

Sailing at its best

January 2015

What a perfect day for sailing school



Image: Peter Hohaus

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

Editorial: Jill and Tony Duboudin. Tel: 5983 1360 or email jilldoobs@bigpond.com



From the Commodore's Desk

SOMERS hosted the Mirror Dinghy Nationals on the days leading up to New Year. Unfortunately the weather didn't play its part and Tim Rintoul, the race officer, only just managed to complete the requisite four races to constitute a series.

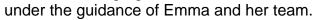
The series began with light variable breezes from all directions. The final race was punctuated with a 53 knot westerly change that hit the fleet as it made its way to the shore after finishing. The rescue crews were very busy rescuing crews tending a great night. Well done to Libby Moore and boats. Fortunately, all crews made it to shore, although the wind resulted in a number of rigging breakages. Congratulations to Mark Nash and daughter on their overall win in the series.

The weather challenges were a constant theme over the Christmas New Year period. We managed to get in two races for the Boxing Day Regatta. With only one race of the Summer Cup being sailed, the series was abandoned. The offthe-beach race suffered a similar fate, although the yardstick pursuit and ladies and novice skippers' races were completed.

We have four of our members competing in the World Tasar titles in Busselton in Western Australia. The Edes have also headed to the west for the Laser nationals with the Stone boys heading for Lake Macquarie for the Mossies.

Discover Sailing Day allowed us to introduce a

number of people to the club, with rides on the SA1 and sailing on offer. A number of new memberships resulted from the day. The sailing school is also in full swing again,



New Year's Eve was a sell out, with 220 atand her social team. The Hollywood theme drew all sorts, and all ages, from movie characters to identities involved in the making of movies. The cast of Wizard of Oz was even spotted in the

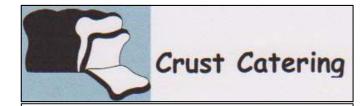
The seafood night, with Vic and his team, was again a great success.

The off-the-beach Westernport Challenge is being hosted by Somers on Sunday 18 January. We are hopeful of again retaining the trophy.

Finally, I would like to express thanks to all members who actively volunteer within the club. Without your valuable contribution, the club would not function. Volunteering takes many forms, from active involvement in sea rescue, bar activities, committee involvement etc. Thanks to

- Jeremy Pearse





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Rear Commodore's report

HAPPY New Year. There's lots of sailing to come.

One of the early New Year highlights was the Discover Sailing Day. Thanks to all those who stepped up to help. Great that we could actually take people out sailing this year as well as dolphin spotting from the rib. And what a good job the skippers did. Big smiles on faces as a number of visitors headed back into the clubhouse to become members! Thanks to all for the success of the day. It helps to keep us an important part of the Somers community.

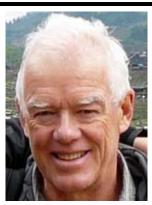
Unfortunately "highlight" doesn't describe this season's Summer Cup. To fit in with the Mirror Nationals, the Summer Cup was scheduled as back-to-back races over three consecutive days. Light conditions meant we only got one race in on day one and then the next two days were blown out ... no Summer Cup this year!

Fortunately, in true Somers Yacht Club spirit, the club was able to rally volunteers and squeeze in enough races for the Mirror Nationals before the heavy weather hit – well almost. The 14 boat Mirror fleet was flattened on the way back to shore by a front with winds of more than 50 knots! A fantastic response by our volunteer rescue crews plus help from members on the beach saw everyone rescued and boats retrieved with minimal damage.

Planning is well advanced for the Westernport Challenge. We are hosting the challenge this year on Sunday January 18. After our success for the past two years it's "all hands on helms" to keep the trophy. Please note you must enter this event online through trybooking.com (http://www.trybooking.com/GOFC) before race day. Do it now!

