



# Windward

**SAILING AT ITS BEST**

**Summer 2024**



## **Contents:**

Commodore's Report	Page 2
Vice Commodore's Report	Page 3
Rear Commodore's Report	Page 4
Division reports	Page 5 - 10
Hot Somers Ball	Page 11
Montalto Marathon	Page 12
SWISH	Page 13
Girl Sail	Page 14
Sailing School	Page 15
Hobie Wave Challenge	Page 16
Pacer National Titles	Page 17
Vic. State Laser Championships	Page 18
Membership	Page 19
Hawk Titles	Page 20
Teams Racing/ Social Comm.	Page 21
Tasar Championships	Page 22
Schnapper Point Regatta	Page 23
Car Rally	Page 24
SsYC Club Merchandise	Page 25
Sponsors	Page 26
The General Committee	Page 27
Club Contacts	Page 28

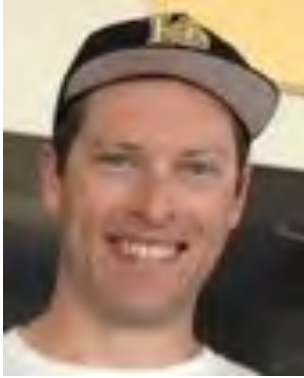
'Seas the Day.' Eighteen young Somers Sailors before the Sandy Point Cruise, preparing for a day of fun, teamwork, determination and a shared love of adventure.

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## From the Commodore's Desk



Before you start reading, fair warning... With so much happening around our club, this is going to be a long one!

The club has been buzzing with activity since our last newsletter in November. The sailing program is well underway, including five races in our Pre Xmas Series, two races for the Summer Cup, and 52 boats competing in the Australia Day Weekend Regatta.

Additionally, the Yardstick Pursuit and Off The Beach race were well received by everyone who took part.

Moving beyond our shores, three teams represented Somers Yacht Club at the Teams Racing Regatta, while 18 boats made the journey to Cowes for the Westernport Challenge. More recently, 32 boats took part in the Montalto Marathon. Congratulations to all those who travelled near and far, representing our club at various national and world championships.

While the sailing action was in full swing, we can't forget about our land-based activities.

Santa paid a visit to the club - by bicycle this time rather than by boat. The gifts handed out to the Somers children were well received. The bar has been a hive of activity, with plenty of anticipation surrounding Tippy's Drink of the Month. A visit from Stonier Wines for an evening of wine tasting was a highlight and a perfect mix of education and entertainment.

To enhance our culinary experiences, the club upgraded its kitchen equipment, enabling the Somers General Store to expand its menu options. Our new coffee machine has been a hit, especially among the younger crowd enjoying a hot chocolate after a chilly day on the water.

Seafood Night was a huge success, with over 100 meals served by the Flying Calamari Brothers. They'll be returning in Season 2025, and we're ex-

cited to have them back.

Unfortunately, no promises on whether our visiting koala will make a comeback though...

Our youth activities continue to thrive. The Hot Somers Ball was the talk of the town in 2024, and the Container Deposit Scheme is helping to fund a number of Youth Committee initiatives. Be sure to keep an eye out for the Short Film Festival at the end of the season!

In addition to the fun, the club has placed significant emphasis on providing training opportunities for our members. Over the past two months, we conducted Race Officer training and Marine Licence training to enhance race management and sea rescue abilities. Coaching days were also held pre-Christmas for those seeking to polish their skills and boost their racing performance. As always, our regular Sailing School classes continued to run smoothly.

I want to extend my thanks to our young adults who are leading a number of these initiatives, particularly Zoe Morris and Harry Taylor, who stepped up as lead instructors for Sailing School.

Our New Members welcome function was well-attended, and we extend our gratitude to Cheryl Gurney for her delicious catering. Following this event was one of our beloved Family BBQs, featuring live music courtesy of The Jets, who entertained the crowd with their amplifiers turned up to 11 (borrowed from Spinal Tap). We've also seen appearances from Jetstream - a stripped back version of the Jets. Rumor has it that our under-fives are now lobbying for Keith and Jeff to form The Jiggles!

As we move forward, one of the actions that the committee is focused on is structuring a participation pathway to aid members in building their experience, skills, and confidence on the water. Recognizing the challenge of transitioning between boat classes and age groups, we aim to provide clarity on the progression to higher levels of competition and the classes that our club can support. Stay tuned for updates on this endeavour.

As I write this, we have just ticked over the 800 member mark - a remarkable achievement for a club that is run by, and for its members. I'm very proud to be part of this community. I hope that you are too.

Fair winds and smooth seas to you.

Sean Bly

# Vice Commodore's Report



Wow autumn already and another busy season is past the midpoint.

SsYC continues to provide a range of activities and high level of amenity for members and the community . This heavy use during the season makes it difficult to find a window of time to do major works however we continue to chip away at minor maintenance items -such as light replacement, window blind repairs roof leaks , burst pipes etc. We anticipate a more substantial works this off season – upstairs floor resurfacing, painting etc . If you see anything that needs attention please send me a note on [vice.commodore@somersyachtclub.com.au](mailto:vice.commodore@somersyachtclub.com.au)

We have completed the minor works highlighted in the annual independent fire safety compliance audit.

Thanks to Diana Nutting for organising the new binocular store/ phone charging station and burgee credenza – it has cleaned up the east end of the bar area.

