



Windward

Summer Bumper Issue

Sailing at its best

Date: January 2017



Lined up and ready for the Off the Beach Race



Yachts leaving the shore for the first leg of the race

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From the Commodore's Desk



who can operate the computer to enter and process the results. Training and mentorship will be provided for both positions. Current committee members contact details are on the notice board next to the stairs.

Chris Gurney

Well it has been full on at the Club since Christmas Day! I would like to thank all the members who keep turning up to make the place run smoothly, your contribution is much appreciated by me and the other Club members. In particular, the Social Committee, Sea Rescue, Tower and Race Management. Thank you to all the sailors who help with the retrieval of rescue boats particularly now Rudi has the challenge of the tractor being only 2WD. Norm and the team are investigating a suitable replacement as the current tractor has been assessed as not worth repairing.

Whilst our sailing programme keeps being interrupted our social programme has been a great success. From NYE to the Seafood night, to the Dolphin presentation, to the New Members welcome drinks we have had something for everyone.

Discover Sailing Day was a great success thanks to the organisation by Amanda and the large number of members who came down to help. Over ninety were taken for a sail or ride in the rescue boat.

Along with more back to back races the Twilight race was another successful innovation by the sailing committee. It matched with a perfect night for a BYO BBQ right after we had packed up.

For those of you who have not caught up both John Tilleard and John Hatton are making good recoveries and we expect to see them back around the Club by the end of January.

As required we now have a SYC Child Safety Code of Conduct, thanks to Emily Davenport and her committee, which I would like you all to read. It is posted on the Club notice board.

Our Club's strength is the quality of members who volunteer. The bar committee are looking for younger members, and the Race Management a short on people



John Tilleard sailing his Impulse, Danger Mouse, in the Boxing Day Regatta

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Discover Sailing Day



Somers Yacht Club Members welcome visitors to the club and provide sailing experiences for participants



Vice Commodore's Report

Rules for Sailing, Cycling and the Human Spirit

Not much in this report about goings on at the yacht club. But I can report that since I last wrote in Windward I've visited a far-distant shore and I'm very pleased and thankful to be back.

Based on the statistics I really shouldn't be sitting here, gazing longingly over Westernport and thinking about what to say to you. But I'm in a lucky 4% of people who have an out of hospital cardiac arrest in Victoria and survived. Man, am I lucky! So here are some rules for luck.

1. Have your cardiac arrest on the mountain bike not in the sailing boat
2. Have it at the top of the hill so you're going slowly when you fall off
3. Always ride with at least 6 people, all of whom must be selfless, capable, knowledgeable, decisive, determined and persistent heroes. At least 3 Doctors is a good idea.
4. Be close to a school with an accessible defibrillator
5. Choose a location within 20 minutes of a major hospital where the ambulance can reach you easily
6. Do it in Australia
7. Trust yourself to the emergency system – it's full of competent, caring people
8. Surround yourself with practical, loving family and caring, supportive community
9. Go into surgery with an image of a glorious sailing moment firmly grasped in your head
10. Learn CPR. You might be the one to save someone next time.



*A little expedition to Sandy Point Christmas Day 2016
Photo by Mike Sandiford*

Rear Commodore's Report



Happy New Year!

One of the early New Year highlights was the Discover Sailing Day last Tuesday.

Thanks to all those who stepped up to help – skippers of boats, tour guides, “meters” and greeters, volley ballers and food preparers – a wonderful turnout.

It was great that we could take so many people out sailing - this year we had over 110 visitors and more than 90 on the water in a mixture of Pacers, Hobies, a 470 and a Tornado as well as Captain John zooming around in SA1 looking for dolphins. Sausage sizzle on the deck, morning tea and tours of the club – everyone was very happy!! This day helps generate interest in Sailing School and in Club membership for seasons to come, as well as keeping us as an important part of the Somers community.

Planning is well advanced for the Westernport Challenge. Merricks Yacht Club are hosting the Challenge this year on Saturday January 14.

Please all sailors come along and defend our title !! Please note that you must enter this event online through [trybooking.com](https://www.trybooking.com) before race day.

Do it now! <https://www.trybooking.com/250845>

Westernport Yacht Club is hosting the Western Port Youth Regatta the day after the challenge - Sunday 15th January. This is a coaching regatta designed for all Western Port Sailors under 21. Information and entry is via the Westernport Yacht Club website.

