



Windward

Sailing at its best

Date March 2017



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From the Commodore's Desk



It is a real delight to see some exceptional fleet sizes over the last few weeks, especially with so many younger members participating. Congratulations to those who have been in the tower keeping a check on all of us out on the water, and taking the times as several boats of different speeds seek to cross the line at the same time!

Somers sailors have again proved their superiority winning the Westernport Challenge, the Westernport Teams racing and getting three 2nd and one 1st placings in the Westernport Youth Regatta. I was particularly excited to see the success of the two Junior Pacer Regattas which popped on to the program late January.

Once again, our Race Management team, Rescue/course/starting/finishing boat teams demonstrated the professionalism that has become a trademark for Somers in running major titles. However, it is not only on the water that we excel, from the carparking to the social activities, we made our visitors welcome. Thank you to all the members who put their time aside to make the Sabre State Titles a success.

I am pleased to report the Club's finances continue to be better than budget and that we have been able to afford the purchase of a new tractor. On behalf of the Club I would like to thank the Balnarring Branch of the Bendigo Bank for contributing \$5000 to the new tractor. It is important to understand that if you move all or some of your banking, the profits will get returned to the community.

On the subject of governance, you will see in this edition articles on Bar Etiquette and Child Safety.

Please read them, it is important that we act with the highest standards of behaviour and that the Club be seen to be actively demonstrating best practice as prescribed by society.

The final area I would like to draw your attention to is Succession Planning, as a General Committee we are well aware that there are many positions within the Club that currently have no clear successor or second in charge. We have a myriad of committees and individual positions where you may be able to become involved. Positions like choosing and purchasing the trophies, running the rescue boat roster, membership secretary and many others. If you are interested in any position or committee please email me chris.gurney33@gmail.com and we will talk to you and add you to our Succession Planning document.

Bar Etiquette

Somers Yacht Club is fortunate to have a liquor licence and a bar which is staffed by volunteers. It is in our shared interests to conform to the terms of the licence and appreciate the efforts of our Bar Committee, Licensee and volunteer servers.

Other Clubs have been visited by the Police, so here is what I recommend to help safeguard our position.

- All non-members must be signed in
- The bar must call last drinks before 10pm and stop serving at or before 10pm
- All drinks must be consumed by 10.30pm
- All glasses should be returned to the bar
- All bottles should be put in the bins
- Bar staff should be treated with respect

The club will be running Responsible Serving of Alcohol course in the near future, and I would encourage members to get this qualification. If any members have RSA already can they please advise Stephen Brown as we need to keep a register. (Check your expiry dates RSA's can be renewed on line.)

Vice Commodore's report



The Vice Commodore takes responsibility for the club's finances and its facilities. So here's an update on those topics.

On the first of these, I am pleased to confirm that the club's finances are being well looked after by our Treasurer Tim Brock. Finances are in good shape and we have planned for sufficient reserves to fund likely "normal" expenditure. That means that costs such as replacement of the tractor have been foreseen and provided for. Of course there are more major expenditures, such as the proposed lift installation, that can't be funded from normal club revenue (annual subs and fees, bar, clubhouse hire) and will have to rely largely on grants and fundraising.

One source of funds that doesn't come out of members' pockets is hire of the clubhouse. Please check the details on our website and spread the word that the clubhouse is available for hire. Contact Dennis Paskins (0409480306) or Maz O'Connor (0438217002).

Speaking of the tractor, the old faithful Kubota has left the beach for the last time to be replaced by a brand new 4wd Deutz. We thank the Balnarring branch of the Bendigo Bank for contributing to the cost of this essential piece of club equipment. We are once more grateful to Norm Dewar and his helpers for working rigorously through the replacement options. It was an interesting process – starting by searching all over for a suitable second hand machine and ending after many hours on the web, phone calls, inspections and on-site trials by going with an old style, simple but brand new tractor, built in India but carrying a

prestigious German brand. Should we have a christening?

