



Windward

SAILING AT ITS BEST April 2021



Somers Kids Sailing Down Under

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From the Commodore's Desk



It is with both relief and sadness that we approach the end of our sailing season – now just one more sailing day away from completion.

‘Relief’ in that we made it through the season despite all the uncertainty and confusion of COVID. ‘Relief’ that we completed all our main race series, despite the somewhat inclement weather conditions. ‘Relief’ that we have come through the year with a substantially increased membership and in a strong financial position.

Getting to this point has taken a huge effort from all our volunteers. Special acknowledgement is due to my fellow flaggies, Di Otto and Sean Bly, who have put in an enormous effort making sure we are compliant with the ever changing COVID restrictions, as well as ensuring the smooth running of the club through their more specific areas of responsibility. At the start of the season there was very little clarity about just how we could operate the club. The work done behind the scenes by Sean and Di (ably supported by their partners) has simply been extraordinary, in every sense of the word. On behalf of the club, THANK YOU.

‘Sadness’ because with the closure of yet another sailing season we inevitably see some of our stalwarts hang up their ‘life jackets’. This season one such retirement is particularly poignant, with Steph Schwarz sailing his last race on Saturday 17th April. Steph, who is 87, has been sailing continuously at Somers for 47 years, and must have completed over 1000 races in his time. Starting in a 125 back in 1974, he has been a constant presence on the water, most recently in his aptly named Paper Tiger ‘Elusive’. In a wonderful testimony to his sailing skills, Steph won his last race. Well done Steph –

you are an inspiration and we salute you as one of Somers “greats”.

As we move into Winter recess, the activity around the club will of course reduce, but the work won’t stop. Running a volunteer club of over 800 members takes a huge effort. As with Steph, many of our stalwart volunteers are also indicating their intention to take a step back. To that end, one of the challenges for the off season will be to expand our volunteer base. Remembering the club is only what the members make of it, we will be planning a series of “How to Volunteer” sessions as we move into the next season. We look forward to seeing you then. In the meantime, don’t hesitate to ask how you can get involved.

All the best and keep safe, until we see you next.

Mike Sandiford, Commodore.



Steph in search for new horizons



Vice Commodore's Report



VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU!

Our club is run and managed by Volunteers - that's you.

Our success, both on the water and off, can be directly attributed to the dedication of our volunteers.

THANK YOU ALL

If you would like to be a volunteer at the club in any way, big or small, please let a committee member know or simply approach the coordinator or another volunteer in the area you are interested in. You would be most welcome.

OUR FACILITIES AND FINANCE

We are fast approaching the end of the sailing season. For the facility and boat yard this means we hold our end of season Working Bee. Working Bees are traditionally held twice a year. One at the commencement of the Sailing season and one at the close. Covid has indeed made this difficult over the last 18 months or so but we can now get back to business. It is always a fun morning with friends and members and a delicious morning tea too.

By the time this goes to print the April working bee will have been completed, HOWEVER, we may hold another mini working bee in the next few weeks to complete a few extra tasks. So if you were not able to attend this one, you can help with the next!!

David has assembled a 'Maintenance Shed' under the back stairs. This is a temporary measure to help with safe storage of our equipment and ensure easy access to the equipment when needed. It means we no longer need to store these supplies and equipment in the Bar Storage area and Sailing School container.

As you may already know there is a Master Plan for the Club's future development being put together in collaboration with all members. I am very happy

this process is in place and look forward to seeing the results. The Facility and Boat Yard is just one part of this review and I noted at the recent Forum there were some great ideas for improvements and further development. Our current financial position means we can indeed consider and plan for changes.

In the meantime, regular maintenance continues and some engineering checks and roofing maintenance are underway.

If you have some skills and an interest in helping with the Club's ongoing maintenance in any way and in any area, please let David Goble or my self know. We would welcome your help.

Please remember to stay CovidSafe.

As of 11.59pm Friday 9th April the following conditions apply:

- 1. Ensure Physical Distancing** – Please keep 1.5mt apart from each other where possible, check for and follow floor markings.
- 2. Face Mask** – You must carry a Face Mask with you when you leave home. It is strongly recommended you wear a face mask when at a private gathering or when you cannot maintain 1.5 metres distance from other people.
- 3. Practise Good Hygiene** – Hand sanitiser will be available at all entrances. Soap and hand sanitiser is in the bathrooms. Look for the signs on hand hygiene.
- 4. Keep a Record of Attendance** – so we can act quickly if someone is suspected of or has a confirmed case of Covid-19. Please use the QR codes upon entrance and record your details. Paper recording is available if required. Please stay away if you are unwell.
- 5. Avoid Interactions in Enclosed Spaces** - Look for the signs indicating density limits in all our areas, especially the bathrooms and change rooms. Our maximum capacity upstairs remains at 100.

Kind regards
Diane Otto
Vice Commodore SsYC

Rear Commodore's Report



As I write this, the proverbial 'fat lady' is beginning to hum a few bars, as the curtains begin to close on Season 2020/21.

