



the Mainsheet

October - December 2025

RACE TO THE FINISH

Where did the year go you ask? 2025 is already just a blur of sailing days.

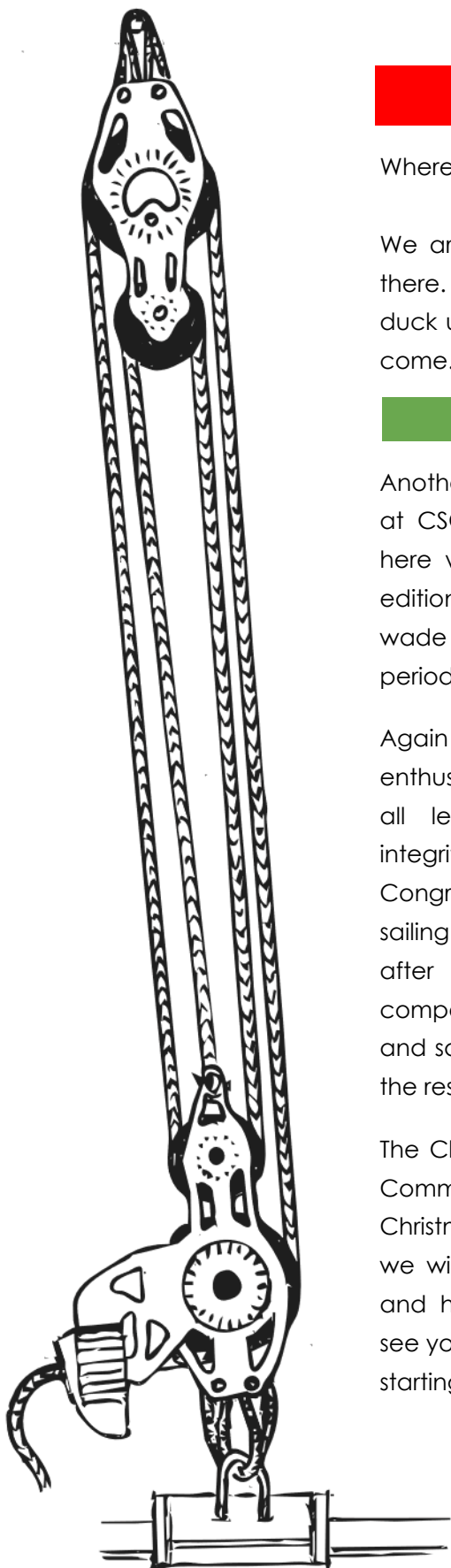
We are all on the lay line, all working hard towards the top mark, we are nearly there. We're all eager to make the turn, hey.. you won't fit there.. show respect and duck us. Then we turn and run down to the finish.. Ah yeah, holiday season here we come.

HAVE A COOL YULE

Another solid, action packed year at CSC is coming to an end, so here we go with a final bumper edition of the **Mainsheet** for you to wade through over the holiday period. Happy reading.

Again this year our members have enthusiastically represented us at all levels, and done so with integrity and sportsmanship. Congratulations. We have boats sailing championships and Hobart after Christmas, we wish all competitors favorable conditions and safe travels. We eagerly await the results of your fortitude.

The Club, the CSC Board and our Committees wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, we wish you and your family safe and happy holidays, and we will see you all back on the water again starting 9th January 2026.





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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT CSC?

WELCOME LET'S GO! 50

There's a new girl in town! Well, new on our race track at least.

With Let's Go! Syndicate securing a sponsorship partnerships with **Mudgee Concrete, Bluewater Barges, Azimut Yachts, Short Marine, Hanaca Electrical, Macquart Marine, Sinab, Salty Marine & Cool Coolers**, and after a few very intense months of high level preparation, including replacement of the standing rigging, much of the running rigging, and the usual long list of general servicing and safety equipment compliance checks, CSC member Mike Langford's yacht ***Infinity IV***, a Beneteau First 50, has emerged upgraded and rebadged as Let's Go 50 (**Mudgee Concrete**) and is now race ready for what is often reputed to be one of the most difficult yacht races in the world, the 628nm Sydney to Hobart race commencing Boxing Day 2025, this year boasting a fleet in excess of 140 yachts.

After a few shake down CSC ocean races, over the first weekend of December, Mudgee Concrete participated in her 172nm overnight Cabbage tree qualifier race, travelling overnight from Sydney Harbour to Port Stephens and returning. In sometimes fickle conditions, she completed her qualifying journey without incident in 20 hrs 35 min.

