

LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB CRUISING DIVISION



CRUISELETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026 | ISSUE NO. 434



What's on this month

- **General Meeting:** 14th Sept 2026, 7:00 pm; Bridgedeck Room.
Guest Speakers: 5:00 PM - Dr. Nick Dafters (Trauma Management).
Meeting Speaker - Helicopter Rescue speaker .
- **Outing:** Saturday 5th September: LMYC Opening Day Sailpast. Assemble at 11:30 a.m.

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Pictures are from the August outing
to Tea Gardens.

SKIPPER'S REPORT

Greetings fellow CD members,

While the past few months have been a bit quiet on the sailing front the weather is getting warmer and the official start of the sailing season draws near. Hopefully you are well on the way to getting all those little jobs finished on your boats.

It has been an interesting month since I last wrote my report – the Swansea Channel dredging program is progressing well and is getting lots of positive media attention. Boat ramp upgrades continue around the lake, and the repair of the Reids Mistake Park seawall has had funding approved. Now, all we need is the funding for the repair of the seawall down at Swansea on the lake side of the bridge.

Our monthly meetings are going well with attendance slowly increasing as members return from their travels away from the lake. We aim to have a mixed range of topics ranging from practical 'How to' sessions through to travel stories from members who have done interesting voyages. If you have anything you would like to share with our members or suggestions for future sessions, please have a chat to a committee member. Your input would be very much appreciated.

We have been delighted to see a slow but steady increase in CD membership, and we welcome all our new members. Please remember what it was like when you first joined and make the effort to make these new members feel welcome. To help with this we are issuing new name badges with our new CD burgee and format. It would be very much appreciated if everyone could wear their badges to CD meetings. I freely admit that I am terrible at remembering names, so the badges do help!

Hopefully everyone is aware that the issue of moorings for recreational vessels is becoming a 'hot topic' for Maritime and DPI. DPI is steadily increasing its opposition to the use of block and chain moorings in areas where sea grasses are being damaged. DPI has a draft proposal to declare block and chain moorings 'A Key Threatening Process' for *Posidonia australis*. If this is adopted, then we could see all existing moorings progressively removed from affected areas around the lake. The draft document does mention the use of 'Environmentally Friendly Moorings (EFM)' as a partial solution but implies that they are already easily available. That is certainly not the case here on Lake Mac. I urge you to have a read of the 'Key Threatening Process Nomination Form' and make a personal submission.

Finally, I would like to remind members that we have the annual 'Ivan Irwin' lake cruise coming up from 3-9 October. This is one of the CD highlights for the year as it offers great company and an opportunity to visit some of the lesser-known regions of the lake. Our co-ordinators for this year are Phillip Cunningham who ran a very successful trip last year. Make sure you put the dates in your calendar and come along – it is a drop in/drop-out event, so you do not have to commit for the full time.

Best wishes and safe sailing,
Tony



TONY AUSTIN

Cruising Division General Meeting -10th August 2026

The Cruising Division's August general meeting had an attendance of 30 members and one visitor. We welcomed 3 new members, Mark Dawson, Keith Harris and Mike Bleakley.

There was no guest speaker as we had a panel discussion on "Crossing Bars" which was held with Ross Shirtley, Phil Cunningham and Mark Clement on the Panel. This discussion followed on from a detailed article on crossing bars in the August Cruiseletter.

The CD Committee has been reviewing the issue of annual boat audits to simplify the process, and a proposal has been submitted to the LMYC Board for their approval. Hopefully we will have an agreed way ahead before the start of the summer sailing season.

Other arrangements and dates have been indicated in other sections of the Cruiseletter. However, the Committee is keen to hear from any members who would like to either coordinate the next Pittwater Cruise or help out with organising and running the cruise, or activities on the cruise. The suggested dates for the PWC are 7-19th March 2027.



The meeting was well attended, and a panel discussion was held on Crossing Bars, with Mark, Ross and Phil on the Panel.

CD Merchandise for Sale:

The CD has some "MUST HAVE" items for your Club boating needs so avail yourselves of these most desirable items while stocks last!



CD Shirts: \$30
or 2 for \$50.



CD Pennants \$10.

For the purchase of any items, contact our Treasurer Ralph. Shirts can now be purchased at the LMYC club front desk, and all items are available at Club Meetings. You can now also pay using your Credit or Debit cards.

Personalise your shirts: If you would like to put your boat's name or some other insignia on your shirts, Ralph can also provide details as to where this can be done.

