

CATALINA FLEET NEWS

October 2025



3 & 6

Hour Race



www.trailersailer.org

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Use your name as reference

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General Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given of the
Newcastle and Hunter Trailer Yacht
Association.

**Tuesday 7pm on 21st October
2025 at
Club Macquarie and via ZOOM**

If you have information for the next
newsletter, please email by 7th
November to
johnlisa@outlook.com

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Commodores Muse

What a fantastic October Long Weekend Regatta!! The lake looked amazing with so many small boats in the Youth Sail NSW out in different class fleets.

Not only did all our club members have an amazing time, the Castle Association members, crews, and families did as well!

I've got to take my hat off to Peter Melbourne as Race Coordinator, Brian Harrison as Castle Coordinator and Handicapper, and Tania as social coordinator for getting both the on-water and on-shore activities! There is a full race report in this newsletter, however the weather came through on both days, and Aye Sea Red would have had our spinnaker up for 50% of the 6-hour race hitting 7.2 knots with it!

There was over 40 of us for dinner Saturday night at the Rathmines Bowling club, and the Castle people commented to me on how friendly everyone was and making them feel very welcome, especially the family that had come down from Bundaburg! One of the crew on Haitaitai had crewed on Aye Sea Red for 7 years with the previous owner. The Sunday night BBQ at the 'Styles Point Clubhouse' went down well, and thank you to all those that produced salads, desserts and the famous 'wombok salad' from Val. Tania and Kitchen-Bitch Jeff had the BBQ under control with a hand from Phil, and then everyone settled down to watch the big screen where the 'Mighty Broncos' romped home for the trophy!

There were some great tankards being drunk out off, including a tankard that had been presented to John Pateman in 2006 and this was the first time used! Garry and Ken had fun toasting each other from their hipflasks, which may explain why they were the last to turn the lights out!

Thanks to the Sunday morning BBQ Bacon & eggs cooks, and the disc frisbee golf people for helping shift the gazebos out of the firing range. Our club spirit was on display as everyone helped get all the boats to the jetty and onto trailers in the strong wind, and those who helped Hart get his boom off and mast down.

If anyone is taking your boat out for a weekend somewhere, then invite the rest of us along, and suddenly you're a cruise leader. Go on invite us!

Fair winds to you all, and see you at the ramp soon!

Ken

Your Commodore

**Minutes for General Meeting
16 September 2025**

Welcome by Meeting Ken Hill

Meeting Opened: 7.01 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Apologies: Brian Bath, Paul & Jennifer Webster, Tania Hill David & Linda Younger & Robert Rimington

Attendance: Via Zoom - See recording. Peter & Karen Armitage, Phillip Sparkes, Hart Peters, Jennifer Gregson, Peter Melbourne, Brian & Val Harrison, Jennina & John Boer, Chris Keevers & Warren Parrott

Attendance at Club Macquarie: Ken Hill, Greg Cross & John Pateman

Visitor/s: Nil

Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of meeting held 19 August 2025 as printed in the September 2025 Newsletter be accepted.

Moved: Chris Keevers

Seconded: Greg Cross

Any matters arising from the previous minutes: Nil

Any items to be discussed in General Business: Nil.

Mailbox: Signal's Magazine.

Correspondence In: Nil

Email: Gallagher Insurance. Phillip Sparkes has filled in forms and returned them. Should hear back shortly.

Action Taken –

Outwards: Nil

Treasurers Report was presented by Jennifer Gregson and shared on the screen.

The full Treasurers Report is available to Members in the "Members Only" section of the website.

Thank you.

Jennifer Gregson.

Treasurer.

➤ **Jennifer Gregson**

- Pre-approval to pay the Club General Insurance from Gallagher. The Last two years it has been \$1,096.89. Approval up to \$1,500.00 sought so payment of same can be done when that comes in.

Moved: Ken Hill

Seconded:

Phillip Sparkes

- Approval for annual payment to Wix Web Hosting being \$517.77. Last year the fee was \$398.95. (increase is due to USD exchange rate - the invoice is USD \$326.70). Phillip Sparkes has paid that amount and needs to be reimbursed.

Moved: Jennifer Gregson

Seconded: John Boer

- Approval to email reminder invoices to those current members who have not renewed their membership as yet. Due date for Membership is 1.10.2025.

