't keep up with 16s when under kite.

In the 13s Heidi Bates and Christian Spencer on 'Harken 13ft Skiff Team' of Manly SC quickly showed the way.

1	37	Harken 13ft Skiff Team	Heidi Bates	Christian Spencer	Man
2	48	Buck&Simple	Lachlan Jansen	Max Barrett	Man
3	43	Buckingham Marine	Ash Napper	Theo Franklin	Man
4	40	Skelcon	Hamish Skelton	Sophie Drummond	Bel



Heidi and Christian - photo by Michael Chittenden

As for the 16s, it was a nail biter right to the last race between 'Bosker Build' (StGSC) - Sarah Lee, Keagan York, Kurtis Warner and 'Shade to Order' (Belmont) - Tom Burton, Scott Beeby, Joel Skelton. Sadly for the locals, in the last race 'Shade to Order' had gear breakage - vang, I'm told - and retired leaving Sarah Lea with her second Australian Championship in 3 years (having previously won in 2023). Given my Eleanor's strong involvement with She Sails, Heidi and Sarah's wins were popular in our house. I think Keagan and Kurtis may have had a bit to do with it too - see photo by Michael Chittenden - not to forget Christian's efforts either.

1	Bosker Build	Sarah Lee	Keagan York	Kurtis Warner	StG	20.0
2	Shade to Order	Tom Burton	Scott Beeby	Joel Skelton	Bel	25.0
3	Buckingham Marine Services	Daniel Turner	Gus Williams	Matt Stenta	Man	40.0
4	IMEI /Barnabas Building	Joel Beashel	Trent Barnabas	Rob Napper	Man	41.0



© Michael Chittenden / 2026 Skelcon 16ft & 13ft Skiff Australian Championship

## 2026 HODGES SANDRINGHAM J24 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP - 6-10 JAN 2026

Writing this reminded me to get a hair-cut appointment with Natalie (Belmont Hair Doo).

Natalie Butterworth and Dale Sharp (like a knife, no "e") sail on the Middle Harbour J24 'Innamincka' owned by John Crawford. They didn't even ask for average points at LMYC as they were down and back in a flash. After all that effort they only got in 2 days of racing. Had a port and starboard in race 4 (first race of day 2), they were on starboard. They finished that race but unable to compete in the other 2 races that day. 'Innamincka' was repaired over-night and ready to sail next day, but the rest of the regatta was blown out. Port Phillip Bay turned ugly, as it does.

Photo courtesy of Dale Sharp



1	3379	AMUSE BOUCHE	Kurt Dammeier	CYCEATTLE	9.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	[8.0]
2	4427	HAYWIRE	Barney Walker	SYC	11.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	[10.0]	2.0	1.0
3	5086	CHECKMATE	Sean Kirkjian	CSC/RPEYC	14.0	1.0	4.0	3.0	5.0	1.0	[6.0]
4	4085	FOX	Keiji Kondo	HYC	25.0	5.0	2.0	6.0	3.0	9.0	[11.0]
5	4793	INNAMINCKA	John Crawford	MHYC	32.5	7.3G	7.3G	7.0	[11.0]	8.0	3.0

## FLYING 15 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF SA - 11-16<sup>TH</sup> JAN

Another of my favourites 'Up Ship Creek' is a well-known Flying 15 that competes at LMYC. For this regatta Chris Villa stayed home for the birth of their third grandchild - congratulations to the Villas. Mark teamed up with International Etchells World Champion, Peter McNeil as skipper. There were 21 entries coming from WA, SA, VIC, NSW and QLD. The winner, 'Best Foot Forward' Nick Jerwood with Enfys Jerwood from South of Perth YC scored 8 points in 10 races with 2 drops. Commonly called a "picket fence". He dropped a 22 and a 2. Nick Jerwood came 2nd in the 2023 Worlds in Fremantle, WA and 6th in the 2025 Worlds in Portland, UK. Seems he might be pretty good.

