

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018

OFFSHORE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

25 YEARS STRONG

Celebrating the CYCA's Youth Sailing Academy

TONY CABLE

A legend tells all

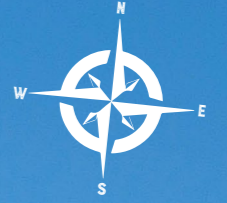
LISA BLAIR

Making history

DAVID KELLETT

His story

THE YACHTIE'S GUIDE TO TASMANIA



- #1 Sea legs are essential, particularly during oyster eating time.
- #2 Prepare to change tack at any given moment – there are 143 pubs, 200 wineries and over 25 distilleries to choose from.
- #3 Bring wet weather gear, especially around happy hour.
- #4 If you run aground, please pick yourself up quickly to save embarrassment.
- #5 Port has a slightly different meaning down here. (However whisky, gin and cider all mean the same.)
- #6 Always give right of way to those passing with large trays of refreshments.
- #7 Stay hydrated at all times – there are thousands of places to enjoy a ‘quiet little drink’.
- #8 If you fall in the drink, you’ve probably had enough.



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 Audi Sport

IN THIS EDITION

FEATURES



25 not out!

Celebrating 25 years of the CYCA's Youth Sailing Academy



Fresh Blair

How Honorary CYCA Member Lisa Blair is preparing to write history - again



Inside Tasmania

There's so much to see and do on the Apple Isle - the finishing state for the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

06 At the helm

07 News in brief

Invictus Games Sydney 2018, Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore Series and more

24 Cable Ties

Record-breaking legendary CYCA Member Tony Cable has quite the story

28 In their own words

David Kellett has left quite a legacy at the CYCA - and he's not done yet

32 Scene

The 2018 SOLAS Dinner

33 From the archives

34 Coming attractions

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
The CYCA's YSA has had a huge impact on sailing in 25 years. Credit: Andrea Francolini, Hamish Hardy, David Brogan

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COMMODORE PAUL BILLINGHAM

At the helm

With a successful Spring Series behind us and yachts returned from the Northern Regattas the Club is starting to wake from its winter hibernation!



CELEBRATING THE YSA

It is a wonderful way to kick off this issue of my column by celebrating 25 years of my Youth Sailing Academy. We are immensely proud of the success and traditions of the YSA and the story of its foundation and growth are engagingly covered in this issue of Offshore.

Indeed it is a busy period for our YSA and its boats both on and off the water. Firstly we successfully hosted the CYCA Women's Match Racing Regatta at the start of September at which I was pleased to award the rededicated John Messenger Perpetual Trophy to the CYCA team of Olivia Price, Rachel Bower, Emma May, Tara Blanc-Ramos and Wallis Brewer.

This was then followed by the Australian Women's Match Racing Regatta won by the talented RPAYC team with Juliet Costanzo at the helm and our own CYCA team of India Howard, Elyse Ratray, Dana Tavener, Katherine Shannon and Jaime Swavley a very respectable third; and then we rounded out with the open Australian Match Racing Championships won by James Hodgson, Harry Hall, Ryan Wilmot and Charlie Gundy from Mooloolaba.

Off the water we were delighted to welcome the sponsorship of a YSA Elliott 7 by Vibe Hotels. This is the second Elliott 7 sponsored by long-time YSA supporter Ervin Vidor's Toga Group and we are grateful for his continuing interest in the Club.

Finally the YSA is preparing to relocate into the new training room in the Clubhouse over coming weeks and so there is much for Justine, Pam, Jordan and the team to focus on - exciting times indeed.

CLUBHOUSE REOPENING ON 27 OCTOBER 2018

The official reopening of our Clubhouse will take place on Saturday 27 October at 5pm and I am pleased to announce that Mick York (Member for 73 years) and Joyce Warn (Member for 62 years) will jointly open the Clubhouse at the ceremony. Asking Joyce and Mick to perform the role is a great reflection of how the Club wants

to focus on its Members going forward - whom better than two people with such an unrivalled long-term association with the Club to fulfil this role?

Our eNewsletter, Onshore, will detail the opening more fully - we expect to have a soft opening from 18 October and I very much hope we can host our Members' badge draw that evening in the all-new Coasters Retreat!

“
We are projecting 80 to 90 yachts to make the start line this year with a very high-quality field expected.
”

INVICTUS GAMES ARE HERE!

The completion of the Clubhouse is coming at exactly the right time as we hand over the temporary Clubhouse to the Invictus Games Sydney 2018 to become the Sailing Base. We are honoured to have been selected to host the sailors and, along with RANSA, their family and friends over the competition which will culminate in the medal presentation on Sunday 21 October 2018 on the hardstand. The announcement of the CYCA After-Party for the Invictus Games Sydney 2018 saw Members and guests snap up the 300 tickets available in under two weeks!

CYCA HALL OF FAME

The first formal dinner we host in the new Clubhouse will be the 20-Year Members dinner which we will combine with announcing the inaugural inductees into the CYCA Hall of Fame that recognises and honours Members who have made an outstanding contribution to the CYCA, both on and off the water. This dinner will be held on 17 November 2018 with tickets to go on sale shortly.

ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE PREPARATIONS IN FULL SWING

As we enter the final quarter of the year, all eyes of course turn to our feature race and while activity ramps up at this time, in fact preparations continue year-round for this event. We are projecting 80 to 90 yachts to make the start line this year with a very high-quality field expected. The next Offshore also acts as the Official Program for the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, for the first time in many years produced in-house by our team and so I am looking forward to writing to Members again in December with news of the fleet. In the meantime, we whet the appetite with features in this edition on Sydney Hobart stalwarts Tony Cable and David Kellett as we continue to tell the stories of the people who have made the Club what it is today.

THE COMING 12 MONTHS - OUR PRIORITIES

Earlier this month I sat down with Peter Shipway to record an interview on the future of our Club. That interview will soon be posted on our website but regular readers of The Sked will already know that as a Board we are focussing on four priorities for the foreseeable future - Members First, Sail Training and Development, Blue Water Sailing and the way in which we Communicate. Everything we do as a Board will be focussed on these four key priorities as we look to set the Club up for not just a wonderful 75th anniversary next year but for a long-term successful future. To that end we will be holding our first Members' "Town Hall" in late November and would love to hear from as many Members as possible that evening to make sure we are on track for success.

Before then there is much to do - a building to finish, a Clubhouse to open and plenty to celebrate. I look forward to seeing you out on the water and around the Club. ⚓

NEWS IN BRIEF

JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS

Invictus Games Sydney 2018 comes to the CYCA



The CYCA is the host venue for the Invictus Games Sydney 2018 Sailing competition from 19 to 21 October 2018 - and Members and the public can be a part of this historic event.

The CYCA, RSYS, RPAYC and RANSA have been working together with Invictus Games Sydney 2018 to ensure that Sailing is a great success when it makes its debut on the Invictus Games competition schedule this October.

"The Invictus Games is an international adaptive sporting event for wounded, injured and ill service personnel and veterans," says Ben Rahilly Chief Operating Officer Invictus Games Sydney 2018.

"The Games is all about using the healing power of sport to inspire recovery and support rehabilitation of our wounded warriors. The word 'Invictus' is Latin for 'unconquered' and embodies the fighting spirit of our wounded, injured and ill servicemen and women.

"Sailing is a new addition to the Invictus Games which is very exciting. Both individual and team events will be contested and it's open to all competitors - we wanted everyone to be able to have a go and enjoy the fun of sailing. Competition will take place on Sydney Harbour which will be the perfect backdrop and a great way to kick off a fantastic week of competition."

