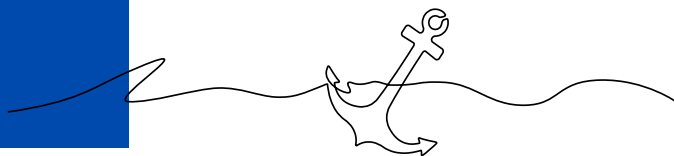




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# THE CYC NEWSLETTER



Hello Members,

Welcome to the August edition of the CYC Newsletter!

This last month has flown by, but please find the next instalments from our regular contributors, as well as an interesting update on everything SheSails.

Enjoy!



As always, thank you to all of this month's contributors, and if you would like to contribute, please send anything you'd like to share to: [secretary@cairnsyachtclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@cairnsyachtclub.com.au)

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Welcome back to Green Fleet Everyone! The last couple of weeks have been a mixed bag of conditions, from strong wind warnings to 0 knot days and the sailors are excelling at everything. In preparation for the upcoming Green Fleet races, which will be another series of races with a different course every week, the team have been practicing racing skills. Some of which including mark rounding, overtaking rules, starting strategies and recapping on right of way and racing rules. It will be very interesting to see how this term's racing goes and will post an update on the leader board in the next issue, with racing starting this weekend! If you ever find yourselves bored on a Saturday morning I'll happily take you on board to help out with the racing!

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After a delayed start to the term due to a bit of poor weather in the first week and the show holiday in the second, Tackers is back and the little guys are learning fast. Last term, we had a number of kids graduate from Tackers 1, making their way into the big leagues and slightly deeper waters of Tackers 2. To mark the occasion, we spent the session continuing to practice the skills we've learnt, but also having a bit of fun... Okay, perhaps we were just looking for an excuse to capsize en masse, but it was fun nonetheless and that is what matters most.





We were also lucky enough that *South Passage* was in Cairns. They kindly allowed us onboard to have a look around at "a real-life pirate ship!" (as described by one of the kids). Suffice to say, everyone was very excited, and although these young sailors are still a few years off being able to go on a voyage, perhaps one day they will have the opportunity to experience such an adventure themselves. Many thanks go to the crew of *South Passage*. Their willingness to share their own love for sailing is only matched by the sounds of fifteen young kids excitedly checking out everything. Yes, everything. But being able to share the adventures of sailing is worth it every time.



Taking their place, we have welcomed a very good number of new tackers, bringing our total in the program up to about fifteen. To deliver a program that is so successful, given that many of our instructors are part of the junior program themselves, and almost on par with the programs down south is a large testament to the work being put in by our instructors, assistant instructors and volunteers, both in the spotlight and behind the scenes.

Now might also be an opportune time to mention that we will be entering into the Cairns Festival Parade on the 26th of August. The finer details are soon to be decided on, but any help would be greatly appreciated. When we last entered several years ago, we did very well, even managing to place in the top three. This year, we are keen to make a comeback!

Fair winds and safe passage to you all.







## Fun Facts!

- The ocean covers 71% of the Earth's surface
- 37 out of 50 critical minerals can be found in the ocean!
- The ocean influences and regulates Earth's climate, acting like the planet's heart.
- There is enough salt in the ocean to cover the whole surface of the Earth.



We had a SheSails group have fun at our dinghy sailing water event in July with stunning sunshine and a light breeze. Thanks Hannah, Violet and Rueben for helping out our new sailors, along with Kyall and James helping with the rescue boat and bar.

Our land event on 3rd of August was well attended, we revisited sailing knots as they are in demand and a popular skill to be practiced. We had an impromptu request to cover Racing Bouy room rules, so we had the pleasure of Ayla sharing her expertise and clear diagrams of different racing scenarios which we greatly appreciated, thanks Ayla!

We invite our women sailors to join us for our 4th SheSails Water Event on Thursday 17 August at 5.30pm-7.30pm at the CYC Boat Shed for a twilight sail on keelboats. Please RSVP - as 'first registered then first on board' as we have limited boats. We will meet at 5.30pm to allocate which boats and aim to leave the dock by 5.45pm. We will have boat owners onboard their vessels with SheSails crewing and at times helming. Please note there will be a charge of \$10 for CYC members & \$15 for non-CYC members for the event to cover insurance. There will be no refunds for non-attendees - this will be considered a donation. Please RSVP to the event so we know how many to expect and can allocate sailing experience amongst the boats.  
<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/cairnsyc/events/199661/>

We will endeavour to have SheSails Land Events on the 1st Thursday of the month followed by SheSails Water events about 3rd week of the month. Keep an eye out for updates on CYC Facebook page or Cairns SheSails private [FB group](#).



