



# Windward

Sailing at its best

February/March 2016

## Teams racing at its best



*See Adam Gristwood's report on page 10*

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## From the Commodore's Desk

WHAT a great club we have, we need to look no further than the spontaneous reaction of members to the misfortune of David and Caroline who lost their house in the Crib Point fires. In under a week a benefit night had been organised, auction items donated and more than 150 people attended to lend their support. More than \$8000 was raised, but we will never know the full extent of the full community's generosity.

What makes our club great is because we have great members! We share a common belief in the club as a centre of sailing and social activities. We share a common belief in the value of volunteerism. When I tell people we have 671 members, run 65 sailing events and 85 social events (including Vic's Friday nights), and with a couple of exceptions everything happens because members are happy to volunteer and enjoy the camaraderie of working together to create the buzz and enjoyment we find around the Club

they are surprised and envious!

In this month's report I have taken care not to mention any names, because so many of you have done so much to make the club a great place to be. This of course is not an invitation to become complacent! There is much more we can do to improve the club and make it more attractive to families and our social members.

On the sailing front I am sure we will rise to the challenge of hosting the Laser State Titles. The Lasers demand "Olympic Standard" events, we delivered last time, that is why they are back. Another confirmation we have great members and great members make a great club!



- **Chris Gurney**  
Commodore



## Somers Yacht Club Golf Challenge



As most of you visit the yacht club on Friday nights or for other functions, you will find a SYC Golf Challenge trophy in the trophy cabinet. It hasn't been used for some time. The names of the last winners several years ago are the Otto boys.

We have decided to resurrect the SYC challenge. The details are as follows:

- o Sunday, 17 April at Cerberus Golf Club
- o Nine holes
- o 32 players hitting off between 9.15 and 10.20. If we need to include more we have the option for some to hit off at 7am.

BBQ with presentations afterwards

The challenge is open to all members of the yacht club i.e ladies and men.

Stephen Brown and Graham Tiplady will be arranging the event and will be in touch with further details later on.

**To enter please inform Stephen Brown – email: [stephenbrown48@gmail.com](mailto:stephenbrown48@gmail.com)**

## Rear Commodore's report

WHAT a busy season we have had – generally great weather and hardly any lost races!

Since my last report we have:

- Helped run the Western Port Laser Regatta at Pt Leo,
- Successfully defended our title as Western Port Champions at the Western Port Challenge hosted by Cowes YC,
- Had a large group of younger sailors participate in the Westernport Youth Challenge,
- Held two very successful teams racing events using our new Pacers, as well as the usual scheduled Championships and Williams Point/ Commodores' Cup Series.

Whew!

The Westernport Challenge at Cowes YC deserves special mention – we had 19 sailors from Somers who crossed the sandbar to successfully defend our title as Western Port Champions!

It was a huge day with a slow sail/tow there, a delayed start due to lack of wind, then a hectic race with a fleet of almost 70 boats going around the same buoys in very strong tides with a gusty offshore wind.



*Westernport Challenge conditions playing havoc for Meagan Bursa and Pip Pietromonaco*

Somers had some excellent results.

**Michelle Bursa and Robbie Lovig**

– overall multihull winners, winners Division 1, winner female skipper (3rd boat overall)

**Matt Stone and Natasha van Rennes**

– second Division 1 (4th overall)

**Daniel Stone**

– third Division 1 (5th overall)

**Mike Sandiford**

– third Division 3 (6th overall)

**Adam Gristwood**

– winner Division 2 (10th overall)

**Patrick Moore**

– winner Division 3 (11th overall)

**Peter Foulsum**

– 12th overall

**Meagan Bursa and Pip Pietromonaco**

– 14th overall

**Andrew Robertson**

– 16th overall

**Chris Gurney and Toby Ottaway**

– third Division 3 (17th overall)

Somers also won the Youngerset WPC Perpetual Trophy.

A special mention to Daniel Laverty who sailed bravely around a very hectic course and was the only boat to finish in Division 5 – good on you Daniel!

