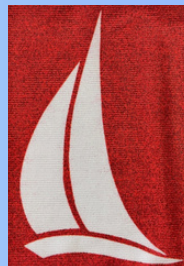
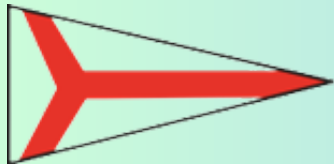
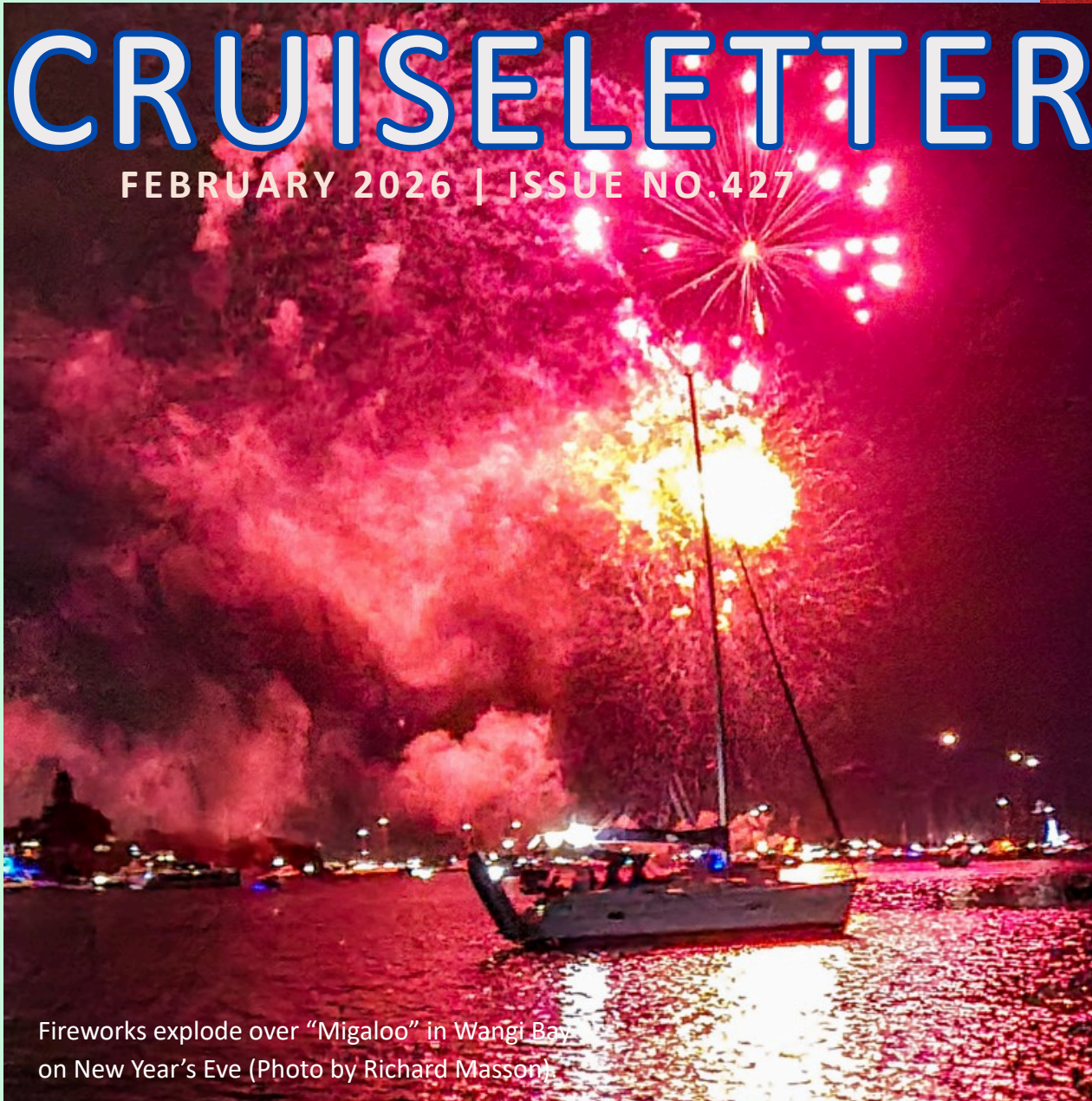


LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

FEBRUARY 2026 | ISSUE NO.427



Fireworks explode over "Migaloo" in Wangi Bay on New Year's Eve (Photo by Richard Masson).

