



Windward

Sailing at its best

Date January 2018

HOBIE NATIONALS JANUARY 2018

A Sensational Summer of Sailing
And Success for Somers Sailors

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From the Commodore's Desk



Phew!

Welcome to 2018. Seems that we have survived the peak of the Summer rush and crush; and hopefully can see a more measured few weeks ahead. Plenty of sailing and socialising still to come though.

Other articles in this edition will report on the many and varied events and activities that have been “Somers Yacht Club” over the last weeks; so, I won’t go over them all again here. Suffice to say: whether it’s the Hobie Nationals, the trivia, the 80s, Discover Sailing, the Jets or the sailing school (to name but a few), we have a great club.

One thing to reflect on is the value of the growing multi-generational character of our club. As Mike pointed out one results session, we often have a 7-year - old and an 84-year- old sailing in the same race.

Thanks to great initiatives centred on our sailing school, we now have a bunch of new families and teenagers supporting the club. I can also think of half a dozen or more families with three generations currently involved. That’s an unusual thing today, but it’s got to reinforce understanding of tolerance, respect and compromise - for oldies and youngies alike!

The Clubhouse Project Capital Raising Campaign has been very generously supported by members. This is a project that has had a long gestation period, starting back in 2015 with a groundswell of demand to improve accessibility to the upstairs of the clubhouse. Now that the

success of the capital raising campaign brings the project into focus, and the yellow planning application signs have gone up, the project is generating renewed discussion, question and opinion amongst members. So keep your eyes open for another member Q & A session that will

be scheduled very soon; and in the meantime, don’t hesitate to discuss the project with any member of the General Committee, the Project Committee or the Capital Raising Committee....or anyone. The more talk the better!

Sailing has had its on-agains and off-agains, but there have been some beautiful sailing conditions – just not necessarily on club race days! Can I just mention again the incredible service provided to sailors by our Sea Rescue and Race Management teams? Whether it’s 10 consecutive hours on the water during the Hobie Nationals, or an early call out for the Sandy Point cruise, Norm and Garry always have rescue boats at the ready. Our sailors salute you all!

Meanwhile, back at the clubhouse, bar volunteers have had their best Christmas/New Year season ever – more than doubling bar sales – thanks to long hours every day of the Hobie Nationals and special events such as the 80s reunion night. Not sure what that says about drinking habit but the Treasurer loves you all!



Commodore's report continued

In other committee news, everything just keeps happening:

□ Membership-wise, we go from strength to strength, but if he had it to spare, Richard would be tearing his hair out over those few of you who haven't renewed or resigned. Please save him the onerous task of chasing you by contacting him if you are on the "unfinancial – membership suspended" list.

□ At the last meeting we had a debrief on the Hobie Nationals. In summary: good for the club's reputation and standing, demanding for all involved. Good financial rewards from the bar and the regatta fee, but significant costs to members in terms of using up volunteer time and lost club sailing and activities. Would we do Nationals again? Probably "Yes" but not too often.

□ Sailing School remains an unqualified success thanks to Emma and her band of young instructors. Fantastic to see the sense of responsibility and enthusiasm that Emma generates amongst instructors, students and parents. Fantastic to see the influx of new family members countering our aging membership!

Congratulations to Western Port Challenge sailors. Looks as though we will keep the shield in its rightful place despite the longest race in history.
John

Club House Project Where is it ?

In a month we are halfway to the capital raising goal, which is fantastic. Still more to come though.

So why has the club undertaken this project?

We are the sailing hub of Westernport and a social hub for Somers. These two things work together. The social hub exists because the sailing program is so successful. The sailing program is successful because of the depth of members supporting social activities, the bar, sea rescue, race management and clubhouse facilities. The combination of sailing and social hubs makes for a dynamic, successful club.

Maintaining and improving the environment of the clubhouse is important to the continuing success of these hubs. The current project proposal has evolved over several years of investigation and discussion with the membership. It provides a new entry with stairs and a lift meeting at the top level. Providing the best location for the new entry gives the opportunity to incorporate an upgrade of the women's facilities, a family/accessible bathroom and toilet, a first aid room, extra storage and improved downstairs arrangements – all keeping options open for the future.

This is not a grand rebuild – it is part of responding to the changing demands of the membership. Plans and information on how to donate or pledge can be accessed on the Somers Yacht Club website - or fill in a pledge form at the club.

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Vice Commodores Report



Even though the role of Vice Com is a lot more 'behind the scenes', I have so far been busily occupied with a number of activities to do with facilities and finances (as well as getting involved with lots of catering issues with the Hobie Nationals !)

