

Port Douglas Yacht Club Newsletter

Volume 3 April 2012 Issue 20

T-Break leads Closehaven Marina Trophy Series

Roxy, Noel Wilson and skipper Robert Mair set sights on Closehaven Trophy Series

News in brief:

- T-Break wins Closehaven Cup
- Ann Sea wins Keith Quinn Memorial Trophy
- T-Break leads Trophy Series
- Sky Walker new Clipper Cup Race Committee boat
- 13 entries so far for 2012 Exemplar Clipper Cup
- Yorkey's to Port Clipper Cup Feeder to be a cruise and not a race.

May at the Yachty means Exemplar Clipper Cup

Have you got yourself involved?

**MALONE'S
BUTCHERY**

Shop 24, Port Village, 11-17
Macrossan St, Port Douglas
Ph: 4099 4001

PDYC Members supporting PDYC
at the Australian Volunteer Coast
Guard Fundraiser BBQ
Lunchtime, Friday May 25th 2012



Robert Mair and Roxy celebrate winning the Closehaven Cup

With a 1st and a 3rd from two starts in the Closehaven Marina Trophy Series T-Break is the surprise series leader after the first two races. With eight yachts entered in the series Robert and his reliable crew of Noel and Roxy have T-Break (4) two points clear over second placed Port FM Mais Oui (6) and Ann Sea (7) and Miriama (7) tied for third. Following a great performance to win the Closehaven Cup in Race 1 the team were fired up for Race 2 as the grey matter kicked into gear for the Keith Quinn Trophy Fun Race quiz but then promptly fell in a heap scoring only 19 from 40 in the quiz. Luckily some great sailing gave them a third place overall to keep them on top of the series.

Race Results

Closehaven Marina Trophy Series

Race 1: Closehaven Cup

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1 st | T Break |
| 2 nd | Miriama |
| 3 rd | Magic |

Race 2: Keith Quinn Trophy

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 st | Ann Sea |
| 2 nd | Port FM Mais Oui |
| 3 rd | T Break |

Race Report: Closehaven Cup

Eight yachts set sail in the first round of the eight race Closehaven Marina Trophy Series with a course rounding Low Isles and Snapper Island that proved to be one of the closest fought contests in recent times. Magic and Ann Sea set the pace pulling away from Ice and Tau Ceti with newcomer Ian Overell on Winkali in hot pursuit followed by Port FM Mais Oui, Miriama and T-Break. The gentle SE breeze provided a comfortable reach on the first leg to Low and as the boats turned towards Snapper spinnakers were hoisted for the downwind run. Magic was first to round both islands with Ann Sea on her tail and the rest of the fleet not far behind.

The afternoon breeze lifted with gusts up to 20 knots as Magic crossed the line first in 04:19:04 followed by Ann Sea (04:31:03) and Tau Ceti (04:51:50). However, the freshening breeze lifted the hopes of the tail coming home with stronger wind for the remainder of the race.

With an average elapsed time of 04:57:54 handicap corrected times narrowed the difference in elapsed time of the fleet from 01:15:11 to just 00:10:19.

The first three boats on handicap and four crew members drawn from the fleet shared in an innovative prize pool of \$500 credit to spend at the club courtesy of Club Patron and race sponsor John Morris and Closehaven Marina.

On corrected times T-Break (03:18:53) claimed the Closehaven Cup trophy ahead of Miriama (03:21:35) and Magic (03:22:04). Fourth was Port FM Mais Oui (03:23:10) then Tau Ceti (03:24:17), Ann Sea (03:27:21), Winkali (03:27:59) and Ice (03:29:13).

Pictured : Right - Robert Mair and the crew of T Break – 2012 Closehaven Cup winners. Below – Ann Sea, line honours, quiz winners and winner on corrected time of the Keith Quinn Memorial Trophy.



Race Report: Keith Quinn Memorial Trophy

In very challenging conditions five yachts ventured forth for race two of the Closehaven Marina Trophy Series. The breeze ranged from almost non-existent to 15+ knots coming from every direction as a band of squalls passed through to the North East. The unusual weather was matched by the unusual course and a two stage nautical knowledge quiz that amended both handicaps and elapsed times of the competitors. Once the teams managed to get their boats pointing in the right direction a good sail was enjoyed even though the course, being a straight line along the beach, offered all points of sail with an unusual conflict of wave and wind direction thanks to the oscillating breeze.

