



# LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB CRUISING DIVISION



## CRUISELETTER

OCTOBER 2026 | ISSUE NO. 435



### What's on this month

- **General Meeting 12th October 2026, 7:00 pm; Bridgedeck Room.**  
Guest Speaker: 7:00 PM - Jeff Young, Making Waves Foundation.
- **Outing: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10th October: Ivan Irwin Lake Cruise.**

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Pictures are from the September 12<sup>th</sup> Opening Day Sail Past showing 2Dream taking the salute with its crew of Super Heroes.

# SKIPPER'S REPORT

Greetings fellow CD members,

September has been a momentous month for LMYC. The Club was awarded the Australia Sailing (NSW & ACT) Sailing Club of the Year award, and our Sailing Manager (Simon Turpin) won the Sports Professional Award. This is an amazing achievement given the very stiff competition from many of the 'big name' clubs. The LMYC Board has been doing an outstanding job guiding the club as it continues to mature into the finest sailing club on the Lake. This is not an easy task in the current economic and social climate where many similar clubs are either shrinking or having to sacrifice their sailing heritage and emphasise their broader community social club role. I am sure you will join me in congratulating the management and staff of the club on receiving these prestigious awards.



**TONY AUSTIN**

Our monthly meetings are going well. Our September meeting was very well attended with an outstanding session on trauma/haemorrhage management by CD member Dr Nick Dafters. Nick is a great teacher, and he covered the topic in a manner that was both clear and practical. I know that many of our members have now made the effort to purchase Israeli/Trauma bandages and tourniquets. Hopefully they will never need to use them but having them could make a big difference to the victim. If you missed his presentation, I strongly urge you to check out both devices on the web or You Tube (see photos next page).

We continue to welcome new members to the CD and hope that they all become active participants in CD activities. While many are already highly experienced cruisers several are new to this facet of sailing. It has been my experience that most experienced CD members are more than willing to share their knowledge and experience, so we hope that new members are not shy about asking for help when they find something novel or challenging. I was recently asked by a new member for some guidance on navigating the Swansea Channel, getting through the bridge and crossing the Swansea Bar. Ken and I were delighted to be able to accompany this member on his boat to experience each of these challenges. It was a beautiful day and we all had a great time out on the water.

Finally, I would like to remind members that we have the annual 'CD Christmas Party' rapidly approaching. It will be held on Monday 14 December and will follow the very successful format of the previous two years. The LMYC has offered us generous support for the function so come along and have an outstanding evening.

Best wishes and safe sailing,  
Tony

# Cruising Division General Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026

The General Meeting was attended by 26 members with 4 visitors also present. A new member, Steven Carter was also welcomed to the CD. He has a Cole Bounty 35, named "Xebec".

The presentation was given by Dr Nick Dafters on Trauma Management. See separate report on this below.

Tony mentioned that new Name Badges have now been purchased and printed for all members. These are currently being distributed at meetings and other gathering, so please be aware to get yours and to wear them!

The Christmas Party this year will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> December at the same venue as last year in the NW corner of the main clubhouse. So please commit this date to your calendar.

The dates for next year's Pittwater Cruise have been set from 7<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> March, and will be coordinated by Ralph and Angela Asquith, with a Spanish "Fiesta" theme. So start getting your plans together for that major event!



Both the pre-meeting dinner and the meeting were very well attended.

## 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.

**Guest Speaker: Dr Nick Dafters at the September General Meeting.  
His Presentation was on "Bleeding Control".**



Applying the Tourniquet.



Some of the items demonstrated by Nick included the Israeli Bandage (centre left) and Tourniquet (above right).



Applying the Israeli Bandage.

**Jeff Young - October Meeting Guest Speaker  
Making Waves Foundation NSW Manager**

Jeff has a wealth of experience from the boating and maritime sector, underpinned by extensive hands-on knowledge and a long-standing commitment to volunteering. His background includes more than 30,000 sea miles of sailing experience, spanning yacht racing on both the east and west coasts of Australia, as well as international voyages from Canada to Australia and throughout the South Pacific.

His ocean sailing experience features participation in iconic races such as the Sydney to Hobart, along with numerous delivery voyages across Australia, including Fremantle to Sydney and coastal passages from Melbourne to Airlie Beach.

Jeff has also completed formal maritime training, including an Associate Diploma in Nautical Fishing in Perth and a Yachtmaster qualification in Melbourne, further strengthened by recent ocean experience toward his Yachtmaster Ocean certification. In addition to his professional experience, Jeff is an active volunteer with Marine Rescue Newcastle, where he serves as a qualified radio operator, vessel crew member, boat officer, and treasurer. His practical expertise as a skipper encompasses all aspects of vessel operations, including navigation, marine communications, mechanical and electrical systems, safety, and first aid.

## Your Cruising Division Committee 2025-2027.



From top left to bottom right: Eleanor Cunningham (LMYC Committee Representative), Richard Masson (Secretary), Mark Clement, Steven Meisenhelter, Natalie Meisenhelter, Phillip Cunningham, Angela Asquith, Tony Austin (Skipper), Ralph Asquith (Treasurer) and Ken Archer (Cruiseletter Editor). It has taken a while to get us ALL together and to remember to take a photo!

