

# Myall Lakes Aquatic Club

Incorporated

## COMMODORE

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## SECRETARY

Evon Williams  
LEMON TREE PASSAGE 2319  
02 4982 3663

## Spit Roast at Shedden's Landing - Tamboi



On July 19, 9 boats and about 22 members braved the cold to cruise up to Tamboi for our first meeting there since the rebuild. The Spit was broken out and Terry and Carol once again showed their expertise in preparing and cooking a wonderful beef and pork roast with all the trimmings. Carol also prepared a large boiler of vegie soup for starters and Chris and Susie excelled in preparing wonderful desserts to finish the meal. "Ain't Life Tough!" It was good to see Andrew Henderson arrive and he was soon put to work wiring in lights in the new shelter shed. Andrew has been terrorising Lake Macquarie in his boat for a few years and is now visiting the Myalls again until summer. Ian Sherwood brought along his BBQ Heater for the marquee and it worked a treat. Thanks to those members bringing up a bag of wood, we had a warm campfire all weekend. It was great to be back at Tamboi. It's always a great wintertime venue for a meeting. A big welcome to two new members Kevin & Sandra Lawson from Nerong who attended in their new Marshall lord Cruiser "Tru Blu".

## Next Outing - Captain's Stew - Bandicoot Point - August 16<sup>th</sup>

We have decided to squeeze the Captain's Stew Weekend event which was cancelled on the June Long weekend because the river was in flood and inclement weather, into August on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The venue will remain at Bandicoot Point at the river mouth as usual. Please bring a bag of wood for the stew campfire on Saturday pm.

Well gents, it's on again! Clean up the camp oven; fine tune the recipes, because the judges are ready with the trophies; one for the best and one for the worst!

## Notice of AGM 2008 -Sept 6

The Annual general Meeting for the Myall Lakes Aquatic Club will be held at 6.00pm on Saturday **September 6<sup>th</sup> 2008** at the Hawks Nest Surf Life Saving Club. Dinner will be held at 7.00pm. All positions will be declared vacant and we are looking for committee members. I am sending out a form with this bulletin for people who wish to nominate for positions on the committee for 2008-09. Remember it is your club. If it is to continue to grow, we need active, committed, passionate people to run the club, so if you feel you can contribute and spare a little time, please put your hand up and volunteer to carry a little of the load on the committee and help continue the club traditions to make the Myall's a special place.

The dinner is \$30 per head to be payable when you book. **We need numbers by 25<sup>th</sup> August.** We will have dinner and dancing afterwards. The Raffle will be drawn at the meeting so be sure to return your tickets ASAP.

On the back of the bulletin is a sheet to send in with your money to Eve at 37 Whitbread Drive

Lemon Tree Passage 2319 or you can BPay to our account BSB is 032-507 and the account number is 165513

Please advise on transaction who is the sender and for what i.e. J Public MLAC AGM dinner and send an email to Eve at [emw48@internode.on.net](mailto:emw48@internode.on.net) to let me know what it is for.

For those travelling by boat, carol Hayden has organised the bus to again pick up at the Tea Gardens Public Wharf at 5.30pm to transport members to the Surf Club and return again when it's over.

Support your club and come to the AGM!

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## Club Fund Raiser

Our club fundraiser/major raffle with a first prize of an original framed painting of a section of Neranie Headland by prize-winning artist/club member Wendy Legge, is still going. It will be drawn at the AGM in September 2008. We have plenty of tickets to sell, so if you can take a book of tickets or just take a couple, please contact secretary Eve on 02 49823663 and support our club. Ticket prices are \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20.

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## Valé Gwen Hiles

We sadly advise that our Life Member Gwen Hiles passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

Gwen, and her late husband Bill, have been members of both the Myall Lakes Yacht Club and Myall Boating Club for over 34 years, having first joined the MLYC in May 1974 and the MBC shortly after.

Prior to their boating activities, Gwen enjoyed many years of camping with family and friends at Korsman's, Tamboi and Mungo and made many friends around the Lakes.

Since their involvement with the Clubs, and up to Bill's passing, they had spent several weeks a few times each year in their half cabin "Moonmist" and the Lakes always held a special place in their hearts.

Gwen turned 90 on 10<sup>th</sup> July and still lived in her own home until hospitalised just prior to her death. She is sadly missed by her family and friends.

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## Reminder about Annual Club Subscriptions

Club subs are now due again. Fees remain the same.

Member \$30.00

Member plus partner \$35.00

Please forward subs to treasurer Suzie Sturman at 77 Horace St, Shoal Bay 2315 or BPay to our account BSB is 032-507 and the account number is 165513

Please advise on transaction who is the sender and for what i.e. J Public MLAC subs and send an email to Suzie at

[pdoddsconsulting@hotmail.net.au](mailto:pdoddsconsulting@hotmail.net.au) so we can check the money arrived.

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## "Bird Problems on your Boat?"

