



Windward

Sailing at its best

Date March 2018



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Somers Yacht Club Inc. No 7635, Alexandra Ave, Somers. Tel: 5983 5568.
Website: somersyachtclub.yachting.org.au

From the Commodore's Desk



The holiday period might be over, but Somers Yacht Club activities continue apace. On one weekend recently I saw:

Friday afternoon: 20 ladies for SWISH (Somers Women In Sailing Happiness) – what a great initiative, thanks Wendy

Friday afternoon: 2 tables of Bridge players in the clubhouse – talk to Bart if you'd like to join in

Friday evening: 50+ for casual dinner – including a visit from Russell Joseph, Liberal Candidate for Nepean

Saturday afternoon: the Nutting family sailors lead 74 boats in a moving sail past in memory of Rod Nutting

Saturday afternoon: 72 boats sailed the Championship Race – is this the biggest off-the-beach fleet in Victoria?

Saturday night: 100+ parents and kids rocked the clubhouse for a family games night – the juniors are back!

Sunday morning: a dozen boats (including our 6 club pacers) back on the water for Adult Sailing School - great job Emma *et al.*

By any measure, our club is going through a very successful period. But your committee is conscious that success can be cyclical, so all members are encouraged to think about what it takes to keep things humming along.

Here's what the committee considers to be some factors in our success. Please feel free to discuss any more ideas with any committee member.

A great pool of volunteers. We are all volunteers. We do it because we find it rewarding in some way. The challenge is to keep it a positive and rewarding experience that continues to engage old and new members in all aspects of the functioning of the club. The committee is proposing a whole of club volunteer's party – probably incorporated into the end of

season function. Committee is also keen to improve our rostering processes for bar, sea rescue, tower, social events, etc by publishing rosters in a secure area online and automating reminders, etc. If anyone has experience with rostering software, please let me know.

Regular fair and competitive racing. The club is the sailing hub for Western Port Bay. And it is possibly the most active off-the-beach club in Victoria. Regularly scheduled, fair but competitive racing attracts and retains sailors.

Race planning and race management is excellent, and races are well serviced by sea rescue boats and crews.

The club provides a social and community focus for Somers. The club is a popular social hub for members and guests with an active and successful social program. The club also offers a facility for the broader Somers community.

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We will keep racing as a focus of the club and continue to review race formats and race safety standards, invest in the sea rescue fleet and run selected regattas (such as State and National Championships). We will maintain standards by succession planning and training for race committee and race management functions

The committee recognises that the commitment of the Sailing School Principal has been key to this success. We are now seeking to rearrange the roles of teaching, administration and junior social coordinator to reduce these demands. Any offers of assistance please talk to me, Kate Dalton or Emma Morris.

John

Rear Commodore's report



who wish to take part and will seek to add some others.

Recent indications are that we have builders who can fit in with our time schedule of construction during the coming winter months

Currently we are developing an Operational Plan to enable us to continue all Club social activities during this construction period.

We envisage that regular Friday night dinners, the karaoke night and mid winter ball etc will all still be able to be held at the Club over the winter months. It will be exciting to come down and monitor the building progress!

Fundraising is going very well - currently at \$172,000 . Many thanks to all on the fundraising subcommittee and esp to Capital Raising Committee member Nick Bailey, who wrote a successful submission to the Bendigo bank - they have donated \$22,000.

Please all come and bring your friends to the fundraising Auction night Sat April 7th . More details elsewhere in this newsletter .

Amanda

Clubhouse Redevelopment News

Hot off the press! We have just received Town Planning approval for the building redevelopment! Cameron Harvey and his building subcommittee have done a marvellous job in achieving this so quickly.

The General Committee has therefore authorised the building sub committee to go ahead with the ordering of the lift and to prepare for contractor pricing .

The key activities in continuing to develop the working drawings include:

Structural Engineering - JV Engineers- engaged and in detailed design

Soil Test - Civiltest- engaged and are about to do sample core drilling in the next week or so.

Drafting/ Detailed Design -KB Design -engaged and in detailed design

Regulatory - Ken Weir and Assoc.- engaged

We are still on target to meet the mid March completion date for the working drawings to allow pricing to commence.

