

Port Douglas Yacht Club

Newsletter

Volume 3 January 2012 Issue 17

A summer of sun and (some) super sailing weather

In this issue:

- Summer Series Race 1 & 2
- New boat licensing laws for 2012
- Damo returns to Tassie with help from PDYC fund raising
- Combined Clubs 50th annual Australia Day Races
- WAGS roundup
- Summer nights at Low Isles
- Risk, rules and regulations
- Club History with Henry Cotter
- On board safety

After last year it's safe to say we're all enjoying the fabulous summer weather that brought in the new year. With a few weeks still to see out the season it's to be hoped that the autumn wet can be as kind to us. The Poseidon Sailaway Summer Series kicked off 2012 racing on January 28th with a double header and crews are all looking forward to some serious sailing hopeful of missing the usual interruptions of strong winds, storms and heavy rain.

Big Ears gives club racing the nod



Race Results

Summer Series Race 1

1st Magic
2nd Ann Sea
3rd -

Summer Series Race 2

1st Ann Sea
2nd Magic
3rd Ice

Race Reports: Summer Series R1 & R2

Light air from all points of the compass greeted the seven yachts that came to the line for race 1 of the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Summer Series. In a comical display several boats lost all motion and drifted in circles trying desperately to capture the fickle breeze. Eventually with only two finishers Magic claimed first ahead of Ann Sea. Race 2 had a little more of the 15 to 20 knot breeze that had been predicted and the fleet enjoyed a good beat into the northerly breeze comfortably completing the three laps of the windward leeward course in the time allotted. Magic took line honours but had to settle for 2nd as Ann Sea took 1st ahead by 13 seconds on handicap, with Ice 3rd. The results have Magic and Ann Sea tied on 3 points on the series ladder followed by Ice (11), Tau Ceti (12), Big Ears (13) Miriama (14) and Ruff Red (16). The highlight of the day was seeing Miriama and Big Ears joining the racing fleet.

Damo returns home After several weeks following an induced coma at Cairns Base Hospital Damien Smith has returned home to Hobart for specialist rehab following a late night incident that left him with a severe head injury late last year. The trip home was funded by money raised on behalf of Damo at the clubs Anti Violence Festival in December. The remainder of the funds will be used to assist Damo in his long rehabilitation journey. A specialist field in which his brain is retrained to master the processes which we ordinarily take for granted. Close friend and spokesman for Damien, Simon Macfie, said that he was slowly regaining some neurological normality but would frequently lapse into periods of memory loss and an inability to reconcile who or where he is. Everybody at PDYC wishes Damo a safe and quick recovery and our thoughts are with him and his family and friends.

Maritime Safety Queensland advice
As of 1st January 2012 changes to recreational boating safety legislation have come into effect

Details of these changes are located on MSQ website

<http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/About-us/MSQ-headlines/Boating-safety-improvements.aspx>

Please ensure you are aware and have read and understood all of the new changes.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please contact MSQ Cairns Office on 4052 7400.

Combined Clubs 50th annual Australia Day Race

Several club boats entered the 50th annual Combined Clubs Australia Day Race with a choice between a course along Four Mile Beach or a rounding of Low Isles. Magic, Sinabada and Impact opted for the island and Ruff Red took the beach. The event is an unusual race where both sails and engines can be used. The crew have to cross the finish line in the closest time possible to the time calculated to complete the course at an average speed previously nominated by the skipper. The winner is the boat that gets the closest to her calculated finish time. The Low Isles rounding is gauged to be 18.7nm so a boat must calculate the time they must cross the finish line based on their allocated start time. Sound confusing? In a simple example using 4 knots nominated boat speed and an allocated start time of 8:00am that boat must finish at 12:40:30pm or as close to that as possible. With a host of various reasons as to why (a 10kg Giant Trevally being one) none of the clubs representatives did very well – and there was no wind! Despite this a great Australia Day was enjoyed by all involved.



Moira onboard Sinabada prepares to cross the start line for the Combined Clubs 50th annual Australia Day Race

Exemplar Clipper Cup Regatta News

Race entry forms and Notice of Race available on line or from the club office.

