

Sailing at its best

June/July 2015

## Norm Dewar to the rescue



*When the tractor broke down on the beach for the last race of the season it was Norm's Toyota Prado that was enlisted to help pull it off the beach at the start of the working bee. Here Rudi, Ben Gristwood, Andy Griffin and Garry Morris with Norm at the wheel of his Toyota start the slow process of getting the Kubota back to the boat shed.*

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Somers Yacht Club Inc. No 7635, Alexandra Ave, Somers. Tel: 5983 5568.

Website: [somersyachtclub.yachting.org.au](http://somersyachtclub.yachting.org.au)

Editorial: Jill and Tony Duboudin. Tel: 5983 1360 or email [jilldoobs@bigpond.com](mailto:jilldoobs@bigpond.com)

## From the Commodore's Desk

WINTER is now upon us. However, we still have some of our members continuing to sail. Sauna Sailing on the warm waters of the Hazlewood pondage was back on the program for the Queen's Birthday long weekend this year and a number of our sailors competed, sailing in varying conditions. We also have members participating in the winter coaching series at Westernport YC.

Members visiting the club in recent weeks will have noticed that the remediation work on the rock wall has been completed. This was a major project for the club, undertaken with financial assistance of a State Government grant.

I am also pleased to report that the response to the club's fund raising efforts, in conjunction with the Australian Sports Foundation, has been tremendous. We are on target to fund the purchase of six new Pacer dinghies and an additional inflatable rescue boat for the forthcoming season. For members wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit the Foundation's web page, [www.asf.org.au](http://www.asf.org.au), click on "Donate" and search projects for Somers Yacht Club.

The juniors and main presentation nights were well supported, the later being a sell out one week before the event. Emma Morris provided

the entertainment for the juniors and kept them fully engaged with fun awards and games to follow.

MC for the main presentation night, John Tilleard, performed impeccably. As always, we are indebted to the considerable work put in by John Carter and Tim Rintoul in determining and sourcing the trophies.

Keith Moore was a popular recipient of the McCutcheon award this year. This award is in recognition of the considerable contribution Keith has made to the club, including as part of the bar committee and with the Jets. I also wish to congratulate all award recipients, particularly our yardstick and handicap club champions for the season and the recipients of Westernport Challenge trophies.

Finally, club members were very saddened to learn of the untimely death of Peter Hohaus. In recent years Peter was an active member of sea rescue and a contributor through his photography to the club's Facebook page. The club was well represented by members at Peter's funeral. A tribute to Peter can be found elsewhere in this edition.

- **Jeremy Pearse, Commodore**



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## Rear Commodore's report

SOMERS has won Yachting Victoria's Discover Sailing Program of the Year award (see below). That's a great acknowledgement of the club's success in bringing new people into sailing. Simon and Emma Morris were on hand at the awards night to receive the accolades – how appropriate is that?

A few outsiders have noticed how quietly successful our club is – we have the highest member retention rate of any club in Victoria and run one of the busiest and best attended sailing programs. Why are we successful? There is no single answer – but there is a lot tied up in the feeling of community that the club generates. So many people contributing in so many ways. Thanks to all those volunteers on the boats and the tower who keep the sailing program running. Special acknowledgement for the tireless efforts of Peter Hohaus – hard shoes to fill.

The season is done and dusted – well the season is done and the trophies already need dusting! Thanks to John Carter and Tim Rintoul for another painstaking effort calculating performances across the season and buying and assigning the impressive array of trophies. It was great to see some new faces amongst the grandeur of presentation night. Thanks to everyone who

made the night a sellout success.

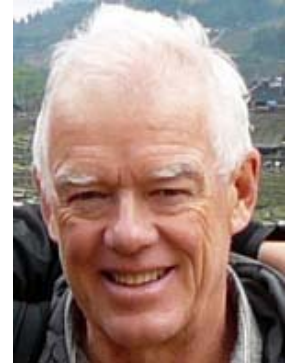
Not everyone has hung up their lifejacket. A few brave souls have been appearing at Westernport Yacht Club every second Sunday for winter sailing and coaching.

Maybe they have seen the drafts of next year's program (up to draft seven already!) and can't wait to get started? As well as the usual exciting schedule, highlights for next year look like being:

- \* Some club (inter-Division?) teams racing with the new Pacers.
- \* A mini regatta at Somers on 7 November for sailors from around Westernport who don't qualify (by dint of gender or class) to participate in the Sarah Blanck Regatta
- \* Mosquito Spinnaker State Titles in November and Tasar or Laser State Titles in March
- \* Westernport Challenge at Cowes (against the tide!)
- \* Sparrow titles and Hobie Hawk World Cup.

