

# Port Douglas Yacht Club Newsletter

Volume 3 July 2012 Issue 23

## Ice wins Poseidon Sailaway Winter Series

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This month's Newsletter sees the start of a new segment brought to you by Doug Ryan, Life Member nominee and skipper of Magic. In the coming months Doug will be passing on some of his wealth of knowledge to help us all sail that little bit better. Great tips for racers, cruisers, skippers and crew alike to help you get the most out of your sailing.



pete-ryan.photoshelter.com

After eight races of the Poseidon Sailaway Winter Series, Ice (6) recorded an emphatic series win followed by Magic (15) and Port FM Mais Oui (16). Following on from a divisional win in the Exemplar Clipper Cup the crew of Ice scored a perfect six after discarding their two worst results leaving six wins from six races. With just four points separating the next three placed boats there was close competition for a place on the podium. In the 24 race Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship after 16 races Magic (49) holds a one point lead over Ann Sea (50) followed by Ice (57), Tau Ceti (80), Port FM Mais Oui (105), Indigo (125), Miriama (135), Big Ears (153), Ruff Red (160), Jimmie Blacksmith (163) and Sea Wizard (168). With six discarded scores to come into affect mid way through the next series there are several contenders for the crown of Club Champion.

The Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship resumes on September 22<sup>nd</sup> with race 1 and race 2 of the Spring Series.



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## Race Report: Winter Series Race 7

Race 7 of the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Winter Series was postponed from the scheduled week due to a strong wind warning but was staged the following week ahead of race 8.

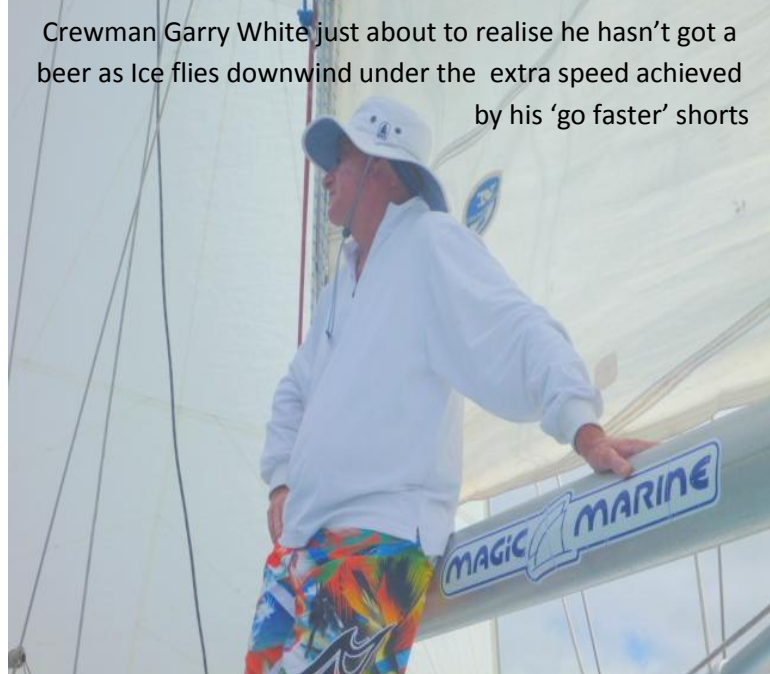
In less than 10 knots of breeze which proved very challenging for the six competing yachts the course was shortened to two laps to allow sufficient time to finish. Magic again showed all the skills of light air sailing to complete the course in 01:27:43 and take line honours and the handicap win ahead of arch rival Ann Sea (01:34:16). Port FM Mais Oui (01:52:34) had to settle for 3<sup>rd</sup> coming in just 17 seconds behind on corrected time ahead of Indigo, Tau Ceti and Miriama.

## Race Report: Winter Series Race 8

Series leader Ice joined the fleet in the afternoon for race 8 and briefly set the pace at the start before being run down by Magic ahead of the first tack. Ann Sea also eased past on the first downwind run as the fleet settled into more light air sailing with an almost flat sea at times. With the course again shortened to two laps it became a race against the clock with Tau Ceti, Indigo and Miriama all coming home just minutes short of the allocated three hour time limit.

Magic (02:06:26) recorded a second line honours win for the day ahead of Ann Sea (02:10:45), Ice (02:19:02) and Port FM Mais Oui (02:48:01) but the time taken was too much to hold on to a win on corrected time. Ice once again slipped into pole position ahead of Ann Sea, Magic and Port FM Mais Oui.