On the day to day management of the clubhouse and the yard, we are indebted to Grahame Tiplady and his helpers who keeps things up to scratch. Thanks to those who helped with two mini working bees to get things looking good for the Sabre Titles. Amongst many other maintenance items, we have new lights in the gents, new blackout blinds at each end of the clubhouse, a newly galvanised gate on the tower steps and new taps in the men's showers. We are almost ready to replace the tattered Somers Yacht Club clubhouse sign and check out the pretty new trophy above the storeroom door courtesy of our teams racing sailors!

The other thing for me to report on is progress with the proposed lift. Following the successful pledge campaign, the committee has decided to go ahead with detailed planning for the lift. We have kicked this off by standing back to think about what changes to the clubhouse are likely to be desirable in the long term – we don't want to end up with a lift in the wrong place! A group of architecturally minded members have got together to sketch out a "master plan" for the clubhouse incorporating a lift and other desirable upgrades. The "master plan" will be presented to the committee at a special meeting over the long weekend. Member's views will be sought after that and I encourage everyone to have a say and get behind this project.

In closing, I attended the sailing school presentation night last week. What a fabulous portent for our club.

Sailability Program

Help needed at Hastings Yacht Club

Hastings Yacht Club urgently needs volunteers to assist with their Sailability programme. They take out people who function quite well physically, but may have an intellectual impairment.

This event occurs twice a month on Thursday mornings and the contact is:

KEVIN 0418 340 733

Meet our new club tractor



Norm Dewar and John Copeland carrying out due diligence on new tractor

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Rear Commodores Report



Hello Sailors!

Plenty of sailing news to report.....

Since I last wrote, Somers has successfully defended our title as Westernport Champions at the Westernport Challenge held at Merricks Yacht Club, sent a large group of sailors to the Westernport Youth Regatta at WYC, held another successful junior pacer regatta on Australia Day, sent a winning team to the Yachting Westernport Teams Racing event at WYC, helped run the Westernport Laser regatta at PLBC and last, but not least, hosted the Sabre State Titles! This is all in addition to running our usual scheduled races and regattas!

The Westernport Challenge held at Merricks YC on Sunday January 22 deserves special mention:

Despite having to postpone from the original date, it was a fabulous day – beautiful weather, great racing and a fleet of 96 boats!

We had 39 boats representing us and some excellent results - 6 of the top 10 places were taken by Somers sailors.

Notable results include:

Brian Gristwood: overall multihull winner, winner Div 1 and 1st place overall.

Adam Gristwood: winner Div 2

Lucy Ede: winner Div 4

Daniel Lavery: winner Div 5

Andrew Robertson second Div 1 and 3rd overall

Sean Bly and Caitlin Davies second Div 3 and 4th overall

Chris Gurney third Div 3 and 6th overall

Michael Vandenberg and Georgia Wood-freeman 9th overall

Simon and Zoe Morris 10th overall,

Mike Sandiford 11th overall

Pat Moore 12th overall

Emma Morris and Maz O'Connor: winner female helm

Elly Morris and Courtney Harvey: winner junior helm

Somers also won the Rod Johnson Memorial Trophy (for the club with the best junior crew – aged under 16)

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Thanks to Norm Dewar, our home race officer, who capably organised everything at the Somers end, and to John Copeland for driving the late entries to MYC on race day.

Thanks also to Garry Morris, Lindsay Pullin, Ross Randell and Michael Wilson for crewing the boats and standing by for the Cowes fleet crossing the bar. A HUGE thank you to Brenda Karnowski who worked very hard and made a huge contribution in the MYC tower in what were very hectic circumstances.

And finally another big thank you to Mark Graham who worked on the results software, went to all planning meetings, was unable to be at the resail but, on his return from Sydney, ironed out all the glitches in the results- with some input from John Tilleard who had been monitoring things very closely.

Many thanks to Merricks YC for hosting a fabulous day!



