

Port Douglas Yacht Club Newsletter



December 2013

New Pontoon to be installed early next year.

After 14 months of negotiations by the committee with the many authorities who own and administer the lease of our site, all approvals are now in place to install the new pontoon. The final design approved is for a 20 meter long pontoon anchored with poles. The pole driving barge is currently in Brisbane and is expected in Port early in the new year.

Port Douglas Yacht Club 20 Years Old

200 club members enjoyed a combined Birthday and Christmas celebration at the club on Saturday 14th December. Thanks to Rich, Kristie and the members who helped set up and worked on the night in the kitchen to make it a great occasion.

See report page 6

Ruff Red wins 2013 Closehaven Trophy Series.

After nine races of the Closehaven Trophy Series starting back in April, a consistent performance over the series saw Ruff Red come out on top.

Ann Sea wins 2013 Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship

After 24 races over the year, Ann Sea put in a consistent performance to claim the trophy.

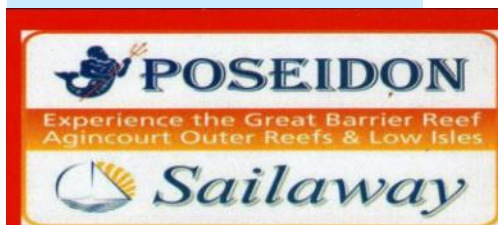
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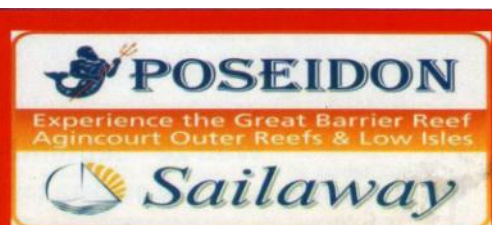
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- New Deck
- Christmas Party



Ruff Red leading the fleet at the start of the Keith Quin Memorial race.



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Club Championship
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Safety & Sea Survival

With the approach of the cyclone season, it was appropriate that the club look at our preparation and training needs for survival at sea when sailing both inside the reef and further off shore...

On the weekend of 24th - 25th November, 20 members participated in the Safety & Sea Survival Course conducted in the Coast Guard training room, QT pool and the Yacht Club lawns. The course was developed by the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria in conjunction with Yachting Australia following the disastrous Sydney-Hobart race of 1998.

Simon Dryden, from the ORC travelled up to Port Douglas and provided a stimulating course supported by over 40 years of racing experience. It was a great refresher course for the experienced sailors and our new sailors gained a wealth of information to ensure their safety both in our local waters and offshore.

To set the scene, each session commenced with a part of the video made after the 1998 Sydney-Hobart

The course was divided into four modules over 16 hours

1. Yacht preparation
2. Crew preparation
3. Racing & Weather
4. Emergencies

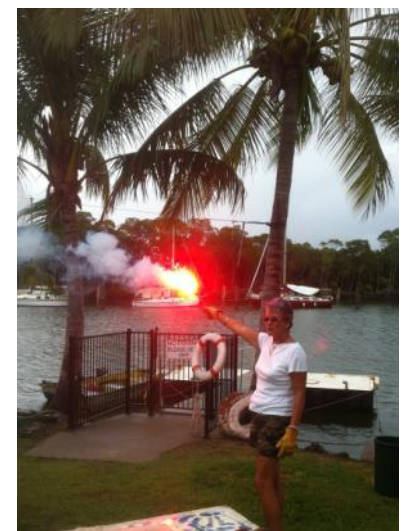
The theory component covered but was not limited to the following elements:

- Introduction - Causes of marine emergencies
- Principles of survival
- Personal lifesaving appliances
- Areas of risk and emergencies
- Abandoning ship
- Search and rescue
- Use of pyrotechnics
- Fire prevention and fire fighting
- Emergency communications
- First aid and early management of injury or illness
- Duty of care

The practical component covered

- Man overboard drill
- Inflating personal flotation device (pfd)
- Testing pfd
- Swimming techniques
- Conserving heat
- Teamwork
- Righting an upturned life raft
- Entering a life raft unassisted

A big thankyou to Simon for giving us his time and experience so that we may all enjoy safer sailing



Trudy all fired up



2013 Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship

The Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship is held over 24 club races comprising of 3 seasonal series of 8 races each. This is a low point score system where the yacht with the lowest accumulated score wins, and as such, regular attendance is critical to overall victory.