If it feels like we haven't been on the water that much this season, you're not wrong. With only about 30 races held, this is half of what we would regularly run. Given the trying circumstances, with a global pandemic going on in the background, coupled with the fickle Saturday weather that we've had, this shouldn't be surprising. Having said that, the club did enjoy a busy Summer of Sailing with great weather, another very successful SheSails/SASSY Regatta was held, and the club's hosting of the Pacer & 125s States speak volumes to the demand for our club to run state and national events, and our ability to deliver good quality racing.

All I can say is – it will take some doing to beat this Rear Commodore's record for the least amount of races sailed during their tenure! It's not a record I'm proud of, but one that I will bear. The efforts and lessons from this season will give us plenty of opportunities to make the most of next season!

Speaking of next season, the program for Season 2021/22 is starting to be discussed – if you have any special requests for us to stop doing, keep doing, or any other suggestions, please let me know. I've already had a few conversations around the boat park regarding courses and back to back races – stay tuned as these plans develop!

As you're reading this, the Hobie Hawk Titles will have been run and won, with 11 young sailors competing in nine races. It was wonderful to see so many coloured sails out on the water, splashing around and having fun. Many of these sailors are in their first season of sailing, and have only just completed Sailing School – a fantastic achievement! Congratulations to all who participated, and to the prize winners

– don't eat those chocolate blocks all at once! A big thank you to Emma Morris and her team of instructors for running the event.

Our Pacers remain popular – not only for Sailing School and SWISH, but their increasing popularity on Saturdays means that the boats are due for a bit of care and repair. Our resident repairer, Michael Vandenberg, had the gloves on and the epoxy out at Sunday's working bee, touching up the boats. If you've ever had a chance to see Michael's Contender up close, you'll understand that our Pacers are in good hands!

Despite all the challenges of the past two seasons, day in and day out, our volunteers front up for duty. It seems like I write about this every newsletter, but it demonstrates the value and appreciation for the effort that goes into making our club such a great place to sail and race. Once again – on behalf of our sailors, thank you each and every one of you. A celebration of our volunteers and their partners will be happening on the Saturday 24th April – hope to see you there.

In closing, I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Presentation Night on the 29th May to celebrate the season that was!

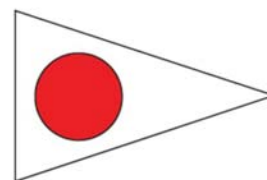
Sean Bly



Hobbie Hawk fleet



Division 1



Somers Yacht Club Division 1 Report April 2021

Westernport Challenge

Sloppy seas and not enough wind saw the division 1 fleet dominated by the Taipans and the bigger catamarans with more sail area and spinnakers. Our top result was from Michelle Bursa and Ben Carroll racing their F18 in 8th place with Michelle 2nd female skipper overall. Interesting to see that Robbie Lovig has switched back to racing with Westernport YC.

State Titles Labour Day Long Weekend 6 – 8 March

Hobie 16 State Titles at Safety Beach

A great participation from Somers with 9 of the 22 yacht fleet from Somers. 5 races were completed over the long weekend which was marred by delays due to lack of wind and postponements.

Congratulations to Geoff Rowdon and Rosie Phelan on their 3rd place overall and Nigel and Abi Beddoe for their 5th place overall and congratulations to the rest of the Somers entrants for traveling over the hill to compete and get the additional race tuning. Simon Morris and Jemima Wilson were even in the mix with a 3rd placing race 4. Congratulations also to Emma, Zoe, Elly Morris and their crews for their clean sweep of the Womens division and Zoe and Elly in the Youth division.

Mosquito State Titles at Lake Eppalock

Justin Prior and Gina Webster represented Somers YC at the state titles and congratulations on their 4th place overall in the sloop rigged division. Their weekend was also marred by lack of wind and a race shortened to a single lap just to get enough races to register an outcome.

Around French Island Race 13 March

Somers YC was well represented with a fleet of Hobie 16s setting off From Somers beach to Cowes YC for the race start. Of the 11 entrants listed in the results, 5 were from Somers and with ideal

Hobie 16 conditions Somers YC took line honours with Simon Morris 1st in a time of 4 hours 8 minutes followed by Geoff Rowden in 2nd place and only 22 seconds behind then Nigel Beddoe in 4th place 3 minutes further back. Congratulations to all who ventured over the sandbar to Cowes for the event.

Montalto Marathon Race 28 March

The inaugural Montalto Marathon from Balnarring YC to Flinders was well supported by Somers YC with a 10 Hobie 16s and Justin Prior and Gina Webster representing Somers YC from our division 1.

Congratulations to Geoff Rowden and Rosie Phelan on their 1st place in the OTB Catamaran Division and to Elly Morris, Emma Morris and Zoe Morris for taking a clean sweep of the Female Skipper Division.

Club Races

24 entrants in the Championship series shows the strength of division 1.

Only 6 races were completed due to too much wind, not enough wind or the February Covid-19 shutdown. Of the races that were completed, most were conducted in fresh to strong winds with plenty of capsize or buried bows.

