

FORECAST

Monthly Newsletter from Lake Macquarie Yacht Club



photos taken by Kelly from Crusoes

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

It is good to see the extra activity around the club and Marina over the last few weeks. A combination of better weather and people getting their boats ready for the coming boating season be that Saturday racing or just cruising around the lake. Safety audits are due for those racing. If you are not racing, I recommend doing an audit yourself. Take the time and check that you have the required safety gear and that all is in order. If not sure our Club Equipment Auditors will be happy to help you.

Season Opening Day

Season open day is Saturday 5th September. Sail Past theme this year is your favourite Superhero. There are great prizes for 'best dressed boat' and 'best dressed crew'. It's not just for our race fleet, it is for all members, so get your crew organised, decorate your boat and crew and show everyone what *Super Hero's* you really are!

Wednesday racing

This week saw the final race in the Wednesday pointscore! I was present in the club for the results announcement and had the honour of presenting the prizes. A bottle of wine for third, two bottles for second and three bottles for first in each division. Final results were very close in Division 1; 1st Mortica, Geoff Gardner, on 35pts, 2nd on count back Excessive, Dave Nichols, on 38pts and 3rd Squid, Steve Liddell, also on 38 pts. Division 2; 1st Lucille, Steven Manhood, 42 pts, 2nd Give & Take, Russell Williams, 58pts, 3rd Summer Wine, Eleanor Leenaars, 60pts. And the Starters Prize, for the boat that is closest to it's designated start time each week, went to Div1Mortica by 1 second to Squid and Div2 Terashenko, Frank Cordingley. Congratulations to all. The first week of the Wednesday Summer season starts next Wednesday.

Australia Sailing Awards

I was pleased this week to be advised that LMYC is a finalist in the Australian Sailing NSW & ACT 'Club of the Year' for the second year and our sailing manager Simon Turpin is also named Finalist in the 'Sports Professional Award'. Hoping we do one better than last year and win this year. Also, up for awards, LMYC member Ian Murray for Instructor of the year nominated by NCYC.

Trauma management

Cruising division member, Dr Nick Dafters, will be running a practical session on trauma management with a focus on controlling bleeding. He would cover the use of the Israeli bandage and the CAT tourniquet - both would make excellent additions to your boat first aid kit.

Our Cruising Division are inviting all club members to come along to this practical session, and which will be held at the club on Monday evening 14 September at 5:00 pm.

I thank the Dr Nick Dafters and our CD in advance for organising this session and opening up for all members. I also encourage all members to come along. Why not stay after for dinner. The CD will have their monthly General meeting following where there will be a presentation from Westpac Rescue Helicopters.

Vale Rob Powys

Members are advised of the recent passing of Rob Powys. Our more senior members will remember Rob who served as Commodore for several years over two occasions. Rob's funeral service will be Tuesday 1st September at Jame Murray chapel Blackall Street Broadmeadow at 11:30am.

Foredeck Union training

New season. New crew? Or new foredeck crew?

We kicked off last year the LMYC Foredeck Union face book group and foredeck training. Well we are going again. I will organise a session early in the season to train or coach foredeck crew. If there is anyone wanting to come along and meet fellow foredecks get in touch. LMYC has many very experienced foredeck crew who are very willing to share their experiences and knowledge with others. The Facebook group is called 'LMYC Foredeck Union. If you are on Facebook you can search it. Otherwise see me at the club or talk to Simon Turpin. Other than that I will email all. Members about when the first meetup will be.

Centenary celebrations

The board is planning for our 100th Anniversary and are calling for our members to tell us what events you would like included.

I am suggesting that there are various activities over several months

If you have an idea that you think would be great for the celebration, please contact one of our directors

See you around the Club

Geoff Edman

Commodore Commodore@lmyc.com.au

VICE COMMODORE HISTORY COMMITTEE

History Committee Article for This Month's Forecast

Over the past month, I have been away on the Gold Coast having our own boat slipped at The Boat Works. What an amazing facility it is.

