

Port Douglas Yacht Club Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 5 January 2011

11 Yachts Cruise to Low Isles

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11 yachts cruised out to Low for the January overnighter on Saturday 15th.

As the sun began to drop all crew headed over to the island where Vic Petrus had earlier taken the clubs big bbq and within no time the sound of sizzling steaks and the unmistakable scent of the great Aussie bbq was in the air. Rick & Alex the Islands caretakers joined the party and a great evening was had by all before we promptly packed everything up heading back to the yachts in keeping with the request that we vacate before dark. As the night wore on the music got louder and the dancing kicked in. Skywalker was the main party boat and those on board apologise for keeping the rest of you awake as the party rolled on. Of course there must have been celebrations and merriment on board the other boats-we just couldn't hear it over the noise on Skywalker! The Benny & Bjorn award for the Dancing Queen goes to Robyn closely followed by Trudy with the Mister DJ award going to Vic and the Gene Kelly award for singin' in the rain awarded to Garry. The next morning Campbell and Desley were first up and

away around 7am heading off to Cairns on the first leg of their long awaited cruise south – good luck and farewell from us all. Next off the rank around 8:30 was Ice in a desperate bid to round the Islands before heading home only by 10:30 to be still in pretty much the same place finding it near impossible in the light to calm air to get anywhere. The Capt. Kirk award for boldly going nowhere goes to the crew of Ice. A big thank you to Rick & Alex, Vic and the crew on Skywalker for humping the bbq around and to all the skippers and crew that made the day a great start to the year – look out there will be more!

Race Results

Storms & stalled sails

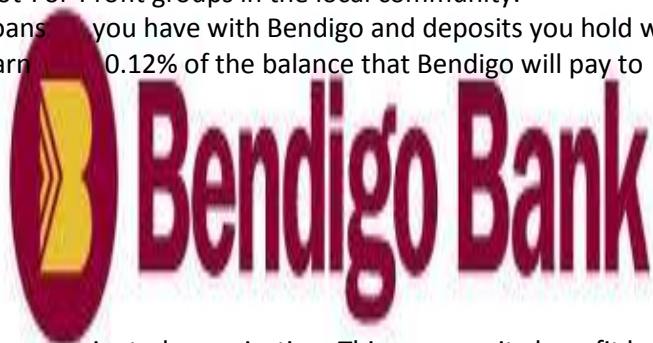
Race 1 of the Poseidon Sailaway Club

Championship on Jan 8th had a strange mix of conditions for the 9 yachts that came to the start. As storm clouds gathered all around the fleet enjoyed a modest 8 to 10 knot breeze before movement in the air came to an abrupt halt as did most of the fleet. Magic and Ann Sea had just enough of a lead to make it across the line but the rest of the boats had to contend with a boat speed less than a mooring exercise in a marina pen as sails stalled and boats bobbed around in irons. 3 yachts recorded DNF with 2 missing out by just a couple of minutes as the 3 hour time limit came up. Andrew and the crew on Mais Oui put in a great performance to take 3rd place behind Magic 1st and Ann Sea 2nd followed by Karagun, Ice and Whitecap. Congratulations to Leon and Ken for getting on their own boats!



Let your bank balance benefit your club!

Bendigo Bank has a scheme designed to boost funds for Not-For-Profit groups in the local community. Loans you have with Bendigo and deposits you hold will earn 0.12% of the balance that Bendigo will pay to



your nominated organisation. This community benefit has no effect on your entitlements to interest you earn and is a great means by which you can support local community groups such as Port Douglas Yacht Club.

Talk to Philip Davey at Bendigo Bank, Port Village, Macrossan St or visit www.bendigobank.com.au for more details and nominate PDYC as your chosen beneficiary.

More Race Results

Race 2 of the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship on Jan 22nd was postponed due to a strong wind warning and persistent rain. The race is rescheduled for Saturday 29th. In conditions typical for this time of year 35 knot gusts were recorded at Low Isles while almost calm conditions appeared to prevail at the club house. 8 skippers turned out for the briefing in anticipation of the event which is encouraging.

Combined Club 49th Australia Day Low Isles Race

Magic, Huahine, Indigo, Ann Sea and Ice representing PDYC competed in the annual Combined Club Australia Day Low Isles Race. Missing out on any race honours the skippers of all 5 yachts were mystified as to how the results came to be but inside information can reveal two of the clubs yachts actually claimed 2nd and 3rd after re-examination of the results by the race organiser revealed the truth. Who? Wait and see...

