



Windward

Sailing at its best

June/July 2016

Winter sailing at Albert Park Lake



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From the Commodore's Desk

EVEN though the sailing season is over the activity at the club just keeps going!

Thanks to the Jets and the talent of the salad makers we had a very successful BYO BBQ on the long weekend.

Thanks to a few members for their help with the mini working bee and to Rudi for the smell of fresh paint in the clubhouse, all the rock markers are vibrant and ready for next season. There are many small jobs to do over the winter so ask John Tilleard what you can do to help.

The finance and facilities committee has been hard at work producing a budget for next year and preparing the end of year accounts. I am please to say the club is in a good financial position. For those of you who drink slowly you will be pleased to know the bar committee will be installing an ice machine so now you will be able to put your bottle of white in an ice bucket! On the downside to maintain bar margins there will be a small increase to the price of beer, on the upside our bar volunteers won't have to fossick around for 50 cent pieces.

Social and sailing committees have been busy

putting together an exciting program for next season, with a few new events and innovations.

You will see in this issue we are asking for pledges to get the lift project off the ground. I encourage you to pledge, so we can confirm the level of commitment to installing a lift and move into the fund-raising phase.

We have been successful in getting a grant of \$1960 for training our members so they have new skills to contribute to the club. Talk to Garry Morris or Emma Morris if you are interested in becoming sailing school instructors, rescue boat drivers, race officers or need any other relevant qualification.

Finally we have sent a card and gift to Hugo Davenport on behalf of the club letting him know that all his sailing friends are thinking of him and are looking forward to seeing him on the water next season.

- Chris Gurney



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Rear Commodore's holiday report

HELLO sailors!

No report from me this newsletter- you have all had enough of me by now anyway. Instead it was suggested that I fill you in on our antics since Presentation Night.

Steve, Amelia and I have just spent a wonderful week sailing in the Ionian islands in Greece.

Having done our day skipper qualifications in 2014, Steve and I took on the responsibility of hiring a boat with just the two of us. (Well we did invite Amelia along as a competent crew!)

We have bare boated several times before but never without a more experienced keel boat skipper at the helm.

At our briefing it was - who is the skipper? Steve and I looked at each other. He is in the harbours said I, and I will be at sea! Poor Steve!



Above: Steve at the helm steering Amelia and Amanda off to paradise.

It is quite different trying to achieve a perfect "Med Mooring" as opposed to simply scooping up a buoy in open water in the Whitsundays.

As many of you would know - a "Med Mooring" is when you back into the quay dropping anchor about four boat lengths out and then gliding to a perfect stop in front of the patrons at the cafe tables on the quay who are watching the berthing as their afternoon's entertainment. Sounds simple really until you have a 25 knot cross wind and the boat wants to go anywhere but where it should. We also had a few cross words trying to achieve a line to shore- no rope was long enough for our tentative anchoring and drifting about in the wind. At one harbour we sort of hit a 57 foot luxury yacht twice trying to get a line to shore - until they suggested we moor elsewhere! When we motored over later to apologise they invited us on board for aperol spritzers!

Now we have a new way to make friends on the water!

They were very nice super-rich Brits who spend four months a year on their yacht - resident local skipper of course - and dash back to the UK every so often.

Despite our little issues the boat (and our marriage) remained intact- Steve has even agreed to two weeks sailing next year!

Cheers, Amanda

Windward Mark Bar and Bistro

Open every Friday evening for members and their guests

**Book via the Somers Yacht Club website
or ring Vic on 0450 784 969 by 5pm Thursday**

Presentation night

IT'S a major event. More than 20 perpetual trophies, individual awards for more than 70 sailors, plus trophies for the Westernport

Challenge and special recognition for rescue boat crews, race management and volunteers. That's a lot of glass, plaques and awards. Tim Rintoul and John Carter are buried in race points, glasses and trophies for weeks! Not only that but there's 130 people to organise onto tables, seating plans to print, flags to put up, table decorations to arrange, tables to lay, a slide show, microphones and computers to test, buffet to organise, running sheet to finalise. Has anyone been forgotten?

It's a wonder the Rear Commodore gets any sleep at all! There's a lot to get right and a lot at stake if it goes wrong.

Yet it all worked brilliantly again. What a team!

A 5:30 pm start caught a few by surprise which meant the early arrivals could make the most of the bar! But by 6:01 everyone was seated and ready. A great table layout managed to fit 130 people so that everyone could see proceedings with only a little bit of squash.....and a lot of noise!