What's on this month

General Meeting: 9th February 2026; Bridgedeck Room

Guest Speaker: Cherylle Stone (see page 3)

Pittwater Cruise: 18th February - 2nd March.

<u>Contents:</u>	<u>Page:</u>
Skipper's Report:	2-3
Lake Matters:	3
Christmas Party Report:	4-7
Safety Snippet:	7
New Year's Eve Outing Report:	8
Australia Day Outing Report:	9-10
Pittwater Cruise Information:	11-14
Club Information:	15



SKIPPER'S REPORT

Greetings CD Members.

On behalf of the committee we hope that you have had a great festive season and that 2026 is an awesome year for you and your family. Looking back over 2025 it was a pretty good year for the CD. We expanded our membership and had some pretty amazing cruises albeit the weather was a tad challenging at times. The annual Pittwater Cruise was well attended and everyone had a fantastic time. Our lake cruises went well including a very memorable 'Eat the Lake' cruise that saw the fleet explore some new locations and experience some fine eateries. The cruise down to Port Hacking was a first for the CD and all participants really enjoyed the experience. The year ended with our social highlight of the year - the combined Christmas Party and 40th Anniversary of the CD celebration . While always popular I think you would agree that this was an outstanding successful event made even more successful with the launch of our new CD flag and polo shirts. Ken Archer put an enormous amount of work into bringing together a fantastic photographic and memorabilia record of the history of the CD. We have a very rich history and we have come a long way from those earliest days! Following the party we had a great outing for the New Year's Eve fireworks at Wangi and an equally enjoyable get together for Australia Day at Browns Bay and Styles.



TONY AUSTIN

Looking forward we believe that we have an outstanding program that should make 2026 a stellar year. The annual Pittwater Cruise has a fresh and exciting theme with activities for everyone. I cannot over-state the importance of this event at every level. It is a great opportunity to get your boat 'back up to speed' for a coastal passage and to refresh your sailing and navigation skills in a very controlled and supportive environment. It is also a great opportunity to get to know your fellow CD members whilst sailing some of the finest cruising waters in Australia. If you only do one cruise with the CD in 2026 make sure it is this one!!!

We are also planning to run an 'extended' Newcastle cruise with the option of heading further north to Port Stephens and, hopefully, an overnigher out to Broughton Island. Thanks to Ralph and 2Dream we now have a small cadre of members who have been out to Broughton and all say they want to go back again. It really is a pretty amazing place with a very rich history. I am hoping to run another cruise down to Port Hacking later in the year to build on the knowledge that Ralph acquired during his trip.

For those who do not wish to leave the lake we aim to offer a wide range of local activities that focus on places less often visited while combining some practical skills sessions. These sessions will be aimed at upskilling all members of the crew so that they can better support each other whilst aboard. To this end we want to encourage people to read the 'Alternate Skippers Manual' and work through it at their own pace and in their own way. One of the real strengths of the CD is we have a large number of people who have an enormous amount of practical experience that they are more than happy to share. Unlike racing where there is always a competitive edge to teaching and training, cruisers really do want to share their hard-won knowledge and experience.

We will be continuing with our highly successful General Meetings this year with many members gathering for dinner at Crusoe's prior to the meeting. The guest speaker for our February meeting will be Cheryl Stone. Cheryl has an amazing sailing CV which includes a circumnavigation of Australia in a keelboat and many trips out into the Pacific in her catamaran. Cheryl will be sharing her experiences with Women Who Sail Australia (WWSA) and the Get Together on the Bay (GOTB) rallies.

Finally, Marion Cotterill has advised that she wishes to stand down from the CD Committee. Marion has been, and I am sure will continue to be a very active supporter of the CD and we have all greatly appreciated her input into the running of the group. If anyone is interested in filling a casual vacancy on the committee please give me a call. Tony.

