



# Windward

**SAILING AT ITS BEST**

**Summer 2023**



Hot Somers Ball. Fairy lights and silky drapes adorned the clubhouse for our young sailors who swapped their wet suit for formal elegance.

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## From the Commodore's Desk



Greetings everyone!

As I write we are well underway with another busy summer at the Club. It is pleasing to see events well attended again after the past impacts of covid. Since season opening we have had many successful functions – Santa's visit by boat, new members welcome function, New Year's Eve, Trivia night, family BBQs and most recently, our annual Sea-food night.

On the sailing front we have had a pretty good season so far - having completed most scheduled races, cruised to Pt Leo, run our usual novelty sailing events over the Christmas period and competed in teams racing at WYC – where it was great to see so many of our Somers juniors getting involved. This year it was our turn to host the premier sailing event on our bay – the Westernport Challenge. It was fabulous to have 90 boats entered for this event – Somers had a huge turnout with 47 entries. We managed to hang onto the shield – well done everyone!

I just love this event with all the Westernport clubs coming together. It feels quaint and very friendly, shades of old fashioned values. I have fond memories of sailing in this race – with the same format - over many years - actually since I was about ten (!). I doubt there is a race around like this - certainly not in Victoria - with so many boats and such a variety of classes all going around the one set of buoys – makes for hectic race control! Many thanks to Dianne and Mark Graham for coming back to run this busy event for us.

Emma Morris and her band of capable instructors – all from our youth cohort - have now run an amazing NINE sailing school courses for juniors - with adult sailing school on weekends still to come. We are fortunate to have this model which uses our

own members, as we are not dependent on Australian Sailing to send boats and instructors who then not around when the course is finished. Our sailing school attendees will continue to see their instructors around the Club and can use our Club boats on a casual basis when they are up to it.

The Youth Committee has been very active this season running various games nights, Iron man, a successful Hot Somers Ball - and they are about to set off on an all-clubs youth adventure sail to Flinders with camping overnight! Again, an old fashioned but fabulous type of activity on Westernport. It is great to see this group so active – they are the future of our Club.

Wendy Wilson has yet again organised a busy SWISH summer so far – on occasion we have had 28 women and girls involved – an important entrée into our club for many in this group.

As I write we are in the final stages of planning the female helm coaching SASSY regatta – a good step up with those who want coaching for racing. Sadly we have had many sea rescue volunteers pull back this season due to ill health – and we are actively training new volunteers. If you could possibly help in this area please see Simon Morris.

Gerry Lewis has been a stalwart member of the start boat for many years. We will sorely miss him and Judy - also a regular bar volunteer after racing - when they move up to town for their next adventure. We wish them all the best.

As a volunteer club we are only as good as the people who put their time and effort into running the myriad facets of Club life – including sailing and racing administration, yard management, clubhouse and bar management, social activities, technology support, membership, youth activities etc.

Have a look at the organisational chart around the Club – you will see that there are many people who have put their hand up to help. If you might be interested in getting involved in some way - small or large- please approach a Flag Officer or member of General Committee to find out more.

See you around the Club!

Amanda

## Vice Commodore's Report



What a season so far! Both on and off the water, there has been a lot of action in and around the club. I've particularly enjoyed seeing the number of youth activities taking place, from movie nights to beach games, culminating in the adventure cruise to Flinders. It's a testament to the Youth committee and their adult supporters. Thank you for all your efforts.

In contrast to the past two seasons, things feel... uneventful (in a good way!). Starting this season has been a breath of fresh air after all the false starts and interruptions we encountered at the beginning of the last two seasons.

Our tower team also put in a request for more fresh air. Along with some new carpeting, we have now upgraded the tower with a new air conditioner for those hot summer days.

Additionally, the barbeque was upgraded just in time for the family barbeques over summer. The barbeque heats more evenly whilst making it safer to use thanks to new burners, knobs and an ignition switch. Thanks to Grahame Tiplady for his work on the barbeque and air conditioning and to David Goble and Mal Otto for the tower carpets.

A small group got together before Discover Sailing Day to perform a small working bee throughout the club, boat yard and Yard Arm. The club looked fantastic for all our visitors after a mow around the yard, some weeding and sweeping in the Yard Arm and some hard work to clean the windows. Thanks to those who helped out – Mike Rhodes (and Andy Griffin), Amanda Nutting, Steve Clifford, Mike Sandiford, Wendy Davies and Nigel Beddoe.

There are a few small projects also in flight behind the scenes (aren't there always!) so keep your eyes out for them.

On the finance front, the club remains in a strong financial position. Our cash balance has remained stable over the past twelve months, with sufficient funds available to make repairs to our facilities and rock wall if required. I want to thank our Treasure(r) Tim Brock, who dedicates countless hours behind the scenes managing our accounts amongst the other supporting roles he takes on.

Last but not least – anyone who has visited our club in the previous two years will attest to the excellent cuisine that Jill Midlovets, our resident caterer, has created. On Friday evenings, during the season on Saturdays, at club events and at several private gatherings held at the club, Jill and her daughters have provided and continue to deliver food of the finest quality. Sadly, Jill will be finishing up with the club at the end of the season. We will have an opportunity to properly thank Jill for the service she has provided to us. In the meantime, I encourage you to come down to the club on a Friday night and enjoy a glass of whatever you fancy coupled with a meal.

Sean Bly



Members enjoying a sausage perfectly cooked by Maz O'Connor on the new barbeque.





