

Signals from Sailability Manly

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Warringah Council



Manly

10th Anniversary Dinner

It's not every day that you celebrate your 10th Anniversary! And so it was that Sailability Manly celebrated ours on the evening of 10 March 2007, at Dee Why RSL Club on the northern beaches of Sydney. We welcomed not only our current members but those from past years too. Also enjoying the night were our Patron David Barr MP, Councillors from Manly - Jean Hay and Adele Heasman - and members from Manly Yacht Club.

Our President, Patrick Alexander, welcomed everyone and was followed by our Patron, David Barr, State member of Parliament for Manly who spoke in praise of our community involvement. Then our MC extraordinaire for the evening, Jackie Morgan, showed us an old video of our Club's activities back in the days when our volunteers carried sailors from the beach into the water and lifted them bodily into the sailing dinghies. How times have changed since then, with our ramp to our floating pontoon and two hoists which make it so much safer and less strenuous.

The buffet dinner of roast beef, butter chicken, fish and lots of other dishes was excellent and then MC Jackie had us all laughing and clapping as she handed out her incredibly expensive and funny awards to some of our members and helpers. Next our past President, Des Carmody, gave us a potted history of how we started up and the journey to where we are now. He also explained the history behind the names on each of our Access Dinghies.

In between the presentations we were entertained by an excellent jazz band who helped with the fun atmosphere and kept the evening flowing along so that before we knew it, it was about 11pm and the evening came to a close.



Jackie Morgan, our MC, and David Barr, our Patron - you had to be there!

Starb'd!

14-15 April (Saturday-Sunday), Port Stephens Cup at Grahamstown Lake and social weekend... it's great fun, no pressure, you can camp or find a motel (remember it's school holidays) - talk to Eli about joining us up there.

Deirdre Ronai attended Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday evening, 7 March, to receive her medal for skippering the winning Manly Sailability dinghy, with Peter Hamilton, in this year's Australia Day Regatta.

Congratulations to **Eli Demeny**, our long-serving Secretary, who was nominated by David Barr MP as Manly electorate's candidate for 2007 NSW Woman of the Year.

Shelley Singer, our superb sausage sizzler recently broke her hip in a fall, but that didn't stop her looking after us and wielding her tongs a few days later from a wheelchair. Now that's dedication!

With the benefit of google's picasaweb, **lots of photos** of our sailing days are now up on the web. You can even view them as a slide show or download your favourite shot of yourself. You can email the address to your friends or email them your photo! Just type in this address to your browser: <http://www.picasaweb.google.com/sailabilitymanly>

Sailing dates for winter and next summer season will appear in the next issue of Signals.

Accessible Bathroom

Our bathroom is "open for business"!

Saturday morning, February 24, saw a large gathering of members and guests on the Manly Yacht Club jetty to celebrate the opening of our long-awaited facility. We welcomed a large contingent from the Master Builders Association of NSW, Manly Warringah Division, who were our major benefactor for this project, and many of the Manly Yacht Club Board of Management. As well we had several representatives of our suppliers attending. A most important guest of honour was our architect, Francesca Davenport, who had flown up from Melbourne that morning to actually see in person what she had designed from drawings, sketches, photos and emailed descriptions.

Our Master of Ceremonies was Bob Ronai who had been the Project Co-ordinator for both Sailability Manly and Manly Yacht Club, and he introduced our Patron David Barr MP, President of Manly Yacht Club Brian Wilson and Master Builders' President Leigh Hammond who each addressed the crowd. David then handed out Sailability Manly's Certificates of Appreciation to all those involved in supporting the project.

Then David declared the bathroom "open for business" by tearing a strip of the finest Sorbent tied across the outside door. Inspections were invited and Manly Yacht Club's current issue features a photo of Brian Wilson sat upon his new throne definitely flushed with success.

Then it was on to do what we do best, going sailing. Several of our guests including Francesca went for their first-ever sail in our little dinghies. As Francesca said in a recent email "Please give my regards to our Sailability friends and tell them I think they are a really wonderful bunch of people. (Of course, you know that already.)"

The bathroom is now officially part of Manly Yacht Club's facilities.

What we've been up to...

☺ Saturday, 17 February:

Another beautiful morning, and off we went to Manly Yacht Club. Expecting a large contingent, we put out the six 303's, and the servo 2.3 for Judith. Our excellent pontoon crew followed our new Pontoon Procedures to the letter, ensuring the safe and efficient management and handling of all the gear.

