



# TIN CAN BAY YACHT CLUB



## YACHT CLUB CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

With the Tin Can Bay Yacht Club holding regular sailing events, sails are a common sight on Tin Can Bay these days. But 25 years ago it took the combined efforts of a small band of dedicated sailors to bring the Tin Can Bay Yacht Club into being.

### Bay to Bay

The catalyst was the inaugural Tin Can Bay to Hervey Bay Race, held on the May Day long weekend in 1981. Newspaper reports stated that the town was "bursting at the seams as yachts on trailers moved in" preparing for race. 118 yachts entered that first Bay to Bay, started in clear conditions and a light SE breeze. From Norman Point, hundreds of spectators watched a spectacular spinnaker start, in a sight never before seen in Tin Can Bay.

The race was a great success. Entries grew to 162 in 1982 and 204 in 1983. Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, the race continues to attract huge fleets, making it one of the most popular sailing events in the state, and second in Australia to the Marley Point Lakes Race in Victoria.

Tin Can Bay boats have tasted minimal success in the race. In 1991, the Seawind 24 catamaran *Jabberwokki*, skippered by Bob Staff, won the Multihull division and the Ted Fewtrell Memorial Trophy for line honours. In 2003, *Raining*, a Windrush 600 catamaran skippered by Steve Smith, won the Multihull division.

Recent years have seen several Tin Can Bay boats taste success. In 2008, *Flying Fox*, skippered by Roy Yeeles, took out multiple wins including Overall Type 1 Monohull on PBH, Division 4 Monohulls on PBH, and the RL28 Class on PBH and CBH. In the multihull division, *Raptor*, skippered by Russell Hogue, had wins including Overall in Type 4 Multihulls on Elapsed Time, Type 4B Multihulls on PBH and the Farrier Class on PBH.

In 2009, Peter Bailey's RL24 *Got Salt* took out several division and class wins and in 2010, Allan Winkel's Lidgard 29 *Naranie*, took out the Overall Type 1 Monohull prize on PBH, and Division 2 Monohull on PBH, and the Division 2 OAK class on PBH.

The first Bay to Bay, together with a group of Noosa sailors who, unable to sail their keelboats in the Noosa River, came regularly to sail in the sheltered waters of Tin Can Bay, was instrumental in getting the new club off the ground. On June 28, 1981, the Tin Can Bay Yacht Club was officially formed.



Top right: Tin Can Bay Yacht Club at the 2002 Bay to Bay.

Centre: Division 4 start in the 2003 Bay to Bay.

Right: 2008 winner, *Flying Fox* (centre), enjoys some hard reaching alongside other RL28s during the 2008 race.

## Cooloola Cup

The new club kicked off its inaugural 1981-82 sailing season with a sail past on September 20, 1981. Commodore Clarrie Noble in his yacht *Ida* led the fleet of yachts, and the event was followed by a BBQ at Norman Point. From little things, big things grow and on December 27-30 1981, the club held its first major event, the inaugural Cooloola Cup. Fifteen boats participated, including some of the biggest names in Queensland sailing: the 60 foot ocean racer, *Siska II*; Sydney to Hobart winner, *Cadence*; Brisbane to Gladstone winner, *Kurura*; and *Odessey*, the first boat to sail non-stop around Australia. The Cup was won by Mooloolaba yacht *Maggie McGill* (Swanson 32), skippered by Mooloolaba Yacht Club Commodore, John Bates.

Like the Bay to Bay, the Cooloola Cup has been held every year since and this year's event – part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Regatta – will be the 25<sup>th</sup>

Cooloola Cup. In the past some big fleets have entered. In 1983, 38 boats from 11 clubs took part. *Shilo*, a Southern Cross 23 skippered by Andy Poston of Hervey Bay Sailing Club was the winner. Councillor Ned Kelly, a strong supporter of the fledgling club, presented the perpetual trophy at a gathering attended by over 150 people.

In 1984, the inaugural Kelly Cup was held. This offshore race from Brisbane to Tin Can Bay was a feeder event to the Cooloola Cup and was won by *Medusa*, a Sparta skippered by Bill Hammond. Councillor Ned Kelly and wife Kate donated the trophy, which is still a part of the club's trophy collection.

Thirty-five boats took part in the 1984 Cooloola Cup, including three Adams 10s, the first time the three boats had met in competition. The event was sponsored by local TV station SEQ8 and Widgee Shire Council and won by *Innocent Bystander*, an Adams 10 skippered by Mooloolaba yachtsman Greg Brown. Over 200 hundred people attended the presentation.

## Intercity Spring Regatta

On October 26 & 27, 1985, the club hosted the inaugural Spring Regatta. The three-race series was won by UPYZ III, skippered by TCBYC sailor, Jeff Smith. Now forming part of the Intercity Series with Maryborough Sailing Club, Hervey Bay Sailing Club and Bundaberg Sailing Club, the event attracts healthy fleets in all divisions, with the 1990 event attracting the unequalled entry of 67 boats.

