



# Waypoint

Edition 7

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## Race Week Countdown!



John Pool's Yes Race Week 2017

Quicksilver Port Douglas Race Week entries are beginning to mount as preparations head towards the home straight.

Townsville is once again leading the charge with entries in multiple divisions. Division 1 (Performance Handicap boats over 9 metres) will be contested by 2016 winner Tony Muller and the crew of Brava along with some old and new boats and familiar faces. Mal Pirret's Champagne, Justin Van Stom's Calico and Stuart Cocker skippering Rainbow. Other new entries include James Permezel and Charm Offensive, Akarana skippered by Vicki Hamilton and Robert Rainsford and Y Knot from Victoria. Regular entries also include Doug Ryan's Shazam (PDYC), John Pool and Yes (CYC) and Jeffrey Kendall and Certa Cito (RQYS).

Add to this the list of potentials (all the usual late entries) and division 1 is shaping up to be a cracker. A Race Week / Clipper Cup stalwart also travelling up from Townsville is Ron Knott. Ron is well known for the musical antics of the crew of Dusty Muzzle who contested regularly since 2011, winning division 1 in 2014. This year Ron will be out to win division 2 (Performance Handicap No Spinnakers or Code Zeros) sailing his latest boat Callista, a Cherubini Classic Cutter.

Carl Barnett and Casuarina (PDYC) and M&H Gwilliams and Lady Mystique (PDYC) are also entered in division 2. Division 3 (multihulls) is yet to have any entries but division 4 (Sports Boats, J24 and similar boats under 9 metres) is looking good.

The two club owned J24's have entered with Club Captain Peter Chapman sailing Viva La Beaver and Natasha Dietmann aiming for an all-girl crew sailing Mais Oui. Local legend Mickey Dousset is also an entry with her new modified Etchells Uitwaaien (PDYC).

You can keep up to speed with all the Race Week entries at

[https://www.topyacht.com.au/db/kb/entrants\\_display.php?EventID=896](https://www.topyacht.com.au/db/kb/entrants_display.php?EventID=896) OR follow the link on the Race Week website

Mick Gwilliams



# Australia Day 2018

Memories of last year were evoked with the grey wet conditions as the fleet set off for a port rounding of Low with two 'funnies' on the course. A 360° turn on the outward leg and a man (lifejacket) overboard drill while under sail. Flags were fluttering very sluggishly as the boats waited for the start one boat broke out a distinctive pale blue bottle in vain hope of offering libations to the wind gods. While waiting we were treated to the sight of our Quicksilver Port Douglas Race Week sponsors' vessels heading out on their daily trips before getting down to the business at hand.

Deck chairs stowed, pools secured it was time to race. As expected Senga led with Spank in close pursuit in the very light wind near the start. 2Easy timed their exit from the channel to take the jump over Casuarina and Endorphin as everyone headed to Low.

The mono's all had pretty good 360's but both cats struggled but achieved the manoeuvre- eventually! With the fleet spread from the leads to the island on the return leg the man overboard drill was carried out with varying degrees of hilarity and skill to all on board. One skipper decided dropping the lifejacket from the bow and running to the stern would suffice- it didn't. Survivors would be searched for on Wonga and Newell Beaches later in the day!

The last boat in a little after 14:00 and it was time to party with a lunch prepared by volunteers before results were announced. *Casuarina* in first followed by *2 Easy* then *Endorphin*, *Senga* and *Spank* in that order. With Senga winning the best decorated boat on the day. Sorry Belinda that blue bottle prevented us getting pics of your efforts.



A bit of Vice.



Casuarina's victorious crew

2018, here we come:

We have completed relaying of the lawned area at the front of the club, many thanks to Belinda Cooper for donating lawn, man power and machinery for this project, also to Carl Barnett and his helpers for assisting, all we need now is some dry weather so we can get a mower on to tidy up.

The tree in front of the sailing shed has been removed, a couple more to go, this will tidy area up and help keep the leaves etc from roof.

We are about to revamp the entrance to the club, generally tidying up the area to make it more welcoming for visitors.

Richard has been searching high and low for replacement tables and chairs for our ageing fleet, finally succeeding, hopefully be here in time for Race Week.

Garry, Mick and I, accompanied by Ed Green, met with council consultant on the proposed redevelopment of the area surrounding the Club including Closehaven Marina, fisherman's wharf and facilities, future use and access to our hard stand and proposals for area between club and Marano's, whilst it is early days we need to remain vigilant and be prepared to fight for our rights.

