

Port Douglas Yacht Club Newsletter

Volume 3 December 2012 Issue 27

Member of the Year

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Garry White

Garry White is the proud recipient of the inaugural Peter Terracall Memorial Cup awarded to a club member that has shown outstanding commitment to the club throughout the year.

The family of the late Peter Terracall donated the trophy to the club after the passing of one of the clubs most dedicated members. Peter in his time as Commodore and throughout his many years as a member and a life member was noted for his passion in doing the best he could for the club over and above the call of duty.

The committee considered it fitting that the new trophy to honour the memory of Peter should be awarded for these qualities.

It perhaps sometimes goes unnoticed that the great effort that goes into maintaining the appearance of the club is undertaken by volunteers. Though there are many that put their hand up to fill this role in 2012 (and for many years prior) one person that has consistently excelled in this has been Garry. Congratulation Garry - and keep up the good work!



R A D I O
107.1 FM 90.9
P O R T D O U G L A S



2012 Lady Skippers Race Day

L-R Desley Lloyd (Jimmie Blacksmith), Robyn Parsons (Ruff Red), Andrina Matchett (Samantha), Mickey Doussett (Shazam), Ann Cox (Ann Sea), Trudy Erdmann (Tau Ceti), Helen Gwilliams (Ice), and Cheryl Wellham (Kai Lani).

Race Report: Closehaven Marina Trophy Series Race 9: Lady Skippers Race

Eight yachts set sail for race 9 of the Closehaven Marina Trophy Series, the 2012 Lady Skippers Race. With many of the girls sailing regularly throughout the year assisting their husbands, partners or friends this was an opportunity for the ladies to take the helm and command the ship.

The course was set for a run north to locate a set of coordinates before tracking east to Low Isles for a port rounding of the islands. Shazam skippered by Mickey Doussett was first to drop anchor at Low for the ladies luncheon completing stage 1 of the race. Ann Cox at the helm of Ann Sea, Desley Lloyd skippering Jimmie Blacksmith and Cheryl Wellham skippering Kai Lani soon followed. Next into the lagoon was Helen Gwilliams at the helm of Ice, Trudy Erdmann helming Tau Ceti, Robyn Parsons skippering Ruff Red and Andrina Matchett skipper of Samantha.

After a relaxing lunch and a cooling swim for some of the crew stage 2 got underway. A good 15 to 20 knot breeze made for near perfect conditions and a very close race for a fast reach back to Port and it was again Mickey and Shazam that crossed the line first.

Final positions on handicap corrected time placed Ann Sea (02:13:43) first ahead of Shazam (02:16:39) and Kai Lani (02:22:22) followed by Jimmie Blacksmith (02:22:59), Ice (02:31:34), Tau Ceti (02:37:04), Samantha (02:46:39) and Ruff Red (03:05:57).

The ladies were all smiles at the presentation having shown the boys the way around the course in some very impressive times.

At The Christmas Party

The club held its annual Christmas Party on Saturday 15th with over 100 members attending the celebrations.

Colin and Ken did a fantastic job in the galley sizzling kebabs, snags and steaks to complement the array of salads prepared by many of the ladies.

The bar tab didn't last as long as thought so it was doubled to cope with the steady demand as friends old and new gathered for a perfect day at a perfect venue.

It was a great chance to catch up with everyone and reflect on the year just passing as Garry White received the Peter Terracall Cup as Club Member of the Year and the end of year awards were presented for the 2012 sailing.

A turbulent year in many ways but as the old saying goes 'all's well that ends well....'



Race Report:

Closehaven Marina Trophy Series Race 10: The Christmas Cup

Race 10 of the Closehaven Marina Trophy Series, the Port Douglas Yacht Club Christmas Cup attracted 11 entries for the starboard rounding of Low Isles.

The final race of the year kicked off in 15 to 18 knots gusting over 20 at times. Boosting the fleet was the addition of two new entries in Casuarina and Andiamo joining the fleet for the season finale.

As the yachts made their way to Low Isles Ann Sea and Jimmie Blacksmith set the pace with Indigo and Sea Wizard on their heels. Tau Ceti, Ice and T-Break kept each other company with Miriama, Ruff Red and Andiamo not far behind. Casuarina suffered a delayed start.

