



Windward

Sailing at its best

January 2020



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From the Commodore's Desk



Commodore's Reflections

Though somewhat disputed, the phrase "May you live in interesting times" is said to be an ancient Chinese curse. Here at SYC we sure have had an interesting first half to the 2019-20 sailing season. Challenging weather conditions and catering arrangements have made for rather more interesting times than those of us downstairs in operations would have wished. However, interesting times often seem to bring out the best in people and the SYC community is no exception, so curse it is not.

While the weather cycle seems determined to bring strong winds through Somers just about any day we set a race, we are mindful of the terrible weather conditions that have prevailed elsewhere across much of eastern Australia. Our hearts go out to those that have faced extreme, dangerous conditions, many losing property and lives. We are especially appreciative of members of our own community who have volunteered to the fire-fighting effort. Hats off to you.

Despite the loss, so far, of an inordinate number of races, the out-of-racing sailing engagement has been exceptional, both informally (be it those of us looking to improve our "Impulse" control or the younger set testing their new fleet of Dragoons) and more formally, through SWISH, Out There and Sailing school. The sailing "vibe" has been great especially amongst our younger sailors. We have strong engagement at National titles with some exceptional results, as reported by Sean. I am especially pleased, and a little relieved, to report we seem to have retained our title as Western Port off-the beach champions. Congratulations to all those who braved the 20-25 knot conditions to sail to Cowes and back.

Managing the social events and catering through Vic's enforced absence has been a more or less

fulltime job for both Di Otto and Lisa Tuck. Both deserve a medal, with many members contributing to the effort. Thankyou. We are especially grateful to Sabrina Williams and family, and to Eugene, for stepping into the breach. It is with great relief that we can report Vic has now recovered and we anticipate catering will have returned to situation normal by the time you read this.

Behind the scenes, we continue to develop plans to advance our building program, as reported by Di. Cameron Harvey is once again providing his professional expertise towards guiding the next stage in upgrading the "Mens" and, in the longer-term, the upstairs kitchen and bar.

With a recent surge in new memberships, we might be seeing some new faces around the club. I am sure you will all help introduce them to our club. For our new members, welcome. You will soon get to appreciate the scale of the effort, and the fun, that goes into running this club to provide a safe competitive sailing environment, and a vibrant social hub for Somers. We are always on the look-out for able bodies to help, be it on the sailing or social program. Don't hesitate to ask how you can contribute.

On memberships, Richard Fakhry has indicated he will be relinquishing his role as membership secretary. We all owe Richard a huge thank you for a massive effort over the last 5 years especially given the challenges of taming uncooperative databases.

May the weather be fair, the sailing fun, and the camaraderie incomparable.

**That's It
Mike Sandiford**



Vice Commodore's Report –Di Otto



We have had a very eventful start to the season. Our hearts go out to all those affected by the bush-fires country wide. A big thank you to Maz, Janis and all their helpers and donators for making the fundraiser on Saturday 18th possible. By the time this goes to print I am hoping we will have let you know the results.

CATERING - As you are all probably aware Vic, our caterer, has been absent from the club for the last 6 weeks. I wish to extend a very special thank you to Eugen and his staff for stepping in at such short notice, during the busiest time of year, to help us out. The food was excellent and it kept our club buzzing as per usual.

In addition to that a huge thank you to Sabrina Williams and her extended family for providing us with lunches and coffees during the week between Christmas and New Year. It is such hard work doing this and they did it with big smiles and some very delicious food, especially the boozy Christmas Cake!! I'd also like to say thank you to Sabrina and her family for volunteering to make coffees during the Discover Sailing day and then donating all the proceeds back to the club. We have some very special volunteers at Somers Yacht Club.

You will all be pleased to note that Vic is now returning, starting Saturday 18th for Friday Night Dinners and Race Day lunches plus our after race food – HOORAY HOORAY and welcome back Vic.

FACILITIES - I am pleased to say that after developing a scope of works for the Men's toilet and shower area with Cameron Harvey, we are now moving ahead with plans and then of course quotes

for the upgrade and refurbishment of this area. We hope to be able to complete this during the winter of 2020.