Floodstock

\$15,800 raised at Floodstock benefit concert for Premiers Flood Relief Appeal

Held at the Yacht Club on Sunday 23rd January the event attracted a near record attendance for any event held at the club possibly second only to the Tsunami benefit event of

2005 with estimates of up to 800 people passing through the gate throughout the day. Greg Buchanan event organiser and muso (pictured right front left) led an impressive list of volunteers that included all the musos, Uptown Rentals, PDYC and many other contributors too numerous to mention. Congratulations to everyone involved and especially to all those hundreds of people that turned up to make the event such a success. A huge array of prizes donated by local businesses and individuals raffled during the day made a significant contribution to the total sum raised in

addition to the large amount donated by patrons at the door. With net takings from both the bar and the kitchen making up the final total. Club Manager and event co-ordinator

Richard

Stapleton said the

organisers were very happy with the

public response to

the event with

huge numbers in

attendance and

so many people

helping out.

Despite the cool

room being

stocked to

capacity ahead of

the day an extra

supply of beer was

required by 4pm to make

sure the bar didn't run dry. Many

club members were on hand to help out

with a multitude of tasks to help the staff and

keep things ticking over. A proud day for the

club to host such an awesome event proving

that the Yacht Club is **the** best venue in Port.



New Members

The Commodore, Committee, Members and Staff all extend a warm welcome to our new club members for the month of January

Warwick Birtwhistle

David Sargeant

David Wane

Brent Frogley

Jennifer Bercich

Michelle and Phillippe Petey.



Club History

A contribution by Henry Cotter

At our Christmas party there were present a hand full of members that were around when the Yacht Club was formed back in 1985. Where our club house stands today was covered in mangroves. When I look back it is incredible the work that went into getting the club house built. First the ground had to be raised to its present level. A few years later the slab was poured but it took a lot of fund raising and a helping hand from our Patron John Morris before we had a club house. The old tin shed you see at the water's edge was our original club house. There is a photo at the bar of that tin shed sitting on the concrete slab. We have come a long way since then.

Even before we had obtained the ground we were racing and cruising. The races were held as they are now with volunteers laying the buoys. After a race we would stand in the car park at Closehaven Marina and have a few drinks and a sausage sizzle. In those days the shops were closed on Sundays so the sausages and bread had to be bought the day before and kept in someone's fridge. We had owned a small boat we called Bopper that was often used to start races that was kept at Closehaven Marina.

One race we had was over to Low Isles where you left at the time you nominated and set a time to finish. On one of the yachts that was often first over the skipper could be seen on the foredeck with just a pair of sunglasses on. Name withheld for obvious reasons!

A race to New Guinea was amongst the first. I would have to look up the records to see how many yachts when into that first race. I think it was the third race that I participated in, I sailed in comfort! But that is another story. Perhaps the sailing committee could look into doing that one again!

Those first few Commodores whose portraits hang on our club house are the ones that put the hard yard in to form our club.

Henry Cotter



Spinnakers Restaurant

Open for dinner 7 nights a week from 6pm and lunch on Saturday and Sunday from noon.

Support the boys in the kitchen and get yourself down to Spinnakers for a great meal at a great price in a great venue.

Check out the Specials Board for the days tantalising temptations or choose from the main menu for all your regular favourites.

(Port Douglas Yacht Club and Spinnakers Restaurant is closed on Mondays until Easter)

Have an interesting story of the club from days gone by? Willing to share your memories? Send your story to pdy@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au



The crew on Ice prepared for the Australia Day Low Isles Race and Doug Ryan solo on Magic advancing to the line

Member Profile

Sue & Brian Morgan

Port residents for part of the year and counting down the days for the rest of it. Two people living on the other side of the planet who probably spend as much time at the club as many local members!



For about 10 weeks from September Brian & Sue can be found at the Yacht Club every night without fail. Sue has a Passion for sailing and Brian is a devout Fishaholic. Sue is a regular crew member on Ice for race days and WAGS and Brian is usually on the Norseman. The prawns in the esky topped off a fine Christmas morning for the couple as a 5 minute break in the weather allowed them to get the cameras rolling for the folks back home. Spare a thought for them as we enjoy the warmth and pleasures of life in the tropics while they count down the days battling the sub zero temperature and the snow of a winter in Wales. Only about 36 weeks to go Sue and you'll be sipping bubbly on the yacht watching sunset over Mossman Gorge from out on the Coral Sea! Hang in there guys!

