

Port Douglas Yacht Club

Newsletter

Volume 3 February 2012 Issue 18

Farewell to a founding member

Dr Richard Colahan (Dr Dick) 1926 - 2012

News in brief:

- PDYC mourns the passing of Dr Dick
- Tau Ceti wins Summer Series Race 3
- Sea Wizard & Indigo enter Club Championship
- Tau Ceti wins Summer Series Race 4
- Ann Sea wins Summer Series Race 5
- Indigo wins Summer Series Race 6
- Committee to address details of future plans for club development – now is the time to have your say.
- Council meet with PDYC to discuss details of public boat ramp relocation.



Dr Dick, much loved and respected life member and foundation member of PDYC has made his final passage o’er the unknown sea to the unseen shore.

Dr Dick was instrumental in the establishment of a yacht club in Port Douglas and a key figure in the struggle to build the club into the wonderful establishment it is today. He was the first member to be awarded Member of The Year in 1990 and served as Commodore from 1989 to 1990. The club will always owe a debt of gratitude to Dr Dick and his memory will live on forever.

Did you know the club newsletter is available in limited edition print available from the club thanks to Coastline Graphics and Copy Shop. All back issues are published on the club website. www.portdouglassyachtclub.com.au



Bob White sails Sea Wizard into the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Summer Series with a 3rd place in Race 3

Race Results

Summer Series Race 3

- 1st Tau Ceti
- 2nd Big Ears
- 3rd Sea Wizard

Summer Series Race 4

- 1st Tau Ceti
- 2nd Ann Sea
- 3rd Ice

Summer Series Race 5

- 1st Ann Sea
- 2nd Tau Ceti
- 3rd Magic

Summer Series Race 6

- 1st Indigo
- 2nd Ann Sea
- 3rd Tau Ceti

Summer Series Leader Board

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 st Ann Sea (17) | 2 nd Tau Ceti (19) |
| 3 rd Magic (20) | 4 th Ice (30) 5 th Indigo (41) |
| 6 th Miriama (42) | 7 th Big Ears (43) |
| 8 th Ruff Red (46) | 9 th Sea Wizard (51) |

Race Report: Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Summer Series Race 3

Seven yachts started the Summer Series Race 3 with more than enough very close encounters on the start line. As boats manoeuvred to avoid crossing the line early nerves were rattled and a few crew timbers were shivered as the tension of the start line lived up to its reputation.

The fleet got underway and Tau Ceti took a surprise lead powering up under full sail in the light breeze. Magic flying her code zero took the widest tack and appeared to be making up the extra ground with superior boat speed but as the fleet converged on the top mark Tau Ceti held on to her lead rounding ahead of Magic and new series entrant Sea Wizard.

Colourful spinnakers were hoisted for the downwind run but Magic managed to take the lead as Big Ears and Ice battled for 4th position ahead of Miriama and Ruff Red.

Magic began to break clear from Tau Ceti and Sea Wizard on the second leg and Big Ears took advantage of mistakes on Ice while Miriama kept her distance from Ruff Red.

On the final leg Magic was almost seventeen minutes ahead of Tau Ceti as she crossed first to take line honours in 02:02:02 and seventy minutes ahead of Ruff Red finishing seventh.

With handicap corrected times dramatically narrowing the time difference and a matter of minutes and seconds separating the contenders victory went to Tau Ceti followed by Big Ears and Sea Wizard, then Miriama, Magic, Ice and Ruff Red.



Tau Ceti claims another win in the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Summer Series in Race 4

Race Report: Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Summer Series Race 4

Indigo, the only catamaran racing at the club, joined the Series for race 4 adding to the fleet numbers, though being late to the start having assisted late withdrawal Big Ears did not help her chances. Big Ears retired before the start having suffered damage to her mainsail.

As racing got underway Indigo had boosted her crew numbers but faced a difficult task to match the blistering speed of the three front runners, Ann Sea, Magic and Tau Ceti.

Ann Sea led from start to finish in the 15 to 20 knot south easterly breeze with a reasonable swell that suited the Hanse powering along under full main. Tau Ceti, also under full main, although 14 minutes behind managed to claim first place over Ann Sea by just 40 seconds on corrected time. Ice claimed 3rd ahead of Magic and Indigo.



