

Sailing at its best

April 2017



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From the Commodore's Desk



for the Seasons Trophies.

cellent run with the weather since bridge a two month gap. Christmas. Not only has the

teers. The General Committee has worked hard and on what we could do better or differently next season have delivered a fantastic result, for which I am very please let me or the appropriate member of the Gengrateful. On the water I have been impressed by the eral Committee know, as we are now deep into planquality of the course laying and starting teams, it ning for 2017/18. would be hard to find better in any club, even twice our size. On behalf of all sailors I thank the rescue boat crews and those in the Tower, especially from all those who required rescue or assistance.

Turning our attention to the land, we have had a fabulous social and bar program, the highlight has to be the theming for our Heroes and Villains New Year Eve. Thank you to everyone who helped at each function, setting up, cleaning up, serving at the bar, setting the trivia, showing their talent, playing in the band or making a friend of a dolphin and making each event enjoyable for everyone. All those involved with working bees, facility improvement and finances have also done a great job. Both the facilities and finances are in good shape.

The Intergalactic Hobie Hawk titles saw twelve of our junior sailors out on the water which is a real testament to the success of our Sailing School and our aim to involve more young families in the Club. I was also delighted to see the success of the two Junior Pacer Regattas run this year.

Many of you would have seen the Club Burgee flying at half mast on the 11th of March in honour of John Hatton who passed away on Thursday March 9th. The Club is deeply saddened to lose such a wonderful man. John has been a long time member, Past

Commodore, McCutcheon award recipient and Life By the time you read this the sail- Member. He will be most remembered for his wising season will nearly be over and dom and gentle nature. John's leadership when the we will be into Presentation night Club house blew down was the catalyst for the rebuilding and resurgence of the Club. John was always willing to step in and help, retiring most recently as Looking back we have had an ex- Treasurer for a number of years after stepping in to

weather been excellent but so has Cheryl and I look forward to catching up with you all the support from all the volun- at the Club over winter. If you have any suggestions

Presentation Night

Saturday May 27th 6.00 pm for a 6.30 start 2 course Carvery \$32 per adult Under 16, \$18 **Book Online**

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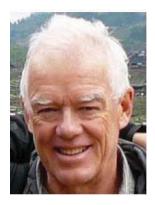
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Vice Commodore's report



Working Bee

The end of the season looms. A mixture of relief and regret perhaps? Relief that Saturdays are freed up but regret of the things you could do. that there's no skimming the waves for a few months. But it's never over until the Working Bee is done! Please contribute to that wonderful spirit of volunteerism that is alive Do you know anyone who could use the clubhouse for and well in our club. There's always lots to be done so please give a few hours of your time, come rain, hail or shine. See you Sunday after Easter (23 April) commencing at 9:00 am.

Master Plan for the Clubhouse

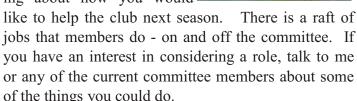
Catalysed by planning for the lift, a talented group of members lead by Cameron Harvey have done a great job brainstorming options for the future of the clubhouse. It's by no means final but here's where the thinking is up to for rearrangement of the ground floor to incorporate the lift.

Planning, consultation and approvals will proceed over winter with a view to a major fundraising push next season.

If you have any comments at this stage by all means let me know, and as the ideas consolidate, there will be a formal opportunity for members to make input.

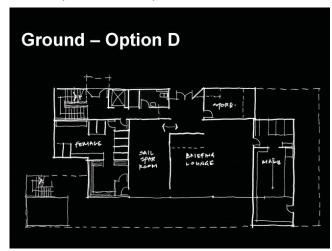
Keeping the Club's Wheels Turning

It's not too early to be thinking about how you would



Clubhouse Hire

a private function? It's a fantastic venue for a family gathering, birthday party or other special occasion even in winter! Or what about a Christmas do? Start by talking to Dennis Paskins (0409 480 406) or Maz O'Connor (0438 217 002).







