



Cruise News

56th Annual Cruise

Tuesday 14 April 2026

Beautiful Noise Saved by the Shortened Course

by Andrew Deck



The Beautiful Noise crew had a fun race today. At the start Minnow pipped us with a clean get away so the hunt was on.

Heading out to Lion Island wind was fluky. We got lucky with a good line to the first mark; managed to take the Barenjoey mark on one tack.

Then it was a slow drag race downwind to finish line with both Minnow and Rapunzel breathing down our necks - shortening the course - did us a favour.

Is Allegro better than Rory McIlroy?

by Christopher Still



While many were still recovering from the tension of the Masters Tournament's final day, Allegro's skipper, the wily John Taylor, was plotting how to handle a fading south-westerly breeze as we sauntered to the starting line in sparkling autumn sunshine. On board, JT was, as always, supported by Jackie who brought along Alison Barnwell (a Tuesday and Friday evening sailor), Phil Jedlin (three days a week) and Chris Still (Wednesdays only).

By the time 11 Division 2 yachts started at 12.40pm, the breeze was 10-12 knots and dying. The majority of the fleet elected to head for the southern side of the course while Allegro, with the wind at its back, sailed straight for the Lion Island mark.

This paid large dividends as we rounded with only Just Quietly and the Div 1 yachts ahead of us (having slid past a relaxed As You Do on the way).

A close reach in a pleasant 8 to 10 knots to Barrenjoey was uneventful but once we rounded the mark the breeze fell away again with occasional gusts of 8 knots from the south west. Once past the headland and inside Pittwater, Allegro headed on a close reach to a distant yellow marker which we had assumed was the turning buoy.

Is Allegro better than Rory McIlroy? (cont)

By being further to the west and off course, we somehow found breeze that eluded our better navigated competition, including Just Quietly. When we did locate the correct red turning mark and avoided hitting a moving barge, we were in first place.

It was sailing's answer to Augusta's Amen Corner.

By this time the breeze had moved into the east and Allegro passed smoothly under West Head doing about four knots before running and reaching down to the finish line off Flint & Steel Point-the course having been agreeably shortened.

Allegro crossed the line ahead of Just Quietly and Coco. The Pauls College crewed Akiiki was second on corrected time. It was a great day to be on the water-and Pittwater in particular.

Heavy Weather, Heavy Boat, Full Speed Ahead

by Stephen Grundy



It was a busy day of logistics and sailing in the lead up to Race 1. We had to get rid of the evidence from the night before, dispatched into the recycling bin at KMYC. Once the crew was settled with coffee, eggs, bacon and cup cakes we were ready to hoist sails and report our very pessimistic nav est.

Heavy Weather, Heavy Boat, Full Speed Ahead (cont)

The conditions were perfect for Minnow, 20 knots was just enough to build momentum for the fully laden ship. Once you get 9 tons of boat moving at speed she is hard to stop. Ohana took an early advantage in the first leg to Lion Island and we kept in touch as we rounded the west head mark. The work up to FS saw Minnow take full advantage a gusting South Westley and rising tide. In the end a wonderful sail with a spectacular performance from the main sail trimmer Phil, who kept Minnow on a steady course and supplied an exceptional lunch!

From Last to First - Jackie Clare Sails to Victory

by Geoff Davidson



Following Hell Razer - Photo by Ellen Pesch

Our regular crew of Louisa and Debbie were joined by Kellie and Chris with Jason on the bow. For the breeze at the time we had a good start. We gybed away to clear our air but the breeze filled in from the south and we were nicely in a hole to round the first mark with the Division Two boats.

Being well behind, we tacked at the laid Lion Island mark and lifted to Barrenjoey mark in one leg. The leading boats including Hellrazer were a long way ahead of us and it looked like to was going to be a very long race.

From Last to First - Jackie Clare Sails to Victory (cont)