## Rear Commodore's Report



Hi again,  
Somers Yacht Club is a hive of activity, with a large range of social sailing, racing and sailing school activities. And of course this wouldn't have been possible without all of our amazing volunteers.

The 2023 Westernport Challenge, held at Somers Yacht Club was a huge success with 91 entries and an impressive 48 of those entries from Somers. All sailors brought their A game and Somers put up a strong performance, winning the Perpetual Shield. Special mention must go to Pat and Cary Pedicini who won overall monos in their Tasar, great results as well for Nick Carter and Matt Stone.

Teams racing at Balnarring gave our sailors the perfect opportunity to practice their rules and protests. With a warm sunny day and a light breeze, Somers sailors placed 1 st in Division 2 and 3, while the Division 1 team put up a good fight. An amazing effort to everyone who made the effort to go and represent Somers Yacht Club.

This season has brought a record number of sailors racing in Division 1, with 25 boats entered in the championship series. Many of them are new Hobie 16 owners keen to test the speed of the boat on the race course.

In Division 2, numbers are steadily building as many youth are jumping onto Hobie 14s or giving their Dragoons a good salty swim. Division 3 and 4 are demonstrating some very close and competitive racing as the Tasars, Impluses and Lasers have large fleets and experienced skippers. In Division 5 it is great to see boosted numbers and we hope to keep the momentum going!

Moving onto Division 6, we have a lot of amazing young sailors in our club who have just graduated the Sailing School Start Racing course. However we're yet to see most of them out on the race course. Amazing effort to Ava, Finn, Henry, Hector, Arthur and Eliza who have been getting out there and giving it a go!

Social sailing: We had a great series of social sailing events prior to Christmas with lots of people turning up to sail on their boats or using the club boats. Combined with this we had free sailing coaching by our own expert coaches. A lot of Hobie 16 and Dragoon sailors took advantage of this and got some great advice leading up to the nationals. We also ran patrol boat and tractor training at the same time. A lot of members took the opportunity to practice backing the rescue boats into the water with others then taking them out for course setting practice.

Sea Rescue: Great to see new faces driving all the rescue boats and a special thanks to Gerry Lewis (and partner Judy in the bar) for his constant leadership in SA4 running the start boat. Gerry and Judy are moving away from Somers in early February; we will miss you greatly.

Simon Morris





## Division One

The weather gods have been good so far this season with only a handful of races abandoned due to high winds or poor visibility.

### Westernport Challenge 14 January

Somers as the host club was well represented in division 1 with more than half the fleet (18 of the 31 yachts). The race was run in shifting wind conditions and around 5 to 12 knots.

Matt Stone placed 3rd in the division 1 catamarans with Brian Gristwood 8th and Andrew Robertson 10th.

The next 9 places were taken by Somers yachts mainly consisting of Hobie 16s.

Emma Morris placed 3rd in the Female Skipper results with Zoe and Matilda taking 4th and 5th making it a family affair. Gautier Labat placed 2nd in the Junior Skipper results. Well done to all the skippers and their crews.

Unfortunately it just wasn't the ideal conditions for the Hobie 16s but they helped Somers regain the trophy. A great club effort.

### Club Races

Twenty-eight entrants in the Pre-Christmas series and 25 entrants in the Championship series to date shows the strength of division 1. Racing has gener-

ally been conducted in 10 to 15 knots with the exception of Championship race 1 which started in a 15 to 20 knot Northerly which just kept building. Well done to those who stayed out and weathered the marginal conditions. Well done to the race officers and patrol boat crews for setting proper courses and keeping a watchful eye over us all.

All club race results can be found on the yacht club website.

### Points of interest and other news items

On the starting line or anywhere else on the course the windward yacht keeps clear of the leeward yacht.

The club owned Hobie 16 has been in much demand and is regularly used in club races.

Matt Stone finished 2nd at the recent Mosquito National titles in the Spinnaker division. Justin and Gina finished 4th in the sloop division and 1st on Handicap. Well done to you all.

Nick Carter has bought an A Class catamaran and we will see him contesting the Division 1 Autumn series.

Pete Dalton has returned from the Northern Territory and is back racing his A Class Catamaran.

Peter Foulsum





## Division Two.

The season has started out great for division 2 with more Dragoons and new 14s out on the water racing. The juniors are now taking over this division and getting competitive!

We have seen Tom Lowe and Harry Chiu pick up their game since nationals in Vincentia and getting their boat flying. There has been a new team on the water with Henry Hutchinson skippering and Luca Twist crewing on the Dragoon and they will definitely be a pair to watch out for in the future. The

Hobie 14s are gaining numbers and becoming more regular on the water. The fastest of them all being Tim Chiu, with the newest boat by far in the fleet. There is a lot of retro Hobies with coloured hulls making an appearance. The best looking boat of them all would have to be Arija Crouch's beautiful polished red hulls and matching sails.

Watch out Paper Tigers!

Matilda Morris



Hobie Barbie

Div two has been enjoying a resurgence this season, with the Hobie 14's, Hobie 14 Turbos, Hobie Dragoons and the occasional Paper Tiger. We have enjoyed the eventful racing with many learning experiences. With old crews converting to new skippers on Hobie 14's, the fun never stops, whether it is at SASSY, Social Sailing, or Saturday racing.

Abi Beddoe



## Division Three.

The start of this season has seen pretty good conditions with most of the bad days occurring while I was unable to sail!