Lake Matters

The latter half of 2025 saw an unusually high number of storms crossing the lake. Often they were accompanied by very strong winds and many vessels ended up either sinking on their moorings or being blown ashore. This has kept the salvage operators very busy and there has been a steady stream of very sad vessels being taken to Rathmines for final disposal. This process is not simple as it is the legal responsibility of the vessel owner to both pay for, and arrange, the disposal of the boat. Needless to say many owners cannot be identified or do not wish to accept responsibility. In October 2025 NSW Maritime was successful in getting legislative changes brought in to cover the management of derelict, abandoned or End-of-Life vessels. Hopefully we will continue to see these vessels identified and removed before they cause more damage to the environment or other vessels. Please assist Maritime by identifying such vessels and pass on to them the relevant details.

Despite recent media announcements, the work on the replacement of Belmont Jetty has not yet re-commenced. This is unfortunate as the jetty is a popular spot for visiting vessels to take on passengers or visit the local shopping centres. It also has one of the few public sewage pump-outs in the northern lake. There is an LMCC Aquatic Services Committee meeting on 19 February so hopefully we will get some good news.

All indications are that the Swansea Channel has remained quite stable and most deep draft yachts are able to safely get into the lake. Earlier this year a large contingent of cruisers (including several large, deep draft yachts) from RPAYC came into the lake for their annual cruise. MRLM provided a pilot boat to escort them through the channel and there were no incidents. The cruise went well and they had lots of good things to say about the lake, LMYC and Crusoe's. I think we will be seeing more and more yachts visiting the lake now that the word is out that the channel is now safely navigable by most cruisers.

Finally, I am hearing from every local shipyard that the fouling of boat hulls by marine growth has increased dramatically over the past year or so. In particular the rapid growth of small barnacles has become a real problem as they do not wipe off - they need to be scraped off, often with metal blades. It is assumed that there are many factors in play - warmer water, reduced salinity (from rain and river inflow) and increased turbidity being the main factors. Increased growth on adjacent boats also creates local 'seeding' across a mooring field. I suspect that the long runs of bad weather have also decreased boat usage which further exacerbates growth. There are no easy answers for this problem as most brands of antifouling are equally challenged by these conditions. Apart from regular cleaning of the hull, the only thing you can do is to use your boat more regularly! Why not help yourself and your boat by joining our regular on-water activities? Tony.

February Meeting Guest Speaker - Cherylle Stone

Make sure you come along to the February General Meeting. Our guest speaker is Cherylle Stone. Cherylle has been sailing for over 50 years. She started off crewing for her late husband, first in off-the-beach catamarans and then in larger boats from small keel boats through to a Grainger 1250 catamaran. During that time she circumnavigated Australia, raced here on Lake Macquarie and undertook many cruises around the South Pacific. Cherylle is a very active member of the Women Who Sail Australia (WWSA) organisation and a regular participant in the annual Gathering On The Bay (GOTB) workshops.

Christmas Party and 40th Anniversary of the Cruising Division

The 2025 Annual Christmas Party was held on 8th December in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Cruising Division within the LMYC. The function was held in the Bayview Area of the LMYC Clubhouse. Some 65 members attended, including a number of past members who came along to help celebrate this milestone. A display of memorabilia included old and more recent photographs (both printed and digitally displayed on the TV), copies of various editions of the Cruiseletters over the years, old CD calendars and flags of Pittwater Cruises over the years. The following photos are of more recent office holders on the CD Committee, from about 2002, who attended the function. All office holders and their years in office were listed in the December 2025 Cruiseletter.



Skippers: Gordon Butler, Ralph Asquith, Fred Seysener, Chris Cahill, Tony Austin, Beth Dawkins, Ken Archer. John Lemberg was unable to attend.



Life Members: Chris and Nikki Cahill, Maureen and Fred Seysener, Mike Collins, Ross Shirtley, Leonie Collins, Beth and Ray Dawkins.



Secretaries: Richard Masson, Maureen Seysener, Trudi Butler, Beth Dawkins, Libby Archer.



Treasurers: Ralph Asquith, Ross Shirtley, Nikki Cahill, Mike Collins.



