

# Port Douglas Yacht Club

# Newsletter

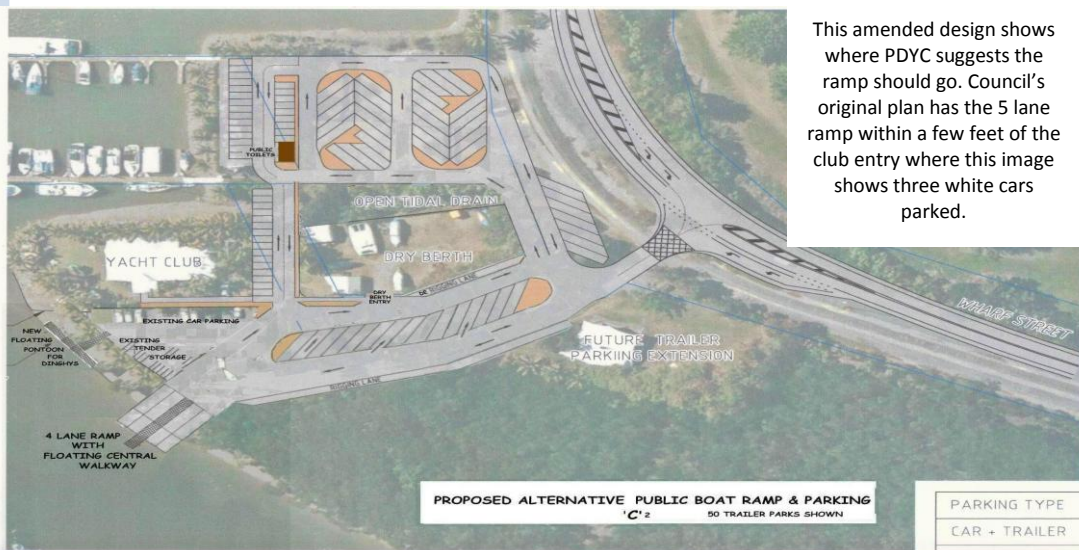
Volume 2 Issue 8 April 2011

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## Yachties feel the pain of ramp cramp

Council plans to relocate the public boat ramp to within a few feet of the club entrance have caused an uproar from members concerned at the intrusion. A multitude of issues were raised by members at a meeting held to discuss the PDYC submission to Council. The consensus of opinion is that we need to fight to prevent the unacceptable intrusion and consequent threat to all that our members past and present have achieved over the years. After meetings with Council representatives the committee made its submission on the draft concept of the relocation. PDYC requested that Council implement a revised concept that (1) Puts the new ramp a minimum thirty meters from the southern boundary of PDYC lease and is situated perpendicular to the water's edge. (2) Allows existing PDYC car parking to remain on the southern boundary of PDYC lease. (3) Ensures on shore tender storage is located at least as close to the water as at present. (4) Provides opportunity for improved on water tender mooring situated as close as possible to PDYC lease. (5) Accounts for concerns raised in relation to the flow of traffic within immediate proximity of PDYC entrance and grounds.

Members can rest assured that the current committee led by Commodore Vic Petrus and committee member Colin Simpson is extremely active in ensuring that we fight to preserve the integrity of our club and to minimise the adverse effect of the proposed relocation of the public boat ramp. Right: Long time member Robert Mair (T Break) came up with several alternative layouts that were submitted to Council to make known the options available.



