



# **Albatross**

**Volume 34**

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**April 2008**



*'Sea Fever of Hobart' in Barnes Bay – Photo: Margaret Benjamin*

***Newsletter of the  
Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania***



# THE CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA INC.

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*Ketch on the Derwent. Photo courtesy of Archives Office Tasmania*

## Editorial



As is often the case, March in southern Tasmania turned out to be excellent for the cruising fraternity. With long periods of dry weather and little wind most days, it has been a great time to be on the water, although somewhat frustrating if you prefer wind power to that of diesel and can't wait for the afternoon sea breeze.

Unfortunately, due to commitments elsewhere, we have not been able to take *Margaret Ellen* to the last few CYCT cruises. However, we did manage a couple of nights away midweek in March, with one night in Norfolk Bay (Flinders Bay) and the second at Nubeena. The ever reliable Gardner was our motive power for most of the trip as a glassy calm had descended on Norfolk Bay. We were able to at least hoist a sail or two on the way round to Nubeena, but that was more for comfort in the small swell than to provide forward motion. The return trip across Storm Bay was in flat calm conditions, the highlights being the company of two or three dolphins riding our bow wave for twenty minutes or so, and the sight of thousands of mutton birds congregating in readiness for their incredible journey north. The older I get, the more amazed I become at Mother Nature and her works.

It's time to start planning for the Donald Sutherland Memorial Navigation Cruise, to be held this year on May 10<sup>th</sup>. More details will be included in next month's 'Albatross', but now is the time to start putting a crew together and swotting up on chart reading, using a compass, and other related skills. If you have not taken part before, rest assured, the event is not terribly taxing. The emphasis is more on fun than mental stress, although it is a good opportunity to practise basic navigation skills in familiar waters. Chris and Nick Creese are organising this year's event, and while they are playing their cards very close to their collective chests, opportunities for electronic assistance are expected to be minimal. Once again, the day will end with dinner at the Mermaid Café in Kettering, a supporter of the CYCT through its advertising and a venue greatly enjoyed by all who took part in the previous couple of navigation cruises. (You should try the seafood chowder for lunch some time – we have visitors from Melbourne who always demand to be taken there to renew their acquaintance with it as soon as they arrive!)

Finally, time is running out if you wish to be in the running for the Editor's Prize of a bottle of good port for the best article to appear in 'Albatross' in 2007-08. The rules are simple - I get to decide the winner. End of story. Have a go! The more contributions from members, the better the newsletter.

**Chris Palmer**  
[editor@cyct.org.au](mailto:editor@cyct.org.au)

## Commodore's Comments



A beautiful March long weekend provided plenty of opportunity to enjoy our waterways. Several yachts sporting the Albatross burgee made their way to the Cygnet Regatta, and enjoyed the hospitality of the Port Cygnet Sailing Club. The regatta has developed into a great success over the past few years, and the organizers deserve full credit. It is a small Club, with a big heart.

Also, on that weekend, Club boats were involved in the "Clean Up Australia" campaign, concentrating on the Great Taylor Bay area. The organizer was William Reynolds, on his boat *Rhumblin*. He did a great job, allocating areas to specific boats, providing rubbish bags, and arranging for their collection by barges supplied by Tassal and Huon Aquaculture. Over 70 bags of rubbish were taken away. CYCT boats, *Reflections* and *Windrush* cleared the Mickeys Bay anchorage. The good news was that there was little rubbish around the shoreline. Most of the rubbish collected was in the bracken behind the beach, and all of it appeared to be several years old. It seems that boaties have got the message.

All in all, I was proud to be a part of the cleanup. It was pleasing to see the dozen or so boats involved. It was pleasing to see the enthusiasm and of the volunteers. It was pleasing to be part of the camaraderie of the volunteers at the post cleanup barbecue. It was pleasing to see the support of sponsors, who provided prizes to reward volunteers. It was pleasing to see the fish farm operators involved in the cleanup. It was pleasing to see the rubbish taken away. And, most importantly, it was pleasing to note that the foreshore in the area is cleaner now than in my living memory.

Let's keep it that way!

**Leo Foley**



## Vice Commodore's Report



Andrew Boon has been in Port Davey for a couple of weeks and has been unable to send a report.

