



MLAC Bulletin

Happy and Safe Boating!

"Respect the Past – Create the Future"

NEXT OUTING

27-28 July
Engels
Captain's Cook

April – 2024—Sail Past

6 April 2024

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the 'Singing Bridge' between Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest, the MLAC organising team chose to reenact the sail past completed by the boat club of the time 50 years ago. The 2024 sail-past was followed by a barbecue on the Tea Gardens public wharf, an appropriate outing that reflected our community and our love for the river, and, of course, our bridge. Many people remember the pre-bridge days when we lined up in a queue of cars and caravans to cross the river on the punt.

Saturday dawned - miraculously in a burst of sunshine and calm weather. I say 'miraculously' quite deliberately as recent days, especially the preceding day, were characterised by bucketing rain and fierce winds.

On Saturday morning the call came out - 'It's ON!' Thirteen boats made their way down river, treading water (so to speak) until it was time to form a line and follow Toy Ship under the bridge at exactly 10:30 AM. With horns tooting and flags flying, it was exciting to be part of the sail-past and, judging from comments of spectators both on the bridge itself and on shore, just as exciting to watch.

Sail Past Boats

- Toyship
- Independence
- Carroa
- Dejeuner
- Kestrel II
- River Gypsy
- Spray
- BBQ Boat
- Imagine
- Karma
- Running on EMT
- Tee Cee
- Harmony



Myall Lakes Aquatic Club
ABN: 88 396 838 568

WEBSITE:
www.mlac.org.au

COMMODORE:
Rod Blanch
commodore@mlac.org.au

SECRETARY:
Linda McIntosh
secretary@mlac.org.au

Photos courtesy of Dylan



Boats then made their way to their moorings or to raft up (eleven in total) to the wharf. The new club barbecue made an appearance and, very quickly, the delicious smell of frying onions and sausages pervaded the air. Members moved around in groups, talking, catching up and generally having a lovely time socialising in the glorious sunshine.

At 4.11pm, the Huddle began, with 23 members present. Commodore Rod reminded us of the success of the last outing, the now-famous Summer Games.

That outing was very successful, thanks to the organisation from Tracy, Linda, Shelley, and Shorty (for the barbecue). Of course, the enthusiastic involvement of the members present was, needless to say, critical to the enjoyment of the games. Well done to all participants and to the cheering audience - great vibes!



Rod thanked everyone for being present for the sail-past. This was an important community event, and for some especially so. Shorty told us that his father participated in the original sail-past when the bridge was officially opened, fifty years ago. He found our commemoration of that event in our own sail-past particularly moving. It was great to see some club members who participated in the 1974 sail past join the Commodore on Toyship to do the sail past again.



General discussion followed. The issue of the lack of moorings was raised once again. MLAC was urged as a club to make strong representations to all bodies who may have an impact on the issue. This is not just a local issue for Port Stephens. This is a state-wide issue and there is a general feeling that recreational boating is really under threat, with problems spreading further than just the issue of not enough moorings everywhere. We need to develop a strategy and take the issues further. The point was made that the boating community earns a significant amount of money for a range of businesses within their local communities. There is a Mid-Coast Recreational Boating and Infrastructure plan on the Council's Facebook page with an invitation for comment by May 5 (haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au).

Commodore Rod agreed with all the points raised during discussion and said that we need to address the issues and develop a strategy for dealing with them effectively at club committee management meetings. So watch this space!

Further information was that the helipad wharf was progressing. At Tamboi, the old poles have been used as landing poles, so things are happening there. The floating wharf for Independence is also a work in progress. At the moment, we are waiting on the moorings contractor to place the poles. Both jobs are progressing.

Our next outing is May 4. This will be the Tapas outing. Much discussion of how this would be organised ensued, with lots of great suggestions for making this new event a very successful one. All the tapas food will be served on shore. Each person will bring their own plate and their own drinks to each tapas station. The idea is for finger food only so it should be easily managed on a plate - one tapas item per person per tapas station. Numbers of participants will therefore be very important. Some boat owners will team up to prepare the food and serve it to the group. Everyone will move on from one tapas station to the next as a group, with the organisers of the next station leaving a few minutes before the rest of the group for final preparation purposes.

The Huddle closed at 16.40pm, with the plan for ordering pizzas from Tea Gardens hotel and eating them back at the wharf. All in all, the day was another very successful one, with members and guests having a great get-together for a truly memorable occasion.

