



2026

Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series

*Incorporating the Thistle Cup, the Muriel Trophy
and Gaffer's Day*

Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 October 2026

Organising authorities: Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club and Sydney Amateur Sailing Club
Racing on the waters of Port Jackson

Welcome aboard

Five races over three days, two clubs, and a fleet of gaff rigged boats built for the barracouta trade rather than for sport. The Couta Boat still stops a conversation on this harbour.

On behalf of the Board and members of the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club, it is my pleasure to welcome the owners, skippers and crews of the Couta Boat fleet to Point Piper for the 2026 Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series. The Thistle Cup is held here each October and draws boats from Sydney, Pittwater and Victoria.

My thanks go to the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club for again accommodating us in the Muriel Trophy and Gaffer's Day, to our race officials and to the volunteers on the water and ashore, and to the partners who support the regatta. I hope you will join us on the lawns on Thursday evening to open the series.

Sven Runow

Commodore, Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club

Dates

Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 October 2026

Racing area

Port Jackson

Entry fee

\$190 full series, \$60 Thistle Cup only

Races

Five, scored on scratch and handicap

Series entries close

1700 Monday 5 October 2026

Enter through

SailSys

Program

Four days on the harbour and ashore. The Thursday evening is booked in advance and places at the welcome dinner are strictly limited. Everything else is bought at the club on the day.

Thursday 8 October Welcome evening RPEYC

1800 to 1900	Welcome cocktail party, harbour front lawns Complimentary drink on arrival and our prawn and oyster bar. Already included in the welcome dinner ticket.	\$40pp Book now
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1800 to 2200	Welcome dinner Includes the cocktail party. Complimentary drink on arrival, prawn and oyster bar, main course and dessert. Strictly limited to 60.	\$100pp Book now
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Book one, not both. The dinner ticket already includes the cocktail party, so book the cocktail party only if you are not staying for dinner.

Friday 9 October The Thistle Cup, races 1 to 3 RPEYC

0900	Bacon and egg rolls and coffee at the club Available to purchase at the club, no booking required
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0900	Tender service commences
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1030	Briefing session, front lawn Optional
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1155	First warning signal
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1200	Race 1 start Races 2 and 3 follow as soon as practicable after the previous finish, with the final warning signal no later than 1500.
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After racing	Post race barbecue and presentation of Thistle Cup prizes Gourmet Vic's Meats sausage, fresh bread roll, caramelised onion and salads. Available on the day, no booking required.	\$20pp
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1800	Tender service concludes Running to and from the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club through the afternoon
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Saturday 10 October Muriel Trophy

SASC

0900 to 1800	Tender service Provided from RPEYC to SASC and return post racing
1235	Muriel Trophy race Conducted by the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club under separate sailing instructions
After racing	Presentation at the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club

Sunday 11 October Gaffer's Day, Couta Boat division

SASC

0900 to 1800	Tender service Provided from RPEYC to SASC and return post racing
1300	Gaffer's Day race Conducted by the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club under separate sailing instructions
After racing	Presentation at the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club

Food and drink at a glance

Welcome cocktail party, Thursday	\$40pp Book now
Welcome dinner, Thursday	\$100pp, places strictly limited Book now
Post race barbecue, Friday	\$20pp, purchase on the day
Bacon and egg rolls and coffee, Friday	Purchase at the club

The Thursday cocktail party and welcome dinner are booked in advance through TryBooking. Everything else is bought at the club on the day. Racing entries are separate and are made through the race entry process on the RPEYC website. Race times shown here are indicative, and the Notice of Race and the sailing instructions are the governing documents.

Entering

Enter online through the race entry process on the RPEYC website, which feeds the SailSys system. Boats may enter the whole series of five races, or the Thistle Cup only.

Enter online through SailSys

Series entries close	1700 Monday 5 October 2026
Casual entries close	1000 the day before the race
Full series, five races	\$190 inc GST
Thistle Cup only	\$60 inc GST

Boats entered for the whole series do not need to enter separately for the SASC events. Boats sailing the Muriel Trophy or Gaffer's Day alone should enter through the SASC entry process.

The Notice of Race governs this event

This program is a guide to the weekend. It is not the Notice of Race and does not replace it. Eligibility, entry conditions, scoring, handicaps, penalties, safety requirements, insurance and the risk warning are all set out in the Notice of Race, and further conditions appear in the sailing instructions. Where anything here differs from those documents, they prevail.

Sailing instructions are published about two weeks before the regatta. SASC issues its own instructions for the Muriel Trophy and Gaffer's Day.

[Read the Notice of Race](#)

[Enter online](#)

[Sydney Amateur Sailing Club](#)

Prizes and trophies

Every place in the Thistle Cup pays, on scratch and on handicap, and the same prizes are on offer again for the series overall.

Handicap results

First	750ml bottle of Moët and four RPEYC champagne flutes
Second	Bottle of red wine and two RPEYC wine glasses
Third	Bottle of red wine and two RPEYC wine glasses

Scratch results, the Race for Rum

First	700ml bottle of Classic Yacht Regatta Red Mill Rum and two RPEYC whisky tumblers
Second	Two 200ml bottles of Classic Yacht Regatta Red Mill Rum and two RPEYC whisky tumblers
Third	One 200ml bottle of Classic Yacht Regatta Red Mill Rum and two RPEYC whisky tumblers

Perpetual trophies



Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series

Engraved RPEYC Couta Boat Trophy, awarded to the handicap winner across all five races.



Thistle Cup

Awarded to the winner of the handicap pointscore over the three races on Friday.

Presentations

Thistle Cup	Friday 9 October, at the clubhouse after racing
Series overall	Sunday 11 October, at the SASC Gaffer's Day prizegiving



Close racing on Port Jackson.

The Thistle Cup

Thistle was built in 1903 by JR Jones on the Maribyrnong River and fished out of Port Fairy for most of her working life. As the fishery declined she took an engine for towing and later became a houseboat, before being restored to her early 1900s configuration in 1990 by Tim Phillips at Sorrento. She is now the smallest vessel in the floating fleet of the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Couta Boats have been sailing with the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club since 2015.

With thanks

This regatta runs on the goodwill of the owners who bring these boats to the line, the volunteers on the water and ashore, and the partners who support it.

MoëtHennessey

RED
MILL
1933
RUM

Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club

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