

Straphanger

Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc.

Est. 1941

May 2018



END OF SEASON ACTION!



IN THIS ISSUE

FROM YOUR EDITOR—TONY CONSTANCE

Welcome to Straphanger May 2018! This jam packed edition of the 'Strap has some fantastic stories and photos of the latest activities around the Club and from the events our fantastic sailors have been part of. Some highlights include:

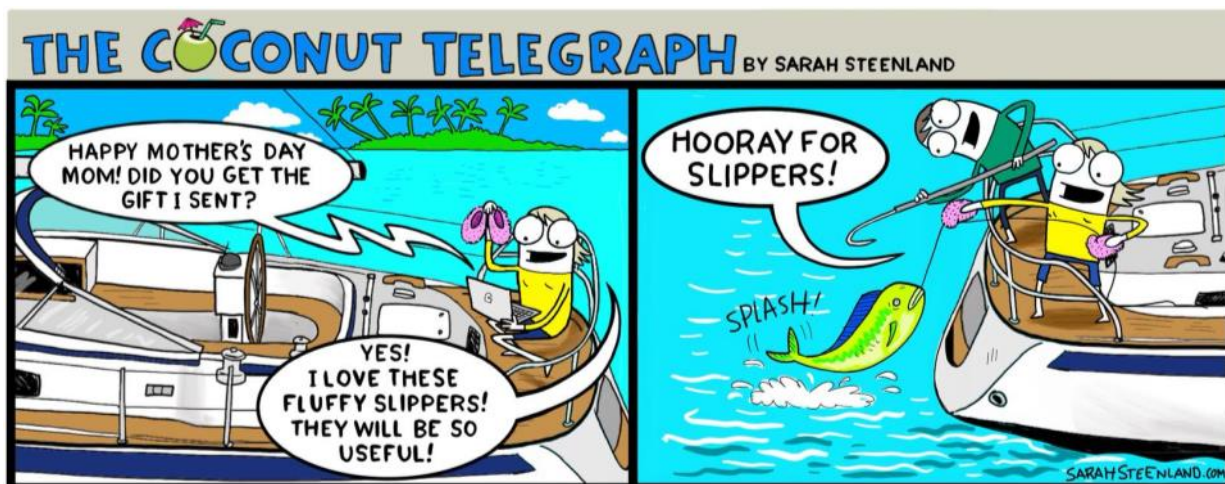
- Johno keeps us up to date in this month's Diatribe!
- The latest Sailing Report from Vice Commodore Peter Mann!
- A feature on the life and times of PCSC Veteran / Legend Ken Watson (An amazing read from Col!)
- An awesome wrap up of the hugely successful B2G Easter Event from Marina Hobbs
- A message from Club Supporter Paint Place CQ regarding an exciting upcoming opportunity
- Trophy night invitation
- The latest, up to date sailing calendar...
- And much, much more...!

As the season has drawn to it's pointy end the sailing action has been well contested in both the yacht and dinghy fleets. Unfortunately a four letter swear word starting with w has made it really difficult for Intrigue to be part of the fun!

After a great Brisbane to Gladstone on No Problem with Ray, Gordon, Maria and Wayne a huge thanks must go out to all the Club members who helped make the event so successful back here at the Club. From the planning to the clean up stage monumental efforts were put in by many.

As always contributions to the Straphanger are welcomed with open arms and as I've said before; if you want help telling your story get in touch and I'm very happy to help!

I'd like to continue as promised and share more of the awesome work of Sarah Steenland—Cruising Cartoonist... this month with a special one for Mother's Day! Expect to see more of her highly entertaining work in this space in the Strap! If you can't wait, check her out on Facebook!



Fair winds and see you on the water! - Tony Constance, Editor.

YOUNG DINGA'S DIATRIBE

BY COMMODORE JOHN IBELL



Aloha,

My apologies for being the delay for April's Straphanger as work got in the way unfortunately again. So much has happened in the past month and with me being absent for most of it, it is difficult to keep track with the activities.

April has been a very busy month both on and off the water. April saw the last heat of the championships with close results being the order of the day in all divisions. Congratulations to the respective division winners and to the competitors that kept the racing close and keeping the winners honest!

On the water we saw, and I apologise if I have missed any events, State 125 titles in Hervey Bay, Brisbane to Gladstone yacht and multihull race, Eastern State Impulse titles at Harwood, racing at Keppel Bay for yachts and dinghies and our general racing at PCSC. Congratulations to all who participated and also to the members that worked hard to pick up trophies. I'm sure we will see their stories in Straphanger over the coming months!