Back at the Club we have had lots of racing including the Boxing Day Regatta and the Off The Beach Handicap pursuit and Yardstick Pursuit - popular as always. Sandy Point Cruise was extremely well attended with 20 boats from Somers.

We completed 4 out of 6 summer cup races – not bad for this time of year – including a first – a twilight start of 5 pm – a beautiful time to sail!

As last season, we had two concurrently run sailing schools between Christmas and New Year with maximal attendees and good weather. Emma and all your helpers: your efforts are keeping the club young and vibrant.

As a Club we need to encourage our newer members and novice sailors and help them on their sailing journey. Sailors- if you see a new member or someone with Club pacer that looks like they may need help – please lend a hand!

The recent Junior Pacer Regatta (run in 19 knots plus !) was a great success and a fabulous opportunity for some of those novice sailors from sailing school to crew for a more experienced skipper and gain confidence. We would like to run more of these events this season – watch out for more details.

Other events to look forward to include the annual cruise and Laser Regatta at Pt Leo Boat Club – now on Sunday Feb 5th.



Sandy Point Cruise
Boats assure and sailors having their lunch

Sailing School Report

SsYC Juniors



With hot weather to start the week and gentle north winds, 17 students started the beginners course and 11 students attended the start racing course.

14 of these sailors are new to the club this year. With flat seas and dolphins around the students took on new skills learnt in boats. The vibe was exciting with all these keen kids, rigging, tipping, sailing, washing and we can't forget eating morning tea. The families did a great job in supporting the kids with moving boats, launching, retrieving and feeding them. Our staff were engaging and enjoying their time with the students, sharing all their knowledge so that others may be able to love the sport that they do. Our third day of sailing tested the students with stronger winds and a tide that was challenging. Never the less they all did well.

It has been good to see so many booking Pacers and Hawks to get more time on the water and skills refined. We have even seen new sailors from sailing school enter in club races and coached around the course. We still have a few Hawks available for season booking.

Our second course starts soon and will bring the same exciting vibe to the club again, with just as many great kids enjoying the water. I am very proud that not all the fun is going to be left to the kids, with so many parents signing up for the Adult course which start on Sunday 29th Jan.

Don't forget our Sailing School Family Games and Presentation Night on Saturday 25th Feb at 6pm. We would love to see you all for some more fun together, keep an eye out for bookings soon.

Emma Morris

What has been spotted around the club lately?

Spotted, Daniel Laverty moving from his Opti to the fastest boat in the club, a Tornado. We could not get the smile off his face.

Spotted, a Ross 780 trailer sailor on the start line, now also names the Wind Shadow.

Spotted, Luka Mrkusich in his first race in a hawk doing extremely well.

Spotted, 28 kids in sailing school December having a ball learning to sail in Pacers and Hawks.

Spotted, a cool lot of moves pulled off at the junior disco.

Spotted, Lachlan and his new boat!

Spotted, wind 5km off shore and no where near the fleet returning from Sandy Point.

Spotted, 3 lasers last home from the Sandy Point cruise and refusing a tow.

Spotted, boats returning to shore after a race thought the start line.

Spotted, a spinnaker in Division 5, well done Evan and Ida.

Spotted, a mast up on Totes Amaze Balls, will it get wet soon?

Spotted, very happy and wet faces from all the juniors who attended the pacer regatta.

Spotted, Hundson Schwarz on the water in Division 6

Not Spotted, wind for race 2 of the championship series.

Not Spotted, any teens at the teen disco.

Not Spotted, Maz !

Not Spotted, Amanda tacking some time out

Not Spotted, skipper of Danger Mouse, but I hear he is doing well.

Not Spotted, the Commodore looking closely at the division 3 course for the summer cup.



SsYC Juniors Continued

Lately we have had a great Disco with the latest dance moves and lots of younger kids attending. The Dolphin information night brought in around 100 people to hear and learn more about our unique environment. We saw some good skills on the beach volleyball court, while our discover sailing day was on.