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Rear Commodore—Amanda Nutting



season at Somers.

in the early and latter months viewed from the Clubhouse. much wind and recently thunder at this time. and lightning necessitating a

quick recall to shore

Despite this we have completed all our scheduled series and will have run more than 60 races by season

weather is good. It's great to see so many Juniors out Night on May 27th! - thanks to Emma and Simon Morris who rally the troops each week and who also ran the ever popular Hobie Hawk Titles. These were hotly contested with the top three boats all within one point of each other! Our Club Pacers are popular choices for members not yet with their own boat and bookings are now being managed each race day by Jeremy Grant . Many thanks Jeremy for taking on this role and showing some of our newer sailors the ropes.

Norm, Garry and others have organized a new Green tractor - many thanks for all the work and various trips to far flung places before a purchase was made. We are always looking for more tractor drivers please contact one of us if you would like to learn.

At present your Sailing Committee is busy working on next year's program – please let me know if there any special request – we are always evaluating what works and what doesn't.

Next season will be an exciting one as Somers is to host the Hobie Catamaran National Titles over the Christmas/New Year period. This type of event only occurs every decade or so at Somers as we are a largely a holiday club and don't want to burden our members and volunteers too much at this time.

Sadly we are coming to the end However it is a fabulous opportunity to show what a of another successful sailing great host club we are, to run races at a National

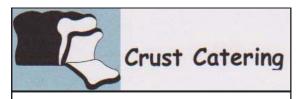
level, and to give an opportunity for our members to The Weather Gods were not as sail in or be involved in a top level event. Hobies are kind to us this season. Weather fast and colourful it should be spectacular racing There will be lots of especially has been very frus- social events for members and visitors alike and memtrating - too little wind, too bers will still be able to sail their boats from the Club

> I do try and thank volunteers every race day - but much is also done behind the scenes. A huge thank you to all involved in making our Club the great place irt

Fleet sizes have been excellent - especially when the Looking forward to seeing you all at Presentation

Amanda





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Division Reports – Division 1 Peter Foulsum

As a follow up from the last newsletter it has been race with the rest of the fleet but then retired early. confirmed that Morgan's Mozzie has been deemed a write off by the insurance assessors and has gone to Starting with the fleet and finishing the race is the catamaran heaven. In stark contrast, Justin's Mozzie was easily repaired and back in action the weekend after the Labour Day long weekend.

Sunny skies and light to fair winds clear water and very little seaweed have recently been the norm except for race 3 & 4 of the Autumn series where a combination of 20 knots and big seas prevented racing.

Congratulations go to Brian Gristwood for his clean sweep win in the Championship Yardstick series. Brian was even able to drop a 1st place from the race series. Congratulation also to Andrew Robertson for his win in the Championship Handicap series.. Andrew forgot to sign on for the last race of the series but still won overall. Great to see Justin and Gina get in the series placings as well.

Michelle and Robbie have recently been sighted on the beach with 3 minutes to the start signal so have

played catch up. Not sure why they started the next

next target!!

We are still waiting to see Griffo back out on the Tornado but have confirmation that the rudder box has been repaired and returned from Perth. We expect to see the Tornado in action again prior to Easter.







Division 2—Steph Schwarz

on us again, as they produced a beautiful day with light ing in front of us, so Steph winds and sunshine. Emma and Simon and crews got a the others at the windward after Emma and Simon. Stan good start, as did Phil and Steph, but the one that got away held the lead in front of the other 14ft boats, but the 3 was Stan in the Hobie Turbo, who found another few leading Tigers were having a great battle passing and reknots of wind where he was, and so beat the 16's to the passing, when at the last windward Simon and Phil tacked windward mark, and left the other 14's wondering what in front of Steph, and in their excitement didn't allow they were doing wrong. Positions remained more or less enough for the raging tide, hitting the buoy with Steph steady with Emma and Tegan leading Simon and Zoe nearly falling overboard with laughter. Emma and Tegan home in front of Stan, Steph and Phil. Maz sailing the 16 were so far in front, we didn't even see them, but Stan with Dillon headed the rest of the division with Eli and won the day on corrected time. The first three Championcrowded high tide beach was a bit of a problem. Stay at ters, and Steph. The first Autumn series was sailed on a home regatta on the long weekend didn't look too promis- beautiful Somers almost wind-less day, but Race Officer ing from the beach as we waited for some wind to ruffle Tim prudently decided to run shortened courses, and dethe mirror sea. We left the beach and in 0-5kts started cided the wind was going to come in from the South, about a minute after the hooter, struggling against the tide, which it did. Malcolm jumped into the lead and after a but made it before the next division's start. A little wind great misjudgement at the windward by somebody, was took us bunched together around the windward, and then never headed, followed home by Simon B. The second to the jibe mark which had drifted towards us, so we de-race saw Simon and Steph change places a number of cided to jibe around it together and go for the leeward times, with Steph finishing just ahead and Malcolm having mark. Simon got going in the increasing wind and finished some troubles shortly after the start, and coming in ahead ahead of Steph, Peter T, Steve W, Mat Wilmot on the of Stan. The second Autumn series day was blown out, 10kt breeze with Steph reaching the windward ahead of next day bad.Ah-well! Simon and that's how we finished, with Steve ahead of Mat, Peter, and Lachlan not finishing. Sunday's weather turned out similarly to Saturday, almost no wind for the start of the first race, and a beautiful 12kts for the second. Mat Wilmot on the Hobie Turbo reached the windward first, but was soon overtaken by Steph, and followed home by Ant Davenport on the 16 with Ollie as crew. The second race was much more exciting with Steph in front of Ant and Ollie, and then Mat. The last Championship was