Thanks to Garry Morris who, as club race officer, organised the three patrol boat crews to ably escort us there and back and to Dianne Graham who worked all day in the tower.

A VERY big thank you to Mark Graham, who spent many hours working on the results software, went to all planning meetings, drove to Cowes to help them on the day and then finalised results late into Sunday night.

The next day we had the Western Port Youth Regatta at WYC and Somers was represented by 13 young sailors.



**Continued next page**





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**Continued from previous page**

Notable results were Ellie Morris second Division 1, Harrison Ede second Division 2, Taylor Poon third Division 2, Zoe Morris and Hudson Schwarz tied second in Division 3.

Thanks also to Adam Gristwood for running the two teams racing events and to Jeremy Pearse who is still recuperating from the stress of being umpire! Lots of shouting from excited sailors! More on this elsewhere in this newsletter but suffice to say that next year we hope this will be a bigger event – it is a great spectator sport as racing is right in front of the Clubhouse.

We had a well-attended coaching series in early January- many thanks to Robbie Lovig, Michelle Bursa, Phil Johnson and Nick Ede for coaching a wide range of abilities and classes.

Emma Morris and Adam Gristwood and their

team of instructors continue to provide a fabulous and essential program of sailing at Somers with their sailing school programs. We have had fully subscribed courses with starting to race and now adult sailing school on Sundays in February.

The next big event of the season will be our hosting of the Laser State Titles over the long weekend in March (12 to 14)

We expect a large fleet of 60- 90 boats so please come along to the club over the weekend to watch the racing. Lunches available each day and bar open.

Many thanks again for the untiring work of the sea rescue and tower race team without whom we would be unable to sail - your efforts are really appreciated.

Happy sailing!

**- Amanda Nutting**

## **Division 1 report**

SINCE the January report the Summer Cup has been completed and won by Jeremy Pearse with Brian Gristwood a very close second. Strong winds and abandoned races were a theme of the series.

Brian and Jeremy reversed the results for the Commodores Cup/Williams Pt Veterans and yardstick series events. Andrew Roberson had a great result in the handicap series with a second place overall.

So now to the Championship series where Matt Stone has taken control with a series of wins and is closely followed by Daniel Stone. The series has had a mix of conditions with many easterly winds and even a nice strong south Westerly.

Noteworthy events of the month have been:

Yours truly getting out on the wire without hooking up on trapeze, resulting in a broken tiller extension and a full capsized.

Brian Gristwood failing to unhook from trapeze and having his Mozzie capsize on top of him. A mast full of water didn't help the attempt to right his Mozzie.

Light winds that really annoy Jeremy Pearse.

Andrew Robertson putting a hole in his sail while hoisting his sail with a spare batten.

Andy Griffin and Chris Tuck beating Michelle and Robbie in a championship series race.

A full listing of the results can be found on the website.

**- Peter Foulsum**

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or ring Vic on 0450 784 969 by 5pm on the Thursday.**

## Division 1- Westernport Challenge report

COWES Yacht club was our destination and the intent was to clean up Division 1 and make a clean sweep of the placings.

So with that in mind a small group of enthusiastic catamaran sailors set off from Somers YC for the long trip across the bay with light winds and inquisitive dolphins. The group consisted of Michelle Bursa and Robie Lovig (Nacra International 17), Matt Stone and Tash Van Rennes (Mosquito with spinnaker) Daniel Stone and stowaway Meg O'Callaghan (Mosquito with spinnaker), Andrew Robertson (Classic A Class), Janus Karnowski (foiling A Class), Meagan Bursa and Pip Pietromonaco (Hobie 16) and yours truly (Mosquito cat rigged).

It was a long trip for some with light winds and an ebb tide and strong current across the shipping channel. It took up to 90 minutes for some to complete the trip whilst Janus left late after playing a round of golf, got some nice breeze and took only 30 minutes. Naturally, the start was delayed to allow sailors to seek refreshment and more importantly to wait for some consistent wind.