J24 News

Port FM have stepped on board as a sponsor of PDYC and the clubs J24 is to be called "Port FM Mais Oui". The move follows negotiations between the club and the radio station that will see great exposure on the airwaves in return for the clubs promotion of the radio station

In other "J" news Andrew Walker has been appointed the clubs new J24 manager replacing Garry White who has stepped aside to allow Andrew to take over the role. Andrew is an avid J24 sailor and has made a commitment to the club to see that the boat gets used to its full potential. The J is available to members for hire for personal use and is available free of charge for use in club organised events. A diary is available for booking the boat and Andrew is the man to see. Check the clubs website for all the details or catch up with Andrew at the club.

Radio Port Douglas and Port Douglas Yacht Club strike mutual business promotion deal

In a deal worth considerable value to each party local radio station Port FM and Port Douglas Yacht Club have agreed to promote each other in their respective public arenas.

The clubs J24 renamed Port FM Mais Oui will display Port FM logos for all to see as she cruises up and down the inlet with the possibility of large colourful displays on the boats sails to make her a spectacle to behold under full sail. In return the radio station is to provide the club with advertising and frequent mention of events and sports reports . **Tune in to 107.1 FM and listen to the local station that supports your club - Radio Port Douglas.**

Yacht Club Stickers

The club now has stickers that members can proudly display on the back of your car or anywhere that takes your fancy. See Richard or Jodie at the bar to get yours and promote the club, a small charge applies to cover the cost.

February Sailing

2011 Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship

Race 3 of the Summer Series is on Saturday 12th 2:00pm start

Race 4 of the Summer Series is on Saturday 26nd 2:00pm start

Time for a laugh...

A blonde lady was driving along the highway when a blonde police officer pulled her over for speeding.

Officer: May I see your licence?

Lady: what does it look like?

Officer: it's a square thing with a photo of you on it.

The lady looks through her bag and pulls out her compact mirror and hands it to the officer.

The officer opens it up and says 'Oh if I'd known you were a police officer I wouldn't have pulled you over.'

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble.

In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and bailed out.

Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining.

The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live."

He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack."

Two sailors are on a boat passing by a bridge.

One looks up and sees a funeral procession starting across the bridge.

She stands up, takes off her cap, and bows her head.

The procession crosses the bridge and the sailor puts on her cap, and returns to trimming the sails.

The other sailor says, "That was touching. I didn't know you had it in you."

The first sailor responds, "Well, I guess it was the right thing to do - after all, I was married to him for 40 years."

Nautical Knowledge

When is a rope not a rope?

A **sheet** is a line used to control the movable corners of a sail. *But why don't we just call it a rope?* Well, In Anglo-Saxon times a *sceatline* was used to attach a line to the *sceat* which was the name for the corner of a sail. Much of the English language and the language of the sea developed from this era and the spelling of the word *sceat* rightly or wrongly became **sheet**.

A **halyard** is a line that is used to hoist a sail, a flag or a yard. *But why don't we just call it a rope?* Well, the term halyard comes from the phrase, 'to haul yards'. A **yard** is a spar on a mast from which sails are set on the old square riggers. So to hoist the sails the sailors would **haul the yards**.



Question: Why must we race by GPS time alone.

Answer: A boat taking a time other than GPS may be out by 15 seconds.

- **Local** time is the date/time reported by your clock, watch, PC, mobile phone or anything that we set the time for based on where we are in relation to the International Time Zone we are in based on GMT.
- **GMT**, Greenwich Mean Time, also known as Coordinated Universal Time is the time recorded at 0° longitude passing through Greenwich in London. This is the time we set our clocks by such as GMT + 10 hours for Brisbane.
- **GPS**, Global Positioning System time, is the atomic time scale implemented by the atomic clocks in the GPS ground control stations and the GPS satellites themselves. GPS time was zero at 0h 6-Jan-1980 and since it is not perturbed by leap seconds GPS is now ahead of GMT by 15 seconds.
- **Leap Seconds** were introduced in 1972 to GMT to account for the fact that the rotation of the earth from which GMT is measured is actually slowing down.
- **Atomic Time** is defined as 9,192,631,770 periods of the radiation from the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the cesium-133 atom undisturbed by external fields. Better remember that!

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