Yes go ahead and do that.

Racing Report

➤ **Peter Melbourne**

- We had a good race weekend. 16 boats on Saturday 14 boats on Sunday. Sunday was father's Day so still a good turnout.
- Big thing coming up is October Long weekend. Details are in the Sailing Instructions on Website. Please read those.
 - Hard to know how many will be coming from the Castles. Counting our own boats and those coming up from Victoria, looking at probably 10 Castles. 4 are our own boats.
 - We will need to be more closely stacked on the beach at Styles Point.
 - Bring Fenders.
 - Be careful dropping your anchor that it is directly in front of you and it isn't cross over other people's lines.
 - When we are setting up on that long weekend it will be good to have other people there taking lines and helping people set up.
 - Reminder about Category 7 Safety Audits. Still some people who haven't done those. If you haven't done your Audit make arrangements with Hart or Phil by Races 3 & 4 or you may be disqualified. Please take it seriously.
- Had a safety incident at the ramp at F Jetty. Jonathon Vandervoort went to retrieve his Cygnet on the Trailer. He wasn't hanging onto trailer and came down hard and hit his head on the concrete. Initially showed some symptoms of

concussion. Went to Belmont Hospital. Discharged some 4 hours later. I have checked in on Jonathon and he hasn't had any other symptoms since and it looks like the initial symptoms may have been shock. We need to make sure that when we are using that ramp to hang on to the trailer. Council do go and clean the ramp up to about 1 metre in which works for power boats that drive their boat up to the trailer. Don't have that problem at Styles as it's a sandy ramp.

➤ **Hart Peters**

- I spoke to Council Ranger who on the morning was checking boat registrations on F Jetty. 1 Cygnet didn't have any rego displayed was queried. I also spoke to him and advised we apply to council each year to have approval to use the Jetty. Chris had his letter taped to the mast. The Ranger wasn't aware of the letter and took a picture of it. I identified myself and advised the Club had been going for 40 years.
- Members must keep a copy of the letter on their boat at all times.

➤ **Brian Harrison**

- OTB was last weekend. Forecast was looking average 4 – 5 knots. Reality was 5 – 10. Beautiful sunny day. 3 races in. 6 boats.
- Tom did a bunch of Audits on the OTB Boats.

➤ **Ken Hill**

- Tom Howell has been approved as an Auditor. Hart was overwhelmed with the number of boats wanting to be audited before the races. Which wasn't fair on Hart. Especially as some of them hadn't even let Hart know they were coming.
- Hart, Tom & Phillip (3 Auditors) will be there for the Long Weekend. We will send out a message to everyone who hasn't been audited to arrange with one of the 3 to get their Audit done.

➤ **Phillip Sparkes –**

- I have requalified as a "Race Officer – Committee & Finish Boat". To make sure we have someone in the Club who is qualified.

Cruising Report and Upcoming Cruises

➤ **Hart Peters**

- **Onshore Cruise.**

With initial cancellation of the first site booking, we got a second one and they were happy for us to settle up our accounts once we were there on the weekend. We were about the same distance from the Wollombi Pub. We had a 20 metre stretch of water of varying depths. Sandy loam soil so it was high and dry. It's a Working Cattle and Horse farm. On Saturday we all went down to the Trading Post at Laguna and had lunch at an Australiana style pub. We then all stopped at

Wollombi. Then after lunch went back to camp. We had beautiful camp fire and sky. It was a very well welcomed.

- John and Lisa Pateman will do next year's onshore cruise.
- Ex members or visitors are all welcomed to attend onshore Cruises.

➤ **Valerie Harrison**

- September Cruise. Meeting at Styles to kick off at 10am at Saturday. Due to the breeze coming in early Saturday morning, you might want to go in from F Jetty. Be prepared to cook on the boat. We may or may not go to a pub depends where the wind takes us. We will put in on Friday. We plan on staying on "F Jetty" on the Friday night.

Membership update

➤ **Phillip Sparkes**

- Stuart & Jade Shipway – Boomerang 20 called Tic Tack. They have insurance and everything in the Form appears to be up to date. Approved as members.
- Chris Bernar – received money but no form or anything. Can't approve until we have a form.
- 23 out of 45 members who have renewed.

