

Port Douglas Yacht Club Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 14 October 2011

Ann Sea leads the way in Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series racing

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RACE RESULTS

Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series

Race 1 October 8th

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1 st | Ann Sea |
| 2 nd | Magic |
| 3 rd | Ice |

Race 2 October 22nd

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 st | Ann Sea |
| 2 nd | Tau Ceti |
| 3 rd | Port FM Mais Oui |

RACE REPORTS

Race 1 Saturday 8th the arrival of the spring northerlies had the regular Sou 'easterly course shifting almost 100° to account for the moderate NNE breeze. All seven boats started on a starboard tack with Ann Sea the first to switch to port in search of cleaner air. Port FM Mais Oui tried desperately to shake off Ice as the two yachts tacked back and forth before finally settling on their separate ways towards the windward mark. As the yachts converged upon the top mark Magic led the fleet slightly ahead of Ann Sea and spinnakers were hoisted by several boats for the downwind run, although some found it difficult to hold the course in the oscillating breeze. By the second lap the fleet was clearly split with Magic and Ann Sea in close contest for pole position, Ice some distance off in third and a tight race developing further afield between Port FM Mais Oui, Tau Ceti and Island Girl. Indigo, the only catamaran in the race was fighting the clock to finish within the allocated time.

Line honours went to Magic on elapsed time of 01:34:32, 00:03:32 ahead of Ann Sea but not quite enough to hold off the challenge. Final positions on corrected times were Ann Sea 01:15:37 from Magic, 01:18:22, and Ice, 01:20:34, Tau Ceti, 01:22:03, Island Girl, 01:23:49, Port FM Mais Oui, 01:27:09 with Indigo failing to complete the course in the three hour time limit.

Race 2: Saturday 22nd the rain cleared and the strong winds eased for the five yachts that ventured forth in the moderate 17 to 20 knot SE breeze. Magic, Ice, Tau Ceti and Port FM Mais Oui chose reefed mains for reduced sail and greater control but under full sail series leader Ann Sea set a blistering pace to lead from start to finish claiming line honours in 01:16:17. Magic held second throughout the course (01:23:18) as Ice (01:34:01), Port FM Mais Oui (01:35:48) and Tau Ceti (01:37:20) chopped and changed places around the three lap windward leeward course. The 21 minutes between the fleet on elapsed time was cut to just 10 minutes on corrected time but the win was already in the bag for Ann Sea recording her second win in as many starts for the Spring Series. Tau Ceti claimed second with Port FM Mais Oui ahead of Ice by just 22 seconds with Magic fifth. The win confirms Ann Sea as favourite for the Spring Series but a tight race for the overall Club Champion is developing between Ann Sea skippered by Tim Preuss and current series leader Port FM Mais Oui, the club owned J24 skippered by Andrew Walker. There are four races still to run and five yachts are in with a chance of a share in the prize money up for grabs in both series. Racing resumes on November 12th allowing for a short break for the annual spring cruising season.

Newsletter goes to print

If you're reading a flashy full colour printed copy of this instead of the usual electronic version then you've either got a professional printer, you're on Henry's delivery list or you collected it from the counter at the club. Either way this edition marks the first print run of the current volume of the Newsletter. **Coastal Graphics and Copy Shop** will be printing copies each month for special delivery and to be available at the club for members and visitors. Club members Philippe and Michele Petey have very generously offered to undertake the print job each month in return for regular advertising space and the expectation of generating new business.

Look for their ad in this and future issues and put **Coastline Graphics and Copy Shop** on top of your shopping list when you next need print, copy or graphic design services. **Coastline Graphics and Copy Shop** also do engraving.

Yachts on the move

Karragun has changed hands again with **Shari Essex** from Cairns now the proud new owner. Having been sold three times in what seems like as many months the old Top Hat is certainly bucking the trend of most boats that seem to take forever to find a new home (anybody looking for a Laser?) Shari and partner **Roger Smith** of Smithies Slipway in Cairns plan to spend some time and a few dollars applying some TLC and are rumoured to be considering keeping the boat back up in Port Douglas. A couple of new boats have also been seen attending WAGS recently with **Lex Adams** bringing **Travesty** into the fold. Also **Graham and Judy Moritz** on **Simbada** have recently joined the Wednesday fleet.

