



Cruise News

56th Annual Cruise

Sunday 12 April 2026

A Challenging Start to the Squadron Cruise

by Will Imlay



Shearwater at Barrenjoey

Under bright autumn sunshine and a brisk west-south-westerly breeze, the Annual Squadron Cruise got off to an invigorating start with a passage race from Port Jackson to Pittwater. Cooler temperatures than the previous day had crews reaching for extra layers, adding to the sense of adventure as nine boats lined up for the 1035 start.

This opening race marked the first of seven, two offshore and five inshore, setting the tone for a week of competitive and enjoyable sailing.

Conditions proved challenging, with winds highly variable throughout the day. Despite early promise, the breeze never truly settled, testing both patience and strategy across the fleet.

The race began inside the harbour, but with the wind failing to fill in offshore, the course was ultimately shortened at Barrenjoey. Boats crossed the finish line over the course of an hour, from 1418 through to 1517hrs, with eight of the nine starters completing the race.

Line honours went to *HellRazer*, skippered by Ian MacDiarmid, who led the fleet in style. However, it was *Margaret Rintoul*, under the command of Bruce Gould, that claimed victory on handicap, an impressive result in the tricky conditions.

Adding to the day's excitement, the crew of *Out of Sight* reported a particularly memorable moment, encountering a humpback whale at close quarters during the race, an unforgettable reminder of the spectacular waters in which the fleet was sailing.

A lively and unpredictable start to the series, this first race delivered both challenge and charm, promising plenty more to come over the remaining six races of the cruise.



photo by Gaila Merrington

A Dazzling Celebration on Hallets Beach

by Chris Sturrock



photo by Rene Chapman

What a fun-filled get together to mark the start of the 56th Squadron Cruise. Tiaras and flowing caftans everywhere and the guys didn't disappoint either with bow ties and dinner shirts coupled with their Okanui shorts (some even wore their tailored dinner jackets).

The sausage sizzle lived up to expectations with the Cruise Committee Members in full swing feeding the starving sailors.

It was a great night enjoyed by all.






photo by Anne Richardson



photo by Rene Chapman

Results

Place	Sail No.	Name	Skipper	Club	Finish	Elapsed	PHS	Corrected	Points
Overall Start: 10:35									
1	353	Margaret Rintoul	Bruce Gould	RSYS	14:48:47	04:13:47	0.8933	03:46:42	1
2	6321	Allegro	John Taylor	RSYS	14:28:28	03:53:28	1.0006	03:53:37	2
3	7367	Jackie Clare	Geoff Davidson	RSYS	14:28:42	03:53:42	1.0188	03:58:05	3
4	5151	Phoebe	Paul Thackray	RSYS	14:32:24	03:57:24	1.0102	03:59:49	4
5	116	Whistling Kite	Kym Evans	CYCA	14:28:55	03:53:55	1.0524	04:06:10	5
6	6469	HellRazer	Ian MacDiarmid	RSYS	14:27:53	03:52:53	1.0674	04:08:35	6
7	6967	Out of Sight	Eric Duggin	RANSA	15:17:28	04:42:28	0.8812	04:08:54	7
8	G107	Justified	Tomas Simpson	CYCA	14:29:00	03:54:00	1.0700	04:10:23	8
DNF	 6446	Shearwater	Guido Belgiorno-Nettis	RSYS	-	-	-	-	9
DNC	 88880	Vivace	Anthony Shannon	RSYS	-	-	-	-	12
DNC	 8484	Windflyt	Douglas Sturrock	RSYS	-	-	-	-	12

Results from Saturday's Offshore race



Tonight's Mooring

Smiths Creek



Tomorrow's Cruising

Shed Restaurant Akuna Bay



Tomorrow's Race

Inshore Race 2



Tomorrow's Mooring

Yeomans Bay

Tomorrow's Forecast

Monday



12°C 22 °C

Sunny - dry

Westerly 10 to 15 knots tending southwesterly in the morning then becoming variable about 10 knots in the middle of the day.

Seas below 0.5 metres.



Contributions

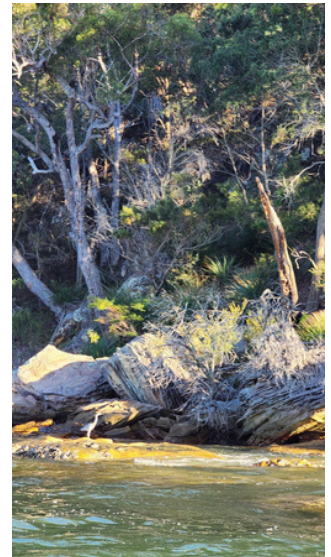
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photos by Rene Chapman



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