Western Port Yacht Club is hosting the West-

ern Port Youth Regatta the day before the challenge -Saturday 17 January. This is a coaching regatta designed for all Western Port Sailors under 21. Information and entry is



As I write we have Somers Sailors competing far and wide. I don't have progress results yet for Daniel and Matt Stone but I can report from the Tasar World Titles that Chelsea Haynes was crewing the leading boat after day one. Amanda Nutting is also making us proud in the first 1/3 of the world class fleet while Sean Bly and Caitlin Davies suffered a blow with Sean having gastro. Not a good idea in a small boat! We wish you all well for the remainder of this competitive regatta.

via the Western Port Yacht Club website.

Back home, shame about the Summer Cup but we have managed some sailing including the Boxing Day regatta and the yardstick pursuit was popular as always. Congratulations to all participants and place getters. The Sandy Point Cruise finished satisfactorily too.

Instead of mid-week races this week (second week in January) we have introduced some club training and coaching. The first day was well attended with more than 30 boats!

Weather hasn't stopped the sailing school. By all reports the schools just get better and better. Emma and all your helpers: your efforts are keeping the club young and vibrant. It's great!

Special thanks to all the tractor/rescue boat/race control volunteers over this busy period. We would not be Somers Yacht Club without your continuing contribution. Same goes for all the other things that just get done around the club.

- John Tilleard

Windward newsletter

Editorial copy deadline for the February/March edition is Friday 13 February and at latest Wednesday 18 February



Division 1 report

DRIFTER abandoned, blown out, abandoned has footage on YouTube and facebook. been the catch cry so far this summer. We all eagerly await ideal racing conditions.

tinued to battle for line honours with the outcome dependant on the wind conditions. James Pearse has also been in the mix with race wins in broken boom in one race and retired. In another the Boxing Day regatta.

Other notable newsworthy items have been: Barry Marmion's foiling Stealth sailed by Robbie Lovig had a transom failure which partially submerged the affected hull. While being towed back to shore by one of our ever vigilant patrol boats, the front beam frame was stressed and damaged. Fortunately the damage was all able to be repaired and the Stealth was back in action within a couple of days. It has also had a lot of

Janus Karnowski has got his foiling "A" Class catamaran up and racing again. We believe it to Jeremy Pearse and Brian Gristwood have con- be the third version, it looks fantastic and also looks very fast.

> Justin Prior, sailing Mosquito Mysticat, had a drifter Justin fell overboard and his Mozzie sailed 500 metres back to shore unattended. Rumor has it that the Mozzie has now been renamed "Ghost ship" or perhaps "Mystical".

Michelle Bursa has taken ownership of a Nacra International 17 (new Olympic class catamaran) and has been seen putting it through its paces whenever possible.

- Peter Foulsum

Division 2 report

THE first championship race was abandoned due to unsuitable conditions. The second ended up a bit of a fizzer, as the 5kt breeze finished up as a Okt breeze. Only two of the PT contingent turned up in the name of father and son Ron and Mark Wiggins, mind you the son, Mark is national champion, who seemed to be in another race to all of us, who thought we were red hot PT sailors.

Mark finished 11 minutes ahead of Adam, who finished 20 minutes ahead of Steph, and the only other finisher was Peter Thompson. Mark's dad Ron and Steph had a great tussle all day, with Steph finishing ahead, to only be taken by the tide backwards across the finish line. Phil's chivalrous act of saving his friend Barry Marmion from his sinking Stealth cost him a finishing place. Well done Phil! His protest earned him average points.

The Boxing Day regatta was won decisively by Adam, who after winning the first race from Malcolm, was the only contender in the second in the trying conditions. The yardstick pursuit race was

sailed in very light conditions with Steph leading Malcolm and Steve W home and Eli and Courtney getting bored with the conditions, retired.

Summer Cup1 was again started in about 5Kts with both Steve and Malcolm sailing in a lovely lift right past Steph on the first reach, and getting to the windward well ahead. The challenge was taken up by Steph, who clawed his way back to the lead on the downwind leg and staying there to cross ahead of Malcolm, with Steve retiring for that well-earned beer. Eli and Courtney got bored again.