This is the first CSC yacht to be represented in the Sydney Hobart race in quite a few years. One of the great aspects of this campaign is the appearance of three Hobart 'rookies', Todd Stuart, Haakon Britt, and Jack MacGillivray sailing onboard with their dads Michael, Peter and Tim respectively. This is what CSC is all about folks!

Congratulations Mick, we look forward to some strong competition from you and your seasoned team as we all eagerly watch you race south till that turn to starboard at Tasman Island, then on your way west to this sweet girl's first Hobart finish line. Sail hard, sail safe.

Crew: Mick Stuart (Skipper), Tim MacGillivray (Sailing Master), Jacob Broom (Navigator), Peter Britt, Jensen Penney, Jack MacGillivray, Haakon Britt, Todd Stuart, Mitchell Barber, Warren Buchan, Stuart Ford & Hayden Airey.





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SHOUT OUT

A big thank you to Deb from Pisces for all her hard work keeping our gardens looking great. After the plants we put in back in May didn't survive, Deb took it upon herself to dig them out and replace them with some beautiful native plants — and they look fantastic!

It's thoughtful acts like these, often happening quietly behind the scenes, that help keep our club looking its best and running smoothly. Thanks, Deb!

If you'd like to give a shout-out and thank a fellow member, feel free to email info@cronullasailingclub.com.au. We'd love to share these selfless acts in future newsletters.



CORPORATE DAY

It didn't appear in the 2025 sailing program, but due to a whole lot of enthusiastic enquiries the CSC Christmas Corporate Day was held on Friday 12th December. This year **Tile Bazaar** came forward as our corporate sponsor. All Port Hacking boats with Cat 7+ or Cat 5 minimum are welcome. This year we started earlier, with briefing on the dock at 10:00 hrs, with the first boat away at 11:00 hrs.

As usual, it was a fun and relaxed event offering new sailors and old salts another excuse to celebrate Christmas on our wonderful waterways. This year we had a strong contingent of local builders and tradies eager to try the sailing experience and then share their experiences with their colleagues at the following luncheon.

This event is a great way for local businesses to celebrate Christmas, it's a great way for CSC to offer newbies an opportunity to try yacht sailing, a great way for our yacht owners and crew members to circulate with like-minded folk. With about 50 people on the water, it was a great way to earn some money to support our learn-to-sail fleet.

Thanks to Bob for organising the event, and thanks to our skippers on the day Bruce, Paul, Pete, Clinton and of course our crews. Also thanks to One Day More who sailed with us for the first time. How good!

Keep it in mind for next year, if you have a local business, corporate group, or our tradies looking for a fun day out, this might just be the event for you!



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VALE STEPHEN WRIGHT



After a long and stoic battle with cancer, Steve passed away peacefully in Sutherland Hospital on 11th December. Steve was just 70 years old.

With his loyal **Tinto** crew, Steve has been a great ambassador for Cronulla Sailing Club over the decades, with consistent podium finishes in the J24 class at club, state, national, and international levels. Steve's friends joined Karyn, Leah and Keiran at his service then afterwards celebrated Steve's life and sailing achievements at Cronulla Sailing Club. RIP Steve.

SALTWATER VETERANS

We're excited to announce our new partnership with the Saltwater Veterans Sailing Project (SVSP).

SVSP is an independent sailing club recognised by Australian Sailing and an ACNC-registered charity that supports current and ex-serving veterans through sailing. They don't have a physical clubhouse but are connected with a number of sailing clubs across Australia, including Manly, RANSA, and Newcastle in NSW.



In October, Tayla met with Scotty, Nadine, and Matt from SVSP to explore how we could work together. Since then, Nadine and Mat have joined our Twilight Sailing Fleet with the help of Twilight Captain Bob. They travel all the way from Bundeena each week, and after just three races, they're already part of the crew! We're also thrilled to welcome Gavin, who travels from Mt Annan to join the Twilight Fleet.

We're delighted to have more sailors joining our community – bringing new faces, skills, and energy to the club. Most importantly, we're proud to support the SVSP's charitable mission by providing a welcoming space for veterans to connect, sail, and continue building their skills on the water.

If you're a current or ex-serving veteran and a member of CSC, and would like to also be part of the SVSP (holding dual membership with both clubs), please email sailingproject@saltwaterveterans.org with your AS number and the team will get in touch with you.



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VX ONE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rob Douglass with his team of Garth Bickford and daughter Nic Douglass on Dollop AUS319 took the VX One NSW State Championship win over the weekend with a near perfect scorecard over six races and a nine boat fleet from Cronulla Sailing Club. Class newcomers Zac West, Aiden Mansley and James Hopkins on Let's Dance AUS243 were runners-up, over their squad coach and Sydney Olympian Nev Wittey, sailing with daughter Tiana Wittey and Jameson Prescott on Unvexed AUS156.