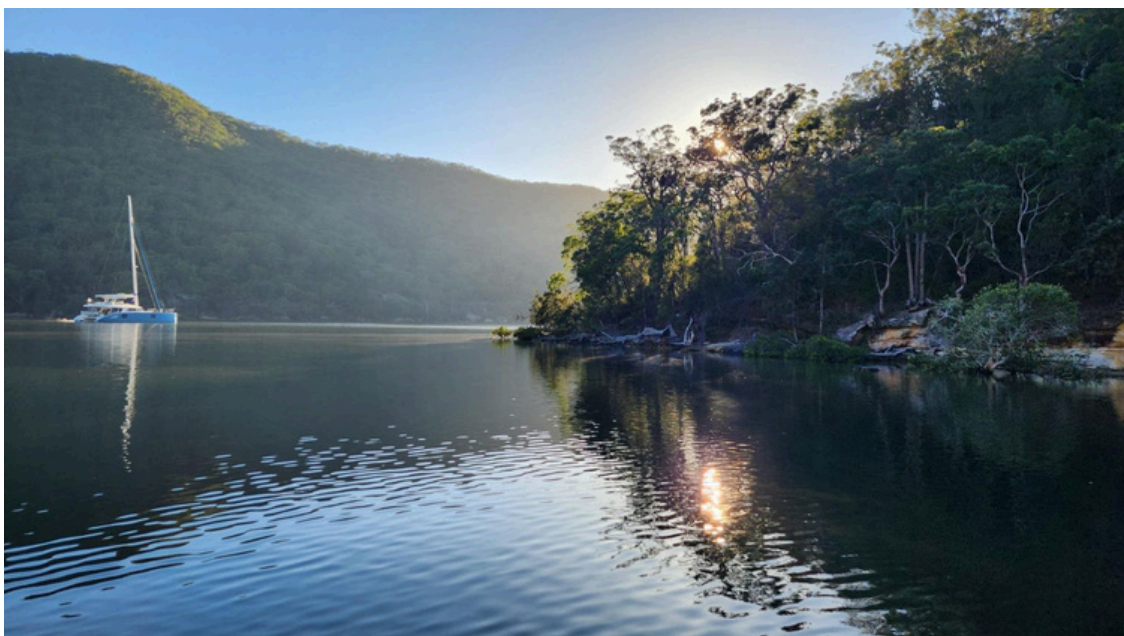
The breeze followed us down the shore and we were able to cut the corner and stay in the sea breeze while the boats ahead were stuck in the transition zone. The only advantage of being behind in this type of race is you can see what the wind is doing ahead by the problems experienced by the leading boats.

To keep as far east as possible we short tacked in towards Careel Bay to lay Stokes Point mark and rounded second behind our friends in Hellrazer. What followed was a procession to Lion Island and Barrenjoey Head.

The rounding of Barrenjoey Head was tight with Hellrazer first, Jackie Clare second and Southern Cross third. Then it was a long slow broad reach to Flint and Steel which seemed to take forever.

Hellrazer took the northern route with Jackie Clare to leeward and Southern Cross chose the rhum line. Continuing the theme of snakes and ladders, Whistling Kite sailed through us all to leeward to take the hooter from Southern Cross, Jackie Clare and then Hellrazer all within about two minutes of each other.

Corrected time gave Jackie Clare the win which we were very happy to take, given our position at the first mark.



Morning at Smiths Creek by Susan Metcalf

Results Monday 13 April 2026

Division 1 Start: 12:35											
1	7367	Jackie Clare	Beneteau First 36.7	Geoff Davidson	RSYS	15:30:37	02:55:37	1.0115	02:57:38	1	1.0242
2	SM407	Bushranger	Beneteau First 40.7	Stuart McLean	RSYS	15:33:57	02:58:57	1.0249	03:03:24	2	1.0279
3	116	Whistling Kite	Sequest RP36	Kym Evans	CYCA	15:29:18	02:54:18	1.0550	03:03:53	3	1.0512
4	6469	HellRazer	F36 Razer	Ian MacDiarmid	RSYS	15:31:40	02:56:40	1.0685	03:08:46	4	1.0578
5	401	Alibi	Beneteau First 40	Bruce Hodgkinson	RSYS	15:34:58	02:59:58	1.0518	03:09:17	5	1.0444
6	208	Southern Cross	Jutson 45	Peter Sheldrick	RSYS	15:30:27	02:55:27	1.0896	03:11:10	6	1.0822
DNC	SM4407	Can Can	Beneteau First 44.7	Roman Tarnawsky	RSYS	-	-	-	-	10	1.0208
DNC	G107	Justified	J Boats J/111	Tomas Simpson	CYCA	-	-	-	-	10	1.0710
DNC	6446	Shearwater	Frers 57	Guido Belgiorno-Nettis	RSYS	-	-	-	-	10	1.1593

Division 2 Start: 12:40											
1	6321	Allegro	Cavalier 395	John Taylor	RSYS	14:44:58	02:04:58	1.0169	02:07:05	1	1.0269
2	9600	Akiiki	Hanse 415	Ian Cook	RSYS	15:00:55	02:20:55	0.9146	02:08:53	2	0.9196
3	10035	Coco	Dehler 35	Russell Taylor	RSYS	14:54:00	02:14:00	0.9638	02:09:09	3	0.9695
4	6166	Sweet Jay	J Boats J/109	Ralph Pickering	GFS	14:54:21	02:14:21	0.9666	02:09:52	4	0.9709
5	7049	Tashtego	Dehler 38	Jack Thomas	RSYS	14:58:08	02:18:08	0.9424	02:10:11	5	0.9445
6	RQ31	Cheb	Bavaria 42	Lyndall Patterson	RPAYC	14:56:53	02:16:53	0.9512	02:10:12	6	0.9534
7	4103	Just Quietly	Elan 37	Donald Swanson	RSYS	14:49:31	02:09:31	1.0164	02:11:39	7	1.0098
8	7124	As You Do	J Boats J/124	Ross Littlewood	RSYS	14:53:27	02:13:27	0.9918	02:12:21	8	0.9850
9	88880	Vivace	Hanse 430e	Anthony Shannon	RSYS	14:55:23	02:15:23	0.9800	02:12:41	9	0.9716
10	TBA	Schon	Hanse 418	Alice Coutts	RSYS	15:01:41	02:21:41	0.9436	02:13:42	10	0.9361
11	5151	Phoebe	Dubois 49	Paul Thackray	RSYS	14:56:48	02:16:48	1.0014	02:17:00	11	0.9940
DNC	8484	Windflyt	Townson 36	Douglas Sturrock	RSYS	-	-	-	-	13	0.9506

