



# Windward

Sailing at its best

October 2015

## Changing of the guard... the new team



*Back row from left: Anthony Davenport, Libby Moore, Stephen Brown. John Hatton, Richard Fakhry, Grahame Tiplady, Peter Houghton, Norm Dewar, Jeremy Pearse.*

*Front row from left: Roy Higginson, Amanda Nutting, Chris Gurney, John Tilleard. Absent Emma Morris*

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## Commodore's annual report

MEMBERS I am pleased to again report that the Club has had a most successful year both on and off the water. Our membership numbers remain stable and the club again received a letter from Yachting Victoria congratulating the club on its success in attracting and retaining members. I can also report that under the guidance of our treasurer, John Hatton, the club's finances continue to be well managed and we remain financially sound. In this context I would also like to thank Tim Brock who has diligently acted as the club's auditor for the past year.

We had good numbers attending Discover Sailing Day resulting in a number of new memberships. At the annual Yachting Victoria awards night, the club's efforts were awarded the accolade "Discover Sailing Program of the Year". Congratulations to all members involved in the program.

A highlight of this past year has been our partnering with the Australian Sports Foundation to raise funds in support of sail training. The program will result in the club receiving over \$100,000 from the foundation, an arm of the Federal Government established to encourage Australians' involvement in sporting activities. These funds have been used, in the large part, to purchase a fleet of six new Pacer dinghies and a new semi-inflatable Brig to supplement our sea rescue fleet. I expressly wish to thank the generosity of the donors to the ASF, including members and friends of the club, in support of our fundraising efforts. The seven new boats will be christened as part of our opening day celebrations. The Pacer fleet has also allowed the sailing committee to introduce Somers Teams Racing to the sailing program for the first time in the coming season. Steve Clifford is to be thanked for his lead role in facilitating donations.

The club was also successful in seeking State Government funding to assist in repairing the rock wall in front of the club. This substantial repair work has been completed and is part of the ongoing work required to protect the club from

encroachment by the sea. The lower floor games and briefing area in the clubhouse is also undergoing renovation, and I thank Grahame Tiplady and others for the manual work they have put into the project.

The sailing committee has again provided a season with close to 60 races being programmed. The club also acted as host for the Mirror Dinghy Nationals over Christmas and the Hobie State Titles over the Labour Day weekend. The weather played havoc in part of the season, possibly deterring some from sailing but overall boat numbers on the water were good.

Unfortunately, the Summer Cup and Shield will not be awarded this year as the series was abandoned due to adverse weather. Race management under the direction of Mark Graham and Norm Dewar has been comprehensive and well run. Norm will be passing the baton to Gary Morris for this coming season ending Norm's many years in the sea rescue role. I extend my congratulations to all of our club champions for season 2014-15. The sailing school and general presentation dinner evenings were both very successful and well supported by the membership.

Somers was successful in retaining the Westernport Off-The-Beach Challenge Trophy. Somers was the host club and arrangements for the day ran very smoothly. Special congratulations are due to Patrick Moore on winning the Monohull Trophy and Simon Morris with Dillon Holmes winning the Multi-hull Trophy. We also had success with Caitlin Davies taking out the Ladies Skipper award and Harrison Ede taking the Junior Skipper. Our sailors continue to perform well in international, European, national and state level competitions. I extend my congratulations to Matt Stone, Patrick Moore, Lucy and Harrison Ede, Maddie and Taylor Poon and finally Michelle Bursa on their various achievements.



***Continued next page***





I also congratulate Keith Moore, this year's winner of the McCutcheon Award in recognition of his many voluntary contributions to the club.

The sailing school, under the direction of Emma Morris, continues to be very successful and will benefit in the coming years from our new boat acquisitions. In addition, the club offered three days of intensive race training and coaching over Christmas, overseen by three coaches, with 30 sailors signing up. The sailing committee also ran two sailing rules presentations during the season.

Mentioned in my report last year, the club has now adopted the Yachting Australia platform for managing membership renewals. Support has been made available to members requiring assistance accessing the internet based system in this, the first year. The committee is firm in its belief that in the longer term, the adoption of the program will prove beneficial, while recognising that there are initial teething problems.