Rear Commodores Report continued



Back at the Club, Nick Ede (ably supported by Harrison, Caitlin and Robbie) ran a very focused and enjoyable coaching clinic in January, and Emma and her instructors have been running lots more fully subscribed Start Sailing courses for adults and juniors alike!

The Westernport Laser Regatta at Pt Leo Boat Club was held later than usual this season and was a smaller but still very enjoyable event. Congratulations to new Somers member Simon Wilkins for easily winning this – with Richard Jagger and Steve Clifford fighting it out for third place.

The wintry weekend of Feb 18 and 19 saw us hosting the Sabre State titles – a total of 65 entries. Wendy has written more on this elsewhere.



Sabre Championships before the storm

It was fabulous to see our members giving generously of their time to make this a successful series in very trying weather conditions.

I will end my report with an email received from one of the visiting Sabre sailors.....

“Dear Somers Yacht Club,

This little email is to send you all a BIG thank you for a wonderful regatta last weekend. It was seamlessly run, a fantastic vibe and everyone was so helpful we felt like royalty! It really is a pleasure to attend an event, where it is so clear that the focus is creating a great experience for everyone involved. It makes the sailing so much more fun too!

Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved. We will be back! “



Libby Moore in Bob (Left) and Lisa Tuck in Orange Blossom

2017 Victorian Sabre Championship Report

Somers Yacht Club hosted a very successful Sabre States over the weekend of 18th and 19th February. Sixty-five boats from different clubs including Black Rock (14), Blairgowrie (12), Safety Beach (7), McCrae (7), Westernport (4), Albert Park (2), Mordialloc (4), Beaumaris (1), Carrum (1), Mt Martha (2) and of course Somers (11) competed. Ages of the sailors ranged from teens to 85yrs including several two generational families. Pleasingly, 25% of the fleet were female sailors! The Sabre is truly a “one size fits all” class.

Unfortunately the weather was not in the least “Somery” but cold, wet and at times very windy. One of the visitors even suggested that our club should be renamed “Winters”! However the warm welcome, relaxed atmosphere and friendly assistance from the many Somers volunteers resulted in high praise from the visitors!



Sabres surrounding the start boat

Saturday mornings session had to be abandoned without a start due to a wild 25 knot squall, horizontal rain and zero visibility of most of the fleet who had followed the finish boat out to sea after mistaking it for the start boat! Fortunately all five races were eventually completed thanks to excellent race management. Well done RO Mark Graham and team including the finish boat provided by Hastings YC!

The competition was fierce at the front of the fleet with many hot sailors including several past world and national champions. They revelled in the strong winds and big swells. Most of the visitors were unfamiliar with our strong tides and a few entertained us with their very close encounters with the top mark! Unusually for this fleet, there wasn't a single general recall but several boats copped a U flag disqualification. Tim Vander Veen (BRYC) was a very popular series winner, with Gary McLennan (BRYC) second and Murray O'Brien (MCYC) third.

So, how did the local sailors go in the 15-22 knots and big waves? Harrison (in Patrick's “Kung Fu Papo”) sailed exceptionally well, proving Sabres are not just for old folks and fin-

ishing 14th overall and 2nd Youth! Steve (in Alan's “Mae”) was one of only 3 Somers boats to complete all 5 races and won the >90kg prize (hope he will keep his weight up to defend his title next year!)! Wendy had a spectacular downwind capsize in race 1 and had to be rescued by her husband Michael and Lindsay, but managed to stay upright for the rest of the series. Janus (in Bart's “Sea Sword”) was going well until being struck down by leg cramps. However a quick trip ashore for some magnesium tablets, tonic water and TLC from Brenda allowed him to return out for Race 3. Libby sailed solidly in the first 2 races despite feeling the cold. Grahame, who unfortunately wasn't feeling well, still managed to finish a race, even after a capsize. Simon and Dennis also finished the first race whilst Karen, Lisa and Stephen did well to negotiate the 60+ boat start line and sail part of the first race in difficult conditions. Well done to them for “having a go outside their comfort zone” and also later providing enormous assistance with getting the large fleet safely ashore through the shore break.

