

# Port Douglas Yacht Club Newsletter

Volume 2 November 2011 Issue 15

## 2011 Club Championship draws to a close with three contenders for the title

Standings in the 18 race Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship remain undisclosed until the presentation on December 17<sup>th</sup>

### News in brief:

- *Magic* wins Spring Series Race 3
- *Ice* wins Spring Series Race 4
- Club mourns the passing of Graham Nicholls
- Northern cruise cut short for *Tau Ceti* at Lizard Island
- Treasure changes hands
- Working Bee December 11<sup>th</sup>
- Fund raiser for Damien Smith December 11<sup>th</sup>
- 2012 Clipper Cup rescheduled
- 2012 sailing calendar update
- 2012 sponsors announced



### Ruff Red ready to race

It's always a pleasure to see another boat join the racing fleet again and that's exactly what Greg and the crew on *Ruff Red* did for race 3 of the Spring Series. The boys admitted they were a little "unaware" of proceedings but managed to come up with a great start and an even greater finish time which secured them second place on corrected time. Like a wolf in sheep's clothing they cunningly hailed "starboard" even though they were on a port tack during one altercation as the bemused crew on *Ice* passed their bow running downwind from the top mark. Now regulars for WAGS and enjoying the new resurgence in sailing at the club it's hoped that *Ruff Red* will be sailing in many more events in 2012.

### Race Report: Spring Series Race 3

**The Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship** continued on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> with Race 3 of the Spring Series which was also Race 15 of the Championship. The welcome return to club racing of *Ruff Red* skippered by new owner Greg Langan added to regulars *Magic*, *Port FM Mais Oui* and *Ice* to make a fleet of four with several boats still absent cruising northern waters. *Ruff Red* was immediately in the action from the start as a close encounter with *Ice* forced evasive manoeuvres but it was *Magic* that took the early lead and set the pace. *Port FM Mais Oui* showed great skill to hold second over the first two laps but *Ice* in hot pursuit taking full advantage of the increasing wind edged ahead on the third lap to record the only change in position throughout the race. Line honours went to *Magic* (1:51:25) followed by *Ice* (2:21:06), *Port FM Mais Oui* (2:22:08) and *Ruff Red* (2:31:06). On corrected time *Magic* held first (1:32:08) from *Ruff Red* (1:35:39), *Port FM Mais Oui* (1:37:39) and *Ice* (1:39:12). The win gave *Magic* pole position on the Spring Series ladder ahead of *Ice* and *Ann Sea*.

### Latest Race Results

#### Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series

##### Race 3 November 12th

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Magic</i>            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Ruff Red</i>         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Port FM Mais Oui</i> |

##### Race 4 November 26th

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Ice</i>      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Magic</i>    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Ruff Red</i> |

##### Spring Series Ladder Top 3 After 4 races

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Magic</i> (10)   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Ice</i> (12)     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Ann Sea</i> (20) |



## November WAGS wrap up

**On Wednesday 2nd** six yachts made up the fleet for a fabulous sail in the presence of the P&O cruise liner Pacific Dawn. Despite five regulars being absent on cruising duty up around Lizard Island and with a couple of others not able to make it six boats was a great result. Ruff Red, now in the hands of Greg Langan, has joined the fleet as has Impact skippered by Adele.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>** also had six boats with Sinabada (Graham and Judy Moritz) joining Ruff Red, Impact, Travesty, Miriama and Ice. The yachts enjoyed the company of the almost full moon rising over the eastern horizon with a fabulous sunset in the west. Patrick Coroni a visiting journalist for Maxim Magazine in the USA sailed on Ice and will be writing a feature article on his Australian fact finding mission in the new year. Patrick said the sail was the highlight of his Australian adventure so far (maybe because he won the club cap in the crew prize draw) so we should get a good write up.

