



Windward

SAILING AT ITS BEST

June 2023



Hobie Hawk Titles at Somers. Arthur Labat, Finn Charpentier, Abi Chen-Low, Hector Labat and Eric Griffin.

Contents:

Commodore's Report	Page 2
Vice Commodore's Report	Page 3
Division reports 1 - 6	Page 4 - 9
SWISH and She Sails	Page 10
Presentation Evening	Page 11-15
Contender State Titles	Page 16
Tasar State Titles	Page 17
Hobie Hawk State Titles	Page 18
History of SsYC	Page 19
Volunteering at SsYC	Page 22
Bridge Club / Social Committee	Page 23
Membership/Around French Is.	Page 24
SsYC Club Merchandise	Page 25
Sponsors	Page 26
The General Committee	Page 27
Club Contacts	Page 28

Somers Yacht Club Inc.
No 7635, Alexandra Ave,
Somers.

Tel: 5983 5568.

Website:

www.somersyachtclub.com.au

Editor

Colleen Moore .

0432 806 818

email moorecolleen65@gmail.com



From the Commodore's Desk



We had a great end to our sailing season. In addition to our usual Club racing, we had more SWISH sessions, social sailing Sundays, and we hosted the Contender State Titles - with a record number of entries. It was exciting to see the visiting Contender fleet in amongst our own Club racing - fortunately with no mishaps.

At Easter we had the traditional visit by Easter Bunny with a huge number of children attending from the Club and Somers community generally.

The volunteer thank you evening, held after the last race of the season, was an important recognition of the huge support which our many volunteers provide to keep the Club running so smoothly.

Appropriately, the day after saw a record number of members turn up to the working bee, where much was achieved. Thanks to Sean, David and the team.

It is exciting to see that the long awaited catering arrangements have been finalised, with Dean and his chef Brendan and the team from The Somers General bringing their popular food services to our Club. The first night saw a huge turnout, which augurs well for the future.

On the catering front, I would like to thank Maz and Sterling for doing such a great job maintaining our Friday dinner offering between caterers. It is not an easy job to please everyone and they have done us proud - many thanks.

Finally - Presentation Night - what a great vibe! Strong attendance, fun photos and videos from the season and a huge input from our younger members. Thanks and congratulations to Emma, Simon and Marie for all their hard work.

If you missed it, look for the short video of season highlights on the website!

Special congratulations to Michael Wilson for a well deserved McCutcheon Award. Michael has been a stalwart of the Club over many years - with a significant contribution to sea rescue and the bar - and has been available to help out whenever an extra pair of hands is needed.

I look forward to seeing you at the Club on a Friday night soon.

Amanda



Maz and Sterling out of the kitchen and onto the water. Always with a winning smile.



Vice Commodore's Report



As we draw to the end of another successful season, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our hard-working volunteers who gave up their time to help with the end of season working bee. We had a full whiteboard of tasks to complete and it was satisfying to have most of them completed. Your hard work and dedication to the club is greatly appreciated, and we couldn't have done it without you.

It was also exciting to welcome Dean Brendan From the Somers General Store team to the club as our new caterers. The SGS team and will be providing a wide range of delicious meals for our members and their guests to enjoy each Friday night. It's a great opportunity to socialize with other members and enjoy a meal af-

ter a long week of work (or play)! The menu will rotate week-by-week, and the bar is always open.

Importantly, we are pleased to announce that the club has received a grant from the Balnarring & District Community Bank. This grant will go towards the replacement of engines on SA1 and SA11. We were pleased to welcome Greg Hood, Branch Manager of the Balnarring & District Community Bank, to our club presentation night, where he provided an overview of the services and contributions that the bank has made to the broader community. Somers YC has received support from the Balnarring & District Community Bank over many years. We are grateful for the ongoing relationship between our club and the bank.

Finally, I'd like to give my best wishes and safe travels for those of you who are, or will be, travelling to warmer parts of the world over the Somers winter.

Sean Bly



Catamarans, Monohulls, Wing Foils and Sea Rescue all at SsYC.



Division One

This season Division One has seen a total of 33 skippers, compared to 28 in 2022. The following skippers and crew gained more than 20 awards.