Many Sabre sailors have asked to express their thanks to Somers YC for their warm welcome and a great weekend of sailing. Most commented on were the little extras provided such as “all the welcome signs”, “help with boat unloading and parking”, “great pasta meal on Saturday night”, “free tea and coffee”, “sailors kept well informed through announcements”, “billets for anyone wanting to stay overnight”, “help to safely launch and beach boats”, “lovely afternoon tea on Sunday” and “lots of smiling faces!” Well done to Amanda and her army of volunteers!

Wendy Wilson



Approaching the Windward Mark

Division 1 Report—Peter Fulsom

Championship race 3 was a long light wind race won by Brian Gristwood with a race time of 126 minutes. Justin and Gina had the misfortune of losing their rig which was traced back to a keeper ring that came detached and caused the side stay to depart the chainplate.

Westernport Challenge

A small but dedicated group of Division 1 sailors took to the water and sailed across to Merricks for the re-scheduled Westernport Challenge. The group consisted of Brian Gristwood, Andrew Robertson, Janus Karnowski, Michelle Bursa and Robbie Lovig, Emma Morris and Maz O'Connor, Simon and Zoe Morris, Elly Morris and Courtney Harvey, Justin Prior and Gina Webster, Meagan Bursa and Chelsea Haynes and Andy Griffin with James Pearse crewing. Great to see James back from New Zealand for a brief visit.

Conditions were light and variable and it paid to check which side of the course the wind was favouring. Brian tacked off onto port, immediately after the start, got good wind, was the 3rd catamaran to the windward mark and never looked back from there. Meagan and Chelsea were a bit too keen and were OCS at the start. Janus had an encounter with a wayward Hobie 16 for the 2nd year in a row this time during the race and causing extensive damage to both bows. It was a clear Port/Starboard incident with Janus on starboard. Luckily the bows are sacrificial and didn't prevent Janus from completing the race.

Congratulations to Brian Gristwood who won division 1 and was 1st overall. Congratulations also to Andrew Robertson who was 2nd in division 1 and 3rd overall, Emma Morris; winner female skipper and Elly Morris; winner junior skipper. Congratulations to all competitors who helped Somers Y.C. retain the Westernport Challenge. We must be close to keeping the trophy for good !!

Williams Point/Commodores cup

Fair winds, sunny skies and short courses with 5 races over 2 afternoons saw Brian Gristwood clean up. A great couple of afternoons racing.

Championship race 4 saw Brian Gristwood clean up again with Janus Karnowski win on Handicap. Well done to you both. Griffio broke a rudder fitting on the way out to the start line and had to retire. Replacement of the fitting is still in progress since it has to be sourced and fitted in Perth. Perhaps we will see Andy back on the water for race 6 or 7 of the Championship series.

Mayhem and carnage was the theme of the **Championship race 5**. Morgan Carter had a collision on the start line with Justin Prior. Morgan on port tack ran into the side of Justin on Starboard. Morgan was trying to bear away to go behind Justin but the wind strength was just too great. Consequently Morgan tore the port bow off his Mosquito and left 2 holes in Justin's port hull. It appears that Morgan is keeping a family tradition going. Nick Carter had a similar start line incident a few years ago!!



Janus thought better of the conditions, rigged up but never left the yard. Andrew had a keeper ring detach which resulted in the pin departing from his side stay and consequently saw his rig fall down immediately after tacking. Same theme as Justin and Gina in race 3.

We welcome Peter Dalton to the fleet with his newly purchased classic A class. Peter was seen out practicing prior to the start of race 5 and joined the fun and action completing the race and coming in 3rd on yardstick. Not bad for 1st time out after a long break from sailing !!

