



Windward

Sailing at its best

November 2015

Pacers all set and ready for action



The six new Pacers with sails in club colours make an impressive sight lined up for their official christening

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From the Commodore's Desk

WE had a perfect start to our season on October 24. The gods have already been kind to us with smooth seas and fair breezes. Our new Rear Commodore and Race Officer produced a sparkling day with a course just right to ease those sailing muscles back in place. Michelle Gregory and Helen Kirkby demonstrated their rescue-boat driving skills with very neat landings on to the trailer.

Your committee has plotted our course for the next 12 months with more than 70 sailing events and 80 social events, including Vic's Friday nights. Somers is a volunteer club so with help from all members we can make this season another great success.

The real excitement of opening day was to celebrate what has been achieved over the winter, as it sets us up for a bright future.

1. the repair of the rock wall with thanks to Parks and DEPI for contributing to the funding and to John Tilleard for project managing.

2. the refurbishment of downstairs to create a more attractive space for training, briefing and social activities. While a few members have contributed their time, one needs to be singled out for special thanks - Grahame Tiplady not only project managed the job but completed most of the work himself.

3. all the ancillary work done at the club including locating the container, varnishing the floor upstairs and the great job of making the place look smart at the working bee. On behalf of the club I thank all those who contributed their time and skills.

4. the remarkable response to our request for donations to the Pacer Project and to promote junior sailing at the club. Thank you and congratulations to Steve Clifford who took on the fundraising task. More than \$90,000 was raised, enabling us to buy six new Pacers for training (ably organised by John Tilleard), a new Rib rescue boat to help keep us all safe, the renovation of downstairs and the creation of a new junior trophy donated by Anne Danne in memory of Noel Danne, who was a great supporter and encour-

ager of young sailors at Somers.

This new trophy, along with the plaque listing the significant donors to this project, was unveiled by Anne before she rang the bell to officially announce the season open.

Eight donors were generous enough to each fund the purchase of one Pacer, six of them now have naming rights. At the opening night each donor was asked in turn to "christen" the boat with champagne and say the traditional yacht christening words: "I hereby christen this yacht and entreat the powers of the deep to care for all who sail in her."

The six are -

Bronwyn Gibbs

in memory of John McB Williams.

Named: J.Mc.B

Steve Clifford and Amanda Nutting

Clifford / Nutting family.

Named: Bruce

Courtney and Madison Harvey

Hatton / Harvey family

Named: Ha Ha

Jeremy and Jules Pearse

Pearse family

Named: Popcorn

Hugh Morris

Ann and Hugh Morris

Named: Morris Mayhem

Mark and Lisa Tuck

Tuck family

Named: The Friar

Monique Arnol and Emma Bradley christened the Rib Rescue boat "Norm Dewar" after their grandfather in recognition of his huge contribution to the club over many years.

The evening was a great success thanks to Vic and the many members who set up the room, rigged the Pacers, served the drinks and cleared up afterwards.



**- Chris Gurney
Commodore**

Opening day events



Members enjoying drinks and nibbles



Commodore Chris Gurney introducing Anne Danne and her sons David (left) and Andrew



New rescue boat and pacers waiting for the Christening ceremony

Images: Rod Nuske

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Rear Commodore's report

WHAT a great season start!

We had superb conditions for a well-attended opening day regatta, followed by an energetic and jam-packed cocktail party and boat christenings.

The clubhouse was heaving and the warmth of feeling between everyone easily overcame the slightly cool wind that blew up.

Didn't it look fabulous, with the large crowd on the deck looking down on all the brand-new Pacers and RIB lined up below?

Several members said to me later that the whole scene had brought a tear to their eyes. There was a strong feeling of nostalgia, with the wonderful memories and history of our great club tinged with a strong sense that we are a club with a very positive future.

Many other sporting clubs, including yacht clubs, are struggling at present, with low member engagement and dwindling numbers. Thanks to all of our wonderful members that is not the case at Somers.