Cruiseletter Editors: Maureen Seysener, David Baker, Ken Archer, John Cotterill.



Safety Officers: Ralph Asquith, Chris Cahill, Tony Austin.

In addition to the Office Holders whose photos appear above, many other CD members have served on the Committee. Unfortunately, we did not get a group photo of these CD members who attended the Christmas Party. These members are now listed below. They were committee members between about 2005 and 2025.

Leonie Collins, Ray Dawkins, Ian Donaldson, Colleen Donaldson, Peter Hartigan, Joe Roggeveen, John O'Brien, Helen Hyslop, Deborah Chaseling, Michael Norwood, Anne Szczwonski, Anne Shirtley, Graham Hubbard, Linda Smith, Gail McBurnie, Cath Austin, Cenny Wagemaker, Carmel James, Trevour Smith, Ross Dickson, Rob Black, Karen Black, Colin Alleck, Greg Barnicoat, Marion Cotterill, Angela Asquith, Eleanor Cunningham, Phil Cunningham and Mark Clements.

Other members gave service as raffle ticket sellers and tea and coffee providers. Unfortunately these members were not always identified in the Cruiseletters, so I cannot list their names. Their efforts however, are acknowledged, and greatly appreciated.

Ken Archer.



40th CD Anniversary Display in conjunction with the Christmas Party. Ken Archer put the display together with assistance from Maureen Seysener.



Cutting the 40th Anniversary Cake; Skipper Tony Austin and LMYC Commodore, Geoff Edman.



Presentation of “Spirit of Cruising Award” to Barbara and Eric Burns, *Yorkshire Relish*, by Skipper Tony Austin.



The 40th Anniversary Display at the 2025 Christmas Party

Safety Snippet

Beware the Swansea Bridge - It can bite!

Much has been written and said about the challenges of safely navigating the Swansea Bridge. There is a very good reason for this as it remains quite a challenge for many skippers. Over the past few years several vessels have hit the bridge and in two cases that I know of have sustained significant damage with loss of masts and damage to the hulls. Fortunately no-one has been seriously injured but this is only by good fortune and there have been several 'near misses'.

Why is this transit so challenging? The obvious answer is because the flow through the bridge can be extremely strong - 4 or more knots of tidal current is not uncommon. The width of the channel when the bridge is open is quite narrow and there is little room for corrections once you have commenced your transit. The other less obvious reason is the ever changing nature of the channel bottom adjacent to the bridge. This impacts the direction of the tidal flow and the stream does not always directly align with the axis of the bridge transit. Recent erosion of the channel bed adjacent to the three old steel pylons that sat on the lake-side of the bridge resulted in them being removed as they were no longer stable.

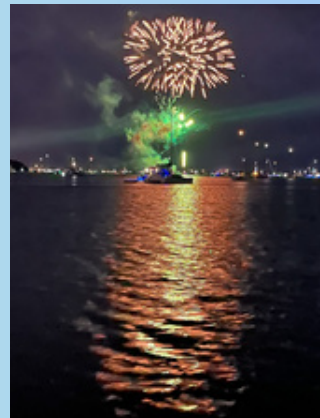
So what should you do if you are planning to transit the bridge? The first, and most important, is to talk to someone who has RECENT experience. The second is to ideally pick a time close to slack water (remembering that this occurs up to 3 hours after high tide at Swansea Heads and doesn't last for very long) and line yourself up well before you get near the bridge opening. Heading into the lake is usually the most challenging and ideally you will be starting your transit from a position well back from the bridge and close to the Swansea RSL floating public jetty. You want plenty of speed to ensure good helm response and once committed don't reduce speed until safely well through, making sure you do not impede boats behind you. While we want to get through quickly once the bridge has been opened, always make sure that you do not get too close to the vessels in front of you. Tony.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

To welcome in the New Year, 10 CD vessels (*Jodi, Yorkshire Relish, Isla Breeze, Migaloo, Renaissance, Saaremaa, Double Fun, Willpower, Kimberley Dreaming, Dulci Bella and Margarita*) dropped anchor off Wangi Bay, NE of the Wangi Workers club jetty to farewell 2025, catch up with friends and enjoy the 9 pm fireworks. This gave us a great close up view of the show, while being protected from the S to SE wind.

