



Christmas Cruise Lake Macquarie

28 December 2025 to 10 January 2026

NOTICE OF CRUISE IN COMPANY & RENDEZVOUS CRUISE & CRUISE INSTRUCTIONS

SECTION 1 NOTICE OF CRUISE (NOC)

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club cordially invites owners of eligible vessels to enter the Lake Macquarie Cruise.

1 ORGANISING AUTHORITY

The Organising Authority is The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club (RPAYC).

2 RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 2.1 The Cruise will be governed by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, the RPAYC Coastal Cruise Management Plan, the RPAYC Incident Management Plan, this Notice of Cruise & Cruise Instructions.
- 2.2 Skippers of boats withdrawing from the Cruise must inform the Cruise Coordinator of their intention; similarly, when re-joining the Cruise, the Cruise Coordinator must be informed.
- 2.3 The RPAYC Cruising Committee has adopted as a standard that all boats participating in a cruising event must:
 - a. Know their approximate position at all times to be able to advise a rescue authority.
 - b. Have a minimum of two crew members on board who are both able to make a "Mayday" distress call and are familiar with urgency call procedures e.g. Pan-Pan and Sécurité.
 - c. Have a minimum of two crew, each independently able to bring the boat back to the vicinity of a Man-Over-Board.
 - d. At night and in bad weather, the crew must wear an approved lifejacket (minimum Level 150N) that complies with the RPAYC Cruising Regulations (Green Book) Section 5 (5.01) and be clipped on when in the cockpit or on deck.
 - e. When crossing a bar, everyone on the boat must wear an approved lifejacket.

- 2.4** It is strongly recommended that:
- a. When the boat is offshore, all crew on deck must wear an approved lifejacket and be attached by a tether to a jackstay or clipping point.
 - b. At least half the crew (rounded up), including the skipper, have completed an equivalent passage.
 - c. Each boat carries at least one crew member with a current Senior First Aid Certificate.
 - d. At least 30% of the total crew, including the skipper (rounded up) of each boat, have undertaken the AS Safety and Sea Survival Course, or an equivalent course of comparable standard.
- 2.5** All participants are reminded that the skipper is solely responsible for deciding whether or not the boat under his command should participate or continue to participate in an event and are further reminded of RPAYC Cruising Regulations (Green Book) Section 1 (1.02 *Owner's Responsibility*), which states the sole and inescapable responsibilities with regard to safety.

3 ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1** Vessels must be of a thoroughly seaworthy type and comply with the RPAYC Cruising Regulations (Green Book) requirements for a "Short Coastal Cruise" event, or a higher cruising event category.
- 3.2** The RPAYC reserves the right to reject any entry at its discretion.
- 3.3** All entrants are required to have Public Liability and Third-Party Property insurance cover for the sum of at least \$10,000,000 covering the vessel entered.
- 3.4** At least one crew member of each participating vessel must be a RPAYC member.
- 3.5** All skippers must agree with *Section 3, Declaration*, of this Notice of Cruise and Cruise Instructions.

4 ENTRIES

- 4.1** Entries must be received by the RPAYC Sailing Office on the Cruise Enrolment Form (refer 4.3 below), with all fields and declarations completed.
- 4.2** Entries must be submitted by 1700, Thursday, 18 December 2025.
- 4.3** The Cruise registration Entry Form and Declaration form can be viewed and submitted online.

5 SCHEDULES

5.1 Cruise In Company Schedule

Note: The distance from Palm Beach to Swansea bridge is approximately 42 NM. High tide at Swansea Channel entrance is at 3.05 pm with an overrun lag time of about 45 minutes. The planned departure time will therefore be set to achieve arrival at or shortly after high tide, allowing participating vessels to pass through the bridge as close to slack water as possible. While tide height has minimal impact on channel depth, it significantly influences current flow and the ease of transiting the bridge in relation to the bridge opening schedule. The departure time will be more accurately assessed closer to the date; however, based on current information and subject to favourable wind and sea conditions, it will not be earlier than 9:00am. If conditions do not permit departure on that date, the fleet will depart at the first suitable weather window, thereafter, as determined by the Cruise Coordinator. Subject to weather and sea conditions, the return transit is planned for Saturday, 10 January 2026, with the time to be advised (Swansea high tide is 2.16 pm).

