

# Port Douglas Yacht Club

## Newsletter

Volume 3 June 2012 Issue 22

### Ice leads Poseidon Sailaway Winter Series Ann Sea and Magic tied leading 2012 Club Championship

#### In this issue:

- Winter Series Race reports
- June WAGS round up
- Bar refurbishment
- Risk Management Plan
- Membership hits record highs
- Race Tips - VMG
- Lizard Island rally looming
- Where now for the Clipper Cup?
- Club History with Henry Cotter

#### WAGS shines for PDYC

Six months into the year and the club's famous Wednesday afternoon sail continues to draw the crowds. As the peak tourist season kicks in up to ten yachts are regularly making the effort to promote the club and set a shining example of the far northern tropical hospitality.



Port FM Mais Oui and Tau Ceti under a golden setting sun

**At the halfway stage of the Poseidon Sailaway 2012 Club Championship** Ann Sea and Magic are tied in first position on 42 points followed by Ice (43), Tau Ceti (61), Port FM Mais Oui (96), Indigo (108), Miriama (113), Big Ears (117), Ruff Red (124), Jimmie Blacksmith (127) and Sea Wizard (132).

After five races of the eight race Poseidon Sailaway Winter Series Ice holds a commanding lead with four straight wins. The reversal of form follows two years between slipping during which the crew were awarded a set of gardening tools to look after the abundant growth on the hull by the observant crew of Tau Ceti.

As defending Club Champions in 2011 Ice being the only boat to compete in all 18 races suffered many poor results to finish 4<sup>th</sup> overall on 33 points, 9.5 points off the pace behind Port FM Mais Oui (23.5), Magic (24) and Ann Sea (24.5).

The Club Championship has completed twenty nine consecutive races where each boat's performance is the only variable to affect the handicap. Having underperformed during 2011 and throughout the 2012 Summer Series causing the handicap to fall as low as 0.655, the decision to slip and clean the hull before the Winter Series is now paying off for Ice. The Club Championship is a 24 race series extending over ten months and the timing of a 'pit stop' by any competitor is critical to the overall result at the end of the series.

The enhanced performance given by a freshly cleaned and anti-fouled hull is quickly addressed by the Top Yacht software that manages the race results. Before the 8 race Spring Series kicks off in September the allocated handicap for Ice will be back up to the levels of early 2011 and the winning streak may well be over, perhaps giving way to the next boat to be slipped and cleaned in a tactical game of strategy and gamesmanship.

**Race Report: Winter Series Race 1.** With a flat sea and very light air seven yachts came to the line for the start of the eight race Winter Series. With two races scheduled for the day the morning provided very challenging conditions as the boats slowly made their way to the windward mark. Even with the planned three laps shortened to two laps only five boats recorded a finish time. Defending Club Champion Port FM Mais Oui turned on a brilliant performance coming in second over the line fourteen minutes behind Magic and taking first on corrected time by eight minutes. Ice crossed third and collected second on handicap ahead of Jimmie Blacksmith in third just 25 seconds ahead of Magic. Ann Sea resumed her defence of the Club Championship leader board scoring fifth and the conditions proved to be too difficult for Indigo and Tau Ceti retiring after concluding there was insufficient time to complete the course.

**Race Report: Winter Series Race 2.** The breeze had lifted by 2pm to begin the afternoon race and after recovering from a disastrous start Magic settled into a close contest at the front of the field with Ice. The lead changed hands several times with one very close encounter on the top mark as the two yachts converged on the windward buoy. Line honours again went to Magic holding off Ice on the final downwind run. With the lifting breeze the full three laps were completed by all and in a tight finish Indigo and Tau Ceti crossed just 28 seconds apart. Corrected times gave the win to Ice followed by Jimmie Blacksmith in second and Indigo third holding off Port FM Mais Oui by 34 seconds. Magic was fifth followed by Ann Sea and Tau Ceti.



