

AUSTRALIA DAY RAFTUP

Another fantastic day for all those who attended. The best turnout the club has ever had with over 15 boats at North Arm Cove. The weather gods smiled on us, it was hot with a light northeaster in the afternoon. During the afternoon when the breeze picked up a group of club boats tied to NEXT ADVENTURE went for a group drift, luckily someone was sober enough to notice and all ended well with them returning to the anchorage. The thirteen boats all rafted to the club moorings also moved in the breeze causing a shift in two of the moorings positions, these have since been moved back into place.

RUBBER DUCK RACE

The Rubber Duck race was well contested with Shane Hards in "Max" the tender off KAOS winning the event. Running a close second was Brian Clulow from DEBUT TU.

TWIST TOP CHALLENGE

The team from VARIATION (Craig Doran, Jenny McColl and Richard White) won the drinking race. This was closely contested. Participation in this event was excellent - could it have been the free beer??

PIE EATING CONTEST

WOW what a race Darrell McNally (MARLIN 3) beat Brian Clulow (DEBUT TU) by half a swallow.

BEST DRESSED BOAT

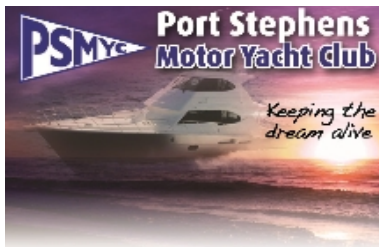
This was won by KAOS.

BEST DRESSED MALE and FEMALE

This was won by Brad Noble (IRONIC) and Jann Ward (PACIFIC ADVENTURE).

LIFE JACKET RACE

This was won by Jenny Scott on KIRONA.



RADIO OPERATORS COURSE

14 Members attended the radio operator's course on Tuesday 22nd March. The course was very well presented and all those that sat for their certificate exam afterwards passed.

FISHING TOURNAMENTSat 5th February

Seven boats entered the annual fishing competition. Among these seven boats were the cream of marlin fishing fraternity names like DIVERSON GUNRUNNER BLUEWATER PIZZAZ are known as champion boats with champion crews.

A new boat called SHELBY (replacement for FROSTY) a Viking52 with a crew that had previously won this event blitzed the field tagging 3 Marlin and a short billed spearfish.

It was great to see that Mick and crew on SCORPION tagged a marlin and lost another - great work boys.

NEW BOATS

Congratulations to Janelle and Eric Bulley on the arrival of their new baby a 47 Riviera enclosed (BULLEYE).

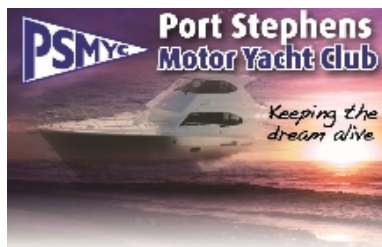
Congratulations to Sue and Brian Clulow on the arrival of their new boat a Maritimo 470 (ENCORE).

COMINGS AND GOINGS

It's that time of year again with the marina emptying out and boats moving north for the winter.

KAOS is at Mackay and is heading for Cairns.

BULLEYE (new) is at Mackay and heading to Whitsunday's.



ENCORE is heading north to Whitsunday's.

DIVERSON is heading to Cairns.

BLUEWATER is at Bundaberg.

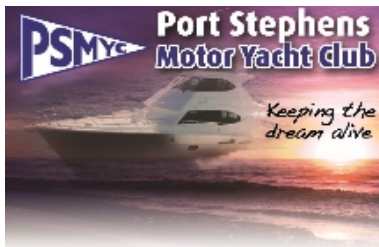
IGFA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

A team of anglers representing Australia and the NPSGFC went to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico in early May to the IGFA World Game Fishing Championships. 60 teams representing 25 countries from around the world participated.

Our team consisting of Club members Mark Lamb (ANARCHY) Peter Williams & Brett Bradbury (KAOS) and Darren Lewis (DI DA KE) managed a very credible 11th. They caught a total of 8 Striped Marlin over 4 days. Well done boys.

