

Careel association is active in cruising and racing

The Careel Cruising Yacht Association (CCYA) has seen a resurgence in activity in recent years, with growing racing and cruising events – not bad for an organisation where most boats are around 30 years old, and even the newer ones are at least 10 years old.

During the summer period, it has cruises scheduled for at least once a month, from September through to May, while racing – at both Pittwater and Botany Bay – continues through both summer and winter.

Careel 18s race at Pittwater and Botany Bay, with fleets of up to 12 boats regularly turning up to both waterways. Careel 22s also race at Pittwater, and are also achieving good successes in mixed fleets at Pittwater and Canberra.

In November, the association will again be running its Pittwater Plate race, designed to be a highly informal, relaxed introduction to racing for those owners who do not normally race, or have not previously tried racing.

The great thing about Careel racing is that the age of the boats has little to do with racing success. Many Careels are more than 30 years old, but with competent skippers and crew and reasonable quality gear, are proving themselves against boats of around 10-15 years old.

The association has around 200 members throughout Australia, with most members in NSW, a solid core of around 30-40 in Victoria, 10-12 in the ACT and now an active and growing association in Queensland.

A strong spirit of community and co-operation has always been a key element in the on-going success of the CCYA, with the more experienced members always willing to assist new and would-be owners upgrade, fine-tune and repair their boats.

This has become even more marked recently, with members throughout Australia now making use of the Careel.com “bulletin board” to swap ideas and advice (website details are at the end of this article).

Any queries on technical aspects, performance improvements or repair challenges are quickly answered, usually by a number of contributors.

Communication with members is further enhanced through the *Careel News*, a monthly publication with information on CCYA events and developments, along with articles on cruising destinations and technical subjects.

The association is also an effective vehicle for buying and selling Careels. Most members will firstly advertise their Careels for sale through the magazine and website – and it’s not uncommon for boats to be sold within a day or so of their listing (the record is two hours, when a boat was listed on the bulletin board site!).

For more information on CCYA and Careels, please visit our website at www.careel.com.