Crewman Garry White just about to realise he hasn't got a beer as Ice flies downwind under the extra speed achieved by his 'go faster' shorts



## 2012 Closehaven Trophy Series

Racing in the 2012 Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship takes a break until September 22<sup>nd</sup> as the Closehaven Marina Trophy Series comes into the spot light. The eight race trophy series resumes on July 28<sup>th</sup> with the Two Island Sail & Run followed by the Quicksilver Cup on August 11<sup>th</sup> and the Commodores Cup on August 25<sup>th</sup>. A break for the club championship also means a break from the windward leeward course as the trophy series is completely void of this course. There are many arguments for and against any particular course but the 2012 sailing calendar has been specifically designed to segregate the challenge of the w/l and the more relaxed and fun aspect of more imaginative and unusual configurations. To avoid fluctuations in handicaps caused by different courses separate handicaps are also in play for the two series.

Following a 1<sup>st</sup> in the Closehaven Cup and a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Keith Quinn Memorial Trophy, T-Break (4) skippered by Robert Mair and crewed by Roxy and Noel is the surprise leader of the series followed by Port FM Mais Oui (6), and Ann Sea (7) and Miriama (7). Magic (12) and Ice (12) are further off the pace, ahead of Tau Ceti (14) and Winkali (16). With the cat Indigo set to enter the series the question on everyone's lips is does the crew of T-Break have dogged determination enough to defend their lead in the series?

## Cruising around the Cape



Samantha: A WAGS regular now cruising the gulf waters

**Sean and Andrina Matchett** set sail in June heading north on an extended cruise around Cape York sailing Samantha. As this issue goes to press the couple are at Weipa on the west coast of the Cape. Catching up on some reading, eating chocolate and plenty of fishing seems to be the order of the day on their travels. Andrina is keeping friends updated via facebook so jump online and say g'day and follow the adventures of Sean, Andrina and Samantha as they cruise the Queensland Coast.

## Upcoming dates for your diary:

**WAGS Skippers invitation dinner Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**ScallYWAGS - International talk like a pirate day**

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**Get in ya pirate outfit and prepare to be boarded -AGGHH**

Closehaven  
Marina Trophy  
Series leader  
T-Break





# July WAGS roundup

**Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup>:** With one of the year's lowest tides and winds gusting up to 30 knots the three yachts that made the effort turned at the sugar wharf and went croc spotting up the inlet. Magic, Ann Sea and Indigo carried around 45 lucky guests and Ann Sea won the rum for the first time in many moons.

**Wednesday July 11<sup>th</sup>:** A strong wind warning was cancelled at 3:05pm and the 9 yachts that sailed out to see the cruise ship Pacific Dawn enjoyed a variable 12 to 18 knot breeze. Sinabada, Ice, Port FM Mais Oui, Miriama, Magic, Jimmie Blacksmith, Ann Sea and Travesty were all beaten by Indigo winning the rum.

**Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup>:** Ten yachts enjoyed a beautiful late afternoon cruise on the placid waters of the Coral Sea. In what we believe to be a first for WAGS Jimmie Blacksmith hosted a marriage proposal which was happily accepted. Port FM Mais Oui, Miriama, Tropic Bird, Ice, Ann Sea, Magic, Tau Ceti and Skywalker were all beaten to the rum for a second week by Indigo.

**Wednesday July 25<sup>th</sup>:** The busiest WAGS of the year so far with over 150 lucky people joining the ten skippers for dinner after a fabulous sail in ideal conditions. Tau Ceti took the rum ahead of Ice, Port FM Mais Oui, Magic, Miriama, Jimmie Blacksmith, Sinabada, Big Ears, Indigo and Ann Sea. As one of the best tourist seasons in several years kicks along the "must do" free sunset sail at Port Douglas Yacht Club continues to attract the crowds.

A big thank you to Todd Malone of Malones Butchery who came to the party supplying meat for the BBQ and also to all the dedicated members that play such an important role in maintaining the club at the regular working b's.



Top left: Early morning at the B as members begin preparing the new garden. Top right: Budding MasterChef Bruce captured sizzling the sausages. Left: The garden begins to take shape under the close supervision of three hard working yachties. Above: Many hands make light work. Check out the new garden next time you visit the club.