We held our first Junior Pacer Regatta on Sunday 8th Jan and saw 20 juniors take to the water. The wind shifted to the SW as we were rigging on the beach and came in a little strong so we delayed our start, and held an impromptu Somers Ironman Race. A short swim and then run up the beach, under a log and back. It kept the juniors warm and excited. Once the wind settled to a steady 20knots, we reefed all the sails we could and took to the water. Our older juniors took the helm with new crews on board in most boats. We managed to hold 4 short races just off the club, and saw lots of wet happy faces. Rescue boats manned with sailing parents were having a ball watching their children healing over, and many tipping. Racing was tight, and sibling rivalry was apparent. At one time two Morris pacers tipped at the top mark, with two Ede boats coming in on starboard, no where to go. Just to add more into the mix, two port tack boats were coming in also. Starts were close with the fleet tight, and Harrison was given a 20 second penalty but still managed to win in some races. Our youngest skippers of Matilda, William and Daniel were superb in boat control with these testing conditions. So many of our new junior members got involved and are now hooked. Results were not of importance to the day, only the excitement of fast sailing, tight racing, good stories and being with friends on the water.

Some comments from the juniors:

I was amazed at how brilliant it was, and how fast we went.

Lucy and Lucy loved to capsizes.

I was blown away at how windy it was.

Jack loved falling out of the boat when trying to keep it down.

Keep an eye out for another Pacer Regatta soon (as you requested).

Very soon is our first Somers Great Race (this is on land not like our other great races on the water). This event will include some navigation, teamwork as well as physical and mental challenges. You will need to get into teams of 2 or 4 and anyone under the age of 10 we request they have an adult in there team. The event may include getting wet, sweaty, frustrated, laughter and geographically misplaced. There will be prizes for the winning teams, and if you would like to stay for a BYO BBQ dinner after to tell your tails and tall stories you are welcome. Date Tuesday the 17th of January at 4pm with presentation and dinner around 6:15. Write your team members and name on the sheet at the club and see you there.

Make sure if you are a junior or parent of juniors, that you can keep up to date with our Facebook page and Instagram.

Somers Yacht Club Juniors (Facebook) [somer-yachtclubjuniors](#) (Instagram)

Morris Family

Sailing School 2017



Membership

The time for membership renewal is now well past.

- Those in arrears will be receiving an email reminder.
- In a number of cases we do not have up to date contact details, so PLEASE, remember to keep your details up to date.
- If we don't have accurate information we are unable to forward you correspondence, email or phone you.
- That is one of the reasons to become familiar with our on line system and update your details annually.
- Alternatively, details can be updated either by email to the Membership Secretary, or by logging onto the Australian Sailing My Sailor web site and accessing your details there.

The link is:

<https://membership.sportstg.com/v6/>

You need the email address associated with the Somers Yacht Club and your password.

Help us to help you keep up to date



SsYC Welcomes our New Members January 2017

- David, Yvette, Monique and Campbell Jaksa.
- Noah Hunt
- Huw Birrell
- David Goble and Susan Finn
- Stuart, Sarah, Elizabeth and Jack Whiteley

New Members Drinks



Seafood Night



Sailing School Morning Tea





Division 1 Report

With Christmas dinner consumed and perhaps a few hangovers the Boxing Day Regatta was attended by a small but dedicated division 1 squad of Brian Gristwood, Michelle Bursa and Robbie Lovig, Andy Griffin, Andrew Robertson and Ben Gristwood. Great to see Ben Gristwood out again for the first race of his season and hope we can see you racing Risky Business more during the rest of the season. Brian won the 1st race and was 2nd in race 2. Michelle and Robbie reversed that order for their 2 races with 3rd places going to Andrew Robertson and Griffio.

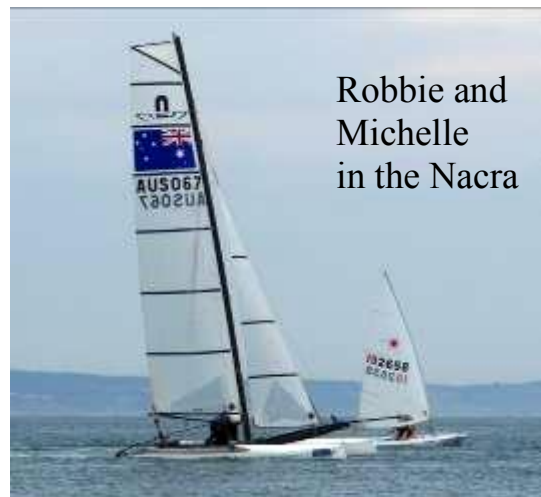
The off the beach handicap race the next day saw Justin Prior win followed by Griffio then Michelle and Robbie. The early wind certainly advantaged Justin and those with kites while late starters could only struggle against the dying breeze. Well done Justin; another trophy in the bag !!