## Race Results

### Closehaven Cup

Eight yachts came to the start for the single division open class Closehaven Cup. The fleet included Groove (Belinda Cooper) visiting from Cairns Yacht Club and new addition to the local fleet Island Girl (Leon Paul). The early morning land breeze gave way to the forecast south easterly right on cue and the fleet beat into the breeze rounding the windward mark before reaching to Low Isles. Groove was first to round closely followed by Magic and Port FM Mais Oui moved into third passing Ann Sea. The fleet began to spread as the yachts raced towards the northern shores of the Isles. Magic took the lead from Groove and Ice made up ground moving to third as Ann Sea reclaimed her lead over Port Fm Mais Oui. Island Girl, Tau Ceti and Indigo followed. Magic was first around Low and led the field down to the final buoy rounding as spinnakers were set to take advantage of the shifting easterlies. Groove, only a boat length behind Magic, powered up on rounding the mark and the visitors took the lead on the final downwind run to the finish claiming line honours with a time of 4:23:10. Second over was Magic (4:24:50) with Ice third (4:40:44) followed by Ann Sea, Port FM Mais Oui, Island Girl, Tau Ceti and indigo. Corrected times brought the top six boats within 11 minutes of each other. Groove was edged out to third and Magic second by the 2011 Closehaven Cup handicap winners Mick & Helen Gwilliams on Ice.

## News in brief News in brief News in brief News in brief News in brief News in brief

Committee makes submission to CRC on impact of boat ramp relocation ✓ 14 entries so far for 2011 Exemplar Clipper Cup ✓ Keith Quinn Fun Day and Two Island Sail & Run - two huge events on the horizon in July ✓ Red Boomer rumoured to return for Christmas ✓ Working B Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May ✓ New shade structure up ✓ New information board up ✓ Coffee machine imminent ✓



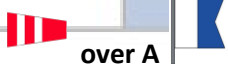
**The Closehaven Cup** was scheduled for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April but was postponed due to the strong wind warning issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. The bureau's forecast of 20 to 30 knot winds for waters from Cooktown to Cardwell issued in conjunction with a strong wind warning caused a problem. A strong wind is defined as 26 to 33 knots equal to force 7 on the Beaufort Scale. The range of 20 to 30 knots predicted over the 330km forecast area caused the race to be postponed even though the winds required to warrant the strong wind warning may not have affected the course to be sailed. The Bureau's computer models predicted the upper range of the wind to be in the far northern section of the forecast region.



Above: Helen & Mick Williams with the Closehaven Cup.  
Below: Ice with her secret weapon (that big white thing at the front).

The club recognises that for safety reasons it is not appropriate to stage a race if the Bureau has issued a strong wind warning. If we set a higher standard of safety requirements we can race in more adverse conditions but club organised events only require Yachting Australia Category 6 safety standards. As conditions at sea deteriorate and the risk to life and boats increases the required standard of safety also increases. The safety of competitors comes first and with the boats competing not equipped to that higher standard racing will be postponed in the event of a strong wind warning.

Signal flag AP over A signals postponement of racing to another day.



### Race Results on the Web

The Top Yacht Software that the club uses to process race results has received an upgrade that allows the upload of race results straight from Top Yacht to the club website.

To see all the latest and archived race results in a really neat format just like all the major clubs around the country get onto [www.portdouglasyachtclub.com.au](http://www.portdouglasyachtclub.com.au) and go to results. You can scrutinize handicaps and see positions in the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship.



### This club was built for fun

The story goes that the club's famous slogan originated after a protest was lodged by a well known racing identity against another founding member following an on water incident. The not so serious competitor decided that the rules were not really meant for the Saturday afternoon scene at the not so serious yacht club. After the protest was dealt with the next time the boys met to race there was a wooden plaque present that emphasised exactly what some of the sailors thought about protests and rules. To this day the slogan epitomises what the club stands for and can be seen proudly on display in the trophy cabinet amidst all of the trophies that the serious and not so serious amongst us have accumulated through the years of serious fun on the water! In keeping with this tradition see what the Sailing Instructions for the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship have to say about protests...We do know how to be serious for our more serious races though for those that are left wondering. The SI for the Exemplar Clipper Cup clearly state that you can part with \$50 to have a team of handpicked experts fastidiously spend half an hour interpreting how the blue book will determine the fate of your request for redress with unequivocal gravity. Oh what fun!

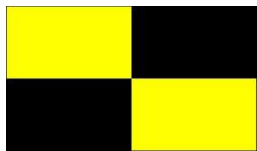
### The Return (to the water) of Jimmie Blacksmith

In the February edition we brought you the sad story of Campbell Corbett, Desley Lloyd and Jimmie Blacksmith, caught by TC Yasi at Hinchinbrook. After many weeks of hard work Jimmie was lifted back into the water at Mooloolaba last week. "Jimmie went splash again yesterday. This seems to happen more often than I get to sail her at the moment" said Campbell. Intending to spend some time sailing (at last) Campbell and Desley may be back up for a flying visit late in May. Apparently there's some big race happening and Campbell's really keen to be involved.