Looking forward to a great year ahead.

Bob





# David James. Sailor, Gentleman and Friend to all.



David James led a peripatetic life, originally from Poole in the UK he and his family came to Australia in 1977. Dave, Barb and their three children arrived in Fremantle with not much more than the children and what they could carry. Life in a hostel was not for Dave and within a few weeks he had secured himself work as a tiler and moved the family to Nedlands in Perth. Another couple of years Dave and Barb had fallen in love with Mandurah and built their first home in Australia on a sandy quarter acre. Providing their kids an idyllic existence centred around the beach, fishing off rocks and bridges, boats and camping trips. Dave was also active in the local PCYC as a judo instructor (having gained his 2nd Dan Black Belt in the UK) table tennis instructor and the camp bus driver.

Unfortunately for Dave an accident on the judo mat left him with an injured knee in need of an operation and left him being unable to kneel for work.

Some financial hardship followed and Dave and Barb packed the kids into a Kombi van and hit the road, heading north in search of new horizons. Kununurra then Darwin provided work opportunities for both Dave and Barb and the kids went to a few more schools. In Darwin Dave found work with Civil and Civic whose ongoing work took the family to Sydney next. Where they lived on Scotland Island and experienced the adventures of island life and going to school and work by tinnie. Settling didn't seem to be on the cards and in 1990 with Claire and Simon grown and moved out Dave, Barb and Martin set off again and this time settled in Brisk Bay, a small beach side community just outside of Bowen. Here they ran a successful restaurant at the local yacht club and Dave was able to enjoy golfing and fishing while living there.

Simon met and fell in love with Andi and when Dave and Barb came to meet her they fell in love with Julatten and decided to stay. They spent many happy years on their small acreage there with Dave able to belt golf balls around the garden to his heart's content. Until one day he felt unwell on the golf course, short of breath and was given the worst news, asbestosis. But not just that, Dave also had leukemia. Years of treatments, hospital visits, specialists all the while supported by Barb as his health see sawed and he fought to stay healthy. But whenever they could the pair of them would loving nothing more than packing up and going camping together at a secluded beach.

Barb's health deteriorated with the diagnosis of an aneurysm and she would require a carer, a task Dave took on without hesitation regardless of his own ill health. After a couple of years Barb and the children talked him into moving to Port Haven, something he was that impressed with as a still young man of 62 but their health issues would test anyone the practicality of not having the responsibility of the acreage to care for was the decider. Barb was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2010 and her death followed swiftly.

When Dave lost his beloved Barb he admitted much later that he had been completely lost for a time but the purchase of *2Easy* had put some purpose back into his life. The challenge of getting her back on the water and then once she was on the water the maintenance and improvement that all skippers want for their boats became his pride and joy. He had learned to sail as a kid in the UK and had always loved the sea, Dave was always ready for a trip to Low, often teeing up WAGS guests on a Wednesday night to accompany him the next day or the weekend. Whenever he could get crew Dave would go, enjoying the company and the time on the sea but also being a fabulous ambassador for the PDYC and the region. Many WAGS guests were returnees to *2Easy*. Speaking about WAGS to visitors the number of people who asked about Dave was an indication of his kindness and generosity to our visitors and the affection in which he was held.

In 2015 Dave entered *2Easy* in Race Week and raced quite creditably even if he led a mutiny on the last day among the multi hulls and 3 were sighted buzzing off to Low rather than 'racing around the cans'. Two of his crew were overseas visitors and it was indicative of his generosity that he allowed them to live aboard the boat for a couple of months. Dave knew everyone and everyone loved him.

He was immensely pleased with the trip he took north with Nod, Garry and 'Ted'. Achieving his dream of taking *2Easy* to Lizard and beyond. The grin on his face as he would recount the story of the speeds reached and the conditions met told the tale. And despite the ribbing of mono hull sailors he enjoyed his time around the club and was always ready to give anyone a hand if he could help.

Sadly for Dave, in the last two years his health began to deteriorate. Adding to his earlier diagnosis of asbestosis and leukemia, were shingles, prostate cancer and renal cancer. But still he never let his health issues define him, he was out on his boat as often as his failing body would let him. Dave's cancer finally got the better of him and after a 5 month stay in hospital he passed away on Friday the 9th of March 2018. He is survived by his children Simon, Clare and Martin, and his grandchildren Oliver, Reef, William and Cassia.