Update for Facebook & Website

➤ **Greg Cross**

- Newsletter has been added.
- Treasurer Reports has been added to Members Section.
- OTB & Trailer Sailer Race Results have been added.
- Membership page has been updated with new fees.
- Hart to send to Greg what Treasurer Reports are missing from Website.

• **Ken Hill**

- Draft defibrillator Policy & Procedure next step. Needs approval from Committee and then put out as a finished document.
- Phillip to communicate to Ken some further adjustments.
- Need to purchase waterproof case for the second Defibrillator. Prices range from \$250.00 - \$299.00.

Approval sought to purchase case for second Defibrillator for the sum up to \$300.00.

Moved: Ken Hill

Seconded: Jennina Boer

• **LONG WEEKEND**

- Last year's run sheet presented to Committee. We are going to ask for Volunteers to assist.
- Castle Entry fee is \$10.00. An additional amount to be charged for dinner and breakfast if they would like to join.
- Estimate of 20 people from Castle's & 40 from the Club. Say 60 people all up.
- Theme - Bow ties, Fascinators, Tankards & Silverware.
- Cost to be \$25.00 per person \$10.00 per child for dinner & breakfast. Pay as per Newsletter Code is "OLW".

•Hart Peters

Who has the items required for the Long Weekend

- Ken has Gazebos.
- Who has the Club Lights – Brian Harrison may have them (he will check), the battery and Projector.
- Warren Parrott usually does the TV & audio parts and the magic box. Someone was going to get a mast for put the aerial onto. (It was John Haig who was going to look for a mast).
- Warren is not sure if he is attending this year.

•Ken Hill

• CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Committee is suggesting we do the same as last year. Have the butcher cook all the meat, potato bake and provide desert. The cost may have go up to \$35.00 per head. If we get in quick we might be able to get them to deliver it so it's nice and warm. Ken will check with butcher to confirm pricing.

- Cruise Leaders needed for November, if anyone wants to put their hand up.
- Vacant Positions need to be filled – Cruise Leader, Social Co-ordinator, Equipment Manager. We need to talk to people about filling positions.

•Peter Melbourne

- Hot water for showers.
- One of the members about 3 years ago brought their hot water shower and set it up for the ladies.
- Spinnifex from Anaconda one looks good. Needs to be on mains pressure. \$169.00. then on a stand will be up to \$400.00
- Maybe a roster such women's block 5pm to 6pm then the men's block from 6 to 7pm each evening.
- Should we buy a unit?
- Someone would need to set it up.
- Put forward at General Meeting.

- **Phillip Sparkes** - remarked that we use to own one and the next time they went to use it, it was rusted and no longer worked.

- **Phillip Sparkes**

- First Aid course, need numbers so I can plan a date. Will need numbers in about a month or two.
- We will send out an SMS Members who would like to do a First Aid Course.

- **Greg Cross**

- With low to no attendances at Club Macquarie, consideration be given to conducting future General Meetings via Zoom.
- Today there are 3 of us, last month there was 2, previous month there was 3. That is during the off season too. Want to know what everyone thinks about have just Zoom Meetings. We have the facilities here until December. So the November Meeting is the last one there and then we have Meetings again from February.

We could put it out in next newsletter for input from Members and discuss at the next General Meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Jennina Boer**

- If we have a guest on the Long Weekend what do we need to do.
 - He will just need to pay for his meal.

- **Phillip Sparkes**

- Has BBQs been resolved.
 - 1 was reborn. 1 should be fine. The 2 Burner BBQs need to be thrown out.

- **Christopher Keevers**

- Last Race Day I happened to be in the opportune position of being in front of the Fleet heading toward the Marker at Green Point where I picked the wrong one. My vision is not what it used to be and those Lake Macquarie Markers are very dull. Needless to say I still finished 3rd in the Race and was still quite happy.

- **Brian Harrison**

- Just adding to the comment that Chris made about the Bouys, I have been informed that all the Yacht Club Marks within Lake Macquarie are going to be painted exactly the same and the only thing defining will be the LMYC written on them. What could possibly go wrong!