People on the move

Leon and Ruth Paul have left / are leaving town (when they can make up their minds) with **Island Girl** soon to follow. They're heading south to Pomona near Noosa. Leon will be missed by the sailing community as a very experienced and skilful sailor regularly taking part in club events.

Campbell Corbett and **Desley Lloyd** are rumoured to be coming back soon bringing **Jimmie Blacksmith** home. This is great news as Jimmie Blacksmith will no doubt be a regular for WAGS and club racing once again. **Billy McNeil** and **Red Boomer** are also rumoured to be heading back sometime before the new year. Believed to be in PNG at present their return will mark the end of a voyage of discovery that started many months ago.

Leon sailing Island Girl in
Race 1 of the Poseidon
Sailaway Spring Series



PDYC Member Discounts

Smithy's Slipway Cairns



Smithy's Slipway in Cairns is pleased to announce member discounts for PDYC members on a huge range of services. Owner of the business Roger Smith has recently joined the club and often crews with *Ice*.

Phone: 07 4056 8151
Mobile: 0447 712 351
Internet: <http://www.smithysslipway.com.au>

NELSONS SURVEYS

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<http://nelsonssurveys.com.au>

Far North Queensland Marine Surveyors

Member Profile

Dr Dick



Dr Richard Colahan known to all as Dr Dick is a founding member of PDYC. In the early days of club racing Dr Dicks Sunburnt Snowflake was often the boat to beat (depending of course on who you ask). Having devoted much of his time to the club as Commodore in '89/'90 and on many committees throughout the years Dr Dick was the first member to be awarded life membership in 1990 and is still an active club member today always in attendance at the AGM and often appearing for the traditional Saturday lunchtime sessions with old friends and new. One of the many things Dr Dick is responsible for is the sign on the salvaged anchor that now sits at the club entrance and is pictured here after the special commemorative plaque was placed on the anchor in 2010. The plaque reads "An anchor found upon a reef its presence there testimony to a tragedy unknown." The anchor is symbolic of the determination of the clubs founding members. People like Dr Dick who have secured and held fast a future for the sailing community of the Douglas region for generations of yachties to come.

New Club Sponsor

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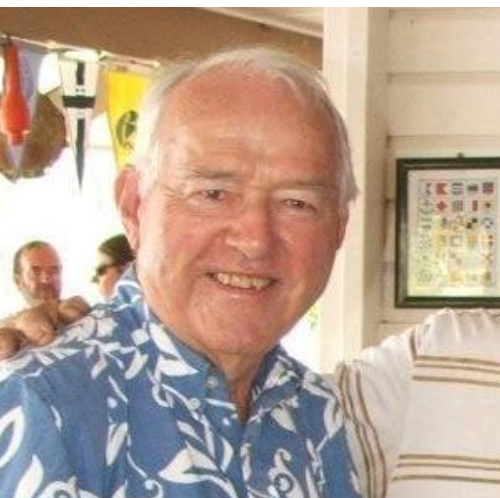
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Committee Corner: This month the new management committee held its first meeting since being re-elected at the AGM and club patron and life member John Morris was in attendance. John thanked the committee for their great work to date and talked about the implications of the Waterfront Master Plan including the boat ramp relocation. John said he was pleased to see the club is doing well and was particularly happy to see how many boats are racing on a regular basis adding he is a regular observer from on the hill.



Club patron John Morris pictured at the 2010 club Christmas party.



The club Christmas Party is fast approaching (Dec 17th) and in preparation there will be a working bee on Sunday 11th December to get everything shipshape. The day kicks off at 8:00am

Why on a Sunday? Because the Christmas Cup is on Saturday 10th and many people who usually attends the working B's will be out racing. Bring along your tools and gardening equipment and see Richard, Garry or Vic to find out what'll be on the agenda. As always there'll be complimentary sandwiches and the odd beer for the hard workers to finish off the day.

