

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 6 February 2011

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## Never Mind Politics - a week is a long time in sailing...

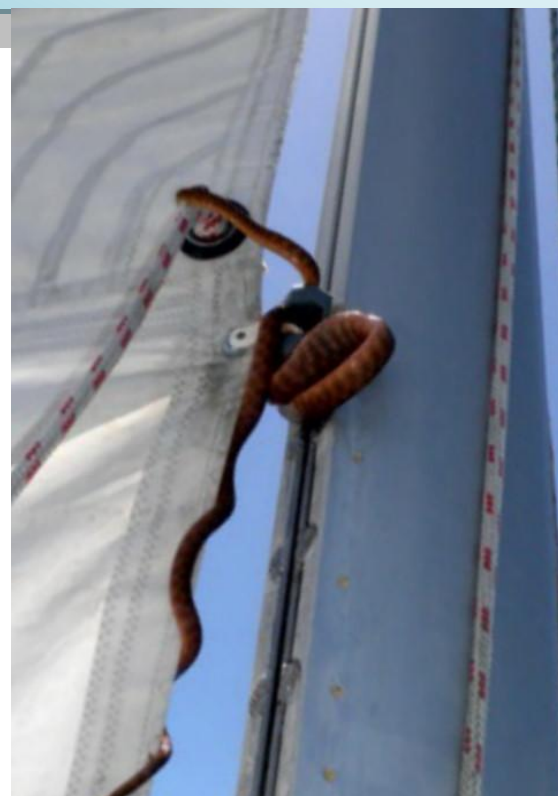
Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup>, Australia Day and for the Tin Shed annual Low Isles Race the yachts had to motor all the way out to Low just to keep up some boat speed, three days later the strong wind had the entrants in the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship running for cover just before the start as the gusts hit 30+ knots. Then on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February WAGS was cancelled and the fleet was huddled up the creeks awaiting the possibility of 150 knot winds! All of this in one week! Thankfully the weather behaved itself the following week for some great sailing and a welcome return to the race calendar for the faithful.

## Race Results

### Sensational Summer Series Sailing

**Race 2 of the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship** finally hit the waves on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> after two cancelations due to inclement weather. The first scheduled run was rained out and the re-run was blown out of the water by strong winds. Eventually 7 yachts came to the start line with Gordon & Cheryl (Kai Lani) absent through work commitments and the Petrus' (Whitecap) unable to cross the Whyanbeel Creek. Excellent conditions prevailed for the 10 o'clock start with a triangular Olympic course chosen for the days racing. Doug Ryan on Magic set the pace with a finish time of 1:21:00 but it was not enough to stay ahead of Tim Preuss on Ann Sea and Garry White on the clubs J24 Port FM Mais Oui with both yachts on a tie on corrected time just 34 seconds ahead of Magic. The surprising tie shows how important every second can be as the difference in elapsed time between the fleet of 74m 40s was cut to just 25m 38s by the corrected times on handicap. **Race 3** followed in the afternoon with Whitecap a starter but Magic unable through work commitments. The forecast easing of the breeze failed to happen and the fleet enjoyed fantastic conditions again with all boats bettering their morning times around the course. Elapsed time difference between first and last of 52m: 27s was reduced to 20m: 08s on corrected time. Ann Sea cut 5min 39 seconds off her time to take both line honours and handicap wins ahead of Port FM Mais Oui and Ice. A number of duals within the fleet are beginning to materialise between Karragun and Tau Ceti, Ice and Whitecap and Ann Sea and Magic with Port FM Mais Oui and Indigo in the mix making for some close quarter action. After 3 races Ann Sea tops the leader board on 4.5 points with Port FM Mais Oui 2<sup>nd</sup> on 6.5 followed by Ice (12), Magic and Karragun tied (14), Whitecap (20), Tau Ceti and Indigo tied (23) and Kai Lani (30). **RACE 4 IS THIS SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> - NOON BRIEFING 2PM START**

Race details are regularly updated on the website...GO ON check it out!



