

thirty two° fifty five

newcastle cruising
yacht club journal

SUMMER 2023

Xmas Party pics
Learn-to-sail guide
Hunter 100 race wrap



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NEWCASTLE CRUISING
 YACHT CLUB

Opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Board or the Club.

While articles and correspondence are welcomed, the Editor reserves the right to decline to publish.

Editor: Ethan Tucker

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Cover: *Frantic* at the Hunter 100 start. Image by Jack Buchan



I hope you have all enjoyed the festive season, and on behalf of the Board I would like to pass on our 'Best Wishes for 2023' to all our members.

We had an exceptionally busy clubhouse during November and December – so a huge shout out to our kitchen and bar staff for a massive effort in delivering fantastic service to all

our members and guests, as well as our corporate and private functions which often had us booked to capacity.

Our Members' Christmas Party in December was another fully-booked event with all 240 seats filled. Everyone had a great time and we already have a lot of interest in the next big Members' Event which we also look forward to hosting for you – so keep your eye on the Weekly Newsletter for details on this, and book early!

A huge thank you to our staff, contractors and volunteers who helped to put the final pieces in place at the Thales site, so that we now have a great facility for launching Lasers, as well as other skiffs and sports boats.

Thank you to our CEO Paul O'Rourke for his persistence and determination over several years to get the approvals and contracts in place to bring this project to a successful conclusion, and a special thank-you to Barry Wilson for the heavy lifting!

We can now look forward to a very successful Laser racing series in 2023.

We had three NCYC boats racing in the 2022 Rolex Sydney to Hobart race. Well done to Joe de Kock and Richard Hooper on *KD4* who raced two handed, Andrew and Harry Miller who also raced two-handed on *Uprising Brightside Marine*, and to the *Mako* team!

We are very proud of each of them racing incredibly well in the great race.

I hope you all enjoy reading the rest of this Summer Edition of our quarterly NCYC Journal *Thirty-Two Fifty-Five*. Thank you to all of our contributors who have taken the time to write articles that provides us with interesting news updates, useful information and their experiences to share, from all across the club.

A big thank you to Ethan for his editing/publishing input, which makes this a great read.

Keep safe, and have fun on the water!



– Steve Rae


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It has been a huge summer at the club so far and there's plenty more to come. It was great to see the Sydney to Hobart on TV promoting our sport. Congratulations to *Mako* for making it to Hobart and getting a podium finish in their division.

Special mention to *KD4* and *Uprising Brightside Marine* for representing the club in the two-handed division.

Congrats, also, to all our other sailors on a wide variety of yachts.

Our regular sailing numbers have increased Offshore on both Wednesdays and Sundays. The Port Stephens Ocean Pointscore was a great weekend away for all who raced. Inshore it was great to have the intraclub racing on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in the Elliotts.

Twilight racing has been fantastic with a great fleet and a variety of conditions. Most crews have been staying on for dinner.

The Bay Sailing Centre has been equally busy on and off the water. Their racing numbers have been consistent, and they are holding two major regattas over summer, while the coffee shop continues to be a hit with the locals.

As always, the volunteer race management team has done a great job conducting races up to five times a week.

Sailing Academy learn-to-sail programs have continued to go from strength to strength. The Academy is busy planning the Hunter Youth Keelboat program for Autumn and into competition regattas in Winter.

NCYC will be trying hard to defend the InterClub Trophy. We will also be introducing a new initiative this year, a high-performance racing program designed to help all sailing members improve yacht racing skills.

We also hope to restart the popular "Masterclass" series during Autumn.

The Clubhouse enjoyed an extremely busy festive season. The licenced club continues to trade at record levels. The kitchen and floor staff have adapted quickly to the massive increase in trade and as such the feedback from patrons has been excellent.

Our Cruising Fleet has returned from an epic trip north with plenty of tales and photos. They are looking forward to some summer escapes up and down the coast.



The Social committee has remained active and supportive of club initiatives. They planned the Members' Christmas party which was a great celebration for all members. They also have some "Masterclasses" in wines starting in Autumn.

The marina has been very busy with plenty of boats arriving/departing from overseas as well as those headed up and down the coast over summer.

I would like to thank all the staff here at NCYC for their commitment and effort over a very challenging season.

Congratulations and thanks to all the members, competitors, volunteers, and staff who helped us win Australian Sailing's Club of the Year for a second time. I hope all our members can enjoy sailing and boating activities over the summer.

– Paul O'Rourke

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receive a 12% discount on all purchases, when using their discount card.



NEWCASTLE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB



The growth in membership of our club was significant during 2022 – possibly the fastest growing yacht club in Australia!

We hope that, increasingly, people who use our wonderful facilities will become members. About 50 new members

attended a New Members Night in The Retreat in mid October. It was a way for new members to meet one another and we were able to formally welcome them and talk to them about the opportunities offered by the club.

At the end of December, membership was as follows:

• General	314
• Crew	230
• Youth	9
• Social	1015
• Senior	29
• Life	8

The inaugural Senior, Life and Founding Members Lunch in October was well supported, with about 20 members present. The Chef provided a delicious lunch.