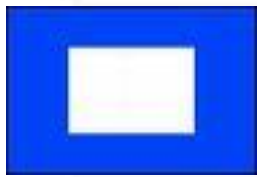


## Do you know your flags?

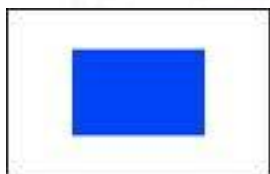
The following flags are some that will be used in the Exemplar Clipper Cup.



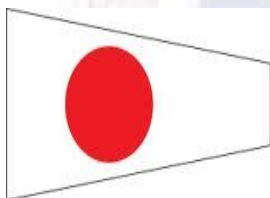
**Code L:** This means there is a notice to competitors. When displayed ashore the notice will be on the club Notice Board. When displayed on the Start Boat it means come within hailing distance. *The crew of Magic will be looking out for this one!*



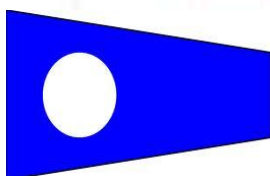
**Code P:** This is the Preparatory Signal. When displayed on the Start Boat it signals 4 minutes to the start. After this point prohibited propulsion is prohibited. *The crew of Whitecap should pay particular attention to this!*



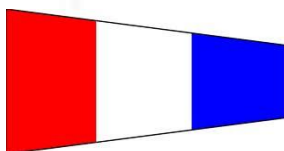
**Code S:** Shortened Course. When displayed on the start boat means finish at the next mark or refer to Sailing Instructions. *Crew onboard Groove must pay particular attention!*



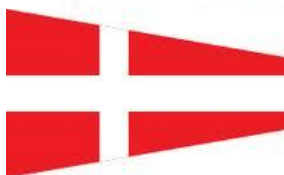
**Code flag 1: Numeral 1**  
Means course 1 is the course to be sailed (refer to SI) or if you're crew on Indigo it means time to serve the oysters.



**Code flag 2: Numeral 2**  
Means course 2 is the course to be sailed (refer to SI) or if you're lucky enough to be on Indigo it means quiche is now being served.



**Code flag 3: Numeral 3**  
Means course 3 is the course to be sailed (refer to SI) or if you're one of those fortunate seamen on Indigo the main fare is now at the table.



**Code flag 4: Numeral 4**  
Means course 4 is the course to be sailed (refer to SI) and for those nautical types aboard the good ship Indigo it means the Tiramisu is being served.



**Jolly Roger: Boarding Party in progress**  
A boat displaying this flag has given up racing and has started a party. *Port FM Mais Oui may heed this and may be seen rafted up to Indigo during Course 1, 2, 3 & 4 with Ice, Suntan, T - Break, Ann Sea and Tau Ceti not far away.*

Other signal flags may be used if we can find them, check out the Sailing Instructions to be issued May 20<sup>th</sup> for the full list.

## Carnivale Street Parade

This year the club will again be entering a float in the Carnivale street parade. Some of the ladies have got together to plan this and they have come up with a theme of the Pirates of Port. So if you're up for swashbuckling pirate action get into your best Jack Sparrow outfit, grab your cutlass and parrot and climb aboard the PDYC float.



A pirate and his parrot, were adrift in a lifeboat following a dramatic escape from a valiant battle. While rummaging through the boat's provisions, the pirate stumbled across an old lamp. Secretly hoping that a Genie would appear, he rubbed the lamp vigorously. To the amazement of the castaways, a Genie came forth. This particular Genie, however, stated that he could only deliver one wish, not the standard three. Without giving any thought to the matter the pirate blurted out, "Make the entire ocean into rum!" The Genie clapped his hands with a deafening crash, and immediately the entire sea turned into the finest rum ever sampled by mortals.