With 40 points in the quiz up for grabs the crew of Ann Sea proved to be the most knowledgeable with a top score of 25 and added to that with a line honours win and a win on corrected time to take out the trophy.

Port FM Mais Oui came 2nd with 20 quiz points and 3rd over the line and T Break was 3rd (19 points and 4th) followed by Ice (22 points and 2nd) and Miriama (19 and 5th). The result gives T Break a two point lead in the Trophy Series on 4.0 points followed by Port FM Mais Oui (6.0), Ann Sea and Miriama tied for 3rd (7.0) and Magic and Ice (12.0) tied in fifth. Tau Ceti is sixth (14.0) and Winkali seventh (16).

In the spirit of the days when Keith Quinn was running the races the club put up a selection of great prizes to commemorate the former club member and sponsorship guru who by all accounts had a special talent when it came to organising a fun day on and off the water.

Keith Quinn Memorial Trophy Fun Day Quiz Results

| Round 1 | | Round 2 | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 st | Ann Sea (14) | 1 st | Ann Sea (11) |
| 2 nd | Ice (13) | 2 nd | Ice (9) |
| 3 rd | Port FM Mais Oui (11) | | Miriama (9) |
| | T Break (11) | | Port FM Mais Oui (9) |
| 5 th | Miriama (10) | 5 th | T Break (8) |

Keith Quinn Memorial Trophy Fun Day Race Results

| Elapsed Time | | Overall Result | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 st | Ann Sea (01:14:23) | 1 st | Ann Sea |
| 2 nd | Ice (01:38:02) | 2 nd | Port FM Mais Oui |
| 3 rd | Port FM Mais Oui (01:43:06) | 3 rd | T Break |
| 4 th | T Break (01:52:51) | 4 th | Ice |
| 5 th | Miriama (02:01:25) | 5 th | Miriama |

The next race in the Closehaven Marina Trophy Series is the Two Island Sail & Run on July 28th – athletes start training now!

April WAGS roundup

Wednesday 4th April: With the cruise liner Pacific Dawn anchored off shore six yachts set sail in light air under a rare totally cloudless sky. Guest numbers were good but with some regular boats unavailable there were a few disappointed people. Magic, Ice, Ann Sea, Miriama, Port FM Mais Oui and Impact shared the skippers prizes with Ice taking the rum.

Wednesday 11th April: Strong winds and choppy seas deterred many but for the three yachts that cruised up Dickson Inlet. A gentle cruise in the shelter of the mangroves was enjoyed by Ice, Miriama and Samantha. A surprisingly good turnout afterwards at the club made it look like a regular event and Miriama won the rum.

Wednesday 18th April: The strong winds of the previous few days started to ease and 4 yachts took about 40 people out on a choppy sea in 20 knots of breeze. Miriama, Ice, Port FM Mais Oui and Samantha filled their decks and a thrill a minute sail was enjoyed by all. Henry added to his rum collection with a second consecutive win of the Inner Circle Rum.

Wednesday 25th April: ANZAC Day was a typical autumn day with high level cloud drifting westerly over a gentle lower level SSE breeze. Six yachts made it out for a spectacular fiery sunset including Winkali joining the WAGS fleet for the first time with regulars, Samantha, Port FM Mais Oui, Ice, Sinabada and Miriama. Henry's bid for a third consecutive rum was dashed by Graham and Judy on Sinabada adding a bottle of Inner Circle to their collection.



Guests sailing on the final WAGS of April were treated to a fabulous sunset over the ranges as the yachts sailed back into Port. Pictured below are Gaynor and Mark from NZ enjoying their second sail on *Ice*.



Exemplar Clipper Cup Lay Day Coast Guard Fundraiser BBQ

Friday May 25th is a rest day for the skippers and crew in the Exemplar Clipper Cup Regatta. The club will be hosting a lunchtime BBQ with all donations exchanged for a sizzled sausage going to the Port Douglas and Mossman Coast Guard. Visiting yachties in the regatta will also get the bonus 25% PDYC members discount at the bar. Live music will be provided to entertain and look out for some great prizes and raffles to boost the donations. **Malones Butchery** in the Port Village Shopping Centre will donate the snags and a few volunteers will be on hand to fire up the hot plate and cook up a storm. Bring along anything to add to the feast.