The beat into the wind around the back of Low caused a reshuffle in the fleet with Ann Sea emerging a clear leader ahead of Jimmie Blacksmith for the reach back to Port. Race favourite Indigo tried everything to run down the lead coming in third over the line just 3 seconds ahead of Sea Wizard with Ann Sea taking line honours with an elapsed time of 02:35:56.



Handicap corrected times told a different story with Robert Mair and Roxy the dog on T-Break (01:48:12) returning to racing after a lengthy absence claiming the win ahead of Ruff Red (01:53:29) and Sea Wizard (01:53:46).

Remaining places went to: Ann Sea (01:59:27), Jimmie Blacksmith (02:00:38), Indigo (02:01:11), Tau Ceti (02:07:54), Ice (02:09:18), Miriama (02:11:00), Casuarina (02:15:32) and Andiamo (02:51:46)

Are YOU prepared?

A **cyclone season preparation** briefing was held at the club with MSQ, SES and the local Police in attendance. The object was to remind everyone of their obligations during a cyclone and to offer advice to anyone unsure of how to prepare for an emergency.

The evening was arranged by Henry Cotter and was attended by around 60 people.

The Port Douglas port evacuation plan is on the club notice board and for further information contact:

MSQ: 4052 7400

Police: (Harbour Master) 4099 5220

SES: 132 500 (for help after an event)

Meridien Marina: 4099 5775

2013 Exemplar Clipper Cup - Where to from here?

A small club like ours lucky to get five or six boats on a good day has no right to stage a three division six race regatta with an \$8,000 prize pool attracting twenty three competitors and a qualified race officer. Yet we did this in 2012. In 1995 the same event attracted forty two yachts, a qualified team of race officials and the country's leading race journalist. The years between these two land mark regattas have thrown up many memorable occasions but none as significant as 2012.

We can be on the verge of something big, or we can be on the precipice looking in. The path we take from here is up to us all.

One thing is certain though, we have the opportunity to make our own destiny. If we push on further with the development of this great event we have the chance to build upon our recent success. If we don't then the event will slide back to the single figure entries and local apathy that has plagued the trophy in the not too distant past. So, what will *you* be doing for the Exemplar Clipper Cup in 2013?



Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship & Closehaven Marina Trophy Series 2012 Champions

In what turned out to be a three horse race after 24 races and 11 entries in the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship Ice (39) came out a clear winner ahead of Magic (44) and Ann Sea (48). Each skipper collected a cheque for \$500, \$300 and \$200 respectively thanks to our generous sponsors Poseidon and Sailaway.

The remaining field of eight placed Tau Ceti (104), Ruff Red (114), Jimmie Blacksmith (118), Port FM Mais Oui (123), Indigo (149), Miriama (159), Big Ears (172) and Sea Wizard (192). Again proving that to win it you have to be in it, as many times as possible.

The 24 race 2013 Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship gets underway with a double header on February 2nd.

Collecting a first prize of four weeks free berthage at Closehaven Marina the Closehaven Marina Trophy Series winner is Ann Sea (18). Leading a field of 18 competitors Tim Preuss and Ann Cox set a blistering pace in the 10 race series. Coming in second was Ice (32) followed by Magic (46), T-Break (50), Port FM Mais Oui (50), Miriama (52), Jimmie Blacksmith (70), Tau Ceti (70), Sea Wizard (75), Groove (79), Indigo (88), Winkali (100), Sinabada (108), Big Ears (110), Shazam (121) and Samantha (125).

The ten race 2013 Closehaven Marina Trophy Series gets underway on March 16th with the Closehaven Cup.



Ice
2012 Poseidon Sailaway
Club Champion

Ann Sea
2012 Closehaven Marina
Trophy Series Champion

Above: Champion sailors Helen Gwilliams (Ice) and Tim Preuss (Ann Sea) celebrate their respective wins at the Christmas Party presentation

Port Douglas Yacht Club and Poseidon & Sailaway – a winning team on and off the water



 **Sailaway**

 **POSEIDON**



Low Isles on the Great Barrier Reef
www.sailawayportdouglas.com

Agincourt Outer Reefs
www.poseidon-cruises.com.au

A Date For Your Diary The next member training session is **Sunday 3rd February**, for racing rules and sail trim. In a joint effort **Doug Ryan** will be teaching the Racing Rules of Sailing and **Mal Richardson** will conduct a session on sail trim. The seminars will take place all day with small groups taking turns to attend each lecture. **If you have a skill or any special knowledge you would like to share please contact the Sailing Committee to schedule a session.**

Club History with Henry Cotter

1992 – A letter to the Lands Department Part 2



In the October issue we looked at the first part of a letter from our first ever Commodore Peter Hinchcliffe written to the Lands Department. The letter expressed the clubs plans to develop a parcel of land on which a slab had been laid in preparation for the building of the club house. This month we look at the rest of that letter. Peter wrote;

The concrete slab which as you know has been laid is unencumbered and has been paid for by way of generous local donations and some fund raising by the club.