Summer cup racing can often see wildly different conditions and this year was no exception with race 1 abandoned due to too much wind, race 2 abandoned due to rain, thunder storms then no wind at all and race 4 run but under grey skies and 18 knots plus. Michelle and Robbie were the only competitors in this race and failed to follow the race instructions by completing the monohull windward and return laps instead of the catamaran course. Well done for getting out and having a go.

Races 3, 5 and 6 were run in near ideal conditions under sunny skies which saw Brian Gristwood win the series followed by Andy Griffin. Notable observations from SA11 during race 6 were Brian leading Griffio for 3 of 4 laps and Gina joining Justin for a spin on the sloop rigged Mozzie. After race 6, Janus Karnowski was observed bringing his "A" class back into the yard for the sandy point cruise the following day.

Championship race 2 was postponed to another day due to lack of wind. Thankyou Tim Rintoul for keeping us up to date over the PA system with the wind strength taken to the nearest hundredth of a knot.

Peter Foulsum



Robbie and Michelle in the Nacra



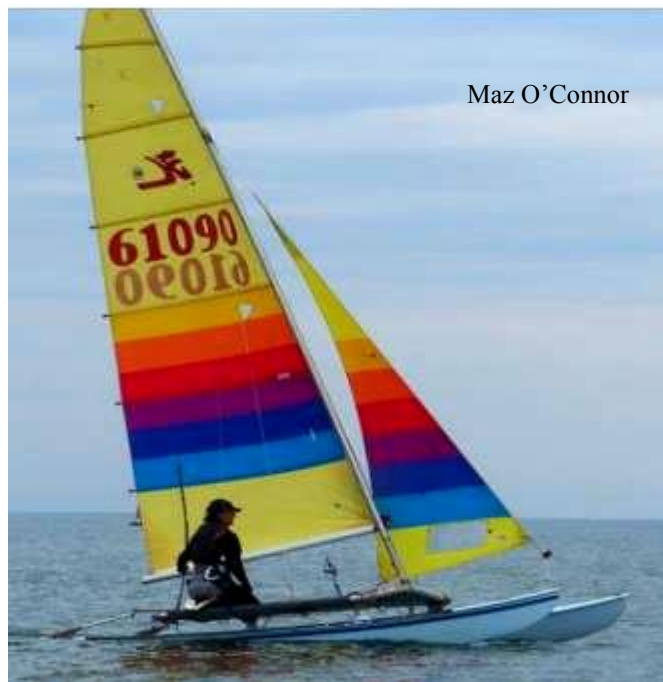
Andy Griffin in the Tornado



Sailing School

Division 2 Report

Boxing Day had its ups and downs with wind speed and direction. The first race saw wonder of wonders Steph beating the Hobie 16's to the windward mark, but being quickly overtaken by Emma and Lucy, and then by Maz and Simon, this being Maz's first turn at skippering the 16. Well done! The finishing order was Emma, Steph, Maz, Malcolm and Elly. In the second race Steph saw the number 2 pennant first and headed for the line, and keeping the Hobies well within reach all during the race, only to be becalmed whilst Emma,, Elly and Maz crossed the finish line, with Malcolm not competing. The Off The Beach Race is always great fun, as the comments heard on the beach are "why does Jim or Joan get a 4 minute start on me, that's not fair" It just means that you've been sailing better than him or her, and generally it works very well, as it did this time. The fluky and shifty wind was a challenge, and sometimes very frustrating, but it was great to see Steve Wilson in his freshly painted boat lead us to the finish, followed by Steph, Malcolm, Peter T and Maz in the Hobie Turbo still learning the ropes. Summer Cup 1 and 2 were blown out as we've come to expect from the weather, but SC3 was a beautiful sail, starting with about 5-10 Kts, and building to about 15-18, which got the 5 PT's flying, as Malcolm reached the first windward ahead of Steph, Steve W, Simon Boadle with the orange flash on his sail, then Peter T, and Maz on the Turbo, which unfortunately let her down the second time around, and she was allowed to swim for about half an hour. Not good! The New Year didn't auger well for Divll as there were no starters for SC 4 – too cold, too windy, too miserable. There were only 14 starters over all divisions, so we were not the only pikers. The Yardstick Pursuit turned out to be a Simon B pursuit, as he out-gunned everyone from start to finish, and Steph limped home with a broken rudder. The wonderful camaraderie in our Club was demonstrated, when Phil J dropped a complete pair of rudders into Steph's place so that he would be able to sail next day, which turned out a beautiful twilight sail with gentle easterlies, and Simon again showed us the way, with Emma and Lisa T taking the trophy ahead of Simon with Steph a mere 2