Club History with Henry Cotter

"The July 1986
Press
Release"



Can you imagine starting up a yacht club with just a few friends and making it actually work! Well that is how the Port Douglas Yacht Club started in 1985. Twelve months on after the first meeting there was a press release to the Gazette and at last we had somewhere to hold meetings and social events - and the rest is history...

The M.V. Martin Cash was the start of Quicksilver Connections run to fame. The Martin Cash used to run from Port to Low Isles on a daily basis long before Skase came to town and built the Sheraton and the Marina Mirage. It wasn't long before they bought their first catamaran which took tourists to Agincourt Reef. Then a bigger catamaran was built to take its place and the smaller one went on the Low Isles run.

At that stage our patron John Morris had built Closehaven Marina and the Martin Cash was moored on the side near the Yacht Club but at that time there were only mangroves there. More about that in another news letter.

The press release is pictured here and you might notice our old logo on the top, a set of scales with a catamaran on one side and a mono hull on the other. I still carry a badge with my club member number on one of those with me and if anyone would like to see it just ask me.

Henry Cotter



Pictured above: The M.V. Martin Cash, a former ferry from the Derwent River, Hobart was the first boat to make a daily cruise for tourists to Low Isles in 1979.

Photo Courtesy of Quicksilver Connections and Douglas Shire Historical Society.

Port Douglas Yacht Club

P.O. Box 111, Port Douglas, Nth.Qld. 4871.
Telephone: (070) 98 5437



PRESS RELEASE - July, 1986.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Port Douglas Yacht Club was held on July 24th. Inaugural Commodore Keith Forester, who with wife Sue had successfully steered the Club through its first year have ideals for greater personal achievement and life-style. Reluctantly, but with general appreciation of all members, Keith resigned to be replaced at the helm by inaugural Vice-Commodore, popular Bruno Riedweg of B.R. Electronics.

Great News of the evening was the announcement the Club has found a home.

Jim and Jo Wallace of Low Isles Cruises have offered the M.V. "Martin Cash" for the use of the Club pending the completion of a permanent Club-house.

The M.V. "Martin Cash" is currently moored at Close Haven Marina in Dickson Inlet, the site of the proposed future Club-house. The M.V. "Martin Cash" will be used for Club Meetings, social events and after-race barbecues.

During the past season a variety of Inshore, Offshore, Social and Invitation races were held. All with success and without incident or distress to the many competitors and yachts involved. Club Championship results were calculated from a selection of 10 of these events, and newly elected Vice-Commodore Dick Colahan sailing "Sunburnt Snowflake", finished a clear leader in the series. Doug Wappet "Amitle" was second, and Don McInnes, "Sundowner", third. A similar series of events with greater emphasis on "Raft-Up" and overnight "Camp" races are proposed for the coming season.

First event for 1986-87 is an Inshore buoy race off Four Mile Beach on Sunday August 17th. Planning for the Fosters 1000 "Around the Islands" Race, on Sunday September 28th include a full program of social activities, with a large contingent of Cairns Yachts expected to compete. The fleet of 28 yachts in the inaugural race in 1985 is expected to be exceeded.

The Club proposes to purchase a utility Work Boat to assist in course laying, patrol, and rescue activities. A moderately powered half cabin or canopied 16' - 18' runabout on trailer is envisaged. Owners of suitable boats for sale are invited to submit their boats for assessment.

Race entry and sailing instructions for all Club events will be available from "B.R. Electronics Wharf Street, Jim's "Icescreamery," Princes Wharf, and "Shipshape Chandlery," wharf Street.

Club membership details are available from Committee Members.

COMMITTEE:

Commodore - Bruno Riedweg
Secretary - John Wild
Snr. C'teeman - Doug Wappet

Vice-Commodore - Dick Colahan
Treasurer - Greg McMahon
Committee - Phillipa Ahrens
- Bill McNeil

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Proud supporter of Port Douglas Yacht Clubs J24 'Port FM Mais Oui'

Quote of the year?