The Finn and Tasar have continued their good form in light winds with an outstanding showing in the Westernport Challenge. Pat and Cary in the Tasar (how do they go so fast in the light!), won the monos, Nick Carter was second in the Finn and Amanda was first female skipper (and crew) in her Tasar.

Patrick Moore and I are duking out the Contenders with Patrick currently showing a speed edge after our change to Irwin sails. Harrison is showing great light wind speed but fades as the wind builds. I suspect more tuning is required! Nick Wood-Freeman has been spending too much time in his Hobie 16 and the rescue boat to tell where he is at!!

In the Tasars, the SASSY event turned out to be a useful day with Katrina and Lynden's boat and Clare and Daniel's boat having some breakdowns but looking at the up side it was not on a race day, no serious damage and in Clare and Daniel's case it exposed some pretty major tune issues that were resolved during lunchtime and they looked WAY better in the afternoon of racing and expectations are high of a performance lift.

In further Tasar news, rumour has it that Mike Sandiford may be back in a new (to him) boat in which he will plan to rejoin Div 3 next season. With a bit a bit of luck and the usual sharing with the up and coming crews, we should see the Tasar back as a real force in the club as they have been in previous years. This will be a fabulous development as we have been a little light on for numbers this season since the Impulses have moved to Division 4. The Tasar and Contender are similar speed which should make the racing interesting!

Stewart has got a new North sail for his Hadron and is showing good form even this early on in the light. His challenge will be to extend this form on the heavier days.

Michael Vandenberg  
Now or Never  
Contender 2678



Phil Schwarz takes his very experienced sailor father for a spin.





## Division Four.

It's been lots of fun in the new Div 4. And most of us have delighted in 3 laps instead of 4!

Div 4 now mainly comprises Impulses (large sail and small), Laser Radials and 125s: a tight yardstick spread of 118.5 (for the Laser Radial and the Impulse) to 123 (for the 125).

Lots of lessons are to be learned from the close racing in this new Div 4: great sailing with lots of tight tussles around the course as the different boats and skippers try to capitalise on the various advantages that skill and boat can offer.

Some of the skills that have proved important are:

- ☐ knowing where the start line is (John!) and
- ☐ knowing when it's time to head to the finish (Mal!).

The Club Championship is starting to focus Skipper's attention. It's going to be interesting to see how the small-sail Impulse measures up against the full-sail Impulse, and whether a Laser Radial can pip them both.

John Tilleard



Justine Swann and Sarah Phillips up close and personal with a 125 centreboard.!





## Division Five.

Sailors in Sabres, Pacers and a Laser 4.7 have been enthusiastic participants in Division 5 this season. The new course, which is slightly smaller than last season, allows sailors to compete keenly whilst completing the race in a shorter time.

Unsettled conditions have not been conducive to racing. There has been a mixed bag of success with Matt Otto and Freddie or Eliza, Lachie and Ava Otto, Lucy Lafferty, Wendy Wilson, Glenn Abbot, Terry Skitt, Lisa Nutting, John Hyslop and Anthony Cross, Libby and Keith

Moore and Caz and Lil Healy all competing keenly for line honours and handicap placings.

Members are encouraged to enjoy a racing experience by hiring our club Pacers and participating in Division 5 races .

Libby Moore



Caz and Lil setting out in choppy water.



Lisa Nutting gives a friendly wave.



## Division Six



Arthur and Henry Labat pictured here with their colourful Hobie Hawks.

Division Six is a newly created division with its own accompanying RIB. We have many new amazing sailors who have just graduated the Sailing School Start Racing course. However we're yet to see most of them out on the race course. Amazing effort to Ava, Finn, Henry, Hector, Arthur and Eliza who have been getting out there and giving it a go!





Instructor of the Year  
Australian Sailing Awards  
**Zoe Morris**

**Our very own Zoe Morris** from **Somers Yacht Club** has won Instructor of the Year, Australian Sailing Awards. instructors, taking on the mentoring and the leadership requirements needed for the new assistants and instructors.

Zoe has been an instructor for the last three seasons and an assistant instructor for four seasons prior, teaching both juniors and adults in learn to sail courses. Her vibrant manner instills self-belief into the people she works with while her patience is never wavering, allowing people all the time they need to learn a new skill.

Zoe has been a member of Somers Yacht Club all her life and learnt to sail herself through our own Somers Yacht Club Sailing School. Zoe has also worked tirelessly with one young member who has cerebral palsy, giving him great confidence and the skills so he too may continue to sail in the future in his own boat.

Her passion and enthusiasm for sailing is seen through her manner while teaching and around the club on race days, encouraging fun while teaching and always considering safety and the best learning outcomes. She has also volunteered her time to help lead many junior events and last year became president of the Youth Committee, demonstrating both her own self development and her leadership skills.

Zoe has become one of Somers more senior





# SWISH

## Somers Women in Sailing Happiness

SWISH - the acronym for **Somers Women in Sailing Happiness**

*"What a fantastic ideal "I thought as I signed up and paid the small amount to partake in this incredible volunteer run programme.*

I had no idea what to expect as I applied my sunscreen and jumped in the car.

On arrival the SYC 19 women were sitting outside whilst Wendy (the main organiser) was organising everyone into groups. It felt structured and smooth.

We went around and introduced ourselves. It was lovely to meet women about my age - mid 40's to older to younger, but we all possessed the same quality of "taking opportunities and an adventurous spirit".

Some women had come a few times, some, a few more and some brand new like me. A few children came with their Mum - what a great activity to share.