### Welcome Aboard

We are very pleased to welcome new member Steven Carter and his boat "Xebec", a Cole Bounty 35. Congratulations on joining the Cruising Division! Our club members look forward to meeting up with you at our meetings and outings.



## Safety Brief

It is not often that you can report on the loss of a recreational sailing yacht and make it into a 'good news' story. Last month the media gave extensive coverage to the abandoning of a 51-foot yacht with four people onboard.

The vessel owners (accompanied by a crew of two) were on a three-month Pacific sailing holiday when they collided with a pod of sperm whales roughly 250 nautical miles north of Norfolk Island. The collision impact severely damaged one of the rudders and associated steering assembly. This resulted in a very rapid inflow of water and despite valiant attempts (including diving under the hull) they could not stem the flow into the cabin.

The crew immediately activated their EPIRB and sent out a comprehensive Mayday call. Once the sinking of the vessel became imminent, they transferred into their life raft and had their inflatable tender alongside. A RNZAF Poseidon surveillance aircraft was soon overhead and was able to communicate with the crew and then direct a civilian container ship to their location.

Thanks to the excellent preparation of the owners and crew, they were all recovered quickly, safely and with no injuries. What really impressed me was the photo showing the vessel bow down and clearly flooded but rigged with a day-glow orange jib. This made the vessel extremely easy to see in the conditions and thus contributed to this amazingly smooth rescue. Surely this is seamanship at its finest!

Tony.



## Cruising Corner

### Who has Coastal Cruising Plans to Share?

**Are you planning your next adventure?? Let Ken know at [kenlibarcher@gmail.com](mailto: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 would 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.

## Lake Matters

The new dredge (below) has been busy operating in the channel, and everything seems to be progressing according to schedule. Hopefully the final acceptance trial will go smoothly, and NSW Maritime can continue the planned deepening and widening of the channel.

Despite our meeting with Ministerial staff and several follow-up discussions we have not yet been given a copy of the Transport for NSW Mooring Master Plan. This is frustrating as the issue has been causing considerable concern across NSW for many years. Hopefully there will be an opportunity for local consultation before any final decisions are made, especially if this ends up closing our existing Lake mooring fields.



## What's Happening at LMYC

LMYC was awarded the NSW and ACT Club of the Year (Category A) for 2026 at the Australian Sailing Awards presentation event held at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. Also, Simon Turpin, the LMYC Sailing Manager, won the Sports Professional Award.

*This is a quote from the presentation: This award recognises, and is a tribute to all, our volunteers, and staff. Including the current and past boards who have supported the development of the Discover Sailing Centre and inter club cooperation we currently enjoy. The Discover Sailing Centre was developed and is driven by our Sailing Manager, Simon Turpin. Simon was recognised at the awards evening winning the Sports Professional Award. Simon is a great asset to our club. His passion and experience certainly contributed to LMYC winning Club of the Year.*

LMYC also held its first practical training session on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, with some 20 people attending.

Don't forget to read the latest "Forecast".



**Your Committee - hard at work!!**

## Technical Tip - Items of Equipment to Borrow

The CD owns a small range of very useful items that can be borrowed by our members. Some of them need a bit of technical knowledge to use successfully so please contact a committee member if you need a bit of guidance. The items are stored in the CD locker in the LMYC Office. All committee members can access them at your request.

The items are:

1. **Hot Knife:** The perfect way to cut all types of ropes on your boat. Easy to use and makes your cuts look professional and less likely to unravel. It also makes other rope work like splicing so much easier.
2. **Loos Gauge:** This is a very simple device that is used to measure the tension in your standing rigging. They come in different sizes and it is important to have the correct one for your rigging. Ours covers most CD vessels but the larger cats and keelboats will need a bigger gauge. There is a fair degree of 'Black Magic' in tuning the rigging on a boat so we strongly urge you to consult Dr Google or You Tube before you make any adjustments.
3. **SWR Bridge:** This is a great little device that can give you a great summary of how well (or otherwise) your VHF radio, cables and antenna are working. All three of these elements need to match and be in good condition if the power from the radio is to be effectively radiated by the aerial. This device measures your Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) and the actual power output of the radio on every VHF channel. Again, to get the best information from your testing you need a bit of technical understanding so don't hesitate to ask Richard or myself (Tony) for assistance.

The LMYC also has a range of heavy tools like wire cutters and crimpers kept behind the bar. These can be borrowed by leaving your membership card with the bar staff until you return the item.

Tony

## Monthly Outing - LMYC Opening Day Sail Past, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

The Sail Past was initially planned for the previous Saturday but was postponed until 12<sup>th</sup> due to strong winds. Unfortunately, only two Cruising Division boats (*2Dream* and *Equinox*) were able to participate. However, it was a very nice day with light easterly winds and full sunshine, so the crew of *2Dream* did a great job representing the CD! The photos below show *2Dream* and its crew of Super Heroes, which took out a prize for the day! The final photo is of *2Dream* heading off down the lake after taking the Salute at the Club.