### Stowaway jumps ship

The crew of Tau Ceti had an unexpected encounter as the main was hauled ready for the days sail. This 2m python had taken residence in the sail bag during the evacuation to the mangroves for TC Yasi and decided to emerge on race day. Deckie Trudy Erdmann carefully collected the stowaway using the 7ft boat hook at arm's length to cast the intruder into the inlet much to the relief of the crew. The unwelcome crew member was last seen climbing the mooring lines of Tallarook!

While we're on the subject of wind...

## Insurance and the Strong Wind Warning

When asked the question does cover apply to a boat sailing during a current strong wind warning? Club Marine replied:

QUOTE:

*There is no exclusion as such noted on the policy with regards strong wind warnings.*

*I guess due diligence should be adhered to as if there were to be a claim in this situation, questions would be asked as whether the client has taken measures to minimize damage.*

UNQUOTE.

Not really a straight answer to a straight question but the inference is that if you don't need to be out then you probably shouldn't because your insurer may challenge your decision to deliberately increase the risk. They will of course accept the risk and apply a higher premium if one chooses to go down that path. The question then arises is the need to race sufficient to justify being out there?

Samantha laden with guests on a balmy WAGS night



## Exemplar Clipper Cup Update

May 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

With only 13 weeks to go preparations are well under way for the 2011 Exemplar Clipper Cup. Over the last two years a total of ten boats have entered each event and this year we are aiming to better that number. With a total prize pool of \$8,000 and six races over four days of fun and excitement amidst the atmosphere of Carnivale it's a great time to get your boat out on the water. Be a part of the club's major annual event and you might even win something as well as having four great days of sailing. There are ten cash prizes for the first 10 placed competitors and with the club handicap system helping to make it fair for everyone; everybody is in with a chance. Race entry forms and the notice of race are available on the club website at [www.portdouglassyachtclub.com.au](http://www.portdouglassyachtclub.com.au)