I was paired with a lovely lady and our skipper was Lisa who, like her sisters and the other women, graciously gives her time to help the club out and women like me get an experience to sail.

We all broke off into our groups and prepared our boats, Anne and I listening intently to Lisa's instructions, not wanting to make an error. Amanda was funny and warm, we were made to feel comfortable quickly,

The wind picked up to 12 knots by the time we got our pacer to the water and Amanda explained to us how you check for wind. Luckily it didn't get more

gusty - or else we wouldn't have been able to go out.

I eagerly albeit not very graciously clamoured aboard and we set sail, Pacer no 1!

The wind whipping through my hair, the salt on my lips, the blue summer ocean surrounding me, the sense of freedom, *"This must be such therapy, such a meditative state it is to sail, I can appreciate why it is so addictive."*

Lisa and I talked, laughed and joked as I bobbed up and down under the boom as she yelled the word "ready about" when we were tacking.

Lisa had full control of the pacer. Our time flew by and before I knew it we gybed and headed to shore to give Anne her turn.

After being on the water, the boat and the women got a wash down and we all met upstairs admiring Western Port Bay, sipping our summer champagne or wine. Wendy led the charge and we all talked about our experience, connected by womanhood and shared experience.

What an afternoon. I look forward to signing up again like I'm sure many women also felt.

Thank you to the SWISH volunteers, you put on an organised and incredible event.

Julia Esmonde







## Social Committee

What a fabulous season of social events we've had at the Club. The social committee has had a significant growth with new members joining so we can all share the roles. We're so happy to welcome you to join us too.

The social events launched with the **Opening Day Cocktail Party** early in October combined with **Youth Games**. This was a great success, albeit, we had a little covid flutter after this event. The next event was to be the Christmas Cocktail Party, sadly due to the covid hangover we had low numbers and needed to cancel. It certainly didn't dull our spirits and we have gone on to have a wonderful summer full of fun social events.

**Santas visit** early in December saw us with a blustery day, yet the children with parents in tow braved it to the beach for Santa's arrival. Christine Thompson and social committee team did a fabulous job buying and wrapping the gifts for Santa to share out. Age appropriate gifts were very welcomed as Santa (Alex) was waved off as he motored off to the distance by RIB driver Harry Taylor and crew.

The **Family BBQ** evenings are always a great time to share a meal together with olds and young alike. A huge applause for our resident band THE JETS. Guaranteed to get us all up and dancing & singing along. Thank you Michael, Keith, Nick, Andy for always knowing what it is we love and your verve and the joy you bring.

**New Members Night** saw a huge 30 new members attending. Our commodore Amanda Nutting called on the flag officers and all co-ordinators to introduce themselves and share what each committee is responsible for. The call out for volunteers was definitely answered and we are all so grateful. NEW MEMBERS we love it when you join a committee, we work as a team to provide the best for all members. We've seen you turn up for so many events and we love having you part of our great club.

**New Years Eve** we had a new format and a much reduced ticket price making the event accessible to more members and friends. The white theme made for some great photos. Lisa Nutting, Chris Thompson & team set the tone with the themed decorations. Thank you to all who attended to make this a fun & memorable NYE. Special mention to Michael Bailey for making the spectacular piñata for the kids.

**Annual Trivia Night** hosted by Simon & Harry Taylor had the best turn out it's had for years! Lots

of laughter and shenanigans. Not to be missed for 2024.

**Seafood Night** had a smaller turnout than hoped, and the food was AMAZING!! Fresh and abundant. Jill did an amazing job and everyone seemed very satisfied. The room looked beautiful.

**Australia Day Hamburgers** - all thanks to go Lisa Nutting for making those delicious burgers. The smell as we came off the water brought the sailors up the stairs to the BBQ area.

**Pasta Night** with guest chef Sterling Garbler supported by Nigel and Abi Beddoe. Over 70 attending to delight in homemade dishes of lasagna, salmon & pea penne and garlic bread. Let's do this again!

Jill's Friday Nights have continued to be a wonderful place to enjoy each others company and dine on her delicious fresh dinners. Big thanks to Jill & her daughters for supporting & feeding us through this season. We will be sad when her contract concludes at the end of the season. Yet we hope to see you back for guest appearances!

With more events coming up before the season closes, be sure to keep an eye on your SsYC calendar and the MidWeek News to book yourself in.

Maz O'Connor

On behalf of the Social Committee





## Gerry and Judy Lewis Farewell at SsYC

Joining Somers Yacht Club in 2004, Gerry and Judy have been stalwart members of the SsYC, being actively involved as volunteers. After 19 years they have made the big decision to move out of Somers.

Gerry's first stint on safety boat duty was in 2006. He has since been on the water every year, with the last few years as the regular skipper of SA4. Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023 was to have been an auspicious day for the safety boat team, as it was the final scheduled day that Gerry was to step aboard SA4 as skipper.

The weather gods decided to give him a rest day!

Gerry has been a highly valued member of the safety boat team, always available, and setting starting lines with great accuracy in all weather. Not only has

he been a capable and willing driver but has been instrumental in many other "behind the scenes" maintenance activities.

And of course, Judy will be moving away as well. Judy has been a regular participant, often seen and heard behind the bar. Judy is always a happy and friendly 'presence' around the Club.

We thank Gerry and Judy not only for their work around the Somers Yacht Club, but for their warm and generous friendship, and look forward to seeing them in Somers as regular visitors.

Both will be missed as valued members and friends.