Simultaneously, the Genie vanished. Only the gentle lapping of rum on the hull broke the stillness as the two considered their circumstances

The parrot looked disgustedly at the pirate and after a tension-filled moment spoke: "Now yee've done it!! Now we're goon to have to pee in the boat!"

aaaarrrgggghh

With a reach of millions the PDYC Newsletter is a great way to get your message across to the masses. Members discounts are the currency so if you have the product we have the portal. Get your message out and get our members in by advertising your business right here. This month's special is a ¼ page ad in the next 12 issues for a 10% discount for PDYC members that when purchasing at your business mention your ad and produce a current PDYC membership card. To take advantage of this great offer and make your business a preferred supplier talk to Richard or Mick at the club. There are no costs and no design headaches. We do the lot with a fresh and innovative ad each month and a mention on the website to encourage our members to support your business. A benefit to our members is all that we ask.



# Member Profile

## Belinda Cooper

"When are you lot going to put on some decent competition?"



Belinda is a member of Port Douglas Yacht Club even though she lives over the border and does most of her sailing in foreign waters. We were however honoured to have her super Sydney 32 *Groove* up in Port for a while as the crew put in some training for the Clipper Cup and Maggie Island Race Week later in the year. Belinda is keen to make this years' Clipper Cup the one to remember following disappointing results in her previous attempts as she battles to overcome the handicap that the speed of her boat and the ability of her crew place upon her. In a brilliant display of speed *Groove* took line honours in the Closehaven Cup but had to settle for 3<sup>rd</sup> once the handicap had its say. Belinda claims to be used to it by now and is happy to cross the line first especially when up in Port amidst her arch rivals. If the crew stowed a few extra cases of rum onboard that might slow the boat down and reign in the handicap! Belinda is a true competitor on the water, even known to go out for a race even when there are no other boats around. Some Port boats must enjoy *Groove* coming here to race so much it's rumoured they actually let her take the coveted line honours to encourage her to keep coming. C'mon Belinda, time to get fired up ready for some serious racing... and look out for that white flag with the blue square!



8:00am Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00am Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00am  
Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00am



Two huge events on the horizon for May and June are the Exemplar Clipper Cup and the Coral Coast Rally. There's plenty to be done to get the club ship shape and dressed for the occasion. So on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am till 12:00 get yourself down to the club and earn yourself a free beer and sandwiches for lunch after a morning of fun and hard work.

**Got any ideas, or can you think of anything that needs a bit of TLC?** Then get along with your tools and a good dose of enthusiasm. This is a members club run by members for the benefit of members. **Remember there's no them or they, it's only us and we!**



Listen online [www.justin.tv/radioportdouglas?#/w/1004248128/24](http://www.justin.tv/radioportdouglas?#/w/1004248128/24)

Port FM

Proud sponsors of the clubs J24 Port FM Mais Oui  
Are you tuned in to the locals?



### Anyone for coffee?

One of the reasons for the extension of the secure area in front of the bar is to secure the clubs new coffee machine. Yes you read that correctly! There's a coffee machine in our midst. Be sure to include a cuppa in your itinerary next time you're down the club. With a huge selection of variations to tempt your palette this could be just what you've always needed.

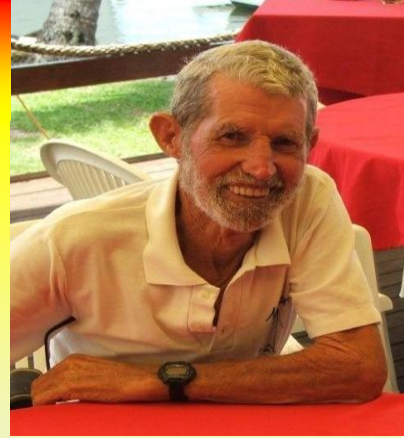
### Monday closures over and earlier openings up for review

The annual seasonal Monday closures are over for another year. Members can now again enjoy the club facilities 7 days a week. The committee is to decide if we put on the Wed to Sun 12pm openings again through the busy months of July to October. Have your say, talk to the staff and talk to the committee - we'd like to hear what you have to say.