Summer Cup 2 was abandoned due to lack of wind. Summer cup races 3 and 4 were abandoned due to too much wind while races 5 and 6 were non-events, leaving only one race out of six, so the series also becomes a non-event. The off the beach race also was blown out, so not much racing was done during the holidays.



Division 3 report

LIKE the other divisions, division 3 sailing since the last newsletter has been adversely affected by wind - not too little but too much!

In the Boxing Day regatta, Rob Briggs and Warren Haynes managed a third place in the first race but were rewarded with a broken top section after a capsize before the second race. In both the first and second races, yardstick first place went to Mike Sandiford and Amanda Nutting in his Tasar. Given that both of them are usually skippers, it would have been interesting to have been a fly on the foredeck if there had been conflicting calls! We all know that too many cooks spoil the sailing campaign.

Second place in both races of the Boxing Day regatta went to Nick Carter in his Finn.

While on the theme of too much wind causing havoc, only one of the six Summer Cup races was completed. In race one, the winner was Nick Carter, second Chis Gurney and third place went to Mike Sandiford, sailing in Steve Clifford's Laser.

As for the Championships, as at New Year's Day the success rate was only 50 per cent, with race one lost to the weather and only race two completed. In both yardstick and handicap, the podium positions went to Sean Bly and Caitlin Davies (first), Chris Gurney and Mal Otto (second) and Mike and Anna Sandiford (third).

Several Somers sailors are competing in the Tasar Worlds in Busselton, Western Australia, so we wish them well - although some may be pleased that division 3 will be a bit easier without them!

Good luck to Caitlin Davies, Amanda Nutting, Sean Bly and Chelsea Haynes

- Steve Clifford

Division 4 report

WELCOME to the latest additions to division 4-Simon Taylor in Sabre Bluebottle and Sarah Ashton in Sabre Second Wind. I am sure they will light wind against strong tides but well done to enjoy being part of the largest division and its competitive, but very friendly, racing. There are also at least three new Pacers in the yard that are planning to join the racing soon. We will also have a few division 5 members joining us in Laser 4.7s soon.

Championship series has begun. Race one was blown out but not before a few division 4 sailors had a scary but exciting sail in strong winds and big seas. Race two turned into a twohour marathon drifter with the mid-fleet coming to the front on the last leg as the wind filled in from the east.

The Boxing Day regatta saw some very close short course racing in moderate winds.

Yardstick pursuit was fun but we couldn't even get close to the hot Mirror fleet warming up for

their Nationals!

Summer Cup race one presented us with very Mike Rhodes in Sabre Dance on a very close third place in extremely difficult conditions.

All racing since has been blown out. A few Sabres enjoyed the cruise to Sandy Point.

Division 4 were extremely well represented in some or all of the club coaching sessions this week. Eight Sabres, three Pacers and four Laser 4.7s put in the effort and received the benefit of expert coaching in pretty hot conditions. Well done all and thanks to coaches Robbie Lovig, Phil Johnson and Michelle Bursa.

Unfortunately we have seen bit of damage to division 4 boats over the past week. Mike, Keith and Wendy have all sustained holes of varying sizes to their Sabres. Hope we can all get patched up in time for Championship three!!



Division 5 report

THE weather has certainly been a bit up and down. In between some pretty nasty days, we have had some glorious sunny days. Plenty of Hawks have been out and about and sailing particularly well. A great result was Bodie Carter who won his first race and followed it up with another one. Keep it up Bodie!! I saw some excellent new talent coming through the sailing school so I'm sure racing in division 5 will continue to grow.