**On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** eight boats set sail under a clearing sky with around 15 knots of breeze. Sean and Andrina on Samantha made a welcome return from a few weeks cruising and won the rum straight away. Magic, Ice, Freda, Miriama, Travesty, Port FM Mais Oui and Ruff Red made up the fleet ensuring everybody found a place on a boat which was great.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** started out wet and overcast but as usual the weather cleared and by the afternoon seven boats took to the water. Magic, Miriama, Ice, Samantha, Sinabada, Impact and Freda filled their decks again providing a place for everyone looking to go for a sail. The winds picked up a little from the 6 or 7 knots that blew most of the day and a great sail was enjoyed by all. The mist and haze blocked out any hope of a good sunset and Samantha won the rum for the second consecutive week.



Guests aboard *Ice* enjoy a wonderful Wednesday sail

## Take care at Yorkey's

MSQ have issued a notice to cancel an earlier notice amending the depth of the entrance channel at Yorkey's Knob and reinstating the previous depth reported in 2007. Boats with a draft of 1.7 metres or greater need to be aware of the possibility of grounding on low tides. See notice below.

## Cairns pilotage area

**Locality:** Yorkey's Knob Entrance Channel

**Activity:** Declared Depth - Yorkey's Knob Entrance Channel

**Refer to notice:** 1066 (t) of 2011

Mariners are advised that the actual Yorkey's Knob entrance channel navigation depth below port datum (Lowest Astronomical Tide) as of 25 October 2007 is 1.7 metres.

**Cancel notice:** 1066 (t) of 2011

**AUS charts affected:** 262, 830

**Maritime Safety Queensland charts affected:** Cairns - Trinity Bay

## Race Report: Spring Series Race 4

**The Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship** hit the waves again on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> with only three boats competing. Club Championship favourite Port FM Mais Oui was conspicuous by her absence but thanks to the addition of Ruff Red the required fleet of three made the race a valid start. Magic as usual led from start to finish on the three lap course in fine conditions and a reasonable 15 knot sou'easter. Ice battled to hold Magic in her sights at the same time as fending off Ruff Red from her stern. As the three yachts beat around the course it was all down to the calculations of the handicap to determine final positions. Ruff Red lost valuable time failing to fly their kite on the first downwind run and never quite recovered taking third across the line and third on corrected time. Magic put on another great display to claim line honours but her effort was not quite enough to defend her higher handicap as Ice turned a 12 minute deficit into a 3 minute lead on corrected time to claim first prize. The Spring Series concludes on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with race 5 and 6 in a double header. After race 4 Magic has 10 points ahead of Ice (12), Ann Sea (20), Port FM Mais Oui (21), Ruff Red (23), tau Ceti (24) and Island Girl (31) and Indigo (34).

## Next club trophy race: Christmas Cup - December 10th

The course is a port rounding of Low Isles with the usual start using the red buoy and the non palm tree and a finish between the red and green outer channel markers. This is the final race of 2011 and is also the 10<sup>th</sup> and final race of the PDYC Trophy Series. This 'secret' series has been tallied throughout the year from the results of ten races that were not part of the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship or the Exemplar Clipper Cup. The series has been posted on the results pages of the club website for some time but for those of you that have not visited these pages the results will be announced at the Christmas party and there may be a surprise or two!

## Boats on the move

**Treasure**, formally owned by Steve is now owned by Carolyn (Nod). Treasure is a 1969 Robert Herbert sloop designed by Holman & Pye and built in Tasmania. Congratulations to Steve and Nod.