### New information board arrives

Next time you amble up to the main entrance have a look at the new sign up on the club wall. Packed full of information about our sponsors, Spinnakers Restaurant, WAGS and upcoming events this is another initiative of the committee and club manager Richard Stapleton. Designed to inform visitors 24/7 the sign is a great tool to promote the businesses that support PDYC and the essential facts that visitors to the club need to know. Such as when we open, what we do and what we provide. Check it out each time you drop by to see what's happening next at your club.

# Club History with Henry Cotter



The first meeting of the Yacht Club was in 1985, however it was nine years later before we had a clubhouse. The club's official opening was on December 4<sup>th</sup> 1994 opened by Sir James Hardy. At last after a long and difficult struggle to raise sufficient funds, we were able to move from the tin shed (that now sits on the waterfront to remind our senior members of a past era), into the new clubhouse. At first the club only opened on a race day, or on some Friday and Saturday nights. Someone would go into the kitchen and cook up a few meals for those who happened to turn up. No staff were employed. Members who volunteered, worked in the kitchen and behind the bar. At that stage we had a 'pepper-corn' rent. Our rates were low as was our lease. Soon though, all that changed and we employed a manager, enabling the club to open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The club has had a few add-ons since then, as its patronage grew. One of the first was the roof, over the side towards Closehaven Marina. Under the corrugated iron are the names of the yachts whose owners donated \$30 for each sheet of iron, to put on that extension. They have since been hidden by the cover you now see. That cover looks pretty tattered today, maybe it is time to replace it and put the yacht names on the new covering?

## Exemplar Clipper Cup Update - only 3 weeks to go

In brief: **14 entries** so far with some still to confirm. Merchandise to go on sale includes polo shirts, stubby coolers and caps. Orders are welcome so get in and don't miss out. Tickets are on sale now to raise funds with a chance to win a reef trip for two worth \$380 with Poseidon at just \$10 per ticket. Tickets are on sale for the presentation dinner Sunday 29th May. With a big fleet and plenty of crew seating will be in high demand so get in early and secure your place at a table. Entertainment will be provided by the Barbary Coasters. **2011 Exemplar Clipper Cup entries as of Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Kai Lani** (Bavaria 42) Gordon Wellham PDYC • **Port FM Mais Oui** (J24) Andrew Walker PDYC • **Ice** (Sayer 11) Mick Gwilliams PDYC • **Magic** (Farr 11) Doug Ryan PDYC • **Whitecap** (Adams 10) Vic Petrus PDYC • **Ann Sea** (Hanse 37) Tim Preuss PDYC • **Indigo** (Seawind 1000) Colin Simpson PDYC • **Island Girl** (Space Sailor 26) Leon Paul PDYC • **Tau Ceti** (Farr 40) Ken Brown PDYC • **Farr Better** (Farr 38) John Gould YKBC • **Ketchup** (Thompson 7) Steve England YKBC • **Kaizen 2** (J24) Bruce Clark CYC • **Groove** (Sydney 32) Belinda Cooper • **Dusty Muzzle** (Farr 38) Ron Knott TCYC

Closehaven and Meriden Marinas have agreed to sponsor 4 berths each for visiting yachts at 50% off the daily rate.

Contact Richard at PDYC Ph: 4099 4386 to confirm your berthing arrangements.



Left: 2010 Exemplar Clipper Cup action from the start line. Right: The crew of Magic find a spider on the deck maybe?



Did you know that freeboard isn't not paying for your lodgings or getting some timber off the back of a truck. It's the distance from the gunwale to the waterline

## Nautical Knowledge

Gunwale originates from the old English word wale which is a broad, thick plank around the outside of a wooden ship. The gunwale was the wale designed to protect the timber from heavy cannons. The boat speak pronunciation is gunnel like funnel.