I have become an expert in rubbish collections and bins (!!) You will note that we are now recycling so please use the bins appropriately. This seems to be working well and our recycle bin fills more quickly than the general waste - does this mean we drink a lot more than we eat??

John and I are hopeful to develop some sort of a chute from the east deck for bottles and cans - ideas from practical types welcome ! Who has seen what WYC has organised with a PVC pipe straight out the wall from their upstairs bar to the bin?

There has been the usual upgrading and maintenance of Club facilities - new signs, blackboard, kids freezer, blinds and fan for duty office etc. and I thank Grahame Tiplady for being so available to fix the the myriad of things that pop up weekly. The Facilities subcommittee of Grahame, Gerry Lewis, Mal Otto and Simon Boadle are also looking after all those important issues such as sewage pumps, gate repairs, deck repairs, table tops etc etc. Brenda Karnowski has also been fabulous liaising with our very dedicated cleaners Christina and Terry - boy were they busy during the Hobie Nationals - arriving several days in a row to clean at 4am! Many thanks to all involved during this hectic period at the Club.

Tim Brock our trusty Treasurer has also been extremely busy during this period and I thank him for his many hours of work for the Club. The finance and planning subcommittee of Tim, Leon Morand, Jeremy Pearse and Ben Davidson continue to assist in overseeing the financial future of the Club.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will read about the Capital raising for the Clubhouse renewal.

Thanks to Dennis Paskins for managing our Clubhouse bookings. We now have 2 regular Pilates classes held at the Club. This is in addition to the weekly Funky Dance class and the Friday Bridge group - it's nice to see the Clubhouse used regularly by the Community

Finally If you have any issues about facilities or finances

which you would like to raise, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Catch you at the Club!

Amanda

The Sandy Point Cruise

The Sandy Point Cruise was a great day for Somers Sailors of all ages as well as those who chose to walk the distance or cycle.



Rear Commodores Report



Hard to believe, but we did survive. Hobie Nationals, Discover Sailing, Western Port Youth Regatta... It seemed a never-ending schedule of planning and rostering, jumping on board, early mornings, late nights, and constant tidying. Don't know about you, but That's It was mightily glad to return to home sailing duties by mid-January.

A fantastic effort by all our volunteers and especially those who spent so many hours bobbing up and down, lurching side to side, on our rescue boats out on the open sea. What could be more fun?

Over the New Year we had a good number of our sailors competing in nationals and other events, flying the SYC flag elsewhere - Patrick Moore in the Sydney-Hobart, Lucy and Daniel Laverty in the Optis at RQYC (with Lucy completing a staggering 19 races in 4 days, all at the grand old age of 8), Lucy and Harrison Ede in the Lasers also at RQYC (That's It is very grateful he is not RC at RQYC), Matt and Daniel Stone in the Mosquitos also in Queensland (with Mat 1st and Daniel 3rd in the Spinnaker division), Michal Vandenberg and Patrick Moore in Contenders over in the bath at McCrae, and of course we had our Hobie sailors at home, with Meagan Bursa 1st, and Emma Morris and Teagan Davies 2nd in the Woman's division and Michelle Bursa 2nd in the

Tigers. A fantastic effort all round, of which we are all very proud.

With all that effort, you would have thought our sailing gods would be well pleased, but apparently not. Weather conditions have not been kind to our own program. Eventually we managed to complete a race (Championship #2), or at least some of us did. Still it was with relief to have some local results, with some exhilarating competition at the head of Div 1 (Monkey Business pipping Macka Mossie by 4 seconds after 5 laps of racing). In Div 3, Now or Never (our new Contender) whipped a demoralised fleet by a whopping 6 minutes. That's It is already pining for the Darkside.

On a somewhat sad note, was the passing of Flying High in early January. The last (for the moment) of our Tornados, and a vessel on which almost all of us have had the joy of sailing one time or another, it was fitting that its last cruise here was for Discover Sailing. Thanks Andy for the thrills and spills.

In better, breaking news, That's It is very relieved to report that SYC appears to have retained local bragging rights with another overall win in the Western Port Challenge. More anon.