Our current bank balance is made up of \$13,000 deposited with the National Australian Bank, Mossman as a term deposit and \$4,746 in a cheque account used to cover running expenses. With the privilege granted by the Licensing Department we enjoy small fund raising activities by way of food and beer sold after each weekly sailing event held during the sailing season. These events raise an average of \$650 to \$850 each time. Along with the above mentioned fund raising efforts we have just embarked on an ambitious scheme to raise money in the way of a printed prospectus aimed at the business corporation sector of the Port Douglas and Mosman area. These people will be asked for donations towards the Club, part of such donation allowing membership for a set period and participation in future Club activities.

It is thought our biggest membership potential will come from local areas. The prospectus is also aimed at individual and family members who may also wish to donate thus allowing them certain privileges.

Thinking in a positive manner we believe we will reach our goal of \$50,000 in a matter of weeks.

We have enclosed a copy of the prospectus for your perusal knowing that you will find it self explanatory and its idea and aims praiseworthy.

Once the building is erected which you will have noted is for aesthetic and pleasing tropical nature we believe we will attract a large number of locals to both enjoy the area and its surrounds along with the camaraderie associated with a family sporting activity.

Such interest will allow for a build-up of members and the inherent finance. Once this has been established we will apply for a liquor licence to sell both liquor and food and so do away with the licences we currently enjoy.

We look forward to your reply in confirmation and to the time we can invite Mr Eaton to lay the first stone at a ceremony with the local dignitaries' and hopefully the official opening. And so the foundation was laid for the club we enjoy today - Henry

Club Training - Peter Greig Rigging

Pete The Rigger:
0417 606 694



The first of our member information and training sessions was well attended on Thursday 13th with a presentation from Peter Greig Rigging.

Pete and Dan delivered an informative session on boat rigging and raised plenty of eyebrows with an introduction to the “future of rigging” in the exotic fibre Dyneema.

As Dan delivered an enthralling display of splicing a shackle to a length of Spectra Pete explained how a fibre is set to replace the age of stainless steel. Citing a recent full replacement job where the weight of a boats standing rigging was cut from around 230kg of steel to 18kg of Dyneema. Not only is there a huge benefit in reducing the weight aloft but the fibre is actually much stronger than the steel and will last a lot longer too.

The man behind the idea of frequent member training and information seminars is Campbell Corbett. A teacher by trade Campbell is no stranger to organising a class room and did a great job in bringing Pete and Dan to the club for the first session.

Pete was keen on the idea and suggested in future we bring a yacht to the pontoon and conduct the next seminar onboard where he can teach interested members how to inspect and care for their rig.



Work is planned to start soon

repairing the retaining wall on the boundary of the club from the pontoon to the boat ramp.

Tidal erosion over several years has caused the stone blocks to slowly fall away. Recently the gap created between the blocks and the lawn has been filled to minimise the risk to members and patrons. Soon the whole row will be lifted and repositioned ready to face the relentless tidal flow that will pass back and forth over the coming years. Club Commodore Colin Simpson is the driving force behind negotiations with the relevant authorities to ensure the best result for the club in this vital undertaking.

Seven men, four boats and a dog by Rob Mair, SV T-Break

On the eve of the Solar Eclipse, four boats with their crew set off for Low Isles for the start of a two week plus cruise north to Lizard Island. 'Ann Sea' had Tim aboard. "Sea Wizard" had Bob and his able crewman Dave, 'Suntan' had Noel, along with Dave and Geoff, his cruising crew. Last, but not least, was 'T-break' with Rob and his faithful companion Roxy. Roxy's role as the only female was to add some decorum to the group.