On February 20 & 21, 1988, the club hosted the Sunshine Coast Bicentennial Sailing Championships. This was the first major championship hosted by the club and was attended by over 70 boats competing in all divisions from clubs across the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay. Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club took home most of the trophies, but TCB boats *Long & Thin*, skippered by Bucky Smith, took third in the monohull division, and *Bali Hai*, skippered by Maurice White, took third in the trailer-sailer division.



Top: The inaugural 1981 Cooloola Cup.

Above: Close action in the 1984 Cooloola Cup.



Above: Mixed fleet racing in the Spring Regatta Series.





## Other Events

The Wooden Boat Regatta was first held on 29 April 1989. This event, featuring some very light-hearted racing, is still a feature of the club's sailing calendar, and while called a "Wooden Boat" regatta, the amount of wood required in the boats is negligible and the event is very popular with the club's cruising members.

The club has hosted national, state and regional titles. In October 1991, the club hosted the sailing competition of the Cooloola Games, and in 1992, the club hosted the Sailboard Grand Prix.

More recently, the club hosted the Australian Flying Fifteen Nationals in January 2004. Thirty-one boats from clubs across Australia and the UK contested the weeklong titles, and proved that the club is more than capable of holding major title events. The club has twice hosted the Queensland Flying Fifteen Titles, and in August 2005, the club hosted the South Queensland Sabot Association River Titles.

## Club Racing

The club has always had a very strong club-racing base. In the early years, the season program consisted of trophy races sponsored by local businesses with points accumulating over the season, and monthly family cruises. The Commodore's Trophy race opened the season, which ran – and still does – from September to May.

For the 1987/88 season, a four race/four series format was introduced, with a club champion declared at the end of the season. After Series 1, 2001, the racing fleet was split into two divisions, with winners declared for each at the season end. To cater for the fleet's diversity, the club ran four racing divisions: Off-the-beach monohulls; trailer-sailers and keelboats, multihulls and juniors and the competition was as strong as ever.

The original sailing fleet was made up predominantly of trailer-sailers and keelboats, but has always had a mixed class base. In the late 80's and early 90's, a large fleet of multihulls competed, and in recent years, a strong fleet of Flying Fifteens has found its home here. Our Flying Fifteens have competed at state, national and world championship levels.

*Top to bottom: 1992 Sailboard Grand Prix; Australian Flying Fifteen Championships at Tin Can Bay in January 2004; South Queensland Sabot Association River Titles held at Tin Can Bay in August 2005; 2004/05 Club racing - Flying Fox leads Lyra to the finish line in Snapper Creek; Cat fleet on the beach.*



## Representing the Club

In recent years local boats and crews have headed north to compete in the prestigious race weeks at Airlie Beach and Hamilton Island.

## Junior Sailing

Junior Sailing commenced for the first time on February 9, 1985. Instructor Christopher Tuck taught juniors the basics of sailing at the Coast Guard building and they put the theory into practice in the club's training dinghies – four Sabots and a Graduate. At the completion of the eight-week course, fifteen juniors were presented with their certificates.

On September 7, 1985, a season-long Junior Sailing program got underway with 17 young sailors. The Junior Sailing program still follows this format today and is just a popular.

In 1985, local juniors Bucky and Godfrey Smith competed in the Queensland Youth Sailing Championships at Lake Cootharaba and took out second place in the 2-up Sabot Division, beaten only by the national champions! They went on to claim second place in the Queensland Sabot Championships and in December 1985, represented Queensland in the Australian Sabot Titles in Brisbane. In later years, they were also Australian champions in the Sharpie class.

## Club Patron

Digging through the club archives has revealed a myriad of fascinating details. Eminent yachtsman, Sir James Hardy OBE, was the club's first patron. With his yachts *Nyamba* and *Police Car*, Sir James often stopped at Tin Can Bay on his way south after the Brisbane to Gladstone, and he flew the club's burgee – which first flew at the 1982 Bay to Bay – on his yacht in the 1984 Sydney to Hobart Race. Sir James was the club's patron until 1993, when current patrons, Clarrie and Doris Noble assumed the honour and continue as Patrons to this day.

The founding members of the Tin Can Bay Yacht Club had a vision to foster all aspects of sailing in the Bay, and hoped to eventually provide facilities for local and visiting yachtsmen. Twenty-five years later, that vision has been well and truly fulfilled and the sport of sailing in Tin Can Bay continues to go from strength to strength.



*Above: Rainbow (Skipper Bruce Whan) at 2004 Hog's Breath Race Week, Airlie Beach.*

*Below: Junior Sailing - 8 April 2006.*



*Right: First Club Patron, Sir James Hardy, OBE.*

*Below: Start of the 2004 Bay to Bay Race.*