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Race Report: Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Summer Series Race 5 The race started with Ruff Red joining the fleet for another three laps of the windward leeward course and again it was Ann Sea showing the way. Magic and Ice having made some sail changes since the morning race tried in vain along with Tau Ceti, Indigo and Ruff Red to keep up but none could match the power of Ann Sea. With gusts over 25 knots at times conditions were excellent for a great days racing and having completed the course in just 64 minutes Ann Sea took line honours and the handicap win. Skipper Tim Preuss said afterwards it was good for Ann Sea that they had established a consistent and reliable crew of experienced sailors that made a big difference on the day. Tau Ceti now with a steadily rising handicap managed second ahead of Magic 3rd followed by Ice, Indigo and Ruff Red. With Port FM Mais Oui yet to start her Club Champion title defence it now looks increasingly questionable as to whether the clubs J24 can retain the title for 2012.



The lone foredeckie

Race Report: Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Summer Series Race 6

The eight yachts that set sail had to contend with an afternoon of winds ranging from 5 to 27 knots coming through 225° of the compass. After another close start the first windward leg was a typical beat to the windward mark. Magic led the way with Ann Sea hot on her tail into the second lap. Tau Ceti broke away from Miriama, Ice, Big Ears and Ruff Red as Indigo began to make up for another late start. The lead chopped and changed hands as Magic and Ann Sea led the fleet around the course in a very close contest. By the third lap the shifting wind had changed the game as both the upwind beat and downwind run became a good reach in the moderate wind caused by a passing storm. As quick as it came up the wind was gone and several boats found themselves struggling to hold course as the breeze dropped down to single figures. Within minutes another passing squall delivered plenty of strong gusts and some driving rain as the race concluded in conditions that would normally cancel the start of any race. Magic took line honours 13 secs ahead of Ann Sea but the wind had played a major role in reversing the fortunes of many yachts able to shorten their course in the changing winds. Despite arriving late to the start handicap adjusted times gave Indigo (58:34) her first win of the series ahead of Ann Sea (01:01:51) and Tau Ceti (01:01:57). Miriama (01:02:28) was fourth, then Magic (01:17:11), Ice (01:06:58), Ruff Red (01:06:59) and Big Ears (01:08:22).

Miriama and Ruff Red under heavy skies in Race 6 of the Poseidon Sailaway Summer Series

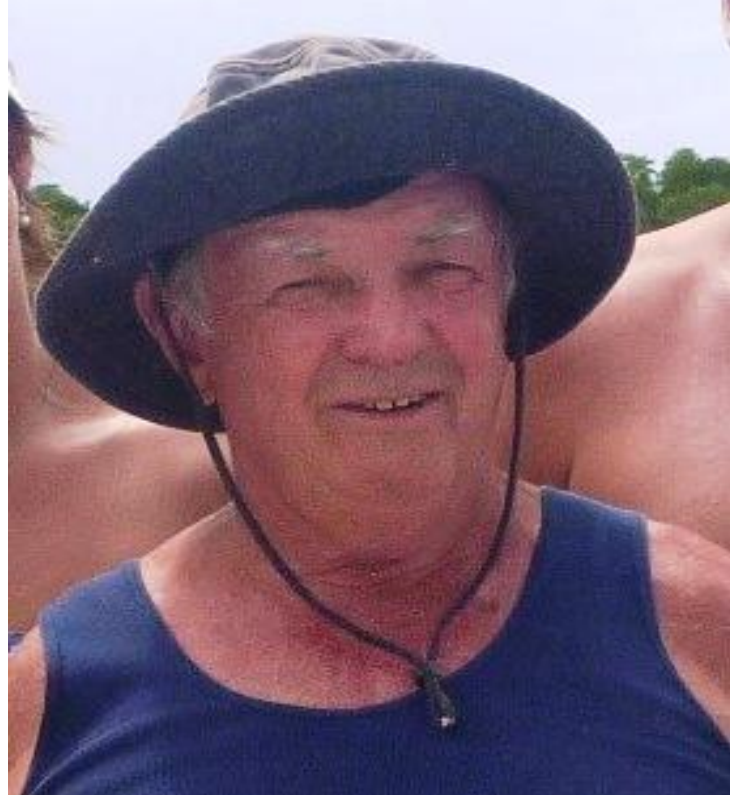


Risk Management: The February meeting of PDYC Management Committee endorsed the new Risk Management Plan for Club Organised Sailing Activities. The objective of the Plan is to bring to your attention basic regulations to address safety on and off the water and to comply with the new requirements of Maritime Safety Queensland to provide evidence of risk management when applying for Aquatic Event Permits. Included in the plan is a Code of Practice, a WAGS Policy document and a set of WAGS Sailing Instructions. Copies of the Plan will be forwarded to all key personnel involved in club sailing and are also available to anyone at the club office. One of the key features of the Plan is identifying the responsibility of a ships master and highlighting this in relation to club events and in particular WAGS. The Plan identifies boats that are eligible to partake and the terms and conditions under which PDYC expects participation to be conducted. All sailing members are encouraged to read and understand the Plan and to seek further advice if required. Contact Rear Commodore, Mick Gwilliams for more information.