The Monthly Monday Movies screenings have been put on hold until the winter months in 2023.

The new Raffle format is proving to be very popular with the option to buy tickets online or over the bar. With 90 per cent of the takings being returned to members in prizes, some very attractive prizes are

being offered. We will be able to make substantially larger donations this year to the Mission to Seamen and Marine Rescue. Funds are also used to support youth and open members of NCYC who represent the club at events elsewhere in the state and interstate.

Applications for support are assessed against criteria specified in the NCYC Financial Assistance for Racing Sailors document. Two of our young sailors were given financial assistance this summer, one to sail in his first Sydney to Hobart Race in the two-handed division, and one to sail at Sail Sydney and Melbourne Regattas and the National Laser Championships.

The NCYC Cruising Fleet are developing a program of functions and events for 2023, having arrived home safely from a cruise to The Whitsundays.

After having to cancel the 2021 Christmas Party due to COVID concerns, we enjoyed a fantastic Members' Christmas Party on December 18. The Club was closed to the public, decorated in a festive theme and about 240 members attended. The Sons of Beaches were a perfect band for the occasion, and there was little spare room on the dance floor.

The Christmas-style food was delicious and generous and the conviviality on the night reflected the typical NCYC spirit of fun and inclusion.

Events to watch out for in the New Year are the New Member Night on Thursday February 9, St Patrick's Day celebrations on Friday March 17, and the Senior, Life and Founding Members Lunch on Monday April 3. There are also plans for some food and wine evenings themed around significant international calendar dates.

– Jan Howard

ALWAYS LOOKOUT FOR SEAGOING SHIPS

DO NOT pass within 30 metres of the side or stern of a seagoing ship

- > Before heading out check the **Daily Vessel Movements** at portauthority.com.au/lookoutnewcastle
- > Keep monitoring the **safety broadcast** from Newcastle Harbour VTTIC (24/7) VHF Channel 09

STAY FAR AWAY TO BE IN SIGHT

> From the ship's bridge it is hard to see smaller boats. Some ships will have blind spots ahead of up to 600 metres. Stay far enough away to be in sight.

BE AWARE IT'S THE LAW

Under NSW marine legislation you are required to never obstruct, restrict or impede access to:

- > any fairway or channel.
- > any wharf or other landing place.
- > the safe navigation of a vessel
- > the handling of cargo or movement of passengers.
- > launching, removal, securing of a vessel.

It is an offence to:

- > fail to comply with the directions of the harbour master or any person acting under the direction of a harbour master
- > operate a vessel in any navigable waters negligently, recklessly or at a speed or in a manner dangerous to the public.

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What a summer! Our Clubhouse was a buzz all through December, with hundreds of members and guests coming through the doors every day. The Clubhouse is definitely the place to be in Newcastle.

Our functions trade was also record-breaking, at times hosting 10+ functions a week as well as hosting four functions

simultaneously on multiple occasions.

All of our staff went above and beyond during this summer period and are to be commended for all of their hard work and commitment to NCYC.

We had our biggest ever NCYC Members Christmas Party in December with over 250 members attending (the biggest sit-down event our club has held).



Members praised the event, especially the generous buffet put on by Executive Chef Luke Carpenter.

The Sons of Beaches had everyone dancing into the night and there was a great vibe and atmosphere throughout the event. It was great to see such a big turn-out of members coming together and celebrating the festive season.

Our food and beverage masterclasses are returning every month for 2023. Some of the biggest brands in Australian and the Hunter Valley in the industry will be hosting our masterclasses such as Oatley Fine Wine Merchants, Peter Drayton, Carillion Wines, Bentspoke Brewing Co., and 4 Pines Brewing Company. All masterclasses are \$15 and include tastings and canapés.

There are limited seats available for each master class. Links to book your spot are on our website and in our weekly newsletter.

Chef's Report



Hello everyone!
Happy New Year and welcome to Summer!

We are slowly starting to see consistency back in the fresh produce supply, with prices easing and quality improving.

Extreme disruptions are becoming less frequent.

As we move into the warmer weather, sometimes things can get a little volatile with supply.

Unfortunately, Port Stephens oysters have been wiped out. So, inevitably, that has driven the price up and made oysters harder to source.

Our oysters are currently being sourced from Forster. Fingers crossed this year for farmers we don't have a repeat of the previous terrible weather conditions.



On the bright side, Summer heat means it is time for peaches, pineapple, mango, passionfruit, eggplant, beans, spinach, and sweetcorn.

We'll be featuring some of my favourite summer fruits – strawberries and peaches.

I would like to thank my team for tirelessly working throughout the busy festive period, which is always a challenge. I consider myself very lucky to have such a good team of chefs, cooks and miscreants.

We all look forward to seeing you again this year. Remember, we're open seven days a week!

– Chef Luke Carpenter



ncyc.net.au/nautica-dining



December marked 12 months since I've been in the role. There have been many learning curves, but I have always felt supported and welcomed by both members and marina visitors – so thank you!