Late one afternoon while walking past the travel lift, I noticed a beautiful old blue timber yacht being lifted from the water. I thought to myself "It can't be." Fortunately for me it was exactly the yacht I thought it was, the one and only Rival of Belmont.

As the owner Martin Comer, stepped down from this beautiful vessel, suspended in the travel lift slings. I went over to introduce myself as the Vice Commodore of LMYC. I was very keen to have a chat with Martin and hopefully arrange an opportunity to step aboard Rival once the yacht had been safely settled onto the hardstand.

Of course, like all nervous yacht owners when their pride and joy is hanging from a couple of straps in a travel lift, Martin and I had only a quick conversation before deciding to catch up again in a couple of days.

A HISTORIC VESSEL

Rival had been lifted from the water to repair a small but persistent leak around the top of the rudder to keel joint. A couple of days later, I returned to see Martin while he was carrying out the repairs.

It was fascinating to watch him use traditional old fashioned methods to seal the leak, techniques that are rarely seen in today's modern boating world.

During our time together we spoke at length about the history of Rival, her relationship with LMYC and what this historic yacht means to the Club and its members. It was particularly interesting to discuss the connection between Rival and the LMYC, including the naming of one of our training yacht Rival in recognition of this historic vessel.

I also spoke to Martin about our upcoming Centennial Year and how wonderful it would be to see Rival make the journey south to help us celebrate this very special milestone in the Club's history.



Martin didn't say no!

I also offered to help find crew for the voyage, as I am sure we could find a few enthusiastic LMYC members willing to volunteer for such a memorable journey.

Stepping Aboard Rival

Martin then asked me if I would like to step aboard.

Lucky me I couldn't get my shoes off quickly enough!

The exterior of Rival has been beautifully restored, while the interior still requires further work. Nevertheless I was amazed by the amount of space inside the yacht and by the quality of her construction.

The craftsmanship involved in building these yachts from timber is truly remarkable. There is a character and warmth in a classic timber yacht that is difficult to replicate and Rival certainly has that in abundance.

Martin showed me some of the changes that have been made to the interior over the years. It was fascinating to imagine how different the yacht must have looked when Albert Mitchell and his crew sailed her to victory in the 1961 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Preserving the History

Martin still has all of the original race plaques that were fitted to the bulkheads of Rival. These will be carefully refitted once the restoration of the interior has been completed.

I also had the opportunity to look through some of the original paper line drawings of Rival that Martin has kept. I have asked him to email copies to me so that we can have them professionally printed and displayed at the Club.

These historical documents along with the yacht herself, provide an incredible connection to LMYC's past and to one of the most significant achievements in the Club's sailing history.





We are extremely fortunate that Martin had the vision, dedication and passion to save Rival of Belmont and preserve her history for future generations.

It would be a wonderful sight to see this historic yacht return to LMYC waters during our Centennial Year bringing with her not only a remarkable story of sailing achievement but also a tangible connection to the people and boats that helped shape our Club's history.

Rival (Rival of Belmont)

Vessel Details

Owners: Alby Burgin and Nelson Rundle

Builder: Les and Barry Steel, Speers Point

Class: Vashti Class

Designer: British naval architect Alan Buchanan

Construction: Recycled teak from the historic Australian Navy sail training ship Tingara originally Sobraon

Rig: Sloop Length Overall: 11.35 metres

Beam: 2.90 metres

Draft: 1.88 metres

Year Launched: 1960

1961 Sydney to Hobart Winning Crew

- Alby Burgin
- Nelson Rundle
- Albert V. Mitchell
- N. Felton
- H. Fremouth
- Jack Morgan
-

Garry van Dijk

Vice Commodore

History Committee



LMYC Team at Pittwater She-Sails Regatta, June 2026.

On 28th June, 2026, LMYC sailors Christine McMillan, Melissa Gavenlock and Alexis Henderson travelled down to Pittwater to compete in the she sails regatta. We were joined by Bianca, a new sailor who has just started sailing with NCYC.