Dawn appeared over the horizon, (no not a second female) and within minutes we witnessed the amazing event of a Total Solar Eclipse. I am not sure whether Suntan's crew saw it as they were already into the champagne by that stage!

With the excitement over, we up-anchored and headed for our favourite Hope Island.

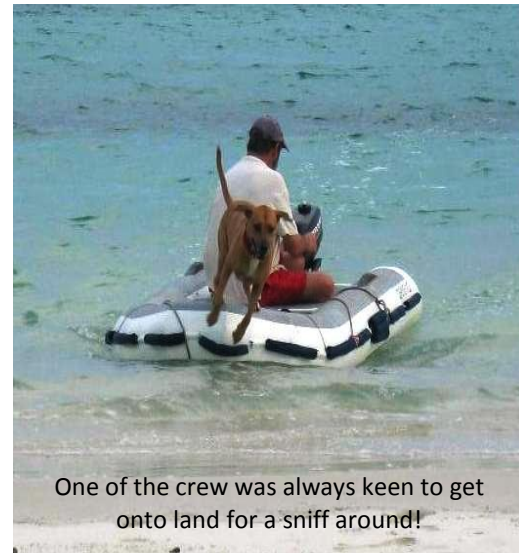
A good stiff breeze got us there just after lunch. This gave us time for an afternoon nap in preparation for that never to be missed event, 'Happy Hour' on the beach. It lived up to its tradition and as the sun fell and darkness rose, we fumbled for our dinghies and splashed our way back to our respective floating homes.

After a recovery day and another not to be missed, Happy Hour, the flotilla headed off for the next stop at Two Isles. As luck would have it, a large Mackerel 'jumped' aboard Sea Wizard and Bob managed to wrestle it down and carve it up to share with his mates. Happy Hour that day was thus attended by various fillets for cooking along with the regular xxx's.

With another rest day being too much for Sea Wizard to cope with, it was decided that we do a recognisance trip to a nearby island in search of those elusive but delectable muddies. So a reduced flotilla of Sea Wizard and Suntan headed off to the island. Rob and Roxy joined Suntan with Roxy's job being to 'spot the croc'. This she did from the safety of Noels boat. Geoff was convinced there were muddies and regardless of the croc that was reputed to live there, off he went into the mangroves and brought back three beauties. (no, not more woman!). Charged with success, he headed off again followed by his trusty slave Rob whose job was to carry the next catch back, whilst also taking over Roxy's job (on land) of 'spot the croc' before it spotted us. A great feed was had by all with even enough for Tim to have at Happy Hour back on Two Isles.

With the wind from the east, we headed off the next day, excited at the prospect of being able to anchor in the Blue Lagoon of Lizard Island. A tricky entry between the fringing reef only considered safe entry in a north to easterly wind.

We all managed it safely and took up our respective anchorages.



One of the crew was always keen to get onto land for a sniff around!



Lots of swimming, or at least sitting in the water, beach walking between the rocks and overhanging trees for the energetic ones, and simply relaxing and taking in the view and the odd xxx at dusk for the non energetic. (the rest of us!).

We were visited by Vic who the next day brought Robin and Co in his dinghy from their anchorage at Watson's Bay. Fortunately the wind was only slight as there was little freeboard on his dinghy with all aboard.

December WAGS roundup

Wednesday December 5th Shazam, Ice, Miriama, Ruff Red, Ann Sea, Indigo and Metana made up the fleet with Daryl and Metana returning from a lengthy stay in foreign waters. Near perfect conditions on the water with a fiery sunset gave the fleet a memorable evening with Ruff Red again adding to their Rum collection.

Wednesday December 12th Casuarina joined the fleet for her first taste of WAGS and came away with the rum. A good 20 knot sou'easter greeted the six boats that included Ann Sea, Miriama, Tau Ceti, Indigo and Samantha.

Wednesday December 19th Six yachts again set sail for the final WAGS of 2012 with the club being closed on Boxing Day. in light 5 to 10 knot variable air the fleet enjoyed a flat sea, a warm NE afternoon breeze and Miriama collected the rum ahead of Ice, Tau Ceti, Ann Sea, Samantha and Ruff Red.

A visit to the Research station gave Bob, Dave and Rob great relief. Their new buildings included an air conditioned library so we all became very studious. A fifteen minute film prepared by the research people and shown in the library was thus very easy to enjoy as well as being informative.