**Race Report: Winter Series Race 5.** As the yachts hit the waves for the afternoon race the predicted change in the weather had arrived raising the swell and lifting the breeze. With many gusts reaching over 20 knots the fleet beat around the same course in much faster times. After taking a penalty for crossing the line early Magic quickly made amends and again hit the lead hotly pursued by Ann Sea with Ice, Port FM Mais Oui and Tau Ceti close behind.

Holding on to take their second line honours for the day the crew of Magic cut 22 minutes off their morning race time but it wasn't enough to hold the win on handicap corrected time. Ice again snatched the win to put Magic in second 35 seconds ahead of Ann Sea in third followed by Port FM Mais Oui and Tau Ceti.

The Winter Series ladder has Ice (6) in a commanding lead ahead of Port FM Mais Oui (15), Magic (16), Ann Sea (22), Jimmie Blacksmith (23), Tau Ceti (30) and Indigo (35). Two dropped worst results come into play with the completion of race 7 and race 8.



The club's J24 Port FM Mais Oui on her way to a win in Race 1 of the Winter Series

**Race Report: Winter Series Race 3.** In near perfect conditions six yachts crossed the start line and the steady 12 to 15 knots breeze and slight sea state soon had the yachts powering up to the top mark. Ice set the pace pulling away from Magic and Ann Sea. In a strong return to club racing Jimmie Blacksmith was again never too far behind as a close contest developed throughout the fleet. Each time spinnakers were hoisted for the downwind runs Ann Sea regained some ground on Ice but could not catch her rival on the windward beats with Ice holding on to take her first line honours victory of 2012. After three laps of the course Magic crossed the line third with a great effort from the crew sailing without their regular skipper finishing just five minutes ahead of Jimmie Blacksmith. Port FM Mais Oui maintained a lead over Tau Ceti. Final positions on handicap went to Ice 1<sup>st</sup>, Jimmie Blacksmith 2<sup>nd</sup> and Port FM Mais Oui 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by Ann Sea, Tau Ceti and Magic.

**Race Report: Winter Series Race 4.** Five yachts came to the 10:00am start of race 4 in a steady breeze and slight sea with predictions of an escalating wind. Doug Ryan returning to the helm of Magic soon had the fleet in his wake recording an impressive line honours win leading from the start. Spinnaker problems hampered Ann Sea on the second leg succumbing to the challenge from Ice as Port FM Mais Oui again held out Tau Ceti.

After three laps of the one nautical mile windward / leeward course corrected time allowed Ice to edge ahead of Magic with Port FM Mais Oui third followed by Ann Sea and Tau Ceti. Ann Sea recorded an elapsed time 20 minutes and 7 seconds faster than Port FM Mais Oui only to lose third place by just 22 seconds in the closest result of the day.

Cairns Yacht Club presents



**FNQ J24 Championships**  
**20 - 22 July 2012**



## June WAGS roundup

**Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup>** was wet and windy but despite the conditions five yachts set sail. Sinabada, Indigo, Miriama, Port FM Mais Oui and Tau Ceti all braved the elements to keep the tradition alive although the setting sun was nowhere to be seen. A reasonable crowd filled the tables for dinner and Port FM Mais Oui won the rum.

**Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup>** was the first time for a long while that some boats were restricted by the tide. The 0.26 low at 16:15 meant Ice, Magic and Sinabada were unable to take part. On top of that Samantha had departed on her voyage north leaving a depleted fleet. Sky Walker came to the rescue joining Indigo who between them carried over 40 crew to make up for the shortfall in boats. They were joined by Tropic Bird making a welcome return, Port FM Mais Oui ably assisted by the Australian J24 Association President and National Champion Dave Suda visiting Port on holidays, Miriama, Jimmie Blacksmith and Tau Ceti. Sky Walker won the Inner Circle rum.

**Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup>** was the busiest WAGS night for some time with 10 boats out on the water plus the two commercial cats and a couple of non members enjoying the idyllic conditions. Travesty joined Indigo, Ice, Jimmie Blacksmith, Miriama, Tau Ceti, Tropic Bird, Port FM Mai Oui, and Ann Sea with Magic winning the rum.

**Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup>** was another blustery and very busy night with 8 yachts filling their decks with mariners old and new. With a long overdue and most welcome return to WAGS Kai Lani joined Miriama, Ann Sea, Sinabada, Tau Ceti, Port FM Mai Oui and Sky Walker with Ice winning the first bottle of Oak Heart rum from new rum sponsor Bacardi.

**Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup>** ten yachts sailed in idyllic 10 to 15 knots with a gentle sea and golden sunset over the range. Port FM Mais Oui, Ice, Miriama, Magic, Jimmie Blacksmith, Tau Ceti, Sinabada, Ann Sea, Travesty and Sky Walker filled their decks with lucky guests to delight in Port's number 1 must do experience. Another busy night followed at the club and Travesty won the rum.

A Magic moment as a cloudless Thornton Peak presents a picture perfect backdrop of a magical sunset sail for the lucky guests aboard Magic



Miriama Te Rua on a gentle Wednesday sunset sail

## Is there a storm brewing over PDYC Risk Management Plan for on water activities?

Like it or not some things are not what they used to be and in an age when responsibility for one's own actions is unheard of there comes a time in the life of every organisation to take control of risk.

Unfortunately being out at sea can be quite risky so in light of what we do every Wednesday (and most weekends) the committee has been working on a Risk Management Plan to protect the public, protect our members and to protect our club in the event that anything should ever go wrong and we find ourselves in court with a case to answer.

In 2012 the application for Aquatic Event Permits needed by Queensland law to conduct on water activities required a Risk Management Plan be submitted that identified risk and addressed how we minimise our exposure to the inherent danger of sailing. Fortunately such a document did exist and we succeeded in acquiring the permits and staging our 2012 calendar of events. The law though as we all know is a frighteningly complex subject and to be sure that we were on course we engaged the services of NQ Legal to audit our RMP and provide recommendations to better safeguard the interests of the club and its members. This work is now complete and we are at the stage of introducing and implementing the PDYC Risk Management Plan for On Water Activities.

In a nutshell all it really means is that we have a plan that shows that the club and its participating members recognise the risks and practice responsible risk mitigation and response commensurate with our duty of care, and importantly that we have a record of such and that we have the proof that we follow our plan.

So, we are now in the process of rolling out our Risk Management Plan and making sure that everyone involved in club organised sailing is not exposed to any unnecessary risk of litigation. Also of course at the end of the day it will mean that our activities are safer and more enjoyable for everyone involved. All skippers and regular crew taking part in club organised sailing activities are urged to embrace this initiative and support these essential measures to protect our club. Mick Gwilliams Rear Commodore

## Bar refurbishment in the pipeline

Part of the process for managing the future of the club is to invite comment from members to address any major project to be undertaken. New to the list is the refurbishment of the bar. The project is the result of a request from staff to address issues of functionality and to resolve problems arising from aging (and missing) infrastructure and the lack of desired facilities. The cost of completing the work is estimated to be up to \$20,000 and members are invited to offer comment on this new initiative.





**Sailaway**

**POSEIDON**

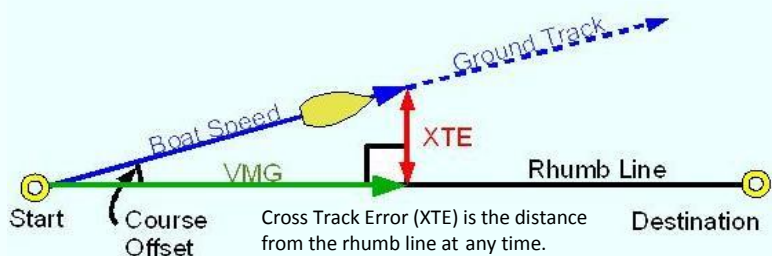


Low Isles on the Great Barrier Reef  
[www.sailawayportdouglas.com](http://www.sailawayportdouglas.com)