Malones Butchery

Another member owned business supporting PDYC

Cruising for the Clipper Cup Feeder

Over the last couple of years Cairns Yacht Club has organised a race from Yorkey's to Port Douglas for the Cairns boats coming up for the Clipper Cup. A few PDYC boats have sailed down the day before and joined the fleet to welcome our neighbours coming our way. Once again this year some boats will be cruising south from Port Douglas on Saturday 19th May and staying overnight at Half Moon Bay Marina. On Sunday 20th May the cruise north back to Port Douglas should see some of the Cairns boats joining us as they head up the coast in preparation for the Regatta the following Wednesday. In recent years CYC had organised this as the Cairns (Yorkey's) to Port Douglas Offshore Series known as The Clipper Cup Feeder Race, but this year this will not be the case. Instead this year will be a cruise in company each way. Boats interested in meeting Saturday night at Half Moon Bay Marina should call the marina on 4055 7711 to make berthing arrangements. Although there will not be any results and presentations on returning to PDYC on Sunday afternoon there will no doubt be a few drinks shared and a few tales to tell because it's highly likely there'll be more than one yacht heading in the same direction, and we all know what that means...



The Macrossan Street Parade is on Friday May 25th.

The PDYC Clipper Cup Trophy will join the parade proudly displayed onboard club members and major sponsors Gordon and Cheryl Wellham's little red Singer as we did in 2010. Two volunteers with 'heavenly bodies' are being sought to sit on the back of the little car and proudly display the Clipper Cup trophy. Contact Gordon or Cheryl at Exemplar if you would like to be part of the parade. Phone Exemplar on 4098 5473

Exemplar Clipper Cup

May 23rd to
May 27th

"to race the winds of paradise"



Follow @PDYC2 for breaking news



Two amendments have been made to the Notice of Race. The first is item 3.2.1 that now states *"The winners of the Exemplar Clipper Cup Regatta will be the boats that win overall in each division."* The second is Item 9.3 which now reads *"The overall winner in each division is recognised by the addition of a plaque affixed to the Clipper Cup trophy to commemorate their win."*

This change allows each winner in each division to share an equal claim to the trophy and means that there will not be a single winner as in recent years. It also allows for a more equitable share across the divisions of the prize pool.

The change is relevant in keeping with the original Pan Am Clipper Cup which was a team event. Look at the early plaques from these years and you will see multiple boat names that represented the winning team. This time we'll have multiple boat names that represent the winners of each division.

EXEMPLAR

COACHES and LIMOUSINES

Trusting the handicapper

arrived at. As the sometimes reluctant club handicapper holding the responsibility to arrange, manage and present all the races and the results I was thrilled when that moment of truth arrived for that race. The role is without question open to unscrupulous behaviour and fixing of the results. As I sit alone at the computer inputting the information the result is entirely determined by what I put in and it's a shame that it has to be that way as it does leave the door wide open for abuse and suspicion. It's always a pleasure to hit the 'view results' button and have the truth revealed by Top Yacht to see who's won. It was an extra pleasure to see that T Break had come first and Miriama had come second. The last two boats over the line taking first and second on corrected time. So how can that happen? Well, I was asked that question more than once that day. So let me explain.

The handicaps applied to the race were derived from past performance of the competitors over the same or similar course. How a performance based handicap works is by allocating a thing called a BCH which is a back calculated handicap for each race. This is a handicap that places every competitor equal first with the wonderful use of hindsight. The handicap for the next race is then calculated from the BCH.

In an attempt to start the new Closehaven Trophy series with relevant handicaps previous BCH's over many races were juggled with expected and known performance data for various yacht types and then fine tuned to make each handicap relevant to each other competitor in the series. The key for our club is keeping the developing windward leeward course handicaps separate from those for courses with different configurations and longer elapsed times.

So when the results are displayed I look straight to the correlation between the allocated handicap (AHC) and the back calculated handicap (BCH) that would make everyone equal first. I was thrilled not only to see T Break and Miriama on top but also to see how close the AHC of each boat was to its BCH. This is a win for me even though Ice was placed last.

For each hour on the water a 0.1 difference in handicap equates to 6 minutes. So over a 5 hour race that adds up to half an hour.

The reality is that the longer the race the harder it is for the boats out in front to hold on to a win on corrected time. The longer the race the more everyone has to be consistent but especially so for those that cross the line first. For the Closehaven Cup the wind picked up several knots after Magic and Ann Sea had finished giving an advantage to Miriama and T Break who were still sailing with time up their sleeve. That in a nutshell is how it happened.