Wednesday 23rd May to Sunday 27th May 2012

Six races over four days of racing

Three divisions

\$8,000 prize pool

This is the biggest event on the clubs calendar

START BOAT NEEDED

The club is seeking the volunteer services of a start boat and crew.

If you can assist contact

0418 897 123

Volunteers are required to assist with time keeping and start signals under the direction of Race Officer, John Graham. Let us know if you are interested.

There's Only 16 weeks to go...



WAGS roundup

December 28th was the final WAGS for 2011 and four yachts set sail despite heavy skies and the threat of rain. A light but often gusty westerly breeze allowed a starboard tack on a heading off Four Mile Beach which was most unusual for a WAGS night. A small pod of dolphins accompanied Samantha, Magic, Ruff red and Ice much to the delight of passengers and crew and Samantha took home the rum with a full house onboard.

On Wednesday January 4th eight yachts sailed in good conditions with a large crowd. Magic, Samantha, Ruff Red, Indigo, Ann Sea, Tau Ceti, Miriama and Freda had room for just about everyone on what was a very busy night. Samantha in what's becoming a bit of a habit won the rum for the second consecutive week much to the delight of Matt in the kitchen.

Wednesday 11th January was another classic summers evening with a light nor'easter and a huge fleet of 11 yachts. Sinabada claimed the rum ahead of Miriama, Freda, Ann Sea, Magic, Indigo, Ice, Ruff Red, Tau Ceti, Huahine and Samantha. A spectacular sunset was followed by a lightning display and the club was close to capacity as well over 100 wined and dined into the night.

Wednesday 18th January threatened to be rained off but for the nine boats that went out under grey skies a fabulous sail was enjoyed by all. The cruise liner Pacific Dawn provided a perfect windward mark but the main focus became avoiding the squall coming in from the east. The breeze lifted towards 20 knots as the rain moved in but most boats managed to keep dry heading south past the liner. Henry on Miriama took the rum ahead of Magic, Freda, Ruff Red, Ice, Tau Ceti, Sinabada, Indigo and Samantha.

Wednesday 25th rounded out the month with six yachts braving the threat of rain and the strange conditions with northerly waves and easterly winds. Miriama, Sinabada, Ruff Red, Magic, Tau Ceti and Samantha filled their decks enabling everyone a place onboard. The rains stayed away and Robyn and Henry made the presentation with Tau Ceti claiming the rum. January was a good month for WAGS with 34 yachts.

Cruise Liner Jokes anyone..?

A retired English parliamentarian was cruising the Med on an Italian cruise liner. Some Italian journalists asked why an ex British Prime Minister should choose an Italian ship rather than a British one.

The honourable gentleman replied "There are three things I like about being on an Italian cruise ship. First, the cuisine is unsurpassed, second the service is superb, and third, in time of emergency, there is none of this nonsense about women and children first".

Two Glaswegian passengers found at the bar onboard the Costa Concordia have refused to leave the stricken vessel claiming their ticket was all inclusive.

When the captain of the ill fated Costa Concordia was asked if he knew where he was going he replied "off course". The passengers from the Italian Soccer Referees Association gave the Captain a yellow card and booked him for diving.

Meanwhile Italian Police are still interviewing the Korean Honeymoon couple found on the Costa Concordia as to the whereabouts of the rescue dog that first found them.



The still waters of the Coral Sea on the last WAGS of 2011

Below: January 25th the crew of Sinabada enjoy a sunset sail



January new members:

Stephen Stewart
Sara Jane Waring
Todd & Kate Malone

The club now has a record
breaking 156 members

Not a member? Why not join today?
See staff for details

Summer nights at Low Isles



The third annual summer night out at Low Isles was enjoyed by a small group of sixteen of the usual suspects on Saturday 14th January. Seven boats made up the fleet with Kai Lani, Tau Ceti, Ice, Sky Walker, Sea Wizard, T Break and Suntan all enjoying a beat into a steady nor'easter to get to the island. Vic and Robyn Petrus made sure they had the hot plate installed and ready for the crowd that gathered on the eastern shore of Low. As the sun began to fall the steaks and snags began to sizzle. The prevailing winds had generated a small swell that came straight into the normally sheltered lagoon and many began to wonder just what sort of a night they were in for. T Bag and Sun Block, being the old sea salts that they are, new better and dropped their anchors southwest of the reef to take advantage of the lee shore and then made a very careful crossing on the low tide to access the dinner table. Keeping in line with the islands management the party was packed up and heading off shore as last light faded. Sky Walker provided the deck space and the dinghies hanging from her stern were soon dancing in time with the sounds from the seventies and the rolling beat of the northerly sea breeze.