And so to proceedings. The first tranche of recognition and awards was over in a flash; getting to the scheduled dinner break with time to spare. Thanks to the entire sea rescue crew and all the race management team for a season of hard work and professionalism and to the club coaches and sailing school officials who generously share their knowledge and skills.

Congratulations to Marg Tilleard as this year's McCutcheon awardee and to all those sailors who made sure that the Westernport Challenge Shield stays on the Somers clubhouse wall.

Vic and his helpers got 130 roasts out in record time (even if it didn't seem that way to the last table) and a few of us even managed to sneak back to revisit the bain-marie before the table clearers moved in.

Then with a steady but relentless pace, our well planned Rear Commodore launched in to the marathon. Division after division, sailors filed



Anne Danne presents the inaugural Junior Champion Award.

up for their moment in the spotlight. Wait for your name, acknowledge the crowd, shake the Commodore's hand then struggle to balance handfuls of glasses while smiling at the camera and waving shyly to your personal well-wishers.

It's hard not to be proud of this very active club as the seemingly endless train of sailors winds its way across the stage. How many races? How many awards? Impressive. *Continued next page*



Rear Commodore Amanda Nutting and Commodore Chris Gurney with her Division 3 trophies.

After that we all needed a breather – choc tops and cheeses providing energy to continue.

Then to the list of perpetual trophies. With what seemed like half the people in the room leaving their tables and squashed on to the stage, the Rear Commodore's right hand man showed amazing ability to spirit coherent groups of trophy winners out of the milling throng of sailors. Anne Danne presented the inaugural Junior Champion Award and eventually, with great dramatic flourish, the only people left on stage were the 2015/2016 club champions.

Congratulations to these skilful and relentless competitors. Smiles and flash bulbs all around as the champions collect their special trophy models – and then it's done. Not even 10pm and the season's over . . . finally.

Congratulations to Amanda, John and Tim and all the willing helpers for a great night in the true Somers Yacht Club spirit. Aren't we lucky!

- John Tilleard



Margaret Tilleard receives the McCutcheon award from Commodore Chris Gurney.

Images: Anthony Poon

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Thank you sea rescue

THE volunteers of sea rescue were treated to a morning tea at the clubhouse in May as a thank you from the club for their efforts.

Commodore Chris Gurney, Rear Commodore Amanda Nutting and Garry Morris paid tribute to the people who turn out week after week to man the rescue boats, drive the tractor, organise the roster and help in many other ways to ensure that our sailors can enjoy safety on the water. There was a good turnout of about 20 plus sea rescue volunteers who enjoyed tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

- Tony Duboudin

Top right: Sea rescue volunteers tuck into biscuits and cakes.

Bottom right: Commodore Chris Gurney thanking the volunteers



Division 2 report

NOT much to report except that as discussed at the last sailing committee meeting, the 14ft cats will again have their own division and a special course, possibly windward to the No1 buoy triangle, again to No1, then return, windward to No1 triangle, triangle and finish. So three triangles and a windward and return, as we did some years ago. It should be fun. The 16ft cats will have their own course, not decided yet. See you in the snow.

- Steph Schwarz

Division 4 report

THERE'S great excitement in Division 4 ranks post season with new talented young sailors joining the ranks.

Max Taylor purchased Lucy's boat and will be straight on the pace with it being a proven quick performer. Lucy has upgraded to a slightly newer Laser 4.7. Body Carter also has a new Laser 4.7 to sail next season. Both Body and Max are looking forward to joining Ed Alsopp in the class next season. It's great to see these talented Hobie Hawk sailors graduate to the excitement of the Laser 4.7. Great job boys! Send the word out to your mates that the cool class next season will be the Laser 4.7!

Lucy is back on the water now training for next season. She is part of Krystal Weir's girls squad that is training as a group at Parkdale and Mordialloc over the winter and right through Spring. Krystal won the Laser Radial World Championship in 2003 and represented Australia at the Olympics in Beijing and London in the Laser. She is also a qualified physiotherapist and is teaching the girls how to hike and look after their bodies properly in the Laser (see photo right).

Finally it looks like we'll see Sean and Caitlin more next season which is fantastic for challenging everyone in the division. Sean was out at Sorrento over Queen's Birthday re-discovering muscles long inactive!