**Seaspeak** is a simplified form of English, designed to facilitate communication between ships whose captains' native tongues differ. It has now been formalised as Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP). While generally based on the English language, seaspeak has a very small vocabulary. There are also similar languages for aircraft and trains. An example of seaspeak when stuck in ice and requesting assistance is "I am fast in ice". (*I'm not making this up you know but I do like the terminology if only it was true*). Another is the seaspeak way to describe an unmanned and abandoned ship floating adrift, the SMCP gives the correct phrase as, "unlit derelict vessel adrift in vicinity" This might also be used to describe the course as seen from the 'blue boat' on a race day as she passes the tail on the second lap.

The SMCP were adopted by the 22nd Assembly of the IMO in November 2001 in a resolution which also promoted the wide circulation of the SMCP to all prospective users and all maritime education authorities. So if you hear a call over the radio calmly advising "I am sinking. Please proceed to my assistance" it's not a pompous pommie or a practical joker but a knowledgeable nautical type that knows the SMCP and wants to be sure you get the message whether you speak their language or not and who is in desperate need of your assistance.



# FREE SEX & MONEY

## Special thanks

Ok, now that you're paying attention here is a *Special Announcement...*

Last month's Nautical Knowledge was a 5 question quiz:-

1. What is the art of knot tying, splicing, and whipping called?
2. In clockwise order name six parts on the circumference of a triangular sail.
3. Which type of sail boat has only one mast?
4. If sailing the Coral Sea on a heading of 185° in December on which side of the boat will the sun set and will the sun set be forward or aft of the beam?
5. On race day you approach the start line on a starboard tack with another boat to leeward of you on the same tack but the start line buoy is in your way. What must you do?

A word of special praise is due to our local journalists at the **Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette** and **The Newsport**. We all know The Gazette and for those of you still living in the dark ages Newsport is Ports own online news portal. Visit them at <http://www.tourismportdouglas.com.au/PORT-DOUGLAS-NEWS-DAILY.3081.0.html> Both these organisations regularly publish sports reports about club yacht racing and also various articles promoting PDYC, most recently with the boat ramp issue.

A huge thank you to both for their ongoing support of PDYC. These guys know the importance of small community communications and they need to be recognised for their great efforts.

The answers to last month's quiz are: (after realising some had more than one answer!)

1. Marlinspike
2. Head, leach, clew, foot, tack, luff (portside view)  
And Head, luff, tack, foot, clew, leach (starboard view)
3. Sloop
4. Starboard and forward if you are north of the Tropic of Capricorn, and starboard and aft if south of the Tropic of Capricorn.
5. If there is an overlap: You must keep clear of the leeward boat, RRS Rule 11. (*up, UP! UP! Will be hailed very loudly from the leeward boat and you will need to tack to get out of her way*).

If there is no overlap and you are clear astern of the leeward boat: You must keep clear.  
If there is no overlap and you are clear ahead of the leeward boat: You may maintain your course.

A staggering single entry was received (one up on the previous month) and congratulations go to Henry Cotter. Henry picked up a prized bottle of Mt Gay rum donated by the Sailing Committee for his great effort. (*He didn't get all the answers right but at least he tried*). You too can be a winner. Find this month's quiz (it's on this page, put your thinking cap on and send in your answers. You never know it just might be free sex and money up for grabs next month.



**Have you tried the Salmon Spring Rolls at Spinnakers?**

Freda on a Wednesday sunset sail



### Every Wednesday PDYC members provide free sunset sailing.

Registration is from 4pm at the club with boats heading out anytime thereafter. This is without doubt the single best value activity on offer to the people of the Douglas region and the many visitors to town. Known throughout the world as a must do when in FNQ you too can get yourself on board. Skippers are always on the look out for regular crew and this is the best way to learn how to sail. Get on board and experience it for yourself. Entertainment at the club afterwards includes skippers and crew prize draws, Mat & Simes scintillating menu specials and there's always a thirst quencher or several at the friendliest bar you'll ever find anywhere.

### New shade structure up

TC Yasi had our members in such a hurry securing boats and other property that we totally forgot to attend to the shade sail at the club. When Yasi came calling she did the job for us ripping the sails from the building. With all things considered we got off very lightly and members and guests had a few weeks to wait as the back log of work at Sailmakers caught up to the yacht club job. A big thank you to our insurers for coming to the party and to Port Douglas Sailmakers for putting up our new shade structure. Can someone remember next year to take the shade cover down?