Thanks to Dean, Zoe and their team at The Somers General for their commitment creating successful Friday night dinners at the club. Lisa Nutting continues to ensure the club is set up ready for members and combination of hosts, bar committee members in packing up. If you find you are in the last handful of members left on a Friday night please assist in packing some tables and chairs away- having a cleared space greatly assists with the cleaning of the floor on the Saturday morning.

An ongoing gentle reminder to wash your sandy feet before entering the clubhouse.

We thank the 60+ members who responded to the Friday Night Dinner survey – this has helped us work through an expanded menu with the Somers General and also defined new kitchen equipment required to prepare the menu. In response we have added a new hotplate and burner to complement the existing combi oven. We have also added a 'hot box' plate warmer to ensure your meal arrives at the table hot. The fridge and freezer have had parts replaced to ensure they operate consistently in required temperature range. We have painted all walls and ceiling.

We continue the Race Day lunch service – now with Bittern Bakery providing the fresh salad rolls - thanks to Abi Beddoe for her multi-tasking behind the counter.

A new coffee machine has been installed adjacent to the bar. Thanks to Libby Moore for her extensive research of all things coffee. The machine automatically dispenses a range of coffee and hot chocolate via tap electronic payment system. While a little daunting on first use over the busy Jan /Feb period members have consumed over 350 cups !!! As the weather gets cooler wrap your cold hands around a warm beverage.

The new recycle bins as part of the Container Deposit Scheme have been overflowing in a good way and there have been a number of full boot trips to the Hasting recycle depot. Ten cents for every compliant container will be forwarded to the SsYC for Youth Committee sailing and social events. You can also personally participate and direct the funds to SsYC – Trish Low would be pleased to show you how to direct your contribution to the club.

Again many thanks to ongoing effort and dedication of the Club volunteer base – on and off the water.

Cam Harvey Vice Commodore





# Rear Commodore's Report



Well, what an active summer it has been.

We have had multiple teams go to their respective national titles.

The Otto family (three generations) did very well at Chelsea YC for the Pacer nationals. Matt and Freddy coming in first overall with Mal and Eliza taking out the non spinnaker division.

Matt Stone narrowly missed out on first place at Meningie YC in the Mosquito spinnaker National titles.

The 125 nationals were held at Black Rock YC with strong contingent made up of Sarah and Herbie, Chris and Danielle and Evan and Ida taking out first place in the handicap division.

We had multiple cruises and social sailing days that were all well attended. So much so that Point Leo Boat Club had never seen so many yachts on their beach. I believe it was approx. 28!

The annual pilgrimage to Sandy Point was a hit with our youth with approx. 40 boats. The highlight being the human pyramid that managed to reach 4 rows high with no bones broken!

The weather gods were unkind to us for the annual youth campout at Flinders and had to be cancelled. However this set us up for the perfect Hobie Wave Challenge held on our beach with approx. 80 kids/adults (including four teams from Merricks Yacht Club). This consisted of two teams of two racing each other from a lying position on the beach out around a mark placed 100m offshore on the club Hobie waves. Many faceplants were encountered as lots of eager youth misjudged the speed of the cats as they hit the beach!

**Sea Rescue.** This season is proving once

again to be troublesome when it comes to manning our patrol boats. Unfortunately, we don't have the steady crew of volunteers who man the boats week in week out. Ninety-five % of our crews are sailors who sacrifice their sail to man the boats. If you haven't volunteered at least twice this season please put your name down on the roster and don't be afraid to be on the course setting SA11 as Brian Gristwood has developed a very simple program that allows us to set a course with ease or you can brush up on your flags with a stint on the start boat; all very enjoyable. Lastly, do you want the opportunity to meet new people every week? Enquire within as yet again the position of rosterer is vacant with Sterling taking a job offshore. Thankyou Sterling for all the work you have been doing.

**Safety.** All our sailors must also be aware of other beach users when they are leaving or returning to the beach. We must always approach the beach in a safe manor especially when there are people swimming in the vicinity. It is also worth noting (kids) once you have come back to shore and want to have a swim, the best place is not in the paths of other boats coming ashore but further down the beach.

Boat owners are also reminded of the responsibility to tie their yacht down. Don't be that owner who causes damage to other yachts/people. Sailors are reminded to regularly check their rigging and keep their rigs tight as rigging cops a beating through out the year, not just on the water.

The annual Around French Island Race is being held on the 24th. March. Get entries in before the 11th. March and its only \$30, a great deal with \$10,000 worth of prizemoney available across a variety of categories. Sadly entry is only open to 16 foot cats and above so if you haven't got one, ask someone that does if they need a crew!

<https://www.cowesyachtclub.com/afi/>.

Simon Morris  
Rear Commodore



# Division One

## Westernport Challenge 13 Jan

Nine division 1 catamarans sailed across to Cowes for the 2024 Westernport Challenge. This consisted of 7 Hobie 16s and 2 Mozzies. Again it was a day with grey skies, a couple of showers and a fresh offshore wind at Cowes Yacht Club. Westernport Yacht club took 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places with Cowes taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place. All these were Taipan catamarans and either national champions or had a great local knowledge of windshifts, wind corridors and bullets. The Somers fleet consisted of Peter Foulsum, Simon Morris, Emma Morris and Jemima Wilson, Nigel and Abbi Beddoe, Matilda Morris and Benji Scott, Justin Prior and Gina Webster, Andrew and Adrian Woodrow, Tom McCracken and Jack Cassano and Gautier Labat and Malcolm Twist.