We now have a preferred lift supplier - Melbourne Elevators - and they are currently preparing their shop drawings (at minor cost) for lift order.

The building subcommittee have been pre qualifying contractors who have the skill set, capacity and interest in pricing the project - we have 4 local contractors

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Rear Commodore's Report



Beware the Ides of March. According to some, in addition to enthusiastic drinking and revelry the Roman celebrations included beating an old man dressed in animal skins driving him from the city. And then there was the assassination Julius Caesar.

With the recent angry winds, That's It is feeling a bit nervous. What gives with this weekly cycle of fierce weekend March winds, or no winds, as the case may be?

On better news it means that Friday afternoon has seen near perfect sailing conditions for Wendy Wilson's SWISH'ers - a wonderful initiative which is raising the interest amongst clubs elsewhere.

Saturday northerly gales have been really testing our skills. One particularly hairy race with gusts exceeding 30 knots (the race was abandoned by then), That's It realised things were getting somewhat out of the control, when Nick "Locked and Loaded" Carter did two granny tacks in front of him, only to be reassured to see Matilda "Goshawk" Morris happily sailing around the same race with not a concern in the world. On another day, the spirit of club sailing was exemplified with Simon "Cereal Killer" Wilkins rescuing a stranded young "duck" from the water mid race.

The tough racing conditions have been testing the nerve of our race officers, and skills of the sea rescue teams. A thanks to all for a great job. Tim Rintoul and Norm Dewar deserve special thanks for squeezing in the last two championships races, in the face of somewhat dicey forecasts. Well done.

Without them, our championship series would have been looking very thin. As it was we managed 6 out of 8 completions, producing some very tight results including a countback in Div3, and a razor thin margin in Div4. Congratulations to the new champs.

The feedback from the sea rescue has been very important and we have instituted a series of protocols that will ease their work in the future.

- 1) In Div 6 we have started a green fleet for novice sailors, very much in accord with practise at Opti regattas. Green fleet sailors only sail in winds under 15 knots, at the discretion of the RO.
- 2) A new ["5-minute" rule](#), in which sailors who have bottled, and are unable to right, for more than 5 minutes should expect to have the boats safe anchored to be collected once the race is completed.

The "5-minute" rule comes from the requirement that we make sure we have rescue boats always available to ensure adequate response to emergency situations involving personal injury or incapacity. The rule respects that the prime responsibility for being able to right a bottled boat, lies with the skipper, and not sea rescue. Sailors who do not feel confident in being able to right their boat without outside help should consider whether they should sail in conditions that they are likely to bottle, and, if they do, be aware of the rule.

Maintaining good clear understanding of protocols for safety on the water is an important aspect of community sailing especially with our crowded courses. Always on the look-out for ways to improve, we are currently reviewing our safety procedures. Feedback is especially timely.

Meanwhile That's It will be pondering appropriate sacrifices to appease our angry wind gods. Suggestions welcome.

That's It.

Nearly one million reasons to say thank you

The Balnarring & District **Community Bank®** Branch of Bendigo Bank will be ten years old in June. On behalf of our bank and the one hundred community groups you have helped us support over those ten years, we would like to thank those of you who have banked with us.

Just by banking with our branch, you have enabled us to invest nearly \$1,000,000 back into our communities from Flinders to Bittern. By 13 June this year, we expect to invest our millionth dollar.

Since Somers Yacht Club switched to Bendigo we have invested \$29,500 helping the Club better serve the community. Our latest investment of \$22,000 in the Club House redevelopment is our commitment to members, imagine what we could do if you all moved some or all of your banking to us!

Thank you for your contribution to our community.

I am often asked what a **Community Bank®** branch is and how it works, so here is an explanation at its most simplistic. Basically, it is a locally-owned bank branch, established by the community for the community, often where no other convenient alternative exists.

The community invests in shares in the company to fund the establishment of the branch, a cost of \$840,000 in our case. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank provides the banking licence and all banking services.

The margin on all banking is then shared between the two parties. For example, if money is lent at 6% and the Bendigo Bank sources funds at 3% then the margin of 3% is shared.