By 9.30 am our keen sailors were arriving, and pretty soon all the boats were on the sparkling water. We were very surprised to see an unexpected swim from Jan on his way to pick up Charlie's Chariot. Or were you just trying to maintain coolness because you knew it was going to be a warm day? An interesting arrival this morning from Mitchell who has just been in Canada training for paralympic skiing. From the sounds of it he is also going to become an expert sailor.

Our early regulars were followed by a large contingent from Hornsby Lifestyle, and a smaller group from Lifelinks. We also welcomed a new sailor, Greg, who will not take long to become a competent sailor able to take other sailors with a disability for a sail.

All together our sailing group this morning totalled 45, almost a record, and everyone had a most enjoyable time.

☺ Saturday, 24 February, Conversation Overheard at Manly Yacht Club:

OK, you guys, here comes the crew to put us out, so it must be Saturday, and I think I heard a whisper that there is something special on today, something about a new bathroom. Here we go! What's this? All eight of us going out? It must be something big if we are all going out. Oh, no, not Greg Mott complaining again. It's because he's green, which makes him envious of everyone. Poor Lionheart is not very brave (he's yellow, you know) but he'll do whatever his name tells him, as usual. The girls will do well, especially Clea (the baby of the team). Little Alan Wood cooperates because there is a motor to help, as long as the batteries are properly connected, and Judith's neck muscles are working well.

Here we are down on the pontoon, and there is a very efficient crew rigging up today. Wow, a quick, safe rigging and in the water. That Vlad is very good at getting the keels in, isn't he? What's this? Only 9.25am and we are all in the water, fully rigged and waiting for clients. Oh. Oh. It looks as if everyone is going away and sitting on the chairs up on the deck, I wonder what is going on. A CEREMONY!!!! Yes, that's what it is. Bob is opening the new bathroom.

Sailing Schedule

Saturdays:

- Mar 24 General Sailing, BIRDS
- April 21 General Sailing plus Hornsby Lifestyle
- May 5 Race and Picnic Day

Wednesdays:

- April 18 Fisher Rd
- May 9 Aranounbai/MAPS

What time we start:
Volunteers should arrive by 9am, sailors from 9:45am.

Booking in:
Please book in at least 24 hours ahead. Visitors are always welcome to see what we do and try us out, but please call us to book in so that we can make sure you get to sail. Call Eli on 9976 2747.

Parking permits:
We have parking permits for your car if you don't already have a disability parking permit.

Extras to bring:
All sailors and volunteers must bring a hat that stays on and a good sunscreen. We supply bottled water and life jackets for all who sail.

Info for Volunteers:
Please be at the Yacht Club by 9am. We will normally finish sailing around 1pm and try to get everything packed away by 2pm. If your name appears on the roster, and you are not available, please call some of the people on your list to provide a replacement, and tell Evelyn on 9976 2134 about the changes.

If you are not able to get a replacement, call Evelyn and let him know.

If your name is not on the volunteer roster, and you find you have some extra time available, please turn up to Sailing, as we can always use some extra helpers.

We never get a look in there, but it must be very important, because there are about 60 people up there, including some very famous dignitaries. David Barr the local Member of Parliament, Francesca the architect, Phil the builder, Brian the President of Manly Yacht Club, and heaps of others.

Well, that must be over, the ribbon must have been cut, because here they all are. We'll have to be very patient now, and try not to toss too much while people are being lowered into us. All eight of us in the water at the same time? Almost unheard of, but very exciting. Here come young Jessika, Adam, Evelyn, Paula, Judith and lots of others. Some we haven't seen before, and lots of these are able-bodied, so we'll throw them around a bit, and make them feel adventurous. Who's this? Melissa? Taking out Clea? That's very courageous. Now a different group. That's the Hornsby Lifestyle Group. Nice to see them again. Hello Alexander, Michelle, Annie, Lynn, Marge and Robert. We think it is really excellent that you have all learnt to get into the boats quickly, so that we can get out there onto beautiful Manly Cove without waiting around.

Oh dear, we have taken over 40 people out, and it's time to be put away. Here comes the rigging crew again. We do hope everything will be put away ship-shape, it feels so much more comfortable in the boat room if everything is put away neatly. Yes!!! I do believe we are going to be washed, dried and put away. How comfortable is that? As we are wheeled past the barbecue table, we can see that all the sausages and bread have been consumed, and that empty chocolate box sitting there is a definite sign that people have been well fed, thanks to Ken and Varsha.

Everything is away now. A really successful day, typical of Sailability Manly.