## April Quiz

Prize awarded to first correct entry drawn at WAGS on Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>. If there are no correct entries the prize will go to the first drawn with the next highest score.

1. Which boat came 8th overall in the 2010 Exemplar Clipper Cup?
2. How many kilometres is one nautical mile?
3. When sailing you cross latitude South 15°45' and longitude East 145° 30'. Are you closer to Cooktown or Port Douglas?
4. What is the cost of individual membership of Low Isles Preservation Society?
5. At what point of the start sequence of a race is a boat deemed to be racing?  
(a) Warning signal                      (b) Preparatory signal                      (c) Start signal

*There's a link on the club website to submit your answers. Look in the Newsletters page to find the Quiz answer link.*

# Two Huge Club Events Planned for July

If you think things have been happening at the club lately you aint seen nothing yet! Hot on the heels of Clipper Cup and Coral Coast Rally which are just around the corner, come the Keith Quinn Fun day and The Two Island Sail & Run. The sailing committee has a ship load (that's a P thank you) of amazing ideas to get these two dates firmly on everyone's calendar.

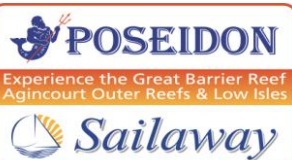
## July 16<sup>th</sup> – Keith Quinn Fun Day

The Keith Quinn Fun Day is the clubs version of an open day but like most things happening at the club it's another excuse to get everyone out on the water. Only this time everyone means EVERYONE! After a fun morning of nautical nonsense, team building, bonding and frivolity it's out to our favourite playground for a round of action on the high seas as we stage the worlds wackiest blue water classic, or should that be calm water classic? Come & Try will never be the same again as boats compete for the Keith Quinn Memorial Trophy and a free beer every day of the year at the Bommie Bangers Bar on Hope Island or a coke from the vending machine atop Uluru!

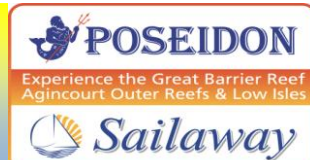
## July 30<sup>th</sup> – Two Island Sail & Run

The ever so slightly more serious Two Island Sail & Run on July 30th will be a marathon event in more ways than one. It's going to be a marathon just trying to organise it. Plans for this year's event include charity fund raising, the involvement of other sports clubs, corporate sponsorship of competitors and heaps of prizes for line honours, handicap winners, course records and leg records. There might even be a Calcutta Auction the night before! This event has the potential to be huge involving a broad section of the community and we're only limited by our imagination as to what we can achieve.

Watch this space and keep your browser tuned to the website for more details. Want to be involved? There will be a sub committee formed to manage these mega events so why not get on and get involved?



Friends or rellies coming up for a break this winter? Maybe you just need to get out on the reef yourself. Please support Poseidon and Sailaway, proud sponsors of the 2011 Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship. Book online or call 4099 4772 for a truly memorable reef trip.



Coming soon to a yacht club near you...

### The Boat Ramp!

Definition of boat - a small vessel for travelling on water.

Definition of ramp - An incline connecting different levels.

Definition of a boat ramp?

A connection between a level of prosperity and a subsequent level of poverty achieved by owning a small vessel used for travelling on water!

As this bloke above is in the process of discovering all about.

**Next issue:** Scheduled for release Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Did you know...**Port Douglas Yacht Club Inc is a not for profit organisation dedicated to the sport and recreational activity of yachting. One of the constitutional objectives of which is to keep members in close and friendly association with each other by frequent social gatherings on land and sea.

**Meaningless Disclaimer:** This newsletter is published for the benefit of members of Port Douglas Yacht Club Inc. Wherever possible grateful acknowledgement is made in recognition of stolen or borrowed material usually pilfered off the internet all for the greater good and benefit of the sailing community. PDYC Inc, its office bearers employees and members accept no responsibility whatsoever for anything other than the provision of useful information to be shared in the name of FUN!