- Top Yacht meeting. I had an hour with the Business Manager and their main Software Developer. It was an hour long. The first half of it we explored what we do, how we do it and how we score. They had no idea what I was talking about with CBH. Their Developer kept saying it will be the same as Yard Stick. I let that lay and then we went into a live demo of their system. The system is actually going live tomorrow. Whilst we were going through that, a lot of it was very similar to what we have got. As in what buttons, what processes etc., slight name changes. They kept banging on how good it is. It's online and you can do it anywhere you like. We kept on playing with it and eventually we got to the part in the demonstration where we input a bunch of boats, times & handicaps. Press go. He said "How's that?" I said "It's all wrong". I said the formula for calculating CBH is the CBH x the elapsed time. Their Business Manager kept saying no, no, it's the Yard Stick x 100 divided by elapsed time. I said "No. That's how you calculate Yard Stick. Just look at the numbers you have got on the screen. The numbers we were playing with were a CBH of .6ish and an elapsed time of 50 minutes. So .6 of 50 should be around the mid 30ish range and you've got a 133. So wrong. Eventually I got them to understand. They will take a corrective action. We are the first mob who they have come across them for CBH. They are extremely keen to keep working with me to try and satisfy the CBH Bug because clearly there are a heap of other players who play CBH. We've made a deal and we will talk to each other and work through stuff with the intent that in our Autumn Series we might go live at that point.

Top Yacht in its current form is very clunky. It is painful when you want to do a correction, because once you type someone's name in that's it for the rest of the season.

This system is modern. Will be able to make corrections on the fly and just from that point of view it will make life a lot easier. Multiple people will be able to log into the system but they will be given different levels on what they can do. I am keen for that because once I start putting in results I don't want someone changing them.

- Is the Club happy for me to continue working with Top Yacht on this.
Agreed by all.

➤ **John Pateman**

- Going on holidays for October to November. I can still do Newsletter. However for the October one I need everyone's input to the Newsletter by no later than the Saturday after the Long Weekend. The November one I really need everyone's input by the 8th or 9th because I will be holidays.

No other business.

Meeting Closed: 8.25 pm

Karen Armitage

NHTYA Secretary

Off The Beach Racing Results

13 Sep 25

Yardstick

Race 1		Race Start	12:31:00						
Name	Boat Name	Class	Sail No	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	Yardstick	Corrected Time	Place	
Roger York	Laser	Laser	161199	13:58:52	1:27:52	114.0	1:17:05	1	
John Pateman	Brumby VII	Laser	98983	14:01:00	1:30:00	114.0	1:18:57	2	
Brian Harrison	Not as Sirius	Weta 1up SQ	842	13:55:51	1:24:51	95.0	1:29:19	3	
Tom Howell	Knot Normal	Maricat - Cat - GRP Hull	1659	13:57:14	1:26:14	96.0	1:29:50	4	
Andrew Dyce	Lifted	Maricat - Cat - GRP Hull	0009	13:58:05	1:27:05	96.0	1:30:43	5	
Doug Dyce	This side up	Maricat - Sloop	650	14:03:28	1:32:28	95.0	1:37:20	6	

Personal Handicap

Race 1		Race Start	12:31:00						
Name	Boat Name	Sail No	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	ACH	BCH	CH	CT	Place
John Pateman	Brumby VII	98983	14:01:00	1:30:00	0.9129	0.9428	0.9229	1:23:04	1
Andrew Dyce	Lifted	0009	13:58:05	1:27:05	0.9718	0.9744	0.9727	1:24:42	2
Roger York	Laser	161199	13:58:52	1:27:52	0.9731	0.9657	0.9706	1:25:17	3
Brian Harrison	Not as Sirius	842	13:55:51	1:24:51	1.0867	1.0000	1.0578	1:29:45	4
Doug Dyce	This side up	650	14:03:28	1:32:28	1.0043	0.9176	0.9754	1:30:12	5
Tom Howell	Knot Normal	1659	13:57:14	1:26:14	1.0848	0.9840	1.0512	1:30:39	6
Valerie Harrison			OOD						