# The working B with a working BBQ

The Working B on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> kicked off on Friday afternoon when Richard and Pete did the preliminary work of tree felling for the new garden. Richard got a bit worried at how bare it was looking as Henry, Pete and Robyn took out some more of the 'messy' bits. By Saturday there was an army of volunteers swarming all over the place and Richard's grand gardening plan came together very well. It will look great as it settles in- especially as now the 'rock' can be seen again. Liz Montgomery donated lighting of considerable value (well done Liz) and the palms now light up beautifully.





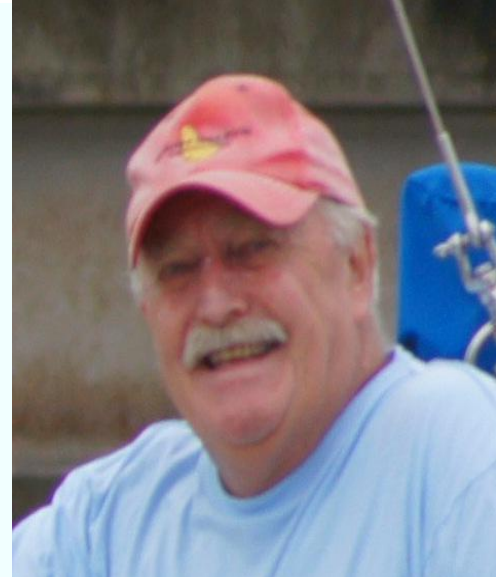
# Doug Ryan's Race Tips:

How many of us head out on the race course with the same settings from last weeks race or maybe we haven't changed them all season? So let's start with some light air hints.

## Changing gears

1. Ensure back stay is eased. Helps power up the main.
2. Maybe less halyard tension on both main and headsail.
3. Ease Main outhaul.
4. Ensure leech lines are not on too hard, hooking the leach.
5. Move crew weight to leeward to help keep the shape in the sail.
6. Don't over sheet or set and forget. As pressure changes, trim on the headsail and main should change.

There is a great saying that goes, "When in doubt, let it out." Try it some time you might be surprised. Next newsletter we will deal with stronger wind trim.



# Spotlight on Spinakkers

*News hot from the kitchen with Matt & Sime*

Making news this month is the wild caught Barra, Bangalow pork and oysters

*This month we have been getting lots of fresh wild caught, whole Barramundi which we fillet ourselves and customers have been raving about it being "The Best in Town". Also oyster season is upon us and Graham (Sinabada) and Colin (Indigo) are forever eating them for their aphrodisiac qualities! Also we have been dealing closely with Malone's Butchery. Todd has become a member and bought an old boat. They love the Club and spend lots of time here, eating a few times a week. We are buying whole Bangalow pork forequarter's, off them. We tell them what pieces we want and they cut them for us. We are getting "Huge" 500-700g free-range pork chops and they have also been very popular. We have employed a couple of American travellers, Erin and Charlie, who have not only been a great help for us, but have also been sailing in Saturday competitions with Mike on the J24, Port FM Mais Oui. See you soon at Spinnakers – Sime Coombe*

In December 2006 many years of catering woes came to an end at PDYC when Matt & Sime signed an agreement to operate Spinnakers Restaurant. A stable and reputable kitchen at the club has played a major role in the success of the club since that time. The original agreement was for three terms each of three years with the option to take up each additional three year term to be finalised three months prior to expiry of the current term. In line with this Matt & Sime have notified the committee of their intention to take up the remaining three year term and indicated their desire to enter into a new agreement following on from this. With a successful kitchen an integral part of a successful club it's great news for the future of PDYC.

## To sail, or not to sail, that is the question:

Borrowing from the famous words of Shakespeare's Hamlet we too must question whether or not to "take Arms against a Sea of troubles" when faced with a strong wind warning.

In 2011 we determined that at club level to be fair to all it's unreasonable to expect skippers and crew to race if there's a strong wind warning for our waters. So we introduced a postponement plan that automatically reschedules the race according to the plan.



However, so far in 2012 on the two occasions we have had such a warning issued on a race day the wind has been nowhere to be seen. Race 4 of the Exemplar Clipper Cup was delayed by 80 minutes as we waited for sufficient wind to start the race. Then for Race 7 of the Poseidon Sailaway Winter Series scheduled for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July Low Isles recorded 15 to 18 knots at 2:00pm and again at 2:30pm which would have been ideal had we not automatically postponed the race.

There is no denying that a sea such as that which faced us for WAGS on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> consistently gusting up to 30 knots can be a sea of troubles. On that occasion it was obvious that the conditions were not suitable and nobody should choose to risk their rig and their crew in such conditions just for a race or a social sail. But the question is raised when the wind we are warned of is not affecting our waters.