Brian Gristwood on *Monkey Business*,
Andrew Robertson *Enterprise*,
Simon Morris and Mavis Lavery on *His*,
Peter Foulsum on *Macka Mozzie*,
Gautier and Ludo Labat on *Totally Legal*,
Luke and Arija Crouch on *You Could Be Mine*,
Nigel Beddoe on *Fred*,
Lucy Lavery on *Fred*,

Peter and Will McCracken on *Crackers and Cheese*,
Zoe Morris on *The Kids*,
Angus Collins on *The Kids*,
Abbie Morgan on *The Kids*,
Morgan Carter on *Chill Factor*,
Justin Prior on *Zanzara*,
Malcolm and Luca Twist on *Miavaha*,
Peter Dalton on *Zeus*,
Anthony and Ollie Davenport on *This Way Up*,
Mathew Stone on *The Joker*,
Katrina Harris on *His*.



Andrew Robertson on *Enterprise* and Morgan Carter on *Chill Factor* .



Division Two

This season Division Two has been represented by 14 skippers, an increase from 10 in 2022. The following skippers and crew gained awards.

Ollie Davenport on *Rainbow Dash*

Abi Beddoe on *Pedro*

Vlad Bunyevich on *Catweazle*

Matilda Morris, Emily Chiu on *Toothless*

Benji Scott on *Barf and Belch*

Tim Chiu on *Tango Charlie*

Peter Thompson on *Catman*

Luke Crouch on *Locomotive*

Tom Chen- Low on *Stormfly*

Leona Twist on *Stormfly*

Harry Chiu on *Stormfly*

Nikki Briggs, John Briggs on *Haku*

Will Morgan on *Club H14*

Jack Cassano on *Banana Boat*

All up fourteen boats shared twelve awards at the 2023 Presentation Evening.





Division Three

Well the season is now wrapped up, presentation night is fading into the rear vision mirror and it is time to face the winter.

Paynesville next January
Now, let's talk about some yard issues.

The Championship series ended with Nick Carter's Finn once again taking a bridesmaid role to my Contender. I was lucky to have a light weather day where every bit of luck was tossed in my direction and that was the difference between Nick and myself in the overall score. Nick has now forsaken Division 3 to join Division 1, in a new to him, A class. He will continue to sail the Finn elsewhere with the Victorian fleet on Sundays.

The Autumn Series was won by Mike and Carla in their new Tasar. Based on this initial series it looks like they will be a force to be reckoned with next year. Ludo and Marie were second by virtue of the number of races sailed, while Lynden and Katrina also had a solid series. It is good to see the Tasars increasing their fleet size. Many of our boats are training for the Worlds next year, so we should see a significant increase in performance on that basis alone.

I wrote a separate report about the Contender States at Somers and it now looks likely that we will see three or four boats showing up to the Nationals in

Please remember to take your mast down if you are leaving your boat in the yard. This makes the yard safer for everyone else's boats as a flipping boat or broken stay can literally impact the two boats either side of you. Make sure you leave the aisles clear as cars coming in to pick up boats may not see the lowered mast jutting out!

Make sure your cover and boat are well tied down and draining properly. It is a common sight to see boats full of water by the end of winter and this is a quick way to convert a nice boat into a wreck! Make a list of the jobs you never got around to last season and make a plan to get the problem resolved well before the start of next season.

Getting new sails?

Order now to get the best price as many sailmakers offer winter discounts.

Michael Vandenberg

Now or Never

Contender 2678



Patrick Moore on Rig Maintenance



Division Four

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

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

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

Some of the skills that have proved important are:

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

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

John Tilleard



Rob Briggs waves to the camera.

An action shot.





Division Five

Terry Skitt was the Club Champion for Division 5 this season in his Sabre Vintage Red, and he also won the Autumn Series.

Diana Nutting in Rasscal won the Summer Cup Yardstick event.

Wendy Wilson won the Stan Byrne Cup.

The Pre- Christmas Cup line honours series was won by Glen Abbott in Red Alert whilst the Pre-Christmas handicap event was won by Keith Moore.

Congratulations to all these division 5 sailors on a successful season and congratulations to all division 5 sailors who competed and enjoyed their sailing but did not win awards.

Lisa Nutting won the Summer Cup Handicap event and came second in the Club Championship in Orange Blossom.

Libby Moore



Terry Skit on *Vintage Red*



Division Six

The Division 6 sailors have had a great season. Lots of us started the year at Sailing School, where we learned more racing rules and got to practice racing around our own course. It was a good way to get ready for race days and we enjoyed being on the water together. The Hawk Titles is always one of the highlights of the Div 6 season - the weather wasn't the best for it this year, and there was lots of capsizing because of the strong winds, but it was still a fun day! We hope that all our Division 6 sailors have a good winter break and we're looking forward to seeing everyone sailing again in October!