Congratulations to Jeremy Pearse on his series win and to Nigel and Abi Beddoe in 2nd place and Geoff Rowdon and Rosie Phelan in 3rd place.

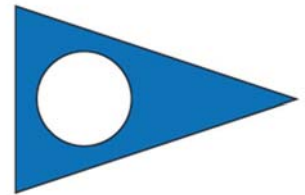
At the time of writing 2 races have been completed in the Autumn Series with Nigel and Abi Beddoe, Jeremy Pearse, Simon Morris and Brian Gristwood all in the mix at the top of the fleet. We pray for some ideal conditions some time before the end of the racing season !!

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

Peter Foulson



Division 2



March/April 2021

Firstly, congratulations to Matilda Morris for winning the Montalto Marathon, and also the Junior, Ladies and Catamaran titles, well done. Matilda and Emily Chiu were the only finishers in the hairy conditions of the 15th and 16th championships. Zac, James Briggs, and Steph finished the 9th, and Zac, Steph and Phil the 10th.

Matilda and Emily took out the DIV II Class title, with newby James Briggs second, then Zac, and Jack and Emily Cassano next. Well done guys.

Autumn series 1 and 2 were sailed under difficult conditions with Matilda again finishing in front of Malcolm and Leona Twist second. The Easter Regatta was a bit of a fizz as Saturday blew up a 25Kt Northerly and was cancelled, and Sunday looked good at first and then blew up to about 18-20, and so the wussy Paper Tiger fleet was nowhere to be seen, I among them. Then came the Autumn series 3 and 4 which were to be sailed on one of the windiest days ever, but not to be. Let's hope the last two weekends are kinder to us.

Steph

PT 3014



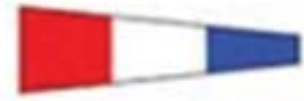
Steph Schwarz - SYC sailing great in his last race after 47 years and more than 1000 races - we salute you!

Stefan hanging up his tiller. Here with wife Barbara, son Phillip and grandchildren Oliver and Greta. Another Somers sailing dynasty.





Division 3



The end of the season is nearly upon us, and between lock downs and bad weather it has been somewhat challenging.

Congratulations again to Patrick who has taken out the Championship with a dominating performance, followed by Michael and Mike rounding out the podium. Heavy weather dominated the first 2 races of the Autumn series, with smaller fleets but some exciting racing none the less. Tasar and Contenders have been the fastest in these breezy conditions with excellent up wind speed this year ensuring that by half way down the first reach, its pretty much all over, with not many changes of positions taking place. Good to see Nigel out in his fathers old Tasar complete with Dacron sails, the transition from 2 hulls to 1, did not seem to faze the father daughter duo, with Abby hiking like a veteran in the first two heats of the Autumn series; could this be the foundations of a defection from Div. 1 to 3?

Some notable instances took place since we last reported; David Fakhry sailed his Laser in heavy conditions with the "bung" out; half of Westernport was sucked into his boat, this made the on beach retrieval good to watch; note the other half was in Morgan's A Class (seam crack in centre board case now fixed) Harrison Ede had one race where things just fell off or broke, and while he was on the pace, its difficult to build momentum when you are in the drink due to gear failure (Important to note that once Harrison gets this all sorted, I expect to see him for sure pushing for line honours) Our Rear Commodore had one race where the Contender's many idiosyncrasies, combined with tide and mixed fleet weather mark rounding proved too much, and his thoughts on the matter could be heard in Cowes; I must say that we have all been there, but it's good to see that even the most talented sailors can have "one of those days"

Finally, the Finn. I love heavy weather, the windier, colder and more difficult the sea state is the better. Last week was one of those races, not really heavy around 20 knots, but enough for me to "don" the helmet, prudent with the Finns boom rocketing at supersonic speed across the deck. Anyway, I tucked my hat, complete with its safety rope into the front of my life jacket, apparently safe and secure. At the first mark I was in the mix with the fleet, and I tacked onto

port for what should have been a short 20-meter tack to the mark. As I tacked my hat fell out of my life jacket and the rope securing it became wedged into the mainsheet block as I was half way through the tack. So, you guessed it, given I could not fully release the mainsheet over I went, with my hat rope wedged into the block. I must admit to having a very short moment where I thought this could be interesting as the boat was upside down and I had my face firmly stuck in the upturned hull attached to the mainsheet block. My 40 years at the gym finally paid off and I all but yanked the bottom of the boat off and freed my hat and so myself. The boat turtle, the centre board unable to be retrieved due to less than satisfactory tensioning elastic, after 20 minutes of trying, I was unable to right the boat without "jump crew" assistance. Janis was on scene early hovering like a protective brother, and relayed the message to SA11, that I needed assistance and they promptly arrived. Simon Boadle jumped in and with little instruction perched on the gunnel with legs under the boat onto the centre board leveraging it just enough for me to grab it, and get the boat back into the wind and to its natural state. Simon then jumped onto the bow, held it into the wind while I pulled myself aboard. I cleaned up the sheets, sailed the next lap, and went back to the start ready for race two.