Those who know Andrew well and have some idea of his ability to get information to and from a boat wherever it may be will probably be surprised to hear this!

Details of forthcoming cruises can be found in the Cruising Calendar on page 17 or accessed on the Club's website.

Ed

## Rear Commodore's Report



Unfortunately, at the time of going to press, we have no Rear Commodore's report to offer you. Details of the April General Meeting can be found on page 12.

The photograph below, courtesy of Dave Davey, shows one of the March General Meeting guests, Jack Allen, being watched as he hangs a net at the DSS. Jack normally makes nets for CH Smith at Sullivan's Cove, but will make them to order for individuals. Get in touch with Milton Cunningham for Jack's contact details.

Ed



# Fish Farms at Night.

From Keith Wells

Following the usual excellent barbecue at the Port Cygnet Yacht Club on Saturday night (7th March) Commodore Leo Foley and I (in Windrush) decided to head for Mickeys Bay there and then - 2210hrs - rather than make a very early start next day.

Flashing fish farm lights kept us guessing all the way. How near are they?

Heading down Port Cygnet there is a very bright array of lights dead ahead with flashing lights on either hand.

Where do you go?

It must be added that there was no moon, clouds had completely obscured all the stars and the Commodore likened it to the inside of a cow! (How does he know that?)

No silhouettes of dark hills against the sky to get some reference points.

The bright array of lights turned out to be a fish farm shore installation on the south western shore of the Huon River and would be an excellent mark to head towards when you know it.

Once in the Huon there are the fish farm lights off Garden Island, Butts Reef light, Huon Island Light, Zuidpool Rock light, fish farm lights along the SW shore of the Huon all the way to Huon Point, fish farm lights in the lease south of the Zuidpool light and more fish farm lights in Great Taylor Bay to fill the eye and be sorted out.

These lights were the only things that we could see!

Some of the newer installations of the fish farm lights, SW Huon shore, Zuidpool and Great Taylor Bay, are synchronized and flash together which makes their identification easy. Well done MAST and the farm owners for being modern! I understand that the lights are all fitted with GPS timing programs which is great.

I became aware of the significant difference between fish farm lights and navigation lights being yellow vs white, but very difficult to be sure on such a dark night with so many lights in action, until one gets within about 1/4 mile.

As always Butts Reef is never where you think it is (visually)! I've never been in the Huon River, day or night, without wondering when I'll get it right!.

Finally (0135hrs), we made our entrance to Mickeys Bay and dropped anchor between two boats already at anchor, one with a mast head light and one without! Thank goodness for the radar (which was so essential on the whole trip) because the unlit boat was completely invisible on such a "cow's insides" night.

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# Clean Up Australia Day

## Part 1

Keith Wells reports:



This photo was taken on the western beach at Mickey's Bay during the clean-up organized by William Reynolds, *Rhumblin*.

It speaks for itself! (The dinghy remains the property of *Windrush*)

*Windrush* and *Reflections* were the two Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania boats participating among some ten or more from other clubs.

There were over 70 bags of rubbish collected by those involved plus extra collected by the Tassal people aboard their barge.

It was a great exercise in co-operation carried out in a very friendly manner.

All in all it was a great weekend, combining the Cygnet Regatta, excellent boating conditions, the clean-up and some (usual) CYCT barbecues.

## Part 2

From William Reynolds – *Rhumblin* – organiser of the Great Taylors Bay Clean Up

### Thank you!

On Sunday 9 March 2008 around 20 boats and over 50 volunteers helped to clean up part of Tasmania's coastline. In a collateral effort, the group rendezvoused in Tinpot Bay at the southern end of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and collected over 60 bags of rubbish or the equivalent of a 20 tonne truck load from 5 nautical miles of coast from Lighthouse Jetty Beach to the Quarries.



The site co-ordinator William Reynolds of Rhumblin said “The support for the cleanup from yachties was fantastic, and made easier with the assistance of business and government, in particular Tassal, Mures Seafood Restaurant and Fishing, Huon Aquaculture, Cascade Brewery, Marine and Safety Tasmania, and Peter Johnsons Ship Chandlers.

This is an inaccessible area by vehicles so co-ordinating the clean up was a challenging exercise. Thankfully the fish farms were there to help out. It was fantastic to see businesses working together to help preserve our marine environment.