Member Profile

Barry Flanagan

Having recently had the pleasure of an invite aboard *Doreen Too* for a few days in the company of Barry it's easy to say this club member is a real character. As a comedian his dry and cutting wit is second to none and a constant source of amusement. As a skipper Barry is a true professional ever mindful of his crew and passengers and always one step ahead. Commanding respect and at times displaying qualities akin to great leaders of men Barry proclaims to be a fast and accurate judge of character, an essential trait for the successful host on a fishing cruise for any length of time. Happy to share his skills and teach the fishing novice with both patience and a little well intentioned jest. Barry really is a man who cares though you would not think so when you hear him talk. He's so caring that he'll listen to all your problems and lend a shoulder to lean on in your hour of need. Just remember not to touch anything unless you're told to do so.



Club History with Henry Cotter

Sadly, I write again of the loss of one of our members, Dr Dick Colahan

At our last AGM there was a couple that most of our newer members would not have recognised. Their names are Dick and Pauline Colahan. "Dr Dick", as he is known to all was one of our earliest Commodores in 1989. He and his team of helpers were responsible for getting the yacht club on its feet. I see we are still using the motto "This club was built for fun", guess who gave us that sign? If you said Dr Dick you would be right. He was there at the very first meeting that formed our Yacht Club. At that time where our club house stands today was covered in mangroves. When I look back it is incredible the work that went into getting the club house built. First the ground had to be raised to its present level.

February WAGS roundup

Wednesday 1st No report provided (shame about that).
Wednesday 8th and the massive ocean liner *Diamond Princess* sat off shore as *Magic*, *Ice*, *Sinabada*, *Ann Sea*, *Samantha*, *Ruff Red* and *Big Ears* sailed out. The glorious weather put on a bit of a light show over the range and the yachts all enjoyed a steady easterly that turned into a westerly as the light faded and the full moon started to rise. Kristy made the announcements and *Ann Sea* won the Vodka instead of the usual rum.
Wednesday 15th *Ruff Red*, *Ice*, *Miriama*, *Magic*, *Sinabada*, *Tau Ceti*, *Impact*, *Indigo* and *Samantha* ventured out under stormy skies with a small contingent of punters. A cloud burst provided some entertainment for those not caught under it. Club burgees were exchanged with a visiting yachtie from Scotland and *Tau Ceti* continued her winning ways following on from Saturdays win in the Summer Series race 3 taking home the rum.
Wednesday 22nd nine yachts ventured out onto a calm sea in 3 to 5 knots predominantly from the east. *Ruff Red*, *Sinabada*, *Magic*, *Ice*, *Miriama*, *Indigo*, *Ann Sea*, *Samantha*, *Big ears* and *Indigo* with *Indigo* taking home the rum. All up February was a typical summer month with light shifting winds, summer squalls and challenging conditions with most people finding a place on board a yacht.

A few years later the slab was poured but it took a lot of fund raising and a helping hand from our Patron, John Morris. Even before we had obtained the ground we were racing and cruising. Dr Dick was there on his trailer- sailor "Sunburnt Snowflake." He was an aggressive captain and was always on the start line when the race gun went off. If you look at some of our trophies you will see his name there. He was one of the organisers of our first cruising race to New Guinea and crewed with Gordon Powell on "Horizon" in other races to New Guinea.

Dr Dick and Greg Burns were in the 1998 Sydney Hobart. That was the one that the big storm came through and a lot of boats and lives were lost. A month or so later they gave a talk at our Club House about their experience in that race.

Dr Dick passed away on Monday 13th of February, 2012. After the funeral at St Mary's family and friends met at the Club to celebrate his life. Dr Dick came to Port Douglas in 1975. He was Vice Commodore under Bruno Reidwick who died in a plane crash, and became Commodore in 1989. A year later in 1990 he was awarded the first club Member of The Year and was responsible for getting junior sailing going by donating one of six sabot's that the club had at the time.

Tau Ceti has a close encounter with the bank

Ken Brown, owner of Tau Ceti, had a shock when he opened his emails on a recent visit to Sydney. Having secured his yacht in the usual manner the last thing he expected was images of TC half out of the water hugging the mangroves. The strong winds that blew up unexpectedly from the low that went on to develop off shore caught everybody by surprise. Ken said he was satisfied the anchor was holding well after observing recent big tides but was not expecting the unusually strong gusts that came across the town after he went away. Ken has since secured a stronger mooring not as likely to be dragged by passing boats.