We had an extremely busy November and December with two ships loading and another ship unloading on Christmas

Eve of all days! We saw many competing vessels travelling down the coast for the Sydney to Hobart, including *Stefan Racing*, *Antipodes*, and *Orione* to name a few.

We also welcomed a very large fleet from RPAYC, who spent NYE with us on our marina with a barbecue and watching the air show over the Carrington silos. All of this was in addition to our usual Christmas and

New Year's holiday peak.

Looking ahead, we expect to see a return to normality as vessels pop in on their journeys home and the welcoming back of our holidaying permanenters.

I suspect we will see a reasonably quiet period before it all ramps up again in March, with a booked-out Supercars weekend occurring the same weekend as the Newcastle Game Fishing Club's East Coast Classic ... as well as a two-handed race to Newcastle from the CYCA.

Then in April we see SailFest and Sail Port Stephens regattas bringing TP52s and others to our shores.

So, it's all happening!

As always, the marina would not run smoothly without the tireless teamwork of all staff, regardless of the department – I feel extremely lucky to work with such a supporting and cohesive team.

– Matthew Williams

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Finishing the year with a bang!

Happy New Year to all. And what a great way to end the year! We had a huge variety of functions – from a small intimate gathering to a 230-person Christmas party in our spectacular function room.

We saw many ways our beautiful club transformed from a corporate conference to a Christmas celebration. As Christmas fast approached and the new year, we set off the end of the year with a bang. With 48 functions in November and December alone.

We look forward to the new year and upcoming Weddings, regattas, and much more.



... from a small intimate gathering to a 230-person Christmas party!

As always, we'd like to extend a great big thank you to all our staff for their efforts and to our members and guests for making sure the clubhouse is full of life, smiles, and good times.

STEPS TO STAY SAFE NEAR SEAGOING SHIPS

- > Always **keep a lookout** for seagoing ships.
- > **Determine if the vessel is moving towards you** or away from you.
- > Always **keep a safe distance** away from a large vessel.
- > From the ship's bridge it is hard to see smaller boats. Some ships will have blind spots ahead of up to 600 metres. **Stay far enough away to be in sight.**
- > **Act early** so you can move away from these seagoing ships.
- > **Familiarise yourself** with the shipping channels or fairways.
- > **Stay clear** of the channels or fairways when seagoing ships are entering or departing the port and harbour.
- > **Be aware** of wakes of seagoing ships, particularly when the large vessel is in relatively shallow water and moving at higher speeds.
- > Always have your **navigation lights on at night** so other vessels can clearly see you.

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- > You **MUST** stay well clear of the shipping channels and large ships and only cross the channel when it is safe to do so.
- > **DO NOT** anchor in a channel or fairway.
- > **DO NOT** block a channel or fairway.

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Newcastle Harbour VHF 09

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Welcome to the halfway point of the 2022-2023 summer sailing season!

We've had a busy start to the season with offshore racing, inshore racing, and off-the-beach racing at Newcastle and Port Stephens.

Thanks to our volunteer race management team, I was able

to hit the water as a competitor in the Champions League – racing our Elliott 6m inshore keelboat fleet at Honeysuckle throughout October and November. The Champions League aimed to bring together the top pedigree of members racing in a tight and intense tournament. It's a no-drop series so every race counts.

Congratulations to the eighteen race Champions League winning team of Thomas Steenson, Tom Dawson, and Harry Miller. I enlisted my mum and my sister to come and race with me and we scored second place overall ahead of the third-place team of Blake Robertson, Oliver Riorden, and Michael Ovenstone.

We had some tight racing and were thrilled when we had regular mark roundings that were seven boats wide and all overlapped. All the teams consistently offered feedback remarking how much of a rewarding and upskilling opportunity the series provides.

Congratulations also to Dean Nissen, Toby Whittle, and Mark Alderton for winning the Members League, as well as Ken Semple, and Scott Evans for winning the Double Handed League, and to Banjo Nicholson, Noah Steenson and Arthur Bell for winning the Youth League.

The first half of the year has seen us complete the Spring Short Ocean Pointscore with *Marta Jean* winning PHS1, *Scuffy* winning PHS2, *Marta Jean* winning IRC, and *Joyride* and *Betty D* winning their ORCc divisions.

The Pantaenius Twilight series was an easy run if you enjoy reaching – because that's about all we got for 12 weeks. There was, however, a presence of unpleasant conditions where we had brown water and tall wave action at the heads where wind met tide that lingered for a couple of weeks early in the series. With 25 boats entered in the twilight series, *She's the Culprit* scored first overall in PHS division and *Schouten Passage* first in ORCc.

We also raced the Hunter 100 offshore overnight race in December. The dream run saw wind on the beam



throughout almost the entire race. We had eight yachts racing with us and they met the CYCA's 72 boat strong fleet as they raced north to Cabbage Tree Island with us together during the night.

Our Ocean Pointscore coastal passage series currently sees *Satisfaction 2* in the lead on equal points with *Uprising Brightside Marine* ahead of *Summer Salt* and *Marta Jean*. There are still three races remaining including the Pittwater weekend and a Moon Islet race.