Maz O'Connor

seconds behind, then Malcolm a short distance further back ahead of Maz and then Elly and Gen. Summer Cup 6 on a beautiful Somers summer day was contested by only two stalwarts, Malcolm and Phil, as others had other things to do. As I wasn't there I can only report the results, with Malcolm beating Phil in the light conditions by about one minute. Wish I were there! It really has so far turned out a season of extremes, as the second championship had to be postponed due to lack of wind, although it was a beautiful beach day.

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Division 3 Report

Seasons greetings to all Division 3 sailors and their families.

First of all on behalf of all sailors at Somers, I wish John Tilleard a speedy recovery and we all look forward to his return to the club as soon as possible.

The start to the season has been one for the record books, with many days lost to the weather gods, however when we have been fortunate enough to sail, familiar trends continue. The Championship series after one race is being led by Michael and Georgia, with Mike, Chris and Toby completing the podium positions, Tasar, Impulse Tasar who would have thought! After Christmas day we all dragged ourselves down to the club for what is my favourite race of the season the Boxing Day Regatta, this year dominated by Chris and Toby, Rob, Warren and Mike, Tasar, Tasar, Impulse! The racing was close all day and its only in the last leg of the regatta that positions are sorted both across the line and on corrected time, well done to Chris and Toby. The Off The Beach race is an event where we get to see sailors who have not run all year or ever for that matter, stumble, trip and fall into the boat in an attempt to gain the most critical 3/4 of an inch advantage, pre the need to then luff (burn 5 minutes) in order sort centre boards, rudders etc. not to mention catch their breath as well as examine the knee they smashed on

the deck as they jumped on board; Mike took out the honours this year followed by Amanda/Diana, Libby and Wendy again well done guys very enjoyable to watch from SA11. The Summer Cup was hotly contested over the week long regatta

period, the weather gods were kind over the holiday break giving the fleet a range of wind conditions as well as some fierce tides to contend with. In the end tied on points with a young Finn sailor, Mike took out the yardstick win and the Finn was able to scrape home with a win on handicap followed by Grahame and Mike. For the avoidance of doubt, my recommendation to the sailing committee is we adopt the Trapezoid Course as the default course for all races for ever and move the finish line (or the club what ever is cheaper), in line with buoy 3 on the 2-3, 2-3 course thus eliminating any and all reaching on the way to the finish flag, I am sure you will all agree

See you on the water

Nick



Mike Sandiford



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Division 5—Sabre National Championship 2016 Black Rock Yacht Club



Sixty-five Sabres on the same start line, nine races over five sailing days –what a week we had! The Sabre is truly a “one-size fits all” class- the sailors ranged from 50kg girls to 90+kg blokes!

The weather varied from 0 knots (when we were towed in) to 25 knots with massive waves. We also survived a big thunderstorm and torrential downpour – my boat almost filled with rainwater. Fortunately we also had several days of 10-15 knots and sunshine!

As usual it was an extremely competitive fleet with the first twenty placed all said to be past National Title holders in various classes. Twenty boats were disqualified in the first race under the black flag. This certainly improved starting behaviour over the rest of the regatta. The Judge boat was busy giving out on the spot penalties for breaches of rules, particularly over enthusiastic pumping downwind.

There was a great atmosphere amongst the twelve female sailors- always trying to encourage and help each other. The social program was fun, with the sponsors providing kegs of free beer and prizes on several nights. As usual, many volunteers from BRYC and beyond did a fantastic job running this regatta.

I ended up in 39th place overall and 4th placed female. I was also really happy to have finished every race and not had a capsized or collision. It was great to make some new sailing friends and learn from the more experienced.