The party then dispersed with Suntan heading off for some serious fishing and Sea Wizard heading north in search of gold. Ann Sea and T-break spent another relaxing day and met up with Suntan at Two Isles. A leisurely trip back to Port via Mackay Reef and Low Isles in winds and weather close to perfect but with fishing leaving a lot to be desired. Just as well sailing is our main game. All in all, another great cruise in what has to be the best cruising waters of the north.

For more Tales From The Sea penned by the Yachties from PDYC on their many cruises up and down the far northern coast go to:

<http://www.portdouglas yachtclub.com.au/index.php/tales-from-the-sea>

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New Members

Ronald Kennedy
Paul Munro
Marlene Russic
Peter Holna
Mickey Doussett

Have you joined yet?
Get your membership and get onboard

PDYC life member and sailing legend Doug Ryan recently crewed with Peter Jones from Meridien Marina sailing *And Then* in the UON SB20 World Championships at Hamilton Island.

There was tough competition in a fleet of 42 with entries from as far afield as Russia, Great Britain, France, Italy and Holland.



The regatta comprised 12 races and 6 days of racing with the local team finishing mid way through the fleet. 19th position on 208 points is a great effort considering they competed against the best SB20 sailors in the world, sailors that live and breathe the SB20 one design. It's rumoured Peter will be joining the club races in 2013 to relieve Doug of all the line honours wins!

Sailing Committee News

The **2013 Sailing Programme** has been published and is available at the club. The booklet contains all the information you need to keep up with the extensive calendar of sailing scheduled for 2013.

Also available at the club is the **2013-2016 Racing Rules of Sailing**. The club has copies available for members at just \$20.00 which is less than half the cost. The Blue Book as it is referred to is an essential part of every ships library and with the upcoming seminar on the RRS (Sunday 3rd Feb) make sure you have your copy.



PDYC

Sailing Programme

2013

PORT DOUGLAS YACHT CLUB



2013

SAILING PROGRAMME



In other Sailing Committee news the clubs J24 **Port FM Mais Oui** is back in the water after a lengthy spell in the yard. A big thank you to **Mike Garrett** and **Rosemary Gibbons** who put a substantial amount of work into the J while she was out of the water. Thanks to **Jacko** too for a helping hand. A huge thank you to **Roger Smith** and **Smithies Slipway** in Cairns for providing the anti foul and for putting it on too, all without charge to the club. Thank you Roger!



2013 Season Opening

Saturday January 19th is planned for a **gala season opening** to herald in the new sailing year. It's also a good excuse to get together for a bbq brekkie on the club lawn and a spectacular sail by before we all head out to our favourite getaway for the weekend.

Keeping up the recent tradition of a January gathering of the fleet at Low Isles, with a bbq on the beach and a party on the decks, make sure you're sea worthy and ship shape for January 19th. In January 2010 the record was set with 19 boats so let's get together the biggest fleet PDYC has ever seen and smash this in 2013.

January Sailing

WAGS	Wednesday 2 nd	4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:54pm last light 7:18pm
WAGS	Wednesday 9 th	4:00pm onwards	Sunset: 6:56pm last light 7:20pm
WAGS	Wednesday 16 th	4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:57pm last light 7:21pm
CRUISE 2013 Season opener	Saturday 19 th	8:00am breakfast at the club followed by cruise to Low Isles. BBQ on the beach and stay overnight. Cruise home Sunday.	
WAGS	Wednesday 23 rd	4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:57pm last light 7:20pm
WAGS	Wednesday 30 th	4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:56pm last light 7:19pm

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.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

And may the father of the four winds fill your sails across the sea of years...



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Barnacles ~ By Trudy Erdmann

**Foul existence of nature's control, secret growth
beneath a waterline shadow.**

**Jaded armour for continued existence hiding her
anxious vulnerability, grasping at buoyancy to endure.**

**Routine victim ravages apparent, hazards concealed
below the façade.**

**Evading actuality and shunned exposure, defence
fearful of tragic corrosion.**

Hindered her sailing knots surely stalled.

**Slow cradle slipped by a filthy crew, fouled swearing,
blasting and scrapping;
this hull hard punished for her revival.**

**Returned, immersed, saline marinating, committed to
defy these invasive seas.**

Next issue: Scheduled for release January 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

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