**CYC SheSails Objective** - Encouraging and building capacity and skills for women of all ages to enjoy sailing through organised activities.

**CYC SheSails Values** - Respect, Empowerment, Community, Safety, Accountability.

Thanks for your support and energy in helping us make this a success.

Warm regards,

CYC SheSails Sub Committee

Tracy Benson, Anne Delmas, James Wighton, Frances Westley & Hannah Dunlea







### Pacific Odyssey

***"To cross the Pacific Ocean, even under the most favourable circumstances, brings you for many days close to nature, and you realise the vastness of the sea." -Joshua Slocum***

No other region of the world exerts such a lasting fascination on sailors as the South Pacific. From the Bounty mutineers to Bernard Moitessier, many a sailor has succumbed to the temptation of the South Seas. Sailing in a small boat across the vast ocean, I felt so much closer to the countries and peoples than if I had flown in by air. This is Oceania, whose countries are all islands, traditionally linked by the sea. Often I thought of the Polynesian legends, and when we were at sea for many days, I put myself into the minds of those early navigators in their canoes. I imagined how they must have felt, exactly as we did, when first we saw birds as a sign of land and then a tiny speck of island emerged where we expected it to be.

Cruising is about seeing new places, experiencing different cultures, and meeting interesting people-but it's not a holiday. It's a lifestyle. You can sustain a few months with transient friends, but it doesn't take long before you miss real, long-term human connections. You yearn for people you don't have to try and impress, people you can invite over to a dinner of left overs and a half bottle of wine. So when CYC member, Frances, joined Matilda's crew for three delightful weeks in French Polynesia, she brought fresh enthusiasm and it really did feel like a holiday.

The photos tell the story this month. We tried to capture the highlights of Frances and the Matilda crew exploring Tahiti and the Society Islands during the Heiva festival time when we were lucky to see local dancing and a parade with people and floats decorated in palm fronds and flowers.

Onward, ever onward. Months of superlative scenery and warm, friendly people made a lasting impression on us of this peaceful part of the world. The Societies were grand in every sense of the word. But time is short with cyclone season approaching, and the siren song of other South Pacific destinations finally lured us away. We packed our boat with supplies and memories, and, like Captain Cook, directed our *"Course to the West and took our final leave of these Happy isles and the good People in them."*



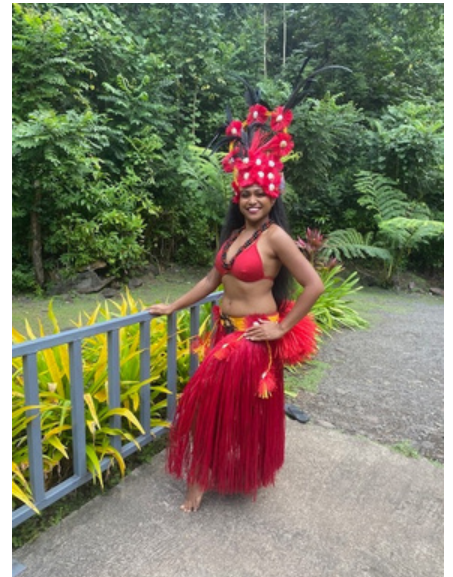


# Sailing Matilda

## International cruisers, Shari and Gary



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## Endeavour Journal

A voyage of discovery - Darwin to Broome

**5:30 am WA time, Sunday Aug 21st**

We anchored at about 11pm last night out of the swell in a bay at the very tip of the Kimberly's in Napier Broome Bay near Cape Talbot. It was a change to have the ship at rest but I really don't find it uncomfortable at sea now. The reason we anchored was to wait out an adverse tide and have the run sou-west through the reefs and shoals in daylight. The plan is to sail through the night tomorrow to arrive at Biggies Island next morning. Our watch was from midnight to 4am, normally the horror watch as one has to try and sleep either side of it, the latter mostly impossible for me. Fortunately, as we were at anchor, only three crew at a time were required so I was on deck for only an hour just to check the anchor and log the sea and wind conditions. We weighed anchor around 9am without the use of the engines. The Master's plan is to sail for 24 hours and hopefully anchor under sail. Apparently a difficult maneuver in a ship that sails no closer to the wind than 90°. Fortunately we are all getting better at sail handling and working as a slightly less than amateur crew.