- Nick Ede



Above: Krystal Weir demonstrating correct hiking technique to Lucy and friends.

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Winter regattas

A couple of Somers members have been enjoying some great sailing in the past few weeks. On the Queen's Birthday weekend Matt Stone and Tash van Rennes did Sauna Sail on the Hazelwood Pondage in a borrowed Mosquito Sloop. I hear they had everything from strong winds and rain to calm frosty clear blue skies, with the usual roaring campfires at night.



I stayed closer to home that weekend at the Mid-Winter Regatta at Sorrento. Sean Bly was there too, winning everything in his Laser. It was too windy for sailing on Saturday so I spent the morning in the clubhouse next to a lovely open fire, catching up with Sabre friends. On Sunday we had five short but close races in 10 to 15knot breeze. I managed to fall out of the boat (brrrr!!) Luckily Sean rescued my Somers visor from the water. On return to shore there were fire tubs, free hot soup and sausages to warm us up.

Social news

THE Queen's Birthday weekend was a great opportunity for members and guests who were staying in Somers to have a BBQ and dance the night away to the Jets, while the following day was spent "Grape Gazing" by some. The social committee has been busy planning events for the forthcoming sailing season which is only four months away. **- Libby Moore**

Right: A small group sampling wine on your behalf during the "Grape Grazing" weekend at Red Hill.

Thanks SSCBC!

Last weekend Lisa Tuck and I went to the Albert Sailing Club Winter Regatta. Lisa sailed a fast red ASC Sabre and got a 8th and a 9th (out of 14 Sabres) – a great effort!



I discovered that sailing standing up works well in the light flukey lake conditions-gets your head out of the boat looking for wind!

So, come and join us for some winter sailing. It's not that cold! We often have really good winds and you meet a lot of different sailors and different conditions. All you need to wear is your summer sailing gear with perhaps an extra layer or two of wind proof clothing and a warm hat. The coldest bit is de-rigging so it's not a bad idea to leave that until after you have had a hot shower. Then enjoy the post-sailing drinks in a warm clubhouse!

-Wendy Wilson



Sunday mid winter roast



More than 50 club members, friends and visitors enjoyed Vic's mid winter Sunday roast on 26 June. It was a special day for Vic who recently became a grandfather.

Left: Vic and helpers ready to serve.

Right: Stephen Brown and Senga enjoy the day.



Stop press: The total pledge so far for the lift project is \$11,200 at 26 June. Libby Moore is overjoyed at the generosity of members but still needs more. So dig deep. Don't forget that this is only a pledge you don't have to pay up yet. More details next page.

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Now for the heavy lifting

THE Somers Yacht Club Committee has taken the initiative to work towards installing a lift at the club to be used in combination for accessibility and to assist in carrying heavy items up to the second floor of the clubhouse.

The committee believes that such an installation would ensure that the clubhouse is inclusive and accessible by all. The decision to embark on this project is one of the responses to the survey conducted with members two years ago on what improvements to facilities they would like to see.

A subcommittee has worked with architects and engineers to plan for the design and installation of the lift and an accessible toilet. The cost of such a project is in the vicinity of \$100,000 and will involve fund raising of the full amount.

Stage 1 requires the sourcing of pledges from members. Once pledges totaling \$40,000 have been received we will move to Stage 2 which will involve:

1. Setting up of an ASF tax deductible account for donations
2. The setting up of lift debentures that can be purchased and if the total is not reached this money will be returned to the donors if requested.
3. Setting up of a separate account for donations and fundraising

The committee believes it is important for members and their family and friends of all ages and with any disability to be able to access the Yacht Club. The stairs also present a hazard for those who carry heavy loads of food and drinks up to the bar and kitchen.

We are aiming for pledges of \$40,000 before we collect any money or progress to completing detailed plans. As with the Pacer project substantial donors will be recognised on a plaque. So who would like to kick the project off and pledge the first metre? One metre vertical \$12,000, half a metre vertical \$6000 or a pledge of any amount you choose.

If you would like to pledge some money towards the project, please click on the link below and indicate the amount of money you would like to pledge. All pledges are confidential and would be tax deductible.

Please indicate your willingness to pledge money by **August 1** in order to enable us to move forward with our planning.

Inquiries on the project or offers to assist in fundraising initiatives may be directed to Libby Moore elpmoore@gmail.com or 0413860371

Link to survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7BYLWK7>

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