The good thing about the current postponement plan is that everybody knows the situation just by looking at the forecast. If there's a warning the race is postponed. If there isn't then the race is on. A boat choosing to heed the warning cannot be disadvantaged by scoring high points for not racing and everybody can plan their day accordingly. What do you think?

The full version of the postponement advice is on the club website in a link in the Next Sailing Event page and is also printed in Section 3 of the 2012 Sailing Programme booklet.

# Lizard Island Update

October 20<sup>th</sup> 2012

**A word from the 2012 Lizard Island Rally organiser Warwick Birtwistle.** *"This year's rally planning is going well and on schedule with a number of yacht owners showing interest in this year's rally due to start on October the 20<sup>th</sup> from Yorkey's Knob. Great support has been received from the Lizard Island Resort, Skipper [www.skipr.net] where we will have our own page so that we can keep in contact with each other and those on shore. Peter Bachelor and his sail training vessel 'Belagaer' are also available for those wishing to obtain some professional sailing experience while going north. There will be a briefing either on the Thursday or the Friday night prior to departure where information will be given as to the trip north and the current weather, sea conditions, anchorages, the islands, what to expect to see and do on Lizard Island and any other relevant info. Another Rally update will be available as further information comes to hand. We look forward to seeing you on the water!"*

Warwick Birtwistle - Shaka Zulu



For more information on the 2012 Lizard Island Rally contact  
Warwick at [shakazulu@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shakazulu@hotmail.co.uk)



## Club History with Henry Cotter

### *Council suspicious over club application for lease of land*

Looking through our archives for information for our newsletter I found two documents copied from the local newspaper. Yes, the boys back then negotiated very hard to obtain the ground we now lease and I take my hat off to them. Here is what the newspaper clipping had to say.

Port Douglas Yacht Club has submitted a plan to council for a yacht club on Dickson Inlet despite two Council rejections of the proposal. At last month's Council meeting Council rejected a request for an area of some 10,000 sq meters for a yacht club and slipping facility up stream of, and adjoining Closehaven Marina. The proposal was supported by the Minister for Water and Resources and Maritime Services, Mr Martin Tenni on the grounds that the facility would be used solely for the purpose of maintaining member's boats and not fishing boats and trawlers.

The plan to build a yacht club, 25 wet berths, and a hard standing area of 280 sq meters for boat storage and for members to do their own maintenance which would include a 50 ton boat lifter was refused by Council on the grounds that the proposal was premature. The council had yet to decide on how best to use this part of R 177 Local Government (Port Douglas Harbour Reserve.) The council remarked it was only three months since the first application for the yacht club, and the council rejected then on the grounds it was presenting unfair competition to the existing slipway and the area was too large to lease to one concern. However the yacht club members' have not been daunted by the rejection and have submitted fresh plans to the council detailing exactly how they intend to utilise the one hectare of land.

The club believes the lease of the land would allow a much sort after facility to build and cater for the increasing yachting population. Architects Woodhead Australia has prepared a plan for the yacht club in keeping with Port Douglas architecture. The club also maintains that an important aspect of the proposal is the provision being made for a junior boat club which would provide a valuable service to members of the community.

The resent application of the Douglas Chamber of Commerce for five hectares of waterfront adjoining the proposed site to be reserved for public access to the inlet was supported by the club.

In the advent of both applications being successful we would endeavour to develop our site to complement the public reserve the club pledged to council. Council however did not view the Yacht Club proposal as a replication for the site.

Following Tuesday's committee meeting chairman of the council Tony Mijo said the club was knocked back on its first application and has not reapplied for a site.

"We thought their resent submission was only asking us to give consideration to the concept rather than a definitive application for a development on a specific site. Because the Council cannot see the club raising the funds for such an ambitions development we remain suspicious that the Club is a front for a local developer. We will need to be convinced the project is financially viable before we give it serious consideration."