Once out of Napier Broome Bay the wind picked up to 20-25 knots and we were roaring along at a pretty steady 7 knots. Back in to the rocking and rolling motion that we have grown accustomed. All the mal de mere sufferers have recovered and are eating heartily. Good to see smiles on their faces and their help with the several significant maneuvers, namely "wearing" the ship. This means rigging the sails to catch the wind coming from the left quarter to coming from the right right quarter. As we turn, all the ropes holding the left side (port) of all the sails have to be loosened and the ones on the right (starboard) have to be tightened to swing the yards and attached sails to the other side. All hands, in other words the three watches are needed to help. Even so it takes around 30 minutes to complete the exercise. Quite magnificent to watch the whole chain of command in action.

To see how this ship runs leads me to contemplate just how much our seafaring heritage contributed to our culture and organisational skills.

First there is the strict organisational structure and chain of command. Obedience and acting on commands is the only way to get the unison needed to change the complex rig for different conditions.







## Endeavour Journal

A voyage of discovery - Darwin to Broome

Second there is the importance of maintenance to keep any of our machines working for us. This ship requires constant maintenance, small stuff, caulking of the deck, painting metal bits, tightening and oiling ropes, sewing sails.

Third is the evolution of nutrition and hygiene. Cleaning, scrubbing, polishing combined where possible with fresh food is essential where so many people are crammed together.

Today military and company organisation still follows these broad principles. Much of our language and lots of words seem to have their genesis in the age of sail. Spoken communication was paramount, most sailors couldn't read. There are 150 ropes on this ship, they all have to be learned by heart. There is no numbering or written instructions anywhere. There is not even a clear logic to the layout of the ropes according to their function.

What hasn't evolved well in Cook's day was psychological management of the crew. Floggings for misdemeanors was common. Bligh, who sailed with Cook and tried to emulate him, did his best to do away with the lash when he had his own command. It didn't work. He handed out only one flogging on his voyage to Tahiti and the sailors saw this as a sign of weakness. For this and a number of other reasons as well, mutinied. I guess his lenient example was justified when the mutineers set him adrift in an open boat with enough provisions to reach land.

Fortunately our crew is very 21st century. There is a "Professional Crew Hissy-fit checklist" where anyone can make a note of any short temperedness or other times where they should be more tolerant.

The Endeavour is a relatively complex ship having evolved through the era of cheap labour and if they needed another rope to take a certain effect they hired another hand to manipulate the rope. Later, as labour got more expensive and sailors harder to find, many of the ropes were done away with or simplified. This combined with the advent of much stronger steel rigging meant that the rigging could be made more compact allowing freer movement of the yards and better sailing characteristics culminating in the majestic clipper ships that sailed until the 1930's.



**To be continued...**

In the mean time, check out Hew's video of the trip: <https://vimeo.com/197673261?share=copy>



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

Events	Date	Time
Tackers & Green Fleet	Every Fri/Sat	4pm & 10am
Lady Skipper Race	August 27th	TBC
Bay Race	September 10th	TBC

**ELLIS BEACH IS BACK!!!**

**SAVE THE DATES**

- FEB 25-26 : Ellis opening weekend
- MAR 26 : Club Racing
- MAY 7 : Club Racing
- JUNE 24-25 : Annual Ellis Beach Regatta
- AUG 6 : Club Racing
- OCT 15 : Club Racing
- NOV 12 : Club Racing
- DEC 16-17 : CYC Xmas Party & Club Racing

  
Cairns Yacht Club



**WAGS racing every  
Wednesday, 12pm at the  
Boat Shed**



# Our Fabulous Sponsors!



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*Thank you!*

***A massive thank you to our past & present sponsors for their amazing support! Where possible, please return the favour by utilising their services.***



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*Salt House*