SYC Youth Committee - Season wrap

The Youth Committee has had another fantastic season planning and running activities both on and off the water for our youth members. Everyone agreed that our very successful overnight Adventure Sail to Flinders YC was a season highlight - sailors from Westernport YC and Flinders YC met us on the water, and we all sailed into Flinders and

camped at Flinders YC for a night, sleeping under our boats and sailing home the next day. The other clubs were thrilled to be part of this event with us and we hope to run an even bigger and better Adventure Sail next season. The other clear highlight event for our older youth members this year was the Hot Somers Ball, where we transformed the clubhouse with fairy lights and decorations, dressed up and enjoyed live music and a DJ all night. We also ran our annual trivia night and held games nights and our popular photo competition over the course of the season. The Youth Committee always welcomes ideas about new events and activities that we can run, to keep our youth program interesting - so if you have any suggestions for next year, please let one of your Youth Committee members know! And if you're a Youth Member, consider signing up to join the Committee next season - it's a great way to get involved and make the most of our club!

Trish Low.



Arthur Labat in iFloat doing well out in front .



Abi Chen-Low sailing fast.



Lachlan Ross showing us his skillful sailing.



She Sails and SWISH

In summary:

- 14 sessions held between November and March- mostly Friday afternoons
- Attended by 48 SsYC members and 13 visitors. Overall 209 individual tickets.
- Numbers ranged from 7 to 28 attendees/ session
- Well supported by our experienced female sailors- Amanda Nutting, Wendy Wilson, Claire Gustavsson, Pat Pedicini, Libby Moore, Lisa Nutting, Maureen Cooper, Lucy & Mavis Laverty, Katrina Harris, Diana Nutting, Ali Hatton, Marie Labat and Yolanda Davidson- many thanks!
- RIBs well supported by Harry Taylor, Daniel Laverty, tractor by Grahame Tiplady and bar by Michael Wilson- much appreciated!
- January sessions by far the most popular- good weather and school holidays
- Club Pacers and Private Pacers (Nutting, Hatton, Davidson, Fahkry) used with thanks.
- Social sessions following sailing always very popular with lots of laughter!

SASSY Shesails At SomerSsYc

- 25 boats- monos & cats, 30 women/ girls and 6 male crews
- Great for both experienced and inexperienced sailors
- Mostly SsYC members; 6 visitors
- Well supported by experienced SsYC sailors in coaching/powerboat roles – Michael Vandenberg, Phil Schwarz, Emma Morris, Ludo Labat, Mal Otto, Simon Morris, Harry Taylor, Amanda Nutting and visitors Jarka Kluth & Lou Hutton- many thanks!
- RIBs borrowed from MYC, WYC & PLBC

Feedback from our women

“Thanks to everyone involved in making SASSY such a great annual event - fun and friendly coaching, fast furious racing, cheese and chocolate to end the day. Plus a visor, Perfect”

“A huge thanks to all the very inspiring women at Somers Yacht Club! You’ve made me feel very welcome and provided a very encouraging environment since I joined in January. It’s an asset to the club to provide this culture of support, inclusion while allowing women like myself who have never been exposed to sailing to give it a go!! I had a ball yesterday being part of my first competition - ask Diana!!

A big shout out to Diana who was such a skilled skipper and got us through some curly times with passion (!) and always a smile on her face !! She was also a wealth of knowledge which she willingly shared - like you other ladies at SWISH too.”

“Looking forward to sharing more learning and sailing with you all in the future!”

“Thank you for leading such a well run, fun event. I was very nervous about getting out there with all you amazing sailors, but found it such a welcoming and safe and supportive experience - and so much valuable learning. Thanks everyone for making it a great day!”

“SWISH is an inspiration. So proud to be a part of this group helping other women. There is nothing like it”

Wendy Wilson





Presentation Night 2023



Race Officers



Sea Rescue



Wendy Wilson Line Honours &
Stan Byrne Cup



Michael Wilson McCutcheon Award.



Race Recorders



Presentation Night 2023



Gautier and Ludo Labat. Hobie 16.



Abby Morgan Westernport Ch



Hector Labat Line Honours, Yardstick, Autumn, Rear Commodore Yardstick, Hawks World Champ.