The branch revenue share covers the running costs of the branch and any profit is shared between the community and our local shareholders. Naturally, the calculation of margins on different banking services varies and rules govern the distribution of profits.

Balnarring & District **Community Bank®** Branch returned a 7 cent dividend to shareholders for the 2016/17 financial year. Any local person can be a shareholder, so see our website www.bendigobank.com.au/public/community/our-branches/balnarring for more details. For us to give back even more, we need you to switch your banking to our local bank, so give our staff a call on 5983 5543 or pop in to the branch.

Chris Gurney

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Division Reports

Division 1—Peter Foulsum

Well done to Somers Yacht Club for retaining the Westernport Challenge re-sail held on 21st January. Well done to Brian Gristwood 2nd in division 1 and 3rd overall and Andrew Robertson 3rd in division 1 and 4th overall. Great to see Jeremy Pearse 5th in division 1 and 14th overall.

The Australia day weekend Commodores cup/ Williams Point regatta saw a great turnout with 15 catamarans racing for their names on the trophies. Well done to Justin Prior and Morgan Carter for their 2nd and 3rd places overall on yardstick and for Jeremy Pearse with a 1st and 2nd in races 1 and 2 respectively and two 1st placings in the Grand masters. Great to see Andy Griffin with a couple of 3rd placings in the grand masters series as well.

February has been a mix of strong to gale force winds with races abandoned on 4th and 24th.

From the race on the 4th Feb you know that the wind is just beyond the limit when the wind catches underneath the trampoline lifts the whole boat and tosses it on it's side. Other notable incidents from that day were Justin Prior snapping his rudder cross bar and Brian Gristwood capsizing and falling through the mainsail.

We did however get 2 races in on the 3rd and 17th with sunshine, dolphins, some great close racing and finishes separating yachts by a few seconds.

Please check out the race results page on the club website for race results and the Championship series progressive standings.

Division 2—Steph Schwarz

At last! Some decent sailing weather for the 5th championship, a beautiful Somers sunny day with a 10kt breeze for the Rod Nutting Sail Past in commemoration of that Yacht Club past commodore and gentleman, we all know he ordered it for us. The start was very hectic with 17 boats on or near the start line, and Emma leading the way to the finish, with Gideon on the Turbo in second place and Steph third. When the wind ramped up to over 15kts, so did the excitement, and thankfully no capsizes. Let's hope the weather nasties have disappeared. Great to see Vlad back on the water, and also Simon testing his boat and himself after his overseas sojourn. The great surprise was to have Malcolm's beautifully repaired boat back in the yard after the accident. Let's hope all are back in competition soon. Another Championship blown out on 24th Feb.



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Division Reports

Division 4 —Simon Wilkins

At the club...

The Championship series has progressed although a couple of races have been lost to strong winds. The final two races to be sailed in March (3rd and 17th).

Slightly further afield...

The annual Point Leo Boat Club Laser Regatta was held on Sunday 4th February. Sunday was a beautiful warm day with a nice 10 or so knot wind. Somers YC was represented by Harrison Ede (second time in a full rig), Simon Wilkins (full rig), John Tilleard (last sail in his full rig Laser) and Wendy Wilson in her 4.7 rig. Two back-to-back races were scheduled for the day coordinated by Nick Ede and Toby Ottaway in the committee boat. Harrison led at the windward mark and took the first race with Simon second, John 4th and Wendy 6th in a sausage-triangle-sausage course. With everything resting on the outcome of the second race, the race got under way with some close match racing up the first beat between Simon and Harrison. Simon was first to the windward mark and held onto the lead to finish first and take the regatta on count back. John finished 4th overall and took the Seniors trophy and Wendy finished 6th overall and took the Women's trophy, giving Somers a clean sweep of the prizes as we all relaxed on the club's balcony with drinks and a BBQ after the races.



Heading out for the races at Point Leo

Even further afield...