So, what were the lessons here for me?

1. Somers Sea Rescue drivers and permanent crews were well and truly up to the task.

2. Experienced sailors as jump crews are very important, thanks to Janus and Simon. Simon was able to execute without instruction from me; this is a big + when you have been in the water for 15-20 minutes or so.

3. Even people who have been sailing for 50 years, can and will get into trouble. If I was out on my own, I am not sure what the outcome would have been. Always sail with someone, and preferably with rescue craft.

4. If you had 1 million tries at having your hat cord sucked/wrapped into the mainsheet block, I reckon you could not do it!!

See you on the water!

Nick Carter



SASSY

“SASSY” Shesails at Somers YC was held on Sunday 28 February 2021. We were very fortunate to have ideal weather-a sunny 25 degrees and light winds!

Thirty-three boats including Pacers(13), Sabres(8), 125s(5), Hobie Hawks(3), Laser4.7(1), Hobie14(2) and Hobie16(1) participated. Nineteen boats and thirty-one sailors were Somers members.

Our neighbouring clubs, Merricks (5 boats), Flinders (2) and Westernport (1) were well represented with other visitors from Williamstown (3), Black Rock (2), Beaumaris (1) and Indented Head/Geelong (1).

Fifty-eight females aged from ten to seventy sailed. Whilst all had some sailing ability (minimum club racing level), most came seeking more confidence through a supportive event . Several Pacers, 125s and Sabres were more experienced and had a great warm-up for their State Titles scheduled for the following weekend.

Many thanks to the seven coaching mentors (Glenn Collings, Jarka Kluth, Alex Conway, Pip Pietromonico, Michael Vandenberg, Geoff Craig and Eleonore Rich) who donated their time, keeping the cost to entrants to a minimum. (\$40/single handed, \$60/double handed and juniors half price)

Extra RIBs were loaned from neighbouring clubs Merricks and Westernport.

The day consisted of a morning of on and off the water instruction in small groups, followed by short races in the afternoon. Lou Hutton was a wonderful visiting Race Officer.

Our club caterer, Jill, provided delicious coffees, breakfasts, lunches and after sailing snacks. A short presentation of prizes and speeches followed the racing.

There was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the day - much happiness and sharing of sailing knowledge. Many thanks to all the Somers volunteers who made the day possible, especially Amanda Nutting, Di Graham and Norm Dewar.

Wendy Wilson



Sassy, lively, bold and full of spirit. Quick witted and clever girls are winners and grinners.



SWISH

Definition: Swish

Something extremely awesome, impressive and satisfying, much like hearing a swish when you shoot in basketball.

Urban dictionary: Feb 2014

Those who have participated in Somers Women in Sailing Happiness may liken the social sailing session when being out on the water to extremely awesome, impressive and satisfying.

Having been a Somers frequenter all my life and growing up in a sailing family (McCutcheon) I have often looked at the boats on the water and thought "that's a spectacular sight & I wish I could be out there too". It's taken last year's enforced solitude to finally bite the bullet and do something about it; but how? I don't have a boat and I don't know how to sail. Then I heard about SWISH (Somers women's in sailing. happiness), sailing happiness you say - I needed to get me some of that!

In January I rocked along - not without a trusty companion (Rachel McCutcheon). Reports were we needed sailing gear (wetsuit, waterproof jacket, thermal top!). I thought "what have I gotten myself into?" But equally - "Another reason to go shopping!"

Having checked out the SYC merch I thought I could skip the sailing and just look the part- thank goodness I didn't! The heavens looked kindly upon us that particular afternoon with sun shining, light wind (perfect for beginners) and a wonderful group of 20+ women. The afternoon proceeded, taking turns hopping in & out of the safety boat, swapping

in & out of the Pacers. Now came my turn to not shame myself, my friend or my family name by maneuvering myself onto the aptly named Morris Mayhem without falling in the water. I managed it with only partial embarrassment, and then discovered who was at the helm.... 12 year old Lucy Lavery! We had a marvellous time chatting about dogs, sailing and life at Somers whilst admiring the beautiful vista - if this is what sailing is like then I'm in! And that was before I had my obligatory post-sailing glass of bubbles!

With both feet back on land, re-living the tacks and gybes in my head, in typical Claire style I threw myself into this new world by promptly signing up to the club and the adult sailing course led by the talented (& patient) Emma Morris. This has led to sailing at SASSY (SheSails Development Regatta) and Pacer State Championships (thanks Libby Moore for taking me on as crew) which is a lot to fit in, in a couple of months. Of course it's also required the purchase of more sailing fashion and accessories!

Now a regular at SWISH (sailing, socialising & sipping bubbles) I have enjoyed sailing and meeting the likes of Wendy, Libby, Amanda, Lisa, Pat, Yolanda, Anna, Melissa, Melinda, Karena, Danni, Trish, Colleen, Anne, Janelle... the list is endless. Thanks ladies for a great sailing season!