**Did you know** you can get **Notices to Mariners** emailed to you as soon as they are issued? Keep up to date with what's happening in local waters and register your email address at <http://www.support.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/eForms.nsf/MarinersRegistration>



## Best #2 Deckie by Trudy Erdmann

Tau Ceti looks set to unfortunately miss the next two or three club races in the current series. Even more unfortunate is farewell to her best #2 Deckie Brent Frogley, and wife Eula, who will return across the ditch in December. Brent has been a faithful crew member for 2011 with his eagerness for sailing and enthusiastic bow wrangling of the spinnaker. His volunteered occupational health and safety duties have been most educational to those aboard and is trusted to sail the yacht in Trusty Skipper's absence. Brent has spent many hours of Deckie hard yakka alongside the skipper. In happily giving 'Tau Ceti' improvements he has suffered a labour of bruising, blood scrapings, sweat and at times, tears enduring midgee attacks. On Pirate Night he accompanied a stuffed talking parrot adhered to his shoulder (super glue and 100 mile an hour tape) and some classy pirate tattoos. He has worked out Innocent Deckie#1's irreverent humouring towards Kiwis in general and he gained the occasional upper hand. Brent always comes up smiling, ready to board for the next race and Wednesday arvo sailing. So a XXXX beer cheers to PDYC Best Deckie #2. *gunna sorely miss ya mate!*



Kiwi's Brent and Eula Frogley will be heading back to NZ after several months in Port and many trips aboard Tau Ceti for Brent.

## Working B December 11<sup>th</sup>

The club is holding a working bee on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am till noon. There will be lots to do so bring along your tools and plenty of enthusiasm. Jobs on the list will include cleaning and tidying everything, planting new plants and trees and repairing the fence around the hard stand. The usual drinks and nibbles will be provided afterwards and the Fund Raiser for Damo kicks off later that afternoon. Why not make a full day of it at the club and reserve Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> as a club day? All members are urged to be involved.



How do sailors wash their clothes?  
They throw their laundry  
overboard and it's washed ashore.

*Well if you think you can do any  
better send 'em in! But keep it clean!*

## New Members

*Tom Senyard*

*Tania & Damian Passlow*

*John & Jenny Edmondson*

*Steve Adamson*

*Cliff Mitting & Leslie Rosenberg*

*A warm welcome to these new members,  
it's great to have you all on board!*

## December Sailing

Spring Series R5 & R6 Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00am

Two windward/leeward buoy races with lunch between at club  
Followed by Spring Series presentation.

WAGS Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards

Sunset 6:41pm last light 7:06pm Tide: Rising to 1.99m high @ 7:07pm.

Christmas Cup Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am start

Passage rounding of Low Isles

WAGS Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards

Sunset: 6:45pm last light 7:10pm Tide: Ebbing to low of 1.37m @ 5:56pm.

WAGS Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00pm onwards

Sunset 6:49pm last light 7:14pm Tide: Rising to high of 2.31m @ 6:26pm.

WAGS Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards

Sunset 6:52pm last light 7:17pm Tide: Ebbing to low of 1.18m @ 6:13pm.

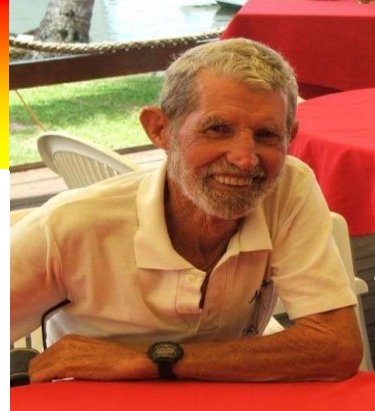
Skippers and crew are reminded that as a club organised event in accordance with Yachting Australia Special Regulations Part 1 (recommended for cruising boats) WAGS is a Category 6 event considered being a short course sunset cruise close to the shoreline in protected waters and in daylight hours only.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



# Club History with Henry Cotter

*The sad death of Graham Nicholls Aged 60*

I can't remember when Graham Nicholls came to Port but it was around the same time that Dorelle Downs was Commodore. It didn't take him long to find the Yacht Club and meet the local yachty's. There was at that time a motor boat for sale which he bought. Ibis was a wooden boat and a length of 48 feet and had a 250 horse power motor. Graham made this boat his home and it was moored on the end finger of the Yacht Club at Closehaven Marina. Ray Downs showed him the ropes for handling the boat and he was soon taking people out on a Wednesday night for WAGLES. He could pile about twenty people on board and take them up and down the harbour.