At the Bay Sailing Centre, Tim Peachey is currently in the lead of the Lasers annual pointscore ahead of Dennis Hume and Roger Ramsey. They race three windward/leeward races off the beach on Sunday afternoons.

Lasers at Newcastle can now look forward to returning to racing in February with the construction of our new hardstand and launching facility opposite the





yacht club at Carrington. The waterfront access and floating pontoon were constructed and installed prior to Christmas and are ready for racing to commence as per the calendar in the Sailing Handbook.

Sail GP (*Team Spain*) has officially partnered with Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club for the Sydney Sail GP event in February. The alliance will provide a once in a lifetime opportunity to select youth and members to tour the Sail GP Sydney base and grant them access to the team experts. Be sure to look out for the NCYC burgee displayed on the Spain Sail GP boat when they're racing in Sydney!

Our Elliott racing leagues will return in February-March for another round of the Members League and Champions League tournaments. I really recommend that everybody experiences racing in these Olympic boats against similarly paced competitors.

Within the academy, we're excited to welcome new dinghy and keelboat instructors through our regular instructor qualification training courses – we always welcome enquiries to join our onwater team. You can apply via the club website's new Careers page.

We'll be taking our Force 24 training keelboat fleet to Lake Macquarie later in April and will be based out of Lake Macquarie Yacht Club where we will aim to introduce the local youth and adult population to our sail training and learn to sail opportunities by delivering local courses throughout the month.

As always, I can't give enough recognition to our volunteer teams. Our Men's Shed team performs regular maintenance and upgrade works and will continue to be a regular weekly presence throughout the year as we

keep our onwater and clubhouse assets operating at their best. Similarly, our Race Management Team continues to deliver high quality racing both inshore and offshore at both Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and our Bay Sailing Centre venues. What we do is only possible with the help of our network of passionate members and volunteers and I look forward to working alongside them throughout the remainder of the season.

– Jack Buchan



LEARN TO SAIL COURSES FOR KIDS

The NCYC Sailing Academy is a registered provider with Service NSW and accepts the \$100 ACTIVE KIDS vouchers.

For further information,
contact our Sailing Academy
Tel: (02) 4940 8188 or
email: sailingacademy@ncyc.net.au

It's on for young and old!

You're never too old, or too young, to learn the ropes when it comes to sailing, and the range of courses available through the NCYC cater for all ages and levels of experience and fitness. What are you waiting for?

ADULT LEARN TO SAIL

Discover Sailing Experience

This course is for participants keen to experience what keelboat sailing is about. This is a perfect 'taster' for anyone who wants to discover sailing for the first time. This is the perfect introduction and can be the ideal way for you to begin your sailing journey, without committing to a full training program.

Start Crewing

This course is designed for participants who wish to begin sailing in a keelboat. Learn the basics including boat handling, safety, and sailing theory.

Start Helming

This course develops both your theory and practical skills to confidently take control on the helm. This course is designed for participants who want to learn how to helm a keelboat, and continue their skill development as a crew.

Start Skippering

You will now advance your sailing skills and safety knowledge to enable you to skipper unsupervised in



sheltered waters. This course is designed for participants who wish to begin skippering a keelboat, unsupervised.

Spinnakers

This course introduces you to the fun and challenge of using a spinnaker. This course is designed for participants who have grasped fundamental sailing skills and want to learn how to use spinnakers.

Transition to Yachting

You will now learn the basic racing rules of sailing, skills and tactics, and gain an understanding of what is expected of a racing crew on a yacht. This course is designed for participants who have completed at least Start Crewing & Start Helming courses and are ready to experience sailing on a bigger yacht with the intention of becoming a racing crew. This course is ideally suited to those wishing to join offshore twilight racing at the club.





KIDS LEARN TO SAIL

Tackers 1 - “Having Fun”

This course aims to provide children aged 7-12 with a fun, safe and affordable way to get into sailing. Kids sail in pairs using our plastic training boats.

Tackers 2 - “Tricks & Techniques”

In this course, kids sail on their own as instructors deliver games and challenges to further progress sailing skills while having fun and forming friendships.

Tackers 3 - “Sailing Fast!”

This course completes the Tackers pathway and focuses on advanced sailing skills through games and adventures on the water. After graduating Tackers 3, kids are ready to join the Tackers Green Fleet racing squad.

Tackers Green Fleet

Still using the club’s plastic training boats, kids learn to race and take responsibility for the setup and packup of the sailboat. Green Fleet prepares kids to be ready to use their own boat.

O’pen Skiff Squad

The O’pen Skiff Squad is designed to help kids and families into purchasing and sailing their first boat. Kids will work with coaches to refine their skills so that they are ready to train and race locally and at other clubs and regattas where they will improve their sailing skills and form a greater friendship network throughout the hunter and NSW. Activities will still maintain a focus on fun, friendships, and skill development.



