

# Humbug Lite

The Alternate GFS Newsletter

Edition 44, March 2026

Please visit the GFS website regularly for important club information.

Visit the GFS Facebook page for excellent images and gossip.

## March Events and Sailing –

### Twilight

Year	Month	Date	Event
2026	March	4	Summer Race 8
		11	Autumn Race 1
		18	Autumn Race 2
		25	Autumn Race 3 and Women's Helm Race 4

### Saturday

Year	Month	Date	Event
2026	March	7	Autumn Race 4
		14	Joe Walsh Down Harbour Race 7
		21	Autumn Race 5
		28	Autumn Race 6 and MY Race 7

**Other Events –** Some details are on the following pages or search on the internet.

Year	Month	Date	Event
2026	Feb - Mar	24 – Mar 1	KMPG Sydney Sail Grand Prix
	March	6	International Women's Day Sail – a CYCA event
		7 - 8	Sydney Harbour Regatta - Keelboats
		19	Stepping Stone Regatta - RSYS
		21	<b>Exercise Kakadu 2026 Fleet Review</b>

*We acknowledge the Cammeraygal people of the Guringai nation, the traditional custodians of the lands and water on which we meet and compete, and we pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

## **Many hands....**

### **...make light work!**

Yes, the voluntary effort that goes into running our Club is one of our greatest strengths.

Our Club ticks along because someone is always ready to lend a hand – whether it's filling the drinks fridge, servicing an outboard, updating the website, patching the Club dinghy, creating a new Junior sailing program or serving on the Committee.

The Duty Roster for the BBQ is a great example of members helping out.

There's a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure the Club runs smoothly.

With a month or so till Twilights end, it's time to start thinking about how you may be able to contribute to the running of your sailing club.

There is a multitude of ways to contribute.

For example, our long serving Secretary James Kearney has decided to step down at the next AGM. James has done a wonderful job over many years. He's promised to help the next person learn the ropes of this important role.

Other Committee members are considering stepping down, should a suitable person be interested in stepping up. Areas such as Junior Sailing and Women's Sailing are looking for volunteers.

There are lots of other activities that need people. Such as IT and admin tasks, documents to prepare, events to run, training sessions to organise, odd jobs around the Club, etc.

The great thing about GFS, volunteering is fun. You're surrounded by supportive people.

Questions for members to consider are:

- Would you like to help around the Club?
- What are you interested in doing?
- What experience or skill do you bring along with you?
- What sort of time have you got available?

No rush ... just have a think and get in touch with one of us on the Committee to have a chat.

Leigh McLaughlin  
Vice Commodore  
0412 234 832  
[vicecommodore@gfs.org.au](mailto:vicecommodore@gfs.org.au)

## **The Gore Creek Dinghy Rack Group is seeking a new member.**

Expressions of interest are invited for a vacancy that is coming up at our Dinghy Rack in Gore Creek.

The storage rack and ramp is on the western shore of Gore Creek, at the end of Point Lane, Northwood and has space for six dinghies.

Use is restricted to small 1-4 person dinghies that are used as tenders for sailing boats moored in Gore Creek, generally owned by people local to the area. The ramp and rack is not available for any other purpose.

The storage rack is on public land and a lease exists between the six members and Transport for NSW. Costs include rent, insurance and rates. Members work together as a group to take responsibility for administration, repairs and maintenance.

For more information, please contact Leigh McLaughlin on 0412 234 832.

## Changes to GFS Sailing Instructions – a reminder

The changes relate to shortening Twilight courses after the start and communication to competitors.

SI 14 Part 'b' will now read –

b. For Twilight Racing

- i. Twilight Courses can be shortened after the start by the Race Officer.
- ii. A shortened course will be notified by VHF radio announcement.
- iii. Yachts will be notified of the final mark to be rounded before proceeding to the Finish Line.
- iv. The Finish Line will be advised by VHF.

SI 20 Part 'g' will now read –

g. If a Twilight Race is shortened after the start, see SI 14(b).

SI 25 Part 's' will now read –

All competing yachts must carry either a fixed or hand-held VHF receiver/transmitter. This must be **monitored on the boat at all times** in GFS events. VHF Channel 73 will be used for communication during races.

The Sailing Instructions on the Sailing Racing Information page of the GFS website incorporates these changes.

## Women's Helm Race 4 - Results and Point score – PROVISIONAL



WH Race 4 Place	Sail #	Boat Name	Helm
1	M101	Mistress	Sally Potocki
2	6755	GWM PH	Charlotte Stapf
3	M138	Conquista	Lucy Windeyer

Series place after Race 4	Sail #	Boat Name	Helm
1	7073	Serendipity	Charlie May
2	M138	Conquista	Lucy Windeyer
3	3608	Joka	Anahita Olsen

Full results listing is on the GFS website – [Sailing – Yacht Division Results – GFS Women's Helm Results](#)

## KMPG Sydney Sail Grand Prix

SailGP, 'the most exciting racing on water', is making its record seventh visit to the iconic Sydney Harbour with racing on February 28 and March 1, 2026.