Reunited with Barb and no pain now Dave. You will be missed by us all.



# PDYC Quiz Night

Six teams settled for battle at the Club on Friday 23rd of March. Three PDYC teams "Nod's Odd Bods", "Lady Mystique" and "The Skywalkers" along with three guest teams. "The Darwin Stubbies", "Backflipping Brainiacs" and the "Youngbloods".

Round 1 saw all teams on equal scores, Round 2 had Lady Mystique in the lead followed closely by the Skywalkers with Nod's Odd Bods coming closely in third position. Then it was Lady Mystique leading the Odd Bods with the Skywalkers following closely in third place after round 3. A solid performance in Round 4 had the Skywalkers edge into the lead over Lady Mystique and the Odd Bods and Backflipping Brainiacs on equal third followed by the Darwin Stubbies and the Youngbloods with only 4 points between lead and last.

However the music round was a blitz by the Brainiacs and Youngbloods with a clean sweep of correct answers for all questions. While the older generation floundered a little with the newer sounds -although a surprising number of the- senior teams did not recognise Tony Bennett! The Brainiacs charged home by two points over The Skywalkers with Lady Mystique tying with the Young Bloods one point behind for third with the Odd Bods fifth and The Darwin Stubbies being the wooden spooners!

With thanks to K-Star for the night of fun and to our guests who joined us for a night of fun and laughter



## Sailing. A Journey.

By Helen Gwilliams



*Ice 2012/2013 Division 1  
Winner Exemplar Clipper Cup*



Mick and I moved to Port Douglas in 2006 with our two daughters Gemma and Jane. Little did I know that we would get involved with sailing. As we spent the previous 18 years in Alice Springs you can imagine not a lot of sailing goes on there.

We became members of the PDYC not long after our move here. When we asked who could teach us how to sail we were told that the yacht club did not have a sailing programme as we do today.

I then took upon myself to find out more and came across an ad in the local Gazette. It was advertising come try sailing down at Four Mile beach.

Jane and myself decided to give it a go and instantly fell in love with the sport.

We remained at the club for two years after buying a Nacra 4.5 catamaran.

Mick then also became involved with the club and shortly after we purchased a 37 foot racing monohull called "ICE".

We then continued to start sailing with the PDYC. We consistently did Wednesday WAGS on ICE for 5 years solid and the race calendar each year. After many enjoyable times on this boat we decided to upgrade to something a bit more comfortable and bought a 44 foot Cruiser called Lady Mystique.

As most people would know Mick has been Rear Commodore for many of the years we have been involved with the PDYC and we still enjoy the club's racing and cruising outings and hope to enjoy for many years to come.

We have met many wonderful people and made a lot of good friendships along the way.



*Lady Mystique Division 2 Winner  
Quicksilver Port Douglas Race  
Week 2017*





Seagals was originally part of Cairns Yacht Club quite a number of years ago and at it's peak had 90 female members. In 2015 (with permission from CYC for the name) Seagals was resurrected with a view to encourage Women in Sailing and as a forum for discussions, ideas and the opportunity for social, training, and learning activities on and off the water.

Participants are as varied as their experiences and passions and include women from Hospitality, Retail, Accounting , Teachers, Mothers, Grandmothers, Full time Carers, Business Owners, and are involved in all aspects of sailing as Owners, Skippers, Crew, as Live-aboards, Cruisers, Racers and Race Officials.

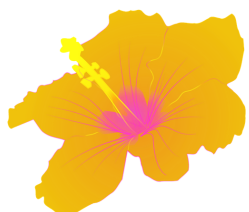
Recent gatherings in Cairns and Port Douglas have been very successful and met with much enthusiasm and encouragement to continue. It is evident that the inclusion of women to participate,

compete, and succeed in the sport is ever increasing, with 6 of the 7 partakers in PDYC's recent learn to sail program being female, an all girl team (crew of 7 on Anastasia, skippered by Shari Essex) winning the Lady Skippers Race to Yorkeys Knob and back in Cairns last weekend, as well as the support of women from further south, with 7 ladies road tripping from Townsville to join PDYC for the Lady Skippers Race to Low Isles and return on April 7th.

There is also the plan to have at least 3 teams of all female crew race Quicksilver Port Douglas Race Week this year: Tash and crew on J24 Mai Ouis (PDYC), Mickey and crew on Uitwaaien (PDYC), and possibly all girls on Akarana (TYC) being the third.