It will be great when Somers Yacht Club hosts the Victorian Sabre Championship on February 18 and 19 this year. I hope that our large Sabre fleet will enter (or else lend their boat to an experienced sailor from another class)- start preparing now –it will be lots of fun and you learn heaps about sailing!



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Division 4—Laser Radial Nationals

Harrison and Lucy Ede travelled to SA to participate in the Laser Radial Nationals in December and January this year .

They have provided us with a small outline of the highlights of their experience

Harrison

A record fleet of 99 Radials came to the Nationals in Adelaide. It was so big, the fleet split in two each day. Sometimes we had trackers just like the Olympics put on our boats. This meant we could replay our race to see where we went well and where we lost places.

I really enjoyed the competition and came 55/99.

I had some really good results (2nd in last race) but also some howlers. There was rarely any comeback from a poor start.

Lucy and I loved going for a swim at Glenelg beach after sailing each day to relax us.

“Sending it” to the finish line



Division 4—Laser Radial Nationals

Lucy

There were 58 Laser 4.7's so the start line was really busy. My results reflected how well I started. In two races I "won the pin" and got the best start, crossing the whole fleet on port in one heat! This was a real highlight since it was videoed and can still be seen in the Day 2 highlights package, <http://adelaidelasernationals2017.com/news/video-day-2-highlights/>

The other days I was not so good and was miles behind very quickly L

My favourite day was the last when I got a great start and came first female (13th overall) J



Tacking into the busy lay line close to the windward mark

Social News



Upcoming Social Events

Vegas Night

(Unfortunately this night has been postponed to later in the season)

Talent Night

Saturday 28th January 7pm

Performers of all ages are welcome.

Start planning now and contact Libby Moore for more information on 0413860371. You can text the name of your act.

Family BYO BBQ with the Jets

Saturday 11th February 6pm

BYO plates, cutlery, meat and salad.

The social calendar at Somers Yacht Club has been packed full of activities throughout the holiday season. The visit by Father Christmas was enjoyed by some of our younger members.

Our New Year's Eve Heroes and Villains night saw 160 members and their guests dance the night away into 2017.

Vic's annual Seafood night was a wonderful feast and enjoyed by all.

Vic continues to provide Friday night meals for members and their guests please text or call Vic to secure your meal.

Lunches are available at the club on sailing days for all members and their guests.



A BEAUTIFUL DAY'S SAILING AT SOMERS

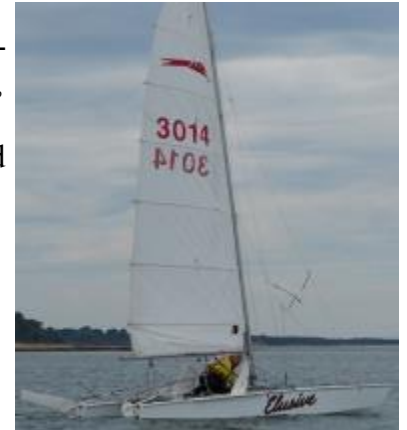
Well wasn't it? I mean on Saturday 3rd December when we were offered three races to be able to establish the Pre-Christmas series, as all but two had been lost to bad weather.

It has however, come to my attention that some people were unhappy and complained to the race organisers that the last race course should have been re-laid, as it was an unfair course, due to an extensive wind-shift. The sailors in Div II noticed it at the start as they couldn't cross the line on starboard, so tacked, and all got away cleanly, and had a great race.

May I point out that whichever way the wind shifts, it affects all yachts on the course in a similar fashion, and all are either advantaged or disadvantaged at one time or other, and the first one who is awake enough and notices it, will take advantage of it, and hopefully his/her competition is a little asleep and will be disadvantaged.

There is no reason for sailors to complain about the wind shifts not being noticed in time to take advantage on their competition, and no reason to hold up starting a race which would make late the course layers, tower people, rescue crews and other officials, all of whom give of their free time so that we can enjoy a beautiful day's sailing, and if the course had to be re-laid, we would have lost that race and the series.

We are in this beautiful part of the world, and can come down to our Yacht Club, have a great lunch, rig our boats, launch into pristine waters, sail with dolphins, and can have A BEAUTIFUL DAY'S SAILING AT SOMERS.



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Sailing Adventures—The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race

Pat Moore

What is the Sydney to Hobart yacht race ?

It covers 630 Nautical miles From Sydney Harbour to Hobart Derwent River .100 boats compete in Several divisions .