On a calm night he would take his passengers outside the entrance of Port so they could enjoy a sunset.

Graham always turned up at working bees to lend a hand with the many jobs that needed doing. For a number of years he was the nominee for the Yacht Clubs liquor licence. He was aware of the rules and regulations and made sure they were applied. He moved away from Port a few years back but still kept in contact with several people around here.

While working away down south he became unwell and was admitted to hospital for treatment.

Graham passed away on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 with his family by his side. Graham will be remembered and sadly missed by family and friends that knew him.

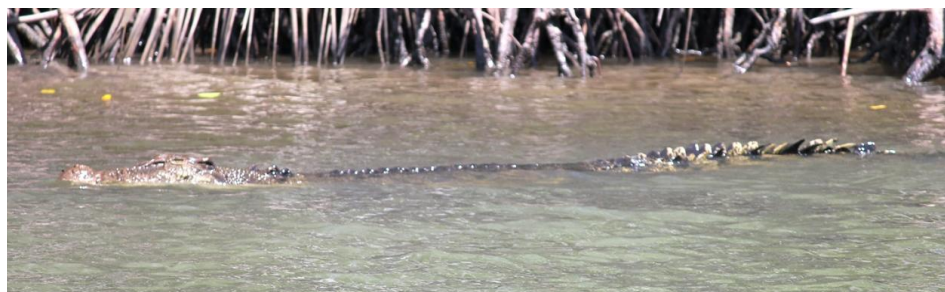
If you have a story to share of a voyage from yesteryear put your fingers to the keys and send it to [pdy@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au](mailto:pdy@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au)

Heading back to NZ after many months in Port and crewing on *Ice* is Rosemary Gibbons (left) pictured with Helen on Rosemary's final WAGS



## A Croc Spotting Travesty!

Don't be alarmed, nothing has happened! This local was caught on camera by Lex Adams on Travesty as the reptile made its way upstream right opposite the club. A reminder that we share their habitat and to always be vigilant when we are on or at the water's edge.







Tau Ceti returned under motor from a calamitous start to what was to be an extended cruise in northern waters for skipper Ken Brown and "Deckie" Trudy Erdmann. With a mountain of supplies still to consume the duo have headed for the hills on a camping trip while the injured Tau Ceti receives some welcome love and attention from Pete the Rigger to get her all ship shape again.

There were many hands on deck to help the crew of Tau Ceti after they limped into Lizard Island minus their mast and rig. There was much speculation as to what went wrong but it seems all's well that ends well as the boat is back in the hands of the rigger to get her up and running again soon.



## 2012 Club Sponsors Confirmed

Sponsorship for 2012 is confirmed with all 2011 sponsors agreeing to renew sponsorship.

Please support and help promote our sponsors throughout 2012.

## Exemplar Coaches & Limousines

**Poseidon & Sailaway**

Radio Port Douglas

Closehaven Marina

Coastline Graphics & Copy Shop

More individual event sponsors might be announced soon... if we can find any that is!

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# Member Profile



## Robyn Shelley

Robyn is now in her second year as club secretary and is doing a wonderful job donating her time and energy to the often thankless task. As one of the many members that work so hard behind the scenes Robyn plays a key role in the current success of the club. Not only as our dedicated, hard working secretary but also as a regular sailing member actively involved in WAGS every week. When skippers are short of crew and need a hand Robyn is always there to help and has gained a wealth of knowledge over recent years helping out whenever she can. In her spare time Robyn is a textile and fibre artist (or textile fetishist as Robyn calls it) and enjoys all forms of art. Robyn is one of the many lady sailors at the club these days that could hold her head up high in the company of her peers and show the boys a thing or two when it comes to boating and sailing. Add to that her valuable and ever increasing secretarial skills and Robyn is proving an all rounder and a great asset for the club and the local sailing community.