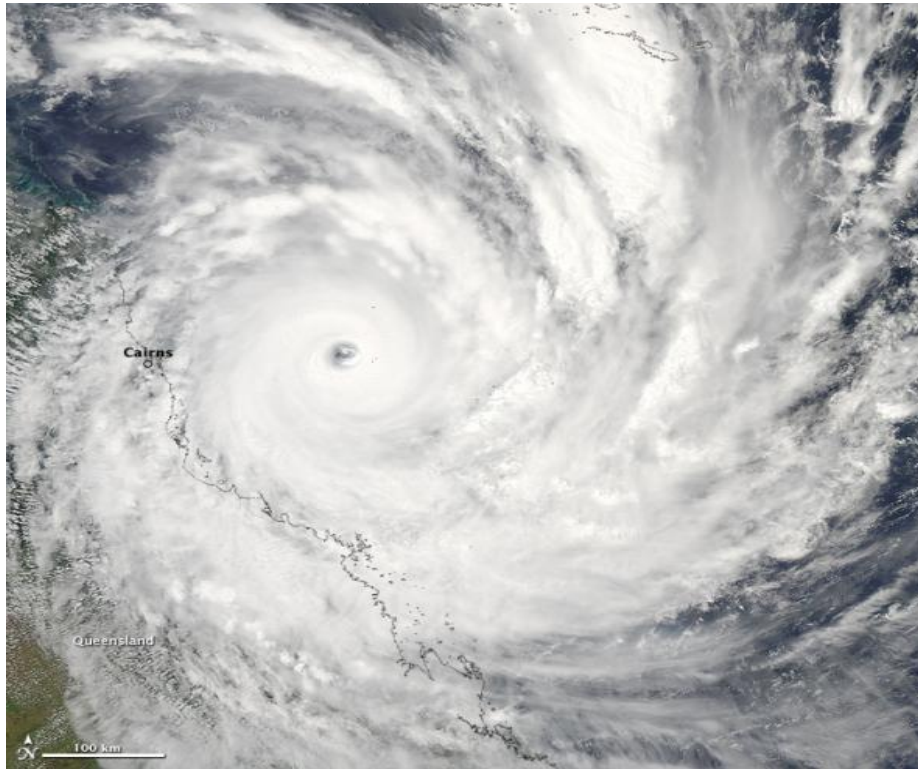
Images from 2010

Left: Doug Ahola, winning skipper  
Centre: Skulduggery, winning yacht  
Right: Race Officials with Coast Guard  
Images courtesy of  
[Peteryanphotographer.com](http://Peteryanphotographer.com)





# Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi



This NASA image shows Yasi approaching the coast at 1:35 p.m. Australian Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.

Some interesting facts about cyclone Yasi: Yasi was named at 10pm on the 30th January by Fiji Meteorological Service. The meaning of the word Yasi is Sandalwood, as in the tree. A 5 meter tidal surge was observed at the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) storm tide gauge at Cardwell. The highest rainfall total of 471mm was recorded at South Mission Beach. Yasi is one of the most powerful cyclones to have affected Queensland since records commenced. Maximum sustained wind speed estimated to be 205 km/hr (110 kn) with maximum estimated wind gusts of 285 km/hr (153 kn). Lowest central pressure 929 hPa taken at Clump Point, Mission Beach and also at the Tully Sugar Mill. Yasi finally weakened to a tropical low near Mount Isa around 10pm on 3rd February, 22 hours and over 800km after landfall.

Info courtesy of Australian Bureau of Meteorology

## The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith

In the 1972 novel by Thomas Keneally Jimmie Blacksmith repeatedly evades capture finally succumbing to the inevitable tragedy of his ill fated destiny - in this real life story his name sake will evade the heartache of calamity to triumphantly sail on to a bright and happy future.

Having suffered damage to the mast and rig in the May 2010 Exemplar Clipper Cup Jimmie Blacksmith sat for almost eight months in the marina. During that time proud owner, long time club member and former Rear Commodore Campbell Corbett spent countless hours in a labour of love refurbishing and repairing his yacht. The result was an amazing transformation in preparation for a long overdue voyage of adventure. On the morning of January 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 Jimmie sailed away from Low Isles taking Campbell and partner Desley Lloyd on their passage south along the coast for what they planned to be the trip of a life time. Only two weeks into that journey they found themselves at Port Hinchinbrook as first TC Anthony and then one of the most ferocious storms to ever cross the Australian coast both beared down upon them in frightening succession. The circumstances that led to their being there were unavoidable. In need of fuel and with nowhere else to turn they became caught awaiting a window of opportunity that never came. Having secured the boat to the moorings they sought refuge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> storey of an apartment block and waited in anticipation as



the rest of the nation and the world watched and waited as TC Yasi tracked towards the coast. Authorities told them they had to evacuate but without any transport and no forthcoming assistance they had no option other than to sit tight and hope. In Campbell's words the sight that greeted them the next day has to be seen to be believed. The rest we know from news paper and TV reports - the story of Campbell, Desley and Jimmie Blacksmith is told here by Campbell.

*"As TV reports warned of a 7 meter surge plus waves we wondered if the 3rd floor would be high enough"*

Describing the devastation that the couple witnessed Campbell told how his boat was in the middle of a mass of destruction stranded on the shore line. *"The boats were still tied to the moorings and as the tides came and went the boats would move up and down and more damage was caused as this went on for two weeks before we could get to Jimmie"*. If the carnage from the storm wasn't enough there was more in store for the helpless yachts and their unfortunate owners! *"Many boats sank as a result of this just adding to the problem. We couldn't do anything for about two weeks as we watched the tides rise and fall and the boats get smashed more and more"*. Damage suffered to Jimmie is extensive with the hull pierced in four locations, the keel snapped off, the rudder is bent, the new folding prop is destroyed and the transom is severely damaged. *"It may yet be a write off but the new \$40,000 rig is OK so it looks*