Lake Matters

The commissioning of the new dredge and sand distribution system continues to progress well. It is still hard to believe that this has actually happened! My only concern is that we may see a few 'choke points' in the channel whilst the dredge is working. Skippers will need to remain very vigilant whilst transiting past the dredge and make sure that they have a good idea of where all the dredging lines and pipes are located. Make sure you re-familiarise yourselves with the 'day shape' signals for the safe side to pass a working dredge!

Ross and I attended LMCC Aquatic Services Meeting last month and it was great to hear that Council has approved a special project to look at dinghy storage around the lake. At present there is no formal policy covering where dinghies can be stored on public and Crown lands nor is there clear guidance on the removal of derelict dinghies and watercraft. I attended the first project meeting with the LMCC project officer last week and we are developing a strategy on how best to evaluate the current situation.

The ASC was updated on other LMCC projects, and everything seems to be progressing well. Council staff were very impressed with the new peristaltic sewage pump out on Belmont jetty and hopefully we will see this type of pump become more common on the lake.

One of the ASC community reps presented an excellent paper on recreational fishing on the lake and it really highlighted how important this recreational activity is for LMCC residents. Hopefully LMCC will invest more resources into shore-based fishing amenities such as dedicated fishing platforms and take a bit of pressure off the existing boating jetties.



What's Happening at LMYC

The major event being held this month is the **Opening Day Sailpast** of the LMYC sailing season on 5th September at 12:00. The CD will participate in this event. Participants must get a voucher for the food following the event, from Simon Turpin at the LMYC Clubhouse on Saturday morning. There will be prizes based on the theme of "Your Favourite Super Hero", so dress up and decorate your boats.

The Club is also holding **keelboat crewing courses** on Saturday 5th and Saturday 12th Sept at 9:30-16:00 hrs, so please see Simon Turpin for details.

The “Tamboi Queen” Ralph Asquith

On our recent “Kerry from the Ferry” Cruising Division trip from Nelson Bay to Tea Gardens, I was talking to some of the crew and they told me that Kerry had recently purchased the “Tamboi Queen” and it was being refurbished for use as the new ferry. I told the crew that my uncle Bob Asquith had built the “Tamboi Queen” and they offered to show me onboard to look at the work they were undertaking.

She was built at the back of Uncle Bob’s house in Magnus St Nelson Bay. He had 3 gum trees in a straight-line which he cut down and used the stumps as a construction bed to lay the keel. The design was for a shallow draft cruising ferry capable of transiting the Myall River to the fishing village of Tamboi on the Myall river hence the name “Tamboi Queen”. She was built by Uncle Bob from “A” class hardwood and marine plywood. She was launched in 1970 after being transported to little beach on a truck and then being pulled into the water by my Dad’s trawler “Farewell”. Dad then constructed his new trawler “Andana” using the same building yard with Uncle Bob’s help.



Launching of Tamboi Queen at Little Beach



**Dad's (Danny Asquith) trawler
Andana**

Uncle Bob and his wife Ruth basically started the Nelson Bay dolphin watching and cruising business (which is now huge) using the “Tamboi Queen”. It was not without risk and she was blown ashore in a westerly gale in 1976 but then refloated and repaired.

Uncle Bob retired from the cruising business in the 1990’s and moved to Anna Bay to pursue his other interests in Shetland ponies. “Tamboi Queen” was sold to Terry Aldrich whose family operated her as a dolphin watching boat up until 2022 when she was sold and moved to Sydney and converted into a harbour “party” cruiser. Kerry bought her last year and brought her home to Port Stephens.



Tamboi Queen aground on Fly Point



**Tamboi Queen being refurbished at
Tea Gardens**

Safety Snippet

It is an unfortunate fact that many of the greatest advances in life-saving trauma management have come from the lessons learned on the battlefield. No more so than in the management of traumatic bleeding. While the original 'shell dressing' has been around for over 100 years the concept has only recently been refined and made available cheaply to the public. The one-handed arterial tourniquet is a more recent development and it too has only recently become 'mainstream' for use by the general public. Both items are easy to use and there are hundreds of very good YouTube videos showing you how to use them. There is nothing like seeing it being done by an expert so come along to the session before the September meeting and join the session being run by Dr Nick Dafters.



One-handed Tourniquet



Tech Tip

How often do you check your steering system? Most of us have wheels rather than tillers so the linkages through to the rudder(s) can be quite complex and prone to wear. This wear can present paradoxically as increasing stiffness or slackness. A stiff or sloppy steering system makes sensing the balance of the boat much more difficult and certainly increases the load on your auto-steering system. Often the changes are gradual so hard to notice until something 'gives' which can make for a rather challenging day out on the water.