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Division 1 Report

Somers Yacht Club Division 1 Report January 2018
With a mixed bag race days with conditions ranging from cold with rain and limited visibility to hot with strong Northerly winds preventing races there were the occasional days when racing was possible and even favourable. Brian Gristwood continued to consistently have some great results and made a clean sweep of the pre-Christmas series and the Summer Cup yardstick series. Great to see Justin Prior win the Summer cup Handicap series. Fantastic to see Griffio and Nick Wood-Freeman teaming up for a last bash on the Tornado prior to it's transfer to the new owner. Matt and Daniel Stone have eventually got their Mozies on the water and have had some great results as well. Matt started with a 3rd place at the Victorian Spinnaker titles at Paynesville in November and followed up with a win in his division at the Victorian Catamaran Championships held later in November. Matt and Daniel then made the long trip to Lake

Cootharaba, Queensland and Matt continued his form with a win at the National titles in the spinnaker division. Daniel was placed 3rd in the same division. Well done to you both. A fantastic effort.

Closer to home it was great to see Robbie Lovig and Michelle Bursa divide and conquer. They split their usual skipper/crew roles and both skippered different Hobie Tiger catamarans. Robbie won the National titles and Michelle was 2nd overall. Well done again to our Somers sailors. Another fantastic result for Somers.

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

Peter Foulsum

Matt Stone National Champion Mosquitoes
Spinnaker Division
QLD 2018

Daniel Stone and Meg Callahan
celebrating their engagement at the
Mosquito National Championships



Division 4 Report



It's been a busy couple of months with lots of racing and events happening for the Lasers at the club and further afield. The Pre-Xmas series concluded on 16th December after a few weekends of either

too windy or too little wind. Congratulations to Nick Ede for winning the Yardstick and to Steve Clifford for winning the Handicap series.

In the week prior to that Sail Melbourne was on but was hampered by strong winds blowing out most of the racing for the invited classes. The first Championship race was also a very windy one (20+ knots) that was taken out by Harrison in his first Radial race for a while closely followed by Richard also in his Radial.

Over Christmas and the New Year a number of races were on at the club. Boxing Day saw Steve Clifford win and a few days later Simon finish first Laser in the yardstick pursuit race (6th overall). The always fun Off the Beach race saw a spread of 12 minutes for the starting times in the Lasers and Laser Radial. The race finished with four Lasers all close together at the finish with the winner being new member Claire Brown in her Radial.

The Summer Cup was a closely contested affair over the holiday period with only one point in it after four races between Steve Clifford and David Fakhry. Strong winds blew out races 5 and 6 meaning Steve took out the Summer Cup handicap. Simon won the Yardstick trophy with 4 firsts.

At the same time Lucy and Harrison Ede competed in the Laser National Championships in Queensland (see separate report).

In other Laser news, as of 1st January, digital compasses are now legal on Lasers and it is also now legal to put a cleat in the rope holding your toe strap. Other go faster extras seen recently at the club include carbon fibre top masts, bigger vang keys, higher purchase outhauls and downhauls, and a new centerboard brake (if you're interested in any of the above come and see me on race days).

Simon Wilkins

Division 5 Report



We are halfway into our season already!

It is great to see the honours shared across the division, including Pre-Christmas YS 1st Libby Moore (Sabre "Bob"), HC Wendy Wilson (Sabre

"Heartbeat"), Boxing Day Regatta Ella and Zoe Roberts (Pacer "Morris Mayham"), Off The Beach Wendy Wilson (Sabre "Heartbeat"), Summer Cup HC Jonathan Dunlop and Zoe Warmbrum (Pacer "Exocet 11"), YS Amanda Nutting and Bridget Robinson (Pacer "Rasscal"). Congratulations to all!

Club Coaching sessions on 9th and 12th January were well attended by Division 5 Sabres (5 boats) and Pacers (2 boats). Joined by one solitary Laser, we enjoyed two great coaching sessions from our club champion Nick Ede and learnt new skills on and off the water!

State Championships for Sabres (17-18 Feb at Safety Beach) and Pacers (10-12 March at Mount Martha) are rapidly approaching. Why not consider making the effort to fly the Somers flag at these great events? You don't have to be a fantastic sailor- both of these classes are focussed on participation and are very supportive of sailors new to titles. You can apply for average points so your Club Championship results will not be affected by your absence.

More information here- <http://sabre.org.au/.../643-2018-sabre-state-championships-sa...>

<http://www.pacersailing.org.au> or Rob Debenham (0402 148 069)

Hope to see lots of Division 5 boats out on the water in the coming weeks!

Wendy Wilson

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- Gutters



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Laser Nationals Report

The 2018 Australian Laser Championships were held at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron from Dec 28 to Jan 4. There were 64 4.7, 30 Full Rig and 75 Radial Lasers meaning the rigging area was full of activity every day, especially when the Opti parents moved 300 Opti's in before the Lasers finished!