5.2 Rendezvous Schedule

Note: Cruise transit dates and times will follow the published schedule below, or the first suitable transit weather window after the published date, as determined by the Cruise Coordinator.

The Cruise Coordinator will advise participants of any changes to the rendezvous dates.

Additional rendezvous points occurring on other days will be advised during the Cruise. The times listed below are estimates of when all vessels are expected to be anchored and settled.

On the first day in the Lake, the plan is to have dinner at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, located adjacent to the fleet's anchorage in Belmont Bay, on the northern side of the Club and its marina. Visitor berths can be booked if skippers prefer not to anchor.

Date	Activity
Sunday 28 December, 1700	Rendezvous Lake Macquarie Yacht Club
Saturday 10 January, 1900	Rendezvous at Broken Bay/Hawkesbury

6 DOCUMENTATION

6.1 No later than the date specified in *Section 1, Notice of Cruise (NoC) - 4.2*, each participating boat must submit the following documentation to the RPAYC Sailing Office:

- a. A completed cruise entry form.
- b. A current RPAYC Special Regulations Equipment Audit Compliance Certificate as specified in *Section 1, Notice of Cruise (NoC) - 3.1* (unless previously supplied).
- c. Crew list, containing the names and addresses of each crew member, together with the name, address and telephone number of each crew member's nominated shore contact.

Note: Crew lists will contain personal information about crew members. This information is being obtained for use in search and rescue situations. This search and rescue information will be freely available to search and rescue authorities and organisations, the Water Police and Volunteer Coastal Stations and may be passed on by them to other organisations. It is a condition of entry that each entrant must specifically inform each crew member of these details and that access to the information held about each crew member can be obtained by contacting the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club. A list of all entrants, including boat name, crew names and mobile phone numbers will be distributed to all entrants.

Failure to present the documentation by the due date may result in the refusal of the cruise entry unless the Cruise Committee deems otherwise.

7 COMMUNICATIONS

A permanently installed VHF transceiver must be fitted as per RPAYC Cruising Regulations (Green Book) Section 3 (3.24). Channel 77 will be used for radio schedules (skeds) and position reporting between boats participating in the event.

A fully charged mobile phone must be carried on board and switched on during all cruise transits. The mobile phone number is to be documented in the Cruise Enrolment Form.

8 SPEED REQUIREMENTS

Each boat must maintain adequate speed to arrive in port by nautical twilight on the cruise transit dates as detailed in *Section 1 NoC - 5 Schedules*.

9 FUEL REQUIREMENTS

Each boat must carry sufficient fuel to be able to motor at five knots for at least one hundred nautical miles. Additional fuel must be carried to be able to meet charging requirements for the duration of the Cruise.

10 REQUIRED CHARTS AND REFERENCES

It is strongly recommended that each boat carry the following references and charts. Paper charts and charting instruments must be carried as a back-up for electronic navigation systems.

Charts: AUS 809 Port Jackson to Port Stephens
 NSW Maritime Map 8A, Lake Macquarie

References: "Cruising the NSW Coast" by Alan Lucas
 Tide Tables (NSW)
 Rob's Passage Planner
 RPAYC Cruise Management Plan
 RPAYC Incident Management Plan

11 CRUISE BRIEFING

A Cruise Briefing will be held at RPAYC at the time and date specified in *Section 2 Cruise Instructions*.

-----End Section-----

SECTION 2 CRUISE INSTRUCTIONS (CI)

1 CRUISE SCHEDULE

The cruise schedule is detailed in *Section 1, Notice of Cruise (NoC) - 5 Schedule (above)*. Please note that transit departure dates will be the date specified in the cruise schedule or the first appropriate weather window following the published date.

The Cruise Coordinator will notify participants at the Cruise Briefing if there is to be a weather delay.

Any changes to the cruise schedule, once the Cruise has commenced, will be communicated to all participants by the Cruise Coordinator on VHF CH77.

2 CRUISE BRIEFING

The Cruise Briefing will be held at RPAYC at **1630 on Saturday 27 December 2025**.

The skipper or navigator **must** attend the Cruise Briefing for the Cruise in Company.