Peter Foulsum

Division 2 Report—Steph Schwarz

What a beautiful day Championship 3 was sailed in sunshine, 10kt SW breeze and dolphins. We had 13 entrants in Div II, with 6 PT's. Emma and Maureen took off with Simon and Zoe in hot pursuit, but Steph reached the windward in front of Simon. There were quite a number of place changes during the race, due to wind shifts and tide readings. Emma and Simon finished in front of Steph who was overtaken by Stan just before the end. Stan hasn't sailed for quite some time, so watch out for him. Malcolm finished in front of Phil, then Meagan and Madie, Adam Smith and Jet, Steve W, then Maz, Eli and Gen, Peter T and Steve Schaper, with Simon B not starting as his rudders were not operable. Williams Point and Commodores Cup again was sailed in beautiful conditions, and after the five races the results were very interesting, with Peter T coming 3rd on yardstick and 2nd on handicap. Another great day's sailing for the 4th Champ. Race saw Simon B showing us all the way with Phil close behind, then Simon M and Zoe and the rest of us. After some well received coaching from the PT gurus in the morning in very light conditions, the afternoon's racing was in about 20kts, and sorted the men from the boys, as four of them seemed to be in another race as they were so far in front of Phil who revelled in the heavier conditions, then Keith Deed, one of the more senior PT sailors, who was followed by Phil who had to retire, then Simon B, closely followed by Steph, Malcolm, Glen, and Peter T. It was great to have the friendly and helpful PT guys sail with us, and we hope they come soon again. As there was no sailing the following weekend when the Sabres braved the heavy conditions, Champ 6 was sailed in beautiful Sunny Somers Summer conditions starting in 5 Kts and finishing in 15Kts. Malcolm had a cracker start next to the Hobies, and in the light conditions the PT's were right up with them, and one even beat them to the first windward. There were some serious place changes during the race, with Emma and Tegan leading the field from Steph then Simon and Zoe. Simon B, Malcolm led Stan, then Elli and Gen, Meagan and Maddi, Peter T, Jack H, Mat Wilmot and Lachlan and Edward in the Maricat.

Steph Schwarz

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Division 5 Report—Wendy Wilson

Division Five has enjoyed great sailing weather and racing in recent weeks.

Nick Ede in “Soloman” has dominated yardstick in the early races of the Championship Series but has had a few close ones in recent weeks with Sabre wins by Grahame in “Lyverbird” and Wendy in “Heartbeat”. Nick currently has a convincing series lead on Yardstick.

Diana has had some great results in Pacer “Rascal” with her new crew- Bridget or Cheryl- lots of laughter in that boat this season! New member Karen in Sabre “Longtide” continues to improve every week. Tim, Libby, Alan, Patrick, Dennis and Stephen have sailed their Sabres regularly with some great Handicap and Yardstick results. Tim in “Old Tiger” is currently leading the series on Handicap. We haven’t seen much of the other Pacers (especially Ant??), the 125 and Vagabond in the Championship Series- where are you all? It has been great to see the Club Pacers raced by new and old members in Division Five.

Looking forward to fair winds and fun racing for the rest of the season



Daniel Laverty (right) training in his Opti at Mornington



Daniel and other Opti sailors in training on Port Philip Bay

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Laser Traveller—Simon Wilkins

NSW/ACT Laser Masters Championship 18-19th February

On Thursday 16th February, I headed off on a two-day road trip up to NSW to take part in the NSW/ACT Laser Masters Championship. The venue was Great Lakes Sailing Club on Wallis Lake near Forster. 114 Laser sailors, including four current world champions, had come for the event, including a handful from QLD and one VIC Laser from Somers YC. Not surprisingly I was told I had travelled the furthest to be there.

Conditions were tricky all weekend with 15-20 knot NE breeze rising to 20-25 knots at the end of Saturday. The temperature was 30C+ which meant that lake spray was warm! The Lasers were divided into fleets of 4.7/Radials (49 boats) and Standard rigs containing 65 boats.