Yardstick

Race 2		Race Start	14:08:00						
Name	Boat Name	Class	Sail No	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	Yardstick	Corrected Time	Place	
Roger York	Laser	Laser	161199	14:36:06	0:28:06	114.0	0:24:39	1	
Brian Harrison	Not as Sirius	Weta 1up SQ	842	14:31:41	0:23:41	95.0	0:24:56	2	
John Pateman	Brumby VII	Laser	98983	14:38:18	0:30:18	114.0	0:26:35	3	
Tom Howell	Knot Normal	Maricat - Cat - GRP Hull	1659	14:34:04	0:26:04	96.0	0:27:09	4	
Andrew Dyce	Lifted	Maricat - Cat - GRP Hull	0009	14:36:50	0:28:50	96.0	0:30:02	5	
Doug Dyce	This side up	Maricat - Sloop	650	DNS	#VALUE!	95.0	#VALUE!	6	
Valerie Harrison				OOD					

Personal Handicap

Race 2		Race Start	14:08:00						
Name	Boat Name	Sail No	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	ACH	BCH	CH	CT	Place
John Pateman	Brumby VII	98983	14:31:41	0:23:41	0.9229	1.2794	1.0417	0:24:40	1
Roger York	Laser	161199	14:36:06	0:28:06	0.9706	1.0783	1.0065	0:28:17	2
Tom Howell	Knot Normal	1659	14:34:04	0:26:04	1.0512	1.1624	1.0882	0:28:22	3
Andrew Dyce	Lifted	0009	14:36:50	0:28:50	0.9727	1.0509	0.9987	0:28:48	4
Brian Harrison	Not as Sirius	842	14:38:18	0:30:18	1.0578	1.0000	1.0385	0:31:28	5
Doug Dyce	This side up	650	DNS	#VALUE!	0.9754	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	6
Valerie Harrison			OOD						

Yardstick

Race 3		Race Start	14:43:00						
Name	Boat Name	Class	Sail No	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	Yardstick	Corrected Time	Place	
Brian Harrison	Not as Sirius	Weta 1up SQ	842	15:04:53	0:21:53	95.0	0:23:02	1	
Tom Howell	Knot Normal	Maricat - Cat - GRP Hull	1659	15:05:50	0:22:50	96.0	0:23:47	2	
Roger York	Laser	Laser	161199	15:11:03	0:28:03	114.0	0:24:36	3	
John Pateman	Brumby VII	Laser	98983	15:12:33	0:29:33	114.0	0:25:55	4	
Andrew Dyce	Lifted	Maricat - Cat - GRP Hull	0009	15:10:47	0:27:47	96.0	0:28:56	5	
Doug Dyce	This side up	Maricat - Sloop	650	15:14:12	0:31:12	95.0	0:32:51	6	
Valerie Harrison				OOD					

Personal Handicap

Race 3		Race Start	14:43:00							
Name	Boat Name	Sail No	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	ACH	BCH	CH	CT	Place	
Roger York	Laser	161199	15:04:53	0:21:53	1.0065	1.2818	1.0983	0:24:02	1	
John Pateman	Brumby VII	98983	15:05:50	0:22:50	1.0417	1.2285	1.1040	0:25:12	2	
Andrew Dyce	Lifted	0009	15:10:47	0:27:47	0.9987	1.0096	1.0024	0:27:51	3	
Brian Harrison	Not as Sirius	842	15:11:03	0:28:03	1.0385	1.0000	1.0257	0:28:46	4	
Doug Dyce	This side up	650	15:14:12	0:31:12	0.9754	0.8990	0.9500	0:29:38	5	
Tom Howell	Knot Normal	1659	15:12:33	0:29:33	1.0882	0.9492	1.0419	0:30:47	6	
Valerie Harrison			OOD							

RACING UPDATE – October 2025

By Peter Melbourne, Race Officer



THE SPRING SERIES HAS STARTED SPECTACULARLY

With the rare expectation of good weather for a whole weekend and crews wanting to shake off a long winter, we were ecstatic to have 16 boats and eager crews turn up to race on Saturday morning the 6 Sept. Even with the Sunday being Fathers Day, we still had 14 boats. It was great to see some new boats and some that haven't raced for a while. Race reports are in this newsletter.

3 AND 6 HOUR RACE REGATTA – OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND (4 TO 6 OCTOBER)

This weekend was HUGE!!!