While browsing through some old footage on The Newsport a piece about Mat & Sime came up containing a classic quote from Sime. Many memorable one liners pass the lips of various club people from time to time but this one stands out from the crowd. Even though the quote was recorded in 2010 it's deserving of a place in these pages.

When asked by Newsport reporter Mat Churchill "How do we get to Spinnakers? Sime replied "Err...straight down Wharf Street, I think."

See the full interview at the Newsport where you can also read the race reports for club racing each Monday.

<http://www.tourismportdouglas.com.au/PORT-DOUGLAS-NEWS-DAILY.3081.0.html>



RACING NOTICE

RRS 55 (that's Racing Rules of Sailing Rule 55) states that any crew member that sails in more than 3 races in any one sailing season, shall be a member of a YA affiliated Club and a Yachting Australia Card holder.

All skippers and crew are urged to comply.

Not a current club member? Why not join today?



One of the major benefits of joining the club and becoming a member of Yachting Queensland is the Personal Accident Insurance Policy providing certain benefits when an insured Cardholder (aged 5 to 85 years) is injured as a result of their participation in yachting. This Policy covers Cardholders while sailing, cruising, participating and officiating in races, race training or while on the premises of an affiliated yacht club. The cover includes death and disability compensation, non-Medicare medical expenses and, for income earners, an accident weekly benefit. The policy is arranged by Yachting Australia's Official Insurance Services Provider OAMPS Insurance Brokers, and is underwritten by Lloyds of London. To find out more visit YA/YQ at:

<http://www.qld.yachting.org.au/site/yachting/qld/>

Another great benefit of YQ membership is discounts on *Australian Yachting*, *Australian Sailing* and *Cruising Helmsman* magazines. Yachting Australia Cardholders can take advantage of a 40% discount on yearly subscriptions. Simply call Yaffa Publishing on 1800 807 760 (during business hours).

Renting a car? Avis is proud to support Yachting Australia and their commitment to promote the sport in all its aspects. If you are a Yachting Australia Cardholder, Simply quote Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number P843900 in your booking to receive a special discounted rate.

To get your Yachting Australia silver card talk to club manager Richard Stapleton



Spring Series action: Tau Ceti (with new bimini) rounding the windward mark in race 2

2011 'MINI' Sunset in the Park

Sunday 30th October at Port Douglas Yacht Club

The best local bands and acts from across the region

\$10 entry / \$20 families (2 adults/2 kids) / \$5 kids 12 - 18 (under 12 free)

Proceeds going towards Sunset In The Park 2011

Contact: www.tourismportdouglas.com.au for more details

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

Support your local musos and celebrate music in the tropics!

Cyclone season is upon us once again

Maritime Safety Queensland has issued an advisory message from the Regional Harbour Master stating there is no change to the existing cyclone contingency plan for the port of Port Douglas. The map of designated mooring areas to be used in the event marina and pile moorings are to be evacuated is posted on the club notice board and further information can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland on their website. Visit <http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Cyclone-contingency-plans.aspx> to find out more.

Be prepared this season and remember club members are always there to help each other during evacuations. Oh, and this year let's not forget the shade structures at the club!



Cruising Preparations *by Trudy Erdmann*

Long lists, hard work and good planning plus cold hard cash makes for easier cruising preparations. Rigging - don't go any further than Pete the Rigger & his mate Dan, he will tell you exactly how it is. He's reliable and knows his business (0417 606 694). Sails - new, repairs and advice available from John, Cairns Yacht Sails (0429 123 478). Quirky humour & a chat get a good job done. Bimini, canvas work etc give Alison a call (0413 814 333). An experienced sailing lady with a straight stitch and good eye for detail. Checks on mechanics, power and electrics plus the required safety equipment. Double up on tools and spare parts for everything. Invite your mates aboard - when you need extra hands for work. Provisions: given prior notice, Port Douglas super markets - Coles will fill your provisions order and IGA will crivac your meats at no extra cost. Take the fishing gear and mix in tinned, dried and powdered with plenty of water just in case you don't catch those fish. Suitable quantities of alcohol (medicinal of course) and First Aid gear. Take time to find all the locker space aboard; remember to list quantities and where you stowed it all. Armed with fresh charts, updated GPS and Lucas bible will set you on course. Take a load of advice from everyone who constantly asks when are you heading off and see your boat sit a little lower in the water. That one information snippet could be what keeps you safe and enjoying cruising our magnificent Coral Sea.