"The scorecard might look good, but it was a tough regatta," said Rob Douglass. "A full range of conditions, with a building northerly on Saturday upwards of 20 knots, and then a shifty and tricky day on Sunday".

"As always, it was a pleasure to sail out of Cronulla Sailing Club, such a great bit of water and a beautiful community".

The first race of the championship got under way in the mouth of the Port Hacking estuary. There was already a challenging wave state, the breeze was set to build, and it was 18 knots. The Race Committee opted for a one lap windward leeward to get the racing under way given the forecast. Chris Dawson with Jan Scholten and Steve Bryant on V-Wagon AUS248 were quick as expected in the breeze, however, they were chased down on the downwind by Dollop AUS319 Douglass, Douglass and Bickford to finish second. Bolt AUS302 skippered by Warwick Rooklyn with Josh Dawson and Katherine Shannon finished third.

"As with all sailing clubs, we could not have hosted the event without our awesome team of volunteers led by Jared Macquart. His team included Race Officer Bill Dickson, his assistant Richard Stock and others including, Glenn Smith, Clinton Hood, Bernard Parker, Richard Searle, Bob Sagar, Fiona Campbell, Mitchell Barber, Bronwyn Elford and John Zagame".

credit : Nic Douglas



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SAILABILITY



On Thursday 18th December, all the sailability volunteers gathered under the awning on the deck, surrounding a new sailability boat. The volunteers eagerly awaited, one special volunteer to turn up, Martin Tabone, the new boat has been called "Martin Tabone" it has been named in recognition in all the hard work that Martin has put into running CSC sailability over time. New president of sailability CSC, Gordon Knight, said some words, then proceeded to help Martin to cut the ribbon.





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LEARN TO SAIL

In October, we welcomed 13 new sailors to the club to begin their Learn to Sail journey, along with 3 returning sailors who completed our school holiday program earlier this year. We've enjoyed three fantastic weeks of weather, giving our new sailors the chance to develop their skills on the water. Even one blustery 25+ knot day that turned into a great opportunity to focus on communication and team building. It's all part of building a strong and confident CSC junior sailing team.



We've also launched our first Adult Dinghy Learn to Sail class! Our five participants have been mastering the basics and setting themselves up for a lifetime of sailing. A big thank you to our amazing volunteers. Neil Murphy for sharing his knowledge of weather and wind, Mark and Craig for taking participants out on the water, and Anthony for jumping on the front of the Laser to lend a hand.

Our paid instructor team is also going from strength to strength, with Ashley, Sophie, Thomas, Blake, and Josh continuing to grow and develop their instructing skills. We're also thrilled to welcome Anna to the team. Anna's been crewing on the MGs and we're delighted to have her join the Learn to Sail crew.





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CSC SUNDAYS

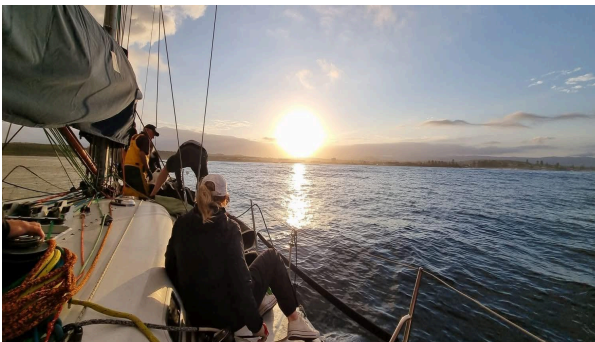
There is a lot to be said about the fantastic achievements of our Sunday learn to sail program, the results speak for themselves. But did you know there is another aspect of CSC that might be little known. That's our Sunday race program. Every Sunday over the summer season, a band of loyal sailors venture out to the estuary for the 2pm start. The main fleet over the past few decades has been MG14s, but MJs, F11s, lasers, NS14s and others class dinghies are welcome to join us on the start line.