***"When it's a category 5 it doesn't matter how much you love your boat, there's nothing going to stop a category 5"***

*like they'll do the repairs". With the road closed in both directions and no means of travel the couple spent four days without running water as emergency response crews began the mammoth task of restoring essential services. "Power was finally restored after almost three weeks but you've got to hand it to these blokes here, every power line was down for miles around." Campbell recounted the story of the lone yachtsman that dared to stay aboard his yacht. "He was going to stay on board but when the winds really started to pick up he came ashore and sheltered in the ablution block but when the waves came in up around his knees he thought he'd better head for higher ground." Campbell gave an ominous warning to the many boats that head into the mangroves during the storms when asked if there were any creeks available for shelter. "There are mangrove creeks about two miles away but it was too far for us to get back, but mangroves aren't going to help you - the mangroves here have been rolled like slabs of turf, they just got lifted and rolled over. When it's a*

## Member Profile

If you don't stop pointing that thing at me I'll adjust your keel to sand ratio and enforce upon you a move to greater depth – despite what you might think is a smile...



*category 5 it doesn't matter how much you love your boat there's nothing going to stop a category 5. You've just got to get out of there."*

So what does the immediate future hold for Campbell and Desley? Well they're not going to let a bit of wind get in the way of their plans that's for sure. They plan to follow Jimmie down to Mooloolaba where the insurers say it'll take two months to get the boat back in the water. Campbell is a little less optimistic expecting at least four but once the job's done they'll spend some time just as they planned to, sailing around, maybe get involved with some local club racing and pretty much carry on exactly as they intended to - only just a little bit behind schedule.



### Trudy 'Deckie' Erdmann

Although only a recent signing to the ranks of 'member' Trudy is now a welcome and familiar face at the clubs sailing events. Many of the images used in this and other publications come from her ever ready camera always carried on board and some interesting stories have also emerged from her recent voyages. Most recently captured was the snake climbing the sails on Tau Ceti where Trudy is now a regular at the helm. Rumoured to have an obsession with colour coordination and to enjoy a rum or two dozen the evidence is mounting that Trudy is a contender for the club party animal handler - ever ready to rescue homeless serpents from impending sea sickness or offer advice to neighbouring crew on late night mooring etiquette. Known about town for her impeccable dedication as a cheerful check out chick Trudy has laid down the law when it comes to her roster and the clubs sailing calendar. Always available and ever keen to learn 'Deckie' is a great asset to the crew on any cruising or racing yacht and is as reliable as the tide - *and if I didn't hope she can be so forgiving I'd keep a low profile after writing this – Ooouch!!*

## March Sailing

### 2011 Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship

Summer Series Race 5 is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm start: Summer Series Race 6 is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm start followed by Presentation of Summer Series Champion

Club Cruising

Autumn Low Isles Overnighter: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>



# Autumn Low Isles Overnighter

Why not spend a dreamy  
weekend at Low Isles,  
just because we can...?

## Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>

All yachts and motor boats invited – cruise in company or in your own time

BBQ on the beach 4pm till sundown – only *you* can make it happen

### Try the Low Isles Heritage Walk

The Low Isles Heritage Walk was officially opened on 6th March 2000. It comprises seven interpretive signs that cover a range of topics including zoning information, the plant and wildlife of Low Isles, the history of Low Isles, life on the Lighthouse station, and the 1928 – 1929 expedition.

Take the walk and learn about this magnificent natural asset right on our doorstep

Info courtesy of Low Isles Preservation Society: [www.lips.org.au](http://www.lips.org.au)

## New Members

Through what has been a typical quiet February there are no new members to announce but we do have two new committee members.

Henry Cotter and Colin Simpson have in accordance with the club constitution accepted nominations put forward by the committee and have been duly voted on board.