Championship 7 saw the Fair Weather Sailing Gods smile started in less than 5kts, with a naughty rescue boat crosseventually tacked and met Ben next, and then Steve W and Peter T. Landing on the ship places went to Emma and crews, Simon and daugh-Hobie and Lachlan on the Maricat. Race 2 started in a nice which seems this season to be normal. One day good then



Justin being rescued following an unexpected mishap on the

Left

Peter Thompson in the rear as the fleet heads for the start line.



Division 3—Nick Carter

Seems this year has past by rather quickly with many days lost to poor weather, but in the end any day at Somers Yacht Club is a very good day indeed.

We have had a mix of podium positions this year, which is great to see, in a sense different skippers can put a series together under different conditions, which makes for some exciting and close series racing. The premier event the 2017 Club Championship Div 3 Scratch was taken out by Michael and Georgia (Tasar) followed by Mike (Impulse), Chris and Toby (Tasar), the Division congratulates you on your performance across varying conditions. The Club Championship Div 3 Handicap was won by Mal Otto (Impulse), Rob and Warren (Tasar) and Mike (Impulse), well done to all especially Mal, who has worked very hard on his boat speed all year, nipping at the heals of Mike (More on this later).

The stay at home racing series was dominated by the Tasar sailors Chris and Toby followed by Rob and Grahame in the Impulse; this was from memory a very light weekend, with what can only be described as wicked tidal conditions and a very apparent port end bias in race 2; those who chose to start on starboard in race 2 were hammered up the first work and given the short course were typically unable to recover; whilst port starts in 20 knots on a small line are not ideal (ask Morgan) in 2-5 knots with a large line and small fleet one must take this on that's for sure.

The Autumn Series has been ravaged by poor weather, but the "nipping at the heals" practice by Mal has paid big perhaps even HUGE dividends with what can only be described as a "line in the sand" victory over the red hot Impulse driven by Mike. All in the boat yard were made aware of this win and apparently CNN Sailing had a small clip running that evening. Its also fair to say that Phil and Patrick in the Tasar had a rip-

per (some skill here Tasar Sailors watch out in 2018) as did Grahame in the Impulse rounding out the top 3.

Div 3 is a very competitive fleet and I reckon that on the right day, in the right conditions each sailor would be/is competitive at the State and National level, its a pleasure to be part of it all.

See you on the water.

Cheers Nick



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Hobie States—Tegan Davies

Over the March long weekend, ten of our Hobie sailors made the trek over to McCrae Yacht Club to attend the Victorian Hobie State Titles. It was perfect weather with plenty of sunshine and very light conditions much to the dismay of many sailors.

Somers brought across the largest contingent of Hobie Sailors from any club, and also provided all of the women's teams which is an amazing feat!