Fortunately, the 'Market St. Café' at Wangi Workers club was open, so our group of 20 was able to enjoy breakfast and coffee ashore. It was great that crews from Breathe and 2Dream could join us by road (or dinghy in Ralph's case).

Just a note for next time, North of the old power station inlet canal becomes very shallow (< 1.5m) very quickly and we saw at least one keelboat ground itself that evening (not a CD vessel). Richard Masson.



New Year's Eve gathering of the fleet and spectacular fireworks display. New Year's Day breakfast and coffee in the cafe before heading off home.

Australia Day Outing

The Annual Australia Day outing took on a somewhat new format this year. Six boats (*Jodi, Double Fun, 2 Dream, Migaloo, About Time and Rio*) sailed to Browns Bay on 25th and anchored overnight to shelter from a stiff southerly change predicted to come through later in the evening. Members later gathered on two boats, 2Dream and Double Fun, for sundowners. The southerly did eventuate, but next morning, crews were able to move up to Murrays Beach and anchor for coffee at the cafe (now joined by *Stoked*). After coffee, a brisk sail was enjoyed around Pulbah Island to Styles Point for a BBQ ashore at 1700. We were joined by Michael and Anne on *Saaremaa* and Chris and Nikki, Gordon and Trudi and Nigel and Bernadette who arrived by car.



Coffee at Murrays Beach Cafe.



Enjoying sundowners on 2Dream; Ken, Lisa, Geoff, Libby, Ralph and Angela.



Geoff and Fred shooting the breeze over the barbeque.



Geoff and Lisa, Fred and Maureen and Libby and Ken at the Australia Day barbeque.



Some more photos from the Australia Day weekend outing. Clockwise from above: Gordon and Trudi; Nikki and Chris; everyone sitting around the circle; Bernadette and Nigel; Ralph and Angela; Tony and Cath; Richard and Jen and Anne and Michael. *Double Fun* and *Stoked* with their flags flying and *Migaloo* and *Double Fun* on their way around Pulbah to Styles Point.

2026 PITTWATER CRUISE

18th February - 2nd March

18th Feb Departure Option: HT Swansea
Heads 9.45am at 1.85M (11am bridge)
2nd March Return Option: HT Swansea
Heads 8.25am at 1.89M (11am or Midday
bridge)

Starting at Coasters ~ 4pm Wednesday
18th February 2026



The Italian theme is inspired by our week long visit to the island of Ponza in 2017 which lies 60NM west of Naples in the Tyrrhenian Sea (Isola di Capri is 15NM offshore for comparison). A playground of Roman emperors beginning with Augustus as well as a place of exile for Pontius Pilate and Mussolini. The island beauty and lower profile attracted notables such as Gina Lollobrigida, Carlo Ponti, Kirk Douglas, Anthony Quinn, Sophia Loren, Cousteau's, Princess Caroline of Monaco and Toni Collette. Plenty of inspiration for our Halletts Beach "La Dolce Vita" beach party.



Please let the cruise Co-ordinator Marco Clementi know if you plan to attend either by the CD Facebook "Private Event" post from a week ago or via text to Marco on 0400 716756 or email to carolanne@clement.net

The key activities that participants need to address are:

- Register your participation.
- Complete "Open Water Cruising Registration Form" and the "Short Coastal Passages Self Audit Form" and forward to email: carolanne@clement.net
- Boat Preparation - see Robert Black's checklist attached.
- Assemble event participation items suggested later on in this info pack.
- Think about your Beach Party outfit and Italian cocktail recipe / ingredients.
- Supplies for onshore and onboard boat meals.

CD 2025 Pittwater "LA DOLCE VITA CRUISE"

To help make the upcoming Cruise a great experience as well as safe and fun, the following information will hopefully answer most questions and assist with provisioning and preparation of your vessel.



In the interests of safe passage, the Cruise officially starts in Pittwater - thus giving each Skipper the flexibility to choose their voyage timing south. If you wish to transit down the coast in company, we encourage you to contact other participants and organise a mutually suitable date and bridge bookings. A list of CD members intending to participate will be advertised closer to the date.