Above: Helen, Moira, Robert, Noel and Trudy onboard Sky Walker. Below right: Noel and Robert arriving for dinner.

The following morning Sea Wizard was first to hit the waves as the boats one by one headed for home. Magic, having been unable to join the party the day before sailed out to meet the returning fleet. Ice was performing her ritualistic attempt to defy the wind gods and refrain from using the engine despite only 4 to 5 knots blowing straight up the stern. A challenging sail on both days with plenty of carbon emissions made by all in the end but trying to sail in and out of Low during the summer months can often be like that. 2010 was a promising start to the concept of a summer night at Low with 18 boats in attendance. 11 boats made the trip in 2011 and 7 for 2012. That's an average decline of 62% each year. If we keep that up in 2013 there'll only be 2.5 boats out there! If you make it just hope you're not on the boat that's half missing!



Sailing Programme Amendments

Two errors and one confirmation must be noted for the 2012 Sailing Programme that is available at the club. February 25th is only one race starting at 2pm and not two races as printed.

The Commodores Cup is on 25th August not 28th as printed. Cairns Yacht Club have confirmed the Exemplar Clipper Cup Feeder Race from Yorkey's to Port Douglas will be on Sunday 20th May with the cruise to Yorkey's from Port on Saturday 19th May. This replaces the dates of May 12th and 13th as printed in the programme.

Reminder of club closures

The club is now closed on Mondays until April 9th Why do we close on Mondays? The first few months of the calendar year are a business nightmare in Port Douglas. Whatever profit has been made up to the new year is slowly eaten away through the following months until the season kicks in again anytime from May or even June. So in an effort to stem the tide of losses this is the time of year when we trim back and cut costs. It has proven to be successful in previous years without too much inconvenience to members. It's also time for our hard working manager Richie to take a well earned break too.

Responsibility, Risk, Rules and Regulations - are we covered?

One of the many rules and regulations we abide by is obtaining the required authorisations to conduct club organised events on the water. The Aquatic Event Permit is the instrument that allows us to confidently venture out onto navigable waters safe in the knowledge that every other user of the waterways should be aware of our activity and that should anything ever happen we have got authorisation to be out there doing what we do – sailing.

Maritime Safety Queensland now requires that each application for an event authorisation is accompanied by a detailed safety management plan and emergency response procedure. In response to this the committee is drafting a suitable document that encompasses all issues relating to safety and risk management for club organised sailing events. This document establishes a basic set of rules by which PDYC expects any person taking part in club organised events to be bound by. It's all simple and straight forward and based entirely on what we should already be aiming to achieve as responsible skippers and crew under the various laws and regulations that already apply once we step onboard.

Part of the plan is a detailed sailing liability, waiver, release and indemnity statement to accompany the crew nomination sheet that everyone should sign before sailing. It explains that Section 68B Trades Practices Amendment (Liability for Recreation Services) Act 2002 (Commonwealth) permits self-assumption of risk by individuals who choose to participate in inherently risky activities and allows them to waive their right under the Trade Practices Act 1974 to sue the business or organisation providing the activity should they suffer personal injury as a result of a failure to provide the service with due care and skill. This applies only to incorporated entities. Individuals (skippers) cannot claim this defence and also it does not apply to minors which is why we have an age restriction. The waiver is the key and it's imperative it is worded correctly to be effective.

There is also a new set of Sailing Instructions for WAGS and a WAGS Policy that explains to everyone involved exactly the procedures for Wednesday sailing. There is also a Code of Conduct that spells out exactly what is expected of anyone that participates in club organised sailing events. It all sounds pretty daunting and regimented, but the truth is the times are changing and this is what we are now required to provide to obtain the authorisations required by law.