The first championship was a tricky race with the NW wind coming and going and finally almost dying all together. Taylor Poon sailed strongly to win from Elly Morris and Lucy Ede. I hope we get a full division for the third championship race. Unfortunately Lucy is away competing in the Australian Optimist Championships in Fremantle. Let's get a full division out for the Westernport Challenge, which this year is at Somers! It's a very exciting day with all the visitors from different clubs around the bay coming to try and knock off the champions, which is the mighty Somers Yacht Club. The small monos just do one big triangle so it's pretty easy to get around.

Over the week after Christmas, our own Lucy Ede and Taylor Poon competed in the Australian Mirror Championships together. They were very competitive and were up with the leaders on several occasions. Their efforts rewarded them with the Australian Junior Title, joining club legends Martin and Scott White who also won during the 70s. Good job girls!

The championships featured 15 Mirrors all of a high standard with multiple title winners from different classes teaming up with their daughters/



Mirror nationals winners Mark Nash and his daughter Maddy survey the silverware.

sons/friends. The racing was fierce but fair. The last day featured three short races in a building breeze with nasty black clouds bearing down on the fleet. They almost got ashore but were caught by 50+knot squalls that turned Westernport into a wind swept washing machine.

Needless to say there were multiple capsizes and some broken masts but importantly the expertise and professionalism of the Somers sea rescue team shone through. They were magnificent in a crisis as they picked up several children who separated from their boats. Somers once again performed at titles. We should all be very proud of our club.

- Nick Ede





Somers sailors at Tasar world titles

FOUR Somers sailors acquitted themselves well at the Tasar world championship at Busselton south of Perth with Chelsea Haynes and James Sly taking 10th spot overall and winning the Youth Championship.

There was a huge fleet of 123 boats from the US, UK, Japan, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Australia.

Amanda Nutting, crewing for Cary Pedicini of Westernport, had a great start to the championships with an 18th placing after crossing the fleet on port tack soon after the start! The huge fleet starts are stressful and pivotal to finishing position.

However, in the last two days of the titles blustery off-shore winds meant that Amanda and Cary dropped back to finish in 46th spot overall.

At the start of the titles sailing conditions were very mixed - ranging from light 5 knots and incredibly hot to afternoon breezes of 24 knots. Chelsea Haynes and James Sly had a great start - winning race one and second in race two.

Sean Bly and Caitlin Davies had an unfortunate start with a major crack in the cockpit (fixed with a few supplies from Bunnings), then Sean had gastro and the main halyard broke on their boat but the pair worked their way back and finished 65th overall.

To add to the excitement the sighting of a white pointer cruising the finish line meant that the race on that day had to be abandoned.

- Amanda Nutting



Somers sailors taking part in the Tasar Worlds from left Amanda Nutting, Sean Bly, Caitlin Davies and Chelsea Havnes



Sean Bly and Caitlin Davies making repairs to their yacht.

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Father Christmas visits the club

FATHER Christmas visited the Yacht Club in early December. We thank Mal Otto and Simon Boadle for using their connections and enabling us to book a timeslot in Santa's very busy timetable. We also thank Senga Gadsden for her assistance in helping Father Christmas to find appropriate gifts for the children.

Thanks to Lisa Tuck and Di Price for collecting and decorating our Christmas tree, and Helen for the chair she has donated for Santa to sit on when he arrives.

- Libby Moore

Right: Hugo Davenport choosing his present from Santa's sack



Youngerset

THE number of children within the club is growing thanks to our active families. We have had a great beach volleyball morning on Sunday 4 January along with our Discovery Sailing day.

The disco was a great night with many chips, drinks and dancing had by children and adults. So many traditional games were played like the limbo, musical chairs and statues. They were all a hit.

Our family film night is going to be a hit also. Keep watching the blackboard downstairs, and the calendar for more family fun BBQs and - Emma Morris younger set events.





Above: Elly Morris bending up some new club dollies.

Left: Enjoying beach volley ball, a change from sailing.







ONE hundred and thirty members and their guest's saw 2015 arrive at the club amidst music and dancing. Vic provided finger food and the bar committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the evening was a great celebration of the end of another year.