Tassal and Huon Aquaculture and their staff are to be congratulated on their proactive approach to this cause. Mures Fishing also donated fuel which allowed the volunteers to be dropped along the coast to cover a wider area. It was a great example of how a community, business and government can work together in a small but invaluable way to reduce our impact on the natural environment.”

The following vessels, owners and crew are thanked for their assistance:

*Celidah*

*Circinus*

*Epsilon*

*Grogodile*

*Infarra\$*

*Maybe*

*Midnight Passage*

*Midnight Sun*

*Morticia* (Huon Aquaculture)

*Resolution*

*Rhumblin*

*Shanandoah*

*Tassal*

*Windrush*

It is intended to conduct the campaign again next year in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and all yacht clubs will be invited to participate. Everyone in our community can play a role in making our environment cleaner so that the next time they walk along the beach, maybe all they see is the scenery and footprints in the sand.



Huon Aquaculture and Tassal fish farm boats rafting up to work together, with the yachties in the background.



Tassal's work boat standing aside for collection of rubbish from volunteers.



Volunteers making a difference to the beach in North Tinpot. 5 bags from just 50 metres.



The crew on Tassal's work boats.



Some of the rubbish collected from just 5 nautical miles of Bruny's coastline.



The volunteers having a break at the end of the cleanup.



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## Member's Classifieds

----- FOR SALE -----



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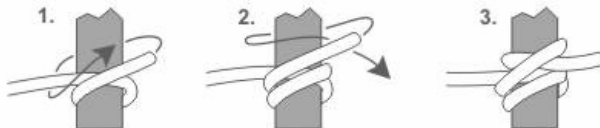
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### ROLLING HITCH

The Rolling Hitch is a secure and easy to tie method of fastening a rope to a post. The knot holds firmly in the direction of the standing line. Not for use by climbers though.



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# April Meeting — Tuesday 1st April

The April meeting will be held at the State Library of Tasmania. It will be an opportunity to view an exhibition on Tasmanian Regattas and hear a presentation by Senior Librarian Marian Jameson.



Drinks and nibbles will be provided, and at approximately 8.00pm the meeting will adjourn to the New Sydney Hotel.

## Tasmanian Regattas

Note the different time and location!

State Library of Tasmania

Bathurst Street, Hobart

6.00 for 6.30pm

Entry after 6.30pm cannot be guaranteed due to security requirements



## Going About

*This section of 'Albatross' is devoted to news items, snippets and short articles relevant to members' interests. All contributions gratefully received. Ed.*

### MAST Recreational Boating Fund

Club members may remember reading correspondence between the CYCT Committee and MAST regarding the allocation of Recreational Boating Funds (RBF) in the last issue of 'Albatross'.

As if on cue, application forms for the 2008-09 round of funding have popped up in boat owners' mailboxes during the last few days.

Your Committee is of the view that owners of cruising boats are under-represented in the distribution of the RBF. The only way to change things is through a concerted effort of submissions for this and future years.

The Committee would very much like to receive suggestions from members for work that could be undertaken with these funds. It has been the normal practice for the Club to put in an application for some half dozen projects. We plan to continue this, but would like to add weight to our efforts by having individual members submit applications that support the Club's.

This will be a subject for discussion at a future General Meeting. The deadline for applications to reach MAST this year is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

### Who moved the boat?

*From a reliable eyewitness.*

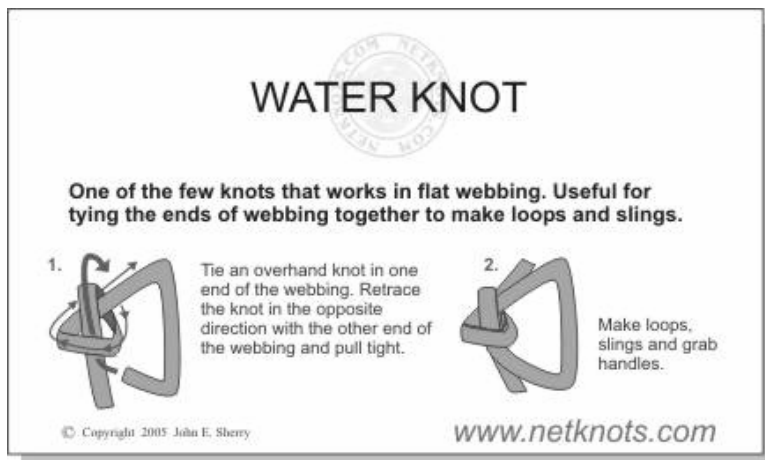
Three Past-Commodores greeted each other late in the evening at the Cygnet Regatta. Having enjoyed the hospitality of the Port Cygnet Sailing Club facilities, and sampled some of its wares, they made their way back to their boats for a good night's sleep. Well; they would have, if they could find them!