Understanding Handicaps

BCH - The Back Calculated Handicap

When you look at the results sheet of a race you will see several columns of figures with abbreviated headings such as AHC, BCH and CHC. The BCH is a very useful indicator of performance as this is the handicap that would have made every competitor equal on corrected time. It is also a very important number because it is used by the Top Yacht software to calculate the handicap for the next race. We use the exponential average option whereby the next handicap will be $\frac{3}{4}$ of today's handicap plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of today's CBCH. Hang on! What's CBCH you ask? That's a clamped back calculated handicap which means a clamp is in place to restrict any wild fluctuations caused by drastic changes in performance. Our clamps are set at 4% which limits the adjustment in the new handicap to 4% of the current handicap. There are also upper and lower limits that account for exceptional results above or below expectation. In this case the BCH is totally ignored in the lower case and the clamped BCH is applied in the upper case.

The BCH is a great measure of your own performance relative to all the other competitors unless you are chosen as the benchmark boat from which the BCH is calculated. This will be the boat closest to 45% of the fleet and is usually placed second or third in a fleet the size of ours. You can tell which it is as the AHC, BCH and CHC will all be the same. The key to interpreting the BCH is the % that you are over or below your AHC. A BCH above your

A BCH below your AHC means you underperformed. By how much your BCH differs from your AHC is the key to knowing if you sailed a good or bad race. Small movements mean you are consistent and larger fluctuations mean you're not. Over time the average PD (% difference between AHC and BCH) is a very accurate measure of performance. The lower it is the more consistent you are.

So which boat has the lowest average PD in the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship? Up to race 13 Ann Sea tops the list on 2.738% from 10 starts. The boat with the highest is sitting on 16.587%. There'll be more on HC's next month.

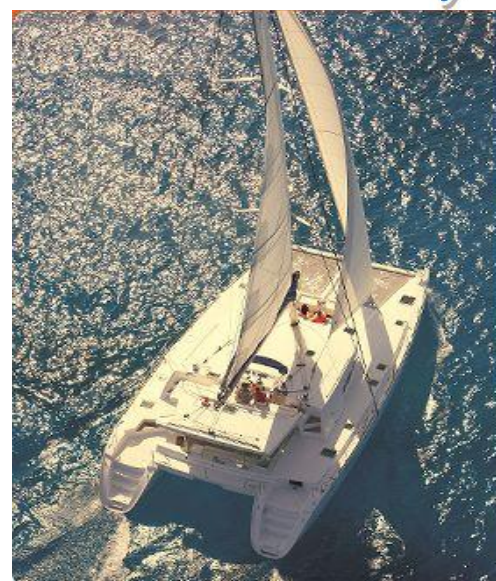
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November Sailing

WAGS	Wednesday 2 nd 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:22pm last light 6:45pm Tide: Ebbing from 2.39m high @ 4:05pm Pacific Dawn cruise liner will be anchored off shore.
WAGS	Wednesday 9 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset: 6:26pm last light 6:48pm Tide: Rising to high of 2.05m @ 7:47pm Lookout for a 98% full waxing gibbous moon rising at 5:08pm
Spring Series Race 3	Saturday 12 th 2:00pm start	Windward /leeward buoy race after lunch at the club.
WAGS	Wednesday 16 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:29pm last light 6:52pm Tide: Neap tide with little movement over 18 hours. Look out for the coral spawning.
WAGS	Wednesday 23 rd 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:33pm last light 6:56pm Tide: Rising to high of 2.49m @ 7:21pm
Spring Series Race 4	Saturday 26 th 2:00pm start	Windward /leeward buoy race after lunch at the club.
WAGS	Wednesday 30 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:37pm last light 7:01pm Tide: Ebbing to low of 1.16m @ 9:10pm

Skippers and crew are reminded that as a club organised event in accordance with Yachting Australia Special Regulations Part 1 (recommended for cruising boats) WAGS is a Category 6 event considered to be a short course sunset cruise close to the shoreline in protected waters and in daylight hours only. RRS YA SR Pt 1 Section 2.01.7 See Rear Commodore for further details.