NCYC has highly experienced, award-winning instructors delivering the courses, including Senior Instructor Andrew Omotosho. All hold national keelboat qualifications with Australian Sailing as well as additional certifications. Safety equipment is provided. The easiest way to find out more about these great courses is to visit our website, ncyc.net.au, and follow the Academy dropdown menu. There are also Frequently Asked Questions at ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy-faqs/.



Members' Xmas Party







Congratulations to Chris Laughlin and the crew on 'Trim' – claiming the inaugural Hunter 100 trophy for Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto!

Eight local yachts spent the night offshore on the first Friday night of December as they contested NCYC's new Hunter 100, a warm-up for the greatest race on the Australian sailing calendar – the Rolex Sydney to Hobart.

The race commenced from Newcastle at 6.30pm on the Friday. The Hunter 100 is a 100 nautical mile, offshore overnight dash drawing boats from Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, and Port Stephens.

On the start line, we had *51st Project* from Port Stephens Yacht Club, *Trim* from Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto, along with Newcastle competitors *Betty D*, *Frantic*, *Mako*, *Satisfaction II*, *Scuffy* and *She's the Culprit*.

Starting in Newcastle Harbour, the sailors turn south to make their way around Bird Island and then turn north to Cabbage Tree Island off Port Stephens before returning home.

Mick Martin's TP52 *Frantic* was the leader of the pack



and came in to finish around 5am Saturday morning to take line honours.

The tightest boat race on the water, however, was between the next three boats as *51st Project*, *Mako*, and *She's the Culprit* tussled for the next three places throughout the entire 13 hours until they all finished within 90 seconds of one another between 7.35am and 7.37am Saturday morning.

Scuffy and *Betty D* were affected by some lighter winds





as they rounded Cabbage Tree Island, however, two-handed entry *Satisfaction II* (Paul Beath & Ken Semple) along with *Trim* managed to keep pace and came in to finish around 10.30am.

In the darkness of the night, our fleet mixed into the CYCA's Cabbage Tree Island race after having rounded Bird Island and were racing north to Cabbage Tree Island with them.

Sailing Manager Jack Buchan explains: "The quick overnight dash offers an opportunity for local crews to gain experience, and to prepare for and participate in an offshore overnight race before committing to a full Sydney to Hobart campaign."

"Many of the competitors have taken this opportunity to seek further training provided onsite here at the club including First Aid courses, Safety & Sea Survival courses, and Sailing at Night masterclasses – better preparing them for bigger offshore campaigns in the coming seasons."

Mako, *Uprising Brightside Marine* and *KD4* all successfully went on to contest the 2022 Rolex Sydney Hobart Race.

In the darkness of night, our fleet mixed into the CYCA's Cabbage Tree Island race after having rounded Bird Island



Above: The crew of *Trim* savour their handicap victory in the inaugural offshore classic.

Painting of the yacht *Spray*

By artist Mike Eggleston

Mike Eggleston is a Foundation Member of NCYC and is a well-known Newcastle artist. He was very involved in NCYC activities in its early years and with his wife, Maree, owned a motor launch called *Fortune of War*. This vessel was the club's mark-laying boat and was named after the oldest hotel in Australia, located at the Rocks, Sydney. The name reflects Mike's lifelong interest in maritime history.

Mike is an accomplished artist and model maker. Having made models since he was young, he has collection of museum-quality models of ships. He is a former member of the Australian Society of Maritime of Artists.

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club is fortunate to own one of Mike's models and two of his water colour paintings. He generously donated these works in 2002 and 2006, in the early days of the club, and they are now displayed in the upstairs foyer and in The Retreat.

Mike trained originally as a cadet press artist and illustrator with the *Newcastle Herald* and *Sun*, eventually becoming a newspaper cartoonist. He later moved into the role of Executive Director of Creative Services at Peach Advertising.



Australia Day Race

This water colour painting is displayed in the upstairs foyer.

From 1999 an annual team's event, the Friendship Cup, was held. The aim was to foster co-operation and good will between LMYC and NCYC and to demonstrate to the Honeysuckle Development Corporation, the keen interest that existed for the establishment of a marina and yacht club in Newcastle Harbour.

Each club was represented by three yachts and the competition was later held as part of the Australia Day Regatta. The event has not been held in recent years due to difficulties navigating the Swansea Channel and because Australia Day is now celebrated on the day of 26 January. (Australia Day used to be celebrated over a long weekend).



To compose this painting, Mike, who was the unofficial NCYC photographer at the time, used numerous photographs taken from the start boat.. Many of the competitors can be identified and there is even one boat returning to the start under spinnaker. Maybe they broke the line?

Model of the yacht *Spray*

During the years 1895 – 1898, Captain Joshua Slocum sailed his 36ft timber yacht *Spray* around the world, roughly following the route of Magellan, to become the first person to circumnavigate the globe solo. His epic voyage is recorded in his famous book, *Sailing Alone Around the World*.

During that voyage, Captain Slocum visited Newcastle and he describes the experience in his book.

After sailing a course from Samoa, that took him north of Fiji, he said: “I sailed direct for New South Wales, passing south of New Caledonia, and arrived at Newcastle after a passage of 42 days, mostly storms and gales.”