Both Lucy Ede (4.7 number 206011) and Harrison Ede (Radial number 201500) improved on their results from last year, both finishing mid-fleet. The depth in the fleet gets deeper each year in this highly competitive youth class. Highlights included a 2nd to the first mark for Harrison (wow, 74 boats to look back on down the run!) and multiple top 25 finishes for Lucy.

A highlight for me was spending two days on the water in windy conditions watching the Full Rigs up close. It was amazing to watch Rio gold medalist Tom Burton and his world champion Australian Sailing Team partner Matt Wearn up close. Their fitness, boat handling and confidence in a Laser is breath taking.

Nick Ede



Discover Sailing Day

Far from the howling winds and 42-degree temperature that scorched Somers on Saturday, Sunday's discover sailing day was accompanied by a light breeze and a far gentler 19 degrees. This was the perfect weather to introduce the many families and eager young sailors who joined the day, to the Yacht Club and the joys of sailing.

The day kicked off with a tour of the club and the boat yard before heading down to the beach, where there was a great mix of boats to discover sailing in. We had Hobie's, Pacer's a Tornado and of course a run in the rescue boat was very popular!

This year we had a great turn out of visitors and support from members, ensuring that we had a very busy morning on the beach, with everyone getting a least one run in the boat of their choice. The size of the smiles from our new sailors was a sure sign that the day was a great success!

A big thank you to the younger members for running the club tours and for all the members who generously made their boats and time available for the day.



WWCC

Working with Children Checks (WWCC)

Somers Yacht Club is committed to our [Child Safety Policy](#) and Child Safety Code of Conduct. WWCC are mandatory for all General Committee Members, Race Officers, Sea Rescue Drivers, Sailing School Instructors (18+) and Junior Events coordinators. We encourage members to apply for your Working with Children Card.

If you already hold a WWCC, please add Somers YC to your volunteer organisations via the [WWC web-site](#), and "update your details". Our club Secretary maintains a register once notified by the Dept of Justice of those who have nominated Somers Yacht Club.

It is a very simple process and free to all volunteers.

STEP 1: Complete Application online at: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

STEP 2: Verify ID at Designated Post office and have your photo taken

STEP 3: Receive your Working with Children card via the mail in 3-5 weeks.

Note:

Balnarring Post Office provides this service. (Somers PO does not)

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Hobie Report –Emma Morris



Somers put on a great show for our Hobie visitors from all over Australia and overseas. With teams coming from New Caledonia, Papa New Guinea, Tanzania, New Zealand and South Africa, it was a really hot fleet competing in the Australian National Hobie Cat Titles. A total of 61 boats filled the Somers waters with colorful sails over the New Years break. The fleet was made up of 43 Hobie 16's, 5 Hobie 18's, 5 Hobie Tigers, and 6 Hobie Wild Cats. Of the Hobie 16's, 13 teams were youth (under 21) and 6 women's teams competing.

Four days of racing was programmed and a maximum of 16 races. Due to the first day of racing being constantly over 25 knots on the water, sailing was postponed for the day, and all the sailors hit the bar early. The club was alive with keen vibrant sailors, music and fun. The Jets performed at the club keeping many people dancing. The live radio channel Peninsula radio took some time to interview some members of our club about the regatta and our club.

The wind was kind to all for the rest of the regatta, with no sitting on the deck, but single or double trapping in 10 or more knots of breeze. The start lines were tight and mark rounding's very busy keeping you on the lookout all the time. My mind was constantly thinking of tactics and planning ahead to get clear air. The 16 fleet all seemed to arrive at the top mark at the same time and with our Somers tide, it made some interesting challenges around the top mark.

All Hobie sailors were very pleased with the conditions for racing, constant breeze, some swell and a great team of race management on and off the water. Only a few northerners found our conditions quite cold and did not bring enough warmth to wear on the water. Two WA teams took out 1st and 2nd in the Hobie 16's, but our Somers Hobie 16 women's teams took out 1st and 2nd place in their category. The Hobie Tigers first 2 places were also local Western Port teams

Our club also put on a great show off the water with being very welcoming to all visiting sailors and their families for the event. The energy and life was catching, with volunteers in every corner. Friends and families felt no need to leave the club when the sailors were on the water, but enjoyed the social atmosphere and great views of the racing.

The evenings were alive with plenty of social times. Competition was also had off the water between the different states with a quiz night with all questions related to Hobie Cats. NSW took out the Grand final round. New Years Eve turned out to be a big night along with Presentation night. Many amusing fines were given to sailors for things that happened during the regatta, with close to \$500 put on the bar to share around (the kids soon worked out that you could also buy chocolate bars!!). Many emotions were shared and great camaraderie between sailors of all fleets was seen. Lots of happy but exhausted sailors enjoyed the night. The whole Nationals was a great success.