Fortunately there was no damage and Ken offered advice “not to trust the weather and if you own a yacht don't leave Port Douglas EVER!!” Claiming “boats are even more of a tie than domestic animals when you're planning a few days out of town”.

Intrepid reporter Trudy Erdmann was quick on the scene...



“Unpredicted, in the early hours of Friday, sudden harsh westerly winds whipped through the region bringing down trees and powerlines. The mini cyclonic winds bulleted down the inlet and gave the boaties aboard a rough ride. Morning phone calls started coming in reporting of Tau Ceti's position on the dropping tide having dragged anchor. Further up the inlet another three vessels endured similar problems. Nothing could be done other than securing a loose mooring line to the cushioning mangroves as she lay on the rocks. The evening high tide barely lapped her lower hull and she finally refloated unassisted on a gentle inflow high 24 hours later.

With Trusty Skipper in Sydney for a week (he said it could only happen while he was away!), innocent Deckie was generously assisted by the ever keen yachties of PDYC and kind offers from local fishermen and the Coastguard. Damage was limited to mangroves etching their signatures portside with the rudder undamaged despite appearances in the photo.”

Autumn Low Isles overnighter March 17th and 18th

With such a beautiful tropical island on our doorstep it's time to go on another boat camp! Make your way out to Low Isles on Saturday 17th and bring your Guinness and Leprechaun suits for St Patrick's Day celebrations.



© Dani Jones

In 2011 only five boats managed to show up for the Autumn Low Isles Overnighter and a great night under the full moon was enjoyed onboard Indigo. These weekends away are only as good as we make them and any ideas or suggestions to have a little fun and encourage more people to take part are always welcome. Perhaps we need a Social Committee to kick start some plans and get a few more social sailing events happening. Volunteers just need to appoint themselves and work something out.

Closehaven Marina Trophy Series on the horizon

The inaugural Closehaven Marina Trophy Series gets underway on March 31st with the Closehaven Cup. The first of eight events that comprise the series this year's Closehaven Cup will be a passage rounding both Low Isles and Snapper Island. Race sponsor and series sponsor Closehaven Marina is again supporting the club with generous sponsorship of the Closehaven Cup. Prizes in the form of credit to spend at PDYC will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd on corrected time plus there will be several random crew prizes awarded to the loyal deckies that regularly support their skippers.



Port Douglas Yacht Club Inc

NOTICE OF RACE

CLOSEHAVEN CUP

\$500 Prize Pool

Saturday 31st March 2012

Port Douglas Yacht Club, the organizing authority, invites entries to compete in the 2012 Closehaven Cup.

- 1. Rules**
 - 1.1 The Race will be governed by the rules, as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2009–2012, the Prescriptions of Yachting Australia (YA), and the Special Regulations of YA - Addendum A - Category 6, and the Sailing Instructions (SI).
- 2. The Course**
 - 2.1 Passage rounding Snapper Island and Low Isles.
- 3. Divisions**
 - 3.1 All boats race in one division using the performance handicap system (PHS).
- 4. Conditions of entry**
 - 4.1 Entries may be made by attending the race briefing and making known an intention to compete.
 - 4.2 It is a condition of entry that each vessel shall have public liability insurance, of not less than \$5 million and comply with PDYC event policies.
 - 4.3 By nominating to enter, the owner/charterer agrees to be bound by the RRS, Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, and conditions of the race.
- 5. Sailing Instructions, (SI) will be issued prior to the race briefing and available at PDYC website.**
- 6. Schedule**
 - 6.1 Briefing: 08:00 at PDYC Saturday 31st March 2012.
 - 6.2 Race: Start time is 10:00 Saturday 31st March 2012.
- 7. Prizes**
 - 7.1 Competitors race for the Closehaven Cup Trophy (to remain at PDYC) plus handicap honours 1st, 2nd and 3rd and random crew prizes of credit to spend at PDYC (excludes restaurant).
 - 7.2 Presentation of prizes will follow conclusion of racing at Port Douglas Yacht Club on Saturday 31st March.

Sponsor

Port Douglas Yacht Club is very appreciative of the contribution made by the following sponsor:

Closehaven Marina

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Judy Moritz celebrated her birthday at the club recently with a small group of family and friends. Husband Graham laid on a few nice surprises with some secret guests arriving in town and a fabulous three course dinner prepared by Spinnakers. The club once again proving to be a great venue for celebrations and birthday parties.