The Sailing Base will host competitors, families and the media as the boats are prepared and head around to Farm Cove for the competition on Sunday 21 October. Exact times and location of the course will be weather dependent, and the on-water management will be handled by the RPAYC. This is a free event, and you can watch the action onshore around Farm Cove or on water outside the exclusion zone - why not get a group together and head out!



Woollahra Mayor Peter M Cavanagh with CYCA CEO Karen Grega

After racing concludes, it's back to the CYCA where the medal ceremony will take place at the Sailing Base. This will be restricted to competitors and their family and friends. Finally, we move on to the CYCA After-Party for the Invictus Games Sydney 2018 Sailing competition from 5:30pm.

"Sailing will take place on Sunday 21 October from 11:30pm to 5:00pm and we would love to see all members of the sailing community get down to Farm Cove to cheer on the competitors and enjoy the atmosphere," Rahilly says.

"Invictus Games Sydney 2018 is an opportunity for us to come together in a national demonstration of support for our defence community. By attending the Games I can guarantee you will be moved, you will be entertained and you will be inspired by the 'Invictus' spirit that this community displays each and every day."

Please note, there will be some temporary security-related changes affecting access the Marina, Sailing Base and to the car park at the Club as a result of the Invictus Games Sydney 2018. Full details on cyca.com.au

For more information Invictus Games Sydney 2018 visit www.invictusgames2018.org/

Ichi Ban claims Flinders title



Matt Allen (helm, third from left) skippers Ichi Ban to victory again in Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore Flinders Islet Race

Ichi Ban sets their spinnaker on the way to winning the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore Flinders Islet Race

Matt Allen's TP52 Ichi Ban claimed IRC and ORCi Division victories in this year's Flinders Islet Race, the second event in the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore (ACSBWPS) series. This year's race became a 90-nautical-mile maritime drag race, the fastest Flinders Islet Race in history.

After a great start, Allen and crew maintained their positioning for the duration of the race. Taking second place on Line Honours, Allen posted a fast-enough time to climb to the top of the IRC and ORCi leaderboards where he remained to the finish. Allen, fresh from his divisional win at Airlie Beach Race Week in August, and very close second at Hamilton Island Race Week, was overjoyed with the result.

"We're very happy to come away with the win - it was really tight racing the whole way," says Allen. "It was hard to make gains on the rest of the fleet going towards Flinders Islet, there were a lot of holes in the breeze on the way down and it was incredibly technical sailing. Coming back was a different story though, we

had 20-30 knots across the boat and we had a lovely reach into Sydney Harbour and the finish."

The ACSBWPS, known as the pinnacle of ocean racing in this country, started in July with the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, and will climax in December with the 'Everest' of ocean racing, the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, and Allen is no stranger to victory here. The current Rolex Sydney Hobart Tattersall Cup winner, and conventionally-ballasted race record holder, he also holds the same record for the Cabbage Tree Island Race as well as race record for the Newcastle Bass Island Race.

"When we built the boat, that was the brief, and it's been part of everything we do: to race in, and win, the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore series and the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. The last time the Hobart race was won twice in a row was around 1965, so it's been a long time between drinks," adds Allen.

Catch the latest information on the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore Series at www.bwps.cyca.com.au

COMANCHE SETS RECORD

Jim Cooney and Samantha Grant's 100-footer Comanche claimed Line Honours - and a record - in Race 2 of the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore (ACSBWPS) series, the Flinders Islet Race.

Flying into Sydney Harbour and crossing the line just 6 hours, 28 minutes and 20 seconds after starting the 92-nautical-mile challenge, the crew were understandably overjoyed with their latest claim to fame.

"It was a fantastic race," says owner and skipper Jim Cooney.

"We had a nice run down the coast to the Islet, but it was a pretty heavy slog back. We were tucked in quite close to the coast as we headed north, and it was great to see the other competitors heading down under spinnaker."



Comanche crosses the finish line in beautiful Sydney Harbour, claiming Line Honours and smashing the Flinders Islet Race record



The 2018 - and 2019 - Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Races, and associated festivities, are not to be missed (credit ROLEX Studio Borlenghi)

DON'T MISS THE 2018 ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART!

The 2018 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race is fast approaching - with entries closing on Friday, 26 October.

This year's Race is bound to once again capture the attention of sports fans across the country and around the world. (Next year's Race is the historic 75th - don't miss that one, either!)

For the latest on the Race, including news, videos, interviews and more, plus entry details, visit www.rolexsydneyhobart.com

GOOD VIBE JOINS YSA

The Vibe at Rushcutters Bay is backing the Youth Sailing Academy, signing up as sponsors of an Elliott 7 for three years. The Vibe's branding will be proudly displayed on the Elliott 7, with representatives Steve Carrodus, Damien Duong and Manoj Raveendranath helping Christen the vessel in September along with the CYCA Board and Commodore Paul Billingham. The Vibe Hotel, located just across the park from the CYCA, is the perfect base for your stay whenever you're visiting the Club. For more on the hotel, visit www.vibehotels.com



GO ONSHORE

Want a weekly dose of everything CYCA? Register for our eNewsletter, Onshore, sent every Monday. Visit www.cyca.com.au/onshore to sign up to your regular injection of sailing goodness.



The CYCA's Youth Sailing Academy has produced more than 600 graduates... and thousands of great sailing memories

25 not out!

CELEBRATING THE YOUTH SAILING ACADEMY

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's Youth Sailing Academy has achieved a lot in a quarter of a century, writes HAMISH HARDY

In just 25 years, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's Youth Sailing Academy (YSA) has established itself as one of the most prestigious youth sailing programs in the world - a breeding ground for the next generation. Since 1993 the YSA has produced more than 600 graduates, many of whom have progressed on to the world sailing stage with achievements including successful America's Cup campaigns, Olympic medals and more.

For a program of this calibre, success, however, does not come overnight - there were many steps and evolutions through which the current-day YSA was born. At the time, connecting the next generation of ocean racers with opportunities available at the Club was problematic, but the creation of the YSA has alleviated that issue and many others.

"There was no real pathway at the Club [in the 1980s and early 1990s]," says CYCA legend and first YSA Committee Member Peter Shipway.

"You had to cut your teeth at various skiff clubs and then literally had to walk along the dock asking for a ride with no ocean racing experience

"This is exactly what many of us did at the time including myself, learning the basic sailing skills away from the Club and then went out into the ocean!"

The pathway started with the Youth Ocean Training Scheme (YOTS) being devised by Maurie Cameron to address the problem of working to get more young sailors trained and into the world of ocean racing. It opened the door for young sailors keen to crew aboard various yachts, in the first instance by providing places on those boats returning from the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. A 'sort of' race back to Sydney was organised. Unfortunately, without funding and full Board support, this limited the amount of progress that was made.

Ian Treleaven, who had moved across from New Zealand, had seen the benefits of well-implemented youth sailing programs. With the seed planted, a proposal was created which involved a similar fleet of sports yachts for young Members to learn on. A concept was developed to fund a fleet of 10 Elliott 5.9s, a coach boat and a full-time coach using sponsorship as financial assistance.

"After moving from New Zealand to Sydney in 1987, I joined the CYCA and skippered the Davidson 55 'Starlight Express' in many Club races including the Sydney Hobart. I noticed an opportunity for the Club to introduce a youth sailing program similar to the very successful model which had been operating for several years at the RNZYS in Auckland, New Zealand," Treleaven says.