Lisa Nutting, Nick Ede, Michael Vandenberg. Summer Cup



Vlad Bunyevich & Bruce Hart Pre Xmas Aggregate



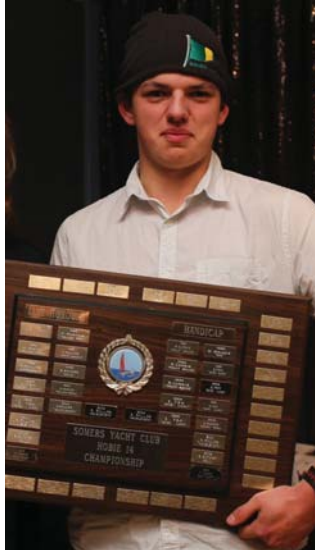
John Tilleard & Vlad Bunyevich
Super Veterans



Speed Stick Challenge Peter McCracken



Presentation Night 2023



Ollie Davenport
Hobie Championship



Maureen Lavery and Amanda Nutting
Veterans Trophy



Arthur Labat One of many awards over the season



Hector Labat W T Long Trophy
Youngest skipper to complete the championship series.



Diana Nutting Summer Cup
Yardstick



The Chen-Low family. Sailors and volunteers.



Presentation Night 2023



Hector L, Wendy W, Michael V & Ollie D
Line Honours



Lisa N, Abbi B & Maureen C Seasons Handicap



Ludo & Marie Labat Stan Byrne
Cup Series



John T & Vlad B Super Veterans



Abi Chen Low
Resilience Award



Terry Skitt
Sabre Seasons Trophy



Tim Chiu
Div 2 Third place h'cap
Championship Series



Presentation Night 2023

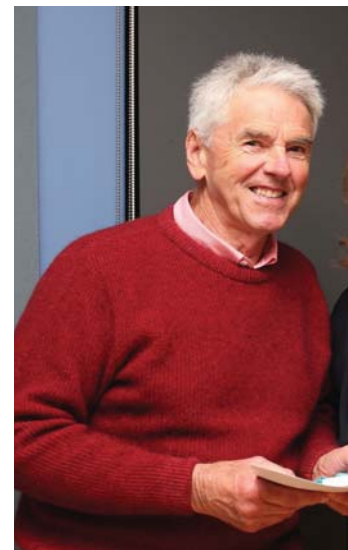
Thanks to Eli MrCusich for the photographs.



Vlad Bunyevich Seasons Catamaran



Pat & Cary Pedicini Westernport Challenge



Peter Thompson
Autumn Series Handicap Div 2



Abbi Beddoe
Rear Commodores
Choice Yardstick Div 2



John and Nikki Briggs
Off the Beach Race Div 2



Ollie and Phil Schwarz Off the Beach Race



SsYC winners of the Westernport Challenge



Contender Victorian Titles 2023

Somers once again put on a good show with particular kudos for Nick, Jeremy and Simon. Thirty-six Contenders from Victoria, NSW, ACT and SA formed a bigger fleet than the worlds and the interstate guys that came were straight from the Australian and World titles in Perth.

Despite the gusty winds on Saturday which provided plenty of potholes to hit, we got away three races with Somers boats solidly mid fleet. Patrick and I were having our usual tussle with the honours seesawing race to race. A dominant feature of the day was capsizes with all Somers boats taking a turn and even the multiple world title holders Mark Bulka and Andrea Bonezzi getting in on the action.

Sunday morning was shaping up to be a no race day due to super light Easterly winds. But I fixed the problem by taking my boat back into the yard and packing it away for the day. Fifteen minutes later the southerly came in earlier than forecast and we had two short and very enjoyable races in light but steady conditions. Fabulous job by Nick and Jeremy as they snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

The lighter conditions on Sunday had Harrison showing his prowess and bar some traffic management issues would have had a couple of standout results. Nick Wood Freeman somehow found form that he has never displayed previously and had two excellent finishes.

Overall Pat ended on top with me just behind and Harrison and Nick following.

The competitors were friendly and polite with a lot of inspiring 60 plus (and super fit) representation and even deep into the fleet there was plenty of talent. The class members were very impressed by our club and it was also great for Somers to field 4 boats to help boost the numbers to make this the biggest turnout this year for the class.

Oh, yeah and Mark Bulka, 4 times world champ won. Big surprise, right?

Michael Vandenberg
Now or Never 2678.



Contenders competing for State Titles at SsYC



Tasar State Titles

Six Tasars from Somers headed to Sandringham YC, the site for the 2024 Worlds, for the Tasar States to test our skills against world and national champions. It proved to be a fantastic and challenging regatta with 30 boats competing in 8 races in building breezes often over 15k and 1 to 1.5m waves. For some the conditions were above our limits and chose to come ashore.