The challenge for PDYC as a small sailing community is to rally together and make sure that we don't allow bureaucracy and red tape to stand in the way of our way of life. The only way we can do that is to abide by the rules and play the game. So when a copy of the clubs policies falls in your lap take the time to read it and understand it. Let's all help each other to play by the rules and ultimately have a safer and happier time both at the club and on the water.

Member Profile

Bruce Wynn

Bruce is a long time member of the club and has served on many committees over the years. He has been responsible for a whole host of those thankless behind the scenes jobs that require dedication and hours of paperwork. His love of the ocean and boats brought him to Port Douglas Yacht Club and even though his own boat *Fremantle Doctor* doesn't have a mast or any sails Bruce is regular crew on Ann Sea, though modesty prevents him from claiming any credit for her Summer and Winter series wins in 2011. Never far away when there's a race happening his past involvement with the Clipper Cup providing buoy laying services and start boat crew has been invaluable. One event on the club calendar guaranteed to get Bruce (and wife Marg) involved is a working b. You can be sure to find them both armed and ready to tackle whatever the task at hand might be. There would not be too many members that rival Bruce for dedication and passion for Port Douglas Yacht Club and for this he is to be commended.



Funding applications step up a gear Brian Stewart of Blusport, a specialist in the planning, development and administration of sports clubs recently approached PDYC offering to assist with funding applications. Blusport claims to have a 100% track record in 2011 for successful grant applications totalling over \$800,000. Brian met with representatives of PDYC recently to discuss upcoming grants and possibilities for PDYC to secure funding for projects listed in our club development plan. High on the agenda is provision of a new pontoon facility as mentioned in previous Newsletters. As the Port Douglas Waterfront Master Plan moves inexorably forward and the relocation of the boat ramp begins to take shape now is the perfect opportunity to request funding. Improvements at the club detailed in the Cairns Regional Council concept design for the boat ramp indicate a new pontoon facility as part of the suggested infrastructure.

Blusport is of the opinion that this will weigh heavily in favour of a successful grant application given that existing local and state government projects recognise the concept. Blusport has suggested the Sport and Recreation Club Development Grant due to open mid year after the state election should be our target and now is the time to commence planning the clubs application.

Club History with Henry Cotter



A minute in time from the committee archives,,,

I was reading through the minutes the other day, the date was Sunday 26th of March 1995. Our Club House was opened on the 4th of December 1994 so it hadn't been opened that long. The kitchen didn't have a full time staff, we were still growing. The only one on the committee that that you see at the Club today is Bill Mc Neil and the only other some of you may know would be Geoffrey Nicholson. One of the yachts Geoff used to own is in the hardstand called Too Easy. Other members are around but rarely visit the club.

The minute's say council had not inspected the kitchen (that would have been for a permit to sell food) and that Rick Hershel offered to loan the club two gas burners. The committee to source interested parties to run the kitchen of course them being volunteers. The Treasurers report was that the bank balance was satisfactory and no merger accounts outstanding. Looking at the balance sheet it showed an income of \$4,671 payments \$7,981 total cash at the bank \$4605.69 The treasurer reported that \$1,400 of February's takings would show up in March's takings as was unable to get to the bank in time. Most of the rest of the meeting was taken up with the coming of the Easter Regatta which at the time was one of the big events of the sailing calendar. Sunseeker to be contacted as start boat with the start line of the sugar terminal in Cairns. The finishing line at the entrance to Port. The rest of the races would be run by the Port Douglas Yacht Club. I have no details of how the races went or who won the series. They expected thirty plus boats to enter. Cruising Yacht Squadron to donate 20 cartons. Nomination fee to be \$65 which will be divided, \$30 to Marina Mirage for berths, \$20 to the Cruising Yacht Squadron and \$15 to the Port Douglas Yacht Club. It was moved that the Clipper Cup would go on the agenda for the next meeting in April. ~ Henry

Five basic steps to safety onboard for everyone

You'd better pay attention or you might have someone like this looking for you!



Material borrowed from Tom Lochhaas, About.com Guide



Everyone that boards a boat should know five basic steps to safety. When you board a boat for the first time make sure you ask, and if someone boards your boat for the first time be sure to teach them the basics about how to stay safe on the water. Especially if you are regular crew. Here are five safety guidelines everyone onboard should know before heading out.