Of one particularly bad storm south of New Caledonia that caused havoc for other much larger commercial vessels, Slocum wrote:

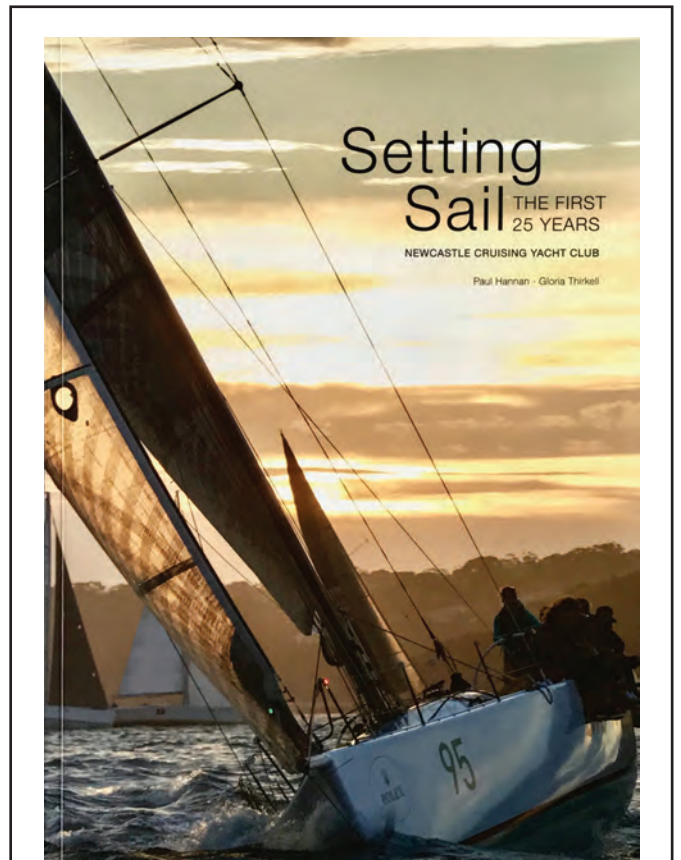
“The *Spray* was all right, lying-to like a duck. She was under a goose’s wing mainsail and had had a dry deck while the passengers on the steamer, I heard later, were up to their knees in water in the saloon.

“In this gale I made the land about Seal Rocks, where the steamship *Catherton*, with many lives, was lost a short time before. I was many hours off the rocks, beating back and forth, but weathered them at last.

“I arrived at Newcastle in the teeth of a gale of wind. It was a stormy season. The government pilot, Captain Cumming, met me at the harbour bar, and with the assistance of a steamer carried my vessel to a safe berth. Many visitors came on board, the first being the United States consul, Mr Brown. Nothing was too good for the *Spray* here. All government dues were remitted, and after I had rested a few days a port pilot with a tug carried her to sea again, and she made along the coast toward the harbour of Sydney, where she arrived the following day, October 10, 1896.”

Mike used the plans and drawings from Captain Slocum’s book, together with old photos and other source material, to make the model of *Spray*. It involved a great deal of research and many hours of work. The sail configuration of the model is as it was when *Spray* visited Newcastle in early October 1896.

The model of the *Spray* informed the water colour painting that accompanies it. The painting shows *Spray* entering Newcastle Harbour. Mike also had to research what Nobbys and Newcastle Harbour would have looked like in the late 1890s.



AVAILABLE NOW

for \$30 from the Club
or Marina Administration Office

Sadly, there has been an increase in incidents during the holiday period which serves as a timely reminder that we must always exercise our good judgement when out on the water.

As a skipper, good judgement can be something that we take for granted, particularly those of us who are more experienced boaters. It's important to remember that even the most experienced boaters can face unexpected challenges.

When we talk about judgement, we're talking about recognising risks and managing them safely. This includes recognising how fast you are going, how much other traffic there is on the waterway, your vessel's capabilities and the weather and sea state conditions.

When planning your day out you must ensure that there is enough safety equipment on board for you and your passengers and that they are in good working order, including lifejackets.

Good judgement is also ensuring you regularly check the weather, not only before you head out but also during your trip as conditions can change quickly.

The marine environment can be unpredictable and

dangerous, it is vital that as the skipper you are prepared for an emergency or incident. You must have a plan of what to do and who to contact if you do run into trouble.

It's also important that your passengers are also aware of what to do should things go awry, and this includes any children on board.

Before you head out make sure all passengers are wearing a lifejacket and that it is fitted correctly, that they know where the safety equipment is stored and how to use safety items such as the marine radio and EPIRB.

If you are involved in or witness an incident, you must always stop and give as much help as possible. Depending on the severity of the incident, you may need to contact authorities.