April saw the 70th Brisbane to Gladstone yacht race which had 60 monohulls and 15 multihulls competing. The event proved to be successful mainly due to the hard work put in by the GYC staff and volunteers over the entire weekend. A huge thank you goes to Marina and the band of volunteers for organising and running of downstairs. Craig was given his baptism of fire for the event and seemed to come out of it reasonably well. A lessons learnt meeting has been held to ensure we improve where we can on next year's event.

The live streaming again proved successful with many positive comments coming from the event. Other comments from the weekend was we should have a "Yachties Party" a few times a year and it was good to be out with the Gladstone locals again. It was well received by the locals as well as the visitors.

April trading saw another below budget trading result however the loss was not as great as previous months so hopefully the small changes taken are starting to work. As we fine tune the running of the club please be patient and understanding with any changes that occur as they will have been well discussed and approved to help out the club. Please think about how you and your family can support the club. Any help counts!

I have some news that might be good or bad. Lol Due to recent changes in my work role I will be absent from Gladstone for a majority of time for the next 12 to 18 months. You may only see my smiling dial on weekends. I will therefore not be standing for Commodore again. This decision is difficult however the club and the clubs management needs someone who is on the ground more regularly and available for club operational requirements. I have tried to conduct the role via emails and phone however this is not fair to all concerned and frustrating to myself. Please contact me if you are interested in the role or have someone in mind who would be good at the role. The role is rewarding and challenging however allows you to be part of a team involved with the direction of the club into the future.

YOUNG DINGA'S DIATRIBE

BY COMMODORE JOHN IBELL

Just a few notes on the sailing scene;

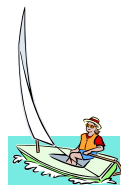
-Presentation Night: 26th May; please pay for your tickets before the night. This is a great night of celebrations for all sailors. This is the time of the year we recognise all sailors and club members for their efforts throughout the year to keep the club going strong. Please clear your diary for it if you have not already done so.

-Sailing season finishes officially this weekend however with all the social media availability these days, if you are going for a sail and would like company, put out the invitation!

"Look at you...folding the clothes and this morning washing the dishes"... "What part of 'You are not getting a new Main Sail' don't you understand"



Yours in sailing,
Young Dinga.



SAILING REPORT

WITH VICE COMMODORE PETER MANN

Our season is drawing to a close with only a couple of resails to make up due to bad weather.

It has been a busy few months for a lot of our members since the last edition of Straphanger, with I guess the biggest talking point being the 70th Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race. Well done to the three yachts that represented Port Curtis; Tuan, Restless and Wistari. From all accounts it was a fast and enjoyable race this year and a race record that I think will stand for a few years to come. Special mention to Scott and the crew of Wistari taking out IRC Division 2, ORCi Division 2 and PHRF Vintage Division. Held in conjunction with the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht race was the Brisbane to Gladstone Multihull Race. Ray Hobbs' catamaran No Problem took out 2nd on PHS and 4th on OMR, well done to Ray and crew.

The dinghy fleet have also seen some away action over the past couple of months with the Impulse sailors venturing south to Harwood for the Eastern State Titles. Defending champion Dave Mann took out the honours in his new boat Fast Boat Sally with Josh Young in Slipknot finishing third. Other members attending Sheldon Haines sailing Out of the Blue 14th and Maria Mohrholz sailing Windspiel 24th. This was special regatta with the host club, Big River Sailing Club, being destroyed only weeks before hand by a storm. From what I have heard they still managed to put on a great weekend.

The 125's have also had a few trips south firstly to the River Titles in Brisbane with Alexa and Myself in Spinout coming away 3rd and Chris Mann and Fraser Hannan in Pigs In Space Too taking out 4th. We then moved onto the State Titles over the Easter Weekend in Hervey Bay where the tables were turned with Pigs In Space Too taking out 3rd overall and Chris and Fraser coming away from the weekend Junior State Champions, myself and Alexa in Spinout coming away 5th overall.

Well done to all members who have represented the Club this year, for a relatively small sailing base our sailors are either at or very near the top in their respective classes.

Our annual Presentation Night will be held on the 26th May, please RSVP to the office, it is sure to be another great night .