Once the postponement flag was dropped we left the beach and followed the start boat around for 20 minutes while they moved the start line. During that time Janus was involved in a collision with a wayward Hobie 20. Quick thinking by



Janus avoided a T-bone incident that would have caused some significant damage. The resulting damage was a small hole in one bow and a nice long gouge along the top surface of the same hull.

We did have fair warning that divisions might be combined so when we wary competitors

noticed that there were two flags flying it was on for young and old. Those who didn't see the change in the start sequence were left well behind. Fortunately none of the Somers group were in that situation.

Five laps of the triangular course with wind shifts, strong wind bullets, a really shy reach to the bottom mark and some very close racing resulted in Somers cleaning up as intended with Michelle and Robbie winning Division 1, Matt and Tash 2nd, and Daniel 3rd out of 21 very competitive Division 1 catamarans. Meagan and Pip were a very impressive 8th and Andrew was 9th. Unfortunately Janus had a fight with the bottom mark after avoiding another collision so brought up the rear with a creditable 17th place.

Michelle and Robbie were 3rd overall and Michelle also won the women's skipper division. Well done to everyone who spent a great day out on the water.

**- Peter Foulsum**

### Windward newsletter

**Editorial copy deadline for the April/May edition is  
Friday 15 April and at latest Wednesday 20 April**

## Division 2 report

WUSSES! Division 2 didn't sail Summer Cup 5 because it was blowing between 17 and 20 knots. Stan and Steph were the only two with boats on the beach, and as nobody was prepared to sail, they packed up their boats and went home.

Summer Cup 6 was a typical Somers corker of a day with 10-15kts of a steady SW wind and sunshine. Division 2 had 11 of the 68 entrants on that day, with Emma and Maureen showing us the way until a sheave attachment gave way, and down came the jib. They sailed back to shore, fixed it and came back out and finished.

The first four boats rounded the windward mark ahead of the rest, when Steph decided this was the windward and return leg, slipping back to fourth around the jibe mark. At the second windward he decided to go for the jibe mark, and again losing place to Malcolm, but fighting back came in 3<sup>rd</sup> to a well-deserved first to our new competitor Natasha van Rennes in her Arrow. Next was Simon and Ollie Morse. After a battle with Steph, Malcolm came in next, then Phil. Stan, after battling with Phil, followed with Elly in the Hobie 14 with Trap next, then Steve W, Peter T, Steve Schaper and son, and Emma and Maureen.

Commodores Cup weekend started off with a great 12 to 15kt breeze with a choppy sea, and in Race 1 Emma and Maz took off to show us the way, with Phil not far behind, Simon got the 14 with Trap also handling the conditions well.

Malcolm led Steph around the course but they swapped places down the track, Steve W led Elly and Taylor, and Peter T didn't start, with Steve Schaper on duty. Race 2 was sailed in a stiff 18 knotter with Simon leading Emma and Maz, with Phil in the old boat close behind, then came Steph, Steve W, and Peter T.

Race 3 was sailed in a gentle 10kts with Emma and Harry Taylor leading for most of the way from Phil, and Simon and Jack Cassano as crew. Steph came in ahead of Elly.

Race 4 once again saw Emma and Harry take off with Steph tacking ahead of them, but not making the mark, had to tack again which lost him two places, fighting back gained the lead

from Phil. Simon and Tara Veale were next and Elly didn't start. Conditions moderated to a lovely sunny 10-15kts, with Simon and Zoe taking the honours, Emma and Maz behind, and Meaghan and Michelle in front of Phil, with Malcolm not finishing. Emma and Maz a creditable third Cat, and winning the ladies championship overall.

What a day we had for our third Championship and the Paper Tiger gurus' visit. Division 2 had the most entries at 20 out of 70 starters and seven visitors. There were many battles raging in the fluky 5 to 10kt winds with Mark Wiggins finishing 2.5 minutes ahead of Luke Stout, then Ben Deed. Natasha in the Arrow was uncatchable. Steph held up the Somers team next, then father Keith Deed, Elly an admirable seventh in front of father Ron Wiggins, and her father Simon with sister Zoe crew. Then came Ross Tebbutt, Adam, Malcolm, Phil, Meaghan and crew, Emma and Maz, Stan, Peter T, Steve Schaper, and Nick Mitchell. We have invited the PTs back next year. We have another PT to hit the water, as Simon Boadle has bought Chris Tuck's boat.