It's also worth noting the deviation between the allocated and back calculated handicaps for this race ranged from 0.5% to 2.9% at an average deviation of 1.2%. This compares with an average in the 2012 Poseidon Sailaway Sumer Series of 8.13%.

Mick Gwilliams - Rear Commodore.

13 Entries received prior to publication are:

Division 1 Monohull: Ice (Sayer), Ann Sea (Hanse), Magic (Farr 1104), Port FM Mais Oui (J24), Kaizen 2 (J24), Death Star (J24), Night Nurse (Farr 40)

Division 2 Multihull: Indigo (Seawind), Sanity (schionning)

Division 3 Cruising: Miriama (Adams), Wildfire (Top Hat), Big Ears (Holman & Pye), Sinabada (Jeanneau).



Karragun, the little Top Hat formerly owned by Leon Paul will be racing this year under her new name of **Wildfire**. No longer a blue boat proud new owner Shari Essex and partner Roger Smith have transformed the old girl.

Night Nurse is a Farr 40 from Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron in Brisbane skippered by Russell McCart. The boat is sure to impress the locals in Port who are

looking forward to the chance to compete against her.

There were a few surprises when the results of the Closehaven Cup were announced after the race, but I for one was not surprised at all having an understanding of how the results are

Handicap Deviation – the gap between allocated and back calculated

If you thought the physics of sailing was hard to understand take a look at the mathematics of handicaps! Following on from the previous article on handicaps here is a table that shows the % deviation between the allocated and back calculated handicaps for each boat in the 2012 Poseidon Sailaway Summer Series. This is an excellent reference for each competitor to gauge how they perform relative to expectation based on past performance. Of course there are many factors such as wind, sea state, crew and sail inventory that determine performance. The boats with the smallest fluctuations and the lowest averages sail consistently whereas the boats with wider fluctuations and higher averages sail less consistently. However this does not show whether each is consistently outperforming or consistently underperforming. Gaps are for a boat either not starting or finishing or being used as the reference boat in calculating the BCH.

| Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship AHC and BCH deviation | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Boat Name | Race 1 | Race 2 | Race 3 | Race 4 | Race 5 | Race 6 | Race 7 | Race 8 | Average |
| Ann Sea | 2.16% | 5.36% | | | 5.82% | 1.00% | 1.75% | 5.97% | 3.68% |
| Ice | | | 4.06% | 7.33% | 4.44% | 6.74% | 0.30% | 2.88% | 3.81% |
| Magic | | 5.08% | 2.40% | 11.10% | | 1.58% | 5.13% | | 5.06% |
| Tau Ceti | | 15.02% | 9.82% | 1.21% | 0.91% | 0.90% | 6.17% | | 5.67% |
| Miriama Te Rua | | 18.67% | 1.52% | | | | 6.93% | 10.75% | 9.47% |
| Big Ears | | 16.62% | 3.57% | | | 8.62% | | | 9.60% |
| Indigo | | | | 23.83% | 8.58% | 6.63% | | | 13.01% |
| Ruff Red | | | 16.10% | | 20.65% | 6.73% | 15.59% | | 14.77% |
| Fleet Average | | | | | | | | | 8.13% |

Time to brush up on the Racing Rules?

With the Exemplar Clipper Cup just around the corner it's time to dust off the old blue book and check a few of the rules.

Some of the common situations to be aware of are listed below.

RRS 11 When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat.

RRS10 When boats are on opposite tacks a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard-tack boat.

RRS 12 When boats are on the same tack and not overlapped a boat clear astern shall keep clear of a boat clear ahead.

All skippers should have their copy of the Racing Rules of Sailing. If in doubt – just keep clear!

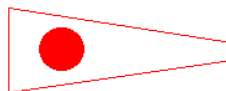
Flags continued... The five flags described to the right will be used the most during the Exemplar Clipper Cup Regatta. There are others and everyone should know what they mean. Check out the full list on the notice board at the club or in the back of the rule book. Tip: The Race Officer may decide to start more than one division at the same time. If this happens multiple warning signals (division flags) will be displayed.

Do you know your flags?

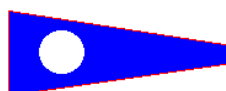
Flags that will be used during the Exemplar Clipper Cup



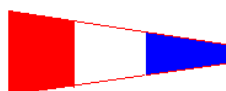
Answering pennant. (AP) displayed with 2 sound signals, means the start is postponed. 1 minute after this is removed with 1 sound signal the Warning Signal (Division Flag) will be displayed.