# Isetta sets sail

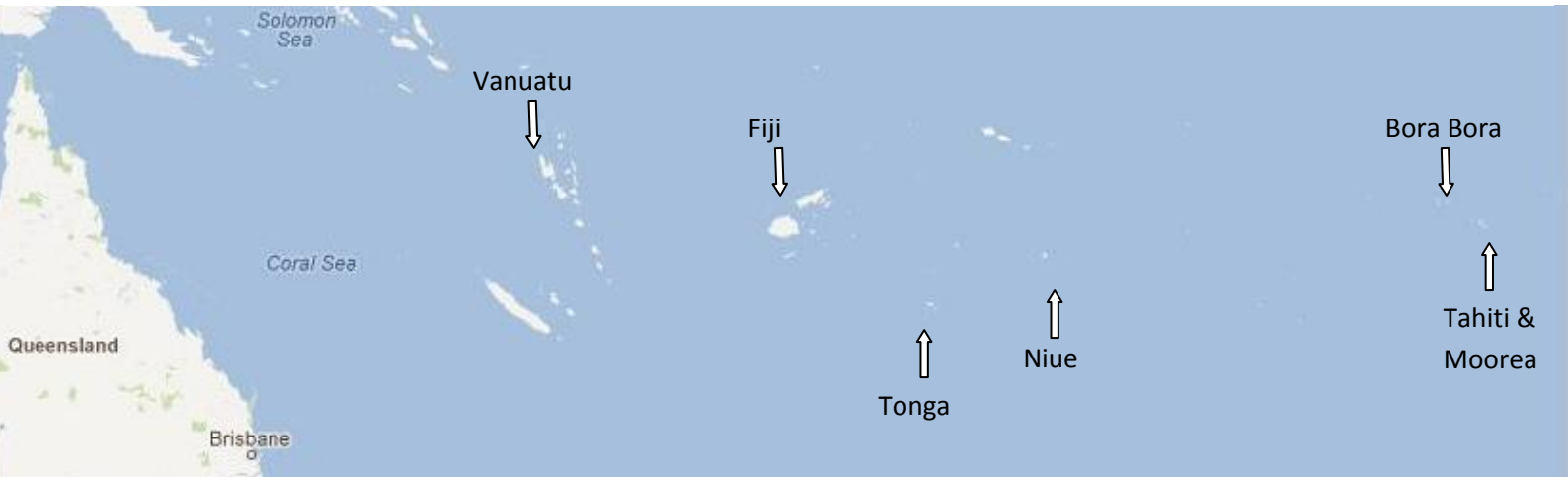
Cruising the south pacific



**Club member and regular crew girl** with Groove's Twisted Sisters, Isetta Harris is on an adventure of a lifetime as crew delivering a Dufour 385 from Tahiti to Australia. The voyage started in early June and has taken Isetta through the South Pacific including the French Polynesian Islands of Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora then onto Niue and Tonga, Fiji and Vanuatu before arriving back in Australia sometime early in September. Jump onto Facebook and search Isetta Harris to get all the news and some great pictures of her travels.



Above: Isetta Harris at the wheel of Felicity J. Right: Felicity J moored at Tiania Marina, Tahiti. Below: The vast South Pacific Ocean (part of it anyway)



**Two sailors have just finished a day racing** their yachts and head for a shower before going to the bar. As they are dressing one sees the other putting on a black lacy bra, panties, suspender belt and stockings. "Good grief - how long have you been wearing those?" "Ever since the wife found them under the chart table" came the reply.

**The Irish crew of a sailing boat** were tasked with burying their mate Murphy who wanted to be buried at sea. Sheamus and Paddy had rowed out a little when Paddy got out of the boat and stood knee deep in water. "We need to go out further " he says, so they row out another fifty yards. Paddy jumps out and the water reaches his chin. "We need to go out further" he says, so they row another 100 yards. Paddy jumps out again and disappears under the water, after a minute he reappears coughing and spluttering and yells out to Sheamus, "That's far enough, now throw me the shovel."

Time for a laugh

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## New Members

New memberships continue to flow at an astounding rate.

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welcome to  
all our new  
members and  
remember...*

*Come sailing  
and join in  
the fun*

**Melanie Piddocke**  
**Gordon Mackenzie**  
**Kaye Marsh & Wayne Hunt**  
**Robyn Parsons**  
**Warwick & Margaret Hutchins**  
**Denis Malone**  
**Robin & Midori-James Maynard**  
**Wendy Morris & Mal Browne**  
**Lou Zaar & Marnie Daniels**

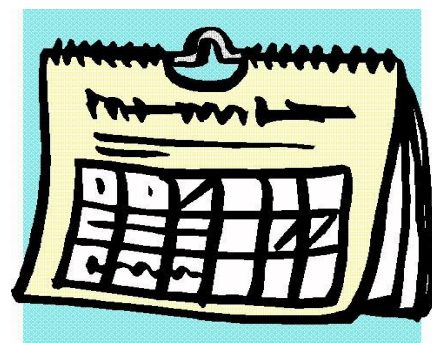
*Have you  
renewed your  
membership?*

*2012/2013  
Membership  
Cards can be  
collected at  
the bar for  
members  
renewing*

## Check the dates in the Sailing Calender

Some people may have copies of the 2012 Sailing Programme that went to print with incorrect dates for some of the remaining races on the calendar. The correct dates are listed below and on the website.