Race 4 was sailed in a sunny gentle easterly 5 to 8kt breeze, with Simon and Harry Taylor taking the lead and Steph not far behind around the windward, with Emma and Maz next, and then Meagan and Maddi. The changing wind strength and direction took its toll on the leading bunch as it did with those behind, with the positions changed dramatically towards the end.

The forecast for Championship 5 was for northerly of 10kts swinging around to southerly at about the same strength but by the time everyone arrived at the club, it was already blowing around 15kts, which during the race cranked up to 20, so the Hobie 16s headed by Simon and Harry took off with Emma and Maz in hot pursuit, never to be seen again. Adam led the rest of us by a long way. Malcolm was holding Steph off in the blustery conditions, with Steve W threatening. Elly was next, then Stan, Peter T, With Steve Schaper's mast inspecting the bottom of the bay. Ant and Will Davenport in the newly acquired Hobie 16 didn't finish.

**-Steph Schwarz**



## Division 3 report

IT'S interesting times in Division 3 with Chis and Toby currently leading the way in the championship with a win in race 4 and 5.

This season has seen mixed performance's across the board depending on the wind and sea conditions.

The Tasar team is still dominant but a new player in the form of the Impulse has emerged and is pushing the Tasar fleet each weekend, so any small lapse in speed or concentration will see these guys grab a podium place on corrected time.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to Georgia who showed great courage in continuing the race last weekend after a classic 20 knot "jib on" capsized; don't underestimate this type of

milestone in your sailing career!

The wind has not been kind to the Contender lads this season; we all know the breeze is critical to get Pat and Nick out on the wire and each week I shed a tear for them when I see the breeze just fall below this critical threshold.

The Finn is very consistent across all breezes and sea conditions, basically materially off the pace; it's not a skill issue I tell myself still weeping after each race, it's the yardstick which as we know is still being reviewed at the highest level.

Good sailing

-Nick Carter

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## Division 4 report

SINCE the last report, Laser sailing at Somers has really gone up a notch. There are consistently 10-12 Lasers racing each weekend.

We've welcomed Sean Bly and Caitlin Davies back who have provided a "how to do it" lesson each week. Sean won the full rig Laser States last time they were at Somers. Hopefully he'll be around for the return regatta this year.

It was awesome to see Caitlin's "China World Cup" sail out on the course and she quickly demonstrated she's lost none of her silky skills. In the 5<sup>th</sup> Championship, she stepped back to a 4.7 with ease and along with Sean, filled the top two placings.

We're also starting to welcome Hobie Hawk sailors into the 4.7 ranks. Ed Alsop's enjoying the extra speed and getting the hang of it really quickly. Rumour has it there might be a few more thinking about it. That's awesome!

The Laser Regatta at Point Leo was a highlight in early January. We had a fleet of 12 Lasers from Somers who performed admirably. Michael Vandenberg and Harrison Ede were al-

ways close to the front, finally finishing second and third respectively. Lucy Ede was first female. Pencil this one in early for next year!

The Championships are shaping up with an interesting twist developing. Sean Bly has two firsts from both his starts and needs to sail all remaining races, without one been lost to weather, to have a chance of winning. Form suggests he'll continue to dominate, although Caitlin Davies and Harrison Ede are getting closer. Harrison is currently leading from David Fakhry and Lucy Ede with Maddi Poon just another two points behind. It's getting close for the placings with David showing very consistent form. Steve Clifford has a strangle hold on handicap currently but Nick Bailey could make a late run.

As February comes to a close, all Division 4 sailors will be eagerly awaiting the long weekend when the Laser Victorian Championships comes to Somers. With the Lasers consistently providing the third biggest fleet for state titles (after Optimists and Sabres), it will be quite a spectacle.