We have been testing with good success a product to deter birds roosting on your boat ie swallows in particular, who create an unbelievable mess in a very short time on your decks or covers. Trials have been positive, , so Warren Tully has purchased some bulk product and generously donated it to the club to sell in small packets as a fundraiser for the club. Packets are now available for sale at \$5.00 per 25g satchel, which makes up 500m, of product. It is diluted with water and sprayed onto the surfaces on which the birds roost. In our tests it has not stained covers or fibreglass. If the area is fully open to the elements, it may have to be applied regularly. It is not harmful to the birds. It apparently just makes it uncomfortable to roost there, so they move on.

Ring Kevin or Eve on 4982 3663 if you wish to purchase some product.

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## Upcoming Event Calendar

1. **Captain's Stew – 16<sup>th</sup> August Bandicoot**
2. **AGM – Hawks Nest – 6<sup>th</sup> September**
3. **Tea Gardens Festival Sailpast – 25 October – see last bulletin**
4. **Blessing of the Fleet – Sunday 15 November – see last bulletin**
5. **Christmas Party – 29-30 November – more details in next bulletin.**

## Happenings!

Following our Tamboi outing, we do have a couple of snippets to report for our bulletin this month. You just “never, never know” who’s looking or listening. That old saying about “Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink” rung true when it was reported that someone forgot to fill the water tank before departing for Tamboi. Makes a nice change from forgetting to fill the fuel tanks, doesn’t it Ian? It was reported that his “First Mate” offered some constructive criticism in an effort to jog his memory before the next outing. I’m sure it was just FRIENDLY ADVICE and not meant to reflect on his ability to reproduce in the future.

And on another matter, while a certain “stick boating member” was navigating upriver to our Tamboi event, a slight miscalculation in navigation regarding a green Nav marker at Tea Gardens caused some delay in transit when he was called to attend a major catastrophe in the saloon when the KETTLE BIOLED. The good news is he enjoyed a nice hot cuppa while he waited for the “hook” to get him off.

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## MLAC Membership Renewal

Names:

We/I enclose a cheque for the following amount:

Membership 08-09                      \$30                     

Partner Membership                      \$5                     

**Total amount**                     

Please send cheque to Suzie Sturman, 77 Horace St, Shoal Bay 2315.

If you have already paid your fees please disregard this notice

## AGM Dinner

Names:

We/I enclose a cheque for the following amount:

\$30 per head .....

**Total amount** .....

Please send cheque to Evon Williams at 37 Whitbread Drive Lemon Tree Passage NSW 2319 or internet pay using the clubs details. The BSB is 032-507 and the account number is 165513. Send an email confirming payment and details of how many are coming to Evon at [emw48@internode.on.net](mailto:emw48@internode.on.net)

This is most important as Suzie will still be away at the time numbers are required!!

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## Important Information for Boat Owners

### Ethanol Blend Fuels In Marine Applications

Data Sheet: July 2008

#### What Is An Ethanol Blend Fuel?

Ethanol is a form of alcohol that is typically made by a fermentation process. In recent times, petrol has been blended with ethanol. It aims to provide many benefits to consumers (reduced cost) and the environment (reduced emissions). In the USA ethanol is made from corn, in Europe from sugar beet and wheat stalks. In Australia it is sourced from sugar cane.

Ethanol is increasingly promoted for use in petrol for a number of reasons. First it increases petrol stocks by making limited stocks go much further. This generally has a positive impact on prices of fuel and prolongs existing fuel stocks.

It also oxygenates the fuel, enhancing the octane but with less environmental damage than MTBE currently used. Pure ethanol is about 100 octane, so added to petrol it's an octane enhancer.

#### Why Ethanol?

There is strong support for the use of ethanol by many in the community. This strong support for ethanol will increase the demand for it.

Environmentalists want ethanol because it is "green" fuel made from renewable crops. E10 lowers engine emissions but it also pushes up the demand for crops and in turn food prices. Farmers certainly want it - they get a better base price for their crops. In Queensland, its use is supported on a bi-partisan basis. There is no indication so far that other states will follow, though fuel distribution from Queensland into northern NSW is likely to mean some push to get consumers to buy E10 there too. In addition, there are a number of commentators who say we are running out of oil, and we had better use ethanol and any other leans to stretch out our limited world supplies of oil.

## Issues in the Use of Ethanol Blend Fuels in Marine Applications

While ethanol blend fuels have many advantages, there are some specific issues relating to its use within marine environments.

Ethanol blend fuel will liberate dirt and residue in fuel systems. This will result in blocked filters due to the increased amount of foreign matter in the fuel system. Some chemicals can become completely dissolved and pass through the filters before ending up re-deposited inside the engine.

Boats with fibreglass fuel tanks are most at risk from the solvent properties of ethanol. Fibreglass tanks are attacked with ethanol, dissolving the resins, eventually weakening the structure and causing leaks. That also means any fuel spills around the filler cap will cause some permanent damage to the gel coat and paint finishes. An ethanol spill is one you need to wipe up and wash off immediately.

Boat USA conducted tests on two older boats that had suffered suspected ethanol damage. The 1967 and 1970 Bertram both showed signs of engine and fuel system damage. They found black material on an intake valve which indicated esters, ketones and polyester. In other words the fibreglass fuel tanks and perhaps fuel lines were dissolving and these chemicals were passing straight through the filters before being deposited inside the outboards.