As we get closer to the new sailing season why not have a good hard look at your system – check for free-play in the linkages, worn cables or linkage toggles and be a bit liberal with the grease where things could be binding. You could be amazed at how smooth your helm has become!

Monthly Outing to Nelsons Bay and Ferry to Tea Gardens - 15th August.

The outing was arranged and coordinated by Eleanor Cunningham and some 26 members attended. We arrived in Nelsons Bay individually and then caught the 11:30 a.m. ferry across the Bay to Tea Gardens. Lunch was held at the local hotel along the water front, as a package deal with the ferry ride. The waterfront path was also a popular activity after the meal. The ferry departed back across to Nelsons Bay at 2:30 p.m. The weather was very pleasant and the 70 minute ferry ride was also most enjoyable going under the local "Singing" Bridge, down the Myall River and out into the Bay past myriads of oyster farms. A most enjoyable and new activity for the CD for a winter's day.



Welcome Aboard

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Mark Dawson - "Spirit of Skye", Endurance 38.
- Keith Harris - "Miss Stress II", Adams Tasman 26.
- Mike Bleakley - "Scaramouch", Eastcoast 31".

Congratulations on joining the Cruising Division! Our club members look forward to meeting up with you all at our meetings and outings.



September General Meeting:

The September general meeting promises to be a bit different, and I am sure that we will have something of interest for everyone. We will be starting the afternoon at 5pm with a practical session on how to manage trauma – more specifically how to manage bleeding. Dr Nick Dafters (Emergency Medicine physician and Director of Trauma Training) will take us through how to use modern Israeli (aka Trauma) bandages and tourniquets. While major trauma on cruising boats is a rarity it is not uncommon amongst the surfing, jet skiing and power boating communities. As we share the same waters, we may well find ourselves being 'first responders' so having the knowledge and the kit could be a life saver!

Following this session, we will have dinner and our guest speaker for the meeting will be a rep from the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. They do an amazing job and certainly warrant our support.



September On-water Activity:

The activity for September is the annual LMYC Sail Past that formally marks the beginning of our sailing season. Ralph and Angela will be leading the push again with prizes for the best dressed boat and crew. Check out our FB page for details. It is always a load of fun so come along and why not bring the family and friends for a bit of a giggle.



Cruising Corner

Who has Coastal Cruising Plans to Share?

Are you planning your next adventure?? Let Ken know at kenlibarcher@gmail.com.

"Beyond Cool" with Mark and Carolanne are looking to head to Queensland in June/July 2027 for approximately 4 months.

"Mika" with Gill and John are planning to head down to Tassie this summer. It's something John has long wanted to do. John says they "don't have a detailed plan, but a rough itinerary is to travel south in January, cruise southern Tasmania in February and head back in March. As we haven't been to Tassie before, I'd be happy to buy coffee or a beer or two in return for some good info from a more experienced member who has done the trip."

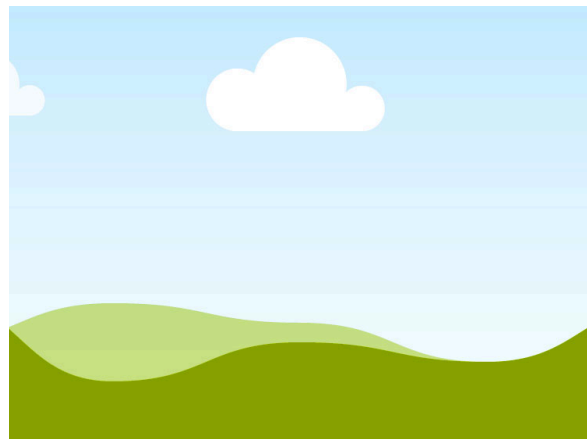
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GENERAL MEETINGS - Bridgedeck Room

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

SEPTEMBER:

5th: Sail Past Opening Day for LMYC. Assemble at 11:30 for Sailpast at 12:00.
14th : General Meeting. Speaker: Westpac Helicopter presenter TBA. A practical session on Trauma Management will also be run at 5:00 pm before the meeting dinner, in the Bridgedeck Room.

OCTOBER:

3rd-9th: Ivan Irwin Lake Cruise: Phil Cunningham coordinating.
12th: General Meeting. Speaker on "Making Waves" Program.

NOVEMBER:

9th: General Meeting. Speaker TBA.
13th-15th: Lake Outing, details TBA.

DECEMBER:

14th: Christmas Party at LMYC.

THANK YOU!

To all our contributors this month and especially to Eleanor Cunningham for organising the very enjoyable Tea Gardens outing and Ralph Asquith for his article on "Tamboi Queen".

CRUISELETTER 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.

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