Ludovic and Gautier were the best performing team from Somers finishing in 20th place. The overall Champions were Chris Dance (a new resident to Somers) and Pete Hackett. So while we were not at the top of the fleet, we learnt heaps and had a fantastic time. We especially valued the debrief sessions facilitated by Pete Hackett and Chris Dance. Something we would like to do more of at Somers.





Hobie Cat Championships.

Port Melbourne Yacht Club held the 50th Victorian Hobie Cat Championships over the March long weekend. With 11 races held in very challenging conditions (up 20 knots in a big Port Melbourne chop down to a 5 - 8 knot shift sea breeze)

Tom Chen Low and Harry Chiu won their Hobie Dragoon division with a very impres-

sive 5 firsts.

Somers also had sailors in the Hobie 16 and Hobie 14 classes, many of whom were on the podium too. Naomi Chiu (H16 Open 2nd), Nigel Beddoe and Emily Chiu (H16 Open 3rd), Geoff Rowdon and Jack Cassano (H16 Grand Masters 1st) and Tim Chiu (H14 Masters 1st). Well done to all of you.



HOBIE NINJA WARRIOR! Four obstacles, one winner. Tim Chiu, search and rescue operative, rock climber and Hobie 14 sailor extraordinaire took out first

place, a Gill harness, Nikki came in second place winning a Rip Curl hooded towel and Brody in third winning a Rip Curl jacket



History of the SsYC

Physical

In the early days there was a large boat storage yard between the clubhouse and the bay. Beyond the yard were two rows of large sand dunes, then a wide beach. Low water mark then was roughly where the finishing buoy is today. Access to the beach was by two ramps through the dunes – one adjacent to the rescue boat shed, and one at the other end of the clubhouse. To entertain the younger members, there was a trampoline set into the ground, roughly where the track for the patrol boats now goes down to the beach.

Around mid-1982 erosion of the beach started to become significant, and correspondence with the authorities regarding the emerging problem started in late 1982. There is then an eight year history of continuing correspondence with the relevant authorities (often changing). This became hugely frustrating as erosion continued inexorably but the authorities failed to act. At first the beach progressively disappeared, then the large sand dunes. Interestingly, at around this time Westernport Yacht Club was experiencing large build-ups of sand in front of their boatyard, limiting their access to the beach.

The September 1984 issue of the Yacht Club newsletter has a photo of serious erosion. With no help from the authorities, the Club attempted to protect the boatyard and eventually the clubhouse. At first a large number of old car tyres were obtained, linked together and laid across the exposed face of the threatened dunes. Their role was to stop waves beating on the dunes and eroding the sand. Man versus nature. Man lost! The inexorable power of the sea was not to be controlled. The remaining tyres were removed late 1986, though “escapees” continued to surface for kilometres along the beach towards Sandy Point for many years.

Because of the lack of beach at high tides, in the 1986/87 season, half the races had to be rescheduled to Sunday mornings to take advantage of the low tides. Also at this time approval was received to relocate the fast disappearing boat storage yard to its present position, but there was no progress regarding protection of the clubhouse. At around this time Ports and Harbours Dept. suggested that as the clubhouse was likely to get washed away and they were not in favour of interfering with nature by protecting

the clubhouse, the club could move to another foreshore reserve several kilometres towards Sandy Point. Representatives of the Club walked along the beach one low tide to inspect the site, but as the Club would have to bear the cost of establishing a new clubhouse, rescue boatshed, boat storage facilities, beach access and build an access road, this could not be achieved without massive external financial assistance, so the offer was declined. If the Club had, in fact, moved there, it was not clear what would happen to the large number of nudists who regularly based themselves in this reserve. Furthermore, access would have required access through the HMAS Cerberus Base – possible at the time, but completely impossible after “Nine Eleven” when the base was totally sealed off. A recent walk along the beach also revealed that more than 90% of the proposed site has been washed away.

A picture in the September 1987 Club newsletter shows the then boat storage yard on the bay side of the clubhouse under water. In October and November 1988 there were more severe storms and further serious erosion. In early 1989 we started laying hundreds of sandbags – there were numerous working bees organised by Donald Ede. At that stage the rescue boat shed was only about a metre away from toppling into the sea. Another violent storm on 27/10/89 took erosion to within a few metres of the clubhouse.

There was finally official action in February 1990 when a wooden groyne wall was built across the beach. It was felt that sand was being eroded from Somers and carried Westwards, and the groyne would capture some of this sand and build up the beach. It failed, and there was further storm erosion.