New Members

New memberships accepted in October

Arch & Megan Gillies

Gregory Lagan

Roger Smith

Philip Beadle

Raymond & Phillipa Fagg

Joel & Louise Fossilo

The management and staff wish these new members a warm welcome to
Port Douglas Yacht Club

2012 Clipper Cup:

Two weekends or four straight days?

It has been suggested that the only way to encourage boats from southern waters to come to Port for the Clipper Cup is to consolidate the event over four or five days rather than nine days bridging two weekends with only four days of racing and a five day break between. With the 2012 calendar being prepared the question needs to be answered. The end of May looks like it's locked in to coincide with Carnivale as usual but is 2012 the year to try something different? Perhaps five straight days with a lay day between or even five straight days of racing? There are several combinations we could trial but what would work the best? Maybe a long passage up from Cairns on the first day like in years gone by? Talk to the sailing committee and have your say. Let's make 2012 bigger and better again.



Annual Coral Spawning November 2011

The spawning of the coral is linked to the phases of the moon and it's believed that the requirement for relatively little or no tidal movement is the reason. The full moon is on 11th November and a few days later there are several days with extremely small movements and extraordinarily long tide times that are believed to trigger the event. If you were a coral on the Great Barrier Reef patiently waiting to procreate the water temperature and the lighting also play an important part to get you in the mood. There is no guarantee on exactly which nights the corals will choose to release their combinations of sperm and eggs but the best guess for 2011 is 14th to 17th November. Researchers believe the reason this event happens in such massive numbers only once a year is because it guarantees survival as predators can only eat so much and by saturating the 'table' there will be plenty left over to do what coral sperm and eggs do best – make more coral. Next time you're out snorkelling say g'day to these amazing creatures who've worked out the phases of the moon, can predict the tide and have a unique survival strategy.

Happy birthday Ken Brown

The dashing skipper of Tau Ceti recently celebrated his 70th birthday at the club and friends and family gathered to enjoy the celebration. Mat and Sime put on some great platters of finger food and the drinks began to flow. Also sharing the evening was a joint 18th and 21st but the dance floor belonged to the 'oldies' as Ken and his ensemble moved in on the scene to show 'em how it's done. As the clock closed in on the midnight hour the sounds of singing and guitar had replaced the DJ and the party rocked on into the night.



Joke time... D'ya hear the one about the polities on a yacht? A yacht on a sunset cruise with a load of politicians was caught in a freak storm. The boat was disabled and several of the passengers were thrown overboard and drowned. Later, the local Coast Guard found the damaged craft. Upon boarding, the Coast Guard Captain asked, "Is everyone okay?" The Captain of the damaged yacht explained that he had a few passengers fall overboard. The Coast Guard Captain asked, "Are they all dead?" The other captain replied, "Well, some of them said they weren't, but you can't trust those politicians."



Going fishing? Remember closed seasons in tidal waters.

The Queensland Government Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries advise that closed seasons (regulated waters) prevent people from fishing at certain times of the year to protect species at vulnerable times in their life cycle, such as during spawning seasons.

Barramundi: Throughout the Queensland east coast, a closed season applies to barramundi from midday 1 November 2011 to midday 1 February 2012.

Coral reef fin fish: 24 October to 28 October 2011, and 22 November to 26 November 2011.

For more information visit http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/28_3055.htm



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Next issue: To be released Thursday November 24th ish. **Thanks** to all the owners of material pilfered off the net.

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

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