Well done to all who sailed across to Cowes to compete and represent Somers Yacht Club.

## Montalto Marathon Saturday 17 Feb

Perfect 10 to 12 knot south west winds for the race and a reaching start out to sea for the Somers division 1 fleet with 79 yachts competing with start lines at Flinders, Merricks and Somers Yacht Clubs to kick off the 2024 Yachting Western Port Montalto Marathon.

Twelve division 1 Somers yachts consisting of 11 Hobie 16s and Pete Dalton racing his A Class catamaran competed in the event.

Emma and Zoe Morris were equal 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the full marathon and Somers took a clean sweep of the Female Skipper race with Zoe, Elly and Matilda taking all 3 podium positions. The Junior skipper race was also taken out by Matilda Morris with Abbi Beddoe crewing and Jack Cassano and Gautier Labat taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Well done to Geoff Rowdon and Taylor Woodward who finished 4<sup>th</sup>, Nigel Beddoe and Marie Labat who finished 5<sup>th</sup> and Luke Crouch and Eli Crabb who finished 6<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all who competed and completed the race for the first time or went to see what it was all about.

## Club Races

The summer season has seen reasonable and the lighter winds start to prevail. Hobie 16s are racing 1 up in the light wind conditions which have contributed to the large number of division 1 entries.

All club race results can be found on the yacht club website.

## Points of Interest and other news items

Matt Stone finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall at the Mosquito National titles held at Lake Meningie South Australia. Matt even scored a win in the first race after he had a capsize. Well done Matt.

Geoff Rowdon and Taylor Woodward represented Somers Yacht Club at the 51<sup>st</sup> Hobie 16 Nationals, Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. Geoff and Taylor had a best race result of 7<sup>th</sup> and finished the titles mid fleet from a fleet of 40 yachts. Well done Geoff and Taylor.

Geoff even stayed on to compete in the Hobie 14 Nationals.

Nick Carter on his A Class Catamaran placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Off the Beach Handicap Pursuit race being pipped on the line by a Hobie Dragoon on Port tack. Nick also damaged his already weakened and strapped knee joint during a club race in January. Hope you get the knee sorted soon and we see you back racing with us again.

Brian Gristwood and Justin Prior had a collision at the bottom mark during the club race of 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. Both Mozzies were running for the bottom mark and were so close that an accidental gybe resulted in Justin breaking the bow off his Mozzie. Hope your Mozzie is repaired quickly and back racing soon.

Peter Foulsum



## Division Two

Division 2 is once again one of the largest growing fleets at Somers. With 10 Hobie 14s, 6 Dragoons and one rogue Paper Tiger, Division 2 continues to surprise each and every one of us.

The 'younglings' on the Dragoons never fail to show up and put on a great show for everyone. It is so exciting to see the kids come through sailing school, and straight onto the Dragoons as a feeder for the huge class of Hobie 16s.

One might say that the Division 2 fleet has taken some growth hormones this season. Not only is the size of the fleet growing, but the quality of the sailors in the division is getting better with every race. Division 2 was still coming out of winter hibernation in the pre-Christmas series with only a handful of boats sailing. But the Championship Series has seen around seven boats each week completing three laps of the outer course.

It's been great seeing a range of Dragoons on the water, with some hot competition from Finn and Liz Charpentier, Tom Chen-Low and Harry Chiu and Nikki and John Briggs. Even Matilda Morris made a guest appearance in Div 2, one-up in some of the most challenging sailing conditions of the season (light and shifting breeze with a killer tide). But when it comes down to the interim series results, the consistent appearances by Finn and Liz has moved them up the ranks. Tom and Harry's flirtation with the Hobie 16 in round 6 is going to hurt their overall result in Division 2.

And then there has been the Hobie 14s tussling for the finish line hooter and the Divi-

The Hobie 14s also continue to get bigger and bigger. With two new 14s in the yard over the past couple of months, the fleet has never looked better. We are so thrilled to see them all out on the water this season.

Division 2 is the leading division for people of all ages, and abilities!

Abi Beddoe

sion 2 glory. In light conditions, Abi Beddoe is a force to be reckoned with and is consistently pushing the class to sail faster. Harry Taylor and Ollie Davenport have had a good crack at upsetting the appplecart on their Hobie 14 Turbos, but these two have both missed crucial races, holding them back in the overall rankings. Geoff Rowdon and Zak Rowdon have both made single appearances so far, showing the fleet how it's done with 1st and 2nd places respectively (in separate races) and placing pressure on the fleet. If Ant Davenport remained loyal to Div 2, he'd be in contention for the big trophy, but his infidelity (by sailing in Division 1) has resulted in him carrying some high points through the season, leaving the championship open to veteran Vlad Bunyevich (the sole Paper Tiger sailor), and Tim Chiu on the shiniest Hobie 14 at the club. These two have enjoyed some epic battles both upwind and downwind, and invariably end up with only a few boat lengths between each other.

There is plenty of fun and potential in the Division 2 fleet and it will be the division to watch over the next few seasons.

Tim Chiu



Division Two smiling sailors reflects the camaraderie and teamwork essential for success on the water.



## Division Three

As predicted, this year has been unpredictable with respect to weather and the results of the many races since I last commented.