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

- ✓ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
19TH AUGUST (Friday)
- ✓ HAWKESBURY TRIP
27TH AUGUST (Saturday)
- ✓ XMAS PARTY DINNER DANCE
25TH NOVEMBER (Friday)
- ✓ COMMODORES SURPRISE DAY
3rd DECEMBER (Saturday)
- ✓ AUSTRALIA DAY RAFTUP
26TH JANUARY (Thursday)
- ✓ LAKE MACQUARIE TRIP
21st JANUARY (Saturday)
- ✓ ANNUAL FISHING COMP.
4th FEBRUARY (Saturday)
- ✓ BOAT TRIAL AND BBQ
21 APRIL (Saturday)



MEMBERSHIP DUES

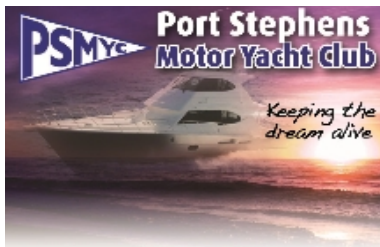
It's that time of year again. Your new membership card and dues account will be arriving in the mail. Please pay them promptly.

Lord Howe Island Adventure

The skippers of Halcyon VI, Kaos and Yolo anxiously monitored the weather forecast in the week leading up to the planned departure to Lord Howe on Saturday second of April. As the departure time approached it became clear that there was a small window of weather open for our 40 hour trip to the middle of the Tasman Sea. We did however face a southerly change forecast for the first 12 hours and with this knowledge bravely decided that we should head off. We threw the lines at 10 AM on Saturday, waving goodbye to a small party of family and well-wishers left on the Marina.

After about three hours we were greeted by the forecasted southerly change with seas rising to 3 m and a fresh breeze 25 to 30kn on the beam. This made conditions quite uncomfortable for the next 12 hours. We arrived at Barcoo seamount at 10 AM next morning with high expectation of catching some game fish. After two or three hours we all concluded that it was best to head off as no one had a strike. This was a little disappointing as we all anticipated this to be a rich fishing ground. We set course and speed to arrive at Balls Pyramid 10 miles south-east of Lord Howe Island to arrive at dawn the next day. All three boats arrived on schedule to be greeted by a spectacular sunrise and an awesome rock spire.

After taking in the view we cruised to the lagoon at Lord Howe Island to be chaperoned in by the resident police officer/waterways/customs/good bloke, Andrew Mackay. Yolo and Kaos took up residence on moorings in the passage and Halcyon VI was guided to a mooring on the eastern side of Blackburn Island.



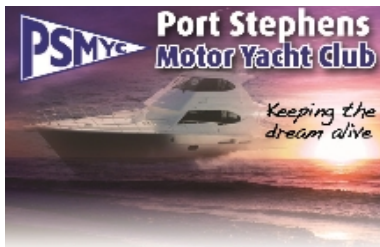
Next day saw the weather turn foul. A blustery south-easterly over 40 knots produced 6 m seas that pounded onto the coral reefs outside the lagoon. We were safely moored, however at high tide the swell penetrated the lagoon making it uncomfortable on the moorings particularly at night. The current in the lagoon was unfavourable placing all the boats abeam to the sea.

The next two weeks were spent enjoying the sites, walks, diving, golfing, dining and fishing in and around this wonderful island.

There were some crew changes along the way and on 16 April the 3 boats set off for Elizabeth Reef for some fishing and diving. The reef is approximately 100 miles due north of Lord Howe, so we planned our departure at sunset to arrive at dawn. The fleet anchored on the northern side of Elizabeth Reef, enjoyed a hearty breakfast and began fishing. Those on Halcyon VI planned to explore the under water while the others enticed the fish to their bait. At around 8 AM Peter was on the radio enquiring as to when we were planning to leave for Middleton Reef. Kaos caught so many fish in that short time and all the freezers were full. The divers played with the cod and sharks.

At mid-morning we set off for Middleton Reef arriving there just after lunch. The crew on Kaos picked up some tuna and that evening we had a feast of sushimi that fed us all as we gathered for a barbecue on Halcyon VI that evening. We explored the wrecks on Middleton Island both above and below the water. There were some exciting dives with bronze whaler sharks who were very interested in our activities. On one dive we counted around 40 circling above us. They were placid and did not interfere, fortunately.

The anchorage at Middleton Reef is on the north-western corner where the reef forms a reasonably sheltered bay. The anchor can be dropped on sand and the holding is reasonable. Whilst we were there we experienced a south easterly breeze between 15 and 25kn over the two days. The moorings were reasonably comfortable with the wind holding the boats into the sea. The sunsets were spectacular and the feeling of isolation to be in such a pristine place in the middle of the South Pacific was awesome.



The weather conditions for our journey back to Queensland were perfect. We had a slight south-easterly breeze all the way home which made the cruise very comfortable and uneventful. Kaos and Yolo made the course for Southport and Halcyon VI headed for Tweed Heads.

This was a great trip and one we hope to repeat in a couple of years. We hope that there will be a bigger fleet next time.

The Commodore