For 2013, the Poseidon Sailaway Club Champion is Tim Preuss' Ann Sea (36), followed by Greg Langan's Ruff Red (46) in second, and Doug Ryan's Shazam (55) for the top three. In total there were 13 yachts who contested the series throughout the year with many close races.



2013 Closehaven Trophy Series



The Close Haven Marina Trophy Series is held with the results of the Regatta and Trophy style races which are a combination of passage and windward/leeward format races.

This year 19 yachts contested the Close Haven Marina Trophy Series and the Champion this year is Greg Langan's Ruff Red (10), followed by Tim Preuss' Ann Sea (19) in second, and PDYC's Port FM Mais Oui (33) skippered by Alf Fowler for the top three.

2014 Sailing Calendar

PDYC welcomes three new entrants to the fleet for 2014 along with several passage cruising events added to the calendar taking in the greater coastline of the region with events to Fitzroy Island, Egmont Reef, and Lizard Island.

The season opening cruise to Low Isles with over night is scheduled for Saturday 19th January.

Wags Report

Wednesday 20 November. Another fine evening for sailing by the six boats which took out 62 guests and crew. Participating yachts were Biringari, Casuarina, Indigo, Miriama, Port FM Mai Oui and Too Easy. This was the last day in Port for Alf, the regular skipper of Port FM Mai Oui over the winter racing season. He is returning to NZ for Christmas but assures us he will be back in March for the new season.

Wednesday 27th November After 5 days of 15 knot winds had stirred up a lumpy sea only Indigo, Miriama and Tau Ceti ventured out with 38 guests and crew. Several regular skippers had already left for the annual Lizard Island rally so boats were slightly down.

Wednesday 4th December. An excellent sailing evening with 10 knots from the ESE. Yachts which went out were Andiamo, Indigo, Impact, Miriama, Shazam and Tau Ceti. The 70 guests and crew on board had an excellent view of the visiting cruise ship "Pacific Dawn" as they sailed back into Port.

Wednesday 11th December With the numbers of tourists around town decreasing for the approaching wet season, interest in WAGS continues to be high when 55 guests joined our skippers to enjoy balmy a evening and calm sea. Andiamo, Impact, Miriama, Port FM Mai Oui, Samantha and Shazam made up the fleet. While Alf is in NZ, Bruce Craven has taken up the challenge to sail Port FM Mai Oui for the summer and with crew member Graham Moritz. they enjoyed a great evening, With Graham going south for Christmas, Bruce is looking for members to join his crew in the coming weeks. The raffle draw saw Port FM Mai Oui win the rum.



Wednesday 18th December The strong wind warning from Tuesday had been cancelled which allowed the boats to sail, however with the wind still gusting at 35 knots the only yacht to venture out was Schazam with a crew of 6. Consequently Doug took the bottle of rum skippers prize.

From the Commodore

Welcome to the latest edition of the PDYC Newsletter. A big thank-you to Bruce Craven for putting it all together and for looking after the Club's website.

2013 has been a good year for PDYC. Our finances are in good shape and we have done a lot of work around the club to maintain member's amenities. Most notably the bar being refurbished and in the past week the deck being replaced. We have approval from Council for the rock wall to be refurbished, but as yet no funding.

The new pontoon remains our major focus, and I urge you all to come to the Special General Meeting on January 11 to hear the latest update, and be involved in the discussions.

The Christmas Party was very well attended with almost 200 members and their guests enjoying a great night, well organized by Kristie supported by her many helpers.

On a sad note, we were shocked by the tragic death of Ben Coombe, younger brother of Matt and Simon from Spinnakers Restaurant. Ben was well known around the club as he regularly worked in the restaurant.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe 2014.

Colin

Port FM Mai Oui - J24

With Alf, the most recent skipper in NZ, and several others purchasing their own boats, the club is looking for members to keep the J24 sailing and racing when the new season starts.



Committee 2013

The management committee for the next 12 months was elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 8th September. As the number of nominees was equal to the number of positions, all were elected. No nominations were received for Rear Commodore so position was left vacant but filled later by Luke Robins..

Thank you to the retiring committee members Henry Cotter, Simon Mackie and Mick Gwilliams...



Commodore - Colin Simpson, Vice Commodore - Garry White. Rear Commodore - Luke Robins, Secretary- Cheryl Wellham, Treasurer - Alan Schultz. Committee - Ken Brown, Tod Malone and Graham Moritz.