Further afield, the very first 2 x entries for Sealink Magnetic Island Race week this year were female Owner/ Skippers, with Townsville Yacht Club holding the second annual Gals Regatta the weekend following race week. Last years inaugural 'TYC Gals Regatta' saw 7 boats participate including PDYC's very own Belinda Cooper with 'Senga' and her 11 girl crew (7 from Port Douglas, 2 from Cairns, and 2 from Airlie Beach) making the journey to compete, placing 3rd, and with Belinda receiving the 'Outstanding Woman's Seamanship Award'

Enquiries about Seagals have not only been locally but from further afield, from ladies that have been sailing once or twice or never, but super keen to learn, through to mind boggling experience with enthusiasm to rejoin and get back out on the water again. Skippers have also been very supportive of the initiative, offering positions on boats and massive support for events such as the recent International Women's Day Celebrations (unfortunately postponed due to weather) Always looking for boats needing more crew, and any woman with an interest in sailing is welcome, regardless of experience and ability. For more information and to keep informed 'Like' the facebook page or email Mickey direct at [mickeyink@bigpond.com](mailto:mickeyink@bigpond.com)



## Another Farewell.

We heard this news before Christmas but did not publish in the last newsletter until we heard back from the family.

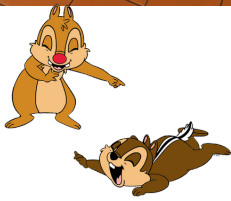
The Colahan family wishes to advise you of the passing of their mother, Pauline Colahan.

Pauline, formerly of 23 Sand Street, Port Douglas, passed away peacefully in Melbourne on 11/11/2017. Pauline lived a long and happy life and had many wonderful memories of time spent with her husband, Richard (Dr Dick-deceased) and their children at Port Douglas Yacht Club.

Rosie, Anne, Sally and Peter Colahan and their extended families.

Many of us remember Dr Dick and Mrs Colahan with great affection and remember their support of the PDYC from the very beginning. Both are missed.

# Closehaven Cup Chaos!



Reliable sources have said that Closehaven Cup Racing descended into chaos on March 24! (Reliable?! You're the one who fell for Edward Bear's Blarney!- Ed

Six boats set off on a dull morning for a port rounding of Low Is. when a squall hit the fleet. Last year's Race Week Champ Lady Mystique supposedly broached and rounded up a number of times, Senga was seen heading for Mossman without a headsail. Spank had to drop sails and wait for another vessel to come along to know where he was. The J's disappeared into the gloom while one skipper was heard to shout to his crew "Expletive Deleted the squall! Keep the boat speed!"

Whatever the truth the results had Casuarina in 1st place with Spank and Senga taking the minors with the rest of the fleet Viva La Beaver, J Curve and Lady Mystique in that order. When asked if the conditions were challenging the skipper of Casuarina replied 'For some,' with a cheeky grin

Despite the wet ride home the participants arrived back unscathed and with great tales to tell. And it seems Casuarina is now making a bit of a habit of collecting the Rum. Congratulations



## Commodore's Chat.



G'day!

Quicksilver Port Douglas Race Week 2018 preparations are already well under way. Mick Gwilliams and the Sailing Committee have been working hard with Richard to organise everything for what's shaping up to be a great regatta. I hope you will all come down during Race Week and enjoy the atmosphere and entertainment and show your support even if you aren't competing this year. Race Week is our showcase event and our chance to show our visitors all that is great about the Port Douglas Yacht Club!

Bob has already thanked all those involved with the regeneration of the lawn but without members like those trusty volunteers who put their hands up to help us out our club wouldn't be as great as it is.

The usual suspects turn up to working bees and we appreciate all of their efforts. We'll be having a working bee on May 12th and I hope to catch up with some of you then.

Garry.

What's next?



**April 28** Saturday Commodores Cup Race 4 Club Championship

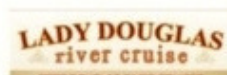
**May 12** Saturday Working B **All hands on deck!**

**May 19** Saturday Cruise: Port to Fitzroy Mickey Ink Rally - Meet boats

**May 20** Sunday Cruise: Fitzroy to Port heading north for PDRW

**May 22nd to 26th** Quicksilver Port Douglas Race Week!

Volunteers are needed for Race Week. If you can spare any time to help during Race Week there many things you can help with. Please Contact Richard if you are available.



Visibility

Video & Photography  
PORT DOUGLAS • CAIRNS • PALM COVE