## MSQ Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plan

Maritime Safety Queensland and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers held an information seminar at PDYC on 21<sup>st</sup> November. The objective was to explain the procedures for evacuation of vessels anchored, moored and operating in Port Douglas waterways. The emphasis was firmly on preparation and planning and is a timely reminder to everyone to be prepared. The key to a successful relocation of vessels is timing and the first thing to be aware of is the yellow alert meaning destructive winds are forecast within 24 hours. This is the time to act.

### Plan

Be familiar with the cyclone contingency plan for the relevant area. (see club notice board)

Visit: [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au)

Take the time to travel the suggested shelter area or inlet before cyclone season starts.

Ensure your contact details are updated with the authorities.

Organise options to allow movement of your vessel if you will be away during cyclone season.

### Prepare

Know when and where your vessel needs to be during an evacuation.

Keep a record of emergency telephone numbers handy – for example regional harbour master (4052 7412), Boating and Fisheries Patrol (4099 5160) Meridien Marina (4099 5775) Vessel Traffic Services (1300 551 899).

Have plenty of line to secure your vessel.

Secure loose articles below deck and secure all hatches.

Be prepared and stay safe this cyclone season.

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# Understanding Handicaps

## PHC and Horses for Courses

Should a performance based handicap (PHC) be the same every time a boat races regardless of the course? Or should the handicap be adjusted to account for the course to be sailed?

By definition the PHC is determined by a boat's performance and as some boats perform differently on different courses it makes sense to apply a PHC which is relevant to the course to be sailed. The problem with applying the same PHC to a different course is that (a) the PHC is not reflective of performance over that course, and (b) the result will adversely affect the accuracy of the new CHC calculated from the result of the race. Here's an example:

A fleet races a windward leeward course 18 times throughout the club championship. Every time they race the same course and the new calculated handicap arising from the result gets applied to the next race each boat's new handicap becomes more and more relevant to how each boat performs on that course. By the end of the series the corrected times are very close because the handicap is as accurate as possible based on the performance on that course over the series. Let's look at two boats from this fleet. Boat A is faster than Boat B upwind but Boat B can match or even better Boat A on a reach. If half way through the series a passage race with a long reaching leg is thrown in and the PHC from the windward leeward series is used this will favour Boat B because her handicap is much lower than Boat A due to the results from several consecutive windward leeward races. If the new CHC calculated for Boat B is then applied to the next windward leeward race she will be severely disadvantaged as the good result from the passage race will have bumped up her handicap. A fact that is not really relevant to the next course.

The best way to approach this is to have a PHC for windward leeward courses and another separate PHC for passage races. If every time a boat sails a windward leeward course her windward leeward PHC is used and every time she sails a passage her passage PHC is used the corrected times will be far more accurate. This is also the reason why it's better to run an extended series over the same course time after time. Once we start throwing in different courses the handicap will not be able to keep up with the constant changes in performance resulting from the change of course. Always remember that with a performance based handicap what you are really competing against is how you sailed the same course the time before, and the time before that.

## Fundraiser for Damo

PDYC presents an Anti Violence Festival  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 12 noon

\$10 entry with loads of prizes and entertainment

Kim Hurley  
The Walker Bros  
Larry Cash  
Cutie Wid Dredz  
The Antipodians  
The Gusman  
Fashion Tips For Tractors  
Tonic



All money raised goes to help Damien Smith and family

Damien has recently moved to Port Douglas following the footsteps of his mate Simon from Tasmania and was settling in as a regular at the club. Late one night Damo was found lying unconscious on Grant Street and has been in intensive care at Cairns Base Hospital ever since with life threatening injuries and suspected brain damage. The cause of the injury is unknown and remains under police investigation. His family have temporarily relocated to Cairns to be by his side and money raised at this event will support them in their time of need.