- 23 boats and crews. Bolstered by 7 visiting Castle 650s.
- Perfect weather for the race days.
- Ever expanding Happy Hour camp chair circle after each race.
- The two noisiest tables at the Catalina Bowling Club on Saturday night.
- Great dinner in the park on Sunday night and an exciting NRL Grand Final screened.
- Everyone coming together to help retrieve boats at the ramp in the strong NW wind on Monday morning and celebrating intact gelcoats over breakfast.

A huge thanks to those who made the event such a success:

- Brian and Val who put in a huge effort since February in organizing the sailing of the NSW Castle Championships. Ran the most complicated OOD on Saturday combining a scratch start for the Castles in the middle of a handicap start sequence for club boats. Brian calculating race results for both the Castles and NHTYA fleets. And finally setting up the NRL Grand Final screening. No wonder they looked like "shot ducks" on Sunday night!
- Tania and Ken for the organization of the dinner on Sunday night and the Monday morning breakfast.
- David and Sandra Denahy for being such competent OOD on Sunday in the best looking start boat we've had.
- Robert for being ramp and beach marshal/assistant.
- Tom and Hart for the last-minute Safe Equipment Audits.
- And thankyou for everyone else in how you made our guests feel so welcome and pitching in when help was needed.

SPRING SERIES, RACES 3&4, 18 & 19 OCTOBER 2025

IMPORTANT NOTE

As was the case in the last two years, our racing coincides with the Lake Mac Action Fest (formerly Fast and Loud). This year there is an expanded program of events including powerboat racing at Warners Bay and Rathmines, aerobatic display by Matt Hall (Red Bull Racing fame), car and motorbike show at Speers Pt and an Agriculture Show at Morisset Showground.

The biggest impact for us is that **F Jetty and the Rathmines ramp will not be available** and there is an exclusion zone in the bay near Rathmines. Styles Point is still available for us. We will start and finish our races past Rathmines Point and we will use **VHF channel 71** as 72 and 77 are used by powerboat organizers.

All local arrangements will be made clear at the pre-race briefings.

CAT 7 SAFETY EQUIPMENT AUDITS

Our club (and Sailing Australia) requires that all boats that race to have completed a Category 7 Safety Equipment audit. Notice is given that trailer sailer boats not audited before Races 3 and 4 on the 18 & 19 October 2025, will be disqualified from the results. If your boat has not been audited, you need to make immediate arrangements with Hart Peters or Phil Sparkes.

SPRING SERIES OFFICER OF THE DAY ROSTER

18 Oct 25 OOD Jocimo	Race 3	19 Oct 25 OOD True North	Race 4
15 Nov 25 OOD Amethyst	Race 5	16 Nov 25 OOD Biddy Too	Race 6
06 Dec 25 OOD Deja vu	Race 7	07 Dec 25 OOD Ivy May	Race 8

RACE REPORTS



3hr Race (Saturday)

For the past three years, we have tried a race format that is different to our normal racing series. This adds interest, fun and challenge to the season.

The 3hr Race is a handicap start (or stern chaser). Brian our handicapper estimates the expected duration of the race and then works out an individual start time based on each boat's PBH. The start sequence started at 11:30 with the Castles doing a bunch start at 11:50 based on *Araluen's* PBH.

A South East course was set. Lake Macquarie really turned on ideal conditions which varied from drifter to 12 knots with a late swing to the NE.

An interesting challenge was navigating through the Australian Youth Sail events which was fully booked out. Great to see so many young sailors taking up the sport.

6hr Race (Sunday)

Another perfect day with winds a bit lighter from the NW and weather a bit warmer. An early briefing and an hour's less sleep due to Daylight Saving Time being introduced overnight. Divisions 1&2 were away for a mini loop of the Lake at 10:00, Castles away at 10:15 and Division 3 away at 10:30.

Once around Coal Point, it was a work up to the Toronto mark in shifting conditions. Those with Spinnakers popped their kites as we headed to Albert mark way up in Belmont Bay, trying to avoid the wind shadow off Cardiff Pt. This leg also meant shooting the small gaps in the Youth Sail fleets who were in different locations to yesterday.

