



Where's the Ferry?

... a timely reminder to be aware of ferries and shipping in the harbour.

Large ships and ferries are severely restricted in their ability to manoeuvre and are unable to stop quickly. Some are restricted to navigation only within the confines of a narrow navigation channel due to their draft. The Masters of vessels should be aware that the pilot of some larger ships can not see a vessel that is less than one nautical mile ahead of the ship.

The "Big Ships – small boats" video provided by NSW Maritime gives the following advice:

1. Recreational boats both power and sail should keep well clear of large vessels and ferries. They are difficult to manoeuvre.
2. Do not cross ahead of large vessels or ferries unless well ahead.
3. Do not cross too close astern of a large vessel or ferry (there could be someone coming from the other side).
4. Stay away from the lee side of ships because there is an enormous wind shadow that will becalm you.
5. As a general rule, yachties should know that in a race you may not only incur penalty points if you are seen to impede the passage of a commercial vessel, you can also be charged with negligent navigation.
6. Always keep to the starboard side of the channel.
7. Do not cross a channel if you are going to impede the vessel which has to use the channel.

Manly Ferry timetables are available at

www.sydneyferries.info/timetables.htm

Do not manoeuvre close to the ferry lane when your start time in the Twilights (or other MYC series) puts you in close proximity to the arrival or departure time of the ferry.

All yachts are governed by Maritime NSW regulations regardless of whether they belong to a yacht club or not and owners should ensure that their yachts comply with these regulations. Yachts are required to display navigation lights when travelling on the water after sunset.

Copies of the Boating Safety Handbook, published Maritime NSW, are available to members at the club or from Maritime NSW.