-Nick Ede



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## Division 5 report



WE have had lots of fun and competitive sailing in Division 5 over the past couple of weeks. With 24 boats so far competing in the Club Championship we continue to be the largest division by far!

John Carter, Tim Brock and myself have all failed to spot the shortened course flag in recent weeks with somewhat embarrassing results. One of our favourite Sabre sailors, Tim Rintoul, has returned to racing following a few late night trips to Frankston Hospital – stay well Tim – we have missed the whiffs of tobacco smoke out on the water! Graham has announced he is moving on

at the completion of the Championship following his purchase of an Impulse. Hope he will have as much fun with Division 3!

Sadly, Jeremy Grant has announced his retirement from sailing and “Soloman” is now on the market.



Jeremy is a really clever Solo sailor. When I first started sailing Sabres, Jeremy was the boat to follow in light winds. Only problem was, he would get so far ahead, we virtually lost sight of him! Hope we will still be able to enjoy his company often in the clubhouse – just look out for him wearing his vast collection of retro Somers YC shirts and jumpers!

Finally, good luck to all the Sabre sailors heading off to Blairgowrie for State Titles on 27 and 28 February. Hope a few Somers Pacers will make it to their States at Westernport YC on 12-14 March too!

**- Wendy Wilson**

## A big thank you from the Tootells

Following the Crib Point fires on the 18 January, when our beautiful home was destroyed, we were immediately surrounded by many caring and helpful people from the Somers Yacht Club, who provided tremendous support in our time of need, we would like to thank the Somers Yacht Club and the entire Somers community for their support and generosity.

The Yacht Club organised a fund-raising auction on 24 January for us, being members of the club for some years.

The generosity of club members and the community has been just amazing, this sort of support has truly been a wonderful help in what is such a difficult time for us. It is a privilege to be part of

such a community.

More than 140 people packed the yacht club for a BYO barbecue which preceded the auction which was in two parts, a silent auction and an open bidding auction run by yacht club member Robert Bartholomew.

Items offered for auction included a range of wine, a bicycle, a barbecue, paintings and sculptures, fresh produce and gift vouchers for local restaurants.

We are moving ahead with plans to rebuild, and do love being a part of such a caring community. Without your support it would have been so much harder. We can't thank everyone enough

**- David & Caroline**

## Division 6 report

SINCE Christmas the Hawks and Optis have been out in force with quiet a few newcomers giving it a go. We welcome Sam Davidson and his Opti 'Posiden' who is psyching up for some racing soon (His dad Ben is also doing some secret training and about to hit Division 2!). We also welcome Hamish Schaper almost as keen as Daniel Laverty) and Emily Cassano who have leased Hawks and have been regularly racing.

Will Morgan is constantly putting in some Sunday training sessions in order to blow the sea



**Lachlan Lee Smith about to hit the water**

soned performers out of the water over the coming weeks in the club Hawk, 'iWill'. On the results side, Zoe and Daniel are battling it out each Saturday with Zoe only just holding the lead. Followed closely behind them is Bodie Carter in his aptly named Hawk 'Ferrari'. The championship series could go either way at this

stage and either one of the 12 entrants could take out the next race so watch this space!

**- Simon Morris**

## Teams racing champions



OUR second Somers teams racing event held on 25 January was a resounding success with maximum viewing potential from the clubhouse, as it was conveniently held at high tide with the leeward marks only metres from the rock wall.

We had five teams, The R. Somers Gang, Sea Salts, Kids with Olds, The Adams Family and Birds of Spray competing for the title of teams racing champions. After 10 races with each team racing each other, once the final came down to two teams packed full of champion sailors in Birds of Spray and The R. Somers Gang. Birds of Spray couldn't come up with the goods in the final so The R. Somers Gang were crowned champions!

Huge thanks to Amanda Nutting for pushing to

make the event happen, Wendy Wilson for organising teams, Jeremy Pearse for umpiring, Wendy Davies and Tim Brock for running the beach, Lindsay Pullin for driving the changeover RIB, the start boat crew, Simon Clifford for driving the umpire boat and to all the teams for turning up and rigging and de-rigging the Pacers.