The conditions were very shifty and light which resulted in one bad decision taking you from the front to the back of the fleet! There was lots of close racing with a variety of results with our Sailors at times being in the top 3 to being OCS at the start line. Simon and Zoe Morris tackled the light breezes with very consistent results and unfortunately just missed out on 3rd place on countback. Emma and Tegan took out the Womens title. Somers Results as follows: Simon and Zoe Morris 4th, Emma Morris and Tegan Davies 6th, Meagan Bursa and Maddie Moore 8th, Eloise Morris and Gen Holden 11th, Maz O'Connor and Dillon Holmes 15th.



It was a fantastic event with great racing in tricky conditions and plenty of socialising with the Hobie Family. Congratulations to all the Somers Teams and looking forward to the Hobie Nationals



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Above Hobies waiting for wind at McCrae

Hobie Nationals will be held at Somers Yacht Club December/January

Left
1st Women in Hobie States
Emma Morris and
Tegan Davies



Division 6 Report—Simon Morris

This season Div 6 had the most number of competitors it has ever had with numerous kids graduating from sailing school and participating in their first race. Seasoned campaigners Harry, Daniel and Matilda were out there battling for first place. Series results have Harry Taylor in third which is excellent considering he has been constantly improving his skills with his new BIC. Second was Matilda Morris who was always telling me she wanted heavy wind to do well in her Hawk and first with 3 outright firsts was Daniel Laverty in his optimist.

But the real winners were those kids that really gave racing a good go this season, and for most it was their first! These included Jemima Wilson in her Hokey Pokey Hawk, Alice Matheson, Charlotte Strom, Will Morgan, Sam Davidson Luka Mrkuisch in their club Hawks, Hamish Schaper in his Hawk and Will Davenport making a late comeback with his

hawk after having a broken arm soon after Christmas. We also had the ever present Hughie Strom who was keen to get on the water on anything or if not just play in a puddle of mud.



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Vale John Hatton



Mal Otto rang me at about 5.30 am and said get down to the club we have lost it. On driving into the car park my head lights gave me a understanding of what Mal was talking about, the top floor and roof were destroyed by a severe wind storm —mini tornado. As it got light we could see the complete devastation and thank goodness the tower had not been effected and the phone still worked in the race office.

Over the next few hours we contacted all the committee and other relevant members to advise them of what had happened. As I was acting Commodore in the absent of Rick who was on holidays in Queensland I convened a meeting at 10am and asked John Hatton to be in charge of the Rebuilding Committee(one of the best decisions I have ever made)

The original committee consisted of Tim Rintoul, Mal Otto, Jim Enever, Noel Danne, Vern Tansley. Doug Campbell and myself a great team with the admin and practical skills needed with others being co-opted as their skills and knowledge were required.

We identified the major problems and then had another Meeting at 2.15 pm that same day to update everyone on what was happening. John produced the minutes of both meetings for the following days meeting to confirm what tasks we had all been allocated and confirm where we stood, John's admin skills were first class.

Over the ensuing 6 months the rebuild cost plus contents coverage escalated to \$330,000 of which \$292.000 was covered by insurance plus \$50,000 to cover our cost of maintaining our club activities for the period – we had our sailing season with 2 shipping containers to store our sails etc and even had a great New Year's event at the Hattons (Thank you again Elizabeth)

When we added our extras including the new Eastern deck and repairs and re decking the southern deck plus commercial dishwasher, commercial stove, fridges and new bar we had to chip in around \$20,000 - not bad for a new clubhouse with a new mains water supply and HOT showers and no asbestos.

Thank you John... you will be missed.

Andy Griffin – on behalf of the rebuilding committee





Travelling Opti Sailor

Hello Somers Yacht Club

I would like to tell you a little bit about my recent competitions and Opti Regattas. I have been busy. Here are some of the places I have been sailing at this summer: Royal Melbourne Yacht Club, Royal Brighton Yacht club, Davey Bay for The Lidgett Cup, Mornington Yacht Club and Royal Geelong yacht club for the state championships

One of the things I would like to tell you is that there are a lot more boats at these events. This makes some of the races, when you're on the start line, very tricky. Sometimes it's really tough and you have to be pushy to get your spot on the start line. It is really common for boats to bump into each other.

During the competition the results can be very shifty. Starting from the first race, you never know who is going to win. For example, at the State Championships in Geelong, at one point I was coming third but then on the last day I had a couple bad races and my final placing was ninth overall in my category.