Off the water, the club has been as active as usual on the social front. New Year's Eve was a highlight. This year's Hollywood theme was a clear success with a sell out crowd with members and guests of all ages attending. The regular social events throughout the year, including seafood night, and BBQ nights sometimes with the Jets playing, continue to be successful features of the club. I thank the social committee and bar committee for their efforts in arranging and managing the social aspects of the club.

Members were shocked late in the season by

the passing of Peter Hohaus. Peter was active in sea rescue and contributed through his work as club photographer. Many members will especially miss his regular photographic contributions to the club's Facebook page. I also note the passing of Ian Taylor. Ian was for a number of years on the general committee and the editor of the club newsletter. We also lost Linda Poppins and June Gregory.

Marg Tilleard and Mal Otto leave the general committee today. Marg has made a major contribution to the club in her capacity as membership secretary, a challenging role within the club. I thank her for her contribution. Mal has served the committee well in his roles including as commodore. I also wish to thank my fellow flag officers, Chris Gurney and John Tilleard and the entire general committee for their diligence and support in managing the club. I also extend a big thank you to all the members who have put in countless hours in making this club the great club it is.

Today marks the end of my eight-year term as a flag officer of the club, four years as rear commodore, two as vice and two as commodore. In those years we have seen many changes; however overall I believe the club has become stronger going against the trend experienced by most off-the-beach clubs.

Finally I wish to thank my wife Jules for the support she has provided to me in my years as a flag officer.

- Jeremy Pearse



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## Letter from the new commodore

Dear Members,

Thank you very much for trusting me with the leadership of our club. Together with the other flag officers, committee members and volunteers we will be working to build on the success that the others that went before us have created. I thank Jeremy and Jules for handing over the club in great shape and am confident in the future, with the quality of the Vice and Rear Commodores who will follow my term.

Since working with Emma to create the sailing school when I was on the sailing committee I have seen how important it is to expand the attractiveness of the club to all ages. Sailing is a great recreation but it is only part of what we offer, the club is a social hub and I would also like

to see how we can offer more to our social members.

I am constantly surprised by the generosity of many members who have donated time, skills, and money to make the club run smoothly. Volunteering for the bar, rescue boats, tower, maintenance is a great way to make deeper friendships and a greater sense of belonging to the most important institution in our community.

Please let me have any ideas on how to improve your experience at the club. No idea is a bad one, but some are less practical than others!

Fair winds and smooth seas!

**Cheers  
CHRIS**



### **CPR UPDATE SESSION at SOMERS YACHT CLUB**

**Sunday 15 November at 10 am**

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## John Hatton made Life Member

THE club's latest Life Member, former Commodore John Hatton, has had a 37-year involvement with the club as a sailor and later taking on several key management roles with the club.

John's relationship with the yacht club began when the family rented in Somers for school holidays in 1978. In that year John and his wife Elizabeth bought land in Alexandra Avenue and built a holiday house that they moved into over the Christmas/New Year of 1980.

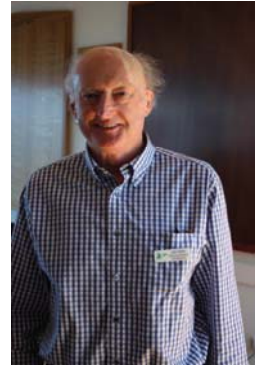
With the help of friends and neighbours the family bought a 125 dinghy and John sailed with his daughter Allison but was quickly relegated to being crew and replaced with a younger, more agile crew who subsequently became her husband, Cameron. John then moved into a Laser which he sailed infrequently until the challenge of getting back onto it, after capsizing, became a stretch too far. He ultimately became involved in race management and helped with the transition to and running of the computer-based sailing management system that we have today.

John and Elizabeth moved to the USA to live in 1983 and over the subsequent 17 years continued their involvement with Somers and the

yacht club by returning to the village each summer and spending time sailing, on the beach, playing tennis and enjoying New Year's Eve at the yacht club.