All the feedback from the teams was that the fast-paced and tactics-oriented racing was heaps of fun and provided a nice variation from standard club racing. Our fleet of Pacers and race format provide a great spectacle so an audience is encouraged. Teams racing events will continue to be run in the future so start preparing your teams and cheer squad!

**- Adam Gristwood**



## Kayak storage

THERE are a number of kayaks currently stored on the rack in the boat yard that have no identification, making it impossible to establish ownership.

There are more than 20 kayaks stored, however only 12 members are noted as having been paid the storage fee.

If you have paid, can you please identify your kayak so we can confirm payment?

If you do have a kayak in storage and have not paid the \$50, then please do so, or remove it from the yard.

There will be an audit conducted over the long weekend in March, and action will be taken to



deal with those kayaks that have not been identified and recorded as paid.

**- Richard Fakhry**

## New concrete apron

OVER the years the concrete apron in front of the boat shed has slowly deteriorated with the eastern edge being completely broken. This made it difficult to move boats and was also becoming a tripping hazard.

In late September the decision was made to replace part of the apron with new concrete and for it to be completed in time for the new sailing season. Thanks to local concreters Glen and Mick who were able to complete the work within a week's notice.

There was some concern with the work being undertaken during the school holidays that the new concrete may have been damaged but as can be seen the completed job looks good and provides a better area for manoeuvring our boats.



Thanks also to Gerry Lewis for managing this project within the short time frames.

**- Garry Morris**

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## Social Report

SOMERS Yacht Club social events continued on throughout January.

**The Annual Talent Night** was hosted magnificently by Rob Bartholomew. We had 17 acts which ranged from playing instruments such as the violin and saxophone to comedy skits, a book reading and of course the very special return of Enis Presley and the Regina Sisters.

**The Vegas Night** was organised by Daniel Stone, Pat Moore and Chris Tuck with the able assistance of Meg, Jenny and Nicki. It was a light hearted and enjoyable night. While all participants struggled to learn the rules of the games

we did have the opportunity to wear our very best "Casino Clothes" Thank you to all who worked to make it a fun night.

Our last **BYO BBQ** with the Jets for February was held on a beautiful balmy night. Lachie Harvey made a guest appearance with the band playing his Saxophone and Kenny danced the night away to celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Happy Birthday to Wendy Wilson for 13 February. While assisting with furniture removal she cut her hand and had to race off to Hastings for five stitches before returning to win the Championship race.

- Libby Moore



## Social dates for Easter

**Friday, 25 March**

Good Friday – No Vic's Dinner

**Saturday, 26 March**

Vic's Friday night on Saturday

**Sunday, 27 March**

Easter Bunny visit to the Yacht club at 10.30am

**Sunday, 27 March**

BYO BBQ with the Jets



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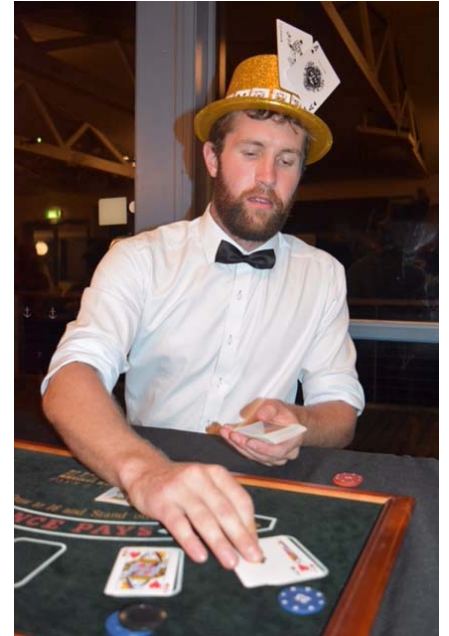
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## Vegas night

### Winners and losers



### Snappy Dressers



*Shaun and Caitlin*



*Emily and Rhian*



*Maddi*

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**with a re-sail date of Sunday 10 April**

**Who will be the new Hobie Hawk Champion!**



# Club Contacts

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