Congratulations to Henry & Colin

## Nautical Knowledge

### Sea Snakes Sea Snakes on the Sea Shore

**The bad news:** Highly venomous marine reptiles inhabiting the warm tropical waters of the world - *right here where we live!* Because they must surface to breathe, Sea Snakes are known to frequent the shallow ocean waters of beautiful tropical coral reefs, *just like those here, where we live!* Sea Snake venom is Neurotoxic (affecting the nervous system) and sometimes Myotoxic (affecting skeletal muscles), *what we have!* A fatal dose is about 1.5 mg and most Sea Snakes produce an average of 10-15 mg of venom so they should always be approached with caution as this venom is 10x more lethal than the venom of the worlds land based nasties like the Rattlesnake, the Black Mamba or the Taipans. Sea Snakes have a reputation for being very curious and have a fixation for any elongated floating object such as the air hoses of deep sea divers or even a snorkeler's fins *like the ones we use!* Sea Snakes also present a high degree of danger to humans after tropical storms, *like we have here*, when they can be washed ashore becoming virtually helpless to move and extremely dangerous alive or dead.

**The good news:** Most Sea Snakes have a placid disposition (*easy going troppo types like we are*) and 75-80% of Sea Snake bites are "blank" non-productive bites meaning envenomation does not occur. As the bad far outweighs the good keep out of their way and remember that ***every Sea Snake is highly venomous.***





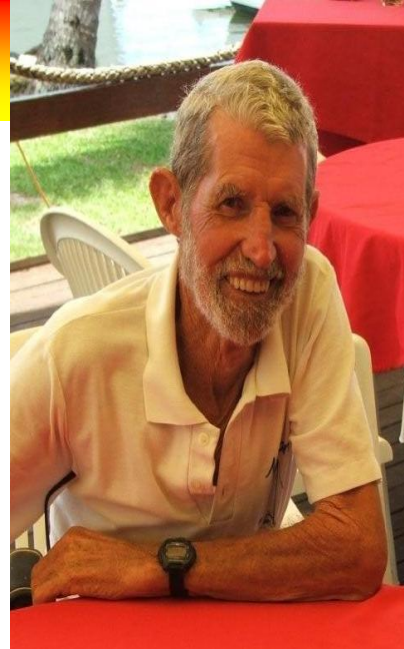
# Club History with Henry Cotter

## *The history of our flag pole* by Bonny Riedweg

*The PDYC was built for fun. It was also built "off the back of a truck" in more ways than one. The flagpole now standing on the green lawn in front of the Clubhouse has such a history. The origin of the flagpole was from SV 'Willow'. One mast was damaged and the subject of an insurance claim; the other was suspect to fail and was replaced also. The damaged masts were dumped on a vacant block and forgotten. The guinea-grass grew over them and left to rot. The Coast-Guard had no use for the masts, but seeing a need for our Club, they were recovered and claimed with a flag-pole in mind. It has taken over 20 years to come to fruition. Well done past committee of 2009/2010.*

20 years in the making somehow justifies the time it spent lying on the lawn- you just can't rush these things you know.

Contact Henry at [henrymiriama@hotmail.com](mailto:henrymiriama@hotmail.com) to publish your story on the Club History



## Sailing Committee News

*The Sailing Committee reports directly to the Management Committee providing recommendations and putting forward motions on club sailing matters. To have your say on sailing at your club talk to the Sailing Committee.*

### NEW MEMBER

**Warwick Birtwistle** has accepted an invitation to join the Sailing Committee. Warwick and his daughter Sarah live aboard their yacht **Shaka Zulu** currently moored at Yorkey's and is a keen and experienced sailing member. As current treasurer of **Cairns Yacht Club**, Warwick is a great asset to the sailing committee as a direct link between two local clubs and we look forward to working with Warwick for the greater good of both. With a wealth of experience in areas such as club administration and management coupled with his many years as an active yachtsman the sailing committee welcomes Warwick on board.