Upcoming Events

- 19th May – Donald Davey Memorial, 1030 start for all divisions



KEEN KEN — ALL ABOUT KEN WATSON WITH COLEEN SAWATSKI

A couple of years ago I gave out my fun awards on Presentation Night, one of which went to Ken Watson : The "KK award" (Keen Ken Award)

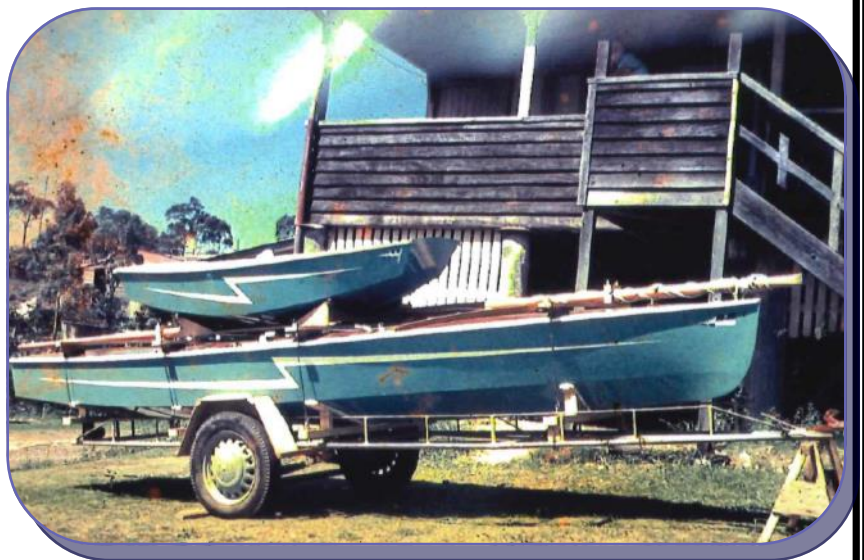
These days if not skippering support vessel "Red Rib" for our Club races, he still enjoys sailing when he can, and in fact, as this Straphanger goes to print is getting ready to crew on "Restless" in the 100 miler on the May Day Weekend off Yeppoon. To have some records of our past, I asked him to put together some notes for me to do a second "story" article, which is very much purely a summary of all he has done sailing and his Club involvement – the complete record would fill a whole book!

A life time of sailing, building boats and Club involvement map out PCSC Life Member, Ken Watson's passion for the water. As a young lad in Primary School he joined the PCSC in 1955 and is still an active member today in 2018. An extraordinary record.

In those early years, he was not only involved in the construction of the Club from 1955 to its opening in 1959, he also started in 1956, his masterful building of various sailing vessels which he then sailed until 1978. These included heavy weight Trainees, light weight Sharpies, and Catamarans. A 28 foot Spencer designed yacht followed.

His first dinghy, "Angel", a heavy weight Trainee (a Thorpe 12) was bought with money he earned from his paper run. "Active", a Trainee followed, and then "Narkku" became the favoured name for the next four boats he built : "Narkku", a light weight Sharpie, "Narkku 2", another light weight Sharpie, "Narkku 3", a self designed catamaran, and "Narkku 4", an Arrow Catamaran. One yacht was later built: the 28 foot Spencer design "Rush". Finally, he bought a quarter ton yacht, "ORC" (Ocean racer Chaser).

Ken not only built most of his own boats in this time. From 1956 until 1979 he was asked by other members to build their boats : a light weight Sharpie (for Keith Leach), Sabots (for brother, Trevor Watson, the Damke family, Caltex Oil Company to donate to PCSC), a Thorpe 12 "GNU" for Roger Erbacher, Catamarans (for the Damke family, Don Mc Donald, and Ken Williams and a Spencer designed yacht,



KEEN KEN — ALL ABOUT KEN WATSON WITH COLEEN SAWATSKI

"Warlord" (for Trevor Watson). Masts, booms, centre boards, and rudders for various boats were also built by Ken.

Ken rarely missed sailing on Saturdays with the Club in the sailing season, and in the many regattas held on the Gladstone Harbour in the 60's, when sailors from Clubs in Bundaberg, Maryborough, Keppel Bay, Lake Cootharaba, and as far away as Brisbane joined the PCSC fleet. In "Narkku", "Narkku 2" and "Narkku 3" Ken enjoyed many successful sails. Ken also travelled with his boats to these Clubs for their regattas with great results.