Many thanks to John Tilleard for his vision and execution in making the Pacer Project happen. Although few of us were directly involved in the long hours, we truly appreciate what has been achieved through John's tireless work in getting the Pacer Project off the ground from conception, then through research, purchase, delivery and overall co-ordination.

How good did those Somers sail colours look? We are truly blessed at Somers Yacht Club.

As usual we have a busy season planned on the sailing front. After much discussion and feedback we have increased the number of divisions to six, with the main change the addition of a Laser division, the new Division 4.

No longer will the Lasers have to trail around looking at the sterns of Tasars and suffering on yardstick. The Laser fleet will now be all together and we hope this will be good for our younger sailors, the lifeblood of the club.

We have also altered Division 2 to try to even out the spread of yardsticks and course requests. Stay tuned.

At popular request we have scheduled more back-to-back races, to hone those starting and buoy-rounding skills. The whole pre-Christmas series is now back to back. Thanks to Race Control and Sea Rescue for accommodating these changes, which we realise involve a lot more work.

Before Christmas we have also added teams racing at WYC, as well as the Mossie State Titles at SsYC on November 21-22 and a rules session in which we will concentrate on just a couple of scenarios that tend to trip up Somers sailors.

Thanks to Garry Morris for taking over leadership of Sea Rescue from Norm Dewar this season, to Mark Graham for holding the important role of Sailing Master and to Norm Dewar for staying around on committees to give us newbies a helping hand.

Emma Morris and Adam Gristwood are doing a sterling job with our vibrant sailing school. Now that we have the new RIB SA 2 - the "Norm Dewar" - we are able to run two concurrent sailing school programs over the Christmas period and another in January. Bookings opened this week and are more than 50 per cent subscribed already.

And thanks to Grahame Tiplady for his wonderful work in producing our gleaming revitalised briefing room. The club has never looked better.

As well as heading the Pacer project, John Tilleard has been a stalwart contributor to the club generally in his role as Rear Commodore. I thank him for leaving the sailing side of the club, the key focus of the Rear Commodore, in such an excellent state.

And I urge all members to continue their involvement in our unique, volunteer-run club. It may be a truism but we all get out of it what we put in.

Best wishes for a great 2015/16 sailing season.

- Amanda Nutting

My life at Somers yacht club

HAVING never sailed before, Bev and I, with two young daughters in tow, joined Somers Yacht Club in 1976.

After sailing a Sabre for a couple of years I moved on to real boats, Paper Tigers and Mosquitos.

During this time we both served on the social committee and I joined the sailing committee. This introduced me to administration and race control, which I enjoy immensely.

Then I was privileged to become a flag officer and eventually I served as Commodore in 1987-89.

When I retired from work there was a need for someone to look after the patrol boats and the club accepted my offer to take that on, even though I had limited power boat experience.

With a lot of coaching from old salt and dear friend Don Ede it all turned out OK.

The proudest moment of my life was when I was made a life member, followed by the recent naming of a rescue boat after me.

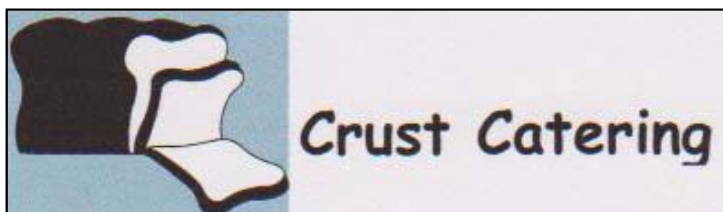
I find it all hard to believe as I am only doing something I love doing with mates. I would never have had this if we had not joined such a wonderful club.

- Norm Dewar



Above: The new rescue boat waiting to be named

Below: Norm with granddaughters Monique (left) and Emma (centre)



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Division 1 report

IT has been another long winter and spring and while many have been skiing, kayaking, hiking, scuba diving, travelling or fixing those annoying items on the yachts that we put up with all last season there are those in Division 1 who travelled and raced all over the place.