"The RNZYS had a fleet of 10 Elliott 5.9 performance trailable yachts which attracted students due to its performance and excitement when sailing. Dean Barker who went on to skipper Team New Zealand was one such graduate. A common theme discussed around the Clubhouse was that it was getting harder to find regular crew for Members' yachts.

"I presented a proposal in 1992 to then-Commodore of the CYCA Leigh Minehan of starting a similar fleet for young Members at the CYCA using the same craft as New Zealand, which would encourage inter-dominion sailing between the two major clubs."

That same year the proposal - eventually - was passed... by the smallest of margins, on the proviso that the program would be self-funded. This would prove to be one of the greatest decisions for youth sailing at the Club. And the rest, as they say, is history.

A passionate group of volunteers created the first YSA Committee led by Cameron and included Treleaven, Shipway, Sir James Hardy, Robin Copeland, Brian Emery and Mike Fletcher. The first port of call was re-validating the type of boats which the academy would be based around. Multiple boats were investigated and trialed with the Elliott 5.9s originally proposed due to their exciting performance, a three-person crew - all having a working position and to have the same craft as other clubs. During that process Olympic coach Mike Fletcher and well-known offshore sailor Shipway were invited to evaluate all options. The Elliott 5.9 was the resounding winner.

Once the yachts were decided the goal was set to get 10 identical boats on to the water and ready for the sailors. To fund the program marine suppliers were approached and for a fee would be able to have naming rights and branding of an Elliott.

On 25 March 1993, the CYCA Youth Sailing Academy was officially launched, with eight sponsored boats and the final two boats being supported by Club Members. Dayne Sharp was appointed as the first coach/



Christening of the Elliott 5.9 fleet which was the first sports yacht the YSA students sailed.



Sydney Harbour has proven a great training ground - and a scenic backdrop - for the YSA's programs



The YSA sailors challenge themselves in differing wind conditions to enhance their skills and prepare for future competitions.



Dayne Sharpe - the first coach of the YSA.



Nina Curtis, Lucinda Whitty and Olivia Price with their silver medals. Credit Daniel Forster, go4image.com.

manager and was heavily involved in the setup. The first group of young sailors who came in to the academy were predominantly Club Members' sons and daughters who were looking to extend their skills and engage in some more competitive racing.

"There were a few knockers... but I would say that after 25 years of operation the YSA is very much an integral part of the club," Sharp says.

For the students of the YSA it was an additional source of sailing for many who were already engaged in racing at other clubs. They were provided the opportunities to continue sailing during the winter months and, with the assistance of many Club Members, they got the chance to sail on bigger yachts.

These young sailors were given opportunities to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills in the sport. Having a regular involvement with the academy and all the different avenues in which it was involved meant that whether the students were competing in match racing, offshore racing or fleet racing, their skills rapidly increased.

For many graduates who went through the YSA programs the journey didn't stop once they finished the courses. Graduates would be brought back to the Academy and encouraged to work with the next generation and transfer the knowledge they learnt as coaches and training partners.

"One of the highlights of my time at the YSA was the two

years or so that we were able to train, sail and race a couple of Club Members' (Martin James and John Needham) 45 and 50ft yachts. We trained many young budding offshore sailors up and down the NSW and QLD coast, culminating in the 1997 Sydney to Hobart," Sharp says.

"Ten youth sailors under 18 and four 'oldies' on board. Absolutely brilliant trip. Seeing the camaraderie amongst the groups, the personal development and growth of these and many other young sailors over a few years was one of the highlights for me.

"The YSA has been really important. Regardless of one's sailing level, there were opportunities available to expand oneself and gain confidence with the water and be amongst old and new friends. Many friendships developed over the years that will be there for a lifetime. Some

of the keener kids have gone onto be professional sailors, America's Cup, Olympic or high-end keel boat sailors, sailmakers, yacht designers, boat builders and the like. The current Great Britain Head Coach was the first young sailor I employed as a coach at YSA and other like coaches have become World Champions and Olympic coaches."

CYCA Member Olivia Price - an Olympic silver medallist at the 2012 London Games - knows first-hand how important the YSA has been. She is one of the many success stories produced by the hard-working team, currently overseen by CYCA Sailing Manager Justine Kirkjian, Head Coach Jordan

“There were a few knockers... but I would say that after 25 years of operation the YSA is very much an integral part of the club.”
 - First YSA coach/manager Dayne Sharp

“The intense training program that I went through in my early years at the YSA gave me the understanding of what's involved in a long-term sailing campaign, and what's important for success in all aspects of life.”
 - YSA graduate and Australian Olympian Olivia Price

"It's been great to watch the progression of the young guys that I used to see sailing in dinghies come through the program and be successful sailors," Kellett says. "It is great to hear many well accomplished sailors still acknowledging the YSA as one of the main starting points for their sailing careers. To have affiliation with it even once they have moved on to bigger things is a great testament to how it influences the graduates which come through."

graduates... Just have a look at how many YSA graduates are part of the world's most successful sailing teams!"

Current CYCA Board Member Bradshaw Kellett, also the navigator on InfoTrack, was in the first intake of Youth Sailing Academy participants in 1993 and has seen the impact the set-up has on the sailing world - both for individuals and the greater sailing community.

Reece and Academy Administrator Pam Scrivenor. "I started doing the School Holiday Course when I was younger and instantly got hooked on the Elliott sailing. Growing up sailing in the YSA squads, the program not only taught the necessary skills for competing at the highest level, but also provided me with a well-rounded skill-set for other life lessons," Price says. "The holistic view of the YSA program is something that has kept me coming back after 11 years so far.

"The YSA provided me with my first international racing experience in match racing, and then in turn put me in the right place for the opportunity of a lifetime, to go to the Olympics in London 2012. The intense training program that I went through in my early years at the YSA gave me the understanding of what's involved in a long-term sailing campaign, and what's important for success in all aspects of life. The YSA provides opportunities for sailors that are learning to sail, as well as the highest elite level.

"The squad set-up of the YSA enables mixed-ability sailors to sail with one another. One thing that has always stuck with me, was the way the older and more experienced sailors were always willing to support and teach the younger ones such as myself. One season, Evan Walker spent most of his Saturdays in the Elliott 6 with me, along with others, to help accelerate my development and understanding. This sums up the attitude of the YSA and its

Now celebrating its 25th year, the YSA shows no signs of slowing down. In 2018 the Academy has been celebrating its achievements with Australian Sailing appointing all of Australia's Match Racing National Championships to the YSA. Along with the Women's, Open, Youth and Schools Match Racing Championships, the YSA will be conducting its two highly regarded international regattas.

"I guess the fact that it has made 25 years tells the success of the YSA," Sharp says.

YSA | 25 YEARS

"I would imagine the same principles still apply to the YSA as when it first started... giving young people the chance to experience other aspects of the sport, to develop and gain confidence within themselves and have fun."

Treleven, whose daughter Janey is the CYCA's Rear Commodore and came through the second intake of the YSA, agrees.

"The original aim of the CYCA Youth Academy was to attract children of Members to the Club, lower the average age of the Club's Members, which at the time was getting dangerously old, and to help feed trained crew through to yachts owned by Members of the Club," Treleven says.

"Now 25 years on the Academy has achieved many of the goals originally intended and it is now subsidised with funding from the Club and Members; a great sign that it is a valued addition.