Numeral Pennant 1, this is the Warning Signal for Division 1 raised 1 minute after AP is removed. This will be removed after 5 minutes to signal the start of racing for Division 1 Monohulls.



Numeral Pennant 2, this is the Warning Signal for Division 2 raised 1 minute after AP is removed. This will be removed after 5 minutes to signal the start of racing for Division 2 Multihulls



Numeral Pennant 3, this is the Warning Signal for Division 3 raised 1 minute after AP is removed. This will be removed after 5 minutes to signal the start of racing for Division 3 Cruising.



Code flag P, The preparatory signal is displayed 1 minute after the Warning Signal at 4 minutes to the start and is removed at 1 minute to the start.

Hmmm...must call in at the Yacht Club one day and see who's on the menu..

Croc spotting at the Yacht Club

Lex Adams snapped these snaps of this snapper snooping around the club recently. Taken from the deck of Travesty and looking towards the club the images are a reminder that we share these waters with these reptiles. Lex suspects this one to be about 2.5 meters in length though quite broad. Are crocs in the area becoming more frequent?



Club History with Henry Cotter

"Excerpts from an early Newsletter – October 1995"



I was looking through our files and found a newsletter dated October 1985. In those days we would probably only get two or three newsletters a year. Now, thanks to our Rear Commodore Mick we get one every month. I take my hat off to him as we have never had anyone that would put that sort of effort to keeping members informed. As we all know he also does all our race days, no small job believe me. These are some pieces taken out of that earlier newsletter.

"First and foremost would all the PDYC volunteers who helped out during the Mirage Resort Clipper Cup stand up and give yourselves a big pat on the back, you did a great job. After six months of planning the inaugural Mirage Resort Clipper cup finally happened and judging by the response of the skippers at the skippers meeting it can only be judged as a great success. Like all inaugural events there were a few minor hiccups to start with but these were overcome.

The weather could not have been better with the first race in Cairns starting in 20 knots of breeze, the last race ending in 6 knots. The three boats that represented our club all did our club proud. In IMS "Marina Mirage Challenge" sailing in the PDYC colours for the last time. "Cab Driver" now racing under Port Douglas colours finished in second place. PHS 2 and "Corlar" in fourth place. I would like to thank all the skippers of these yachts for doing a fine job in representing our club.

To the volunteer's outside the club I would like to thank Bob Brenac the handicapper, Arthur Hodge who set and controlled the race. The owners and skippers of the course boats, Ian "Stripey" Grant our media man and Dick Gooch and the team of office workers who computed the race results and daily newsletters. To all who helped out – A job well done by all. Without you events of this size could never be run." Report by Greg Byrne.

There were 36 yachts in that race. To make that happen there was an incredible amount of work went into putting on this event. I have read through some of the minutes of Greg reporting back to the committee on the numerous trips to Cairns to set this all up. Some of those yachts are still around today.

Commodore Bill Mc Neil reported;

"Now that the regatta is over the euphoria is subsiding and we have to take a serious look at keeping the club progressing and improving. Our application for a full licence has been submitted to council and is being processed. It is of course vital that the club obtains this licence as without it the club itself would become nonexistence. There will be a general meeting (see enclosed notice in this newsletter) to put your thoughts and recommendations to committee on what we believe is a sound and viable path to a successful club. Issues will undoubtedly not receive unanimous agreement so we look forward to a good roll up at the meeting."

If you know an interesting story about the history of PDYC then why not share it with everyone? Write it down and send it in.

Obituary - John Wild

By Henry Cotter

John Wild, one of our first members passed away peacefully in Port Douglas on Thursday 5th of April 2012, aged 82 years.

The family of three boys and one daughter and wife Oriel were supporters of the club in the early days. The boys once owned a yacht called The Suns of Oriel which they entered in club races. John at one time was crew on Dr Dick's yacht Sun Burnt Snowflake.

We used to own four Sabots used for training young members of the club. The Wild family donated one of those four boats to the club.

John was at one time club treasurer and John and Oriel were both active in other community activities. They moved to Port Douglas in the early 1980s. John will be sadly missed by family and friends.

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Stolen or Borrowed?