☺ **Wednesday, 7 March:**

This morning we had two groups booked in. Fisher Rd SSP with their new students for this year arrived nice and early, so were able to help with putting the boats out and rigging. Thanks so much for your help, Jack, Lachlan, Craig, Alex, Thomas, Conrad, Brendan. These are going to turn into a very worthy group of sailing students. There are definite signs that all are going to turn into excellent sailors, as well as efficient helpers, especially Jack on the hoist.

Just as we finished with this early group, our students from Truscott St arrived. What a lovely group they are. Thanks so much to Bradley, Kate, Brianna, Jessika and Sophie, for making our day so worthwhile. Thanks also to Conrad's Mum, Michele, and Jessika's grandparents who have arrived from Holland for a visit.

We are very appreciative of the help we are given by the helpers of the day; Chris on the Safety Boat, Helen, Cheryl, Robyn, Eli on the rigging, and sailors Ivan, Malcolm, Paula, Peter, and wonderful new sailor, Graham, who will be a highly sought after Wednesday helper. Robyn, if you can get seasick on the pontoon, is it any wonder we can never actually get you out on a boat? At one stage, Peter had an itchy scalp and discovered a coil of rope under his hat. I wonder who put that there? We were sorry to hear about Corey's crook knee, and Jennifer's virus. Hopefully, both will be back before our next Wednesday sail.

☺ **Saturday, 10 March:**

I knew this would be a busy morning as soon as I opened my eyes to a beautiful day with blue skies, lots of sunshine, and just enough wind. We were expecting groups from LifeLinks, and BIRDS, and some casual sailors, so put out enough boats to accommodate them all. Malcolm and Glenice arrived for a rigging and sailing lesson, and they were soon joined by Helene. These lessons are extremely worthwhile, as they give us a strong core of highly trained workers.

While this training session was continuing, all the boats were rigged and soon we were ready to go. BIRDS arrived pleasantly early, and off went Brad, David, and Carlo for a sail on beautiful Manly Cove. Next to arrive were our Coolangatta group, Anna, Ashley and Kerry, then John and Karen from Mascot. Judy and Ben went next, then Thiziree who came straight from a swimming lesson. At some stage, Ben and Mikey also arrived, to be whisked straight into a boat, and off for a sail.

By the time the LifeLinks group arrived, the wind had risen to an uncomfortable 10 to 12 knots, coming from the south east, making the water very lumpy, so we cut the sessions a little shorter for Rhadica, Trent, Ben and Kieran.

Safety Boat operator this morning was Craig, and he did a fantastic job, helped by Jan. Our wonderful pontoon crew, led by Peter Hamilton, were also most efficient, making the day run as smoothly as possible. Thanks to Deirdre, Mark, Maria, Peter, Malcolm, Ken, Lucy, Helene, Irene, Bob, Judy, Glenice and Peter. In the boats, thanks to our sailors: Paula, Malcolm, Evelyn, Ivan, Judy, Melissa, Mark, Jill and Peter Singer. And up on the deck thanks to Patrick, in charge of the day, Varsha and Shelley (with a broken hip), Helene, and all of the care workers. A very huge and special thanks also to Lucy, who had an occasion to use her first aid skills.

Check our website regularly for the latest sailing schedule, reports and colour photos of our sailing days plus other events:

www.manlysailability.com.au

and while you're on the internet, also regularly check Sailability's website www.sailability.org for interesting information. You'll find the latest issue of "Freedom on the Water" magazine there plus items about other branches etc.

To check the weekend boating forecast before you come down to sailing, go to the Bureau of Meteorology on www.bom.gov.au/products/IDN65186.shtml and look at the West Channel Beacon section for Manly Cove's conditions.

March Committee Meeting

Items of immediate interest:

Eli attended meeting at Warringah Council re cultural aspects of living in the shire. It was interesting, and she was able to promote Sailability Manly.

We now have 89 members.

Sailability NSW will be holding a weekend conference for all branches in August at Narrabeen. We will send several committee members to relevant sessions.

Order to be placed for more Club t-shirts, possibly hats too.

Winter sailing to be one Saturday and one Wednesday each month. Dates in next issue of Signals.

Next Committee Meeting will be Wednesday 4 April 2007, 6:30pm, upstairs at MYC.

Lost: One Sailing instructions book, would whoever has it please return it to Malcolm Murray.

☉ **Friday, 16 March, Sailability State Championships, Belmont:**

Wayne Black was entered in the State Championships. Arriving at Belmont at 9.15 a.m. just gave us the time to register, grab a drink, check out the rigging of Freedom, and the boats were off. A very well-run day saw Liberties, 303 doubles, 303 singles, 2.3 doubles and 2.3 singles, some servos and some basic, racing against each other in a series of races.