Agincourt Outer Reefs  
[www.poseidon-cruises.com.au](http://www.poseidon-cruises.com.au)

**Race Tips: Sail the best VMG.** Velocity made good is the component of a sailboat's velocity that is in the direction of the next mark. Understanding it is all about getting the right perspective. You may be sailing upwind on a port tack and a heading of 90° but if you were to tack to 180° on starboard would you be getting to the mark any sooner? This of course depends on the bearing of the mark. If the mark is at 140° then the answer is yes because your VMG will be greater on the starboard tack than on the port tack. Seeing this on the water can be difficult but it can make all the difference when a shifting breeze constantly changes your VMG.

A heading of 50° off the true wind on a speed of 3.9 knots gives 2.5 knots VMG. Bear away to 55° and the required speed to maintain VMG is 4.4. Any speed achieved over 4.4 will increase your VMG and get you to the mark sooner. A speed less than 4.4 will lengthen your journey.



## Two Island Sail & Run

### Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup> 2012



On Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup> Port Douglas Yacht Club is holding the third annual Two Island Sail & Run. This unique occasion is a most unusual sporting event that is destined to become a renowned and favoured event of many in the far north.

Teams will compete in a seven stage marathon that involves sailing, swimming and running.

Yachts depart from Port Douglas Yacht Club to the start line off Four Mile Beach from where they race out to Low Isles. Once there an athlete swims ashore, sprints around the island and then swims back to the yacht.

The yachts then sail around both Islands before racing back to Four Mile Beach where the athlete swims ashore and sprints up to a check point at the lookout on Flagstaff Hill. The athlete then runs back to the Yacht Club where the finish time is recorded.

On the day there will be many challenges to be rewarded.

Line Honours

Handicap Winner 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each division.

Course Record (Magic 2010 - 03:07:00)

Low Isles Lap Record (off boat to on boat) Grant (Ice) 2011-09:25

Beach Sprint Record (off boat to PDYC) Nick (Ann Sea) 2011-15:17

Presentation to be held at the Yacht Club after the event.

To register your interest contact PDYC. Ph: 4099 4386





# Where to now for the Clipper Cup?

In 1995 44 yachts entered the inaugural Mirage Resorts Cairns/Port Douglas Clipper Cup. Competitors came from as far afield as PNG, New Zealand, Victoria and NSW and from all along the Queensland coast. Those of us around today that were not here to witness this may well wonder just how did it all happen? Yet there are several still in our midst today that were instrumental in the success of the '95 Clipper Cup. In 2012 we managed one more than half that amount but considering that's more than the amount for 2009 and 2010 combined it's certainly a step in the right direction.

There's no question that the waters off Port Douglas are ideal for a regatta with a combination of a sheltered bay for tactical buoy races and two magnificent natural marks in Low Isles and Snapper Island for longer passage races. The club is perfectly situated to host the event with a club house that visiting sailors instantly fall for and two very accommodating marinas on our doorstep.

The decision to condense the previous nine day version into five and re-introduce multiple divisions seems to have worked and suggests that this is the way forward for the club and our flagship event.

Even though May 2013 is 11 months away there's no time to lose in planning for the 2013 regatta. Suggestions are filtering in as people step forward and voice their opinion and the club is listening. Ideas on the table already are for a Tuesday start and a Saturday finish to allow for a bigger last night with a recovery day on the Sunday, especially beneficial to the visiting (and local) yachties with work commitments on the following Monday. Different means to split the monohull divisions are on the cards and it's now essential to establish a working group to assume the responsibilities and make the commitment that management of a successful annual event demands. There is an old saying often heard when one tries to elevate an idea and pursue a dream – *Build it and they will come*. So, let us all now continue to re-build our Clipper Cup Regatta up to and beyond all its former glory.