Thanks to all the club members and members of the social committee who worked to set up the decorations, assist during the night and clean up the following day. We wish you well for 2015.

- Libby Moore



Above: Rear commodore John Tilleard and his wife Margaret with Simon and Madeline Boadle



New Year's Eve



Above: The Commodore Jeremy Pearse and Jules looking dapper on arrival.

Below right: Rudolf Valentino aka Rob Bartholomew and wife Anne.

Below left: The Taylor family being directed by

a member of the film crew.



Images: Peter Hohaus





Sailing school



Above: Ready for the off: Sailing school yachts on the beach ready for another day of training

WHAT a great five days of sailing school the December course had!

The dolphins came out to greet us every time we sailed with a gentle 10knot winds. The vibe around the club was wonderful with many families helping out moving boats and providing an amazing morning tea each day. All the students surprised the instructors with their abilities and performed skilful moves on the water in the club Pacers and Hawks. Much fun was had capsizing their boats and collecting the rubber ducks around the course as they sailed each day. All students achieved their start sailing Level 1, and five students achieved start sailing level 2.

I am sure our second start sailing course running over the summer break will be just as fun.

Our adult start sailing course starting on Sunday 1 February is nearly full so get your entries in fast if you have not already.

- Emma Morris

Above right: Sailing school pupils get some last minute advice from Emma Morris.

Below right: Sailing school pupils relaxing with ice creams after their time on the water.





Images: Peter Hohaus



Good, bad and ugly - Lisa Tuck

WHEN I was asked to write a piece with this title, I thought I don't really have very many bad or ugly moments to reflect on. Unless I counted poor boat handling skills, being hit in the head during uncontrolled gybes and coming last in races – lots of those.

I have many good memories and very grateful that my parents cancelled Saturday morning sport to make way for family sailing adventures. I smile when I think that Dad built a 125 in the lounge room at Somers and remember the panic when he realised it may not fit out the front door! The only time he upset me when we sailed together was when he'd say "I was very trying" after I'd said "I was trying" with the spinnaker etc. Not enough to jump over board but pretty close!

A bad moment in learning to sail happened during a Mirror visit at Williamstown in the early 70s. Dad was showing me how to put the spinnaker up when we smashed heavily into a moored yacht. I remember there were a lot of screaming and angry fists waved. I think we spilt their beer! Very embarrassing.

Another time during the 70s, Amanda and Diana sailed a Mirror together. During a race they collided with an FJ head on. The collision made a massive hole and took out the right side of the bow, almost a quarter of the boat.

Looking for more inspiration, Simon Morris has just reminded me of the time when I lost my bathers 10 years ago during a donut ride behind his boat – definitely an ugly moment.



Lisa Tuck sailing a Pacer with her Dad, Rod Nutting, sometime in the late 70s.

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Above: Registration for Discover Sailing Day



Above: Sea rescue prepares for another day

Somers summer sailing activity in pictures



Above: Wendy Wilson cooking the snags for Discover Sailing Day

Windward Mark Bar and Bistro

Open every Friday evening for members and their guests. Please book via the Somers Yacht Club website or ring Vic on 0450 784 969 by 5pm on the Thursday.





Above Diane Nutting and her son getting ready for a lovely day at sea.





Above: Emma Morris and her daughter.

Left: Wendy Davies And Libby Moore ready tor the Ladies Skippers race



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Club members have it down to a tee!!!

SATURDAY morning golf has become quite a popular pastime for many SYC members.

The Saturday Morning Amateur Golf club (SMAG) runs a nine-hole men's competition on early Saturday mornings at Cerberus golf course.

It started 10 years ago with just three players -Gerry Lewis, Rob Brewer and myself. As numbers grew five years ago, we started a weekly stableford competition, the brainchild of Alan Har-

wood who designed the competition to suit all levels of golfers from low handicappers through to those who had played little if any golf before.