The atmosphere was alive and strong and it was certainly a great demonstration of the 'Hobie way of Life!'

Emma Morris



Hobie Report –Elly and Gen

Our first ever Nationals was amazing. The Hobie atmosphere was building 2 days before hand with people arriving and the beach slowly filling with boats, music pumping and excitement building. This was our first ever big regatta other then states. It was a big jump from the 4 boats on the start line at Somers to the 43 boats at nationals. The youth this year was a really hot fleet with 4 boats coming from New Caledonia. Their English wasn't great but there sailing skills were outstanding with one of their teams ranking 3rd overall. The sailing was a windward, leeward gate course with a total of 14 races over 4 days. On the first day we rigged and de-rigged multiple times in between squalls and rain showers. We were hanging about in our wet-suits for 6 hours, waiting for the flag to drop. In the end we didn't end up racing but playing pool all day.

The U flag was put up for the first race on the start line but with 5 seconds to go it was quickly changed to a postponement flag and put the black flag up for the next race, due to too many Hobies' being over the line like always, eager to start.

The top mark was constantly hectic with heavy winds, strong tides and plenty of near collisions as everyone raced to reach the mark first. Just after the top mark was an offset mark giving us a short reach, which caused many to nose dive. Downwind racing was always fast and fun when broad reaching down to the gate. The gate itself was a big decision, 'should we go left or right...?' , depending on what the majority of the fleet chose. The downwind finish was always intense as you can always make up a couple of places by gybing off quickly depending on the angle of the line.

Perks of the casual Hobie way of leaving boats on the beach made de-rigging a much quicker process, meaning more time to hang out in the well-used juniors area with a much more important competition of table tennis, pool and foosball going on in between the sailing.

The New Years Eve party was alive with the Hobie atmosphere creating a fun-filled night, followed by a lay day which we spent surfing out the back of our Hobie along with kids from other clubs.

The whole week was a unique and marvellous experience where we learned so much about sailing, especially when competing in fleets of large sizes. Many friendships were formed, fun was had and everyone went home exhausted but feeling accomplished and proud of their achievements.

Our introduction to the Hobie way of life was awesome and were are so keen to be apart of it in the future.

Elly Morris and Gen Holden



Left
Nearly a Nose
Dive from Elly
and Gen

Right
Lining up for
the start



Hobie Report –Meagan, Abi and Tegan

Meagan Bursa

The Hobie nationals was hosted at Somers yacht club over new year's, with competitors travelling from overseas, interstate or from local surrounding yacht clubs. The weather coming in true blue Victorian style gave the New Caledonians and Queenslanders a reason to get their winter woollies out. However, after day one being a

blow out and leaving the poor rescue crew sick, the Somers sea breeze kicked in for the rest of the week with a nice 15-18 knots, allowing Hooper the race officer to hold a total of 14 races. Not only did Somers impress sailors on the water but also off the water; the Somers juniors hosting breakfast, live bands, Vic and Lorraine's food and coffee, after sailing snacks, a welcoming bar selling all the \$5 rums and coronas you could ask for and a New Year's Eve they will never forget.

Overall the racing was tight, and winners were decided on the last day. Darren Smith and Claire Bisgood from WA took out first in the Hobie 16's. With both teams representing Somers Robbie Lovig and Torben Wick winning the Tigers, with Michelle Bursa and Glenn Douglas following closely behind in second. In the Wild Cat Mick Butler and Peter Dubbelaar from NSW and on the Hobie 18 Jake De Roy and Alannah Simpson also from NSW. Taking out the Women's were two Somers teams, in first Meagan Bursa and Pip Pietromonaco and second Emma Morris and Tegan Davies and finally in the Youth Leo Belouard and Tim Picot from New Caledonia.

In Total a wonderful time was had by everybody, finishing the regatta off with a great presentation night, the Bursa's accommodating all the campers and all the challenging work and long hours put in by the volunteers made Somers hosting a successful national event, even one of the best nationals as stated by the Hobie sailors! Finally, a special thankyou to everyone for their hard work.



Tegan Davies

Over the New Year period, Somers Yacht Club was fortunate enough to host the Australian Hobie Cat Nationals. It was a sight to see with 59 boats and 118 competitors from all over Australia (and the world).