1	Best Foot Forward (AUS4105)	Nick Jerwood (S), Enfys Jerwood	SoPYC	<b>8</b>
2	Ineffable (AUS3986)	Mike Dunbar (S), Paul Dunbar	SoPYC	<b>16</b>
3	Epiphany (AUS3988)	Guy Bancroft (S), John Radnell	DBYC	<b>20</b>
4	Ark (AUS3941)	David Tabb (S), Dave Bennett	CSC	<b>37</b>
5	Where the Bloody Hell are You (AUS3880)	Craig Rainey (S), Ian Rainey	GLYC	<b>37</b>
6	Up Ship Creek (AUS4062)	Peter McNeill (S), Mark Holmes	LMYC	<b>48.5</b>

In one of my other reports, I was raving on about the hobbles they use instead of hiking straps. In the following photo of 'Up Ship Creek' the hobbles can clearly be seen.



4062 - 'UP SHIP CREEK'



Flying 15 photos from the Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia, Facebook.

## A DAY ON WANGI DISTRICT WORKERS CLUB WHARF

On Saturday 3rd of January, we planned to have dinner with Ed and Robyn Hillier ('Dreadnaught') at the Wangi District Workers Club. As a member of the Workers Club, it's \$10 per night to moor on the wharf with water and power - a bargain. The forecast for the day was 22 knots north east. This wind blows straight along Wangi Bay. We tied up to the new end of the wharf, stern in so 'Equinox' was pretty much directly bow into the wind and fetch. The actual wind got up to 30 knots but with plenty of fenders and 3 mooring lines tied to 3 new poles we were good. A round 11:00 a power boat came into the wharf to drop off his passenger with her dog. Initially crashing into the wharf, he managed to tie up and disembark the lady and the dog. He then headed out to pick up his mooring single handed. Eleanor and I had decided to go for walk and so watched his mooring skills. Operating his vessel from inside the cabin he had a long way to go to get to the foredeck.



He circled amongst the moorings and I was amazed that he didn't get a mooring line around his propellor. He eventually decided he was in a position to pick up his mooring line so rushed up on deck. He used his boat hook pick up the mooring line. Before they were attached a group of waves came and over the guard rail he went, into the drink. Thankfully he could swim but getting back onboard proved difficult. Being on a lee shore he didn't have much time. Eleanor was quickly on the phone to Marine Rescue but that really wasn't an option as things were happening too quickly. He managed to get back onboard but his boat had parked itself on a catamaran moored nearby. He got things under control when two guys in an inflatable arrived, I guess they had seen what was happening. One of them went onboard and helped him pick up his mooring. I sent an SMS to Rod Mackay a few days later as he has a For Sale sign on the Cat. The guy had already contacted Rod to get the owner's details which is good to hear.

Eleanor and I continued walking towards Wangi and discovered that Dobell House was open so we went in and spent a few hours there. We were greeted by the volunteer guide, Beth Dawkins. Beth was Skipper of the LMYC Cruising Division 2008-2011. Beth and husband Ray were made Life Members of the CD in 2017 which is testament to the effort they put in. Beth is very enthusiastic about Dobell house and a wonderful guide. We can highly recommend a visit to Dobell House.

Eleanor and I continued our walk to the IGA then back to 'Equinox', checked the mooring lines, then time for nap. Before long I could hear Eleanor calling out. A couple had moored their runabout on the wharf and the mooring line had parted before they had time to walk to the shore. The bloke stripped off to his undies and rescued his vessel. Eleanor, being very helpful grabbed our fourth mooring line, the one I had ready if something had happened to our other ones. Eleanor was off to the aid of this fellow in his undies. I wonder if this was the reason she was so quick! It looked like a new boat that had just got a bit older after hitting the wharf. I later spoke with them in the club and he said it was an old boat anyway and if the weather didn't improve, they would just leave it there and catch the bus home.