We are still discussing the Kitchen and Bar restructuring with Cameron so as to ensure we provide for all the clubs needs for these facilities. Watch this space as we move ahead.

I'M SO PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY SAILORS RINSING OFF THEIR FEET BEFORE ENTERING THE CLUB HOUSE. **THANK YOU!!** We have such a beautiful facility and it's our responsibility to look after it.

The Kitchen and Bar area have needed minor works. We are trying to restrict the works to only those that are essential for now. The kitchen has had some additional safety measures added, a new screen for between the hotplates and the deep fryer plus a stainless steel benchtop and side panel for the adjacent bench. A further service of the deep fryer is expected to be completed this coming week.

The bar area is in need of better, safer storage for the glasses whilst waiting for the upgrade. This will occur in February we hope, when the under-bench fridge will be decommissioned and replaced with glass storage for now. We hope this will not be too much of an inconvenience whilst being completed.

SECURITY - I know you have probably read this before in our weekly newsletters however, security at the club is very important for us all. If you are last to leave the club, please make sure you 'arm' it correctly. But before that, all areas need to be checked to ensure they are secure. There will be specific checklists in place very soon to help us all remember what to check! If in doubt call someone to help you. At this stage you can call John Tilleard, Grahame Tiplady or Mal Otto for help. When the new signs are up there will be a contact number provided.

Let's stay together and have fun- happy sailing!

Rear Commodore's Report



Sean Bly

It's hard to believe, but we've all made it through our Silly Sailing Season in (mostly) one piece – alas, your Rear Commodore has been like a chef that doesn't taste their own cooking, and has been notably absent from racing around the cans! Nevertheless, my supplication to the weather gods, whilst still not delivering as planned, did at least bring a great run of weather for the Summer Cup. It has been great to see so many of you taking the opportunity to get out on the water. It has also been great seeing our younger sailors in the yard tinkering with their new Dragoons, and out competing against each other in some pretty close racing.

One of the highlights so far has been Discover Sailing Day on Saturday 4th January, where over 100 visitors registered to come and experience our club atmosphere, and by golly was it buzzing! Between Sabrina churning out coffees, our friendly members taking visitors around the club, right through to our beach marshals and sailors, who managed to get many people out sailing and on powerboat rides despite the forecast and the eventual weather front.

A MASSIVE thank you to all those who stepped up to help. These events help to keep our local community involved, and you each have my gratitude.

Off the back of Discover Sailing Day, Sailing School has had bumper registrations, and seen an influx of new members joining the club. Once again, thanks to Emma Morris and her team of instructors on the hard work and effort they are putting in to making this such a success.

In the past few weeks, the activity has been non-stop! In the past month, we've had:

- SheSails Regatta, which saw 28 women and girls take part in our regular Saturday racing, as well as receiving

coaching plus a one day regatta

- Our first Club Championship race, and our very first ND Series race – both in tough conditions
- Summer Cup, with 61 entries across the holiday period
- Boxing Day Regatta in great conditions
- Yardstick Pursuit, won by Wendy Wilson
- Westernport Teams Racing, where the Somers Birds of Spray made it to the semi-finals
- Westernport Challenge – more below

Westernport Challenge Results

Despite the tough conditions over at Cowes, and with strong winds across Westernport Bay, I'm please to announce that **Somers YC have retained the Westernport Challenge Trophy**. A big thanks to the nine Somers boats that competed and helped achieve this result. Notable results included:

- Pat Moore winning the Overall Monohulls, with Mike Sandiford coming 3rd Monohull.
- Nigel & Abi Beddoe winning the Overall Multihulls, with Simon Morris & Gideon Segal coming 2nd Multihull, and Emma & Zoe Morris taking 3rd to round out the podium.
- Emma Morris winning the Female Skipper award



Somers Sailors at Cowes Yacht Club for the Westernport Challenge

Division Reports

Division 1— Peter Foulsum

What a weird start to the 2019/2020 season with just a bit too much wind for some and many abandoned races. The pre-Christmas races 1, 6 and 7 were by contrast beautiful days with 10 – 15 knots of breeze and great racing.