For 22 years (from 1955 to 1977) Ken enjoyed his sailing in small boats, but as well, crewed at this time on Noel Patrick's "Wistari" (1968 – 1970's) Indeed, from 1978 Ken was now racing in yachts on Saturdays with the PCSC or participating in other off shore regattas. Outstandingly, Ken has completed 40 races of the most iconic event, the Brisbane to Gladstone, enjoying four wins crewing on Noel Patrick's "Wistari" and one win crewing on "Restless" with then skipper , Ray Hobbs. Further races were on "Immigrant" with Jeff Paul, "Restless", with skipper Kane Davidson, and most recently twice with skipper , John Ibell on "Restless" again.

The Sydney to Mooloolaba was another long off shore race in which he sailed on "Wistari" (1968 to 1970) and on "Restless" with Ray Hobbs in 1996. It is on these yachts that he also sailed the Rosslyn Bay to Mackay Races in the 1980s and 1990s. While up north Ken then competed in the Hamilton Island race week, and also enjoyed the Airlie Beach regatta on "Restless". An even longer race from Gladstone to Cairns just ahead of a cyclone was also sailed with success.

From 1978 to 1982, Saturday sailing for Ken was now in his own yacht, "Rush" and then from 1983 to 1990 in "ORC". Local off shore races became events to join. The Gladstone to Keppel Island race used to run on the Show Holiday / Queen's Birthday weekend in June. Ken had numerous wins on handicap in "ORC" as well as success in "Rush".



KEEN KEN — ALL ABOUT KEN WATSON WITH COLEEN SAWATSKI

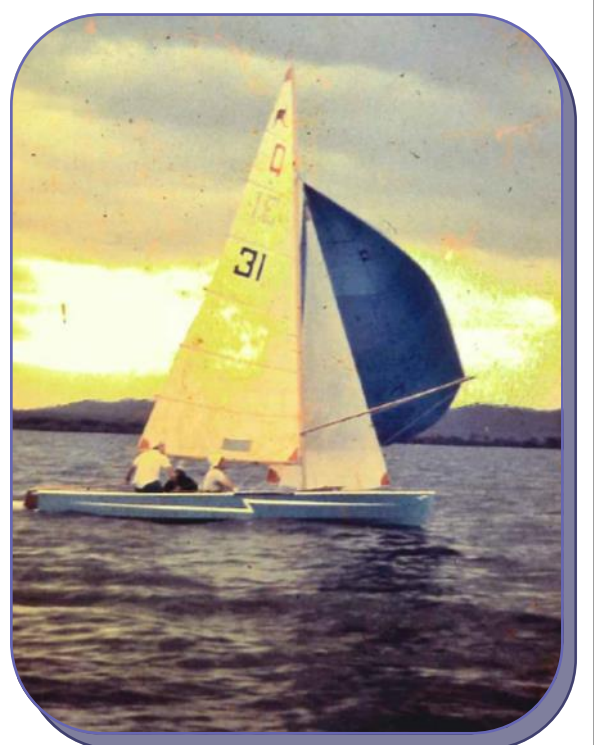
Another race from Gladstone to Bundaberg used to be held on the Australia Day weekend in January during the late 1970's and early 1980's. Ken firstly crewed on "Wistari" and then raced his own "Rush" and later "ORC".

Around the Bay then became another feature of "Rush's" and "ORC's" sailing schedule in the 1970's and still continues annually. These days Ken enjoys crewing once again for John Ibell on "Restless".

With such an incredible sailing history there are many memorable moments, one of which was a particular thrill for Ken in 1992, when he travelled to Waterloo Bay to sail in the the QLD Masters Laser Titles and won a Cube for second place. Ken will also be grateful always to Cyril Golding and various sponsorships which allowed him to be able to travel to Townsville in 1988 to sail in the Australian JOG titles.

Ken's impressive skills are not confined to sailing successes on the water. He had done, and still does much to help the PCSC and Club members. In former years, as more yachts joined the PCSC, a winch was built to facilitate cleaning and repairs. Ken was appointed winch operator, a post he held for twelve years, being on call day and night, depending on the tides. He was also responsible for collecting the dues for this service. In more recent years Ken has been a valued Sailing Committee member, and Club Handicapper.

The walls of our Club too, give evidence of Ken's craftsmanship, where half models of Club and Brisbane to Gladstone yachts are displayed. The Club trophy cabinet, build in the shape of a 125 bow, is another example of Ken's admirable woodwork. In fact, over the years, many trophies themselves have been made and generously donated by Ken, who derives much pleasure in actually making them.