All I can say now is I am a convert- I also have a greater understanding why my late father Paddy loved the water so much, as it's so satisfying to leave your troubles on the shore and head out to nail a rolling tack or fly along under spinnaker! It's extremely AWESOME! Claire Gustavsson





Sea Rescue

For some years now I have been number three of a three man crew on Somers Yacht Club Start Boat SA4.

The number one is Skipper Gerry Lewis and number two Richard (Black Flag) Fakhry.

We have developed into well run team and for most of the time get the Race Start procedure efficiently carried out with a good start line. However sometimes challenges occur putting the three crew members into (possibly) near panic.

For example in rough weather the boat can drag the anchor and the start line needs adjustment. This sometimes involves pulling up the anchor and repositioning the boat, all very strenuous for this older group. (Cumulative age 240 years).

Occasionally one of the flags will get entangled on the way up, usually the Blue Peter needing a lot of rope shaking to free

Two of us have stop watches for the timing and sometimes the count is interrupted by radio chatter, only once have we been a second or so late. Speaking of radio communications, the tower, particularly for the second race often only gives us a

few seconds notice which division or divisions are to start next. Usually we manage to fumble the correct flags into place and have a smooth start.

We did have a big disappointment the other day when after a general recall we raised the black flag, Richard was delighted! However on the next start there were so many boats crossing the line early that we could not take their numbers so after another recall we just had an ordinary start. Occasionally with the permission of the Race Officer we have a visitor on board, your Newsletter Editor, Colleen was one of those. She helped with the flag raising and was very efficient.

A younger crew is needed to eventually take over these duties and anyone wishing to experience the start boat should get in touch with a General Committee member, a Race Officer or our Club Captain. (Sorry that the photo does not include Richard, Tim was standing in at the time)

Kind regards Start Boat SA4
by "The cabin boy", Roy Higginson





Somers Juniors Bumper Summer

January 2021 was an even bigger month - both our junior and adult sailing school programs were at capacity, with:

- 28 students completing Start Sailing 1 and 2 on the Club Pacer fleet;
- 13 students completing our Better Sailing course on their own boats;
- 14 adults beginning their sailing journey in our Adult Start Sailing course;
- a wildly popular cat coaching program; and
- 8 teens joining in the fun of our Out There Sailing program.

in addition to running courses for SYC members, Emma and her team hosted a very successful week of sailing training for a group of Navy Cadets from TS Tingira, based at HMAS Cerberus. The Cadets gave SYC and Emma's course rave reviews and were thrilled to be invited.

Off water activities

Juniors and their parents have blitzed their way through a busy social program this summer - with everyone enjoying our games nights, junior disco, photo competition, junior trivia night, inaugural Hot Somers Ball, and movie nights. Thanks to everyone who joined in the fun - and special thanks to the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes to help make these events so successful - doing everything from refereeing games, to coming up with trivia questions, taking photos, setting up the club before events, packing up after events, and scooping ice cream for dozens and dozens of juniors!

Our 2020/2021 Summer Sailing School program was a huge success - with more students than ever before out on the water, developing their skills under the expert guidance of Emma Morris and her team of incredible Instructors - **Jonathan, Elly, James, Zoe, Daniel, Will, Abbey, Jack, Matilda and Harry.**

In December 2020, we saw 20 eager juniors complete our Start Sailing 1 and 2 programs. While the weather was cool, enthusiasm was high and the Club's Pacer fleet and Bics got a great work out over 4 busy days.

These courses showcased the very best of SYC - outstanding supportive instruction, great conditions, and a great sense of teamwork, community and fun - along with delicious morning tea (**Leonie** continued a highly anticipated annual tradition, serving up trays of her legendary home made scones with jam and cream)!

Massive thanks to Emma and all her Instructors for their hard work and careful guidance of so many novice sailors. Their efforts are invaluable and help grow and sustain our club. Many of our newest members got their first taste of skippering - and were well and truly bitten by the sailing bug! We look forward to watching this year's batch of graduates grow into future champion sailors!

Thanks also to the dedicated instructors who have been out on SA2, guiding and encouraging our Div 5 racers on race days - **Jonathan Dunlop, Will Morgan, Harrison Ede** - such a great way to help introduce our new sailors to racing at the club and get their racing confidence levels up! And many thanks too to **Nigel Beddoe and Simon Morris** for their time and effort getting our juniors through another summer of Div 5 boat repairs and equipment fixes!

Check out the *Somers Yacht Club Juniors* Facebook page for more photos of our juniors and families enjoying another great summer at SYC.

Patricia Low





Hobie Hawk Titles

With such an amazing group of youth and families within the club this season, the Hawk Titles were a hit for our division 5 sailors. For many competitors it was their first race ever, progressing on from sailing school and social sailing.

With 11 competitors on the day and a low tide in the morning, we started with the fun novelty races. Each race had different tasks, from eating lolly snakes without your hands before you could launch your boat, drinking a can then filling it with sand from another beach, or collecting rubber ducks from the water and delivering it to a patrol boat.