Richard Fakhry



As John Tilleard said in his speech at Judy and Gerry's farewell, "It's people like you who make a club like this."





## 50th Australian Hobie Cat National Championships

### Somers Yacht Club Team match report by Naomi Chiu

Series 1: Hobie 16 Open, Hobie 17, Hobie 18 and Hobie 14 turbo.

Four Somers yacht club teams and 2 individuals sailing for other clubs travelled to Vincentia on Boxing Day to compete in the Hobie 16 Open National Championships on the magical waters of Jervis Bay. The Vincentia Sailing Club ran an exciting four-day program of sailing and social activities and all sailors can report that they had lots of fun and sailed their hearts out. The wind ranged from medium to strong (20 to 25 knots) in big seas.

With a total of 42 boats in the fleet, congratulations to Nigel and Abi Beddoe (with Emily Chiu on day 4) for cracking the top 20, the light weight team of Conor Greagsby and Joey Thomas with a personal best of a 6<sup>th</sup> place in heat 5, whilst newlyweds Luke and Arijia Crouch spend their honeymoon together on the race course enjoying the big breeze. Nigel and Emily should also be congratulated for making it through to the semi-finals of the annual big wind Hobie Wave challenge.

Back on the boat together after almost 15 years, Geoff Rowdon and Tim Chiu had an excellent regatta with a 9<sup>th</sup> overall in the open event and a big congratulations go to them for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Grand Masters event.

Harry Chiu hopped on the front of Shane Norris' boat from Torquay and had a ball whilst his mother Naomi had a very consistent regatta with her sailing partner Campbell Weddell from Port Melbourne. With a few 2<sup>nds</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> on the score card, they came in 5<sup>th</sup> overall in a fleet consisting of the current world champions, a past world champion and many national and state champions.

Series 2 included Hobie 14, Hobie 16 Youth and Women, Dagoon, Tiger and Wildcat National Championships. There were 11 Somers Yacht Club teams competing for glory in Series 2. All event news, results and photos can be found at <https://hobiecat.asn.au/hobie-cat-nationals/>



## 50th Australian Hobie Cat National Championships

Series 2: Hobie 14, Hobie 16 Women and Youth, Hobie Dragoon, Hobie Tiger and Wildcat



With 71 boats on the water for the second series at the 50th Australian Hobie Cat National Championships, it was truly a sight to behold. The pristine waters of Jervis Bay again gave us a mixture of wind conditions and we saw the largest women's fleet assemble in history. With four women skippering Hobie 14s, two at the helm of the Hobie Dragoon (including our very own team of Matilda Morris and Emily Chiu), one steering a Hobie Tiger and 11 teams in the Hobie 16 Women's event, including four from Somers. Joey Thomas was also flying the Somers banner on the media chase boat each day.



Congratulations to Somers' sailors Emma Morris and Jemima Wilson, and Meagan Bursa and her crew Charlotte (a Vincentia local) for coming in on equal points at the end of 11 races. Emma and Jemima were able to hold on to second place on a count back to Meagan's third. Both teams sailed very well with three 1sts each, but it was Emma and Jemima who had the extra two 2nds on the leader board that secured their overall place.



## 50th Australian Hobie Cat National Championships



Zoe Morris and Abi Morgan sailed incredibly well in their first nationals together, particularly holding it together in lots of breeze. They kept up with the best of the women and they also finished on the podium in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Hobie 16 Youth category. Unfortunately for Naomi Chiu, her Hobie 16 women's skipper broke her leg capsizing in the first series, so Naomi took the helm (the first time at a nationals since 2005) after an invitation to sail with Arija on Luke and Arija's boat. Moments of glory (like leading the fleet around one of the marks) were marred with moments of catastrophe (when Naomi fell off the back of the boat ... twice). Next time a little practice might be in order!



Somers should be very proud of their Dragoon sailors; not only were they competing for the national title, they were starting with a mixed fleet of Hobie Cats and then playing dodgem cars with 68 other boats on the course. Congratulations to Matilda Morris and Emily Chiu for their second title and to Tom Chen-Low and Harry Chiu for competing in their first nationals together. To compete at a national title takes a lot of organisation and many thanks go to all the parents of the youth teams. Without them, our youth would not have boats to sail, or places to stay and a big thanks to Trish and Terence for feeding all the juniors after sailing each day.



SOMERS YACHT CLUB

## 50th Australian Hobie Cat National Championships

The biggest event of series two was the Hobie 14 nationals with 52 boats in the starting line up. Like the Hobie 16 event, the Hobie 14s were stacked with world champions, national champions and state champions, and the Somers team proved again that they are a force to be reckoned with. Congratulations to Zac Rowdon for finishing in a well-deserved 6<sup>th</sup> place. With 11 races in total, Zac's best results included a 2<sup>nd</sup> and three 3rds, consistency being key to a top result. Conor Greagsby, having just completed the Hobie 16 event finished his first Hobie 14 event in 17<sup>th</sup> place, just ahead of Geoff Rowdon (coming off a 9<sup>th</sup> in the Hobie 16) in 19<sup>th</sup> place in the open event and 6<sup>th</sup> in the Hobie 14

Grand Masters. Tim Chiu, also at his first Hobie 14 nationals was looking for a mid-fleet finish, and with a 25 in the Open and a 10<sup>th</sup> in the Masters fleet, exceeded his goals. Luke Crouch wasn't far behind in 30<sup>th</sup> place to round out the Somers fleet.