Michelle Bursa came second in the Hobie 16 European women's titles on Lake Garda in Italy in August. Michelle and Robbie Lovig again made a great team and we look forward to seeing great results from them this season on the Nacra International 17.

Matt Stone and Tash van Rennes travelled to the Great Lakes Sailing Club, Forster, NSW, on October 4-6 for the annual Wildcat regatta. Matt cleaned up his division with wins in all races while Tash came third in her division. Megan Bursa was there racing with Brett Goodall on a Viper sloop and finished third in Matt's division.

The Somers Yacht Club opening day short course regatta for the 2015-2016 season saw a light 10-knot south-westerly and four Division 1 entries consisting of Brain Gristwood, Jeremy Pearse, Megan Bursa and Pip Pietromonaco from Western Port Yacht Club and Janus Karnowski. They finished in that order.

We look forward to getting more yachts in the yard and out racing in the coming weeks as repairs and refurbishments are completed and the weather begins to warm up.

Word has it that Justin and Gina Prior have sold their house in Somers and will move to Bali in the new year where Gina will take up a teaching position for a year. Good luck with the move and the change of lifestyle. We hope to see you back at Somers the following year or whenever you make the move back to Oz.

- Peter Foulsum



Above: Matt walks away with an arm full of prizes

Below: Tash racing in the typical light wind conditions



Windward newsletter—December edition

Editorial copy deadline is Friday 27 November

and at latest Wednesday 2 December

Division 2 report

OPENING day started with a nice light breeze of about 8 knots....as we left the beach it was still light until just before the start and the wind increased to a lovely 12 knots.

Malcolm and I started first followed by Emma in the Hobie 16, followed by Ellie Hobie 14 and then Peter in PT.

I was first to the top mark followed by Emma.

Then Malcolm who had a great reach, catching me and leading me to the lee mark. But once on the wind my boat absolutely flew, must have been the winter maintenance. Malcolm and I had a close race from then on and we finished. Emma, myself, Malcolm and Peter...Ellie DNF.

- Phil Johnson

Membership

WHILE there has been a steady flow of renewals, there are still a number of members who have not registered or paid their membership fees. Please bring your membership up to date and advise us of any changes.

Sailors in particular are reminded that if they are not financial, and boats registered and paid for,

they are not entitled to sail.

Reminder that all renewals must be completed and paid by 31 December.

Should you have any problems completing the registration and payment details call me on 0418 576622

- Richard Fakhry

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Division 4 report

WHAT a great start to the new season for the Laser class. We had two full rigs (David Fakhry and Steve Clifford) having a great battle, Harrison Ede in the Radial leading the way and three 4.7s (Maddi Poon, Maddi Harvey and James Briggs) having their own battle. The racing was close and rapid. All is looking good for a great season.

Some will be missing over November for other regattas (Sail Country and Sarah Blanck Regatta) or for exams and Jazz Nights (with jazz maestros Lachie on sax and Harrison on trumpet) and the ISAF World Cup in early December. But come Boxing Day all will be out in force.

Ed Alsop will soon graduate from the Hobie Hawk – awesome Ed, we can't wait to see you in a 4.7.

The day after the first championship (Sunday December 6) there is a Laser Activate Day with some coaches from VLA coming down to fire us all up. Make an effort to join in for this. The last such day in February was a great success.

Good luck to Lucy, Courtney and Taylor Poon at the Sarah Blanck Regatta. Taylor will borrow Maddi's boat, who will want it back. It's time for another Laser.

- Nick Ede

Division 5 report

DIVISION 5 has had a great start to the 2015-16 sailing season. We look like being the largest division in the club this year. Welcome to Libby in her new Sabre (yet to be named) and James Harper, who joined us late last season in his Sabre "Bluey".

Opening Day saw 12 Sabres, two Pacers and a Solo enjoying close racing in sunshine with a 10-knot breeze. Unfortunately Jeremy capsized early in the race and retired after assistance from fellow division member Stephen on rescue boat duty.