The Tasars have sailed in their Worlds and the Contenders their Nationals. Both groups seem to have come back with a spring in their step and the Club Championship could be won by either class. Predictably, the conditions on the day have a massive influence on the result but the days of one boat winning by a large margin seem to be behind us. Mike Sandiford did not attend the World's but appears to have Dark Side improving every outing. Is it Mike, the boat or Carla on the improve.....who knows! Despite this form, practically any Tassar could win on their day.

The Williams Point Series saw wins over all the monos by Division 3 with the Contenders (me) getting away on the first heavy (survival) day then scraping through the next light day for a narrow win.

The Montalto Marathon was another highlight with Amanda and Maureen only beaten overall by Richard Jagger from Merricks in the Melges 14 (which he says has a very generous yardstick but was also probably influenced by his recent training for the Laser Masters Worlds). The top ten was then heavily populated by the rest of Division 3. I was first full course Mono (of only two) but

well down the overall order as were all full course boats due to the long beat to Flinders and run home.

I slept very well that night!

This event is great fun and anyone that missed out should pencil it in for next year as the new course with combined start for Somers and Westernport has taken out the less pleasant bits and it is an opportunity to have an adventure and enjoy the camaraderie of all the Westernport clubs without a lot of pressure. The half course is not much longer than a Championship race and is usually easier as there is less manoeuvring required as the 100 boats entered are distributed all over the bay.

The commitment to improving the entire division right through to our back markers (who have probably improved the most) has continued by sharing knowledge and tips and the division is probably at its most competitive for many years. Many boats have also invested in new sails for a number of reasons and the improvement in speed is quite obvious.

Michael Vandenberg  
Contender 2678  
Now or Never



Ludo and Gautier reaching the top mark in the Tassar Worlds Championships battling it out against 107 other boats.

## Division Four

On the 20th January Div 4 had the privilege of the 125 class from different clubs visiting to give a great show of colour and sailing. Herbie Goodsir (aged 16) is showing great courage and learning; he takes the helm of his own 125. He is showing great determination as he masters the ropes and with mentoring from Evan he is making great progress.

Caitlin Hurly joined her dad Bruce Hart as they got their 125 'Strange Brew' out for Off the Beach and the Montalto Marathon race.

Nick Ede is leading the way in Div 4 with challenges from Mal Otto and guest appearances from Sean Bly. Mike Sandiford has abandoned the division (for now) as he sails his Tasar in Div 3 with his new crew.

Mal Otto is a frequent flyer in Div 4 in his Impulse along with Bruce Hart. With con-

sistent sailing Bruce Hart in Red Shift is a serious contender for Div 4 handicap in the championship series doing a 'Steven Bradbury' (Last Man Standing) showing how consistent sailing leads to a good result.

Unfortunately, other key sailors have been out of the season with injuries and other commitments.

Mal Otto in Race 1 of the Commodores Cup led the Impulse group on a '3rd glory lap' of a 2 lap race showing others that playing follow the leader does not always lead to great results.

Stuart Vance is giving some great guest appearances in his H-Bomb Helix.

Bruce Hart



Two Impulse dinghies engage in a battle, jockeying for position as they race towards the Somers finish line.



## Division Five

Division 5 has witnessed a bustling fleet, with over 14 boats gracing the waters throughout the seven races of the Championship Cup.

The final handicap standings reveal Matt Otto and his son Freddy, commanding a Pacer named 'Patience is Overrated' clinching the top spot. This formidable pair showcased their prowess by securing first place in the recent Pacer Nationals.

In the thrilling world of racing sailing, Terry Skitt skillfully piloted his Sabre "Vintage Red" to a close second place on handicap, closely followed by Wendy Wilson at the helm of her Sabre "Heartbeat." Lucy Laverty showcased her sailing prowess aboard her Laser 4.7 "Scappers The Sailor Dog," competing in four out of the seven races to secure a commendable fourth place finish. Joined by her sister Lil, Caz Healy claimed the fifth spot, while Wendy Davies aboard her Sabre "Seasword 11" and Libby Moore not far behind commanding her Sabre "Nauti Gull" kept the competition fierce.

Throughout the series, sailors contended with a diverse range of sea and wind conditions, further compounded by the complexities of a challenging tide.

In the heart-pounding action of the Summer Cup, heats three and four delivered twists and turns as three contenders battled for supremacy. Amidst the fierce competition, the handicap results provided a thrilling climax.

Leading the charge was the unstoppable force of Orange Blossom, helmed by none other than Lisa Nutting, showcasing the mastery of Sabre sailing. Hot on her heels, the indomitable Wendy Wilson, steering Heartbeat, maintained her formidable presence in the race.

However, it was the surprise surge of the Nutting-Clifford-Steinfert three generations aboard Pacer Rasscal that stole the show, clinching a remarkable third place finish.

Colleen Moore

Three generations of sailors; Amanda Nutting, Amelia Clifford and Olive Steinfert, sailing on Rasscal in the Summer Cup.



## Division Six



Winners of the Hawk State titles, Hector, Ryan and Lachie.

Eliza Otto winner of the Pacer Nationals (with grandfather Mal) seen here sailing solo on her Minnow.



Isi and coach/ mentor Matilda Morris.

(Matilda shows excellent taste, sporting Somers merchandise featured on page 25)

Isi says "Move over silver cups, chocolates make the sweetest sailing trophies."