Race 3 had that cold spring feel with big seas and strong winds. Jeremy Pearse was knocked off his Mozzie approaching the top mark, breaking his tiller extension, subsequently capsizing and spending 30 minutes trying to right his yacht in difficult seas. Gina Webster felt so cold, she and Justin Prior abandoned the race after lap 3 with Gina needing an immediate hot shower after getting back on the beach to try to recover. Half the fleet either were DNF or DNC. You know it's pretty tough when our current Mozzie National champion; Matt Stone capsizes twice during the race.

Race 1 of the championship series was again marginal with strong winds and only 4 catamarans ventured out with 7 deciding not to venture out. It really was a great day for the Hobie 16s with Nigel Beddowe and Maz O'Connor taking line honours from Simon Morris in 2nd and Brian Gristwood 3rd.

3 Hobie 16s stayed out for the start of the Norm Dewar series race 1 but all decided to call it a day due to the rough and windy conditions. You know it's just a bit too windy when monohull yachts are being flattened and skippers find it hard to get back to their capsized yachts that are being blown away.

The Summer cup was again hampered by strong winds with races 5 – 8 abandoned. Congratulations to Jeremy Pearse, Matt Stone and Brian Gristwood for their series results. Congratulations also to Robbie Lovig, Michelle Bursa. Simon Morris, Leona Twist and Pete Dalton for their heat wins.

To the Yardstick pursuit and off the beach races; congratulations to Brian Gristwood, Simon and Emma for 1st and 2nd in the Yardstick Pursuit and Justin Prior, Nigel Beddowe and Abi Morgan and Brian Gristwood for their 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall in the Off the Beach race.

To the Mosquito National championship currently running in Adelaide, Matt Stone has won 7 races and dropped a 3rd place so will successfully retain his National title. Races finish on 10th January. Well done to Justin Prior and Gina Webster for their 3rd place in race 1 of the sloop rigged division and 5th overall.

I guess that the Hobie 16 National titles held at Jervoice Bay Sailing Club Western Australia were just a bit too far for our club Hobie sailors.

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



Division Reports

Division 2 –Steph Schwarz



DECEMBER-JANUARY 2019-20

Pre Christmas 3 saw a 15 to 25 knot South Westerly in which the heavier crews excelled, and left the rest of us on the beach. As Vlad arrived only 35 minutes before start, had little hope of catching the keen and very able Harrison in his first heavy wind, and without mishap. Zoe and Jack, and Matilda retired. Ah well, always next week! But next week, the weather did the dirty on us again, and the two races were cancelled, leaving only next Saturday's two races in the series. Race 6 and 7 were sailed in Beautiful Somers weather, a mild 12kts and sunshine. As Steph missed the start in race 6, Vlad and Harrison powered away, and finished in front of him, followed by Zoe and Matilda, then Peter T who also missed the start, and Jack and Will. In race 7 we all started together, and Vlad soon tacked, and lost some ground to Harrison and Steph, who continued in the lead until the last triangle where his downwind ability served him well, taking the lead from Steph, Harrison, Zoe and Matilda, and Jack and Will. The first Championship was sailed in blustery 20kt winds with higher gusts, so left most of us on the beach except Harrison and Vlad, and that's the order in which they finished. The next sail was organised for us by Father Christmas on Boxing day, as it was perfect sunny 10 to 12 kt weather, with a fleet of four Hobie Dragoons and two PT's. Steph took the lead with Harrison in hot pursuit and the Dragoons following. Harrison did not finish as his father Nic wanted to do the second race. Steph finished ahead of Matilda and Zoe, Jack and Abi, Will and Max and Sam and Mackenzie. The second race started in lighter wind which ramped up a bit towards the end, with Steph finishing in front of Matilda and Zoe, then Nic, Will and Max, Jack and Abi, and Sam and Mackenzie. The first Summer Cup was sailed in beautiful Somers sunshine and 10kts. Mat and Abi, Jack and Emily, Max