The family returned permanently to Australia and to Somers in 1999 and shortly after, in 2001, when the clubhouse sustained major damage in a windstorm, John became involved in chairing the "Rebuild Committee" and ensuring that the future of the club was secure, a project that took two years to complete. In 2001, while the clubhouse was being rebuilt, the Hatton family tradition of having New Year's Eve at the Yacht Club was continued by having the event in a marquee at Green Hedges.

John became Vice Commodore to Andy Griffin in 2003 and was Commodore for the years 2005 to 2007. He was our McCutcheon Award recipient in 2002. John has been chairman of the club's finance committee and is currently treasurer, a position he has held for the past three years.



## Thank you

To the Commodore,  
General Committee and Members  
Somers Yacht Club  
Dear all

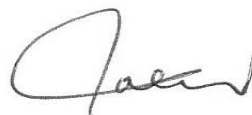
I am writing to sincerely thank the club for granting me Life Membership in our great club. I am truly honoured to have my name added to the Life Member Honour Board knowing that so many contribute so much to our success, both as a sailing club and a social network, in our community.

My involvement with the club over a period of 37 years has provided great memories of wonderful times with friends and family. The willingness of our members to continually work for the development and maintenance of our unique sporting

and social club gives me great confidence in the future for our current and future family members. Somers would not be the place that it is without our successful yacht club and I am proud to have been able to contribute to what and who we are today.

Again my thanks for the great honour that you have given me.

Sincerely,



*John Hatton  
Tasman Road,  
Somers, 3927*



## Division 4 report

LOOKING forward to a new season of sailing at Somers. Hope everyone has finished their winter boat maintenance in time to be back on the water on 25 October.

Grahame and Wendy have spent some time out on the water at the Westernport YC winter coaching sessions. The weather has been great, the racing mostly close and so have the dolphins.



The Sabres, Solos and Pacers will be in Division 5 this season. Look out for your new start flag (left).

Good luck to our Laser 4.7

sailors who will remain in Division 4 - sure they will give the Full rig and Radial Lasers some sailing lessons!

Bernie Gittens (pictured) is giving up his sailing and selling his Sabre to concentrate on his lawn bowls. Bernie has been a fixture at Somers for many years in his distinctive white hard hat and has had much success. His clever sailing and wonderful humour will be sadly missed!

**- Wendy Wilson**



## Division 2 report

WE are all looking forward to finally getting cold, wet and stiff as we aren't as fit as we would like to be. Nevertheless our beautiful waters beckon but as you may be aware I won't be sailing until about Christmas, as the shoulder needs time to heal, so Phil Johnson will be writing the Division 11 articles until further notice.

There are three items of interest to our division sailors.

The main item is that the Hobie 16s yardstick 82 has been put into our division, yardstick 93.5, a difference of 14 per cent. I have fought against this move as reported in my submission of 27 February to the sailing committee:

"I am happy for the large cats to have their own division and unique course that they favour. I am happy for the 16ft no spinnaker cats to have their own division, number of laps and course

that they favour.

"I am vehemently unhappy for the smaller and slower 14ft cats to mix it with the 16ft cats, as the blanket of foul air makes it an unfair race for the smaller cats.

"It is my considered opinion that to absorb the 14ft cats into the 16ft cat fleet, will be the demise of this class at Somers, as no one will want to join the already struggling class for which this club was so popular."

Please note that our course one now includes a windward and return leg between the two triangles.

For a class trophy to be awarded there must be five starters in that class, and lastly don't forget to make an effort to welcome the Paper Tiger visitors who will show us the way on 30 January.

**- Steph Schwarz**

## New division 4 report

YOUR sailing committee has done all you Laser sailors a magnificent favour. For the upcoming season, you will all have your own division. That's right – a division just for Lasers!!

Division 4 in season 2015/16 is made up of Laser Full Rigs, Laser Radials and Laser 4.7s. No more battling the Tasars or the Sabres. That couldn't be fairer and exciting for all the budding Laser sailors in the club. In fact those thinking of grabbing an Impulse, which will be lots of fun but probably no cigar against the Tasars and Contender, think twice.

In the Laser division, you will sail triangle, windward/return, and triangle of the inner course (same as the Sabres). The Laser division will probably be at the bar first in the coming season!!

We can expect 5 or 6 junior 4.7s and Harrison Ede is in the Radial. Don't let the juniors have all the fun. Dust off your trusty Laser and get out there.