# Hot Somers Ball

Saturday 6th of January, crowds of young adults made their way to Somers Yacht Club for the highly anticipated Annual Hot Somers Ball. With the Yacht Club covered in fairy lights and sequin curtains, a perfect atmosphere was created for an unforgettable night. Dressed to impress, with stunning dresses and perfect makeup alongside handsome young men in suits, the night was a huge success. Over 115 youth attended and danced the night away to a live band and our resident

DJ Tom McCracken. A much loved and supported local surf wear brand 'Groovin Surf Co' sponsored the event by providing a range of prizes to the best dressed and best dancers. Word has spread and excitement is building for the 2025 Hot Somers Ball; we'll catch you there!

Zoe Morris



From left to right:  
Harry Taylor,  
Oliver Davenport,  
Jack Cassano,  
Tom McCracken,  
Aaron McIntosh.

From left to right:  
First girl unknown  
but clearly very  
beautiful,  
Matilda Morris,  
Jemima Wilson,  
Emily Chiu.





# Montalto Marathon

On Saturday the 17th of February 2024, 32 boats and 55 sailors from Somers Yacht Club embarked on the Montalto Marathon.

The Montalto Marathon is a long distance race for off the beach boats, sailboards and trailable yachts. The race had 3 different start locations; Somers, Merricks and Flinders who all started simultaneously.

There were two options for entry – the Full ‘Marathon’ which found sailors starting at Somers, rounding marks at Balnarring, Merricks, Point Leo, Shoreham Pole and Flinders then returning back home to finish off at Somers. The Half ‘Marathon’ was exactly that, starting at Somers, rounding marks at Balnarring, Merricks and Point Leo before returning back home to finish at Somers.

There were a couple of safety stipulations on entry to the Marathon. All boats must carry 1L of water per crew person and skipper plus 1 waterproof LED torch. Thankfully due to the weather gods, many of us returned home with

both full batteries in our torches and almost full water bottles.

Many of us had never done a ‘Marathon’ like race and it was such a fun experience. The weather could not have been more perfect with a nice light southerly breeze. Sean and I decided that we would take Charlotte out with us in the Tasar to experience a different type of racing. And it sure was ‘different’. We had My Little Ponies barefoot skiing behind the boat (which may have been during a crucial boat on boat situation), snacks galore and once that was all over Charlotte then had a little nap in the bottom of the boat, waking just in time to take over the helm to cross the finish line. Somers did spectacularly overall; we managed to come 2nd. club overall, just pipped by Merricks. We also had many other individual achievements as below:

Full Marathon Catamaran

2nd – Hobie 16 – Zoe and Emma Morris

Full Marathon Monohull

1st – Contender – Michael Vandenberg

Female Skipper Full Marathon

1st – Hobie 16 – Zoe and Emma Morris

2nd – Hobie 16 – Elly and Simon Morris

3rd – Hobie 16 – Matilda Morris and Abi Beddoe

Junior Skipper Full Marathon

1st – Hobie 16 – Matilda Morris and Abi Beddoe

2nd – Hobie 16 – Jack Cassano and Gautier Labat

Half Marathon Monohull

2nd – Tasar – Amanda Nutting and Maureen Cooper

3rd – Tasar – Claire Gustavsson and Daniel McCutcheon

Female Skipper Half Marathon

1st – Tasar – Amanda Nutting and Maureen Cooper

Fantastic results by all and we are certainly looking forward to next years Montalto Marathon – we might need to go 4 up in the Tasar with Charlotte and Liam or maybe even split into 2 boats!

Caitlin Bly

Charlotte decked out in wetsuit chic, shades and a necklace of My Little Ponies - setting sail with style and adventure and a sprinkle of whimsy.





# SWISH

## Somers Women in Sailing Happiness

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Making the decision to join the Somers Yacht Club as a social member two and a half years after my partner died required some courage but deciding some months later to join the women of SWISH on weekly Friday afternoon sailing seemed almost a step too far. I was a true novice with no experience around boats and a tendency for sea sickness!

As we sat around outside at our first session for the 2023/2024 season Wendy asked each of the group to share how we came to be at SWISH and what our sailing experience had been. I quickly realized how diverse yet keen we all were to be there. That continues to be true. Over the weeks I've found that I look forward to our sailing sessions with excitement....though I confess that as the winds increase so does my trepidation! Fortunately all my skippers have been wonderfully patient and reassuring. In fact my first

taste of exhilaration when sailing occurred recently when I was sitting with Claire on the side of the boat as it heeled – I loved it!

What a privilege to have such skilled women mentor us and give us the opportunity to develop our own sailing skills (no matter what our level) and increase our enjoyment of sailing! I may still need to increase my confidence and skills but now if I can't go to SWISH I miss the camaraderie, teamwork, challenge, encouragement and laughter. Recently I even bought a wetsuit and my own life jacket so here's to many more seasons of SWISH!

Thankyou to each of my fellow Swishers....and to the dolphins which make our sailing experiences that little bit magical..

Ros Harmer.



Swishers enjoying their Friday afternoons at SsYC. This is an increasingly successful and enjoyable time of sharing and learning the skills of sailing for women and girls.

Swimming with the dolphins after sailing is the perfect end to a fantastic afternoon.







# GirlSail

Once again Davies Bay Yacht Club hosted GirlSail on 23/2/24, a great event for high school girls. Sailors compete in Pacers from a variety of schools across Victoria.