It is also very important to know your sailing rules. There are jury people on the ribs watching competitors in higher levels and giving penalties if they break the rules.

Another great thing about sailing at these competitions is that you make friends with other kids who sail. These can be friends from other yacht clubs that you might only see once or twice a year. Sometimes we play games or hang out and talk if the weather is bad and the races are postponed. Unfortunately this happened a couple times this year and I got to know the sailing flags very well!

Finally I would encourage all kids at any level to do a competition. It doesn't matter if you have no experience. With Opti's there is something called green fleet which is for beginners sailors. If you sail in this category you will compete in smaller groups and there is



group coaching available for free for you. They also make it really fun by playing games and doing a little bit of teaching. My sister Lucy has started sailing in Green Fleet.

This year I have had so much fun sailing. I am looking forward to sailing more next year and if I'm lucky maybe I can sail over the winter too.





Welcome New Members

Matt Wilmot
Ned Johnson
Carolyn Healy
Matthew, Briana, Sophie and Mia Nation
Peter Dalton and Ana Gregory
Cam Beatty and Nicola Hogan
Paddy, Verity, Dominic and Benjamin Scott
Geoffrey and Robin Mustow
Helen-Marie (Miffie) Maklary

The Easter Bunny will be visiting the Yacht Club on Sunday Morning at 10am.

Coffee and Hot Cross Buns will be available for purchase in the Club House



Somers Yacht Club Juniors





Somers Yacht Club Juniors

This year we had the inaugural Somers Great Land Race which saw 30 plus juniors and one adult navigating and challenging themselves, walking or running around the Somers area. There were a few mental challenges along the way they could choose to do for further points. This year we had the inaugural Somers Great Land Race which saw 30 plus juniors and one adult navigating and challenging themselves, walking or running around the Somers area. There were a few mental challenges along the way they could choose to do for further points.

We had winners in many categories including junior, teens and open categories.

We hope that more adults will join in the fun next year for this great team building event.

Here is some feedback from the participants this year.

Emma Strom - our children are incredibly fortunate that these extra events are organised for the junior sailing kids. The Great Somers Land Race offered the kids something a little different to the usual sailing. They were given the opportunity to work as a team, laugh and run, run, run as they discovered new parts of Somers they'd never seen!

Hugh - it was so great to go round Somers and find checkpoints.

Charlotte -it was great to work as a team, we loved the bucket challenge! Diana said we had the record time!

Alice Matheson - Something I liked about the Great Land Race was definitely the searching for checkpoints and clues to make me and my team get the most points. Something that was challenging was trying to figure out how to get a lot of water from one end of the beach to the other (the bucket had holes in it)! I would be more than happy to do this again and would like to thank everyone involved in setting it up!

Rowan Brooks - The Great Land Race showcased everything the Somers Sailing Club is about - Friendship, community, an activity connecting mind and body and a fabulous exploration of the our beautiful environment. Our whole family had such a fun morning. Luka said afterwards, I love being part of the Sailing Club, it's so great that all the kids are friendly and we play so many fun games.

For the third year in a row we had the Hawk Titles on the first weekend of the school holidays. Our Saturday's racing had to be postponed to the Sunday, as strong winds were not going to cut it for our juniors to enjoy themselves. With a top temperature of 17 degrees on the Sunday, our 12 Juniors braved the cold with many extra wetsuits and thermals to sail in their Hobie Hawks. Our teenage members manned the start boat and ran 7 excellent short course races. With a few individual recalls the racing was very tight at times. The wind varied greatly with 4-20knots on the course throughout the day.

For many of the competitors, this day more than doubled their personal tally of the number of races they had participated in before. Even for one or two it was their first race ever. The final score was very tight, with only three points separating first second and third place. We had to refer to the rules book to make sure all was legitimate. Third place – Harry Taylor, Second – Daniel Laverty, and First place – Matilda Morris. Well done to all who took on the challenge, and a big thanks to our teenagers and a few parents who ran the event on and off the water. I think certainly one of the highlights about doing the Hawk Titles is wearing your new t-shirt, especially this years cool looking black top, thanks a lot Diana.





Above Hobie Sailors

Left Harry, Matilda and Daniel



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



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