These races filled the morning while we had a perfect gentle westerly breeze. After lunch we had a quick briefing then onto the water for racing around the marks on a short triangle course. All races were one lap, and the improvement was immense from all sailors with their starts and up wind sailing, taking into account the strong tide.

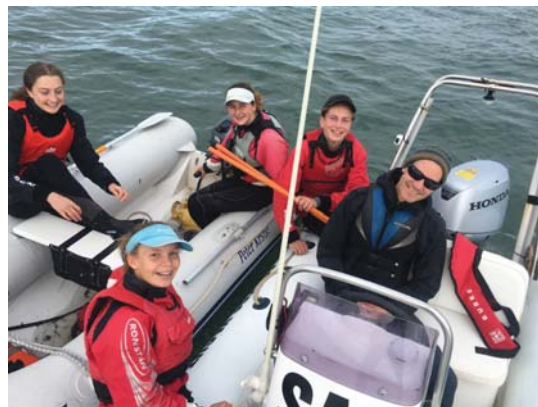
It was very beneficial to run a separate course for these division 5 boats, making them feel safe and more confident to give racing a go against all juniors in similar boats.

I would like to thank the sailing instructors that gave up their afternoon race to help run the racing and patrol boats on the day. A thank you also to all the families involved with the dinner post racing.

Well done to all competitors for completing a massive 9 races in one day and thank you to the 5 dolphins for entertaining us between races.

1 st Place	Henry Hutchinson
2 nd Place	Leona Twist
3 rd Place	Eric Griffin
4 th Place	Ryan Leary

Emma Morris





End of Season Working Bee Sunday 18th April

It was a fantastic turn out for this year's 'end of season' working bee.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

It was one of the best working bees we've attended. Everyone worked so hard and achieved a great deal. We had an enormous list of jobs to be done, which I was sure we could not complete, but we did!

As you can see the morning tea was magnificent and thank you too to those who prepared it. It is always greatly appreciated.

The Boat Yard looks very tidy and manicured, Our entry pathway and garden look amazing. The Maintenance shed now has shelving and is very full of equipment. Windows are gleaming. Tables on the upper deck have had the timber replaced and deck railing has been sanded and stained. So much trimming and tidying up has been done by so many. Underneath the North Deck looks amazing. Inside, the kitchen is gleaming, the storeroom and Spar room reorganised and the Bar storage area given a make over too. Our wonderful Pacer Fleet have been given an end of season service and repair and the Kayaks all sorted out.

Needless to say there was a lot more than this achieved on this day. Once again thank you to our wonderful volunteers.

Regards Diane Otto, David Goble, Malcolm Otto and Grahame Tiplady.



Know Your Flags (Part 5) – Uncommonly used flags.

In sailing we use flags to communicate necessary messages and instructions to sailors on and off the water. In this series of articles, we would like to explain the flag signals of racing, and what the race management team are expecting from sailors.

Part 1 of this series discussed flags used to postpone races, part 2 discussed flags used to start races, part 3 discussed flags to Stop races, part 4 discussed flags used to Change the Course. If you missed either part 1, part 2, part 3 or part 4 dig up a copies of the previous newsletters. Part 1 also contains the internet location of the Racing Rules of Sailing published by World Sailing.

In part 5 we cover uncommonly used flags.

L Flag



The L flag can be raised ashore or from a committee boat. Its meaning differs depending on whether raised ashore or raised from a committee boat.

Ashore: it means there is a notice to sailors posted on the official notice board. Often this is a change to sailing instructions but could be used for any notice.

Afloat: It means follow this vessel or come within hailing distance.

Sound

1 Sound signals when raised. The sound signals are to draw attention to the raising but the signal is still valid if the sound fails.

What it means for Somers Sailors

At Somers, it is most often used ashore to indicate changes to sailing instructions or to draw attention to a notice posted for sailors. It is rarely used afloat but could be used when the windward mark is difficult to see. A committee boat will raise the L flag and move toward the windward mark with the fleet following until boats are close enough to the mark to be easily visible.

M Flag



This flag is used to replace a mark that is missing. So if a mark sinks or breaks its mooring and floats away during a race, a committee boat will anchor where the mark should be, raise the flag and make continuous sound signals as boats approach.

Sound

Continuous Sound signals when raised. The sound signals are mandatory to draw attention.

What it means for Somers Sailors

Rarely used but could be if a mark moves out of position.

Y Flag



When raise it indicates that you must wear a floatation device. This is rarely, if ever, used in dinghy sailing in Australia because it is **mandatory** to wear a buoyancy vest at all times while afloat.

This could be used for trailer sailor or keelboat racing where the race committee has determined that racing conditions require an extra level of safety and floatation devices to be worn.

Sound

1 sound signals when raised. The sound signals are to draw attention to the raising but the signal is still valid if the sound fails.

Sailing Rule

Rule 40 applies.

What it means for Somers Sailors

This is never used at Somers because it is **mandatory** for dinghy sailors to wear buoyancy vests while afloat.



Know Your Flags (Part 5) – Uncommonly used flags.