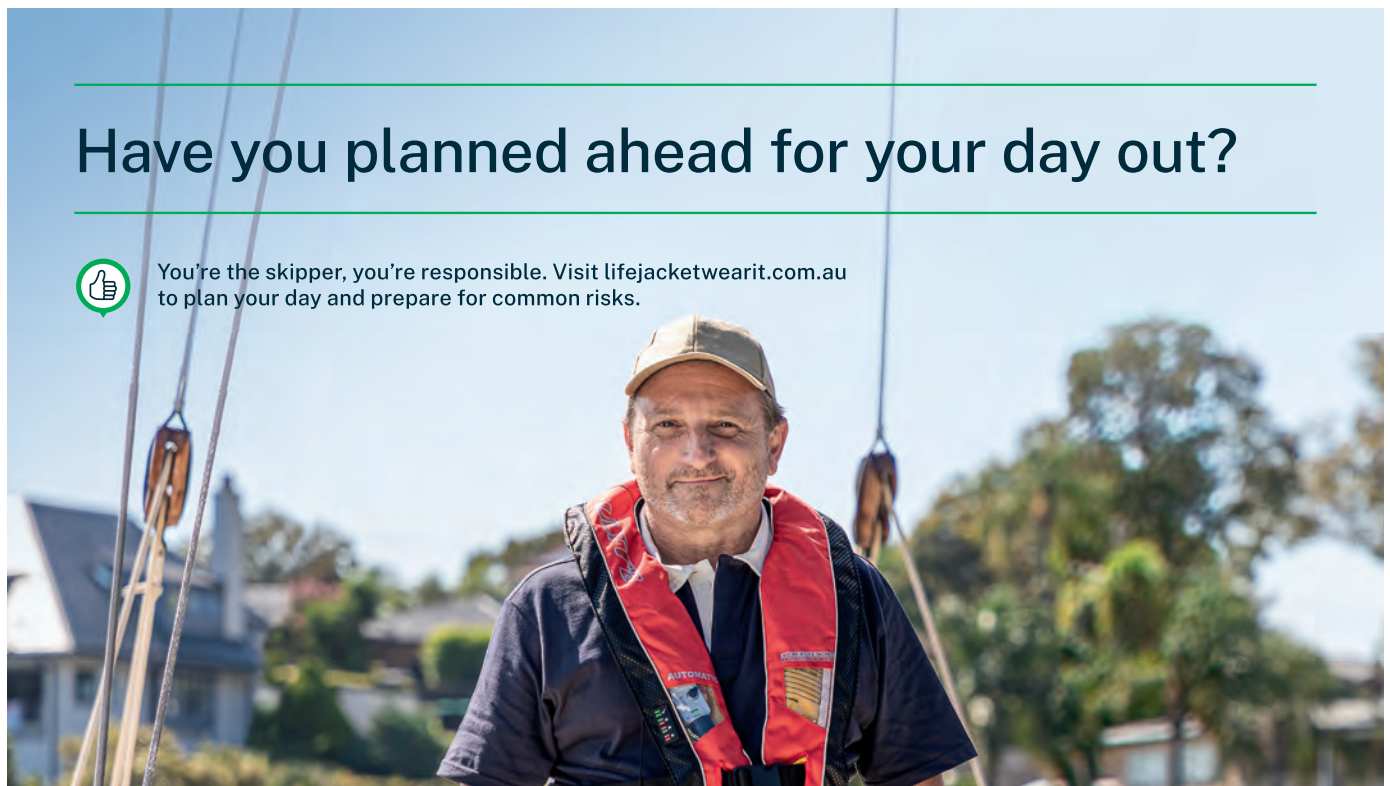
Always remember that before you head out, log on with Marine Rescue by calling your Marine Rescue NSW base on VHF Channel 16 or by using the free Marine Rescue App.

Visit lifejacketwearit.com.au for more tips on how to stay safe on NSW waterways.

Have you planned ahead for your day out?



You're the skipper, you're responsible. Visit lifejacketwearit.com.au to plan your day and prepare for common risks.



Bay Sailing Centre

The 2023 Flying 11s Australian Championships were hosted by the Bay Sailing Centre at Port Stephens from January 16-21, bringing one of Australia's best junior training classes to arguably the country's premier dinghy-sailing waterway.

Conditions were almost perfect for the fleet of 39 starters, ranging from strong nor-east sea breezes to gusty southerlies accompanied by rain.

Belmont 16s crews were favoured to defend the title won by Marshall Day and Leo Pirret last year at Gosford, and the club didn't disappoint – they filled the top four positions and seven of the top 10.

Marshall and Leo claimed their second consecutive national title with a net score of 8 points from nine races (including two drops). They edged out Marshall's sister, Keisha, and crew Amy Ellis on 22 points, followed by Charlie and Aidan Nosworthy.

The Days have graduated from Sabots and their parents competed in NS14s and Cherubs. To appreciate the significance, you just have to look at some of the names who've progressed through the F11 class into the Olympic realm: Malcolm Page, Nathan Wilmot, Nathan Outteridge, Iain Jensen, Nicky Souter, Olivia Price, Nina Curtis and Katie Spithill, along with legends Iain Murray, Michael Coxon and Adam Beashel.

Manly's best were Jemma Hopkins and Audrey Windust in 5th overall.

Sincere thanks go to the race committee and club volunteers for their fantastic effort in hosting the Championships.