Saturday morning-My boat 198120



My Laser 198120 next to my
older brother's Laser

The first three races on Saturday were hard work as the wind increased and a short-ish line made starts 'interesting' (read incredibly chaotic!). Every start had 1 or 2 general recalls and numerous black flag victims (luckily, I wasn't one of them). These were the first big fleet starts I had had in the Laser since a UK National Championships in 1991. Just to complicate things, there was weed everywhere! After the racing a huge storm came through on Saturday night which made camping fun!



Sunday (wind about 15 knots SW) featured three more races with a longer line but still a few more general recalls. Although the wind was slightly less, the weed seemed to have increased leading to everyone having to check their center-board and rudder every few minutes. This was the main complaint of the sailors over the weekend, otherwise the venue and setting were fantastic.

Just after everyone got off the water on Sunday afternoon another huge electrical storm came over the lake and drenched everyone packing up and sent the prize giving under cover. The Masters category (45-54 years) and standard rig fleet was won by current World Laser Masters Champion- Brett Beyer. As for me, I finished 37th out of 65 Standard rigs which wasn't as high up as I had hoped. The highlight of my weekend was being 10th to the first mark in the 3rd race on Saturday in the big fleet including two world champions, and my lowlight was in the same race doing a massive capsized downwind and getting cramp while in the water after 3 hours sailing in windy weather!

Much more practice needed before I head off to the VIC State Laser Championships 18/19th March, the UK Laser Masters Nationals in June, and the South Pacific Laser Masters in Brisbane in July!

Results here http://laser.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/NSW_ACT-Masters_19_Feb_2917_Fleet.html

Sailing School Report

With the close completion of our adult sailing course, we have had another great season for our sailing school. Our adults are exceptionally skilled now at sailing the pacers, tacking and gybing confidently around a triangle course. With many of our students being new members, they certainly have developed good friendships through many hours on boats together. There is nothing like building friendship by going through challenging tasks together, capsizing, experimental learning, and tacking up wind when it keeps shifting around a little.



Harry Taylor in The Bic

We have seen many of our students from this season regularly booking pacers and out on the water during race days. Many have taken the challenge of joining in on the races, with thanks to our SA2 rescue boat helping them around the course for the first time. The best way to learn is with more time on the water, so get on the website and book a Pacer. These boats are available to make that process of learning to sail easier for our members.

Our annual games and presentation night for the sailing school was much earlier this year, to keep the momentum going, and what a great night it was. With 80 plus people sharing a carvey dinner together, a short presentation for the junior sailors, then down to the

real stuff. The Games! The children did not get all the fun, with the adults having a turn in the 'crazy hockey game'. The hall was loud with cheers and laughter. The comment was made "I never thought it would be so funny watching a kid throw a shoe!" The night all had to end too fast, and much disappointment was expressed for we had no time for the Wizz Fizz game. I promise it will be played after lunch on the Sunday 19th March of the Great Land Race.

A little note that next season we have an exciting nationals event at Somers over the new year period, so the sailing school most likely will be pushed back all into January.



**Stay at Home Regatta Winners
Will, Jack, Luca, Will and Benjamin**



**Lucy Laverty after
her first sail in the
Opti
Green Fleet**



Somers Yacht Club Juniors

What has been spotted at the club lately?

Spotted, Matilda and Will collecting seaweed on their way to the Westernport challenge, looking for live bate.

Spotted, The biggest fleet from Somers for the Westernport Challenge.

Spotted, A new contender in the yard, or has it just been away to long and given a makeover. Nick get on the water now, before the season ends!

Spotted, 83 boats sailing on the 3rd Championship.

Spotted, Amanda talking to herself 'about to tack, tacking!' in a one man boat.

Spotted, White debris on the beach at Somers, looks a bit like a mozzie hull!

Spotted, 14 Pacers racing in the Junior Pacer Regatta on Australia Day.

Spotted, a new A Class in the yard. Watch out, in his younger years he won a lot of trophies that Pete Dalton!

Spotted, a lime green hobie now joining Division 2.

Spotted, a new tractor, in an SYC colour roaming the club.