Maxi Yachts sail for line honours whilst Everyone else sails for corrected time .

I was in the Open Division, in a 37.5 Murray Custom with 8 crew members. It is named “Dark and Stormy “ and is owned by Terry Kourtis and Stewart Mellington. The yacht is sailed out of Sandringham. Sail number SM 69.

Start time was 1pm boxing day and I hoped to finish on December 30th, 2015.

The Boat had to pass safety standards and compete in a race from Melbourne to Stanley, Melbourne to King Island and Melbourne to Port Fairy in order to qualify.

I have sailed at Somers, in Croatia, England , Thailand and in the Sydney to Hobart .

To me the Sydney to Hobart is an endurance race. It is 4 days of unrelenting concentration and there is a huge feeling of accomplishment when finished . It is my 7th ocean race and 4th time I have sailed across bass straight .

For Safety each sailor carried an Eperb and the boat had 2 Eperbs . Sailors had to wear a life jacket and be tethered on at night and carry a knife to cut off the tether in an emergency. A flashing neck light also had to be worn at night. .

I was the radio officer and in charge of sea survival and first aid .All crew members had 3 hours on duty and 3 hours asleep at night and 4 hours on 4 hours off during the daylight.

Dark and Stormy had brand new sails and a new boom. Unfortunately on the first night we broke



the spinnaker pole and blew out one of the spinnakers. There were also some issues with the Navigation equipment . After a very good start and first day the gear failure became an issue and we ended up arriving at 1.30 am on December 30th coming 75 on line honours and 14th on Handicap .



Nick Ede

My brother Tim sailed on Scandia Wild Thing for close to 10 Hobart's winning it in 2005. That was very exciting. The following year they were winning again before their new canting keel broke and they were stranded 6 hrs by rescue boat from Davenport. Tim said the sound of the canting keel swinging wildly from side to side as they abandoned ship was pretty scary. Within seconds of piling into the life raft, the keel snapped off and the entire boat turned turtle. Thankfully no one was caught underneath. A salvage crew was chartered from Port Welshpool several days later. Amazingly on returning to the boat, the full force of the ocean was evident. The whole rig was gone, everything inside the hull, including the sails, were gone, and even some winches had been sheared off at the deck.

In 2009 I was lucky to be allowed to join the return crew, sailing the boat from Hobart back to Mornington. I had never been out of Port Philip Bay! After flying down NYE, we set off late afternoon. It was snowing on Mt Wellington and a 40knt gale was blowing with occasional hail and rain passing through. Knowing I only had 36 hours to experience this thrill ride, I didn't mind the wild conditions. We hoisted a storm jib and 3/4 of the main sail and off we went up the east coast of Tasmania. I distinctly

Sailing Adventures—The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race

remember standing on the windward rail and looking out 10m from the boat thinking what the hell is that just under the water!? Incredibly it was the canting keel being cranked to maximum. I couldn't believe that all the righting moment was hanging out that far from the boat. The hull creaked continuously under the strain.

As the sun went down, with 30-40knts on our beam, we accelerated to 24knts on the dial, close to 50km/h! For the next 12hrs it was like being on a wild sled ride through an angry and moving surface. Spray constantly showered us. The foam and commotion around us turned the ocean iridescent. It was truly magical in the moonlight. Around midnight my shift ended. I fell asleep immediately I collapsed into the bunk.

On waking we had clearly turned into Bass Strait and were pounding upwind into a big swell. At first I lay in my bunk counting the seconds when we seemingly leapt off a swell and fell through the air to the trough below. Every time we hit the trough the whole boat and its carbon fibre construction shook with a terrible crash. Up top it was a sunny day but still windy. I got to have a steer – I still wish to this day that someone had taken a photo! As the day drew on the wind died to nothing and once becalmed off Wilsons Prom, we finally pulled sail down and slowly motored through the night to arrive at Mornington pier at dawn.

This short ride on a super-maxi had to be one of my greatest sailing experiences. Maybe one day I'll do the race.

Charlie Alsop

The Sydney to Hobart is a great experience for any keen sailor. From the crew training and team building in the months prior to the race; to the “quite little drink” hours after arriving in Hobart, there is plenty of action and fun times. At the start, the atmosphere on Sydney Harbour is amazing!