It was continued downwind sailing all the way to Pulbah Island. "How close will I cut the Island?" It proved that a wider course worked best this time. "Where is the Sand Island mark?" Fortunately those with chart plotters were able to find the stump of the mark which was only about 300mm above the water line. They let the rest of us know the location. Looks like it has been hit by a powerboat.

Back around Wangi and a tricky work into the wind to Fishing Point and home.

It was a genuine 6hr Race (the Castles taking 5hrs in good Castle weather). A long race but it is meant to be that with crews making suitable adjustments.

It was a great race, certainly compared to last year where we were blasted off the course! Results are kept secret till our Presentation Night mid next year. So you'll just have to speculate.

The Race and Management Committees will do a review of the weekend's events but not while we are still vulnerable with fatigue.





Castle NSW Championships

About 18 months ago, an Australian Castle Yacht Association was formed. There are two Castle designs, a 550 and the more popular 650. The Castles were manufactured as a self-assembly kit from the mid 1980s to the mid 2000s. Their sailing performance has made them popular racers with bigger fleets in Victoria where they were built, Canberra, Port Kembla and the 4 Castles in our club.

Back in February this year I received a phone call from Michael Collins, the NSW committee representative (*Coffee Time*) about the running of the first NSW Championships. We thought that an easy start would be for them to join our October Long Weekend event and we could make provisions for them to run concurrently with our existing program.

We were thrilled to have entries from 11 boats, 2 all the way up from Victoria (including the current National Champion), 1 from Queensland, two from Port Kembla, 3 from our own club plus some others.

The boats started together with handicap adjustments made for non spinnaker boats. One design racing is always close and enjoyable racing.

The visiting Castle sailors really enjoyed their time and appreciated the warmth of our club's welcome.

Congratulations to local boats *Araluen* who came equal 2nd on points but 3rd on countback, *True North* was 5th and *Biddy* 2, 7th.

Crewing in the 3 & 6 Hour Race



I have read race reports which describe in detail the fortunes and occasional misfortunes of the race participants, how the ranking changed during the race, together with the results and lots of other tit bits. I did explain to Peter M that I wouldn't be able to record those things because I just wasn't in possession of that information. Though I did hear something about a keel-up start and I know for sure that another Sonata quacked across the start fully six minutes late though that was nothing to do with the skipper.

So, yet again, having sworn I needed a bigger boat after overnighting in Tin Can Bay with son

William on the Cole 19, I welcomed the opportunity to crew for Barry on Free Spirit for the 3 hour race on the Saturday. Barry had launched the afternoon before, but we rigged Saturday morning. That was a new experience for me on the Noelex and it went well, with Barry the master of his craft. One or two smooth manoeuvres later we were over the line and racing.

I was immediately impressed with the Noelex's ease of movement through the water. We were moving quickly but seemingly not in a hurry. The next thing that impressed was the efficiency and ease of tacking. There seems less to do, which would be helpful when sailing without a crew. In addition, sailing with someone with Barry's experience always helps the learning. Thanks Barry.





Sunday was another great day with the six hour race around the Lake followed up with great food and good company. I had intended to go to Sydney to see my daughter, Steph, on the Sunday, but after a phone call from Garry I ended up crewing on Coconut Duck and Steph drove to the Lake for a sail. So, yes, after one thing or another, we crossed the start six minutes late,

which didn't help the competitiveness, but hell we learned a lot! When one is used to



one's own boat and then crews on another, a range of differences become obvious but that really doesn't explain the number of stalls, round ups and poor tacks that occurred on my time at the helm. Of course Garry was busy, adjusting the sails and polling out etc to compensate but you can only do so much. In my defence I would say inconsistent wind strength and direction provided lots of opportunities to make mistakes and it is true, that

combined with Garry's clear explanations, I learned a lot about lifts and knocks. A review of the GPS track was also informative.

I had been a little concerned that Steph would find six or so hours a little too much for a first experience, but that wasn't the case. She totally enjoyed it and had total confidence in the skipper. Thanks Garry.

When the Castle Association rep offered a few words on Sunday evening he referred to the spirit of helpfulness in our club. He was spot on. An excellent weekend. Thanks to all.