RACE	DATE
Quicksilver Cup	August 11th
Commodores Cup	August 25 <sup>th</sup>
Coral Sea Cup	September 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>
Lady Skippers Race	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Christmas Cup	December 8 <sup>th</sup>



**AGM Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup>** The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday September 8th 2012 and nominations are currently open for all committee positions. If you wish to join the management committee and help steer the good ship PDYC through the next 12 months get your nomination in and canvass your support. The constitution requires five of the eight committee positions be filled by yacht owners whose names appear in the Yacht Register of the Association on the date of the AGM.

**Ramp revisited** Everyone in Port knows how slow the wheels of change can turn but they do continue to turn even though we might not actually see any movement. In the March 2011 Newsletter we brought you a story about the relocation of the public boat ramp to Spinnaker Close and the results of a meeting with Cairns Regional Council to discuss issues affecting PDYC. Following a written submission to CRC in April 2011 detailing the concerns raised by members PDYC has waited for sixteen months for the next instalment in the boat ramp saga. Finally in July 2012 we have received an offer from Council that addresses the issues raised with the relocation of the ramp and the subsequent relocation of the clubs hard stand to accommodate parking facilities. The details of the offer are before the committee with several items needing further discussion. Though there is still much conjecture as to whether or not the lagoon pool will ever go ahead the demolition of the old buildings along the foreshore off Wharf Street is now a reality and despite the recent improvements to the Ashford Street ramp having just been completed the boat ramp looks certain to be on its way to our doorstep. The committee is determined to secure the best possible outcome for PDYC and most, if not all of our concerns look set to be adequately addressed.

**CRC decline request to assist with pontoon** A recent submission to Cairns Regional Council requesting assistance to finance a new pontoon for PDYC as identified in the concept design for the Port Douglas Waterfront Master Plan has been rejected. In a letter to Bluesport, the clubs appointed grants application project manager, CRC concluded that the relocation of the boat ramp to Spinnaker Close did not require pontoon facilities and that any development identified in the concept plan was to be the responsibility of whichever entity had an interest in the lease affected by the indicated improvement. Also identified in Councils plan and also not to be financed by CRC is improvement to the revetment wall that has suffered serious erosion over the years.

The provision of a larger and improved pontoon facility has been recognised in the club Future Plan as the number one priority for future capital expense and remains at the top of the list for future development at the club.



# August Sailing

WAGS	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:06pm last light 6:28pm
WAGS	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset: 6:08pm last light 6:30pm
Trophy Series Race 4	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am & 2:00pm Quicksilver Cup	Two buoy races (not windward leeward)
WAGS	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:09pm last light 6:31pm
WAGS	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:10pm last light 6:32pm
Trophy Series Race 5	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 & 2:00pm Commodores Cup	Two buoy races (not windward leeward)
WAGS	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:11pm last light 6:33pm

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.

# Coastline

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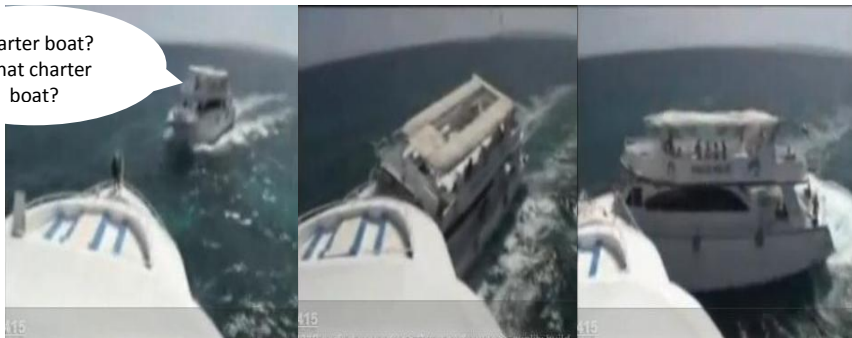
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**REMINDER:** ken and Vicki are leaving town and a farewell is on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July at the club. There will be live entertainment, wine tasting and Kenny's fine collection of handcrafted jewellery on sale.

Charter boat?  
What charter  
boat?



**Next issue:** Scheduled for release late August 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](mailto:pdyc@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au)

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