It's an international event! 198120 Simon Wilkins

Oceania and Australian Laser Masters Championship 9th-12th February Mooloolaba, QLD

I (Simon Wilkins) jetted up to QLD to take part in this championship featuring competitors from Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and Canada including a couple of world champions. This was a great regatta with 10 races in 10-20 knot winds and over 4 beautiful sunny days. There were 163 Lasers and 70 standard/full rigs. Races were very competitive with minor mistakes losing places and major mistakes (like a bad start) resulting in back of the fleet battles. I had a couple of good races with results in the 20s but most of my races were reasonable in the 30s (top half of the fleet). I finished 31st overall which wasn't too bad as I was hoping for top 25 or top 30. A very well run and thoroughly enjoyable regatta! Next one of these championships will be in Geelong in March 2020.

Division Reports

Division 5 –Tim Brock

Now the summer events are behind us, the main focus has been on the remaining Championship races. Weather conditions have recently prevented full Division 5 fleets being on the water, however it was great to see 16 starters for the 5th Championship race on 17 February. With Wendy Wilson away, sailing in the Sabre States, it gave the rest of us a chance to shine.

Among those who shone brightly on that day were John Carter (Georgia III) who led all day to get the hooter, Diana Nutting and Poppy Jeffs (Rasscal) who won on corrected time and Robert Bartholomew (Sea-Sword II), whose excellent handicap saw him take out the honours in that category. Special mention to Patrick Poppins and Colleen Moore (Popcorn) who sailed beautifully to get 2nd on corrected time and Stephen Teh (Satani) who did likewise to get 2nd on handicap.

The 6th Championship was on the day where 40 knot gusts were predicted later in the afternoon. Five Division 5 boats hit the water and three managed to finish. Winner was Mat Otto sailing a club Pacer with kids Eliza & Freddie followed by Tim Brock (Sabre) and Ida Gaulke & Zoe Warmbrunn (125). Special mention to Sophie & Grace Robertson & Jonathan Dunlop (Pacers) who also braved the conditions. The final Championship Race was on 17 March and, again, our fleet saw a lot of late scratchings due to the weather. Only 4 starters hit the water and only 2 completed the course. Surprise entrant and winner was Malcolm Otto (Impulse with a small sail) with Peter & Maureen Laverty sailing well in the conditions (Pacer) in second place. Well done all!

At the completion of all Championship races, our podium finishers for both yardstick and handicap are: First - Wendy Wilson in Heartbeat (Sabre), Second – Tim Brock in Old Tiger (Sabre) and Third – Libby Moore in Bob (Sabre)

Let's hope the weather conditions from here on are conducive to a decent sail – only the Autumn Series and Easter Racing to go.



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- ⇒ Silent auctions and auctions on the night.
- ⇒ Raffles, spinning wheel and more.
- ⇒ Examples of items you can bid for are :
A dinner party, 2 nights in a Melbourne apartment, a fishing trip, gardening, artwork, A PE session, bike riding tour, vouchers for a massage, Pilates, entry to Ashcombe Maze to just give some examples.




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Junior Report—Kate Dalton

Family Dinner and Games Night.

On Sat 17th Feb, we held a very successful Family Dinner and Games night at the club. Over 110 members and guests attended a casual Pizza & salad dinner, followed by ice-creams and drinks. Post dinner games included some old favourites, and a new one – Pantyhose Bowling - which got the whole family involved! Lots of laughing at mums and dads in particular, from the kids.



It was also the premiere of 2018 Sailing school movie – check it out - it really makes you smile! -à <https://vimeo.com/256273075> (also on Somers Yacht Club website)

Fantastic video – well done Emma and team!

Thanks to everyone who helped out on the night and for everyone getting involved in a bit of fun!

Juniors Photo Competition

Thanks to everyone who entered the photo competition. We have some great photos to display around the club and on our website.

And the Winners are:

Categories	1st	2nd	3rd
Overall Winners	Vienna Jones ★	Noah Hunt	Jack Cassano
Landscapes	Vienna Jones	Noah Hunt	Amelia Clifford
Action Shot	Huia Mrkusich	Abi Morgan	Ellie Morris
People Pose	Noah Hunt	Zoe Morris	Max <u>Casalaz</u>
Still Life	Matilda Morris	Emily Cassano	Emily Cassano
Artistic	Jack Cassano	Zoe Morris	Amelia Clifford
Special Mentions	Ollie Davenport	Gen Holden	-

Congratulations to all our winners who received great Somers Yacht Club merchandise and glasses!