"Membership age of the Club has decreased and the children of many Members have followed them into the Club to perform well in blue water racing and also serve on Committees and the Board including my daughter Janey and Bradshaw Kellett, son of Past Commodore David Kellett. In 1996, Sidewinder competed in the Sydney Hobart crewed only by academy graduates plus their coach Dayne Sharp.

"YSA graduates have gone on to successfully compete in the America's Cup, Volvo Ocean Races and the Olympic Games. The program also has a history of giving back to the community, too - an Aboriginal program, for example,

taught 30 Indigenous Australians how to sail with three going on to compete in the Sydney Hobart. I was particularly pleased that the Board supported the Gay & Lesbian Yacht Club using the fleet for their annual regatta.

"Personally I have been proud of having YSA students and graduates crew on my Volvo 60 and now the Farr 40 I co-own

with my daughter who was part of the second YSA intake.

"The Academy has been a great asset to the Club especially at a time when clubs all around the world, no matter the sport, are struggling to attract young new Members. Graduates are the future of our Club so it is very important to continue investing in this program while ensuring it still follows its original charter of introducing young people to the Club and the joy of sailing. We must retain those members by keeping them in sailing and feeding them through to Members' yachts and on to Sydney Hobart racing.

"The youth are keeping the Club alive with laughter and new, fresh ideas." ⚓

“
Now 25 years on the Academy has achieved many of the goals originally intended and it is now subsidised with funding from the Club and Members; a great sign that it is a valued addition. – first YSA Committee Member Ian Treleven
”



The CYCA's YSA wouldn't be where it is today without support from its sponsors, including Musto.

The CYCA team competing at the highly regarded Musto Youth International Match Racing Championship.



YSA Facts.

- 625** sailors who have graduated through the YSA
- 113** major regattas hosted by YSA
- 83** YSA sailors who have competed in a Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race during their time at YSA
- 48** World Champions
- 3** Olympic medallists

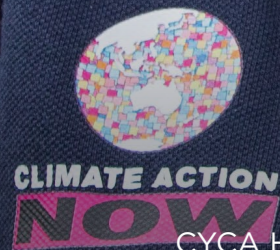
The CYCA's Youth Sailing Academy wouldn't have achieved what it has without the generous support of its partners and sponsors. To each and every one of you across a 25-year period - and there are too many to list here - thank you. If you or your business wishes to support the YSA for 2018 and beyond, email our Sponsorship Manager Nicholas Janzen - nicholas.janzen@cyca.com.au



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Fresh Blair

zhik



CYCA Honorary Member Lisa Blair is preparing to make another record-breaking adventure, with a focus on the environment, writes NICHOLAS JANZEN



Blair has already seen a lot of the world - although she's preparing to see more (Credit Dean Coopman)

Africa, Antarctica and now around Australia - Lisa Blair has never taken the 'easy route'.

Even before becoming a world-renowned adventurer, the Honorary CYCA Member has been pushing her limits. And, on October 14, from adjacent to the CYCA in Rushcutters Bay, Sydney, she'll do it again.

Blair, who holds the record for the first woman to sail solo around Antarctica, aims to become the first woman to sail solo around Australia, circumnavigating the entire coastline anti-clockwise - 6,536 nautical miles - taking approximately six weeks to complete the epic journey.

"I always wanted to create a bit of a career out of adventuring and to use that to inspire people to have adventures and follow their dreams and goals," Blair tells Offshore.

"When I was looking at doing Antarctica I was also looking at the Australia record - at the time I deemed it safer to do than the Australian one because of the lack of shipping channels, rocks, reefs and coastline and all those additional challenges

"From there I always then had the intention to do the women's record around Australia. Now I'm putting it together and doing it!"

For Blair, much of the challenge isn't going to be on the high seas.

"I think 90 per cent of the battle is getting to the start line - getting the sponsorship, the boat (CLIMATE ACTION NOW) prepped and ensuring everything is ready to go and ticking the boxes," she says.

"The challenge itself - I love being away from land, and

for me it's overcoming all the obstacles along the way... fatigue management, loneliness, weather change, storm conditions, light winds, reefs, rocks, managing yourself alone on a boat for six weeks - that's the challenge I love.

"It's a unique one - some people would definitely struggle with the loneliness. I don't have anyone to default to, to say 'do this, this, this' so I have to figure it out and I enjoy that challenge. Being at sea so long, after so long preparing and being in a rush to get going, it's this incredible calming moment of 'ahh, now I'm just sailing and I don't need to worry about anything else'."

Blair's love of sailing started during her university days.

"I got a job as a cook and a cleaner on a charter boat in the Whitsundays, doing a lot of the grunt work but also being able to enjoy the sailing. I was fortunate enough the deckie on board was really helpful - he started teaching me the names of things, as did the skipper who saw my interest grow, and I went from there," the art-teacher graduate says.

"It's a sport anyone can do irrespective of your physical capabilities, and I think you can learn quite quickly or slowly depending on how you want to learn. It's an amazing sport.

"I was a primary school teacher for four months in Tanzania - a great experience. Because I was a teacher, the parents would take you to the local dance clubs, little holes in the wall, underground... lots of fun! I did that trip, did another year of school then went to the Whitsundays and the rest is history.



CLIMATE ACTION NOW rides the waves, carrying with it the messages of thousands hoping for a better tomorrow



Inside Lisa Blair's record-breaking vessel, CLIMATE ACTION NOW (Credit Dean Coopman)



Lisa Blair has the backing of many, including legendary Australian Dick Smith

"I do fully intend to get back to the art but maybe when I'm 50 and I've set up a cool art studio."

Despite a later start to sailing, Blair, 33, however, is not an inexperienced sailor. Last year she competed in the Rolex Sydney Hobart, and she's experienced some of the world's most challenging conditions - including being demasted on her successful Antarctica adventure - and come through the other side.

"We later worked out it was an electric current issue through the rigging, which caused my diagonal shroud to snap after four months... it snapped when I was in seven to eight metre swells, with 30 to 40 knots of wind," Blair says of her biggest challenge.

"It was pretty 'decent' (challenging conditions) but that was average for the southern ocean, I'd been in that for weeks and weeks. It'd just gone dark, the rig snapped as soon as it lost its support - it took me four hours to separate the spar from the boat. I very nearly died several times. I managed to save the boat but I was hypothermic at the end of it from the conditions... it took me another 10 days to build a jury rig, intercept a container ship and do a fuel transfer and then motor sail the boat up to South Africa which was another 1000 miles away at the time of the demasting."

After two months in South Africa, an insurance payout and the fortuitous discovery of replacement sails and a mast, she returned to her demasting point to continue where she left off.

Terrified - every wave - and battling sea sickness, a head cold, 15-metre swells and massive storms, she conquered the trip. But don't call her crazy for signing up to do it again, albeit in warmer waters.

"All the time [people call me crazy] - it's an opinion, everyone's entitled to their opinion," Blair says.

"I'm not crazy, I'm logical. I take a long, hard look at my skillset and do my research and preparation. I surround myself with the right people, experts, so if I have a gap in my knowledge like in rigging or electronics or any of

those areas, I have experts on my team who I can call day and night. I think that takes the crazy out of it.

"I think this journey will be a lot different to the Antarctica one - it's relatively high-risk the entire way around. My greatest fear is the guys with the little fishing tinnies who go five or 10 miles offshore on a beautiful day and I can't see them until I'm right on top of them. It takes time to change direction, it takes time to change the sails. I'm not going to have a lot of rest.

"It's going to be more tropical, though - it's going to be quite warm around the top!"