Congratulations again to all of the Somers Hobie sailors who competed at the nationals and we look forward to the next one, to be held at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron.

Naomi Chiu







## Interclub Teams Racing Sunday 8th January Westernport YC

Nineteen Somers sailors had some fun and exciting racing at Westernport YC. They were well supported by Nigel and Nick in SA4.



Somers SPIRIT won the C Division final



Somers BIRDS of SPRAY narrowly defeated Merricks in the B Division finals.



Somers SHARKS won all their qualifying races and were narrowly defeated by Flinders in the A Division final.

## Interclub Teams Racing Sunday 8th January Westernport YC

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Teams Racing was a terrific day of sailing - including some light and challenging winds - Somers had three great teams of three.

Everyone had so much fun.  
It was my first time competing in 'Teams Racing'.  
It's pretty much the same rules but a lot different to normal racing - quite a lot of on the water protests - quickly putting up the red flag and shouting "protest". I really liked all three of us working to-

gether and learning the different tactics - thanks Lucy you were a great help with that, and thanks Wendy for organising us all.

Ava Otto.

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### Kayaks in the Yard

Owners of Kayaks kept in the SYC yard are required to label their kayak with the owner's name and contact number. Several kayaks in the racks do not have any identification of ownership and are in poor condition and full of water.

Please take responsibility for your Kayak and ensure it is labelled and cared for whilst in the yard.

Many thanks in anticipation.





## Youth Adventure Sail

The definition of Adventure: an unusual or exciting or daring experience. This is certainly what 20 youth from Somers Yacht Club, 9 from Merricks and 9 from Flinders had just recently. To replace the Westernport Youth Regatta on the calendar, we wanted to give our young sailors, more of something they would relish, and also build the connections between clubs on Westernport Bay. School holidays were nearly finished, but the fun was not over yet. They sailed on Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Jan to Flinders, slept the night under or on top of their boats (a few in tents), and then sailed back again on Australia Day.

Planning was taken seriously, with registrations online, a Zoom meeting prior to make sure everyone had the correct gear. There was no room for extra items, and without the essential items, things could get pretty uncomfortable or dangerous. Skippers and crews were matched on ability and our wind forecast was perfect. Tide on the other hand was not in our favour but we had enough wind and fast enough boats to beat the tide and get to our destination.

Somers Youth sailed over to Merricks beach to meet our new friends and start our journey to Flinders together. Double trapping all the way to Pt Leo, the boats stayed together heading up wind. As the wind dropped it became a more relaxed, slower sailing, and the tide changed to help take us to our destination. Flinders Pacers sailed out to meet us as we came closer to our camp.

Excellent teamwork was seen by all sailors in carrying boats up the beach and onto the lovely grass for a good night's sleep. Who needs beach wheels when you have teamwork and cooperation! Our Somers gang then spent time preparing their boom tents and laying out mattresses for resting time later. A BBQ dinner and games run by our very own Zoe and Harry brought the young sailors from different clubs closer together while having loads of fun. Settling

into sleeping bags was all very exciting, sleeping next to friends and building the bond further between youth and their sailboat. With a little rain over night (that was not on the forecast), it gave young sailors more adventure to their night out.

A hot breakfast and more socializing was had before we pulled wet sticky wetsuits on and carried boats back to the water line. With a lovely sail downwind and Bass Strait swell rolling into the bay, all the sailors enjoyed surfing down the waves all the way back to their home club. Our synchronized gybes were looking awesome. It was like when a stock whip would crack and all the cattle would turn at the same time no matter where they are. But it was coloured boats on the water, gybing on their way home. A few capsizes were had due to, I think, lack of concentration at times, but this is totally understandable with so many hours spent on the water over the two days.

Our team of parents were amazing; helping in so many ways, so our youth can experience such a memorable trip and foster friendships. Thank you to all of you!

Some comments from our youth:

"We were gybing downwind the whole way, surfing massive waves off Flinders, and Arthur was just sitting on the front hull getting a constant shower of water with the biggest grin on his face, it was great!" Zoe Morris

"That was the fastest I have ever been on a boat!" Will Low

"It was awesome, the wind picked up and it was really fun. Sleeping under the boat was the best thing." Abi Morgan

"The sail home was heaps of fun, nearly nose diving about 4 times on trapeze and the spinnaker up."

Luca Twist





# Youth Adventure Sail

Many hands make for light work getting boats into and out of the water.



Camping under the trampoline and under a makeshift awning.

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# SASSY

Windward page 23

## Shesails at Somers Yacht Club

Sunday 5 February 2023



Sunday the 5th of February promised to be a day of fair winds and struggling sunshine. We were fortunate to have six very capable volunteer coaches; Michael Vandenberg, Phil Schwarz, Ludo Labat, Jarka Kluth, Harry Taylor and Emma Morris, with help from Mal Otto and Richard Jagger. Wendy Wilson

I thoroughly enjoyed the coaching and sailing at SASSY. I focussed on 4 things in the training. One was the important position of my telltales when sailing. One was tacking smoothly, the third was removing creases in my sail particularly using the downhaul and the last was using the vang whilst on a run.

I enjoyed the racing, despite the challenging wind conditions and felt that in applying my new knowledge I was improving my racing technique. Libby Moore



We were also very fortunate to have National Race Officer Lou Hutton running our racing in the afternoon. Here Lou demonstrates her own hi-tech wind direction indicator.