Finally in December 1990 agreement was reached, and construction of the rock wall commenced in January 1991. The Yacht Club made a substantial contribution to the cost, and to several subsequent renewals. At the time, high tide saw the water level half way up the rock wall, with only a thin strip of beach evident at low tide. It took some years before the sand had built up, and rigging and launching boats was possible in front of the clubhouse. The rock wall had saved the Yacht Club!



History of the SsYC

With the sustainability of the Clubhouse now assured, attention turned to a little smartening-up. Since construction, the upper level floor was bare boards. In those days before the introduction of the bar, wet sailors returned from sailing and headed upstairs for a warming cup of coffee before descending to the change rooms and a hot shower. After many years of dripped salt water, the floor surface had become a little spongy. The professionals were called in, the floor sanded and several coats of Estapol applied. To encourage complete drying, the windows facing the sea were left open overnight. Then, in the early hours of August 18, 2001, a freak extremely concentrated wind storm (BOM estimated 195Km/hr) struck the clubhouse and cleanly lifted off most of the top floor.

Reconstruction was a major exercise, and the 2001/02 sailing season involved some temporary accommodation in a shipping container, and all social functions were temporarily suspended. Whilst this was initially a disaster, it indirectly led to a resurgence in the life of the Club. There was also a financial benefit. In the early 1990s, a small leak had been detected in the roof. The first quote to repair the leak was approximately \$20,000! The roof was asbestos cement, and would have to be replaced in full. In the event, an alternative quote of \$1.80 was accepted – this was for a tube of silicone which was successfully applied by an intrepid roof climbing Club member. Then when the roof blew off, removal of the asbestos required special security. Then our excellent insurer advised a problem. Our policy stipulated replacement of like with like. However, asbestos was now a prohibited product, and they would be obliged to use galvanised steel which was considerably lighter and so would require lighter structural supports. This would cost about \$20,000 less, and so a cheque for this amount was provided to the Club!

Other observations

Melbourne yacht clubs tend to specialise in a limited number of classes sailed. One either sails one of the chosen classes at the club of one's choice, or one joins a club that sails the class of one's choice. On the other hand, clubs such as Somers Yacht Club basically cater for the "locals" who want Somers to cater for their varying class choices. Consequently, Somers tends to have a more mixed fleet than most city clubs. However, certain classes can attract new members. In the 1960s there were reputed to be about 100 Mirror class dinghies sailing at Somers –

the biggest fleet in Victoria. Now zero. The late 1980s saw 22 Solo class dinghies on the register. The last one has not emerged from under John Carter's house for some years. At the same time the 125 was a very popular boat at Somers, it faded and disappeared, but is now making a comeback.

Catering: From the beginning the Yacht Club arranged numerous social functions, and catering for these was performed in the clubhouse kitchen in one-off operations. Apart from these functions, the kitchen was used only by individual members on occasions. On race days members either ate at home (races in those days didn't start until 3:00pm to cater for those who worked Saturday mornings. [e.g. pharmacists!]) or brought sandwiches etc. Then in the early 1980s, Shirley Nutting and Pam Hendy established the Café de Sails to provide lunches on Saturday race days. There were quite a lot of women volunteers who were rostered on several times a year. This proved very successful, and also encouraged more members to gather in the clubhouse fostering more of a "club spirit".

After quite a number of years, Shirley and Pam retired and were succeeded by a new team – Ruth Triggs, Pam Crockett, Jean Grant and Jill White. This continued until the end of the 2000/2001 season, but the violent winds (> 190Km/Hr) on the early morning of 18/8/2001 blew off the top floor of the clubhouse including the kitchen. All catering ceased until the rebuilt clubhouse was opened in 2002. For a while there were stop-gap measures until finally Vic Crust was recruited. This was a major milestone, as he and his helpers not only provided lunches on race days, but also introduced regular meals on Friday nights throughout the year. An arrangement which continues to this day hopefully.

Discussion of food leads to the related topic of drink. Originally the club would obtain a special temporary liquor licence to cover specific functions. Later the Club obtained a limited licence which enabled drinks to be sold after sailing – this was basically self-serve and operated only on race days, and only **AFTER** sailing (theoretically for the benefit of thirsty sailors, not to encourage other drinkers.) With the advent of regular Friday night dining, the licence was expanded and the bar does considerable business on Friday nights and after sailing on Saturdays. The bar is now a significant income contributor to the club.