We 4 sailors, representing LMYC, competed in a number of races at Pittwater, on an Elliot 7 provided by the Pittwater sailing club. Pittwater also included an experienced coach for all teams to support us in our skills development as sailors.

While most members of our team had experience on LMYC's Farr 25s and NCYC's Elliot 6s, we were not as familiar with Elliot 7s. Luckily we completed boat familiarisation with our coach, and ran through drills prior to the scheduled races.

Our coach was generous with her teachings as a very experienced sailor. Unfortunately we were beaten by the NCYC team who came 2nd (a great result for them, even if they pipped us at the post) and a Pittwater team with an Olympic coach took home a well earned first place.

An excellent day was had. The regatta was held in a lovely north Sydney location, and we got to meet and learn from some wonderful sailors. Development regattas such as this allow us as new sailors to continue to build on the experience we acquire from she-sails events hosted by LMYC (as well as any regular crewing we are able to do).

Truly, the icing on the cake was landing 3rd place overall!

On the day

We were treated to an 'all seasons' kind of day (luckily no hail).

We started out in the morning with very light winds, fog and mist.

This was followed with a bit more wind, that kept shifting, some sun and a bit of welcome warmth. We all had to remove jackets. And then, jackets were hastily put back on again when we were hit with horizontal rain and wind, with a storm front gusting up to 20 knots which resulted in an exciting heel and gave us a nice burst of speed for our close haul leg.

Unfortunately, due to the variable conditions and wind changes the courses had to be changed a number of times. This took time and reduced how many races we were able to complete. Despite this, we all had a wonderful time.

We successfully flew the spinnaker in our races, this was a huge success for each of us, and was made possible by some training drills in low wind before the races started. In addition, all team members rotated through roles across the day. This meant we all helmed, worked the main as well as foredeck.

In an unfortunate twist (pun intended) we ended up getting a tangle in our spinnaker on our last run that we couldn't resolve. The decision to drop it was a costly one, which resulted in a slower race time. With this, we dropped from 2nd to 3rd in our ranking. Still successful but beaten by our friends at NCYC.

However, considering our learning and skills development, we were all winners this day!

It was a fabulous experience for all of us, including Claire, a new sailor who was able to join us on our team to be our 4th with short notice. Pittwater were appreciative of the teams who travelled to their club. Representing our club at these types of events is a fabulous way to promote the sport, women in sailing and the club overall. We are all appreciative of LMYC and NCYC, with both clubs providing help and guidance to us as new sailors to attend this she-sails regatta.

Thankyou to LMYC.



Right to left (receiving awards for coming 3rd).

- Christine McMillan
- Bianca Walls
- Coach "Alice"
- Alexis Henderson
- Melissa Gavenlock



- Christine Mcmillan.



Right to left

- Christine McMillan (helm)
- Melissa Gavenlock (main)
- Bianca Walls (headsail)



Right to left

- Alexis Henderson
 - Coach "Alice"
- : Photo credit Christine Mcmillan



Melissa Gavenlock (helm)
& Bianca Walls (Main)



Learning to rig
Elliot 7s

Photos by Lex
Henderson unless
otherwise stated

SAIL PAST

LMYC



SAT 5TH SEP 2026
12-12:30PM

PRIZES TO BE WON!

Best Dressed Boat
Best Dressed
Super Hero/Villian



 LAKE MACQUARIE
YACHT CLUB





Registrations open for the 2026 SheSails International Conference

The SheSails International Conference returns on **Monday 19 October at 7:00pm (AEDT)**. Reflecting World Sailing's 2026 Steering the Course theme, **Give to Gain**, the conference will explore how sharing knowledge, supporting others and giving back can create opportunities for more women and girls to thrive in sailing.

Hear from Olympic medallists **Jo Aleh** and **Belinda Stowell** as they share the stories and lessons behind their journeys, from Olympic success to leadership, mentoring and giving back.