Ant Davenport had a new super crew for his

Pacer, his young son Hugo. Wendy and Graeme had a very close race with the winner decided only in the last legs. Libby sailed a great first race and came in third, ahead of husband Keith, who unfortunately had a broken outhaul fitting late in the race.

I hope to see even more Division 5 boats out in the coming weeks, including the lovely new club Pacers. Good luck to all sailing in the Westernport Teams Racing on Cup Day and the women sailing in the Sarah Blanck Regatta the following weekend.

- Wendy Wilson

Division 6 report

THE season got off to a good start with our new Division 6 keen to race.

Six little dinghies waited patiently for their turn, then, with perfect conditions, they made their way around the course with ease.

It was good to see many who had come through sailing school now take that next step to getting on the water regularly and start racing. It would be great to see more from sailing school add to the Division 6 numbers.

Daniel has been training hard over winter on his

optimist, so watch out Hawk sailors, he will be tough competition.

The big question is: "Is Ed going to change boats and divisions or stick to his trusty Hawk?"

It was great to see some newbies on the water, including Will Davenport and Matilda Morris. The new inflatable rescue boat, "Norm Dewar", will be greatly appreciated by these juniors, coaching them around the course on race days.

- Emma Morris

Working for a better club

IT was all hands on deck for the club's annual working bee on October 18.

There was plenty to do, including painting, mowing, sanding, planting and weeding to name just some of the tasks that were undertaken.

Fifty-eight club members signed up to lend a hand with the various tasks, with facilities manager Simon Boadle describing it as a record turnout.

Sea rescue was on the water positioning the finishing buoy as well as replacing some of the rock marker buoys that had broken loose over winter.

The kitchen and bar area was subject to a thorough cleaning thanks to a number of the



Men working hard for the club

club's women members who also provided morning tea. The windows were cleaned and the locker room prepared for the new season.

- Tony Duboudin

Social news

Friday 4 December:

Vic's Friday night with a visit from Father Christmas at 6pm.
All welcome no bookings required.

Saturday 5 December:

Pre Christmas cocktail evening. Dance the night away with The Jets. \$25 for Vic's delicious finger food and a cocktail on arrival. Dress in your Christmas cocktail outfit

Saturday 12 December

BYO BBQ

Start planning for New Years Eve "An Arabian Night"





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Sailing school update

ENROLMENTS are open and numbers are flowing in. Everyone is very excited by the new Pacers that have joined our fleet. They are most impressive.

A big thank you to all who donated towards the Pacer Project. We have had an astounding response and outcome. We are now certainly well set up to continue to deliver a great introduction to sailing through Somers sailing school.

You are an awesome bunch and it is great to be a part of this club.

Over the winter months many junior sailors in the club have become qualified as assistant sailing instructors so now they can teach and be a

part of the fun times at sailing school. They enjoyed the sailing school so much they have come back to teach (and socialise) as instructors.

Welcome aboard to Taylor and Hayley Poon, Eloise Morris, James Briggs, Courtney and Lachie Harvey, who are all assistant instructors. We have a great team of teachers that do their best to encourage and teach the children and having a great time.

Check the dates for sailing school on the web and book soon if you want to join. And it's never too late for adults to try something new. There is a course for all.

- Emma Morris

Junior Catamaran Mentor Program

THERE is a new program this season for catamaran juniors to improve their sailing. Four junior cat sailors have signed up and are keen to learn more from our more mature cat sailors in the club.

Welcome aboard to Eloise Morris and Genevieve Holden, each with a Hobie 14, Dillon Holmes on his Hobie 16 and Morgan Carter on his Mosquito.

Mentors for these budding cat sailors are Michelle Bursa, Daniel Stone, Adam Gristwood and me.

Westernport Yacht Club is also part of this program with three juniors involved. We will be

*Right:
Eloise Morris
floating
along in her
Hobie 14*



sharing some training sessions with them on and off the water, building knowledge and new friendships along the way.

- Emma Morris

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CPR UPDATE SESSION AT SOMERS YACHT CLUB

Sunday 15 November at 10 am

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