and Will stayed ahead of Steve Schaper on his first outing, but great to see him on the water again. The second race, after the course was re-laid saw only about 6kts, and no Div II boats. Well wasn't the Off The Beach Race fun? What a glorious Somers day. After the shemozzle at the start everyone got off cleanly and Chris's wish that we all cross the line together was nearly successful, as there were many of us very close together there. Heat 3 of the Summer Cup was again a sunny 12 Kt race with Emma in the Dragoon showing us the way to the finish, followed by Steph, Nick in Harrison's boat, then Jack and Luke, Max and Will, Steve Shaper and Sam and Harry. The wind ramped up for race 4, reaching 18 to 20 Kts, so battening down the hatches, once again with Emma leading us to the finish ahead of Nick, Steph going for the jibe mark by mistake and letting the boom give him a black eye, followed by Max and Will, Jack and Luke, and Sam and Harry. The Off The Beach race saw Matilda, Phil Will and Max, and Sam and Harry enjoy the 10Kt sunny conditions. Yes, races 7 and 8 were cancelled due to poor weather. Race 9, the Twilight race, was not very well patronised, as Steph was the only DivII competitor amongst the total of 15 boats. Now for some good sailing weather!!



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Division Reports

Division 3 -Nick Carter

The start to the season was dominated by big winds and big sea's it seemed each and every Saturday; eventually however things settled down to a very enjoyable period of sailing over the Xmas break.

The 19/20 season it seems will be dominated by the presence of the Impulse, a very adaptable and fast boat indeed. Glenn Collings and our Commodore spent many an hour out on the water up to the Christmas period, sharpening their skills for the Impulse Nationals. Glenn was able to record a second place overall out of a large and competitive fleet, well done to Glenn and his training buddy Mike.

Division 3 over the past few years has become very competitive, with different classes performing in different conditions, it's also fair to say that the level of seamanship and general boat handling has improved significantly with what seems to be longer periods of stronger winds and bigger sea states. Skippers are having to work a little harder to be at the pointy end of the fleet, and even harder to maintain position, as errors are quickly capitalised on. Some boats point well (Finn and Tasar) others namely the Contender and Impulse have different angles to sail up wind; this creates its own dynamic within a close fleet, as each skipper works out the magic angle to maximise performance. In stronger winds, when the skipper is on the wire, the Contender is very hard to beat, and the Impulse and Tasar when planing conditions prevail are also dominant. The Finn and Hadron, like 4-7 knots and choppy seas, or 22+ knots and huge seas, so they can use their critical mass, hull and sail shapes to max effect.

Patrick in the Contender won the first heat of the Championship with a dominant display, followed by Michael V in another Contender and Glenn in his Impulse. The Summer Cup has a new back to back format with some great racing over these heats, and at the time of print, Mike S leads the

way with Chris and John T very close behind, all in Impulses!

Finally, let me say that having Stuart back in his hand-built Hadron has been a highlight for the Division. The boat is finished to a very high standard, and now that his yardstick has been sorted out, I am sure he will feature heavily in the results when conditions allow.

P.S Remember to leave plenty of room at the jibe mark for the Finn Boom, it has caught several people out this season ☐☐
See you on the water!
Nick AUS 280



Division 4—Libby Moore

The 2019/20 Summer cup is done and dusted with Handicap & Yardstick honours going to Grahame Tiplady in "Spur Of The Moment" closely followed by Libby Moore in Naughti Gull and Wendy Wilson in Heart Beat. Special mention goes to Chris Thomas sailing his Impulse "Danger Mouse" for the first time.

Keith Moore

Caitlin Bly in
Little Humdinger



Swish and She Sails

SWISH is a Social Sailing event for women using the club's Pacers. No sailing experience is needed- support is provided by experienced female sailors or you can watch from the power boat.

Followed by a social chat, drinks and nibbles.

Two afternoons of SWISH have been held this year with new and experienced sailors.