Blue Flag



(no sound)

This is a blue flag or shape raised on a committee boat to indicate it is on station at the finish line. Not used in club racing at Somers but almost always used in state and national titles.



Flag



This flag is specific to Somers and can be displayed ashore or afloat.

If raised ashore it indicates that the sailing conditions are not safe for Novice or inexperienced sailors and they should not sail.





Social News

A tribute to Roy Orbison show, with Issy Dye and Glenn Douglas, was held on Saturday 20 March.

It was a great night with much singing and dancing by all who attended this wonderful tribute to Roy Orbison.

At Easter, there was a Family BBQ/Picnic held on the Saturday night which featured the JETS, plus great music from Eli and Alan. It was very well attended by many families and a lot of fun, plus dancing, had by all who came. On Easter Sunday morning the annual Easter egg hunt was it's usual hit with the children.

The next **Family BBQ/Picnic** will be held on Saturday 12 June (Queens Birthday long week-end) featuring **The Jets**.

Sunday 2 May 2021 - Car Rally - Fun for all the family!

Don't miss this family event with clues to follow as each car navigates a mystery tour around the Peninsula. A BYO picnic at the Club will finish the morning's excitement. Meet at the Yacht Club at 9.00am for the briefing and to receive the clues to follow. If you feel inclined, dress up your car and/or even yourself to pitch for one of the prizes!

Cost is \$20 per car with no limit to the number of vehicle occupants. Prizes will be awarded afterwards. Entry fee includes a drink from the Bar for each vehicle occupant.

Clare Witnish



Roy et al



A Hot Somers Night Ball

Bridge on Fridays.

The Friday Bridge Group has survived the lockdown and are back at the yacht club enjoying our social game and often drinks and dinner afterwards. Quite a few of us managed to play together online last year – despite frequent drop-outs due to internet connections and related causes. This proved so popular we have continued with it on Wednesday afternoons.

It is very casual at the club and we manage to cope with odd numbers so people sit out briefly and swap around.

It is good we are able to use our wonderful club for other activities... Jean Grant





CPR REFRESHER AT THE YACHT CLUB

Somers Community is welcome to
join a

FREE BYSTANDER BASIC CPR DEMONSTRATION

Covering adult and child resuscitation.
Defibrillator demonstration included.

**SOMERS YACHT CLUB
SATURDAY MAY 1st
10 am – 11am**

Please bring your own doll to practise child resuscitation on.
**RSVP - Amanda Nutting –
0411 221 800 (TEXT)**

ALL WELCOME



Tasar State Titles

The Tasar Victorian States over the March long weekend started with blue skies, 15-20 knots and lots of drama on water with 30 boats, vying for best starting position.

A number of the crews were World and National Champions and there were three boats from Somers – Lynden and Katrina, Phil and Oliver, Pat and Cary.

This enthusiastic fleet meant there were multiple general recalls and a few black flags. All very daunting for new sailors. This was the first Titles for Lynden and Katrina who were initially confused by the “5 minute start”, the black flag protocols and aggressive start line. Katrina was heard to say on the water “This is not what happens at Somers”.

Phil and Oliver sailed extremely well in the strong wind days. Oliver doing his fair share of ‘hiking out’. Cary and Pat had their best race on Day 3 finishing 5th.

Race Management were able to get 3 races in on Day 1 but Day 2 saw light winds and after sailing out to the race area and trying to start a race, all sailing was abandoned for the day so Day 3 was critical with discards potentially in play. In the end State Champions were Heather MacFarlane and Chris Payne..

Pat Pedicini

Tasar State titles were held at McCrae Yacht Club 6 - 8 March 2021.





Pacer and 125 State Titles

It was the first day of the first race and all the 125 and Pacers have gathered at the boat yard of the Somers Yacht Club. All the sailors were gathering outside to hear a speech that explained all the rules and the course and tell them who they could ask if they had questions.

When the course was set the boats started coming out, it was a sunny day with a good amount of wind. As the boats sailed around waiting for the start, the people in the rescue boats checked the wind direction so they can set the start line. The 125's started first, then the Pacers.

The hooter sounded and the Pacers were off. My dad and I had a good start. We were zooming in front of the whole fleet, first to the top mark but after that a spinnaker person got in front of us. We came second! The whole regatta of races were great, in the next races we came 5th, 2nd, 2nd, 1st and 6th. All the sailors get to drop their highest number so we scored 12 points. We came 3rd in the whole fleet and we didn't even have a spinnaker!



Like grandfather, like fathers, like daughters.

The Otto family: Mat and Eliza in Puffin Billy and Lachy and Ava in Midnight Speed, competing at Somers in the Pacer State Titles.

Editors note: Many boats from Somers competed in the Pacer State Titles including three father daughter duos.

We got a big trophy for coming 1st in the non spinnaker which we get to keep for a year and get our name written on it, we also got a little white gold trophy for coming third and some cups and vouchers.

I am so proud of myself and everyone else who participated in the regatta and those who helped to make it happen. My teacher and class mates think that we were awesome!