It was a rough start to the regatta with racing abandoned for the whole first day due to the strong weather conditions. The remainder of the regatta saw perfect Hobie conditions of 15-20 knots with the sun out. Considering we missed a whole day of racing, the race committee did a fantastic job

of getting 14 races in for the regatta. Our Somers Yacht Club members did exceptionally well in an extremely competitive fleet and a special mention must go out to all the women crews of which 4/6 were from Somers! It was a fantastic week both on the water racing in varying conditions against a fleet of top sailors and off the water, sharing stories and plenty of knowledge at the bar. A massive thank you must go out to all the volunteers, and everyone who put in their time and effort to help out during this busy time of year. From helping with the BBQ's and bar to our sea rescue teams, to hosting sailors, without your hard work and dedication the regatta would not have run so smoothly and successfully.

Congratulations to Meagan Bursa and Pip Pietromonaco (WYC) who took out the Hobie 16 Womens title (Emma Morris and Tegan Davies 2nd) and to Robbie Lovig and Torbin Wick who took out the Hobie Tiger Titles (Michelle Bursa and Glen Douglas (WYC) 2nd). Full results are available on the website.

Well done to our Somers Sailors who competed in such a tough but rewarding regatta !

Abi's Hobie Experience



I loved having the opportunity to be part of a wonderful regatta. It was a great experience meeting new people ,as well as helping out and winning the helping out award of a

branded mug. I also drew the lucky sail number. I learnt lots of different manoeuvres and we had a slight dilemma when the tiller extension fell off .

I thank my dad for taking me sailing

From Abi



Teams Racing

On Friday January 5th Somers Yacht Club sent 18 keen sailors of varying ability but all keen to participate in the Montalto Teams Racing Event hosted by Westernport Yacht Club .

Our teams were aptly named as
SYC Birds of Spray, SYC Fish and Chicks and SYC Pirates

Teams Racing—Julie Holden

Being a novice sailor, it was lovely to be invited to join a Somers team for the WYC teams racing regatta. The morning dawned fine and sunny, too calm to be of use to sailors but quite useful for getting to know my team. The sense of calm along with the sailing conditions started to shift though when the conversation turned to *non-regular sailing rules, team tactics and maximising moves*. The real focus of the day was revealed - teams racing - *work together, finish in the top three or at least prevent the opposition from this success*. By lunchtime, the wind picked up enough to start a shorter program of races. A short course meant a good race start was vital and my skipper Maddie handled the light conditions well. Unfortunately, our sailing was challenged by an opposing boats guile and our calls of PROTEST were swept away by the wind and unheard by the umpire boat. Back to the beach it was for us but with plans for next years event. While I can't promise that my sailing will be better next time, my understanding of tactics will be, the line of social sailing to teams racing has been crossed. Thanks to all involved for organising the day.

Julie Holden

The Teams Racing Perpetual
Trophy Returns to Somers
with

Johnathon Dunlop
Steve Clifford
Gina Prior
Simon Wilkins
Justin Prior



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Opti Nationals

The Lavertys have just returned from a fantastic road trip to Queensland. Hauling three boats and four kids (Daniel, Lucy and Chloe Laverty, along with friend and fellow Westernport sailor Hugo Vandamme) in one Ford Territory was quite the undertaking, especially as dad was on his own!

Daniel, Hugo and Lucy were competing in the 2018 Gill OptiAUS Championships hosted at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. There were 261 Opti sailors competing in 3 fleets (Green, Intermediate and Open) over 5 days of racing. Thankfully there was a rest day in between to give the kids (and dad) some chillout time!



Lucy is eight years old and was the second youngest competitor in the regatta.

She sailed in Green fleet. This is designed for those young sailors just beginning to race. This year there were 51 entries with girls just out numbering boys. There was plenty of fun sailing a shortened course format. It was great to see these kids sailing and enjoying themselves with smiles all round. The Green fleet also had supporting coaches making this a fun regatta and providing extra guidance for nervous sailors. Lucy placed mid fleet and was delighted with her achievement.

None of our kids were in the Intermediate fleet. This group is more of a steppingstone between beginners and more advanced junior sailors. At the nationals this year there were 75 kids competing at this level. Both Daniel and his mate Hugo competed in Open fleet. This was a step up for both boys and they had some phenomenal competition including a number of international sailors. There was an amazing young girl from the USA competing who took the top female place. In Open fleet there were 135 competitors, thus the fleet had to be divided into two separate groups.

At these numbers there was some fantastic competition at the start line and around the buoys! Daniel and Hugo ended up mid fleet. Fletcher Walters from New South Wales won Open fleet. And he and the other top five sailors will now go on to represent Australia at the Opti world championships later this year in Cyprus.