My two rear-years are almost over. Busy but fun. Thanks for everyone's support. Another enjoyable sailing season awaits.

**- John Tilleard, Rear Commodore**



## Stop press

## Our Discover Sailing program wins award

AT Yachting Victoria's version of the Brownlow on 19 June, Somers Yacht Club got the gong for the Discover Sailing Program of the Year.

Well done to all who helped out on our Discover Sailing Day and to Emma Morris and Simon and their band of helpers who kept the whole Discover Sailing theme going for the rest of the season. Emma and John Tilleard accepted the trophy on behalf of the club.

Somers sailors also featured in the awards with Eloise Morris and Harry Gower winning Division 2 of the Victorian Schools Teams Racing Championships.

And Somers member Stan Austin was a frequent visitor to the dais, receiving accolades as a member of the Victorian Sailing Team and accepting awards for the Victorian Schools Teams Racing Championship and for the 420 dinghies in the Victoria Sailing Cup.



## Warm water sailing draws the diehards

**Peter Foulson writes:**

WHILE many of us had our feet up in front of the fire or working tirelessly on our yachts in preparation for next season, the diehard Division 1 sailors took to the warm waters of the Hazelwood Power station pondage over the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Matt Stone took second overall in his division and had epic battles with Gary Maskiel (multiple national champion). Matt posted a series of second places for the weekend but just wasn't able to beat Gary. Daniel Stone still has Kryptonite under repair so teamed up with Michelle Bursa on Hobie 16 Vitamin Sea. Daniel and Michelle posted a series of fourth place just missing placings from the Arrows and Mozzies in their division.

Simon and Emma Morris took the family to Hazelwood as well as the Hobie 16, Hobie 14 and had a great time particularly when the wind came in on Sunday afternoon. Zoe and Matilda also appeared to have a great time. Breaking news: Our Commodore, Jeremy Pearse has sold Lightning (Mosquito 1971) so we will not be blessed seeing its transom slowly disappearing into the distance.

**Emma Morris writes:**

A total of 132 boats entered the regatta, with two courses set. An inner course for the juniors with



*Daniel and Michelle power away from the start line.*



*Simon and Emma out on trapeze. .*

their own start and finish line, and an outer course for the experienced sailors.

Outer course sailors were warned that if they got in the way of any juniors on their course, they would be scrapped from the race (tongue in cheek). It certainly kept the juniors in their little boats feeling safe.

I have always been so impressed as I was this year with how they looked after the juniors, not starting races until they were all there, or they helped them by towing them out to the start line. They also having many RIBs to look after them and help coach around the course. It has been such a success for the juniors with close short racing and meeting new sailors from all around Victoria.

It was overall a great weekend, socialising with so many other sailors from clubs around Victoria, spending time chatting by fires at night, or running around playing soccer in the dark as we often found ourselves doing. The biggest challenge is putting on a damp wetsuit the following day to sail, but once sailing on the water (which is close to 28 degrees) you find the heat off the water keeps you quite warm and comfortable.

Thanks to Athol and Chris Stone for keeping the campfire going for us all to keep warm and I hope to see more Somers sailors there next year.



## Sailing school games and presentations

SO many of our new and past sailing school participants made an appearance at the annual games and presentation night. With a show of close to 80 people, both young and old, the evening had a great buzz about it.

All were keen to be back together and rekindle friendships formed over summer and to catch up. We shared a roast carvery and dessert together, while all sailing school students received a special gift (I have one waiting for those could not attend).

Then it was a push from the children to "Let the games begin". First we had the whizz fizz game, you will have to get the run down from the

kids as they will tell it beautifully. Many spectators stood behind glass doors as they did not want to get spayed on! The night followed on with crazy hockey and the number game.

It was great to see so many parents not just leaving the fun to the children and themselves joining in on the crazy hockey. Our sides nearly splitting from laughter at times because the ball was so unpredictable.

Thanks to all who attended and made it a great night. Don't forget we have **another games night** for winter **Saturday 18 July at 6pm** and it would be great to see so many of you there.

- Emma Morris

## Vale - Ian Taylor

MEMBERS will be saddened to learn that Ian Taylor, who had a long association with the club, died in June.

Many members will remember Ian for his soothing piano playing at the club on Friday evenings. He also served on the general committee and helped to run the club newsletter for several years.

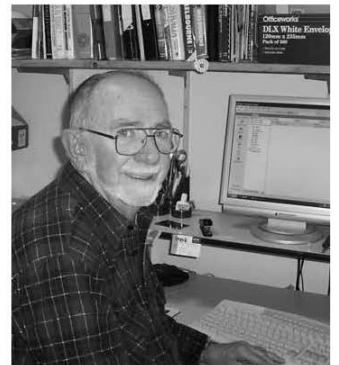
Ian was an active member of the Somers community for many years with special interests in music and "Friends of Coolart". He was famous for his impromptu sing-alongs in the groups in which he and his wife, Marion, were involved.