This year we had Mavis Laverty and Leona Twist attending. Unfortunately after getting out on the water, the wind rapidly rose to 35

kn and all sailors were quickly brought on shore. There was no racing this year but the girls did get to meet an ex Olympian sailor Tess Lloyd who competed in the 49er. She was an inspiration to the young sailors.

Maureen Cooper

Mavis Laverty, Tess Lloyd (ex Olympian) and Leona Twist.



Mavis Laverty in the middle with two friends from Flinders Christian College/ Mornington Yacht Club.



# Sailing School

With an amazing team of local instructors and enthusiastic kids, the Somers Sailing School was another huge success. Running six separate courses for all abilities, from learning the ropes and how to sail a small dingy all the way through to racing tactics, there was something for everyone.

Our adult sailing school course is currently underway with a very eager group wanting to have fun out on the water. These adults have persevered through a range of conditions each Saturday and are showing very impressive progress with their boat handling abilities.

Somers saw an amazing 55 kids aged 9-15 participate. It's been wonderful to see so many sailing school students around the club on Saturdays and even out on the course racing with their new skills!

We hope to see them all out again on the water soon!

Zoe Morris



Finn Charpentier and his mum Liz make a successful and happy duo in Division Two. Finn's journey at Somers Sailing School is undeniably impressive. Beginning as a novice just a couple of years ago, he has since navigated his way through every course SsYC has to offer, with determination and skill.





## Somers Inaugural Hobie Wave Challenge

When the Youth Adventure Sail had to be cancelled due to too much wind, the team had to come up with an alternative plan. Plan C was the one we went with which was the Hobie Wave Challenge. This was held on Saturday 27th January. The wind was from the west and the tide was mid, just perfect for an off the beach race.

Merricks' Yacht Club youth were invited, and our Somers youth were as keen as mustard. There was a party atmosphere on the beach, music pumping and race commentary. It went 'OFF' with the youth competing for the new title. We had 8 Merricks youth sailors that were paired with some of the 25 Somers youth sailors.

Teams of two competed, with two teams racing at once. One team member started lying on the beach facedown and had to run to their boat, then sail around a mark and back. Jumping off the boat in the shallows and running up the sand to the finish line. The winners in their round then went to the next round against a new team.

With three rounds, we came to our Hobie Wave Challenge title holders for this season of Arthur Labat and Harry Taylor who closely defeated Gautier Labat and Annabell from Merricks. Matilda and Emily took their wave to an instant stop, then a 180 spin during the semi-finals. As they sailed over one of the channel markers coming to the finish, they accidentally hooked their righting rope over the marker, causing them to come to stop in seconds. That caused them to miss the finals, but it was great spectating and guessing from the shore.

Thanks to Merricks' Yacht Club youth for joining in on the fun and nearly taking out the title. We hope to return next year to the Youth Adventure Sail and continue to hold the Hobie Wave Challenge.

So remember to hire a Wave and practice 'hiking out' and 'getting back' for next year's title.

Zoe Morris



The Hobie Wave challenge brought together a dynamic mix of 8 Merricks and 25 Somers youth sailors, forming pairs and battling it out on the water. It was a thrilling showdown of skill, teamwork and pure adrenaline!



# Pacer National Titles

Mathew and Freddie plus Malcolm and Eliza Otto sailed in the Pacer National Titles over the Christmas break at Chelsea YC.

First overall in the Pacer National Titles at Chelsea, Mathew and Freddie Otto.

First in the Non-Spinnaker division in the Pacer Nationals, Malcolm and Eliza Otto.

And they managed to win the raffle too!! As Mal later commented, "It was the trifecta!"

(Mal did admit that they bought a lot of tickets.)



Mathew and Freddie Otto.  
First place in the Pacer National Titles.

Eliza Otto and her grandfather Malcolm Otto.  
First in the Non-Spinnaker division in the Pacer Nationals.





## Victorian State Laser Championships

The Victorian Laser State Championships were held at Port Melbourne Yacht Club on November 25 and 26th. The lasers are divided into three groups: ILCA 4 (4.7s), ILCA 6 (radials), ILCA 7(full rig).

Nick Ede competed in ICLA 6. He had a fantastic first day; in a fleet of 53 he got seventh on the second race! Overall in the regatta he finished mid fleet but did take out a placing in the veterans category.

Ludo Labat was also in the ILCA 6 group. He missed Saturday of the regatta as he was teaching at Somers however he did well on Sunday, finishing in the exact middle of the fleet in both races.

Hector Labat, Lucy and Mavis Laverty all competed ILCA 4. These young sailors did great despite some long delays before the first race and some bigger swell on day two. Somers sailing gave them good practice! They all finished mid fleet in a group of 28.

Maureen (mum of Lucy and Mavis) ended up

on the registration desk and later on a rib. A special mention goes to Hector as every time we saw him on the water ( coming off) he always had a great big grin!

The regatta had some pretty stiff competition with out of state competitors from Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales as well as others on their Olympic campaigns . There was even a Canadian sailor from Vancouver who got a placing in the ILCA 7's! One highlight of the weekend was getting to chat to Mara Stransky. As expected she placed first in her categories.

As always at these regattas, it was a nice opportunity to make new friends with sailors in their class and for some of the veterans to catch up. The Laser sailing community is so welcoming and there are many great sailors for these young kids to learn from! I suspect they also loved the unlimited free sausages after each day of competing.