History of the SsYC

Membership: Forty odd years ago there were a number of “girls” sailing, but only a very few adult women. A lot of the junior members left the Club when they became adults to pursue other interests. It’s great that many of them have now returned to the Club. It’s also great that we now have a large number of active female sailors. This has, however, necessitated several extensions to the female change rooms!

In the late 1970s there were nearly 1,000 members, and in those days there were no social members or significant non-sailing activities. By the late 1980s, numbers had dwindled to fewer than 300. A visitor

from the USA at that time reported that US sailing clubs had also experienced substantial reduction in numbers. We probably have Alan Bond to blame for much of this. Whilst his America’s Cup exploits were great, they did help foster the image of yachting/sailing as a sport for the very wealthy. There was even some talk of cancelling our Yacht Club’s lease as sailing was seen to be “elitist” and to be discouraged! Fortunately, sanity eventually prevailed, and we are still here.

Jeremy Grant 28/3/2023



Violent winds (> 190Km/Hr) on the early morning of 18/8/2001 blew off the top floor of the clubhouse including the kitchen.



Volunteering at SsYC

Nearly 10 years ago, our boys signed up for the Youth Sailing course at SsYC, and that's how Benji's love of sailing began. He soon transitioned to a Hobie Dragoon, and managed his school sport commitments to be in Somers as often as possible to sail. Over the past 10 years, we have been driving him down the highway to sail as much as possible, and we've generally tried not to get in the way of the serious sailors when we were at the club. We've helped pull boats up the ramp, collected wheels, and watched from afar from the balcony through binoculars.

We even took the Adult Sailing School, but heading out on a Pacer in 20 knots with an over-inflated sense of ability nearly ended in divorce, so that adventure didn't last long.

Recently, however, with some strong encouragement (thanks Simon), I earned my power boat licence, and we've started to take out SA2 on race days. I'm the skipper and Verity is the jump crew.

It's been transformative in our enjoyment of the club. We now feel like we're useful, and somehow more part of the already incredibly

welcoming community. We're still learning the ropes, but we've thoroughly enjoyed every time we've taken out the boat, even the day where it was gusting 25 knots and boats were going down all over the place.

The highlight, though, was the Montalto Marathon, where a beautiful wind took the Somers boats all the way to Flinders, and we spent the day shadowing a few boats while being followed by dolphins. It was an unforgettable experience.

So, if you're looking for a way to get involved at Somers Yacht Club, and you're not sure how, just put your hand up. There's plenty of opportunity to get involved, and you won't regret it. I've never been part of a more encouraging and friendly club, where you can learn new skills and help out day-to-day.

To everyone who encouraged and helped us get out in SA2, our thanks, and here's to another great season ahead!

Paddy Scott.



Friendly Social Bridge

Some of you may have watched the long running programme about a quirky English family called “The Durrells”, who are living, rather precariously, in Corfu. A guest to their house with romantic intentions delivers a small wooden bridge to their property following Mrs Durrells expressed interest in Bridge. But of course she meant the card game, loved by many and something you can keep on learning about in an enjoyable way throughout your life.

As all of the players at the Somers Yacht Club will probably agree, it is an enthralling and somewhat addictive game. Every Friday at around 3.45pm we gather for “Social bridge”. This means that unlike most clubs that play in dreary silence, we, in contrast, joke and chat about a variety of topics as we play. There is also a lenient attitude to table talk when people are unsure of something. This generally convivial way to spend two hours of the afternoon is followed by drinks and a meal if you are so inclined.

This all comes, of course, with the necessity of learning the game in the first place. But this may not

take as long as you think. If you can add up to 13 and learn a few rules of bidding then you have the potential to play. If you are a beginner, learning bridge can be likened to peeling an onion. Peeling the first layer may cause a little discomfort, but then, when you get used to it, you never stop learning, layer after layer, with only smiles. Give it a go. There are a number of very good online courses and advice may be sort below.

David Andrewes 0429166044
d.andrewes@outlook.com



Update from the Social Committee

After a very full summer Summer Program the social events slowed down just a little in the last quarter. We had the Pasta Night in Feb, which is always a well attended event. So much that when Maz and Sterling stepped in to take over the catering, it was repeated a few more times!

Thank you to Luke Crouch for co ordinating the OPEN MIC & PIZZA Night. This is always a great event as we get to enjoy the talents of our members, especially the younger set.

Thank you to Di Nutting Simon and Harry Taylor for creating their Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Incredibly well attended by members and the local community. Also on that Easter Weekend we had the Family BBQ with The Jets continuing their world tour to standing ovations and

encores! Thank you to all The Jet members, old and the new, for bringing your joy and rhythm to the club for all the years.