TRANSIT

Participants will gather 4pm on the 18th February at Coasters Retreat or another anchorage TBA if Coasters is unsuitable.

- Departure date dependent on weather and sea conditions and is a Skipper decision.
- Contact MRLM to book the bridge opening with more than an hours notice.
- Log on with MRLM or Marine Rescue App and Log off on arrival at Pittwater.
- Note it is a NSW Maritime requirement that life jackets must be worn by all crew when crossing bars including the Swansea Bar.
- Crews are 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.



DOCUMENT STUFF

- To assist in vessel prep see attached "Prepare Your Boat" document developed by Robert Black
- Complete the "Open Water Cruising Registration Form" found attached and here <https://www.lmyc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Open-Water-Registration-Form-Apr-2016.pdf>
- Complete the "Short Coastal Passages Self Audit Form" found attached and here <https://www.lmyc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Coastal-Passages-Audit-Form-rev-2-2026.pdf>

Both forms can be sent by email to carolanne@clement.net or handed over in person at the 9th February CD General Meeting.

List of Items suggested to participate in Cruise events

- Lanterns/ torches for night time events.
- Folding chairs and table (if possible).
- Small portable gas bbq if you have one.
- Wet weather gear.
- Nibbles for morning/ afternoon teas, happy hours (eg chips, dips, cheese plates, vegetable sticks, fruit plates, slices, fruit cake etc).
- Finger or simple meal for shared meal aboard (Italian theme optional for Pot Luck).
- Italian theme food (hot or cold) for Beach Party shared meal ashore.
- Putter and two golf balls per boat - Halletts Beach golf championship.
- An Italian cocktail to share in shot sized cups (cups supplied by us) for the International Isola di Ponza Cocktail Competition.
- Bring sense of humour and imagination and creativity - painting may be involved.



The following events are planned to occur sometime during the 12 day cruise

Pot Luck Dinner: Host boats will be nominated - names drawn out of a hat for this event. This is a shared finger or simple meal (Italian theme optional) most likely on second night of cruise.



Games Day: Mixed range of games ashore - we will discuss with participants a week prior to cruise re contributions.

Golf Day: A beach putt golf event will be held ashore, subject to tide and weather - bring putters if you have them and two golf balls.



Beach Party: Prepare an easy Italian dish to bring ashore for this shared meal. (think easy/ mains/ salad or deserts).



Don't forget the LA DOLCE VITA theme - lots of options to dress accordingly Italian character/ beach chic or glam etc etc., Or maybe after this Christmas and New Year overindulgence I can go as Pavarotti (without the voice). Maybe go for Sprezzatura which is effortlessly stylish - literally *studied nonchalance*.



It is Aperitivo Time !!! Isola di Ponza Cocktail Competition: Be prepared prior to the cruise for Italian Recipe/ Ingredients for your Cocktail Entry - check with co-ordinator a week or so prior to the cruise so we don't have multiples of the same cocktail.

The ItalianAperitivo pre-dinner ritual often includes small bites such as olives, nuts, cheese and cured meats.



Possible Painting Afternoon - TBA

Free Time: Included in the schedule will be free time (2 or 3 nights) so the more compact areas of the Cowan Creek can be explored in solitude or small groups.

SOME FACTS:

- There is a shore fee (\$3 per p day/ pensioners free) at Coasters - each boat responsibility to pay this fee - contributes towards upkeep of facilities, free BBQ and rubbish removal.
- Rubbish disposal at The Basin at Coasters only.
- Water and fuel is available from Brooklyn, Cottage Point (fuel only), Akuna Bay, Bobbin Head, RMYC and Church Point.
- Limited basic supplies available from Patonga, Cottage Point, Akuna Bay, Palm Beach and Brooklyn.



2026 LMYC LA DOLCE VITA CRUISE

More details to come via Facebook/Email and then at 9th February General Meeting - please assist by registering interest in coming weeks.

Cruise Director Marco Clementi - "BEYOND COOL"
Mob: 0400 716756 Email: carolanne@clement.net