I was sailing on ‘Stand Aside’ in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart when a rogue wave rolled

and de-masted our boat 70 miles off Gabo island. All of the 14 crew – but 1 – were attached to life lines on the boat. By pure luck the remaining person was pushed by the next wave back to the boat and we were able to retrieve him. Bobbing around in up to 80 knot winds and 15 metre seas, we managed to send an SOS out and were airlifted by rescue helicopter and transported back to Mallacoota where we were assisted by locals and the Red Cross. Soon after the boat sank and was never recovered. All this happened during daylight. Sadly, 6 people lost their lives in this race.

Since the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Race, the safety criteria required has improved dramatically. Crews are required to have completed qualifying races or ocean passages, and completed safety and sea survival courses. Boats must pass tight safety audits.

The Sydney to Hobart race is one off the best ocean racing experiences to be had. It requires a large commitment in time in the months leading up to the event, and I'd recommend it to any keen sailor.

Tim Rentoul

“Ocean racing is exhilarating, at times frightening but full of magic moments, absolute beauty and mateship. To see the raging sea, the colours at dawn and sunset and the rugged Tasmanian West Coast, the birdlife and the deep blue sea, almost black in colour, will always be a part of me. To start a race with 100 Yachts is unforgettable. Usually the next 3 days are forgettable.”



Sailing Adventures—The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race

Tim Rintoul Continued

Safety was paramount . Most boats do not allow booze at sea .We allowed two cans of beer per person per day which was usually consumed at Happy Hour between 5 and 6 pm before the evening watches began. I might add I was surprised at the amount of Coke consumed. Perhaps the odd bottle of Bundy was snuck in but I wouldn't know.

Probably the worst thing about Bass Strait is that the seas are closer together compared to the long rolling seas elsewhere . They virtually jump up at you and are very steep. It is great being below, trying to sleep when then boat falls off a wave and drops 10feet. Cross words are often spoken.

I did the 1975 Sydney to Hobart Race on “Gretel”. Jock Sturrock headed a syndicate which bought her from Alan Bond following the 1962 America's Cup.

Jock represented Australia in Sailing in 4 Olympic games and every international yachting regatta from 1948 – 1983.”



Vale Cecelia Robeson 1924-2016

The History of The Somers Yacht Club from 3/6/92-25/5/75 was written by Cecelia Robeson and her husband, ex -Commodore and member of the first Yacht Club Committee, Keith .The dedication of this small unique book reads

“To whom better to dedicate this History than the members who founded Somers Yacht Club; all who contributed in their own way to the growth and success of the club; and the folk who will strive to keep Ss.Y.C a well – founded ship “

Cecelia was an enthusiastic member of the club when wives were “associates” not members. She enjoyed sailing with Keith in their Heron on Cruises, was stoic and quick witted and she encouraged her children to be sailors and grow up in and contribute to the Somers Yacht Club Community .

In 1969 Cecelia and Keith lead a group of 15 teenagers on a cruise to Warneet. It was a drifter on the way over, very hot and still and many boats had to be towed. We slept on the floor of the Warneet Yacht Club. Cecelia slept on one

side with the girls and Keith on the other side with the boys. A piano and long seats were placed strategically down the middle of the room . Missiles in the form of Lollie wrappers and other harmless items sailed across the barrier late into the night and sleep was not a priority for anyone but Cecelia and Keith.

The cold front arrived in the morning when 15 very sleepy sailors attempted a very difficult trip home to Somers. Most were towed to Hastings and rescued by their parents. This cruise was not repeated and was replaced by a “males only “cruise to French Island.

In her historical account Cecelia described the first Buoys used by SsYC as donated by a well known oil company and weighted down with tram wheels to give a triangular course of 4 miles around. She described the early days of Racing and Control. In 1965 the club was donated 4 starting lights and a £10 starting shot gun. Sailors paid 4 shillings to enter a race . In 1967 envelopes were provided for race entries with payment costs rising to \$2 for 5 races .

I sincerely appreciate Cecelia’s dedication to Somers Yacht Club and the role modelling she provided for many more recent committee members and commodores who continue to strive to keep Somers Yacht Club a well—founded ship.

Our sympathy is extended to Ian and Spud Robeson. Libby Moore



**“Mrs C Robeson christens the Club’s first Sea
Rescue boat
The S. L. Byrne, 26th December 1966**

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