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For more information please contact Wendy Wilson:
Mob: [0407876950](tel:0407876950)



The She Sails weekend held at SsYC was a a great opportunity for women of all ages to have coaching and race training. The participants took part in a club race at Somers on the Saturday and also had a series of races on the Sunday. Wendy Wilson put a great deal of effort into the organisation of the day and we thank her for her determination and efficiency. Wendy was supported by Sean Bly and Di Otto and Lisa Tuck in organising racing, and catering and many others in the Yacht Club who made this weekend a great success .



Opti and Laser Championships

The 2020 Musto National Optimist Championships we are held at the Royal Victorian yacht club in Williamstown this past week. There were 240 Optimist sailors in total; split into open, intermediate and green fleets. This year there was a strong international attendance with top sailors from Ireland, the United States, France, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Hong Kong and New Zealand attending. The tournament started with Opti teams racing and Victoria won for the second year in a row. Most days there were light winds in the morning with winds picking up 20 sometimes 25 knots in the afternoons as the seabreeze came in. The kids sailed a trapezoid course, with the goal of 2 to 4 races per day. On a couple of the days visibility was really poor due to the smoke and there were a few sailors who had completely lost all sense of direction! Both Chloe and Lucy Laverty competed in intermediate fleet and their results were mid fleet for both girls. The top optimist sailor was a boy from New South Wales followed closely by an American girl and third place was taken by a boy from Ireland. Once again, it was a great time to renew friendships with other sailors from around Australia and make new friends with competitors from overseas. The girls change room was always a hub of chatter and friendship! Williamstown did a great job hosting the event, at times it got quite congested on the slipway but everyone seemed to manage. As the kids sailed out to their course, they got to sail past the Sea Shepherd in addition to many big ships as there is a fairly active shipping channel in that area of the bay. I kept busy on a rescue boat most days, I am now an expert at bailing out boats and even gained some knowledge in how to lay a racecourse. After 7 days of sailing everyone was exhausted; but all in all, it was a great regatta!

At the same time the Australian Laser Nationals were held at Sandringham yacht club. There were 275 boats in total, with once again, many international competitors. The fleets were divided into 4.7's, radials (Gold and silver fleet) and then the full rigs. This regatta was more laid-back compared to the Opti's, generally racing started around midday and on most days they did two races. The wind conditions were similar to what was described in Williamstown however on a couple days it stayed around 25 kn, providing challenging conditions for some of the lighter sailors in the 4.7's. A sailing highlight was being able to compete with Matt Wearne, who is sailing for Australia in the Olympics this year. Some non-sailing highlights were the great complimentary snacks post racing which the yacht club graciously provided, this included sushi, curries and fresh fruit! Representing Somers yacht club was Richard Jagger, and Lucy and Nick Ede in the radials and Daniel Laverty in the 4.7's. Our radial sailors ended up mid fleet in the silver division and poor Lucy couldn't quite get ahead of her dad! Daniel ended up 27th in the 4.7's and out of the Australian sailors under 16, he placed fourth. Well done SsYC.

It was great regatta for Daniel to catch up with sailing mates who he competed against in Optimists and who have now also moved on to lasers.

After seven days of sailing, there was a one day break and then it was down to Sorrento Yacht club to compete in the Australian national youth championships! Thankfully sailing at Somers has provided experience with tides and current as that can be a tricky issue when sailing towards the tip of the peninsula.

Living on the peninsula, our household has been open to many sailing teenage boys this week, even one from overseas! If there are any laser sailors at the club or kids interested in hearing more about sailing in these regattas, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Pete is treasure of the Victorian International Optimist Dinghy Association (VOIDA) and we are both actively involved in these regattas.