Ed and Robyn arrived for dinner in the club and before long my name was being called over the PA. From where we were sitting, I had a clear view of 'Equinox' on the end of the wharf. I could see she was okay, so it wasn't about her. We figured they were going to throw me out - unsavoury type. If you go to LMYC Raffles on Thursday night you know what a Joker Draw is. It turned out my name had been drawn for a chance to pick the Joker and win the money. I failed to get the money but did get a card with 10 schooners to drink before April. How good is that?

I can recommend the stone-grill at Wangi Workers, especially the beef eye fillet. I think we all had the Surf & Turf that night. I have previously enjoyed the eye fillet when the Cruising Division visited the club during their 2025 week-long cruise of the Lake - the Ivan Irwin Cruise (Eat the Lake). Russell Williams ('Give&Take') and I had spied a guy eating an eye fillet. So, after drooling over it we decided that's what we would have too. Russell was heard to say, "Best steak I have ever had".

Link to the [Wangi District Workers Club menu](#)

## 190th AUSTRALIA DAY REGATTA



Presented by the Wangi RSL and organised by our friends the Wangi Amateur Sailing Club, you may well wonder how it is the 190th. This regatta is a subset of the Sydney Harbour Regatta which is the world's longest continually running regatta. Don't you love a "world's biggest or longest" etc.

There were 33 entries and only one DNC. I'm happy to say that there were 8 LMYC yachts, but on the other hand, there were a lot of LMYC sailors that missed a great day. Imagine a pleasant day with 16 to 22 knot winds, perfect of course for 'Equinox'. Very little need or chance to use spinnaker. After an exhilarating sail it was back to the RSL for refreshments, presentations, camaraderie, music and dancing. What a way to celebrate our national day. I spoke with Mick Martin who was there. If you don't know, Mick is a Wallaby and as I said to Mick, "You don't get much more Australian than that".

As far as I'm concerned if you weren't there, you missed out. Thanks Wangi you've done it again.



Photo: 'Equinox' in Wangi Bay by Arcadian, Ed Hillier

## LMYC RACING PHOTO'S - Best Of



Santa in the bosun chair

**LMYC RACING PHOTO'S - Best Of (cont.)**



SANTA visiting the naughty boys at LMYC

**LMYC RACING PHOTO'S - Best Of (cont.)**



*Belmont 16's Staff Day*



*2XCESS trying to inspect their rudder out of the water*



Please remember you can view all and download your LMYC Racing photo's by visiting our website at <https://lmyc.com.au/sailing> and then clicking on the LMYC RACING PHOTOS link.

**Please be advised that  
LMYC is **CLOSED** from  
**3pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>  
February 2026** for  
Crusoe's and LMYC's  
Staff Christmas  
Parties.**



**The Club will reopen as  
normal on **Wednesday  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.****

We thank you for your understanding.  
LMYC Management

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**Please be advised that  
LMYC will be open from  
11am-3pm ONLY on  
ANZAC Day 2026  
(Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026).  
The Club will reopen as  
normal on  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

We thank you for your  
understanding.

LMYC Management



# WHAT'S ON @ LMYC

February Cocktail of the Month

## CUPIIDS PINK SPRITZ

PINK GIN  
PINK MOSCATO  
CRANBERRY JUICE  
SODA

# \$18



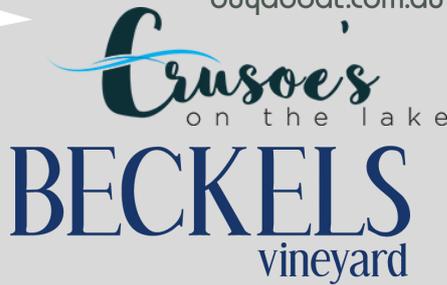
 LAKE MACQUARIE  
YACHT CLUB

## LIVE @ LMYC FEBRUARY 2026

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



### THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 - 2026 SAILING SEASON SPONSORS



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# FELLOW SAILORS NEW CREW GEAR WITH YOUR LOGO

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