Discover how **Amy Potter** is creating new opportunities for women through her Sail Our Way initiative in Tasmania. Be inspired by **Julla Hornsby**, the first female Commodore of the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, as she reflects on leadership and creating pathways for women.

You'll also hear from the young sailors featured in the **new SheSails Shape the Wind film**, sharing their experiences, aspirations and what sailing means to them.

Whether you're a sailor, volunteer, coach, leader or supporter, join us for an evening of inspiring stories, new perspectives and ideas for creating more opportunities for women in sailing.

The Conference is free to attend, register now and join us online!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[read more >](#)

[Sail Our Way / SheSails International Conference 2026 - Australian Sailing](#)



REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT AUGUST 2026

ORC club



If you are interested in racing under this extra handicap system there is still time to get organised with sail measurements etc.

This link takes you to an older [webinar](#) by the former Australian Sailing Ratings Manager, Nicolas Degorse.

Remember that the more measurements you can submit the more accurate your rating will be. There is a lot of information at ORC website (orc.org).

More information can be had by contacting the Australian Sailing Ratings Manager, Chris Zonca (02) 9170 6917

email: chris.zonca@sailing.org.au

Bird Deterrent

Many of you would know of Laurie Denton's, 'Sympatico' a Beneteau 58 on a mooring north of the club. Laurie is quite excited about a device he bought which was recommended to him by Michael Paull, 'Yes Dear' and Russell Williams, 'Give and Take'. All these boats are kept on moorings and so bird droppings a big problem.

Laurie told me that he hadn't needed to wash his boat for 6 weeks and it did look very clean. He has 4 of these devices mounted around 'Sympatico'. He doesn't have to do nets now which he said "has made boating fun again".

Here is the [link](#) to the device.

They are only \$22.82 on

Temu and free shipping.



**Photo: 'Sympatico'
after 6 weeks showing
3 of the 4 devices.**



Cowes Race Week – Isle of Wight, UK

I was reading in “Yachting World” an online magazine about the resurgence of the Cowes Race Week, [LINK](#). The article was saying the number of entrants would be about 600-800 this year. Eleanor and I happened to go for a day trip to Cowes on the Isle of Wight in 2017 and accidentally were there during the race week. I was amazed to see an electronic notice board displaying 1342 boats, see photo below, bottom right corner near my boof head.



On ‘2xcess’ on Wednesdays I sail with Will Hardcastle. Will is an English gentleman who has sailed in The Solent. Will has told me how difficult the tidal current in The Solent is. If you have sailed in either Ailie Beach or Hamilton Island Race Weeks, tidal current is a big factor depending on the phase of the moon. Full moon and new moon bring Spring tides with strong currents. The races can become quite boring as there is only one way to go and that’s along the shore, ducking into bays in the hope you can escape the ravages of the current. Anyone who tries to go any other way is dead meat. Trust me I have been abused by crew for trying to go the other way. One time I managed to find a rare reverse eddy and was famous for short time. One Hamilton Island Race it was my turn to skipper the Beneteau 32 with a fixed 3 blade prop a group of us had chartered for the race week. We called it the “Beneslow”. Trying to round Pine Island had become impossible. After many tries we actually had rounded the point only to fall into the wind shadow of a bigger boat and back we went. As we were being washed north yet again we noticed exhaust smoke coming out of that bigger boat. That’s one way to beat the current. Eventually we did legally round the point and made our way to the finish line in Long Island Sound only to find the finish line had been removed prematurely.

We lodged a complaint and were given a finish based on our estimated finish time.

The following photo from Yachting World article shows just how much effort to get out of the tidal current some boats will go to. A couple of Flying 15s just about in the carpark.

It may not be as bad as it looks due to the fore shortening effect of telephoto lenses. I can’t help but wonder if they did hit the bottom especially the second FF.