Maureen Cooper

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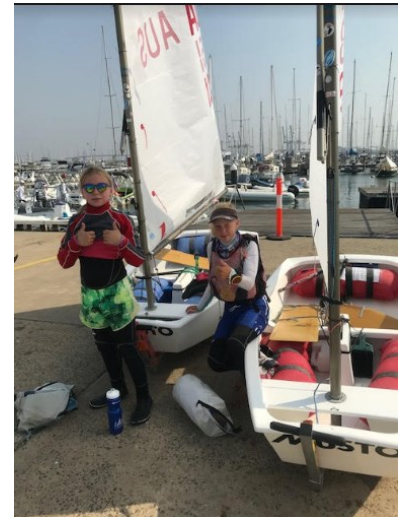


Photos of the Opti and Laser Championships



Right
Lucy and
Chloe
Lavery

Left
Daniel
Lavery



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Cruise to Flinders

Over the weekend of 4th-5th of January around 40 people including 32 kids sailed to Flinders from Somers yacht club. The sail took around two hours with light wind and an opposing tide. The boats were mainly Hobie cats but there were two monohulls sailed by the current and most recent commodores. One thing I enjoyed about sailing to Flinders was going out on trapeze and one thing I didn't enjoy was how cold it got at the end.

When we arrived, we had to carry the boats up to the grass area because everyone's wheels were back at Somers. Once we had brought the boats up it was time for food and hot showers. Then we had time to coordinate the music on everyone's UE booms, play with the sports equipment, carve up some chocolate and set up our beds. For dinner we had burgers with lettuce, tomato and pineapple (thank you to our lovely cooks for preparing a delicious dinner!). Most people slept underneath their boats, but some people were frightened inside by a fox pack that was circling the boats during the night.

The next morning, we had bacon and egg rolls for breakfast along with cereal, yoghurt and milk. After breakfast we got ready for another fun day of sailing. Sailing on the second day was harder because it was so smoky that we lost sight of land. And then the wind completely dropped-



off when we were at the cardinal poles near Balnarring, so we had to paddle or be towed into shore. In the end we paddled ashore near the rivermouth which was conveniently close enough to Simon's house for him to run home to retrieve his dog Billy, while Mackenzie, Alex and I pulled Simon's boat through the water to the yacht club. Despite the lack of wind, I enjoyed sailing back to Somers with my friends listening to music and enjoying being on the water. It took around 2 hours to sail to Flinders and about 4 hours to get back to Somers yacht club. Oh and by the way, the commodores bet all the catamarans both ways!

All in all, the Flinders cruise is an awesome experience and I recommend going next time!

Written by Leona Twist

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Season 2019-2020 Western Port Challenge



**Centre - Wendy Wilson
Left—Pat Moore**

Hobbies at Cowes beach

New Year's Eve



Ciao Roma



Vale Barry Butcher

14TH October 1932 to 7th December 2019



Barry and Lexie joined the Yacht club in 1972 after purchasing their holiday house in Somers. Barry sailed his FJ, 'Flying Junior' 4.5m fibreglass hulled 2 man yacht with George Schwarz and other crews. After the class became less popular and the competition virtually disappeared, he decided to sell the FJ and joined the 14ft Hobie brigade, which consisted of Rob Curry, Kim Partos, Stan Phillips and Stephen Teh and bought 'AZUL' which can be remembered by its dark blue sail, and which he sailed successfully until just a few years ago. The boat can still be seen to sail occasionally at Somers.

Barry was a Melbourne pharmacist owning his pharmacy in North Kew for many years, and worked tirelessly for the pharmaceutical profession in many official positions to bring it recognition in many areas. He was instrumental in bringing the profession from being a diploma into a degree, and the pharmacy college into a true university faculty at Monash university.

Barry and I met at primary school when he was 8

and I was 6, we lost contact for a number of years, but met at the Pharmacy College, and again later became skiing buddies at Mt Buller and overseas. This later developed into sailing buddies when we bought our house in Somers and joined the Yacht Club.

Barry and Lexie were amongst the first in the Yacht Club Social Committee when it was formed years ago, and worked tirelessly to bring the social calendar and events to the state which we enjoy today.

Barry's Memorial was celebrated in Camberwell on Friday 13th December, and attended by family, friends and many of his professional associates.

He is survived by his wife Alexia, brother Gerard and family.

Steph Schwarz

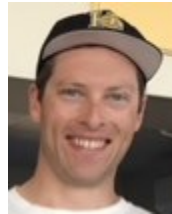
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Dianne Otto



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