For Blair, this trip is about much more than personal promotion, though - it's about raising the profile of the impact humans are having on the planet through her CLIMATE ACTION NOW project.

"When I did the Clipper Round the World Race and we were sailing around the top of Australia, through Indonesia, Singapore, China and the North Pacific it was a soup - we literally had the kitchen sink flowing past. Seeing that pollution - it's a navigational hazard and it's heartbreaking," she says.

"One of the saddest things, for me, is that people still don't understand the concept that what you throw in the street ends up in the ocean then ends up in your stomach through the food you eat.

"I wanted to turn that into a positive story - there's enough negativity out there. I wanted to inspire people to step up and take a bit of responsibility and make a change - asking people to make a post-it message [about something] that they're already doing. It might be that they're no longer using single-use water bottles, or they're turning off the lights at night or cutting down their showers by a minute or two... whatever it was, I took their messages and took it into the vinyl hull wrap.

"For every person with a note on the boat, they have that footprint - sharing their message. When I have a school group, it helps create that conversation, and showing it's not that difficult to make a positive change."

Blair has had some significant support across her adventures, including from Pivotal who have provided technology assistance in a partnership that will help broadcast her message from the boat to the world. So too, from the likes of some legendary sailing figures and adventures whose footsteps she's following.

"I stayed with Kay Cottee when I came back from Antarctica and I'd consider Jessica Watson a really close friend now," Blair enthuses.

"For me, I was working in a jewellery store in a mall trying to build the funds to sail around the world and I started reading the stories and the books - at the same time trying to work out my life direction and seeing whether I wanted to pursue sailing or give it up altogether.

"The one thing that resonated with me was that

they were normal people... they weren't gurus of the industry and where they had a gap in their knowledge they sought education and obtained it. It made it all achievable. Jess has been a great supporter of mine for many years now. I met her when she finished her

circumnavigation before I did mine with crew. I went to them often and they were incredibly supported."

Does she now see herself in the same light, seeing as she's mentioned in the same breath - a pioneer of the sport?

"I still don't! Hopefully one day. There's a time and a place," she says.

“One day I’d like to be considered as one of Australia’s greatest adventurers, not just sailing.”

"One day I'd like to be considered as one of Australia's greatest adventurers, not just sailing."

What does that mean exactly?

"You'll have to stay tuned!" 📍

Lisa Blair departs on her circumnavigation of Australia on October 14, 2018, from D'Albora Marina adjacent to the CYCA at Rushcutters Bay. For more information on her adventure visit lisablairsailstheworld.com.

What is CLIMATE ACTION NOW?

Since Lisa Blair found her love for sailing in 2005, she has noticed the impact man-made climate change has on the environment. The storms are more aggressive and less predictable, the absence of wild life, and the increased risk of collision with ice as the glaciers keep melting. These are all symptoms of man-made climate change. What we know is that action needs to be taken and a greater awareness needs to be reached.

Blair's project CLIMATE ACTION NOW is designed not

to focus on the problem but instead on actions we are taking or can be taking as individuals towards a solution by utilising the power of 'note' sharing. She invites the community to get involved and create a post-it note. For your message add an action that you are already taking towards a better future. This could be 'I ride to work for climate action', or 'I recycle for climate action'. Together we can deliver a very strong message which will receive a high level of media attention and create some meaningful conversations around this topic. Lisa is has also re-named her yacht 'CLIMATE ACTION NOW'.

A QUIET LITTLE DRINK

A Curious Custom in Tasmania

Set your navigational sights on Tasmania and all it has to offer with our guide to tempt even the toughest sea salt to drop anchor. Race end or not, the stunning island state is steeped in maritime history with plenty of unique places to explore the tradition of a 'Quiet Little Drink'.



Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. (Credit Alastair Bett)

HOBART CBD

The **Hobart Race Village** is the ultimate Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race celebration location. Watch the fireworks and bring in the New Year with family and friends, enjoying plenty of entertainment with a true party atmosphere.

Be part of the legend by anchoring your crew at the historic **Shipwrights Arms** in Battery Point for a 'Quiet Little Drink' - a tradition dating back to 1969 when two sailors wandered into the pub, affectionately known as 'Shippies' for a quiet little get-together and ordered 200 beers! The spirit of the Quiet Little Drink lives on nearly 50 years later.

Tradition also abounds at the nearby **Cascade Brewery**, located at the foot of picturesque kunanyi / Mount Wellington. Established in 1824, it's Australia's oldest operating brewery. Try Australia's longest continuously brewed beer, Cascade Pale Ale, take a tour or bring the crew together for a private post-race event. Then, end the day with a nightcap at **Lark Cellar Door and Whisky Bar** on Hobart's waterfront.

The Maritime Museum in central Hobart is a charming way to appreciate Tasmania's long association with the sea, ships and shipbuilding.

HUON VALLEY

More of the island state's maritime heritage can be explored at the **Wooden Boat Centre** at Franklin, where you can also set sail with a cruise on the 'Yukon', a 17m wooden ketch. The valley is also home to really good apple cider - stop at **Frank's Cider**, **Pagan Cider Cellar Door** or **Willie Smiths Apple Shed** where you'll also want to try their pork braised in cider and a wedge of their famed apple pie. Go a little left of centre at **Hartshorn Distillery** in Birchs Bay, to try the world's best vodka (World Vodka Awards 2018) made with sheep whey from the onsite cheesery.



Willie Smith's Apple Shed. (Credit Samuel Shelley)



Hartshorn Distillery - Grandveve Cheeses (Credit Rob Burnett)



Shene Estate & Distillery - Road Side Stall. (Credit Samuel Shelley)



Melshell Oysters Farm Gate. (Credit Rob Burnett)



Clover Hill Wines (Supplied courtesy of Clover Hill Wines)

BRUNY ISLAND

With abundant wildlife and stunning clifftop views, Bruny Island is just 40km south of Hobart and can be accessed by water or catch the vehicle ferry across from Kettering. Explore the island and meet the locals who grow and produce Bruny's specialty gourmet food and wine. Wrap your lips around an oyster at **Get Shucked**, tempt the palate with a cheese tasting at **Bruny Island Cheese Co.** or enjoy an award-winning single malt at **Bruny Island House of Whisky**. Experience another level of isolation and luxury at **Satellite Island**. Utterly unspoilt, this island off an island is the place to go to take things slow.

MIDLANDS

The Tasmanian midlands are rich in agricultural and colonial history. Just 40 minutes north of Hobart over a whisky or gin, hear the stories of Tasmania's colourful past at the historic **Shene Estate & Distillery** or learn of convict and bushranger days with a tipple at former grand coaching inn, **Old Kempton Distillery**. **Ratho Farm** at Bothwell provides heritage accommodation and is home to Australia's oldest golf course.

TASMAN PENINSULA

The UNESCO World Heritage listed **Port Arthur Historic Site** is an essential destination on any visit to

Tasmania and just an hour and half drive from Hobart city. The site is Australia's best-preserved convict settlement with over 30 buildings, ruins and restored period homes set in 40 hectares of landscaped grounds. The Tasman Peninsula also boasts Australia's southern-most whisky distillery, **McHenry Distillery**. Master distiller Bill McHenry also produces a charming old English style sloe gin.