Over 22 boats and 35 sailors registered for a day of coaching and enjoyment. On course coaching was supplied by our volunteer coaches ably assisted by the start boat and on shore communications.





## Shesails at Somers Yacht Club continued

Sunday 5 February 2023

As a very green skipper, getting out with our big, experienced fleet on race days can be a bit overwhelming and intimidating!

SASSY provided a fantastic opportunity for me as a very novice racer to learn more - from very experienced coaches - about both boat handling and race strategy, and to shake off some of my nerves and get more comfortable racing with a bunch of boats. It's a huge credit to our Club that our SASSY organisers, coaches and sailors were able to create such a fun and supportive environment for participants to learn and race in.

The coaches and sailors I worked with on the day were incredibly welcoming and encouraging. Knowing that everyone was there to improve their skills - whether they were novice sailors like me, or seasoned experts like many of our skippers - made the whole experience feel really inclusive and supportive.

My morning coaching session was led by our own

Ludo Labat, with support from Richard from Mericks. This was Ludo's first year coaching at SASSY

- and based on his stellar performance, I don't think it will be his last! It was so valuable to hear someone with so much experience explain how they approach a race. And I really appreciated the way Ludo ran the session - taking time to understand where we all were at as sailors, and helping us each set a clear goal for the skills we wanted to improve that day. Our group focused on improving our racing starts and being less terrified of the tiller extension! After a fun morning of coaching, it was great to watch everyone flying around the course in the afternoon, putting newly acquired skills into practice. The strategic and good-spirited argy-bargy on the start line was a highlight (warning: watch out for Di Nutting and Patrizia on the course people!)

Thanks to everyone who helped the day run so smoothly; it was a fantastic event.

Trish Low



In addition to the start boat, six RIBs were used for coaching on the water to enable real time help and advice for all SASSY sailors.





## Somers Sailing School

Our Sailing School ran at capacity over December and January, with 9 separate courses offered for youth members - from Start Sailing 1 & 2 courses for our newest sailors, through to our Better Racing course for our very competitive racing-level youth sailors. A whopping 55 youth sailors between the ages of 9 and 16 participated this year. With one course left to run for the season, adult sailing throughout February will continue.

Our growth of Instructors and assistant instructors is amazing. The children have nicknamed them the smurfs with their blue tops, and all are Somers sail-

ing members that race their own boats regularly and enjoy the water and helping others.

A huge thank you to all the instructors and assistants for the encouraging and fun atmosphere they created for our students, and to the sailors and their families for the energy, enthusiasm and morning tea they brought each day! It was great to see the confidence and skills of these young sailors grow each day and we look forward to welcoming many of them to the racing fleet on Saturday afternoons.

Trish Low and Zoe Morris.



Over the summer holidays Somers ran 9 sailing courses, with 53 students in total learning the ropes. For the January courses the morning saw the 'Start Sailing 1 and 2' crew having fun capsizing, learning points of sail and steering their boats. While in the afternoon the 'Better Sailing' and 'Start Racing' gangsters perfected their boat speed, roll tacks, gybes and sailing backwards. They also performed many race starts in preparation for entering the Saturday afternoon races soon.

Sailing School is a common entry into the club for many new families and we welcome them to attend more club activities.

Thank you to all parents for the awesome morning

teas that you provided to keep the sustenance up for the students, and thank you to our blue top team (instructors) for their patience and skill in working with the youth of the club and our future sailors.

**Any secondhand wetsuits, water shoes and slickers would be greatly appreciated for the sailing school. Please bring your donations to the club and give to Emma or leave in the container.**

**Thank you  
Emma Morris**





## SsYC Youth – Summer 22/23 report

Our Youth members have had a fantastic summer with plenty of activities both on and off the water.

Off the water, our Youth Committee has led a series of great youth social events – with more to come as summer wraps up.

Our youth games night and movie night in December and January were great fun.

The Hot Somers Ball was finally back (after a Covid break) and was a huge success – with more than 80 youth members and their friends arriving in formal dress to enjoy a warm night with an incredible sunset, live band, and DJ at the Club. Decorations were fantastic with fairy lights and lanterns everywhere and the upstairs alcove full of beanbags and couches. Thank you to all the volunteers we had on the night.

Some other events we have going on are the Somers Ironman, including old and young age groups to have some healthy competition down at the

beach.

As we go to print, we're looking forward to the next batch of summer youth sailing and social events including an Adventure Sail to Flinders Yacht Club and camping overnight. Followed by the Annual Youth Trivia Night and photo competition coming up after Australia Day.

Don't forget about the Somers Short Film Festival which everyone should be working on currently! Entries need to be in by 23<sup>rd</sup> April and winners presented 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Keep an eye on our social media platforms and the Midweek News for more details about upcoming events!

Instagram: somersyachtclub

Facebook: Somers Yacht Club



The Hot Somers Ball. Fairy lights and lanterns, shimmering drapes, bean bags and couches.

A live band and a DJ.

Handsome and beautiful and not a wet suit in sight.



## Child Safety at SsYC

SsYC is a Child Safe organisation and, as SYC Members, we all have obligations to help protect and promote the wellbeing of children and young people at our Club.

Child safety in sport means protecting children from harm and abuse, providing safe, quality experiences for them, supporting their participation and empowering their voices.

In Victoria, children aged 5 to 14 have the highest participation rates in organised sport! This is reflected at our Club, where we have a fantastic and very active group of youth members. They are a vital and valued part of our Club and its future.