The number and length of races was very impressive, with the whole day given over to racing. It was easy to grab something to eat and drink between races, then off the boats went again. Racing was completed by 4.00 o'clock in the afternoon, presentations made, boats packed away. Wayne worked extremely hard, and his training and endurance work paid off, as he achieved 2 seconds and a third.

It was good to be in company with friends from Pittwater, Gold Coast, Central West, Port Stephens and Kogarah, and get some really tough competition. This will be repeated in a more social way at Port Stephens on 14th and 15th April, then again on Sunday, 21st April at Pittwater. A huge thanks to Peter Hamilton, whose organisational skills were highly appreciated by all concerned.

☉ **Sunday, 18 March, Mikasa Women's Challenge:**

Manly Yacht Club's annual women's races, now the Mikasa Cup as of this year, were held under grey, cloudy skies on Sunday March 18. Division 7 consisted of six 303 Access Dinghies and one servo-assisted 2.3 Access Dinghy, all belonging to Sailability Manly, and sailed their race in the morning. The winds were variable and constantly changing direction to make the race more interesting for the contestants. The colourful sails of the seven Sailability dinghies looked great in Manly Cove, and the immense Australian flag carried aloft beneath the Parasail chute added to the occasion even though they were really celebrating the Harbour Bridge's 75th anniversary!

13 Sailability women were entered and a small but extremely willing crew arrived early to rig the boats under the expert guidance of Peter Hamilton. All boats were rigged and a briefing held, explaining the starting sequence and the structure of the race.

By 9.30, all competitors had arrived, and we started loading the boats. Jill and Helen went off in Jack Harkness, Jackie and Jessika in Dolly Wallis, Judith in Alan Wood, Elana and Helene in Greg Mott, Judy and Dierdre in Sunrise, Melissa and Lucy in Lionheart, Paula and Eli in Woody. The race start was promptly at 10.30, the stated time, and a very hard-fought battle commenced.

At the first mark there was a scrum with the lead boat, sailed by Judy and Deirdre having to do a complete circle to line up and rounding it just a split second ahead of the next two boats. After that though Judy and Deirdre hung on to their lead and took out first place. Final places were Sunrise, 1st across the line, Greg Mott 2nd and Dolly Wallis 3rd, but all boats did extremely well, and it was a very tight race. Congratulations to all competitors.

Probably the most difficult sailing in the race was experienced by Judith Geppert, a quadriplegic with cerebral palsy. Judith sails a 2.3m Access dinghy which has a single sail so is slower than the 303s, and she controls the battery-operated servo motors operating the rudder and sail using a special joystick under her chin. Even against these odds and the changing winds Judith still rounded all the marks and completed her race within the allotted time.

Judy and Deirdre, along with the runners-up, received their prizes at the Manly Yacht Club later that evening, and also received the prize on behalf of Sailability Manly for the greatest number of competitors in the same class.

Port Stephens Cup

14 & 15 April 2007 Grahamstown Aquatic Centre, Grahamstown Dam, Medowie Rd, Medowie.

Come and join us for a weekend of social /picnic racing on the glorious Grahamstown Dam. Trophies for winners, certificates for competitors. Presentations 2pm Sunday. Racing fee \$25/person, non racing \$10/person.

Meals provided, Saturday lunch, Spit Roast Saturday evening, Continental Breakfast Sunday, BBQ Sunday lunch. (Bring your own special foods). Rustic camping (no power), new accessible toilet and canteen available.

Events (weather permitting) 303 doubles & singles, 2.3 doubles & singles, Open class, all comers. We'll be bringing our own boats!

Local accommodation (remember, it's school holidays):

Tomago Village Van Park 4964 8066

Bellhaven Park Raymond Terrace 4987 2423

Bayway Village Fern Bay 4928 2929

Pacific Gardens Raymond Terrace 4987 2224

Club Committee

President:

Patrick Alexander
tel 9913 9848

Secretary:

Eli Demeny
tel 9976 2747

Treasurer:

John Storey
tel 9997 6445

Membership Secretary:

Peter Singer
tel 9416 8749

Maintenance Officer:

Malcolm Murray
tel 9451 9074

Public Relations & Web:

Bob Ronai
tel 9983 9057

Volunteer Coordinator:

Evelyn Shervington
tel 9976 2134

Commodore:

Peter Hamilton
tel 9975 1434

Social Secretary:

Jackie Morgan
tel 9949 7847

Interclub Activities:

Jan Jensen
tel 9905 4869

Sailability NSW Rep:

Elizabeth Atkin
Deirdre Ronai

Committee Members:

Jill Madden
Cheryl Martin
Graham Richards

(all telephone numbers
above are after hours)