DERWENT VALLEY

Take a scenic drive from Hobart through the Derwent Valley and come across farmers and producers passionate about growing, harvesting and sourcing the best local produce. **The Agrarian Kitchen & Eatery** in New Norfolk provides a true paddock to plate experience, while larger than life Ashley, at the aptly named **Two Metre Tall Farmhouse** brews one-of-a-kind ales, ciders and even mead from his paddock. Fifth generation winemaker Stefano Lubiana runs the family owned estate **Stefano Lubiana Wines** at the foothills of the Derwent Valley estuary, stop by for a pinot noir.

EAST COAST

Leave the world behind and take a stroll on the many secluded and pristine beaches along Tasmania's east coast. Enjoy total indulgence at **Saffire Freycinet** - the epitome of Australian coastal luxury. Taste just-

shucked oysters at the **Melshell Oyster Shack** and pair with a bottle of BYO wine at one of the many local vineyards.

At **Devil's Corner Cellar** in Apslawn you can sit out on the deck and take in the panoramic views of the Hazards and Freycinet Peninsula over a basket of fine fish and chips or wood-fired pizza.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN - LAKE ST CLAIR NATIONAL PARK

Lake St Clair, at the southern end of the famous Overland Track in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park is not only a fly-fisherman's nirvana but is home to the restored industrial building retreat, **Pumphouse Point**. Enjoy a shared-table dining experience or grab a drink from the self-serve honesty bar and relax on the flume enjoying a full wilderness experience.

LAUNCESTON & THE NORTH

A golfer's paradise, **Barnbogle's** two iconic golf courses - the Dunes and Lost Farm links are set in sand dunes near the seaside village of Bridport. The challenging 18-hole championship course is among the best links courses in the world. After a day or two of golf, drop in to **Clover Hill Wines** on the short drive

to Launceston and once back in the city, step inside the historic **Boag's Brewery** for a fully guided tour and tasting. Finish the day at **Geronimo Aperitivo Bar and Restaurant** or dine at the countless options of dining experiences the city has to offer.

NORTH WEST

Allow plenty of time to meander the north west which offers classic coastal drives, food trails, stunning national parks and fresh produce in abundance year round. The **Tasmanian Food & Wine Conservatory** café and providore stocks 100% Tasmanian produce. **Southern Wild Distillery** in Devonport is a new distillery, serving up premium gin, whisky and liqueurs and be sure to find some time while you're in Devonport to visit the **Bass Strait Maritime Centre**.

WEST COAST

The rugged and untouched 'wild west' is all raw beauty and adventure. Historic mining towns, untamed rivers for white water rafting, spectacular harbours and old-growth rainforest - there's so much to do. Take a tour into the heart of the UNESCO Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area aboard the new **Gordon River Cruise** vessel *Spirit of the Wild*, traverse some of the steepest grades in the world on the **West Coast Wilderness Railway** and spend the night at **Captains Rest**, a historically-listed waterfront cottage in Lettes Bay Village, just outside of Strahan. 📍

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tony Cable

Holding the record for the most Sydney Hobart Races of any individual, the Life Member of the CYCA spins a yarn or two to DJ MUNRO



TONY: Certainly, by 1961 I was keen to do the Hobart race and Geoff was getting Tarni ready to go. Unfortunately, we busted our roller reefing gear in that race and had to retire. But I already wanted more. I just kept on going, finding rides on various yachts, many of those owned by Members of the CYCA.

OFFSHORE: You've mentioned your first Sydney Hobart Race was in 1961 and you've raced to the Apple Isle a colossal 51 times, the most of any individual. You've only missed ix races in the past 57 years, what drives you to keep on getting out there?

TONY: I just like ocean racing! But that is a sentiment shared by many thousands of people you'd find around our Club and beyond. I enjoy sailing out on the ocean and I'm lucky enough to not get seasick. But it's the camaraderie of the sport, I've sailed with 544 people aboard 20 different boats over the last 50-odd years, many of them characters and many with a yarn to spin.

OFFSHORE: And speaking of these characters, we couldn't go past your involvement in the Sydney Hobart race without

mentioning The Quiet Little Drink (QLD), an event almost as famous as yourself. Could you tell us how it started?

TONY: In the early days, when I first started racing to Hobart in the '60s I was meeting veterans of the first races since 1944 and there were plenty of characters amongst them. A lot of very capable people, from hard-cases to old sea-dogs, as well ex-servicemen and women in what was an infant sport in this country.

By the time we all got to Hobart the crews were looking to party, I'd be in the pubs all the time - 24 hours basically. Everyone got to know each other, they could've been stockbrokers, lawyers, or blacksmiths, but with the hijinks some these people got up to you wouldn't know the difference!

By '69 I was mates with a lot of these people, but I had a particular crony by the name of John Dawson. I said, 'let's get away from all this riff-raff and have our own party'. We found the Shipwrights Arms Hotel, which is a terrific place to this day, handed around a few invitations. We walked into the blue door of the "Shippies" at 1000 on New Year's Day and bought a shout of 200 beers.

“
We walked into the blue door of the “Shippies” at 1000 on New Year’s Day and bought a shout of 200 beers.
”

OFFSHORE: Tony you've done a lot of sailing in your lifetime, how did this incredible passion of yours begin?

TONY: I was born and bred in Kings Cross, but I missed out on all the junior sailing that youngsters have in Sydney because I went to boarding school in Bathurst. It was the same school as the famous Hugh Treharne, tactician aboard Australia II, in fact. Once I left school though, I would sail on a family friend's small harbour racer which I really enjoyed.

I then started sailing with Geoff Ormiston in the Summer Pointscore out of Sydney Amateur Sailing Club (SASC) on a small 24-footer and after only a year he wanted to go up a size. Geoff bought a boat from Messenger's Boatshed called Tarni, an ocean racer that had come up from Tasmania with two Sydney Hobart races to her name. As she was an ocean racer, Geoff was coaxed into doing a few smaller ocean races run by the CYCA and I was more than happy to go along for the ride!

OFFSHORE: So you started ocean racing with the Club when you were around 17, when did you first come to be a Member of our Club?

TONY: I had been racing with Geoff for a couple of years, but back then you couldn't belong to a licensed premise until you were 21 years of age.

While I was competing in a lot of races with the CYCA, I couldn't even enter the portal to the establishment. But I couldn't wait to join the Club and I think it was right on my 21st birthday that I put my nomination forward!

Boy Messenger then took me on a few races with him, he was a pre-eminent skipper who didn't mind having a young whippersnapper on board. I started to do some 90- and 180-milers and by then, I was into it.

OFFSHORE: Was this newfound enjoyment of the sport what drove you to compete in what is considered the 'Everest' of ocean racing, the Sydney Hobart race for the first time?



Tony Cable racing to Hobart at the helm of Witchdoctor.



Tony Cable at his 50th Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race (Photo credit-Stefano Gattini)

“ Next thing I knew a young constable came up and handcuffed me, took me down to the Criminal Investigation Branch, recorded my finger prints and locked me in a cell! ”

OFFSHORE: So that was it, the start of the now-famous QLD: yourself and a mate walking in to an out-of-the-way pub and ordering a couple of hundred beers!

TONY: And there were just two other locals in the bar, but boy were they surprised! The crew of Jisuma promptly arrived and ordered another 200 beers. David Hutchen then chalked up “Cable and Dawson: 200 beers. Jisuma: 200 beers,” and the competition was on. All of a sudden there were over 1,400 beers tallied on the board and Hutchen was dubbed the nickname ‘Chalkie’ which he retains to this day.