### EXEMPLAR CLIPPER CUP

**Greg Byrne** has accepted the position of Race Director for the regatta following his success in this position in previous years. As a former winner of the 1997 **Mirage Resorts Clipper Cup** on **Mayhem** with an extensive knowledge of race organisation Greg is a valuable asset to the event along with Sylvia who will once again assist on the start boat.

### CARNIVALE PARADE

The club is again planning an entry in this year's **Carnivale Parade** to promote the Cup and the club sailing activities. **Club Commodore Vic Petrus** has offered his Land Cruiser and trailer for use in the parade and it's now up to any members interested in 'dressing up the Commodores truck' to come forward with ideas and lots of effort to make our entry stand out.

### SAILING MEMBER BENEFITS

The Sailing Committee has come up with some great ideas and incentives to build upon the current success of the **Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship** and the many upcoming racing and cruising events. These ideas will directly benefit the sailing members that participate in the core activity of the club, namely the sailing, and create another means by which the clubs (not for profit) profits directly benefit the members. Watch this space for more details once finalised and approved.

### AUTUMN CRUISE

Don't forget the Low Isles overnigher on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any suggestions for any activities or ways to improve the weekend don't be shy, speak up and have your say.

### ABEL POINT YACHT CLUB DENT TO DUNK RALLY

The annual Dent to Dunk is in danger of collapse due to the efforts of TC Yasi but from this tragedy has emerged an opportunity to get the Dent to Port Douglas up and running. An offer is before the Abel Point Yacht Club committee to consider bringing their event to Port Douglas. Any encouragement to get our southern neighbours into our waters is sought especially as this event is very close to Carnivale/Clipper Cup with the possibility of the two coinciding in later years.

If you know anyone associated with Dent to Dunk or APYC get on the case and see what we can do.

Talk to the Sailing Committee about anything (particularly sailing) - Mick Gwilliams (Rear Commodore) 0418 897 123, Garry White 0409 723 086, Ken Brown 4094 1472 & Warwick Birtwistle 0458 720 320

**OTHER CLUB NEWS: Working B** -An impromptu w/b was held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> to do some grounds work. Top soil was applied to the lawns to address the pooling issues and general garden maintenance was carried out. Well done to those that were given the short notice to attend. The **secure area extension project** aimed at increasing the lockable area within the club house is moving along and should be completed soon. A **grant application** to fund **new furniture** has been turned down at the first review but is automatically entered for the next round of funding. The Committee is encouraged by the response and hopeful of a better result next time around. More grant applications are in progress and to aid this process the Committee is developing a **5 year plan**. Contact the club to have your say and talk to the members to keep informed of what's happening.



**The official media launch of the Exemplar Coaches & Limousines Clipper Cup** is to be held at the club on Tuesday 29th March at 6:00pm. All PDYC members are invited to attend and personal invites have gone out to our sponsors, past and future competitors, race officials, media representatives and Carnivale organisers. The informal gathering will provide a showcase for all interested parties to gain an insight into the organisation, management, history and future of the event with the aim of building a platform of public attention lifting the regatta into the eyes of the public arena. Spinnakers Restaurant will be open with their regular fantastic selection of Yacht Club favourites to accompany a great evening of social and nautical interaction as we begin the count down to race day. Members wishing to attend should contact the club to register your attendance. The hour long launch will kick off at 6:00pm with a complimentary drink on arrival and canapés provided by Spinnakers Restaurant throughout the duration. As well as all the essential Clipper Cup info you need there will be guest speakers invited to say a few words on the regatta offering some unique insights into this fantastic event. Early bird entries are essential to get the ball rolling and anyone considering an entry should get their entry form in ahead of the launch. Go to [www.portdouglassyachtclub.com.au](http://www.portdouglassyachtclub.com.au) for the Notice of race and Race Entry Form. What are you waiting for? Get with it!