Witness the three-time SailGP Champions, **BONDS Flying Roos**, take on the 11 other nations in a high-stakes battle for victory on home waters.



The event is proudly supported by the NSW Government's lead agency for tourism and major events, **Destination NSW**. For more information on things to see and do in Sydney visit [www.sydney.com](http://www.sydney.com).

**Race Times** - 17:30 - 19:00 AEDT on Saturday Feb 28 and Sunday Mar 01

## Sydney Harbour Regatta

Hosted by Middle Harbour Yacht Club, the Nautilus Marine Insurance Sydney Harbour Regatta, this year its 21st Anniversary year, is one of the largest competitive keelboat regattas in Australia.

180 keelboats will race across 17 divisions over 7 course areas, throughout Sydney Harbour as well as offshore near Sydney Heads. In 2026, the Nautilus Marine Insurance Sydney Harbour Regatta will be run on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March.

# Long Distance Sailing

7.30pm on Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>  
at GFS, with nibbles and drinks



Have you ever dreamt of a long-distance voyage on a yacht but not known where to start? GFS is fortunate to have some experienced sailors who have completed some serious voyages and are willing to share their experiences. **Come and join us at the GFS clubhouse for two entertaining talks with wine and nibbles at 7.30pm on Tuesday April 21st**



Marianne Urth and Alex Holtheuer will share their experience cruising the stunning islands of the South Pacific aboard their catamaran Amalie last year. Sailing two-handed, they journeyed from Sydney to New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia, before returning home, an extraordinary adventure that neither had undertaken before.

Ken Gibson has sailed 60,000 nautical miles in his much-loved catamaran Resolute II, including a circumnavigation and a single-handed voyage of 4,000 nautical miles from Panama to the Marquesas. Ken will talk about the challenges and the delights of blue water sailing, including the World ARC rally.



***Please click on the link below to indicate your interest in the event.***

**[I would like to attend](#)**

## The Exercise Kakadu Fleet Review 2026

The Exercise Kakadu Fleet Review 2026 will see the largest gathering of international warships on Sydney Harbour for more than a decade with up to 30 ships from 20 countries assembling in an impressive display of international sea power.

The International Fleet Review is one phase of Exercise Kakadu which is a major maritime exercise with numerous countries hosted by the Royal Australian Navy every two years.

A Fleet Review is a naval tradition where a Reviewing Officer on board the Reviewing Ship inspects the massed ships of the navy, typically when the Battle Fleet was mobilised for war. Since the 19th century, Fleet Reviews have been held for commemorative events and celebrations, including inviting other national navies to participate by sending vessels.

With the Reviewing Officer embarked, HMAS Leeuwin will proceed past all ships receiving a ceremonial salute during the route. While the majority of ships will be at alongside berths or at anchor, one column of ship will sail through the main channel, passing HMAS Leeuwin as they proceed west toward the Harbour Bridge.

Program schedule:

- 6:00am Division 1 Enters Sydney Harbour
- 7:30am Division 2 Enters Sydney Harbour
- 9:00am Division 3 Enters Sydney Harbour
- 10:30am Division 4 Enters Sydney Harbour
- 2:00pm Review of International Naval Fleet Commences
- 2:20pm Division 5 Enters Sydney Harbour
- 2:45pm Combined Navy & RAAF Aerial display
- 3:45pm Ceremonial Gun Salute
- 4 – 6:00pm Public Boating and Commercial Vessel Sailpast
- 6:45pm Historic Flotilla Procession
- 



Exclusion zones will be active, between 6am 21st March until 12pm 22nd March, marked by yellow buoys and official patrol vessels.

A no stopping, drifting and anchoring zone applies between Garden Island and Point Piper and along the viewing route.

At all times, vessels must remain 250 metres from a naval vessel.

## Saturday Sailing @ GFS

Once again, please consider Saturday sailing at GFS. The fleet is small and competitive. There is less conjection on the water and spinnakers are allowed but not compulsory. The SailSys handicapping program accounts for different boat types and how they are sailed – non-spinnaker or spinnaker.

GFS has two divisions, one with bigger/faster yachts and a second with smaller boats, ensuring that there is close racing in each fleet.

Sailors are able to gather at the club post race to dissect what has occurred during the race although there is no formal club barbeque.

## Follow up on Tambourine Bay and Woodford Bay Wrecks, Rubbish and Derelict Boats

**BOAT BUYER  
BOATS WANTED**

Buying, removal & disposal solutions.

Fast and friendly service,  
Australia wide.

*We take on the good,  
the bad and the ugly.*

30 years industry experience

Call Jonathan Frearson on [redacted]

This add and a second in the classified section regularly appear in Afloat Magazine. **Be aware and avoid these services.**

**boats wanted**

Buying Boats - power and sail. Boat removal and disposal. 30 years experience. Fast and friendly solutions Australia wide. Jonathan Frearson

It is believed that the person is behind some of the wrecks, rubbish and derelict boats left on vacant moorings, dumped or anchored in both these bays.