The Taylor family's association with Somers

goes back to 1965 when the family used to get Ray Stone to find them a holiday cottage to rent each year. Ian and Marion moved permanently to Somers in 1990.

As well as his association with the yacht club Ian also served on the Victorian Wetlands Trust, Somers Foreshore Committee, SEPRA and the Western Port and Peninsula Protection Council.

His funeral service was held at St Mark's Anglican Church, Balnarring on Monday 22 June.





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## Presentation night 2015 in pictures .....



*A night of  
fun,  
frivolity  
and  
photos*

*Images:  
Jules Pearce  
and Anthony Poon*



## Vale - Peter Hohauss — 20 March 1949 - 20 May 2015

HOW do you say goodbye to a good friend, an active and involved club member and a passionate defender and activist in the protection and establishment of the Somers fauna and flora. His favourite conversations with his many friends and acquaintances usually started with or contained the phrase – “I was thinking” or “You should”. He was always full of unbridled enthusiasm and boundless optimism.

He spent a lot of mental energy on thinking through the many possibilities of our potential and where we could or should apply ourselves for our betterment and those around us, be they individuals or groups and associations.

There was no need to sit on your own at the Somers Store as Peter was usually there for the AM of each day – computer on the table – sorting through his many photos from the Saturday afternoon SYC racing. He got to know everyone's name as he posted on Facebook. He had an awareness of all the activities at the club simply through his total involvement.

His passion for the SYC sea rescue was contagious; he was the first of the crews to turn up and often the last to leave. He was reliable, competent and very supportive of any crew member that wanted to learn and improve.

It was at Peter's funeral that we got to hear of so many of his life's achievements through the photos and videos so lovingly shared with us by Boon, Peter's wife, and Teagan and Daniel, Peter's daughter and son. We heard about his passion as a pilot of small planes, his love of gliding, his involvement in establishing Australian native habitats but it was his passion for scuba diving that was most prominent in his latter years.



He spent the winter of 2014 in Thailand working to achieve his dive master qualification and when he was back in Australia and had finished his qualification on the Peninsula, he joked about how poorly a dive master was paid and let us know he was not about to work in the industry. He was going to enjoy his diving and with that he started to dive on Sundays with his “dive buddy”.

Equipped with his tailored 10mm thick wet suit and his hoody, all a must for winter diving in Victoria, Peter started what was going to be an active winter season of scuba diving both here and when he had organised it, overseas.

Sadly whilst diving at Inverlock, Peter met an untimely end.

We don't know what happened, maybe one day we will.

For so many we are in disbelief.

The phone no longer rings with his calls. The texts don't come any more.

There's a friend missing at the Somers Store in the morning.

The chair at the end of the big table at the SYC has lost a familiar face on a Friday night

There is one take home from all of this that truly matters and that is Peter died doing something he loved.

His is a life to be celebrated., a friendship to be treasured and a teacher who didn't know it.

If we take just one quality we valued in Peter and take that out into the world with purpose then we honour him and through that we will always remember him in our own way.

Farewell Peter

**- Michelle Gregory**



## The good, the bad, the funny and the ugly

THE Tornado, freshly varnished, was at the yacht club, ready to go. Dick White, being a past catamaran expert, took the helm, with me on wire. A beautiful gentle sunny Somers day saw us approaching the windward mark, and as we were rounding it, Dick disappeared – through the hole in the corner of the trampoline - with me almost falling overboard with laughter, after hauling him back on board, we were able to finish the race, and an enduring sailing friendship ensued.

The bad thing that happened was the Yacht Club being blown down but as we all know this was the start of a renewed life for the club and for us to meet and enjoy the facilities that are now on offer.

The wonderful performance of *Grease* at the talent night about 30 years ago, ably coached by Fiona Aston, and the cast wishing to extend their evening's fun in Hastings, still in their 'punk' stage gear, being accosted by some of the 'locals' of the area who thought they were a rival gang, sent them scrambling into the Schwarz Mazda 323, all 10 of them, and roaring off home.

Everyone remembers the trip on the Tornado Peter Krstic and I had after the wind changed and blew up to around 40kts. Peter would not let me jibe and run for home, so with both sails flapping we slowly made our way to the beach on Philip Island, knowing our brave rescue crews would come and get us at some time or other. The rescuers came, took Peter on board, and



Rick Bailey accompanied me on the scary tow home.