The MG14s are a 4.3 metre long (14') development class dinghy, featuring one trapeze, carrying 9.3 metres of working sails and 14m perimeter asymmetric spinnaker. These lightweight action packed dinghies are crewed by two, ideally with a combined crew weight of 120 to 145kg, there is no age limit. These are very fast boats in the hands of a crack team, but also they are very reliable, solid and relatively forgiving for novices. This class has been around for decades so used boats of all price ranges can be readily purchased, and new ones are available and being produced all the time. Check out the MG14 website at www.mg14.com.au

SHELLHARBOUR RACE

Over the first weekend of November our combined Port Hacking fleet sailed race 1 of the Regatta Series to Shellharbour on Saturday, and race 2 returning on Sunday. At 35 nautical miles each, these are our longest races on the CSC keelboat sailing calendar. Over the past few years the competitors experienced quite busy conditions with some record breaking times, but not so much this year. After a near drifter start on Saturday, the boats finally found light breeze east of Jibbon Bombora and enjoyed a tight reach down our spectacular coastline. Dolphins, whales, and glassy seas were enjoyed all the way. Congratulations to Murri Nuwi (RMYC-PH) claiming first on both PHS and CBH, and Sea Hawk with a scratch win.

Overnight, all boats had the pleasure of docking at the superb Shell Cove Marina. After a few sunset boat beers were enjoyed, we all gravitated to the Tavern where the customary very late night unfolded. Enough said. Shell Cove has come a long way over the past few years, the marina dock is now completed, offering sailors excellent amenities and boasting bars, restaurants, grocery shopping, bakeries and anything else you might need available adjacent to the marina. A cruising yachties paradise really. Thank you to Shell Cove Marina for your hospitality.



After a great breakfast ashore, Sunday turned out to be a proper slow motion experience, by lunchtime most of the fleet were still inshore south of Port Kembla and so abandoned and started the long motor home. Only Sea Hawk made it out into the breeze offshore, but after a frustratingly slow afternoon, with sunset fast approaching, she became becalmed again off Wattomolla and she too had to abandon and motor home. All boats that day recorded a DNF.

You might ask "was it all worth it" ..hell yeah! Where else would you rather be than on the sea with your crew?



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WHAT'S COMING UP?

NAVIGATORS' CUP - 17th JANUARY



Cronulla Sailing Club invites all eligible yachts from all clubs across Sydney to join us on 17th January 2026 for the 28th Navigators Cup. The Navigators' Cup is a special event, run over 3 divisions that celebrates and commemorates Australia's historical sailing links with Botany Bay.

- Start and Finish in the Port Hacking Estuary
- Prizegiving and BBQ after racing at CSC clubhouse
- Offshore course - Port Hacking, Botany Bay, Wedding Cake Island, via Waverider, back to Port Hacking
- Short Ocean course - Port Hacking, Botany Bay, back to Port Hacking
- Inshore course - Bate Bay course.



Notice of Race and Entry will be available on the club website in the new year. For more information, please call Jared Macquart 0479 152 235.

I mix with the best...
Mudgee Concrete

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Have you got news or a story to tell? Be it a tall tale or true! We would love to hear all about it and feature it in a future edition of the Cronulla Sailing Club **Mainsheet**. Put together a content outline or pen a brief story, tell us who was involved, and add a pic or two for good measure, and we will edit it from there. Title it "Mainsheet contribution" in an email to info@cronullasailingclub.com.au



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IN OTHER NEWS

ROLEX SYDNEY TO HOBART

We would like to wish all our members and friends heading south in this year's Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Mudgee Concrete - Mick, Todd, Peter, Haakon, Timmy, Jack, Hayden, Jensen, Jacob, Mitch, Bucho and Stuart.

Ocean Crusaders J-Bird - Jason Thorne

Wild Thing 100 - Matt Pearce

URM Group - Tim Sellars

SHK Scallywag 100 - Ben Piggott

Antipodes - Larry Jamison



Let us know if we have missed anyone so we can follow along their journey.

MG14 QLD STATE TITLES



After a decisive victory in tricky conditions, our very own Bernard Parker and Luke Johnson on **Cin Cin**, took out the 2024 Queensland State MG14 titles at DPSS (Manly, QLD). So on the first weekend of December 2025, Bernard and Luke made the pilgrimage to defend their 2024 title.

This year the QLD titles were held inland in excellent sailing conditions on Lake Cootharaba. The weekend delivered a very competitive series with our 'boys' (Bernard celebrated his 60th birthday just one week prior) delivering a solid and reliable set of results to secure 3rd place on scratch. That's a well earned birthday present!

Nationally, the MG14 community are a tight bunch, and CSC are deeply entrenched in that community, so much so that our sailors don't just consistently do very well at state and national level, we also put our money where our mouth is by offering strong financial support, with this year Paint Wholesalers (Neil Murphy), Wet Tech Rigging (Drew Van Ryn), and Barracouta Sails (Neil Tasker) being national sponsors, including these QLD State titles. Not to mention that Bernard and the Parker family are the world's only manufacturer of MG14 hulls. That's class devotion!