As special recognition of a new division there will be a Laser Activate Day on Sunday 6 De-



*Harrison Ede, Maddi Poon and Lucy Ede at this year's States at Mt Martha.*

cember when VLA's state coaches will come down to get us moving. Get on it!! Even better, the Laser Victorian titles are to be held at Somers next Labor Day in March. Brilliant!!!

**- Nick Ede**

A promotional image for Somers Sailing School. It shows a group of sailboats with colorful sails (yellow, blue, red, and white) on a body of water. A small motorboat is also visible. The background features a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

**Somers Sailing School**  
**Bookings open Monday October 26th**

**Check calendar for dates and book on line**

enquiries to Emma - [simmemorris@bigpond.com](mailto:simmemorris@bigpond.com)



## Fun at Vic's AGM roast



*Norm Dewar enjoying a glass of wine.*



*Stephen Brown raises his glass with Anne and Robert Bartholomew.*



*A serious Janus Karnowski with a happier wife Brenda.*



*Changing of the guard....Jules and Jeremy Pearse enjoy lunch with the new Commodore Chris Gurney and his wife Cheryl.*

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## Social news

THE social committee has put together a variety of events for members and their friends to participate in during the 2015-2016 season and summer break.

We begin with a Cup Day BYO lunch on Tuesday 3 November and on 4 December we will be visited by Father Christmas. A Christmas Cocktail Party will be held on 5 December.

New Year's Eve is an Arabian theme and our popular Seafood Night will follow in early January. Tim and Nick are working hard on planning the Trivia Night and the Jets will entertain us at several BYO BBQs.

All social events are listed on the club calendar. Events which have catering require booking and pre-payment on Try booking. Be sure to book early in order to avoid disappointment, as when catering is involved, bookings must close on the date advertised.

If you do not have access to the internet, and would prefer to pay by cash, this can be simply organised if you contact Libby Moore 0413860371.

BYO BBQs are a great opportunity to self-cater and use the club facilities and view magnificent summer sunsets. On these nights the bar will be open and on some nights the Jets will play. The last person to cook their food on the

BBQ is responsible for cleaning it and putting on the cover.

A sink is located next to the BBQ and can be used for washing dishes and cleaning the BBQ. Members are reminded that the kitchen is not for our use on BBQ nights. The social committee provide a BBQ box which has some spare paper plates, plastic knives and forks and condiments.

Vic's Friday nights will continue to be held throughout the sailing season.

Please note that there will be two Vic's Friday Nights which are not on a Friday. Immediately after Christmas it will be held on Saturday 27 December and in the New Year Saturday 2 January.

Members are reminded that we are all responsible for cleaning up after ourselves in the club house. When you leave an event, please put away your tables and stack chairs, where possible. Please place rubbish in the bins provided.

The social committee welcomes new members to assist with planning and organising some or all of the events to be held during the season. Members of all ages are encouraged to join in as it is a great way to get to know others in the club. Please contact me if you would like to be involved.

**Libby Moore 0413 860 371**  
**Email: [emoore@gmail.com](mailto:emoore@gmail.com)**



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## Membership matters

YOU may have noted a new name as membership secretary. After eight years, Marg Tilleard has decided to resign. What a job she has done. Having been involved in the transition over the past few months I can see how much she has contributed to the management of the membership database and the maintenance of records, certainly a hard act to follow.

Members will also have noticed a new registration and payment system has been adopted. While at times this has been difficult, ultimately it will significantly streamline the process.

Rest assured that we are working closely with Yachting Australia and FoxPulse to make the process more user-friendly in future. Please be patient and if you have any queries regarding

registration or payment, then please contact us for assistance.

Membership fees are now overdue, so please, to maintain your status, particularly sailors, make sure you register and pay immediately.

If you and your boat have not been registered and fees paid before the first race, then you are not entitled to race.

Remember, if you have not paid for yard storage, you may miss out. Yard storage is currently being reviewed and yard manager Peter Foulsum will be working to finalise spaces at the working bee on Sunday 18 October.

**- Richard Fakhry  
Membership Secretary.**

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## Club Contacts

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### COMMITTEE

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