Fun Facts:

Did you know Somers Yacht Club has over 200 Junior members? Come on down to the club, meet some new friends and get involved.



Overall Winner : Vienna Jones, Aged 10

Season 2018/2019 activity ideas welcome! <mailto:juniors@somersyachtclub.com.au>

SWISH– Report

Report—Barb Bailey

Having been a member of SYC for over thirty years, my sailing experience was very patchy to say the least! It seems that I am not alone, there are many women at SYC who similarly have had little sailing experience.

Enter SWISH, the brainchild of Wendy Wilson. Experienced female sailors giving their time taking us novices for a sail. We have had lessons on rigging, crewing, skippering and spending time on the water in the club pacers!

I look forward to Friday afternoons, an enjoyable social sail and then retiring to the club for a glass of something, talk about our sailing afternoon and meet other female members that we would, in all likelihood, not have met before SWISH.

Many thanks also to the rescue boat crew!

Come and joins us!



Report—Jules Pearse

I joined the yacht club around 15 years ago with my family.

With the exception of my husband who already knew how to sail, my two children and I did sailing school.

They were different times and although the kids took to their new activity, I did not! My confidence was lacking on the water.

All these years down the track Wendy Wilson encouraged and convinced me to give it another go! So, I signed up for SWISH on Friday afternoons. It is a completely different format. Just women for starters, with the exception of Lindsay and Ian as support crew.

The novice sailors are put into Pacers with an experienced sailor and all I can say is.....it's a lot of fun!! The weather god was with us for a few sessions. The dolphins even came to say hello!!

Even when it was decided too rough to sail, we were loaded on to the zodiac and the gorgeous Megan and Caitlin demonstrated how to bottle and get back into the boat.

After a pleasant amount of time on the water, we pack up the boats and have a debriefing on the deck with drinks and nibbles! Very civilized!!

My advice to any women thinking about sailing and can get Friday afternoons off....do SWISH!!

Many thanks to Wendy and to all the volunteers who gave up their time to take us out!



Vale Rod Nutting



Everyone knew Rod Nutting, he was that sort of person. Rod became interested in sailing when he was a member of the Sea Scouts at Albert Park, and he used to go out on the water at St. Kilda with his father.

Later in life Rod & Shirley together with Amanda, Lisa and Diana, joined

the Somers Yacht Club in 1970 to return to the sport of sailing at the age of 42.

Back in those days the Somers Yacht Club had a fleet of about 100 Mirror Dinghy's on the register, and Rod decided to set about building his own yacht from the popular kit available at the time. Rod sailed the Mirror "Nutsy" with his daughter Amanda as crew for many years and being a competitive sort of bloke he participated in many inter club regattas, and was Secretary of the Victorian Mirror Association at the peak of the class's popularity.

Rod stayed with the Mirror class but upgraded to a new "go fast" Mirror called "Tuna". Amanda crewed in the new boat until she decided that she wanted to skipper. Rod being the sort of father he was decided to hand over the Mirror to Amanda with Diana as crew, and he moved into a 125 with Lisa as crew. After the 125, he decided to move to the Solo Class and test his skills with a challenging single hander.

125 competitors will always remember the time when Rod and Lisa were sailing in a drifter and was purposely leaning the boat to leeward, when a gust materialised and the boat capsized. Rod was able to clamber over the gunwale, stand on the centreboard, pull the boat upright and climb back on board – all this time with his pipe firmly in his mouth being vigorously puffed. After Rod retired as an active sailor on the water he took up the sport of racing model radio controlled yachts. Rod served as a Flag Officer of the Somers Yacht Club for 6 years, culminating as Commodore for two years.

When Rod gave up active sailing, he was very active in Race Management, then later was present in the Club House every race day with his binoculars and his two way radio tuned to the SYC frequencies. One sideline was managing the Club's PA system, he was

always interested in things electronic, a task he undertook at Balnarring Men's Probus

Born in 1929, Rod attended the Geelong Grammar School, and remained a Cat's supporter. Later he attended the Caulfield Grammar School and joined the choir at All Saints Anglican Church in East St. Kilda, where he remained a chorister for 50 years. Rod had also been a chorister at All Saints in London. One day at the Club, he and Rod got talking, and broke into hymn singing for the entertainment of Club members.