The Dark Side



How close inshore do you dare go? Tidal racing and close crosses at North Sails Cowes Week 2026. Photo: Paul Wyeth

I regularly write about the remote control boats that sail at LMYC. The group I am the so called “Race Officer” with, the Wind Warriors that race 13:30 Saturdays in winter and from 16:30 Thursday evenings in summer. The other group is Mark Long’s Dragon Force 65s and Dragon Flite 95s, they race Fridays. Of late, some of the Wind Warrior guys have also been sailing the DF65s. I have just been on the phone with Mark Long and it seems like there is only a few Wind Warrior guys that haven’t bought a DF65.



Recently some went to Emerald Lakes in Qld for the DF65 Qld State Titles. After day one there was much excitement at LMYC as converttee, David Anstey, owner/skipper of Farr 30 '2xcess' was coming first. Brett Davis had lent Dave his DF65 for the event. Social media lit up with "accolades" expounding Dave's sailing skills, actually more like banter, people are so unkind. Brett Davis was patting himself on the back for preparing a good boat for Dave. Sadly day 2 saw David fall from grace, "choke" and he ended up 4th. Dave did do very well coming 4th as Nick Jerwood, the current DF65 Australian Champion was only one place ahead in third.

Photo: Dave Anstey

Nick Jerwood is also a champion Flying 15 sailor. Nick has held the Flying 15 "Cowslip Trophy" (Australian Flying 15 Champion) for the last 2 years. Everyone will remember I wrote about how HRH Prince Philip sailed Flying 15s, back in the October 2025 Forecast link. The "Cowslip" trophy was given to the Australian Flying 15 Association by HRH Prince Philip.

Just to refresh your memory, When Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip married in 1949 the township of Cowes gave the couple a Flying 15 named 'Cowslip' as a wedding gift. Go to this link for more info.

Photo: HRH Prince Philip and Uffa Fox sailing 'Cowslip'. Uffa Fox designed the Flying 15 and regularly sailed with the royals on FFs and Dragons.



While the CATs Were Away...

As I said, there were a lot Wind Warrior guys at Emerald Lake in Qld sailing DF 65s and while they were away the CO of the Wind Warriors, Marshall Harper had a field day clocking up many firsts. It was as if he was on steroids. Marshall racked up 8 wins in 11 races, stella performance Marshall.

Photo: Wind Warrior CO Marshall Harper.

WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING A LIFE JACKET



\$23 BLUE EYED MARTINI

VODKA
DRY VERMOUTH
BLUE CURAÇAO
LEMON ZEST TWIST

SEPTEMBER COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH



LAKE MACQUARIE
YACHT CLUB

\$18

AMARETTO SOUR

DISARONNO
LEMON JUICE
SUGAR SYRUP

**KIDS
EAT FREE!**



**AUGUST
SEPTEMBER**
7 Days a week

LAKE
MACQUARIE
YACHT
CLUB

Crusoe's
on the lake

We're Hiring

BAR STAFF!

GOT A CAN-DO ATTITUDE, BUBBLY
PERSONALITY
AND THE ENERGY TO HANDLE A BUSY BAR?

RSA ESSENTIAL
WEEKENDS A MUST
FAST & ENTHUSIASTIC

EXPERIENCE IS A BONUS,
BUT THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND WORK ETHIC
MATTER MOST!

MATURE APPLICANTS VERY WELCOME.
COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

EMAIL RESUME AND SHORT COVER LETTER TO
V.PAYNE@LMYC.COM.AU
OR DROP OFF IN PERSON

summer
time

LAKE MACQUARIE
YACHT CLUB

Lake Mac Yacht Club

Christmas Party



**SUCCULENT XMAS BUFFET
3 HOUR DRINK PACKAGE**

\$75

MON-THURS. LUNCH & DINNER
\$10 extra on weekends



14

LIVE MUSIC

SEPTEMBER

EVERY FRIDAY 5:30-8:30PM & SUNDAY 12:30-4PM



LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB

Scan to Book