**Clipper Cup Survey:** A survey has been posted on the club website inviting feedback on this year's regatta. Below are two comments received that give great feedback to help shape the future of the event.

*"Please keep the combined starts. Courses and starts were excellent. Probably better to get races started than delay due to sub-optimal courses. Overall a fantastic event. Well run, great location, great people. See you next year!"*

*"Handicappers to allocate the division a yacht sails in. Div 3 could sail more cruising orientated courses with stopovers say at Low Isles for lunch. More emphasis on the rest day activities to involve family and partners."*

All responses to the survey are anonymous and the survey will remain live for a few more weeks. Why not jump onboard and let us know your thoughts?

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# Club History with Henry Cotter

*Laying the foundations for the future*



Before the Club House was built and opened by Sir James Hardy there was plenty of work for the volunteers to do.

When you look around at the trees and lawns they didn't arrive by magic! What we used to call the Mareeba Cowboys played a big part in the Club's history. Greg Byrne, Geoff Nicholson, Ron Keeling and Gordon Powell were just a few that took part in the landscaping, and of course the Port members played their part.

This photo was taken when Geoff Nicholson who at the time owned Voodoo bought his machine down from the Tablelands to level out the area.



This is now our water front lawn where the flagpole now stands. A team of volunteers arrived to help put down the lawn and of course after all working bees have a few beers at the Club after. The flag pole was at the kitchen side of the Club but as the trees grew it was recently moved to its present position. One of our kitchen contractors started a garden there and the trees eventually hid the flag pole. The Club has moved a long way since the tin shed which now stands in the corner. It is a pity I can't find a colour copy of the black and white photo of the tin shed that is behind the bar. Anybody have one?



## Lizard Island Yacht Rally 2012.



### **YES it's on again bigger and better so join the fun!**

The start date will be on or around October the 20<sup>th</sup> weather permitting from the Yorkey's Knob Boating Club, Cairns.

Four stops, fun events, BBQ's, sunset drinks and a HUGE Halloween party at Lizard Island's Marlin Bar!

Join us for a great fun sail in company and return at your leisure.

Interested? Then please contact us for more information.

Don Cortis at [sales@halfmoonbaychandlery.com.au](mailto:sales@halfmoonbaychandlery.com.au) 0418 770060 or

Warwick Birtwistle at [shakazulu@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shakazulu@hotmail.co.uk) 0458 720320

## See you on the water!!

## HELP WANTED

The club is seeking the assistance of members to volunteer their service each Wednesday as part of a roster to supervise patrons using the club pontoon during WAGS. Part of the Risk Management Plan adopted by the club is to oversee use of this facility and provide assistance where required. Talk to Richie or Kristie at the bar if you would like to help out.



## Lizard looms for cruisers

A favourite of many up and down the coast the spring time trek to Lizard is back on the agenda. Warwick Birtwistle (Shaka Zulu) is organising a Lizard Island Rally this year.

If you're interested in joining the fleet heading north towards the end of October this year contact Warwick (details on the poster) to find out more.



Tragedy appears to have befallen a former Port Douglas yacht that many would remember anchored off Low Isles in recent times. The 10m steel boat Roxanne, once owned by Rick and Alex the former caretakers of the isles was found unmanned and aground at Cape Wilberforce 35km northwest of Nhulunbuy NT.

### **Kenny Layton is leaving town**

Kenny is a talented jewellery maker and would like to showcase / sell some of his hand crafted pieces before he goes. Kenny's work is well known in town and will create great interest. The club is staging a farewell event on Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be live entertainment, wine tasting with cheese platters along with the Bon Voyage inter collection to be displayed with a 15% discount for club members.