3 CRUISE COORDINATOR

Cruise Coordinator: Greg Dunstan,
Call sign: "Heavens Gate"
Contact: 0416 079 191
Alternative Contact: 0405 449 661

4 LOGON TIMES FOR CRUISE IN COMPANY

There will be a fleet logon for each of the cruise transits specified in *Section 1 Notice of Cruise (NoC) - 5 'Schedule' (above)*

1. Barrenjoey to Lake Macquarie: Palm Beach port pile, 0905, day of departure.
2. Lake Macquarie to Broken Bay: Swansea Channel drop-off/over, 0705, day of departure.

If any of the above Logon dates or times change, the Cruise Coordinator will notify Participants at the Cruise Briefing or at an appropriate time during the Cruise.

5 RADIO SCHEDULE FOR CRUISE IN COMPANY

Cruise radio schedules (skeds) will be conducted on VHF CH77 for each of the Cruise transits.

The Cruise Coordinator will announce each sked on VHF CH77 at the nominated time, and will then call each participating vessel, one at a time on VHF CH77. Each vessel will be requested to report, crew condition and vessel location, specified as Latitude and Longitude (degrees minutes and decimal of minutes). S and E should not be reported.

In the event other VHF traffic does not allow the radio sked to continue at the nominated time, the sked will be postponed until the VHF CH77 is clear.

1. Barrenjoey to Lake Macquarie 0905 1405
2. Lake Macquarie to Broken Bay 0905 1405

Each participating vessel must report to the Cruise Coordinator on VHF Channel 77 upon arrival at each transit point. If the Cruise Coordinator cannot be reached on VHF Channel 77, contact must be made by mobile phone.

-----End Section-----

SECTION 3 DECLARATION

This section can be completed online at <https://rpayc.com.au/sailing/cruising/annual-post-christmas-cruise-long-coastal-cruises/>

I acknowledge and agree that:

My attention has been drawn to *Section 1 Notice of Cruise, clause 2.5* which states "All participants are reminded that the skipper is solely responsible for deciding whether or not the boat under his command should participate or continue to participate in an event and I have been further reminded of RPAYC Cruising Regulations (Green Book) Section 1. 1.02 Owners Responsibility, which states the sole and inescapable responsibilities with regard to safety.

The entry of the boat and crew is agreed to and accepted by the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club on the basis that the skipper and crew are individually aware of and conversant with the risks involved in coastal sailing and that participation in this event is entirely at the risk of the skipper and crew.

The skipper warrants the suitability of his boat for the event.

The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, must be the sole responsibility of the skipper, who must ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy, and managed by a crew of sufficient number and experience who are physically fit. The skipper must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging sails and all gear. He must ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.

Neither the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, nor its officers, employees, nor agents accept any responsibility or liability for loss, damage death or personal injury however caused to the skipper or crew or their property as a result of their taking part in the Christmas Cruise.

Neither the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club nor its officers, employees or agents accept liability for any costs or expenses that may be incurred as a result of special assistance at sea being arranged for any reason whatsoever.

The existence of these conditions, their use by the event organisers, and any inspection of the boat pursuant to these conditions does not limit the absolute responsibility of the skipper.

I agree to be bound by RPAYC Cruise Management Plan, the RPAYC Incident Management Plan, the Notice of Cruise, and the Cruise Sailing Instructions.

I declare that:

The details submitted on the entry form are correct and any changes that alter the details submitted herewith will be made in writing to the RPAYC Cruising Committee prior to the closing entry date specified in *Section 1, NoC (4.2)*.

The boat complies with the "Special Regulations equipment compliance form" specified in *Section 1, NoC (3.1)*, and any alteration to the boat or its equipment that may affect the validity or currency of the documentation submitted to satisfy clause 6.1 of the Notice of Cruise will be made in writing to the Cruising Committee before the closing entry date.

I will provide each crew member or proposed crew member with a copy of this entry form and this declaration. In addition, I will advise each crew member or proposed crew member of the Privacy Note in Clause 6.1 of the Notice of Cruise before the entry closing date. I and the boat's crew must comply with and be bound by the rules referred to in Clause 2 (Rules and Regulations) of the Notice of Cruise.

The boat and its crew hold adequate insurance and in particular insurance against third party claims at least to the minimum cover referred to in Clause 3.3 of the Notice of Cruise (\$10,000,000) and that such cover will be in force and maintained in full force and effect throughout the Cruise period.

The crew members have been advised by the skipper to satisfy themselves as to the experience of the skipper and the adequacy of the boat, all safety equipment and insurance arrangements.

Signed

Date

Boat Name

Person in Charge