Rod joined the CSIRO but spent most of his career at the Melbourne City Council Electric Supply Co. The holiday house at Somers was discovered after visiting friends in the village and this led to buying a weekender and finally a permanent home in Victoria Avenue. Rod's liking for the odd glass of red wine was pretty well known and in the early days if the Nutting's were coming to dinner you had better have a bottle of Tokay to consume over coffee!

Rod's interests were not limited to sailing, he was a golfer who fronted the Flinders Golf Club every Tuesday morning summer and winter together with about 6 members of the Club for the Tuesday competition. Rod was also a member of the Peninsula Wood Turning Guild, and produced some remarkable turned wood articles for exhibition at the Guilds annual open day.

He had a very active sense of humour, and was famous for his puns (often inducing groans!) ...Ah here he is Jacques Cartier....Good Afternoon!

Rod's marriage to Shirley started a dynasty which has had a major influence on the Somers Yacht Club. They produced three daughters and had two granddaughters and five grandsons, who together with sons - in - law have been huge contributors to Yacht Club activities.

Co Authored by John Carter (Solo 2677) and Jeremy Grant (Solo retired)



Rescue Boat News



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Sailing School News– Emma Morriss

What a great bunch of juniors we have around Somers!
With 22 start sailing students, and 13 of them being new members to the club we are so happy you have joined us at an exciting time of year.

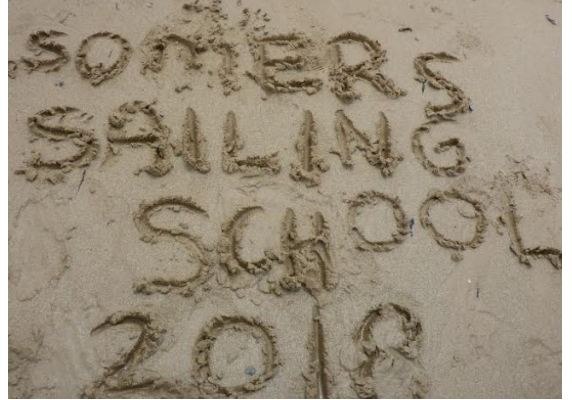
The start racing course has also seen a great increase in numbers this year with 10 students keen to improve their skills and learn more to hopefully join our Saturday regular races.

The weather has been kind and the dolphins very entertaining for our students and staff.

The smiles we have not been able to wipe off their faces with what ever the conditions or task we give them. Start sailing have all certainly mastered capsizing, while start racing has taken it to another level and mastered the dry capsizes. Anything goes as long as it is fun in boats on the water!

It is wonderful to see these young minds learn how to think like a sailor, read the conditions, problem solve to get their boat moving faster, build resilience, work as a team, communicate better and grow in self confidence.

I thank you to all the parents that helped provide morning tea or cooked a BBQ for our hungry sailors, it all adds to the positive experience for them.





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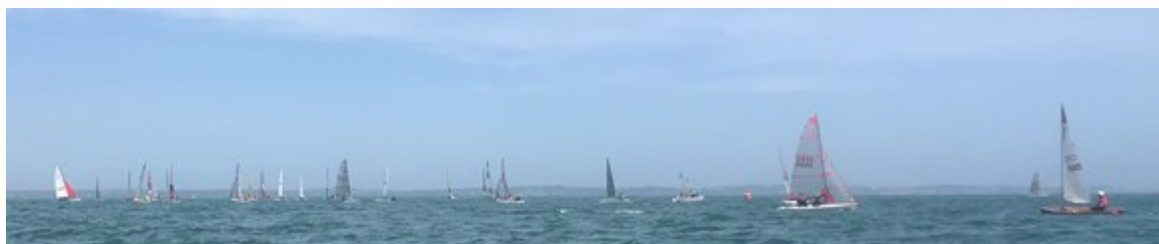
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SYCc members sail past the finish line to honour the memory of Rod Nutting

EASTER AT SOMERS YACHT CLUB

Easter Sunday 1st April

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