The fuel in the tanks showed styrene, a component of polyester resin. The tanks were also tested and showed to have "aggressive degradation" and had lost 40% of their strength.

There is no easy solution for this. Fibreglass tanks will have to be replaced before they can be used with any ethanol blend. Some boat builders have been planning this day. According to Greg Haines, of Haines Signature, their fibreglass boats all now have appropriate plastic tanks. Some boat builders are now taking the precautionary step of putting a label next to fuel filler cap along the lines "No Ethanol".

Aluminium fuel tanks are reported to be at risk of corrosion meaning only approved plastic and quality stainless steel tanks will meet future fuel blend requirements.

A review of boat building standards with the increased use of ethanol blend fuels is also necessary. The USA introduced fuel tank standards to meet the challenge of ethanol blend fuels in marine applications. The new standards aim to ensure that all aspects of fuel systems such as fuel lines and gaskets that are not compatible with ethanol blend fuels.

If your boat is more than six years old, or has been left outside and exposed to the UV then it is important that an assessment is made of the condition of the vessel and its compatibility with ethanol blend fuels.

## Water Absorption

Ethanol is "hygroscopic" and absorbs moisture just like brake fluid and diesel fuel. Up to 0.5% absorption is not a problem but beyond that the saturated ethanol sinks to the bottom of the tank in a process called Phase Separation. No amount of mixing, stirring or shaking will mix the ethanol back with the gasoline, and there are no additives that will fix the problem.

At the top of the tank we are left with straight petrol, which sounds great until we realize that the ethanol was our octane booster. So the first sign of separated fuel may be pre-ignition or pinging as the octane in our remaining fuel drops about 3 points from say 91 ron to 88 ron.

As the saturated and phase separated ethanol in the tank builds up over subsequent fills, it eventually gets to reach the pickup. At this moment we get a 100% dose of ethanol through the fuel system and engine.

With systems and fittings designed to cope with a maximum of 10% ethanol, a dose of 100% ethanol will start to cause some real damage and dangerous leaks. Moisture will always collect in fuel tanks so the ethanol has plenty of water to absorb. Humid air is drawn in through the tank breather and the next cool morning condenses on the walls of the tank, and runs down the walls, immediately attracted to the ethanol.

Light aircraft pilots know this phenomenon well. Their pre-flight check includes draining a small amount of fuel from a nipple on the bottom of each tank. This is now a standard operating procedure for aircraft to ensure that any contaminants are removed from fuel tanks prior to aircraft use. Boats parked in the driveway or left on a mooring will all suffer condensation in their fuel tanks and so phase separation is inevitable. Once phase separation occurs the only cure is to completely empty the tank, and clean out any ethanol and water in the bottom. That means opening up the tank, not just pumping it empty through the fuel pickup.

## Disposing of Stale Fuels

Disposing of stale fuel safely and responsibly can be a real problem. Brisbane Council will accept up to twenty litres but only at specific collection points and then only four times a year. The coastal Redland Shire Council will accept only five litres, also just one day each quarter. It will pay to check the policy with your local council.

The traditional solution to condensation is to keep the tank full overnight, leaving little space for moist air. But that's not always desirable when your next boat trip may not be for a month. Unleaded petrol has a shelf life of between four weeks and ninety days depending on a range of factors. BP explains that even regular fuel that has been exposed to conditions such as prolonged summer temperatures can reduce its life to as little as two weeks. Petrol is not one chemical but a range of compounds from heavy to light. Some of the lighter elements like butane, as found in your cigarette lighter, are the first to evaporate. As the weeks go by all the light elements evaporate off and all you are left with are the thicker elements. Many engine repair and maintenance workshops report that stale fuels are often cited as being the cause of engine failure and damage.

## What the Major Outboard Engine Manufacturers Say

**Evinrude:** Evinrude motors can tolerate up to 10% alcohol in fuels, (which is the maximum currently sold in Australia)

**Honda:** Honda engines are designed for good performance and efficient operation using gasoline containing from 0 to 10% ethanol.

**Mercury:** Mercury engines will withstand up to 10 percent ethanol in gasoline

**Suzuki:** Recommends the use of pure gasoline without alcohol, but can use up to 10% alcohol if necessary.

**Tohatsu:** Recommends use of fuel up to only 10% ethanol. Voids the warranty for all alcohol-fuel related malfunctions.

**Yamaha:** All 2008 and later models are suitable for use with Ethanol E10 blended fuel. Models prior to 2008 are not suitable for Ethanol blended fuels.

## Safe boating until next time



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**Committee Nomination Form**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name of Nominee(Print)</b>	<b>Proposed by:</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Signature of nominee</b>
<b>Commodore</b>				
<b>Vice Commodore</b>				
<b>Rear Commodore</b>				
<b>Secretary</b>				
<b>Treasurer</b>				
<b>Committee Member/Social</b>				
<b>Committee Member/Social</b>				
<b>Committee Member</b>				
<b>Committee/ Construction</b>				
<b>Public Officer</b>				

- Candidates must be nominated by 2 current members
- Candidates & nominators must be fully paid up members of the MLAC Inc