The ABC later did a film about us and everyone started coming along, we had to move around the corner to the St. Ives hotel because they had a large car park we could take over. We had a resident ‘QLD Jazz Band’ on the back of a semi-trailer and Sandy Bay Road would close as they backed-into the car park, playing the whole way. We always had a stage that played host to raucous songs and events such as tap-dancing competitions, but we wouldn’t allow anyone up there that was just telling a story about dad and Dave.

OFFSHORE: Sounds like an amazing time Tony and the QLD obviously attracted sailors from all walks of life, but I’ve heard you also attracted some less-wanted attention as well.

TONY: Ah yes, there was of course that famous time they arrested me and put me in a Hobart lockup. Donald Graham, a good friend of mine, was running a police training school over on North Head. The course had finished for Christmas and the superintendents from all across the country came to the CYCA for lunch. I got talking to Superintendent Roth from Tasmania and decided to give him a series of very friendly, pointed words along the lines of ‘you must be the one who harasses all the yachtsman down in Hobart!’ He just calmly asked me what my name was and we kept chatting away.

Donald told me later, ‘he was really getting stuck into you, you’ll be a marked man by the time you get to Hobart!’ Sure enough, at the very next QLD, we went to a secret bar up in the hills, but the tip-off was already in. I constantly had coppers coming up to me saying, ‘Superintendent Roth wishes you a pleasant day Tony’, ‘Superintendent Roth sends his best regards Tony’, but by this time I was dancing up on the stage, having a great time just as Superintendent Roth wished!

Next thing I knew a young constable came up and handcuffed me, took me down to the Criminal Investigation Branch, recorded my finger prints and locked me in a cell! I told them I was supposed to be going to the Governor’s Reception for the Sydney Hobart sailors the next day and they eventually let me free in time to get to Government House.

At the Reception, there was a line of people waiting to be greeted by the host and when it was finally our turn I said, ‘You wouldn’t believe it Governor, not 40 minutes ago I was at your pleasure!’ Of course, Superintendent Roth and I, and especially the Constable who locked me up, all went on to become great mates and had drinks together in Hobart many times after that!

OFFSHORE: So the QLD was renowned for its good-natured Australian larrikinism, but there was also a softer, charitable side to the raucous parties in Hobart.

TONY: There certainly was, we always sent a hat around at the QLD and we raised untold thousands of dollars. After the first event we were able to sponsor a bed for disabled children in a local hospital down in Hobart. We also sent three young Tasmanian sailors around the world to compete in the Fastnet Race, one of whom, Matthew Johnson, went on to become Commodore of the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania.



Tony Cable arrested at the QLD

We also partnered with the Variety Club and Ford Motor Company to purchase a commuter bus and named it (rather appropriately I thought) ‘Southerly Buster’. We donated it to the local Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC) in Hobart which cared for under-privileged kids, taking them to picnics and their sport. It was only a year or two ago that I got a call from the PCYC thanking the Quiet Little Drink for our support and letting us know that Southerly Buster had run her course helping thousands of kids over the last 10 years or so and they were finally upgrading.

When the CYCA established the Youth Sailing Academy (YSA) in 1993, we decided we would help by purchasing one of the original boats that was used to train the young sailors. We put the call out and managed to get a syndicate of 70 of us together, put in \$100 each and became inaugural sponsors. We continue to provide the YSA with gear as well as safety at sea courses, especially for students wishing to participate in Sydney Hobart Yacht Races.

OFFSHORE: And it’s this foundation of mateship, camaraderie and charity that continues to this day with the QLD cocktail party held at the CYCA. I imagine this is something you’re very passionate about.

TONY: It’s certainly a redeeming quality of the revelry that went on! But absolutely, charity and giving back to our sport of ocean racing is something that I, and all QLD merrymakers, view in high regard. The QLD started to recognise sailors who had achieved milestone Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Races: 10, 25, 50 and we also began to recognise YSA sailors who had competed in their first race to Hobart.

OFFSHORE: I know you’re too modest to say it, but you’re a legend of the CYCA and you were made a Life Member of the Club in 2005 for your dedication and support over your 54 years of service, including 45 years (and counting!) as part of the Publications and Archives Committees. Can you tell us what makes the CYCA so special to you?

TONY: It’s the people. I’ve always gravitated to characters such as Don Mickleborough, Raw Meat, Thunder, Earrings, Boy Messenger, Slighty Hammond and so on. These people built our Club and we honour their traditions in everything we do. I’m down here at the Club regularly and still see friends I made 50, 20 or even two years ago and we still share the camaraderie that was born on the ocean, racing for our Club.

OFFSHORE: So, what’s next for Tony Cable?

TONY: I’ve been invited on the radio relay ship for the Rolex Sydney Hobart as deckhand crew, I’m really looking forward to enjoying this new element of a Race I know so well. I’ve made amazing long-term friends in this sport, many of which will be travelling with me on this crew.

Last year as well, my grandson was born. Of course, myself and my wife Ada went to see him and I couldn’t do the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race that year. I’m certainly not declaring retirement yet though! As I’ve done for the last 57 years, I still can’t wait to get out there on the ocean with my mates. ⚓



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

David Kellett

Celebrating his 48th year as a Member, David Kellett reminisces on his journey at our Club.

and has also been elected to the Board of Directors of the Club. Looking back though, he didn't really have much of a choice! I spent so much time down here, and Brad would be with me, he grew up here and it's been a second home to both of us. We have a wonderful relationship because we share our love of sailing and I'm very pleased to see him grow into such a fine sailor and man.

I would like to acknowledge the great foresight, and tireless commitment from Past Commodore Martin James, and the Board at the time, in the establishment of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Trusts following the 1998 Sydney Hobart race. Through SOLAS, we have not let this tragedy go unnoticed, and we've been able to learn a lot from that Race. SOLAS is a wonderful organisation and Members of the CYCA should be very proud of the support we've given, along with the million dollars plus we've granted, to various safety and rescue organisations across the country, as well as families affected by tragedy at sea.

People sometimes ask me what's in the future, and I

tell that I'm just lucky to keep going every Saturday! I have been very lucky in sailing and been afforded some wonderful opportunities. Being on the Board at the CYCA led to representing sailing on Boards at the state and national level, and then ultimately 12 years at the international level which was exceptional. It was an honour to represent the sport at all levels and I have enjoyed it immensely.

The CYCA is a second home for me, and there's certainly been some wonderful characters along with some great sailing over the years. I've been very lucky to sail with some fine owners who have entrusted their boats to me, and we've had reasonable success. But it's the camaraderie around the Club that I keep coming back for - I'm still sailing with friends who have been racing with me for over 30 years!

I have been so privileged to have my family by my side throughout, especially my wonderful wife Kendi. She has been such a great support to me, as well as the Club as part of the Associates Committee, and the journey would not have been the same without her.

I grew up above Balmoral Beach, and my first sailing was as a little tacker of about five years old. A family friend would take me out on his boat during the week - it was a great introduction to the sport. My family then bought me a little dinghy. I remember dad would be working on our cruiser, and I would be having the time of my life pottering around Balmoral and Middle Harbour. I moved into yachts and started sailing out of Middle Harbour Yacht Club (MHYC), but I always held a fascination for the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and I watched the start from Clifton Gardens every year.

My first introduction to the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) was in the late 50s when I was about 10 years old. We would go to visit my grandparents, who lived at Darling Point, every week, and I would always have my parents drop me off first at the CYCA. I would walk around the docks and look at the yachts, before wandering up to their place.