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## Follow the fortunes of Port FM Mais Oui

Tune into the breakfast show with Michael Gabour weekdays from 7am and catch all the latest PDYC race results on Mondays following race days.

### New Members

- Nathan, Aimee and Keira Moore
- Bruce Craven
- Penelope Muston Brice & John F. Harris
- Alan and Sarah Stalker
- Janet Harvey & Andrew McKay
- Jake Goforth
- Adam Blanchard
- Peter & Meryl Ashworth
- Ken & Kellie Hoskin
- Matthew White Malone
- Michael Meath
- Darren Brown
- David Morrow
- Peter Montgomery
- Hans & Jean Seyffer
- Peter & Jenny Chapman
- Jane & David Lucas

Record high  
membership  
in 2012

*New memberships continue to grow at a fantastic rate. New members listed here all signed up throughout May and June and the Committee on behalf of PDYC members and staff extend a very warm welcome to one and all.*

### Membership renewal

As July 1<sup>st</sup> rolls by members are reminded that renewal of membership is due and reminder notices have been sent in the mail.

In keeping with a motion passed at the 2011 AGM a slight increase in fees based on the current CPI has been applied.

You may pay your membership at the bar in person or by cheque in the post.

The benefits of renewing your membership are immense.

- A massive 25% discount at the bar
- 10% discount at Spinnakers Restaurant
- 10% discount on hard stand and locker fees
- 10% discount at Closehaven Marina
- 10% discount at Smithy's Slipway Cairns
- 10% discount at Nelson's Marine
- Associate membership of Coast Guard
- Yachting Queensland membership

Renew your membership and reap the rewards

### Taking a hard stand in the hard stand

Over time a considerable amount of property owned by individual members has accumulated in the hard stand shed. It has become increasingly difficult to use the shed for its intended purpose which is primarily a storage area for club owned equipment, tools and machinery. Consequently the committee has decided to request that anything stored by club members is removed. The club will endeavour to contact owners of items in question but if unsuccessful items may be disposed of as appropriate. If you own anything in the hard stand shed or know of someone who does, please contact the club to arrange alternative storage or retrieve the item as soon as possible.

#### Working B

8:00am  
Saturday  
July 21st



#### Be at the B on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July

As usual there will be a range of jobs to attend to. There's always gardening for the green thumbs and things in need of a clean, a polish or a drop of paint, a bit of TLC or some other attention. It's your club so have a look around and see what you think you can turn your attention to. As usual by noon Mat & Sime will come to the party with a snack and the bar will provide refreshment or two.



IF YOU LAUGH...


You are a bad person...



# July Sailing

WAGS	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 5:57pm last light 6:21pm
Summer Series Race 7	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> 2:00pm	Windward leeward buoy race
WAGS	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset: 6:00pm last light 6:23pm
Summer Series Race 8	Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> 2:00pm	Windward leeward buoy race followed by Winter Series presentation
WAGS	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:02pm last light 6:25pm
WAGS	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:04pm last light 6:27pm
Trophy Series Race 3	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> 11:00am Two Island Sail & Run	Passage rounding Low Isles with swim and running legs.

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: [shelter.com](http://shelter.com)

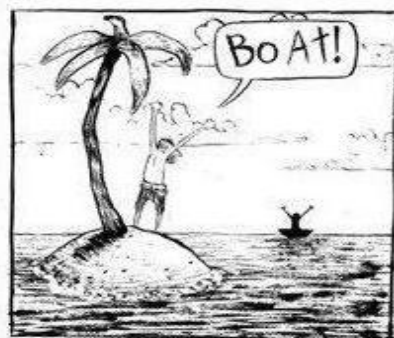


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**Next issue:** Scheduled for release late July sometime all being well. **Thanks** to all the owners of material borrowed from the net.  
**Contributions welcome:** If you want to submit anything for inclusion, even a regular article, email [pdy@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au](mailto:pdy@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au)

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