Queensland was quite hot and humid, it was a challenge keeping up hydration and keeping protected from the sun. The kids ate plenty of icy poles, used large amounts of sunscreen and zinc and full length clothing / skins to stay protected. There was a real sense of community amongst the other sailing families, in particular the ones from Victoria. We shared many meals and the siblings of sailors had a chance to play together. Chloe made many new friends. There was even an air-conditioned room at the regatta where continuous movies played. This was a great spot for any non-sailing siblings or hot and bothered parents to hang out during the regatta.

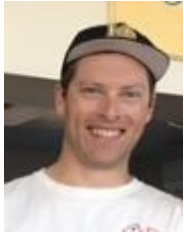
The road trip was a lot of fun and we even manage to bump in to the Stone brothers at Coonabarabran! We recognised their catamarans at a petrol station as we drove through this small town! Other highlights included staying at the Dubbo caravan park with the waterpark, which was our halfway point in the drive.

Next year the OptiAUS championships will be held at Sandy Bay sailing club in Hobart, Tasmania. Sounds like a fantastic location! We certainly hope to attend that regatta and represent Somers Yacht Club!

Thank you to everyone who wished us well and supported us on this wonderful road trip!



Coaching –Sean Bly



Over the summer break, whilst Hobies were whizzing around Westernport Bay, I attended the Laser Oceanic Championships – not as a sailor, but as a coach.

The inaugural Laser Oceanic Championships, incorporating the Australian Championships, were held at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron over the New Years period, with sailors attending from all over the region, including teams from Fiji, Japan and New Zealand.

This was my third Laser Nationals where I have attended as a coach, looking after the Tasmanian team (and one Victorian), consisting of Laser 4.7s and Radials.

Whilst it has been five years since my last Laser Nationals, it's always great to reconnect with old friends who are still on the circuit, and see up close some of the great talent that Australia keeps producing. This included the Australian Sailing Team, who were in attendance, racing hard and demonstrating how to really sail a Laser fast.

I also got to see a few Somers sailors from the Ede family mixing it up with the fleet, included seeing in one race, a certain H. Ede rounding the first mark in 2nd place!

Overall, the Tasmanians had some great results, including a 2nd in the Radial Youth Boys, and a 2nd in the 4.7 Under 15 Girls. However, the best reaction I saw all week belonged to a 50-something year old who finish a race in the 20s, a personal best for him.

Coaching, like any form of teaching, is full of tears and smiles, and the team had plenty of both during the week. Whilst it's hard for young sailors to imagine, sailing is a sport for life, and there are many more races ahead for all of us. Making mistakes and errors are all part of the journey.

But it's all worthwhile when you see someone nail that roll-tack for the first time, or exceed their expectations in a regatta. That's what makes coaching so rewarding.

Sydney to Hobart—Pat Moore

Pat Moore set off on Dark and Stormy for its last Sydney to Hobart Race. Both the beginning and end of the race were plagued with light winds and it took 3 hours to get up the Derwent to complete the journey. There were some eventful periods of strong winds and opportunities to fly the spinnaker. The boat speed reached 23 knots at one stage which is a record.

Pat is now competing in the Contender Worlds at McCrae.

I often reflect on the joy so many of our sailors have in competing around the world and in Australia in their chosen classes of boats and think how lucky we were that members such as John Williams, Don Ede, Mark Graham, Andy Griffin, Emma Morris and others have given their time and shared their love of sailing and expertise with members of the club to enable them have such wonderful experiences.

Libby



Contender Nationals

Plan

Take delivery of new Bonezzi Contender in mid December, sail over the holidays and learn as much as possible sailing the nationals.

Reality

Boat ready the day before the first race, First sail was sailing to the start line with 75 of the best Contender sailors to keep me company.



Plan

Only sail in ideal conditions while learning the boat.

Reality

Race 1pretty ideal. Result 49 (plus 4 points for not signing off)

Race 225 knot gusts and the windward mark close enough to shore to make like "you cannot get there from here". Result finished.

I was so tired that I had to call Patrick Moore to find the clothes I had left on my boat. May thinks for delivering them back safe and dry.

Plan for day 2

Actually the second day was pretty good despite being light. New boat new sail, all fast.

Plan for day 3

Three races 40C.Northerly.

Reality

Time to bail out as I am not a fan of Day 3 (too sore), Northerly winds (shifty) and high temps followed by packing up a new boat and heading home in 40C. Last time I did this the outcome was not good and I ended in hospital while Caitlin Davies drove the boat home.