1. Everyone should have access to a PFD.

Know where PFD's are stored and be certain there are enough for everyone. Also know where the life ring is and know that if anyone goes overboard, even when wearing a PFD, throw the life ring toward the person in the water.

2. Know how to stop the boat.

Assume, in the worst case scenario, the skipper is in the water or having a medical or other emergency. Regular crew should be able to stop the boat or turn to retrieve, but guests may not know what to do. Under sail, know at least how to release the mainsheet and jib sheet immediately to spill the wind and stop the boat. Under power, know how to shut down and restart the engine.

3. Know where fire extinguishers are located.

Know where they are, how to release them from a mounting bracket and how to operate them.

4. Know the boat's radio and how to use it.

The Coast Guard and other boats nearby will be monitoring channel 16. Another boat may be able to assist long before the Coast Guard does. Correct radio protocol aside, in an emergency communication is what matters. Make sure you know where the radio is and how to use it.

5. Know the plan if someone falls overboard.

Falling overboard is the most common boating emergency, a situation that requires immediate action from others in addition to the captain. Know what to do if you or the skipper end up in the water. Everyone should know that their help may be needed if someone falls overboard. Throw the life ring and other floating objects immediately. Assign one person to watch the person in the water at all times, pointing with an outstretched arm. Others should stand by for orders, such as controlling the sails or preparing a retrieval system. It takes a coordinated effort to return the boat to someone in the water and assist the person back on board.

RADIO 107.1 FM 90.9 PORT DOUGLAS

Follow the fortunes of Port FM Mais Oui

Tune into the breakfast show with Michael Gabour weekdays from 6am and catch all the latest PDYC race results on Mondays following race days.

Need a Marine Radio Operators VHF Certificate of Proficiency ?

– it's a radio license in case you're wondering.

PDYC in conjunction with the Coast Guard (to be confirmed) are organising a course for club members that don't have the licence. Although it's legal to tune in and listen, if you don't have the MROCP it's not so good to be broadcasting. So if you're interested in gaining this certificate get your name down for the course and get yourself certified as a proficient marine radio operator. Check the notice board and website for details as they become available.

What did the pilot of a 747 announce over the intercom as his stricken aircraft plunged towards the ocean?
"Ladies and gentlemen, this is your skipper speaking- it'll be all plane sailing from here"

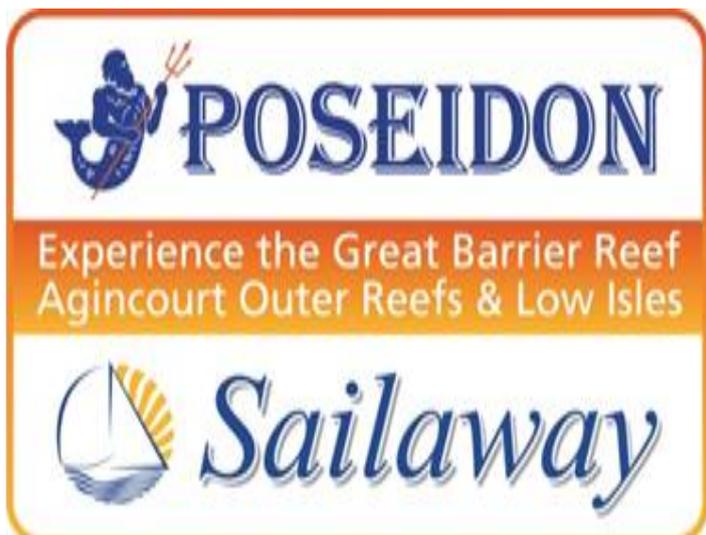


Are we lucky to have a shallow harbour entrance?

What's on the boat stays on the boat

Remember when you're out on the water it's not just the gossip you hear, the arguments you have or the food and drink you bring along. Everything stays on the boat and NOTHING goes in the water - especially beer cans!