Little ships passed in the night, greeting each other passing first south, then north, then west towards shore, and even in a circular motion. The popularity of the regatta magnified the possibilities, with late arrivals having expanded the outer ring of anchored boats considerably, and too many of the hulls were white! Plaintive cries across the water revealed other late-night rowers, but eventually the possibilities were narrowed, and the boats were located – right where they left them.

## Club Items Available from the Quartermaster

A reminder to all CYCT members that the Quartermaster has a range of items for sale at very reasonable prices at each General Meeting. Current stock includes:

Cloth badges	\$10.00
Lapel badges	\$4.50
Beanies, caps, hats - with CYCT badge	\$10.00
Burgees	\$20.00
Cruising Southern Tasmanian Waters	\$20.00



## New Member Profile – Peter Makepeace

"I was a member of the Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania from its inception in the early 1970's until 1979, when I resigned. I was Rear Commodore when Ian McKay was Commodore.



"I was a member of the Derwent Sailing Squadron for 29 years, and now hold membership of only the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. I was involved with the 12ft Cadet dinghies at the RYCT for 12 years. I was Rear Commodore of that club for two years and a Board member for nine years.

"I owned *Fedora of Huon* for 30 years and I now own a Roberts 30 *Peacemaker*. *Peacemaker* is moored at Kettering

"I am self employed as a painting contractor and Marine decorator."



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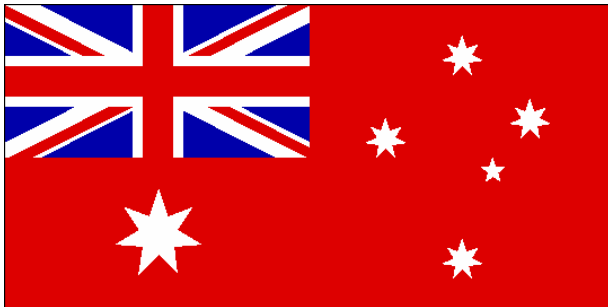
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## The Red Ensign



The Australian Civil Ensign, or Australian Red Ensign, is simply a red version of the Australian National flag. It is for use only at sea and officially never on land, but can be used by private citizens. At sea, it is the only flag allowable for merchant ships registered in Australia under the *Navigation and Shipping Act 1912* and *The*

*Shipping Registration Act 1981.* Pleasure craft, however, may fly either the Red Ensign or the National Flag.

The history of the Red Ensign is intertwined with the history of the Australian National flag. From 1901 to 1954 the Red Ensign was in practice, used as Australia's Civil Flag, i.e. the flag to be flown by private citizens on land. The Blue Ensign was for Government use only, reflecting British practice with its ensigns.

The design of the Australian Red Ensign was always kept in step with the Blue Ensign (i.e. with respect to the number of points on the stars, etc.) but there was often public confusion about which was the 'correct' flag to fly. Many thought the choice was merely one of fashion or preference.

In 1941, Australia's Prime Minister Robert Menzies added to this confusion by directing that there should be no restriction on private citizens flying the Blue Ensign, though most people continued to use the red ensign. This Government consent was reaffirmed by Prime Minister Ben Chifley in February 1947. However, the confusion really wasn't ended until the Flags Act 1953 (enacted in 1954) gave legal effect to this directive, with the Red Ensign becoming reserved as the Civil Ensign.

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## CYCT Calendar

### **Tue 1<sup>st</sup> April**

General Meeting – 6.00pm for 6.30pm

Presentation on the history of the Hobart Regatta at State Library followed by socialising at New Sydney Hotel, Bathurst Street.