With Australia Day attire seen on many of our younger sailors, the Junior Pacer Regatta saw 14 Pacers hit the water for some great competition. A total of 32 juniors crewed the boats around a windward leeward course, with the start/ finish line fixed half way up the beat. Spectators could see it all with the course set between the club and A mark. All races were only two laps, with a total of 5 races held for the morning and then we hit the club for a BBQ lunch together. To cater for our varied ability on the course and keep in with the Australia Day theme, we made a rule of if you hit, or were hit by our big inflatable thong during any time of the race, you had to do a 360 penalty. This was a great tool to keep the fleet together for close racing. Maureen and Diana did I think have too much fun perfecting their thong launching at the lead boats. Sorry Harrison and Lucy, you just were too fast.

Many recent graduates from sailing school are racing in Division 6, with amazing talents and dedication showing. This time on the water with our SA2 coach boat in close range, is proving to be worthwhile for these young sailors. Showing great new talent lately is Jemima Wilson, Will Morgan, Luka Mrkusich, Charlotte Strome and Alice Matherson. Every time they hit the water it brings new challenges and experience for them to grasp.

Somers Great *land* race.

What is it?

It is a fun race for all ages involving navigation, on foot, walking or running around the Somers area collecting check points and doing small tasks along the way to gain further points.

Your team of 2-4 people will be supplied with a map marking many of the check points, but not all. Some may only be found by solving riddles for their location. Extra points may be scored along the way by doing further task. These maybe physical or mental challenges.

You will have a limited time of just under 2 hours to gain as many points as possible around Somers, and will not want to be late back, as a harsh penalty will be given for late arrivals home.

It is for **all** members of Somers Yacht Club, juniors **and the not so junior!** If you are under the age of 10 we request that your team has an adult to help you along the way. Each team will need a phone that can take photos along the way.

A small presentation will be held after and a BYO BBQ lunch for people who would like to stay and tell of their tales and adventures they had.

So get your team together, create a name and sign up on the sheet on the downstairs white board. Sign up can also be on the day before 10am.

Teams Racing—Sean Bly



Six Somers sailors, aptly names the Birds of Spray, competed at the Westernport Teams Racing Regatta, competing against nine other teams from Westernport, Merricks and Flinders.

For those unfamiliar with teams racing, it is a format of racing, where two teams consisting of three boats (typically Pacers) compete together in a race, where the results of each team are combined to decide the winner. The races are usually sailed over a very short (5-10 minute) course, in the form of a starboard 'box' course. Racing is adjudicated by on-water umpires, who give out penalties to boats who infringe on rules. The format puts a premium on tactics, as well as boat speed.

The regatta consisted of two fleets of five teams, racing in a round-robin format. The SYC Birds of Spray sailed to an undefeated 4-0 lead, and the lowest score in the history of the regatta, and were one of two teams to remain undefeated through the round-robin series. This allowed the team to proceed straight to the Grand Final, and watch the racing from the shore to determine who our opponents would be.

Watching from the shore, it quickly became clear that the intensity of the final series had gone up a notch, with close racing and strong tactics apparent.

The Grand Final came down to the Birds of Spray from Somers versus the WYC Punters from Westernport Yacht Club, in a best of three series.

Race 1 came down to the final beat, with Somers narrowly losing to Westernport 2,3,6(11) to 1,4,5(10), with Alex Jurovic finding the necessary boat speed to overtake Sean Bly & Susannah Gillam on the final beat to ensure victory. 1-0 to Westernport.

Race 2 came down to excellent tactics from Somers to win

the start, and round the top mark in 1,2,3. Sean & Susannah then managed to slow the three Westernport boats to allow the Bursa sisters, with Wendy and Amanda crewing to sail to an unassailable lead, with the race going to Somers 1,2,4(7) to 3,5,6(14). 1-1 tie, with the Grand Final going down to the final race.