Boy Messenger became an early mentor when I began sailing on a boat that was a sister ship to his. He suggested I should try out for the America's Cup training squad and was instrumental in my early sailing life at the CYCA. I

was fortunate enough to do my first Hobart race in 1968, and I went on to become a Member of the CYCA in 1970.

I felt like I needed to give back to the sport that had been so good to me, so I became a Member of the Board at the CYCA. We were conscious that we needed more young people in the sport to keep ocean racing alive. Boats were getting bigger, you needed more crew, and we needed more people. Maurie Cameron suggested we start by educating young people and bringing them back after the Sydney Hobart Race on our yachts, and the seeds of the Youth Sailing Academy (YSA) were sown.

And it has certainly grown since then! It's great to see the continued success of the YSA, especially in races such as the Noakes Sydney Gold Coast when we saw a record number of young Members competing this year. We've had the good fortune to attract some fine sailors to the Academy, along with some amazing coaches and administrators. My son Brad was in the first intake, so we've always been heavily involved in the YSA and in raising money to get the kids away to regattas.

It makes me so proud to see Brad following his passions, he's become a successful ocean racer



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2018 SOLAS Trusts Dinner

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) Trusts raised just under \$30,000 at a dinner held at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron (RSYS) in September.

Among those attending were Sir James and Lady Joan Hardy, SOLAS Trusts Chairman David Kellett and wife Kendi, Australian Sailing president Matt Allen, CYCA Commodore Paul Billingham and wife Jude, CYCA Directors, CEO Karen Grega and myriad CYCA Members.

SOLAS Trusts events are branching out, with Kellett announcing the following venues and dates for upcoming fundraisers:

2 November - Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania will host a lunch with guest speaker, Australian Wendy Tuck, the first female skipper to win a round the world yacht race (she won the Clipper Race this year).

23 November - Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club will host a dinner with the 2017 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race winner, Matt Allen, as guest speaker.

11 December - SOLAS Big Boat Challenge on Sydney Harbour - well-known boats donate places aboard to be auctioned through eBay. ⚓



From the archives...

He'll let in water before his Rolex does.

This scuba diver could never reach the depth at which a Rolex Oyster Submariner would let in water.

In order to test the infallibility of the Oyster principle, Professor Jacques Piccard strapped a special experimental Rolex Oyster onto the outside of his bathyscaph 'Trieste.'

He then submerged to a depth of nearly seven miles beneath the Pacific, where the Rolex was subjected to a pressure of nearly seven tons per square inch.

Both the Rolex and Professor Piccard were working perfectly when the 'Trieste' surfaced again.

But Professor Piccard wouldn't have been if he'd been on the outside, not the inside, of the 'Trieste.'

One of the inventions which help to make each of our watches so waterproof, is the Rolex-patented Triplock Winding Crown.

Our craftsmen perform 32 separate operations on this Winding Crown alone. These are necessary because the Crown works rather like a submarine hatch: it actually screws down onto the Oyster case.

The Oyster case itself is a Rolex invention.

It has to be carved out of one solid block of surgical stainless steel, or 18ct. gold, so that it contains no seams which could let in water under pressure.

The crystal on our watches is an exclusive feature, too.

Because our craftsmen tool the cases and crystals to such a fine degree of



accuracy that each crystal clasps onto the lip of each case, making it actually grip tighter under pressure.

The movement these three safety features guard is called the Perpetual. It's a hand-tuned rotor self-winding movement.

And we pay for each chronometer movement to be tested by one of the Swiss Institutes for Official Chronometer Tests.

Here they subject it to 15 days and nights in ovens, in refrigerators, in various wrist positions, carefully checking its accuracy at each stage, before awarding it their carefully-guarded title of 'Chronometer.'

Each Rolex bracelet is also made almost entirely by hand.

On its clasp, you'll recognise the Rolex Crown. So will other people. They'll also recognise the distinctive shape of the Oyster case itself.

It takes our craftsmen a year to complete each one of these watches.

Not surprisingly, they're proud of their work, and of the kind of people who wear the watches they make.

Men like World Motor Racing Champion, Jackie Stewart, and many of the world's leading Heads of State. And Sir Francis Chichester, who relied on his Rolex during his historic solo voyage around the world.

These men get a great deal of satisfaction out of owning a Rolex.

Almost as much as our craftsmen get out of making one.

Owning one is almost as satisfying as making one.



Pictured: The Rolex Submariner available in 18ct. gold or surgical stainless steel with matching bracelet.

COMING ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
OCTOBER	01 NSW School Holidays (Sep 29-Oct 14th) \$15 Barramundi and chips	02 YSA School Holiday Courses (2-5th) \$15 Pasta Special	03 \$15 Blond Special	04 Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips	05	06 Ocean Pointscore - Lion Island Race Short Haul Race - Race 3
07 Rugby Championship - ARG vs. AUS The Color Run Sydney	08 Sharp Australian Youth Match Racing Championship (8-12th) \$15 Barramundi and chips	09 \$15 Pasta Special	10 \$15 Blond Special	11 Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips	12 Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore - Newcastle Bass Island Race Short Haul Race - Night Race	13
14	15 \$15 Barramundi and chips	16 \$15 Pasta Special	17 \$15 Blond Special	18 Institute of Chartered Accountants Regatta Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips Sculpture by the Sea Bondi. (Oct 18-Nov 4th)	19	20 Invictus Games Sydney 2018 (20-27th) Short Ocean Race (RSYS)
21 Invictus Games Syd- ney 2018 - Sailing	22 \$15 Barramundi and chips	23 Noakes 7s Series - Round 1 \$15 Pasta Special	24 \$15 Blond Special	25 Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips	26 Beneteau Cup CanTeen National Bandanna Day	27 Refurbished Clubhouse Official re-Opening Ocean Pointscore - Botany Bay Race Rugby International - NZL vs. AUS
28	29 \$15 Barramundi and chips	30 Noakes 7s Series - Round 2 \$15 Pasta Special	31 Halloween \$15 Blond Special			

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOVEMBER				01 Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips	02 YSA Annual Presentation Dinner	03 Short Haul Race - Sydney Pittwater Short Ocean Race (RSYS) - Morna Cup
04 Short Haul Race - Pittwater Sydney	05 \$15 Barramundi and chips	06 Melbourne Cup \$15 Pasta Special	07 \$15 Blond Special	08 Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips	09 Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore - Cabbage Tree Island Race	10
11 Remembrance Day Rugby International - WAL vs. AUS	12 \$15 Barramundi and chips National Recycling Week (12-18th)	13 Noakes 7s Series - Round 3 \$15 Pasta Special	14 \$15 Blond Special	15 Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips	16 Rotary Charity Regatta	17 CYCA Hall of Fame Dinner Ocean Pointscore - Port Hacking Race Rugby International - ITA vs. AUS
18	19 \$15 Barramundi and chips	20 Noakes 7s Series - Round 4 \$15 Pasta Special	21 \$15 Blond Special	22 Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips	23 ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation Regatta (MHYC)	24 Sydney Short Ocean Racing Championship (MHYC) (24-25th)
25 Rugby International - ENG vs. AUS	26 Musto International Youth Match Racing Regatta (26-30th) \$15 Barramundi and chips	27 \$15 Pasta Special	28 \$15 Blond Special	29 Members' Badge Draw \$20 Black Angus rump with chips	30	

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WHEN YOU
OVERCOME
THE GREATEST
CHALLENGES,
YOU'VE MADE
HISTORY.

This watch is a witness to determined crew, and precision teamwork. Worn by those who test the ocean's limits. It doesn't just tell time. It tells history.



OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER II