The next BIG events on the social calendar: BASTILLE NIGHT Friday 14th July and ROYALE DINNER on Saturday August 19th. More details to follow in MWN and our FB group. Save these dates in your diary.

A huge thank you to go to the Social Committee for supporting each other to bring these great events time after time. We would love you to join the social committee, as many hands make light work. Please contact Maz maz.oconnor@bigpond.com to share your interest.



Membership

The SYC membership currently sits at 802 members with 50.6% males and 49.4% females.

The traditional Membership Mailout will be replaced this year by an email to all families and individual members in August. Subscriptions will be due as of September 1 2023.

The annual Calendar will be printed in hard copy as in previous years and distributed at the AGM and on Opening Day.

Enjoy your winter activities and remember that Friday night dinners are a feature of our Yacht Club all year round.

Please inform me if you have changed your email address, postal address or phone number so that the club data base can be kept up to date.

Libby Moore
membership@somersyachtclub.com.au

Around French Island Race

Seven Hobie 16's and one Mosquito from Somers Yacht Club compete in the marathon around the top of Westernport Bay on March 25th. They sailed from Somers to Cowes Yacht Club to start the long race with the course set in a clockwise direction. The tide was unfavourable and when the cats got to the hump (the NE corner of French Island) they were challenged to sail upwind against the tide all way back to Cowes. Take a look at the YouTube clip below <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jz0tzljetcI>

Every catamaran was allocated a GPS tracker which was then used to keep the fleet safe and help the spectators and support crews involved. A replay of the race and the manoeuvres of each boat can be found at the link.
<https://tacktracker.com/cloud/regattas/show/279030912?fbclid=IwAR34JvKaO9ZYraKYyhmaPY7tsBZJz9-XfWNfr0LXbGsHEKj8O1gOQQuzgKyE>

Hope to see more cat sailors there next year.

Simon Morris



Nigel Beddoe, Jeff Rowden and Emma Morris.



SsYC Club Merchandise

Kids T- Shirts \$20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adult t shirts \$25.00

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

with pricing, colours and sizing listed for your selection.

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

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



Winners are Grinners. Wearing their SsYC Beautiful Beanies, the Nutting sisters model the latest merchandise worn by skilled (and warm) sailors.

You too could look as good as this!

Do you have a photo of SsYC merchandise? Please send them to me moorecolleen65@gmail.com Many of us travel far and wide wearing SsYC merchandise.. Please send photos.



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Amanda Nutting



Vice Commodore
Sean Bly



Rear Commodore
Simon Morris



Treasurer
Tim Brock



Secretary
Wendy Wilson



Membership
Libby Moore



Bar Liaison
Greg Cassano



Nigel Beddoe
Sea Rescue



Social Committee
Maz O'Connor



General Committee
Cameron Harvey



Youth Liaison
Trish Low

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Club Contacts

Commodore Amanda Nutting
Vice Commodore Sean Bly
Rear Commodore Simon Morris
Secretary Wendy Wilson
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Membership Secretary Libby Moore
Social Administrator Maz O'Connor
Bar Management Keith Moore
Sea Rescue Nigel Beddoe
Club Captain Jeremy Pearse
Sail School Emma Morris - (M) 0425 784 877
Club House Hire Wendy Davies - (M) 0410 516 804
Facilities Manager David Goble - (M) 0418 304 589
Newsletter Editor Colleen Moore - (M) 0432806818
Mid Week News Editor Wendy Wilson
Web and IT Administrator Grahame Tiplady
Yard Manager Simon Morris
Club Liquor License Nominee Steve Schaper
Catering Jill Midlovets
Bar Volunteering Diana Nutting

commodore@somersyachtclub.com.au
vice.commodore@somersyachtclub.com.au
rear.commodore@somersyachtclub.com.au
secretary@somersyachtclub.com.au
treasurer@somersyachtclub.com.au
membership@somersyachtclub.com.au
social@somersyachtclub.com.au
bar@somersyachtclub.com.au
sea.rescue@somersyachtclub.com.au
captain@somersyachtclub.com.au
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moorecolleen65@gmail.com
midweeknews@somersyachtclub.com.au
webmaster@somersyachtclub.com.au
yard@somersyachtclub.com.au
bar@somersyachtclub.com.au
catering@somersyachtclub.com.au
barroster@somersyachtclub.com.au



See you out there! And don't forget to send Windward contributions to moorecolleen65@gmail.com.