The yachts in Tambourine Bay pictured in last month's **Humbug Lite** were quite serviceable when they arrived.



**3127 Capriole** leads the fleet 'home' - Twilight Autumn Race 3 – image Mark Palmer



**1163 WTF** and **1386 Another One** - Saturday Autumn Series Race 2 - image Mark Palmer

## March 2026 - Tide Times and Heights (Fort Denison).

Indicates high tide of 1.7m or more	Indicates low tide of 0.3m or less		
New Moon ●	First Quarter ◐	Full Moon ○	Last Quarter ◑

### March 2026

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1 0106 0.55	0736 1.85	12 0315 1.46	1030 0.74	23 0623 0.42	1225 1.45
SU 1421 0.33	2019 1.43	TH 1617 1.11	2137 0.85	MO 1811 0.55	
2 0200 0.47	0825 1.89	13 0431 1.47	1144 0.70	24 0043 1.81	0727 0.48
MO 1501 0.30	2101 1.51	FR 1742 1.15	2258 0.82	TU 1324 1.32	1901 0.65
3 0247 0.42	0909 1.87	14 0540 1.52	1239 0.62	25 0140 1.75	0839 0.54
TU 1539 0.30	2141 1.57	SA 1838 1.22		WE 1435 1.23	2004 0.73
4 0332 0.41	0950 1.82	15 0002 0.75	0633 1.60	26 0249 1.70	1000 0.56
WE 1612 0.33	2218 1.61	SU 1321 0.54	1919 1.31	TH 1603 1.20	2125 0.77
5 0415 0.42	1029 1.73	16 0052 0.66	0717 1.68	27 0409 1.67	1116 0.53
TH 1643 0.39	2254 1.63	MO 0717 1.68	1357 0.46	FR 1725 1.25	2249 0.74
6 0458 0.47	1105 1.61	17 0136 0.57	0757 1.75	28 0524 1.70	1219 0.49
FR 1712 0.46	2329 1.63	TU 1430 0.39	2030 1.51	SA 1827 1.34	
7 0540 0.52	1142 1.49	18 0219 0.48	0837 1.80	29 0000 0.67	0626 1.73
SA 1739 0.53		WE 1502 0.34	2107 1.62	SU 1309 0.44	1915 1.44
8 0003 1.62	0623 0.59	19 0302 0.41	0917 1.80	30 0059 0.58	0717 1.75
SU 1218 1.38	1806 0.61	TH 1536 0.31	2145 1.72	MO 1350 0.41	1957 1.53
9 0040 1.59	0710 0.65	20 0347 0.37	1000 1.77	31 0149 0.52	0802 1.74
MO 1258 1.28	1838 0.68	FR 1611 0.32	2225 1.80	TU 1427 0.40	2035 1.61
10 0120 1.54	0804 0.71	21 0436 0.35	1045 1.69		
TU 1346 1.19	1918 0.76	SA 1648 0.37	2307 1.84		
11 0211 1.49	0912 0.74	22 0528 0.37	1133 1.58		
WE 1451 1.12	2017 0.82	SU 1728 0.45	2352 1.84		

### Please support our club sponsors –

#### Helly Hansen

Helly Hansen is a company manufacturing professional grade gear. It offers technical sailing and performance ski apparel, as well as premium workwear. The Company provides clothing and footwear for sailing, hiking and other outdoor activities.

#### GWM Pennant Hills

GWM Pennant Hills is a family-owned business that has been operating at the same location at Thornleigh, since 1984. The business has maintained a strong association with GFS for over 20 years. GWM offers a modern and dynamic range of electric vehicles (EVs), hybrids, SUVs, Utes, and FWD vehicles.

#### Joe Walsh Rigging

Joe Walsh Rigging specialises in all marine and architectural rigging, masts and spar fabrication, repair, painting, all rigging requirements, furling systems and AYP Rig Insurance Inspections. Located at Woolwich Marina.

#### Doyle Sails Sydney

Doyle Sails Sydney is located in Gladeville. Services include an in-house design team, laser cutter and modern machinery for new sails, repairs, covers and ongoing service.

#### Oatley Wines

Robert Oatley Wines celebrates the memory of Bob Oatley through a trio of labels: the maritime-influenced Signature Series, the specific vineyard focused Finisterre, and the best of the best barrels under The Pennant label. They focus on wines from Margaret River and McLaren Vale.

#### Zjoosh

Located in Lane Cove, Zjoosh is a unique Australian lifestyle brand. It specialises in "the finishing touches". From its early beginnings as a fashion jewellery and accessories brand, Zjoosh has broadened to homeware and gifts.



Joe Walsh  
Rigging



ROBERT OATLEY



**GWM**  
PENNANT HILLS  
RUGGED, REFINED, READY

ZJOOSH