Public Boat Ramp relocation Despite the setback with funding applications Cairns Regional Council is pressing on with its plans to relocate the public boat ramp to Spinnaker Close. PDYC management committee requested in its submission to CRC in April 2011 that the club be kept informed and involved at every stage of the implementation of the Port Douglas Waterfront Master Plan that impacted on the club. In response to this CRC project development manager Sandra Burke has invited PDYC to a meeting to discuss the fine points of the ramp relocation. The club committee held an extraordinary meeting to focus on exactly what we want the outcome to be for PDYC. Many issues were discussed and the committee is now in a position to ensure the best possible outcome for members. If you have any suggestions or observations on this issue talk to the committee and be a part of the process.

The logo for Poseidon Sailaway. It features a blue silhouette of Poseidon holding a trident, with the word "POSEIDON" in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below this, in a yellow banner, it says "Experience the Great Barrier Reef Agincourt Outer Reefs & Low Isles". At the bottom, there is a stylized sailboat icon and the word "Sailaway" in a blue, cursive font.

Graham Moritz, skipper of Sinabada inspects lunch for his hard working crew during the Tin Shed Australia Day Race



February Sailing 20

WAGS	Wednesday 1 st	4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:56pm last light 7:19pm
WAGS	Wednesday 8 th	4:00pm onwards	Sunset: 6:54pm last light 7:16pm
Summer Series Race 3	Saturday 11 th	2:00pm	Windward leeward buoy race
WAGS	Wednesday 15 th	4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:51pm last light 7:13pm
Summer Series 4 & 5	Saturday 18 th	10:00am & 2:00pm	Two windward/leeward buoy races with lunch between at club.
WAGS	Wednesday 22 nd	4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:47pm last light 7:09pm
Summer Series 6 & 7	Saturday 25 th	10:00am & 2:00pm	Two windward/leeward buoy races with lunch between at club.
WAGS	Wednesday 29 th	4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:43pm last light 7:05pm

Skippers and crew are reminded that all club organised events in accordance with Yachting Australia Special Regulations Part 1 (also recommended for cruising boats) are Category 6 events considered being close to the shoreline in protected waters and in daylight hours only. RRS YA SR Pt 1 Section 2.01.7.

This Newsletter is printed free of charge by Coastline Graphics and Copy Shop for the benefit of Port Douglas Yacht Club members. Grab a copy at the club and please support yacht club members Philippe and Michelle Petey who support the club through this very generous gesture.

Coastline
Graphics & Copy Shop

Copy & laminate
your precious Marine
Charts in black &
white or colour!

Printing
Copying
Plan Printing
Graphic & Design
Laminating
Photo Printing
Photo Restoration
Secretarial
Editing & Proofreading
Fax & Email
Scanning

Michele & Philippe Petey
8/48 Macrossan Street (NEXT DOOR TO THE POST OFFICE) • PO Box 976 • Port Douglas 4877
Tel. 4099 5331 • Fax 4099 4839
Email: coastlinegraphics@bigpond.com

Wednesday February 29th 2012 - a leap year and steeped in superstition and tradition.

Did you know... Anything started on this day is sure of success. Once every four years on the 29th February a woman has the "right" to propose to a man, Columbus supposedly tricked native Jamaicans into believing he was responsible for a lunar eclipse that occurred 29th February 1504. February 29th is widely considered to be an unlucky day in North Korea, South Korea and parts of Taiwan and Hong Kong. Following local customs children born on February 29th have been put to death. People born on February 29th are known as *leaplings*. There is a 1 in 1461 chance of being a leaping and approximately 0.0684% of the earth's population are leaplings which is about 4 million people.

Next issue: Scheduled for release late February sometime all being well. **Thanks** to all the owners of material borrowed from the net.

Contributions welcome: If you want to submit anything for inclusion, even a regular article, email pdyc@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au

This newsletter is published for the benefit of the sailing community and the members of Port Douglas Yacht Club. Some material is stolen from the internet solely to promote the sport and recreational activity of sailing and where possible we put it back afterwards. PDYC Inc, its office bearers, members, employees and associates accept no responsibility whatsoever for anything arising from this publication. Any person objecting to the use of material or the content of this publication is advised to get over it and come for a sail! You may join us every Wednesday, it's free and it's fantastic – see you out there...