Many thanks to Patrick Moore who was my Contender minder and made sure I never felt left out. It was great to see another Somers boat out there and to get tips about what works for him.

Mal's beach wheels were a huge hit and would have been the most photographed item of the entire regatta..





Somers Juniors



Junior Members Social Activities

Games Morning:

On Dec 28th, the Juniors re-united for Summer with a beach games morning. All ages participated in beach volleyball, tug-of-war, the Wizz Fizz game, and water pistol, Running the Gauntlet.

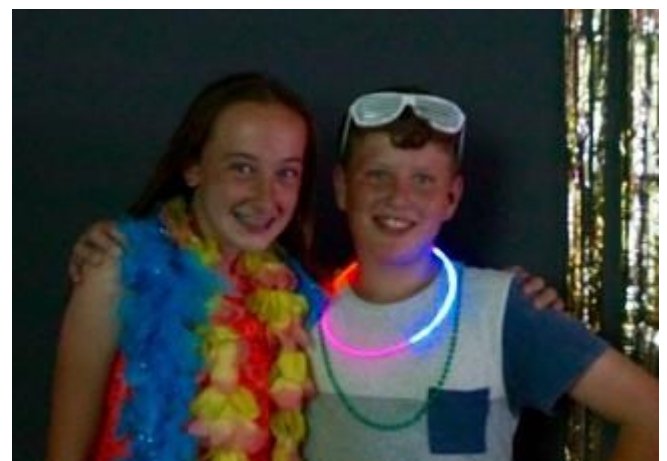
A great way to start the holidays!

Party Night:

On Jan 4th, the Yacht Club hosted a party night for the juniors, mainly led by the Juniors themselves which was great to see! The evening started with a few indoor games including the shoe throwing, hockey and musical chairs. This led into tunes and dancing ... it was great to see kids of all ages participating together. Lolly bags and Choc Tops kept energy levels high. A photo booth also provided entertainment for those keen to show their alter-ego!

Movie Night:

On Jan 16th, Hidden Figures was screened at the Club. It was a slight shift from previous years targeting slightly older kids to keep their attention, and also attracted a number of parents/grandparents to stay and watch the whole movie! We welcome your feedback for planning next year ...maybe a <12yr and >12yr movie night to cater more specifically?



Membership Report



Membership Fees

With the season now well under way, most membership fees have been paid.

There are still, however, approximately 21 membership groups, or 64 individuals who have not paid, or let us know their intentions for the year.

Fees are due 1st October every year, and members are notified by mail of the details. Follow up notices are issued as reminders with the weekly emails. For this reason, it is essential that if your contact details change, you let us know so we can update our database.

The rules of the club state that if fees are not paid by 31st December, member privileges may be suspended.

If you are still having difficulty registering through our on line service, or are not planning on renewing, then please contact Membership secretary, Richard Fakhry on 0418 576 622 to discuss.

Registration and Payment Service.

Some members have had issues with the on line registration and payment process through SportsTG, the organisation engaged by Australian Sailing to run and manage the database.

We are in constant contact with AS to try and resolve these issues. At this stage they are also reviewing other options.



Wendy Davies and Bruce Harrison clearly enjoyed our Seafood Night

Social Report



New Years Eve was a wonderful success! Members, Hobie sailors and guests dressed in Beach theme to herald in 2018.

Thank you to Andree and Steve for a another great night of fun and dancing.

The club was bathed in a spectacular pink sunset during the seafood night

on the 6th January making it a very special evening for the 100 members and guests who attended. Thank you Vic for serving a beautiful plate of King Prawns, mussels, oysters, smoked salmon, whiting, chips and salad.

Trivia guru Simon Taylor and son Max entertained us with lots of local knowledge questions and tricky tunes at the Trivia Extravaganza on 11th January. Congratulation to the winning team and thanks Taylors for all your hard work.

'Back to the 80s' attracted over 100 people reminiscing over time spent around the trampoline, sailing or in the sand dunes. A fantastic evening for members and everyone involved.

Annual Talent Night

Saturday 27th January

7.30pm (Note time change from program)

Get your act together NOW for this fun evening!

Contact Peter Witnish to register your performance

at pwitnish@gmail.com

or 0409 860 353

No Seat Bookings Required.

Vic's Australia Day Dinner

Friday 26th January

Book with Vic 0450 784 877 by Thursday evening

Family BYO BBQ

Saturday 10th February

Saturday 24th February with 'The Jets'



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