## New Dredge and Pipes in Place

Thankfully, the new dredge and sand disposal pipes are now in place to start dredging the channel. The dredge is currently positioned at the southern entrance to Swan Bay at the end of Naru Street on the lake at the "Dog Leg". The discharge pipes run under the water past the beach and emerge at the ocean beach on the southern edge of the Belmont Golf Course, as shown in the photos below. As of 30<sup>th</sup> September, no evidence could be seen that any sand has yet been pumped.

Tony and I did a practice run through the Channel on 27<sup>th</sup> September with Chris Burgess on his boat, *Karani II*, and we were able to easily navigate past the dredge (see separate report below). Ken.



## CHANNEL PRACTICE RUN ON "KARANIE II"

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September, Tony and I accompanied our relatively new member, Chris Burgess, on a familiarisation run out and back through the Swansea Channel aboard Chris's Northshore 33 "*Karanie II*". It was a perfect day with light winds and flat seas. We set off from the LMYC marina at about 10 a.m. and picked up a mooring before going through the 1100 hr bridge. Then out to sea past Moon Island for a short sail before heading back through the 1300 bridge then to the marina berth. The exercise was great to experience the newer channel marker positions and initial location of the new dredge at the eastern opening into Swan Bay. Being a Sunday there was also quite a lot of traffic in the channel, with jet skies and small motor cruisers, so we had to keep our eyes on the job. The channel depths were quite good all the way through, with the lowest reading being about 2.1 m in parts of the crossing on the eastern side of the Marine Rescue Boat Marina. We were back ashore about 1400 hr and celebrated with a schooner! It was certainly a very easy exercise and something that could be done as an occasional club outing, especially in the whale migration season. We did see a sizable pod of dolphins so that was a bonus. The photos below are self explanatory. Thanks to Chris for taking us on his very nice NS 33. Ken.



# IVAN IRWIN LAKE CRUISE

## 3 - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026

The **Ivan Irwin Lake Cruise** is being organised once more by Phil Cunningham and will be held from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> until Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October. As was the case last year, many of the evening meals will be taken at popular restaurants around the lake!

The following is a preliminary summary of the program. More details will be put onto the Facebook Page, and also emailed to all members.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct:** Sail to Bardens Bay and anchor, or try for a berth at Trinity Point Marina. Go ashore at 15:30 for takeaway pizza.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>:** Sail to Rathmines, and go ashore at 17:30 to Club Catalina (Rathmines Bowlo) for dinner. Note that this is NRL Grand Final night, 7:30 pm, and it can be watched in the Pool Room at the Club.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>:** Sail to Joshua Porter Reserve, Chain Valley Bay. N.B. There is an underwater cable in this area - anchor 200 m from this cable. 14:00 hr is beach boules, with BBQ dinner ashore afterwards.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>:** Sail to Speers Point/Cockle Bay area. Visit Art and Cultural Centre. At 16:30, dinghy up Cockle Creek to Club Macquarie for Bistro at 17:30.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>:** Relocate to Rathmines for a free day. 19:00 Pot-luck dinner.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>:** Sail to Bonnell's Bay and anchor near jetty. 13:00 go ashore for trivia in the park. At 16:33 catch bus to Bay Hotel Motel for dinner. Note you have to walk back.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>:** Last active day of cruise. Anchor in Wangi Bay . Dinner ashore at the Workers Club.

Hope to see as many of you as possible, if not for the whole cruise, then drop in or drop out as needed!

## Marine Rescue Certificate



The Cruising Division this year made a donation of \$1000 to Marine Rescue. This Certificate was received in appreciation of our donation.

## Contact Details

### Executives:

Skipper: Tony Austin ..... 0416 266 947  
Secretary: Richard Masson ..... 0422 347 875  
Treasurer: Ralph Asquith ..... 0409 318 230

### Committee:

Eleanor Cunningham (LMYC Board Rep) 0416 258 461  
Phil Cunningham ..... 0416 078 461  
Ken Archer (Cruiseletter Editor) ..... 0428 785 459  
Angela Asquith ..... 0408 479 228  
Mark Clement ..... 0400 716 756  
Steve Meisenhelter..... 0413 368 232  
Natalie Meisenhelter..... 0410 649 543



## 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

### OCTOBER:

3rd-10th: Ivan Irwin Lake Cruise: Phil Cunningham coordinating.

12<sup>th</sup>: General Meeting. Guest Speaker: Jeff Young, Making Waves Foundation.

### NOVEMBER:

9th: General Meeting. Speaker TBA.

13th-15th: Lake Outing, details TBA.

### DECEMBER:

14th: Christmas Party at LMYC.

### MARCH 2027:

Pittwater Cruise: 7<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March. Ralph and Angela coordinating. Theme is Spanish "Fiesta".

## THANK YOU!

To all our contributors this month and especially to Dr Nick Dafters for his presentation on Bleeding Control. Also, to Ralph and Angela for the Sail Past representation. Thanks to Chris Burgess for the channel run.

## 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](mailto:archerken90@gmail.com) (M: 0428 785 459) by 25th of each month.

Please address all letters for the Cruising Division to:

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