As word got around the Somers Yacht Club, the SMAG numbers have grown to 24 of which 22 are SsYC members. During the warmer months we typically have 12-18 players on a Saturday morning. We can accommodate a few more but growth will eventually be limited by the timeslot available before the Cerberus members hit off.

competition Alan passed the running of it to me this year. As captain, I am responsible for handicapping and each player is treated in a very objective and fair manner. Well at least I think so. We encourage new starters to the game by giving them a handicap beyond the standard maximum of 36. As they improve and start winning, their handicaps are dealt with accordingly. Handicapping is an often discussed topic on Friday nights at SYC where representations for relief are often made.

Each player contributes to a weekly kitty and may also incur additional fines for a number of reasons including:







- Less than 10 stableford points.
- •Driving short of the ladies' tees.
- •Incorrect completion of cards.
- •Hitting off the wrong tees.
- •Equipment abuse.
- Slow play.
- •Handicapping complaints.
- •Excess of 14 clubs in the bag.
- •Late night strange emails to the captain, and a variety of other misdemeanours.

There is a stableford winner for each round as After successfully establishing and growing the well as longest drive and nearest the pin. There is also a monthly 18 hole winner where we add the best of the front nine and back nine.

> We also arrange occasional mid-week games at other courses such as RACV at Cape Schanck and Flinders.

> At the end of the year we SMAGS get together for our annual lunch and presentations. The winner is judged by having the best aggregate stableford score for five rounds. There are various other awards including a NAGA – say no more.

SMAGS is all about having fun amongst friends with a light hearted competition followed by a few drinks to discuss the morning's play.



Club Contacts

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Commodore	Jeremy Pearse	0419 804 349	alplas@bigpond.net.au
Vice-Commodore	Chris Gurney	0413 433 620	chris.gurney33@gmail.com
Rear-Commodore	John Tilleard	0419 517 193	john.tilleard@ moroka.com.au
Treasurer	John Hatton	5983 5898	hattonjande@bigpond.com
Secretary	Roy Higginson	0408 838 057	royhigginson@bigpond.com
GENERAL COMMITTEE			
Immediate Past Commodore	Malcolm Otto	5983 1431	malndi3@bigpond.com
Social Coordinator	Libby Moore	0413 860 371	elpmoore@gmail.com
Bar Management	Stephen Brown	0407 334 018	stephenbrown48@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Margaret Tilleard	0409 003 136	margaret.tilleard@moroka.com.au

Norm Dewar

Grahame Tiplady

5983 1690

5931 3301

OTHER ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Sea Rescue & Safety Officer

General Committee Member

Honorary Solicitor	Tim Rintoul	5983 1116	timsue.r@bigpond.com	
Clubhouse Booking	Dennis Paskins	0409 480 306	verdenp@bigpond.com	
Facilities Manager	Simon Boadle	5983 5561	boadles@gmail.com	
Race Management	Mark Graham	0417 530 230	markgraham58@gmail.com	
Liquor Licensee	Rob Welch	9592 2597	robwell42@gmail.com	
Web Site Manager	Grahame Tiplady	5931 3301	grahame@ocean-clocks.com	
Sailing school	Emma Morris	0425 784 877	simemmorris@bigpond.com	
Windward Editor	Tony Duboudin	5983 1360	tonyduboudin@bigpond.com	
Bar Roster	Di Nutting	0458 200 778	di.nutting@bigpond.com	
Yard Manager	Peter Foulsum	0415 857 584	foulsums@bigpond.net.au	
Friday Night Dinner	Vic Crust	0450 784 969	vcrust@bigpond.com	
Booking & Catering	(Friday night meals must be booked by Thursday 5 pm)			





dewars01@bigpond.com

grahame@ocean-clocks.com

Return address:

Somers Yacht Club Inc. PO Box 129 Somers Vic 3927