Our club prides itself on being a fun and friendly place. Our members are always helping each other by lending and borrowing things. It seems lately though that some things have been borrowed without the owner's consent and are yet to be returned. If you know of anything that somebody has used lately that is overdue to be returned please see that it is returned to its rightful owner, or put back where it came from. The club has had episodes of theft before and it seems to be getting more and more prevalent. It's up to us all to be vigilant and help protect each other's and the clubs property from people that have a tendency to just take what they want without regard for others and there is no place for people like that around here.

RADIO 107.1 FM 90.9 PORT DOUGLAS

Follow the fortunes of Port FM Mais Oui and the PDYC fleet
Tune into the breakfast show with Michael Gabour weekdays from 6am and
catch all the latest PDYC race results on Mondays following race days.

New Members

Membership at the club continues to grow with 14 new members for the
month of April. Some are regulars renewing and others are new who are
becoming regulars.

Rosemary Gibbons *Ian and Jenny McDowell*

Hugh Edwards

Corien Plau Het Rot *Katie Geddes* *Gavin Jacks*

Peter and Stefanie Jones *Richard and Fiona Maxwell*

Peter Ryan *Yvonne Reddacliff* *Ray Perry*

PDYC members and staff wish all our new members a very warm
welcome and hope you all enjoy your club.



Be at the B on May 12th

for a pre Exemplar Clipper Cup
clean up. Bring anything that
cuts, trims, snips polishes,
prunes, brightens or shines and
let's get the club looking her
best for our visiting Yachties.
There might just be a beer or
two and some sangas for the
workers afterwards.

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May Sailing

EXEMPLAR

COACHES and LIMOUSINES

Exemplar Clipper Cup Presentation Dinner

Sunday 27th May 2012
Presentation of trophies and cash prizes.

Tickets \$30

Includes dinner and entertainment by The Barbary Coasters



Visiting sailors enjoy members discounts at the bar







Book your table today
Ph:4099 4386



| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| WAGS | Wednesday 2 nd 4:00pm onwards | Sunset:5:59pm last light 6:22pm |
| Cruise | Saturday 5 th May in your own time | Full moon overnighter at Low Isles |
| WAGS | Wednesday 9 th 4:00pm onwards | Sunset: 5:56pm last light 6:20pm |
| WAGS | Wednesday 16 th 4:00pm onwards | Sunset: 5:54pm last light 6:17pm |
| Cruise | Saturday 19 th 9:00am onwards | Overnight at Yorkey's Knob |
| Cruise | Sunday 20 th 10:00am | Cruise back to Port with Cairns fleet |
| Exemplar Clipper Cup | Wednesday 23 rd 10:30am | Race 1 and race 2 |
| WAGS | Wednesday 23 rd 4:00pm onwards | Sunset 5:53pm last light 6:15pm |
| Exemplar Clipper Cup | Thursday 24 th 10:00am | Race 3 |
| Exemplar Clipper Cup | Saturday 26 th 10:00am | Race 4 and Race 5 |
| Exemplar Clipper Cup | Sunday 27 th 10:00am | Race 6 |
| WAGS | Wednesday 30 th 4:00pm onwards | Sunset 5:52pm last light 6:15pm |

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.

Low Isles on the Great Barrier Reef
www.sailawayportdouglas.com

Agincourt Outer Reefs
www.poseidon-cruises.com.au

Buoy laying boat gets the chop

After much debate about the need for a buoy laying vessel the PDYC Committee went a step further and approved the purchase of a buoy laying helicopter at a recent meeting. The chopper will be used to drop the course marks from the air in a fraction of the time it takes the volunteers in their yachts to motor out and lay the course prior to each race. Collecting the buoys after the race will be a breeze as the chopper simply sends down a huge grappling iron to scoop them from the water. Well it is the April issue after all...we can dream can't we? However...



The racing is getting pretty serious at the club these days. Pictured left is a team of divers checking the start buoy at the last race to make sure the ground tackle was fast and the mark wouldn't drift in the current.



Next issue: Scheduled for release late May 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

The image on the front cover of this issue is the northern side of Snapper Island. If you have a good photo that you think would make a good cover send it in.

This newsletter is published for the benefit of the sailing community and the members of Port Douglas Yacht Club. Some material is stolen from the internet solely to promote the sport and recreational activity of sailing and where possible we put it back afterwards. PDYC Inc, its office bearers, members, employees and associates accept no responsibility whatsoever for anything arising from this publication. Any person objecting to the use of material or the content of this publication is advised to get over it and come for a sail! You may join us every Wednesday, it's free and it's fantastic – see you out there...