### **Wed 9th April**

Committee Meeting – 7.30pm

### **Sat-Sun 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> April**

Weekend cruise to the Huon River

### **Tue 6<sup>th</sup> May**

General Meeting – Derwent Sailing Squadron at 8.00pm

### **Sat 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Donald Sutherland Memorial Navigation Cruise

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# Minutes of the CYCT General Meeting - March 2008

TUESDAY 4th MARCH AT DERWENT SAILING SQUADRON, MARIEVILLE  
ESPLANADE, SANDY BAY AT 8 PM.

## **WELCOME:**

Commodore Leo Foley opened the meeting and welcomed members, guests Dick and Pat Morris, Jack Allen; American members Steve and Dorothy Darden and visitors Malcolm Budd, Colleen Cole and Lorraine Forkes.

## **PRESENT:**

36 Members were present, including new members: Kim Shimmin, Faye Shimmin, Peter Makepeace.

## **APOLOGIES:**

David & Joy Bryan, Kevin & Chris Hussey, Tricia & Bill Wright, Judy Boon, Conchita Navarra, Ian & Audrey Madden.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 4 December 2007**

Following no voices to the contrary from members present, Commodore Leo Foley signed the minutes of the General Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December (as published in the March edition of the "Albatross"), as a true and correct record of proceedings.

## **BUSINESS ARISING:**

Nil

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Inward:** Ebb Tidings February  
Mainsheet  
Uni Print Account  
Post Office Box Account

**Outward:** Peter Makepeace

## **COMMODORE'S REPORT:**

Commodore Leo Foley welcomed past member Peter Makepeace and presented him with a burgee. Faye & Kim Shimmin were also welcomed and presented with a burgee.

## **VICE- COMMODORE'S REPORT:**

8,9,10 March - Cygnet Regatta. Race from Kettering to Cygnet on Saturday. Cygnet Sailing Club is catering for meals Saturday & Sunday night as well as breakfasts on Sunday & Monday.

Easter - Cruise to Recherche Bay.

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10 May is the Navigation Cruise – Chris & Nick Creese to plan this.

#### REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT:

Tuesday 1 April general meeting will be at the State Library – display and talk on “Regattas” in Tasmania by historian Marian Jamieson. Meet between 6.00pm and 6.30pm to make it easy for security. Nibbles and drinks available. We will be out by 8 p.m.

#### GUEST SPEAKERS:

**Jack Allen** demonstrated the stringing of a net on the lawn area. This proved a very informative and interesting segment to our meeting. Members were able to ask questions and to have hands on experiences with the net.

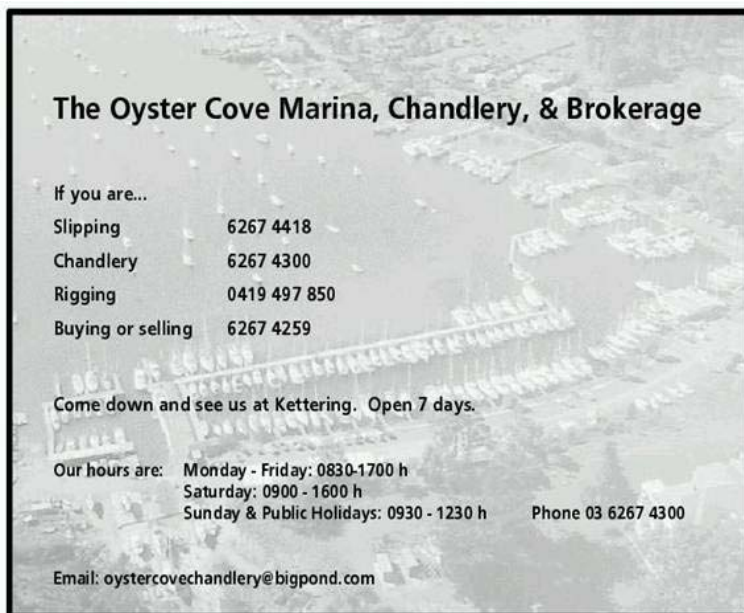
**Dick Morris** from England entertained us with the details of building, moving and sailing his yacht *Irene*.

The story of moving the yacht to the water with a steam traction engine and the accompanying slides was particularly fascinating. Other pictures of *Irene's* cruising gave members an insight into Pat and Dick's sailing over the last nine years.

Milton Cunningham, on behalf of the members, thanked the guest speakers for an interesting and informative evening.

#### CLOSE:

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.



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