The ugly day on the Tornado was when the Hobie 20 tacked in our water, giving us no room to avoid him, so our sharp bows cut one of their hulls in half and finished up embedded in the other hull. The protest was thrown out as I did not have the presence of mind in this possibly lethal situation to hail "Protest". Luckily no one was injured, just both boats.

After 40 years of being members the great feeling of being welcome is always there, and watching the club grow where others are losing membership tells us we must be doing something right.

- Steph Schwarz



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## All hands on deck

IT was all hands on deck for the club's annual working bee on the Sunday after the last sailing day of the season.

A good turnout of the usual team of volunteers found plenty of tasks from grass cutting and weeding to painting and replacing one of the cross supporting timbers outside the stairs leading to the tower.

A big clean out of the storage space under the clubhouse created a lot of new space while sea rescue were kept busy clearing out the three boats, checking equipment and generally making the boats ready for a few months in the shed before they gone off for their annual service.

Upstairs the clubhouse also received a thorough cleanout and clean.



## Rudi—a legend in his own launch time!!

THE smile of a happy man, Rudi Bortoluzzi mounts his tractor for one of his last launches for sea rescue. Rudi has decided to take a break from sea rescue after many seasons as the person who gets the boats out of the shed, ensures that everything is in order and ready for when the crews arrive each week as well as driving the tractor to launch and retrieve the three boats. Rudi has been the first person at the boats sheds each race day and usually the last to leave after washing down the tractor. He has been a tower of strength. You could say that he has become a legend in his own launch time!!!



## The great disappearing flags mystery

THE great disappearing flags mystery has been solved and the culprit uncovered ... and it was "an inside job".

Sea rescue crews were mystified by the disappearance of division and others flags from SA4, the race start boat.

The flags were in their place – a series of plastic tubes each one housing a single flag – inside the boat when it was placed back in the boat shed after each

race only for the crews to arrive the next week to find several missing. The club then obtained further supplies but again flags went missing.

Graham Tiplady, club webmaster and this season's Division 4 handicap winner, decided it had to be "an inside job" after studying CCTV footage of the boat going into the shed with flags and emerging a week later minus several.

The penny (or if you like the cent) dropped – the culprit or culprits had to be inside the shed and after club safety officer Norm Dewar said the



most likely suspect had to be a possum or possums. Sure enough before the last race of the season on Saturday 25 April Grahame decided to investigate further and spotted signs of possum activity above the doors of the shed nearest the beach in which SA4 and SA1 are housed after a tip off from some fishermen who said they had seen possum leaving the

shed through a small hole.

The next day during the end of season working bee equipped with a ladder and a long pole Grahame retrieved half a dozen flags along with several pieces of rag from a possum nest in a cavity above the shed doors.

There was no sign of the possum or possums who will no doubt now be on the lookout for something else to line their nest with.

- Tony Duboudin



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## Club Contacts

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Commodore	Jeremy Pearse	0419 804 349	alplas@bigpond.net.au
Vice-Commodore	Chris Gurney	0413 433 620	chris.gurney33@gmail.com
Rear-Commodore	John Tilleard	0419 517 193	john.tilleard@moroka.com.au
Treasurer	John Hatton	5983 5898	hattonjande@bigpond.com
Secretary	Roy Higginson	0408 838 057	royhigginson@bigpond.com

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

Immediate Past Commodore	Malcolm Otto	5983 1431	malindi3@bigpond.com
Social Coordinator	Libby Moore	0413 860 371	elpmoore@gmail.com
Bar Management	Stephen Brown	0407 334 018	stephenbrown48@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Margaret Tilleard	0409 003 136	margaret.tilleard@moroka.com.au
Sea Rescue & Safety Officer	Norm Dewar	5983 1690	dewars01@bigpond.com
General Committee Member	Grahame Tiplady	5931 3301	grahame@ocean-clocks.com

### OTHER ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Honorary Solicitor	Tim Rintoul	5983 1116	timsue.r@bigpond.com
Clubhouse Booking	Dennis Paskins	0409 480 306	verdenp@bigpond.com
Facilities Manager	Simon Boadle	5983 5561	boadles@gmail.com
Race Management	Mark Graham	0417 530 230	markgraham58@gmail.com
Liquor Licensee	Rob Welch	9592 2597	robwell42@gmail.com
Web Site Manager	Grahame Tiplady	5931 3301	grahame@ocean-clocks.com
Sailing school	Emma Morris	0425 784 877	simemmorris@bigpond.com
Windward Editor	Tony Duboudin	5983 1360	tonyduboudin@bigpond.com
Bar Roster	Di Nutting	0458 200 788	di.nutting@bigpond.com
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