*The thoughts of the committee, staff and members of PDYC are with Damo and his family at this time. We all wish him a safe and speedy recovery from this terrible tragedy.*

## 2012 Exemplar Clipper Cup

The countdown is on for the 2012 Exemplar Clipper Cup and the format for next year's regatta will switch from two weekends of racing to four days with a single lay day between. The change is designed to encourage more boats from down the coast to make the journey north. By removing the usual five day break and concentrating the four days of racing over a five day period it's hoped that the event can start to resemble the tried and tested success of other regattas such as Magnetic Island, Hamilton Island and Airlie Beach race weeks. Racing will start on Wednesday and continue on Thursday with a lay day on Friday. Then again on Saturday and concluding with the final race and the presentation on Sunday with the final weekend of Carnivale. Next year's Carnivale is also set to bring in some changes that will fit well with our changes for the yacht racing. The first weekend will be free for the sailors to enjoy the Longest Lunch, Palates of Port, Food & Wine Festival and the Seafood Extravaganza. The second weekend will have the Four Mile Beach Day and the yachts will be racing right off the beach on a course designed to provide a fabulous spectacle along the whole stretch of the beach. With the event starting on a Wednesday it should provide a huge night for WAGS with all the competitors invited to take part with all the regulars and we'll be aiming for our biggest WAGS ever.





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Poseidon Outer Reef Cruises proud sponsor of the 2011 Club Championship

## 2012 Sailing Calendar Summary

2012 Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship  
24 races split into 3 seasonal series over 18 Saturdays

Summer Series: 8 buoy races on 7 Saturdays commencing January 28th concluding March 10th

Winter Series: 8 buoy races on 6 Saturdays commencing June 9th concluding July 14th

Spring Series: 8 buoy races on 5 Saturdays commencing September 22nd concluding October 20th

### 2012 Closehaven Marina Trophy Series 8 events over 10 days

March 31st	Closehaven Cup
21st April	Keith Quinn Trophy
July 30th	Two Island Sail & Run Trophy
August 13th	Quicksilver Cup
28th August	Commodores Cup
September 17th & 18th	Coral Sea Cup
September 24th & 25th	Life Members Race
December 10th	Christmas Cup

### 2012 Other Events

January 26th	Combined Clubs Low Isles Race
May 15th	Clipper Cup Feeder Race*
May 23rd to 27th	Clipper Cup
Tues 18th September	WAGS Skippers Dinner
Wed 19th September	Int'l talk like a pirate day WAGS
December 1st	Lady Skippers Race Day
December 15th	Christmas party PDYC

\* Clipper Cup feeder date to be confirmed

### 2012 Cruising Events

January 14th & 15<sup>th</sup> summer cruise to Low and overnighter.

March 17<sup>th</sup> autumn cruise to Low and overnighter.

May 5<sup>th</sup> Full Moon at Low cruise to Low and overnighter.

May 12<sup>th</sup> Cruise to Yorkey's & stay overnight.

September 1<sup>st</sup> Join Life Members Racers at Low for the night.

*No racing is scheduled between October 21<sup>st</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> to allow for cruising!*

*24 race club championship with 6 drops - 2 in each 8 race seasonal series!*

RADIO

107.1 FM 90.9  
PORT DOUGLAS

Club sponsor Port FM has moved.

Your favourite radio station is now broadcasting from Macrossan Street after many years camped at Meridian Marina. Drop in and say g'day to Michael and Kim and the crew at Port FM now located at the Anchor Reef House on Macrossan, right in the heart of downtown Port!

Tune in on your PC at  
<http://www.justin.tv/radiopordouglas?#/w/2129442976/22>

RADIO

107.1 FM 90.9  
PORT DOUGLAS

Thanks this issue go to Lex Adams, Greg Langan, Trudy Erdmann and Sue Morgan for some of the images and Henry Cotter and Trudy Erdmann for articles. Thanks and please keep 'em coming!

**Next issue:** Scheduled for release sometime late December 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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