CAN YOU HELP?

The Mission to Seafarers provide Care Packs for visiting sailors to Newcastle

- **Books**
- **Men's Clothing**
- **Men's Jackets**
- **CD Music**
- **Souvenirs**
- **Toiletries**



Any donation is appreciated and can be left at NCYC Admin/Marina office or dropped off at 96 Hannell St, Wickham

Security Phone Numbers

Emergency

- **Police** – (02) 4929 0999
- **Water Police** – (02) 4984 9012
- **Fire Department** – 000
- **Dockmaster** – 0408 299 512

Club Directory

- **General Inquiries** (9am - 5pm)
(02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
- **Licensed Club**
(02) 4940 8188 – barmanager@ncyc.net.au
- **Marina Manager** (8am - 4pm 7 days)
0408 299 512 – dockmaster@ncyc.net.au
- **Administration** (9am - 5pm 5 days)
(02) 4940 8188 – info@ncyc.net.au
- **Functions** (9am - 5pm)
(02) 4940 8188 – functions@ncyc.net.au

Coming Events

Please check the club website ncyc.net.au for updates

February '23

- 1 Out There Sailing
- 2 Women's Thursday Sailing (4wk)
Women's Friday Sailing (4wk)
- 3 Women's Spinnaker (4wk)
Twilight Sailing
Newcastle - Pittwater Race
- 4 Pittwater - Newcastle Race
Start Crewing | Helming
Tackers 1 & 2 (Term 1)
Start Skippering
- 5 Tackers Green Fleet
Women's Spinnaker (4wk)
- 8 Tackers 1, 2 & 3
- 9 Masterclass
- 10 Twilight Sailing
- 12 Summer Short Ocean 2
- 15 Twilight Offshore
- 22 Twilight Pursuit
- 23 Masterclass
- 26 Summer Short Ocean R4 & R5

March '23

- 1 Twilight Offshore
- 2 Women's Thursday Sailing (4wk)
Twilight Sailing
- 4-5
She Sails Development Regatta
- 5 Summer Short Ocean R6
- 8 Out There Sailing
Twilight Sailing
- 10-13
Laser Master Nationals (BSC)
- 12 Start Crewing | Helming
Moon Islet Race
- 15 Twilight Offshore
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 19 Summer Short Ocean R7
- 22 Twilight Pursuit
- 26 Final Summer Pointscore race
End of Summer Party

April '23

- 1 RPAYC Pittwater Coff's
- 7 75th Brisbane Gladstone
- 13 Westpac Helicopter Regatta
- 14-15
SailFest Regatta inc TP52 Gold Cup,
Trysailing, Cock-of-Harbour,
- 16 Out There Sailing Experience
- 17 Out There Sailing Program
- 22 Academy Youth Development
- 23 Newcastle-Port Stephens Race
- 24-29
Sail Port Stephens Regatta inc
Commodores Cup (PHS) and Port
Stephens Trophy (ORC Club)

May '23

- 5-7
Sail Port Stephens Regatta inc NSW
Yachting Championships & TP52s
- 19-21
Sail Port Stephens Off-the-Beach
Regatta hosted by Bay Sailing Centre

REGULAR

- 2nd Monday of each month | Sailing Committee meeting 5pm
- 3rd Tuesday of month | Board Meeting 5pm
- 4th Tuesday of month | Social Committee meeting 4pm
- Every Wednesday 9am | Mens "Boat" Shed meeting
- Online Skipper Course
- RYA Day Skipper eLearning
- RYA Essential Navigation/Seamanship
- Safety and Sea Survival eLearning



A couple is seen from behind on the deck of a boat, looking out at the ocean during a golden sunset. The man is standing and holding a rope, while the woman is sitting. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and the water reflects the low sun. The boat's deck, with its railings and equipment, is visible in the foreground.

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NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

95 Hannell Street
Wickham NSW 2293

(02) 4940 8188
www.ncyc.net.au
info@ncyc.net.au

HARBOURFRONT DRINKS, DINING AND FUNCTIONS

Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club's renovated clubhouse welcomes members and guests

The venue has a relaxed and contemporary resort-like feel, unique for Newcastle

Call NCYC today to host your next event

We offer a choice of spaces for anything from intimate weddings and Xmas parties, up to gala dinners and corporate events for 300 people, all in an exclusive location

Members receive special discounts

(02) 4940 8188 | functions@ncyc.net.au



The NCYC's Nautica Dining is a fresh culinary experience in every sense, with award-winning Executive Chef Luke Carpenter leading an eclectic and dynamic kitchen crew

The restaurant offers a superb a la carte menu, bar and lounge classics and a selection of degustation packages for special family and work occasions

Book online at ncyc.net.au



ON THE RIGHT TACK

Looking at getting your kids into sailing? Tackers is the perfect pathway onto the water. We run programs throughout the school terms on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and condensed programs in the school holidays. Bookings are now open, so get in quick as they sell out fast!

sailingacademy@ncyc.net.au

ncyc.net.au/junior-tackers-sailing-7-12yrs