Eliza Otto Puffin Billy 1195

What a fantastic sight to see so many Pacer and 125s on the water together at Somers YC for the State Titles. It was a really enjoyable and well run event - so nice to see so many Somers people participating and volunteering!

Ava Otto. Midnight Speed 517



Eliza 8 years, crew for her father Mat, holding the Perpetual Trophy for 1st in the non-spinnaker division.

Ava 9 years, along with her father Lachy came 4th.



Hobie Cat Victorian State Titles 2021

Hosted at Safety Beach Sailing Club (7 – 9 th March)

There were three days of challenging racing. There were 12 Hobie 16's From Somers Yacht Club (or crewing or skippering on different boats), 1 Hobie 14, 3 Hobie Dragoon's.

The wind average was 2 – 5 Knots with the occasional 10 – 15 knot gust/ interval. The wind was very patchy and continuously changing.

There were fantastic evening events including Trivia hosted by Luke Crouch and "Rowdy's Roller

Rampage" which was a beach roller weightlifting competition hosted by Geoff Rowdon and Zak Rowdon. There was also a Gourmet BBQ then a Fancy Dinner with Dessert.

I enjoyed this event because there was socialisation, racing and a lot of fun!

There was a Hobie 16 Fleet of 23, Hobie 18 Fleet of 1, Hobie 14 Fleet of 10, Hobie Dragoon Fleet of 4.

Results (Somers Only) Below!!

Hobie 16 Womens

1 st Emma Morris and Caroline Jackson

2 nd Zoe Morris and Laura Le Busque

3 rd Elly Morris and Abi Morgan

Hobie 14

4 th Zak Row-

Hobie Dragoon

1 st Matilda Morris and Emily Chiu

2 nd Will Morgan and Max Casalaz

3 rd Jack Cassano and Luka

Hobie 16 Open

1 st Cam Weddell and Naomi Chiu

3 rd Geoff Rowdon and Rosie Phelan

6 th Nigel Beddoe and Abi Beddoe

7 th Simon Morris and Jemima Wilson

9 th Emma Morris and Caroline Jackson

11th Conor Greasby and Joey Thomas

12th Zoe Morris and Laura Le Busque

13th Tim Chiu and Luke Davidson

15th Elly Morris and Abi Morgan

16th Luke Crouch and Georgia Wood- Freeman

17th Rob Pearse and Gidi Segal



Text and photos supplied by Jack Cassano.



The Rebuilding of Somers Yacht Club

After the early morning loss our building (about 6am) Saturday 18th August from a violent wind gust (someone had left the windows open to remove the smell of the newly painted floor) and the top floor, walls, windows and asbestos roof were blown into the boat yard.

This is the story of how we went about the rebuilding and kept the 2001-2002 sailing season alive.

Andy Griffin, then the Vice Commodore, convened a meeting at 10 am in the tower (the only room left on the top floor) and then set up a committee which included a great mix of skills to oversee the rebuilding. He appointed John Hatton as chairman. Given John's experience it was a great decision.

The major tasks were identified and allocated and many people who co-opted. John had a copy of the minutes printed that afternoon so everyone was aware of the job tasks they had been allocated

Over the next two weeks we met daily and the major issues were:

- Making an inventory and removal of most items to storage off site
- Finding old architects drawing of club
- Removal of the asbestos from the boat yard
- Recover the club information ie honour boards etc.

Arranging for hire of 2 shipping containers one for long term storage and the other to store all the sailing equipment so we could still go sailing racing

When the insurance company appointed a builder, and after our negotiations with the insurance adjuster, we arranged to have the gents toilets and HOT showers to be still working so our sailing was not affected too much.

Vern Tansley took charge of the redesign of the club including a larger commercial kitchen and after prodding enlarged the bar space. Many people gave their help and Mike North a friend of Geoff Rae donated a lot of the plumb-

ing equipment while Andy Griffin was at Greys Auctions buying 2 large fridges, stoves, washers and tables for the kitchen

By the time the work was finished the cost had escalated to \$330,000 for the building (\$280,000 covered by insurance) and our insurers paid additional \$12,000 insurance for contents and \$50,000 for the costs.

Two Interesting facts:

1. When the club was destroyed the Sunday ABC news which was usually transmitted from Sydney, but due to a fire, ABC Melbourne did the national news and the lead item was Somers Yacht Club. As a result we had many phone calls of assistance.

2. We decided to replace the wooden deck out the front including near the tower. as we were removing the planks. The complete bay of decking had crashed to the ground. We were so lucky that with the fireworks display on new year, the fireworks were let off in the rocks to the east of the club.

Andy Griffin





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The General Committee 2020-2021



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Mike Sandiford



Vice Commodore
Diane Otto



Rear Commodore
Sean Bly



Treasurer
Tim Brock



Secretary
Roy Higginson



Membership
Libby Moore



Social
Clare Witnish



OHS
Nigel Bedoe



Nick Carter



General Committee
Dianne Graham



Bar
Keith Moore



Facilities
David Goble



Amanda Nutting
General Committee



John Tilleard
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General Committee	Nick Carter		

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