MERCHANDISE

Stocks of NHTYA Club caps, coolers and Burgees - contact Phillip 0414 223654

Caps \$25 each



Stubby Holders \$5 each



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2025			Activity	Location	Contact	Pts	Extra Info
Oct	11 - 12	Sat - Sun	OTB ????	F Jetty ????	Brian Harrison 0421979452		
Oct	18 - 19	Sat - Sun	Race 3 & 4	Styles Pt	Peter Melbourne 0412 278 567	2	
Oct	21	Tue	General Meeting	Club Macquarie	Ken Hill 0400 208 553		
Oct	25 - 26	Sat - Sun					
Nov	1 - 2	Sat - Sun	Cruise	?	?	2	
Nov	8 - 9	Sat - Sun					
Nov	15 - 16	Sat - Sun	Race 5 & 6	Styles Pt	Peter Melbourne 0412 278 567	2	
Nov	18	Tue	General Meeting	Club Macquarie	Ken Hill 0400 208 553		
Nov	22 - 23	Sat - Sun	Cruise			2	
Nov	29 - 30	Sat - Sun	OTB	F Jetty	Brian Harrison 0421 979 452		
Dec	6 - 7	Sat - Sun	Race 7 & 8	Styles Pt	Peter Melbourne 0412 278 567	2	Xmas Party Saturday Night
Dec	13		OTB	F Jetty	Brian Harrison 0421 979 452		
Dec/Jan	27 - 3	Sat - Sat	Myalls Cruise	Myall Lakes	?	2	New Year's Eve Party

2026			Activity	Location	Contact	Pts	Extra Info
Dec/Jan	31-1	Wed-Thu	Cruise	Myalls	?	2	
Jan	3-4	Sat-Sun					
Jan	10-11	Sat-Sun	OTB	F Jetty	Brian Harrison 0421 979 452		
Jan	17-18	Sat-Sun	Race 1&2	Styles	Peter Melbourne 0412278567	2	
Jan	24-26	Sat-Mon	Cruise	Lake Macquarie	?	2	Australia Day Weekend
Jan/Feb	31-1	Sat-Sun					
Feb	7-8	Sat-Sun	Race 3&4	Styles	Peter Melbourne 0412278567	2	
Feb	14-15	Sat-Sun	OTB	F Jetty	Brian Harrison 0421 979 452		
Feb	17	Tue	Meeting	Club Macquarie	Ken Hill 0400208553		
Feb	21-22	Sat-Sun	Cruise	?	?	2	
Feb/Mar	28-1	Sat-Sun					
Mar	7-8	Sat-Sun	Race 5&6	Styles	Peter Melbourne 0412278567	2	Marlay Point Overnight Race
Mar	14-15	Sat-Sun	OTB	F Jetty	Brian Harrison 0421 979 452		
Mar	17	Tue	Meeting	Club Macquarie	Ken Hill 0400208553		
Mar	21-22	Sat-Sun	Cruise	?	?	2	
Mar	28-29	Sat-Sun					
Apr	3-6	Fri-Mon	Cruise	Myalls?	?	2	Easter Cruise
Apr	11-12	Sat-Sun	Race 7&8	Styles	Peter Melbourne 0412278567	2	
Apr	14	Tue	Meeting	Club Macquarie	Ken Hill 0400208553		
Apr	18-19	Sat-Sun	OTB	F Jetty	Brian Harrison 0421 979 452	2	
Apr	25-27	Sat-Mon	Cruise	?	?	2	Anzac long Weekend
May	3-4	Sat-Sun					Bay to Bay
May	9-10	Sat-Sun	OTB	F Jetty	Brian Harrison 0421 979 452		Mothers Day
May	16-17	Sat-Sun	Race 9&10	F Jetty	Peter Melbourne 0412278567	2	
May	19	Tue	Meeting	Club Macquarie	Ken Hill 0400208553		
May	23-24	Sat-Sun	Cruise ?	?	?	2	
May	30-31	Sat-Sun					
Jun	6-8	Sat-Mon	Away Race	Keepit Dam	Brian Harrison 0421979452		King's Birthday

Jun	13-14	Sat-Sun					
Jun	16	Tue	Meeting	Club Macquarie	Ken Hill 0400208553		
Jun	20-21	Sat-Sun					
Jun	27	Sat	Presentation Night				