Maureen Cooper



Team Somers. Back row. Nick Ede, Ludo Labat, Hector Labat, Mavis Laverty, Lucy Laverty. Front row. Maureen Cooper and another sailor.



# Membership

Somers Yacht Club currently has 813 members over the age of 8 and we have hit break-even point with 50% female members and 50% male.

Interesting membership statistics:

- ☐ Currently we have 813 members which is two more than last year.
- ☐ In 2019 our membership was 690
- ☐ We have gained 150 new members this season. (This figure includes children over 8 in family memberships.)
- ☐ We have 124 members aged between 10 years and 21 years
- ☐ We have 20 members aged 54 and 21 members aged 70
- ☐ We have 19 members aged 74 and our oldest member is 96 years old.

## Have you or someone you know stopped receiving emails from Somers Yacht Club?

First check your spam or junk folder in case the messages are being sent there.

Some email addresses may suddenly reject our Yacht Club email over suspicion of spam. To prevent this occurring you can add our rev sport senders email to your "Whitelist" or "Safe Senders List" depending on your email provider.

Links to Email Service Provider Guides for Whitelisting Email Addresses:

- ☐ Google - I need to create an approved senders list
- ☐ Microsoft/Outlook - Add recipients of my email messages to the Safe Senders List
- ☐ Yahoo Mail - Manage spam and mailing lists in Yahoo Mail
- ☐ iCloud Mail - Set up rules to filter email in Mail on iCloud.com
- ☐ Bigpond/Telstra Mail - Telstra Mail Support; Telstra Mail Webmail User Guide

Libby Moore



Sailing through life with grit and grace; Emma Morris' spirit is soaring on the wings of new adventures.

## Hawk Titles

The Hawk's Titles were an absolute blast, with a strong fleet of 9 Hawks painting the water with their colourful sails. The morning started with robust, northerly gusty winds, creating a thrilling playground for our seasoned sailors who engaged in quick and lively races around the flags.

As the day progressed, the winds mellowed into a moderate northerly breeze, for the great enjoyment of all with off-the-beach novelty races. Every sailor showcased incredible skills and determination, sailing in the challenging conditions.

Kudos to all participants for a great performance, and a special shoutout to our top sailors: Hector Labat (1st), Ryan Leary (2nd), and Lachlan Ross (3rd).

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the event possible, including Race Officer Matilda Morris; on water safety: Jack, Henry, and Ludo; on the beach safety: Marie and Emma; Tractor: Emma; Lunch: Al and Jen. Cheers to a day filled with sailing triumphs and camaraderie!

Marie Liesse Labat.



Somers young sailors decked out in colourful gear and vibrant sails, set the stage for an exciting Titles.





## Teams Racing/ Discover Sailing Day

Interclub Teams Racing was held on Sunday 7th at Westernport Yacht Club and sponsored by Bright Breweries. good starting, boat speed, boat handling, rules knowledge and team work skills.

Team racing is an exciting and sociable sailing format in which a team of sailors work together to try and establish an overall winning combination for their team over their opposition. Team races are fast and furious and reward

Somers YC organizes for our club boats to be sailed to Balnarring plus rescue boats. It's a wonderful day for young and old sailors, that is fast paced and competitive, mixed with great team spirit, skills and some cunning.



Discover Sailing Day (Saturday 6th Jan) welcomed approximately 90 aspiring sailors with these three beaming faces; Chris Thompson, Marg Tilleard and Jenny Thomas, ready to share their love for the sea, sailing and SsYC. The day offers newcomers the opportunity to experience real sailing with 15 experienced club skippers and 2 RIBs to ensure success and safety. Well done everyone!



# Tasar Championships

Thrills and Spills at the 2024 Tasar World Championship  
Sandringham Yacht Club

What an absolute thrilling championship it turned out to be for our fearless 14 Somers Yacht Club Tasar sailors at the Sandringham Yacht Club! A whopping 108 boats, hailing from Australia, Japan, the USA, Great Britain, Germany, New Zealand (and even a splash of French flair), were eagerly waiting to get on the start line and sail in this fiercely competitive fleet.

The championship kicked off with an invitation race delayed to accommodate the Japanese boats who had just cleared customs in the morning and were hustling to finalise boat measurements. Ian and Doina led the Somers charge with an excellent 37th place. First race jitters were in the air, marked by four general recalls, crowded lay lines, and intense mark roundings – plenty of lessons to be learned from the get-go.

Day 1 of the championship brought the heat. A sizzling fleet led to more general recalls and a whopping 19 boats being disqualified for race 1. Strong southerly winds and big waves set the stage for some epic downwind surfs and reaching thrills. Ludo and Marie seized the moment, notching up solid 24th and 42nd places.

Day 2 was all about maximizing the action with the Race Officer stretching the start line from 630m to 700m to reduce general recalls and aiming for three races. In light winds of 5-7 knots, the Somers team navigated the challenges, with Phil and Greta shining bright with 44th and 53rd places. Cary and Pat (55th and 58th), as well as Daniel and Claire (56th), held their ground with results mid fleet.

Day 3 brought a welcome change with warm, sunny weather. The initially set course for northerly winds had to be adapted as the sea breeze

kicked in. Black flags were off again, catching a few like Daniel and Claire, and Ludo and Marie. In shiftier SSE winds, the Somers squad faced the test, and Lynden and Katrina shone in the light conditions with their best race of the series (69th). Post-racing, a well-deserved catch-up with Tasar sailors from around the globe went down at a local brewery.