Race 3 was Teams Racing at its finest, with tactical plays throughout the race. Westernport got off to a flying start, and led around the first mark with a 1,3,4 combination. Sean & Susannah in 2nd, managed to slow down the two Westernport boats, causing one to give away a penalty and do a 720, allowing Michelle and Meagan to overtake into 2nd and 3rd, giving Somers a 2,3,4 combination.

With fantastic boat speed, Michelle managed to mow down the 1st place Westernport, and draw a penalty against them, again forcing the Westernport team to do a 720, allowing Meagan and Sean to overtake into 1,2,3 winning combination.

One would think that it would be over by then, but with one beat to the finish to go, Westernport managed to pull back into a leading position of 1,2,4 only metres from the finish. However, a brilliant manoeuvre from Meagan, calling starboard on two Westernport boats, allowed Sean to overtake. This resulted in victory to Somers with a 1,3,6(10) to Westernport 2,4,5 (11), and an overall victory to Somers 2-1 over Westernport.

Besides the close racing and tactical duels, it was a great opportunity to compete against sailors of ages racing against each other. In fact, one of the sailors in the Grand Final was 85 years old, and still sails every weekend, whilst the beach was swarming with many young kids running around between their races. It just goes to show that Teams Racing is a great discipline, and a way for sailors of all ages to bond and compete against each other outside the cut & thrust of fleet racing. I highly encourage anyone who is interested to come and try Teams Racing at one of the many events that Somers runs throughout the year.

Somers Birds of Spray:
Wendy Wilson
Amanda Nutting
Michelle Bursa
Sean Bly
Susannah Gillam
Meagan Bursa





Somers Yacht Club

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Somers Yacht Club is committed to Child Safety

- ⇒ We want children to be safe, happy and empowered.
- ⇒ We support and respect all children as well as all members of our community.
- ⇒ We have a zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our policies and procedures.
- ⇒ We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.
- ⇒ Our organisation is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.
- ⇒ Somers Yacht Club is committed to educating its members on child abuse risks and ensuring all checks are in place when employing staff and volunteers.
- ⇒ We support and respect all children, as well as our members.
- ⇒ We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with disabilities.

If you have any concerns about Child Safety at Somers Yacht Club please contact the Child Safety Officer Emma Morris on 0425 784 877

If you believe a child is in immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

Updated January 2017



Wendy Wilson in Sabre States



Harrison Ede in Kungfu Papu

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Social News



Easter Bunny

Our next social event is a family BBQ on Saturday April 15 and of course the visit by the Easter Bunny on Easter Sunday at 10am.

Labour Day Hobie Championships



Emma, Tegan, Megan and Maddi at the Hobie States in Mcrae on the Labour Day Long Weekend

Benjamin a winner with his dad, Simon in a Pacer at the Stay at Home Regatta



Club House Bookings

The Sailing Club Committee are very keen to promote the Hiring of the Club House, and its facilities.

That is to club Members, who receive a considerable discount, but ideally to the wider community whose fees obviously are a most welcome addition to the Club's revenue.

The Committee are conscious that these "functions" cannot impinge on normal Sailing activities, nor our own Social events.

Therefore we would ask all members that they promote the Club in this way. They should emphasize that, although there are some restrictions on dates, and times, the committee will work hard to satisfy those seeking a hire date.

The initial contact can be made either through myself or any committee member, and they can be assured that it will be followed up, with hopefully a positive result.

Members should keep in mind the following, any catering would be handled by Vic. 18th or 21st Parties, are not allowed.

Hirers can provide their own Liquor, but would require a licence for the event, or can possibly negotiate a deal with the bar committee.

Dennis Paskins
Booking Officer 0409 480 306

On-Line information

Somers Yacht Club Web-site :

- ⇒ Committee :
- ⇒ Other Important Contacts:
- ⇒ Club House Hire



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Race officer Tim Rintoul presenting medals to the winners of Division 5 on Saturday March 11th Di Nutting and Zoe Warnbrunn





Club Contacts

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OTHER ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

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