KEEN KEN — ALL ABOUT KEN WATSON WITH COLEEN SAWATSKI

Ken was honoured and humbled when awarded Life membership of the the PCSC in 1989, as he felt doing something you loved and enjoyed was reward enough. Indeed, Ken continues to be a much appreciated volunteer in various Club activities, particularly skippering support boat, "Red Rib", for Saturday Club sailing and other sailing activities. Recognition of Ken's continued sailing and contribution to the Club saw him awarded Sailor of the Year at the end of our 2014/2015 season.



With such a long association with the Club, there are many stories Ken can relate about the Club's past which are so different to today's events. One such example was on the completion of the building of that Club, members found that during the off season from 1954 to 1964, there was nothing to do. They thus decided to form a Hockey team to play fixtures each week with the Gladstone Hockey Club. They played as "Sailors" with the aim to play until they won the Hockey Grand Final. Sparks was the team to beat, and finally in 1960 they achieved their goal.

Ken's wife, Margaret has been, and still is his most loyal supporter, and in past years off sided with him in Club activities. She has always seen his passion for sailing and sums it all up in her comment, "Sailing always comes first in his life and family a close second".

Lucky Ken!



EASTER SUCCESS—A WHOLE CLUB EFFORT

MARINA HOBBS

The 70th Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and the Welcome to Yachties party on Sunday was a success due to the huge effort by Port Curtis Sailing Club Members. The forty strong number of volunteers who gave up much of their Easter weekend to assist with organising and running the event made it possible. The bands and their music were enjoyed by all, bringing a happy and celebratory atmosphere to the event; the downstairs area was cheerful and festive with our blue and white

hay bales, umbrellas and comfortable 'chill out' zone; fortunately the drizzle cleared away to give us a lovely sunny afternoon for the event.



The variety of food options proved a hit with the crowds and helped take some of the pressure off the kitchen upstairs who dealt magnificently all weekend with the crews and families of 65 yachts.

The support of the Gladstone Regional Council with a sponsorship of \$10,000 covered the stage, sound, lighting and bands for the event. This infrastructure is key to the success of the entire event.



EASTER SUCCESS—A WHOLE CLUB EFFORT

MARINA HOBBS

Happily, the saving of wages downstairs as these roles were filled by club volunteers has resulted in a profitable Easter weekend for the club.

Feedback from the two Brisbane clubs has been excellent, with Lyn Wrieland commenting on the excellence of the event, the great friendly atmosphere and the overwhelming assistance The Multi Hull Yacht Club had been given.



Thank you very much to everyone who came down, volunteered time and assisted in any way from setting up too cleaning up and all of the hours in between.

- Marina Hobbs

UPCOMING MARINE PAINT INFO NIGHT FROM CLUB SUPPORTER PAINT PLACE CQ



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SAILING CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATE CLAIMERS

This weekend (19/5/18) is the Donald Davey Memorial Race Starting 1030hrs for all Divisions! Last race of the season, be there or be square!



*Please join us
for our annual PCSC
Sailing Presentation*

2018 Trophy Night

*Saturday, May 26th
6 p.m. until late
Gladstone Yacht Club
Main Bar*

*Ticket Prices
Adults \$45
Children 12-17yrs \$25
Children under 12yrs free*

*RSVP: (07) 4972 2294
admin@gyc.com.au*



Port Curtis Sailing Club

Please note; events may be subject to change however prior warning will be given. Always check the online calendar available at <http://www.gyc.com.au/sailing/important-information/>

The PCSC proudly gives thanks to;



Gladstone Yacht Club

Manager: Craig Lonergan ~ manager@gyc.com.au

Main Reception ~ admin@gyc.com.au

Phone: 07 4972 2294 or Fax: 07 4972 7872

Web: www.gyc.com.au



Port Curtis Sailing Club

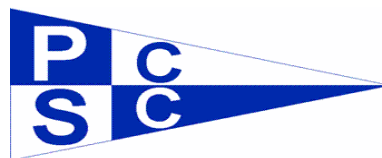
Commodore: John Ibell (0429 855 180)

Vice Commodore: Peter Mann (0418 138 182)

Club Captain: Lex Moran (0418 794 286)

Treasurer: John Bell (0409 116 936)

Secretary: Stephen McGuigan (0405 075 189)



Straphanger Contributions

We want to hear what you have to say.

If you would like to contribute to any future editions of the PCSC Straphanger, please contact Straphanger Editor Anthony Constance anthonyconstance@outlook.com
reception on: Ph. 07 4972 2294 or Email: admin@gyc.com.au
The cut off date for receipt of contributions is the 25th of the Month

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***FAMOUS for our Sailing, FAMOUS for our Food,
FAMOUS for our Wines, FAMOUS for our Service.***