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J24 STATE TITLES

We had a **FANTASTIC** result with *Sailpac Offshored* placing 1st on PHS, and *Pacatack* 2nd on PHS. *Sailpac Offshored* was skippered by Jack Felsenthal and crewed by PSS graduates Simon, Tim, Duncan and Hervey.

Congratulations to overall winner Sean Kirkjian on *Checkmate* representing CSC.

CAPE 2 RIO CALL



CSC welcomes two of our newest sailing members, Eric and Duncan Clark. These guys completed their sailing credentials on Sydney Harbour earlier this year, then wasted no time mingling with the CSC offshore skippers looking for some on-water experience.

You see, this father/son duo needed to get some ocean miles under their belts.. and fast!

Eric's brother Barry from Capetown, South Africa owns the well known 2007 Dudley Dix 40 design yacht **African Skimmer** and invited Eric and Duncan to join the crew in their campaign to participate in this year's **Cape to Rio** yacht race starting on the 27th of December 2025. The 3300nm long-distance Cape2Rio race traverses the South Atlantic Ocean from Cape Town, South Africa, to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Held every three years, this race is the Southern Hemisphere's longest intercontinental yacht race, with the journey taking up to a month to complete.

African Skimmer did her qualifier late in November in the 170 nm Seaport Supply Africa West Coast Offshore Race, finishing with a creditable fourth in light breeze, and so securing her qualification for the Cape to Rio race.

Ever since taking up the challenge, Eric and Duncan have embraced the sailing community and culture. Jumping straight into the deep end, Duncan has had plenty of quality dunkings on the Sea Hawk bow, whilst Eric quickly took on a range of roles from bow to stern.

Happy days boys. We wish you fair winds and safe sailing. You can easily track African Skimmer on your AIS app, or follow the official Cape2rio yacht race at [Royal Cape Yacht Club \(RCYC\)](#).



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LA FIESTA WHITSUNDAY ADVENTURE

Welcome home to our very own cruising dynamic duo, Greg (Ollie) and Kim Oldfield after returning safely on 5th December after a 6 month odyssey that took them on a 1000+ nm sailing journey up the NSW and Queensland coasts as far up as Airlie Beach.

Check out their adventures on their youtube channel.

<http://www.youtube.com/@lafiestasailing1141>





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WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Our sailing world is full of opportunities, but from the outside it can look pretty complicated, and I guess it probably is. But once you get your head around the way we can harness mother nature's powers to drive our boats forward, on her magical waterways, for free, you too might just become a little bit hooked.

As you will read in the *Mainsheet*, Cronulla Sailing Club proudly differentiates itself from a lot of other yacht clubs by offering sailing opportunities for yacht and dinghy sailors of all ages and all experience levels. CSC proudly nurtures their own, conducting learn to sail classes for singles, couples and families, be they adults and children, girls or boys, men or women. CSC may be a little club, but it has a big heart and an even bigger footprint with plenty of local, state, national, & even international championship representation and surprisingly (or not), regular podium finishes.

If you are considering coming back after a hiatus, or totally new to sailing and think this might be the new you, then it's up to you to take that first step. Only you can make it known that you are willing to give it a go, that you are keen to learn, that you are willing to step up and become a sailing member. Start your sailing journey by enrolling in learn to sail classes, start crewing, I assure you the rest can follow. Initially it may not be on that slick boat at the front of the fleet, but for those with commitment, one exciting day in the future it might just be you at the helm.

Dream big! Take that first step. With a little passion and determination, your perspective of life might just change for the better, forever. Is this your 2026 resolution?

BACK BONE



CSC members must be pretty content, we have a great sailing family, we have a clubhouse that is the envy of the sporting community, we have well maintained support boats and race equipment that adequately fulfills our needs. We have an awesome program for our sailors, and opportunities for those who strive to learn.

That doesn't happen because we own lots of land, a fully licensed community club with pokies and sponsors banging on our door, or even administrative staff overseen by highly paid managers. No, we essentially trade just a few hours a week and are held together by a band of remarkable members who volunteer tirelessly to ensure we stay financially secure, collectively keep focus on CSC remaining a sailing club, and offer the best possible sailing opportunities for our members. These folk don't wear expensive suits or whites and epaulettes, but we know you, we thank you, we salute you.

Please be supportive of our volunteers, if you see a problem or have a concern, don't increase their burden with criticism, put yourself in a pair of volunteer's shoes, and become part of the solution.



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