Working

B

8:00am

Sat

March

24th



PDYC and Exemplar Coaches and Limousines support Port Douglas Carnivale



Port Douglas Yacht Club and Platinum Sponsor Exemplar Coaches & Limousines have secured a deal as joint partners of Port Douglas Carnivale. PDYC is an organisation with a rich history stretching back to the beginning of Carnivale in 1994 and the move is seen as an important contribution by the club to the Port Douglas community in supporting this event, now in its 18th year. Exemplar Clipper Cup naming rights sponsor Exemplar Coaches and Limousines now in its third year as sponsor of the Clipper Cup Regatta is becoming an integral part of the renewed success of the event and the continuing growth of Carnivale.



Want to get involved with sailing?

Come on down to the club on a Wednesday for a casual sunset sail, meet the skipper of Port FM Mais Oui and give it a go. Members may nominate to crew Port FM Mais Oui in her defence of the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship.



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Campbell Corbett and Desley Lloyd

are planning a return to Port Douglas in April bringing Jimmie Blacksmith back into the fold. On hearing of the passing of Dr Dick, Campbell penned these words: *"I first met Dr Dick around twenty years ago. I raced against him when he was sailing 'Sunburnt Snowflake' and with him on 'Mayhem'. He was a true gentleman of sailing, competitive, cunning and always happy. The club owes him a debt of gratitude as he is largely responsible for the relaxed ethos and attitude that the club exudes today. We both feel very lucky to have known and shared a laugh with Dick. His presence will be sadly missed however his personality will live on in the spirit of the club. Our thoughts go out to Pauline and the girls at this difficult time."*

Campbell and Desley



There's more water above us than below us skipper!

Summer Series Race 6: Big Ears braves a summer squall

Know the rules and be prepared to yell at the next boat. **RRS Part 2, Section A, Rule 11** says that *when boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat*. A classic example of this is at the start line. **RRS Part 2, Section B, Rule 17** states that *if a boat clear astern becomes overlapped within two of her hull lengths to leeward of a boat on the same tack, she shall not sail above her proper course while they remain on the same tack and overlapped within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails astern of the other boat. This rule does not apply if the overlap begins while the windward boat is required by Rule 13 to keep clear*. A classic example of this is just after the start when a leeward boat's proper course is higher than a windward boat can sail. However if by coming up on the windward boat the leeward boat begins to luff this is no longer her proper course and she must bear away. **RRS Part 2, Section B, Rule 13** states in part that *after a boat passes head to wind, she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close hauled course*. Every boat should also carry a copy of the rules.

A Truck driver, a pilot and a sailor were on their way to a meeting. They were driving down a steep mountain road when suddenly the brakes on their car failed. The car careened almost out of control down the road, bouncing off the crash barriers, until it miraculously ground to a halt scraping along the mountainside. The car's occupants, shaken but unhurt, now had a problem: they were stuck halfway down a mountain in a car with no brakes. What were they to do?

"I know," said the Pilot, "Let's check the manual set up a simulation and learn how to cope with the problem and then we can be on our way."

"No, no, no" said the Truckie, "We've already pulled over so let's see what's in the lunch box and read the paper, besides we've already done enough for one day, and we can be on our way again tomorrow after we sleep on it."

"Well," said the Sailor, "if you think we should fix it, it's already too late, and we should have fixed it before we set out. We're already halfway down the course so I'm not pulling out now. Besides, the manual is wet and the pages are stuck together, I left my lunchbox at home and you blokes have got no chance of sleeping on a 20 degree heel! Put your life jackets on keep one hand on the car and let's get going before that cyclist we passed overtakes us."

March Sailing

Summer Series Race 7	Saturday 3 rd 2:00pm	Windward leeward buoy race
WAGS	Wednesday 7 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:38pm last light 7:00pm - 99% full moon rising 5:33pm
Summer Series Race 8	Saturday 10 th 2:00pm	Windward leeward buoy race followed by Poseidon Sailaway Summer Series presentation
WAGS	Wednesday 14 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:33pm last light 6:54pm
Cruise	Saturday 17 th	Autumn overnighter at Low Isles. St Patricks Day bring your Guinness and Jamiesons
WAGS	Wednesday 21 st 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:28pm last light 6:49pm
WAGS	Wednesday 28 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:22pm last light 7:44pm
Trophy Series Closehaven Cup	Saturday 31 st 10:00am start	Passage rounding Low Isles and Snapper



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Next issue: Scheduled for release late March sometime all being well. **Thanks** to all the owners of material borrowed from the net.

Contributions welcome: If you (yes, YOU) want to submit anything for inclusion, even a regular article, email pdyc@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au

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