Briefly from the AGM

Future plan update

1. Pontoon

The focus is on the pontoon (major project).

The quote does not include the piles. These will be an extra \$60,000 approximately.

Three piles will be needed and "Smithy" has offered to ferry a pile driver up and take it back for free.

2. Race Boat

Relegated to project 4, as Cliff Mitting and other buoy laying volunteers have relieved the urgency. This system is working well and cost effective.

3. Club Building Redevelopment

This is now in Project 2 position. A proposal (plans) are currently on the notice board for members to examine and comment on. Thanks extended to Rob Mair for compiling these plans.

A suggestion offered to separate the showers from the toilets to stop non members using them.

4. Deck





This project will now be started after the current school holiday. A generous member (preferred not to be named) has offered to assist with the financing of this project.

Communications

It was agreed that in addition to the AGM, there would be one Special General meeting per year, (Feb/March).

Two informal information sessions per year Nov/Dec and Jun/Jul following working bee if appropriate

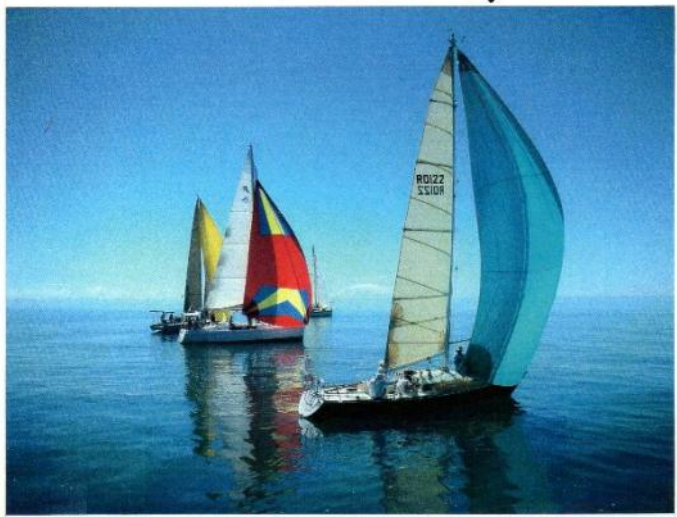
Due the high cost and labour intensive process of producing printed notices where required for all members, it was agreed to accept email as an option for communication to members, otherwise communiqués by post if no email address available would still be used, It is now important to advise of changes to both your postal address and email address to the club.




PORT DOUGLAS RACE WEEK

2014 Exemplar Clipper Cup

19th - 23rd May



- **5 Days**
- **6 Races**
- **4 Divisions - Racing, Cruising, Multihull, Sports Boats**
- **Cash Prize Pool**

Sailing, Food & Fun

EXEMPLAR

CORCHES and LIMOUSINES

New Deck

A small group of members started the process ripping up the deck along the front of the club on Monday 16th December. The professionals came in and had the new deck laid by Wednesday. It was decided to continue the job. The rippers returned and the side deck was removed and the whole job completed by Sunday.



Working bee Sunday 1st December

A small group of dedicated members attended the working bee on Sunday and worked on the following tasks.

- Rewire the straps for the fairy lights on the lawn.
- Clean the dining chairs and tables.
- Mow and tidy grounds.
- Repair hard stand fence and rewire damaged sections.
- Paint the ablution facilities.
- New tiles on top of shower walls.
- Fix new wheels to sailing trolley.
- Clean out the locker gutters.
- Install new blinds.
- Clean the lounges.

At the end of the work, commodore Colin conducted an information session to bring those present up to date with club activities.



20th Birthday & Christmas Party

Nearly 200 members enjoyed the Christmas festivities and celebrated the opening of the club house in November 1993. Thanks go to Richard and Kristie for all the hard work preparing the club and also to the members who helped prepare the food and helped in the kitchen on the night.



January Sailing


WAGS	Wednesday 8th	4.00 p.m. onwards	Sunset
WAGS	Wednesday 15th	4.00 p.m. onwards	Sunset
CRUISE	Saturday 18th—19th	TBA	Low Isles cruise & overnighter
WAGS	Wednesday 22nd	4.00 p.m. onwards	Sunset
AUSTRALIA DAY RACE	Sunday 26th	TBA	Combined Clubs Low Isles race
WAGS	Wednesday 29th	4.00 p.m. onwards	Sunset

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.

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