After a much-needed lay day, Day 5 unleashed strong SW winds over 27 knots and a rowdy sea. The Race Officer called off all races, giving everyone a bonus day to kick back before the grand finale on Day 6. With an early start, winds at a sweet 12-15 knots, and the sun smiling down, it was the perfect day to wrap up the series with three back-to-back races.

Ten races over four racing days made this championship a rollercoaster ride for the Somers team. The coveted trophy ultimately went to the seasoned American duo, Jonathan and Libby McKee, who showcased remarkable consistency across varied racing conditions. And would you believe it? They started racing together on a Tasar in 1988 – proving there's still plenty of hope and adrenaline left in these thrilling races!

A special mention goes to Ludo and Gautier who also competed in the Tasar Australian Championship at Sandringham Yacht Club (29-31 Dec 2023) and scored a very respectable 32nd place out of 85 boats!

Thank you to Sandringham Yacht Club for hosting the Championships, to all the Volunteers, the Tasar Association Victoria and the World Tasar Council for organising a memorable event.

Marie Liesse Labat



An extensive start line of 700 metres.





## Schnapper Point Regatta / Bar Volunteers

We had four of our Somers youth participate in the Schnapper Point Regatta this past weekend (10th and 11th February) at Morningson Yacht Club.

The 60+ entrants had two great days of sailing with six races in total. There were three classes of Optis (green fleet, intermediate fleet and open fleet), three classes of Lasers

(ILCA 4,6,7) and double handed boats which included 420s and 29ers. Mavis Laverty and Hector Labat competed in ILCA4 and Lucy Laverty competed in the 420. Daniel Laverty was involved with coaching .

Well done to Mavis who took third in ILCA4 and was second girl.

Maureen Cooper



Mavis Laverty second from left.



Lucy Laverty is skipper.

**We are in need of more bar volunteers.** You don't have to be a sailor, nor do you need your RSA to volunteer behind the bar. If you want to have fun and meet other members, then this is the place to come. Use the QR code to sign up and if it's your first time, leave a message with your Signup timeslot and we'll make sure you have someone to show you the ropes.

**Did you know** that you can buy some premium wines by the glass now? Check out our printed menus at the bar.

Did you know that you can get 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Gin Diana Nutting

& Tonic (no sugar) in a non-alcoholic option now? Look for the blue can in the fridge.

Did you know that we have Bar Merch?

- Water Bottles
- Keep Cups
- Stubby Holders
- Insulated Lunch Bags
- Floating Key Rings

Check out the stock at the Windward Mark.



In the spirited arena of a dynamic club Amanda, Bernadette, Mark, Greg and Steve are lined up to showcase the full spectrum of wines, spirits and non alcoholic beverages, along with some swanky bar merchandise to boot.





## Car Rally

This year's car rally was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, It was a cool day and over-cast but that didn't deter our budding rally drivers that turned up in all sorts of cars from classic to modern electric.

We only had 7 entries as a lot of the past year's participants were walking around Tasmania. And others were busy preparing for Christmas, so next years rally will be held early October before the sailing season begins. We had Winners and Grinners as well as dressed up mechanics and racing drivers all to enjoy a fun day driving around the Peninsula.

Not your typical Sunday drive.

The checkered flag signalled a fun morning out exploring the hidden and not so hidden treasures of this corner of the Peninsula.

Phil's instructions led us along well known paths with new eyes as we looked out for clues.

Finding sweet treasures at the Packing Shed we spotted fellow participants also eagerly searching for answers. Saw them again later counting tables in a park and checking out the Red Hill bakers van. Talking of cars, from vintage to hybrid, all managed to dodge the potholes at Tyabb well.

Some drivers and passengers made the day extra special by dressing up in their finest - and it wouldn't be a rally without the Mario Brothers!!

Stories and clues were compared and shared back at the club where Paula's homemade sausage rolls were waiting for us. Everyone took home gifts and great memories... and the winner a trophy for the pool room.

Already looking forward to next years rally for a chance to explore more of our beautiful part of the world.

Phil and Sylvia.



Car Rally Entrants



Best Dressed Award - Sue and David



Car Rally Winners - James and Sylvia



## SsYC Club Merchandise



Eliza and Freddie Otto wearing their SsYC club hoodies after receiving first place in the Pacer National Championships.

Eliza sailed with her grandfather Malcolm to win the first place non spinnaker division.

Freddie sailed with his father Mathew to win the first place overall.

A huge well done to the Otto family.

Wrap yourself in the vibrant spirit of SsYC and set sail in style

Pop in and have a look at the SsYC CLOTHING SHOP T-Shirts, Polo Tops, Rugby Jumpers, Windcheaters, Caps, Hats, Towels. All items are available to order with pricing, colours and sizing.

Go to [SYC ONLINE SHOP](#)







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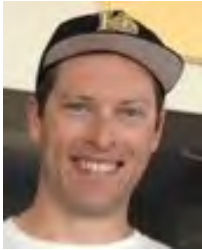
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Vice Commodore  
Cameron Harvey



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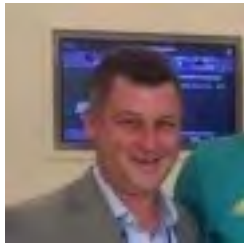
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