Division 3 Start: 12:45											
1	2910	Beautiful Noise	Farr 37	stuart paterson	RSYS	14:18:23	01:33:23	0.8708	01:21:19	1	0.8805
2	3458	Rapunzel	Peterson 33	Richard & Sandy Lawson	RSYS	14:19:52	01:34:52	0.8759	01:23:05	2	0.8769
3	7080	Minnow	Jeanneau SO 409	Stephen Grundy	RSYS	14:18:48	01:33:48	0.8882	01:23:19	3	0.8931
4	353	Margaret Rintoul	Phillip Rhodes Classic Yawl	Bruce Gould	RSYS	14:24:34	01:39:34	0.8704	01:26:40	4	0.8580
5	6967	Out of Sight	Hanse 385	Eric Duggin	RANSA	15:09:24	02:24:24	0.8821	02:07:23	5	0.8630
DNF	SW10227	Ohana	Seawind 1000XL2	Michelle McGrath & Karyn Gojnich	RSYS	-	-	-	-	6	0.7054
DNC	2275	Frigga	Swanson 39	Angus Holden	-	-	-	-	-	8	0.8500



Tonight's Mooring
Yeomans Bay



Tomorrow's Cruising
Lunch Boathouse Patonga (weather permitting)



Tomorrow's Racing
Inshore Race 3



Tomorrow's Mooring
Jerusalem Bay

Forecast for Wednesday



13°C 24 °C

Sunny

Variable below 10 knots.

Seas below 0.5m

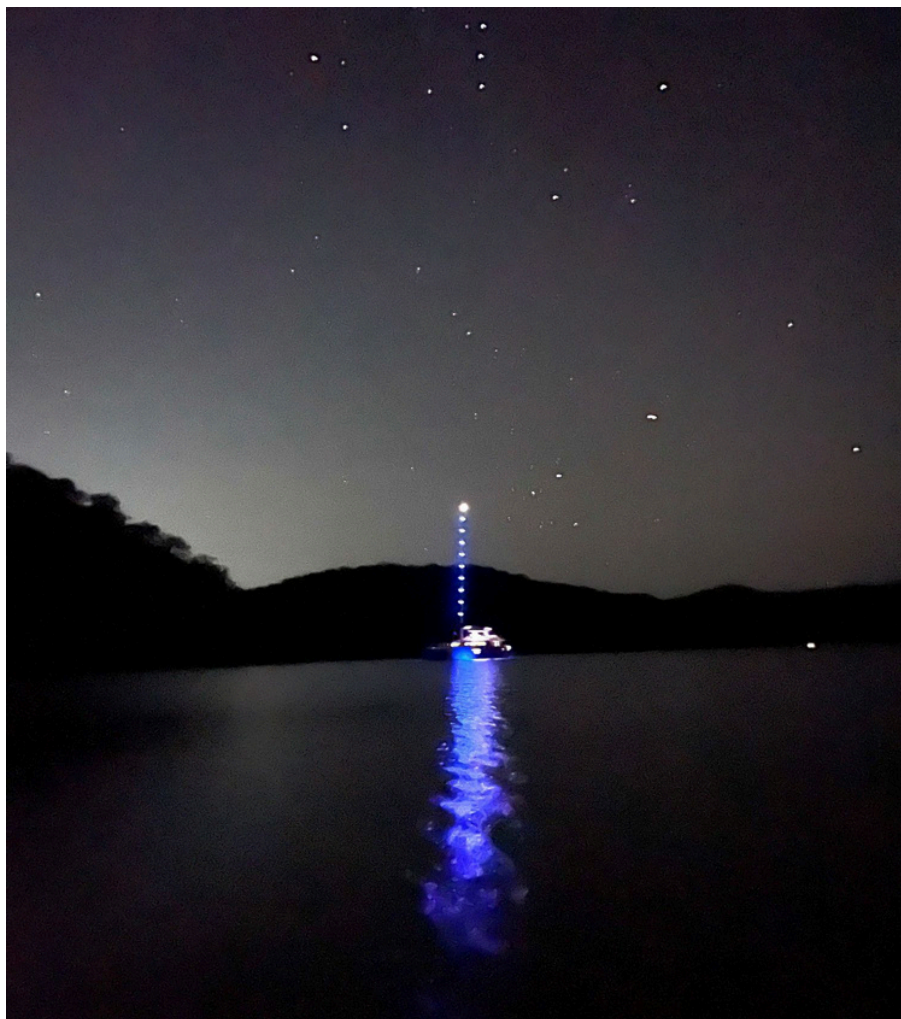


Photo Competition submission by Richard Kornman.

Feng moored in Yeoman's Bay last night - aligning with Orion's Belt above.



Contributions

The Cruise News needs your stories and photographs. Please send them to sailing@rsys.com.au by 9am for same day publication on the [Cruise Webpage](#)