We recently updated our Child Safety Policy, Code of Conduct and Procedures, to ensure they comply with new Victorian Government Child Safe Standards. You can find all our Child Safety documents online by clicking on the *About* >> *Child Safety* tabs at the top of our website, and you'll see copies on noticeboards around the Club.

Our Child Safety Code of Conduct sets out very clear guidance for all SYC adults and youth members on the behaviour expected of us when interacting with youth members. It identifies behaviours that are unacceptable, and tells us what to do if we have a concern about child safety.

**Whenever we're interacting with youth members**

**- whether in the Clubhouse, out on the water, in the yard, or via email or text message –**

**we all have a shared responsibility to keep our youth members safe and well**

**- both physically and emotionally -**

**and to ensure they're supported, included, treated with respect and protected from harm.**

If you have any feedback or questions about our Child Safe policies and procedures, please speak to our SYC Child Safety Officers, Trish Low and Emma Morris.



Finding which way is up when sailing Down Under.



# Child Safety Code of Conduct

**Our Club's Child Safety Code of Conduct** provides adults with a clear guide on the behaviour that is expected of them in our Club environments, and:

- lists acceptable and unacceptable behaviours
- identifies professional boundaries and ethical behaviour
- applies to all Club activities, including sailing activities, youth events, use of digital technology and social media
- is publicly available

take or publish photos, movies or recordings of a student without parental/guardian consent  
overly familiar or inappropriate behaviour towards a child

communicate directly 1:1 with a child through personal or private contact channels  
make private or inappropriate contact with children, particularly without their parent or guardians' knowledge, outside of the Club  
ignore or disregard any of the above behaviours exhibited by others

## Who has to follow it?

All members, volunteers, staff and contractors of our Club community.

## Acceptable behaviours

- upholding our commitment to child safety and following our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- treating children and families in our Club community with respect
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children, and children of all genders, ethnicities and abilities
- ensuring, as far as practicable, that adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns
- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child is safe and protected

## Unacceptable behaviours

- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children
- use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or inappropriate language in the presence of children
- engage in or put children at risk of any form of abuse, including physical, emotional, psychological, verbal and sexual
- develop a relationship with a child that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour

## Report any Concerns

By observing these standards, you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to Somers Yacht Club Child Safety Officers, **Trish Low** and/or **Emma Morris**. Child Safety Incident Report Forms are found online on the SYC website and in the first aid room, within a folder with other incident report forms.

Communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know basis'.

If you have any feedback or questions about this Code of Conduct or our Child Safety Policy please contact Emma Morris or Trish Low.

**If a child is in immediate danger, the Police should be contacted on 000**





## SsYC Club Merchandise

Kids T- Shirts \$20

Kids Fleecy Sweats (Windcheater) SsYC logo Chest - Somers Yacht Club on left Sleeve \$45

Kids Fleecy Hoodies (Windcheater) SsYC logo Chest - Somers Yacht Club on left Sleeve \$45

Ladies Boat Neck Long Sleeved T-Shirt SsYC logo Chest \$25

Mens Long Sleeved T-Shirt SsYC logo Chest \$25

Mens Fleecy Windcheater SsYC logo Chest - Somers Yacht Club on left Sleeve \$45

Savannah Soft Shell Jacket SsYC logo Chest – Women \$130

Snyder Soft Shell Jacket SsYC logo Chest- Men \$130

Trackpants - Somers Yacht Club down the left leg \$45

Adult t shirts \$25.00

All items are now available to order from the Club' <https://www.somersyachtclub.com.au/shop/>

with pricing, colours and sizing listed for your selection.

A login is not required to order, however logging in with your Australian Sailing member details will record your purchases and prefill ordering fields. Your selections are made to order and are usually ready for delivery or collection from the Club twenty one days later. The current COVID shut downs and restrictions will affect availability and delivery.

<https://www.somersyachtclub.com.au/shop/>



Not just for sailors!

Here Harry Molloy from Rankins Springs in NSW models his warm, soft and fluffy hoody on the shore of Dove Lake at Cradle Mountain, Tasmania.

**Do you have a photo of SsYC merchandise? Please send them to me [moorecolleen65@gmail.com](mailto:moorecolleen65@gmail.com) Many of us travel far and wide wearing SsYC merchandise.. Please send photos.**



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# The General Committee 2022 - 2023



Commodore  
Amanda Nutting



Vice Commodore  
Sean Bly



Rear Commodore  
Simon Morris



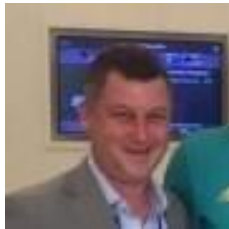
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Secretary  
Wendy Wilson



Membership  
Libby Moore



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# Club Contacts

**Commodore** Amanda Nutting  
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**Rear Commodore** Simon Morris  
**Secretary** Wendy Wilson  
**Treasurer** Tim Brock  
**Membership Secretary** Libby Moore  
**Social Administrator** Maz O'Connor  
**Bar Management** Keith Moore  
**Sea Rescue** Nigel Beddoe  
**Club Captain** Jeremy Pearse  
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**Club House Hire** Wendy Davies - (M) 0410 516 804  
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**Mid Week News Editor** Wendy Wilson  
**Web and IT Administrator** Grahame Tiplady  
**Yard Manager** Simon Morris  
**Club Liquor License Nominee** Steve Schaper  
**Catering** Jill Midlovets  
**Bar Volunteering** Diana Nutting

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