

Signals from Sailability Manly

April 2007, edition 22

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sponsored by



Warringah Council



Manly

End-of-Season Race and Party

Saturday, May 5 is our end-of-season celebration. Even though we continue to sail through the winter months, we always finish off our summer season with a race and lots of general sailing, plus a fancier barbecue on the jetty.

Our Commodore, Peter Hamilton, is in charge of arranging the race. We are going to have all eight sailing dinghies on the water, that is the six two-seater 303s and the one one two-seater 2.3 (for lighter people!) plus Judith sailing single-headedly in the servo 2.3.

That means we have positions for seven skippers and seven crew members. Please register with Peter by Friday 27 April by calling him on 9975 1434 or email at peter@manlysailability.com.au.

Manly Yacht Club's Presentation Night

will be on **Saturday, 26 May**, at 6.30 for 7pm, MYC. It will feature prize presentations to the various winners including some of our own members. As well they will have guest speakers Dorothy and Victor Vidgen who have done what some many yachties dream of: to escape the daily grind of 9-5 and sail away. Recently returned to the Northern Beaches after 10 and half years cruising the globe, they will regale us with their adventures from the high seas, share their experiences as members of international yachting community and perhaps inspire some of us to follow in their footsteps....

Adults \$8 for a light snack and a complimentary wine or soft drink.

Starb'd!

We were selected by the Department of Family and Community Services to be filmed for both a brief spot in an advertisement and for publication later in the year celebrating the International Day of the Disabled.

On Wednesday 18 April the weather on Manly Cove was very kind to us and the film crew. They had chartered a power boat to take them out for action footage and also filmed our activities on the jetty and pontoon. They also conducted a couple of brief interviews. So keep an eye out to see shots of Sailability Manly coming to you someday, somewhere, soon!



Shelley and her helpers do a wonderful job each Saturday at the barbecue, keeping us all fed and happy!

What we've been up to...

Saturday 24 March

Summer put on a final burst for us this morning, and we had a wonderful sailing day, with the temperature and wind-speed perfect.

Maria arrived early for her lesson with Malcolm, and Helen surprised us all with her great news that she now has her Power Boat Licence and scored 100% on the test. This definitely gave us an excellent reason to send her out on the Safety Boat so that she could practise her new skills with official Safety Boat Driver, Glynne, in attendance as supervisor. Congratulations Helen, you did a really wonderful job.

Other helpers this morning were: Vlad, Bob H, Deirdre, Peter H, Cheryl, Ken on the pontoon, Varsha, Shelley, Sheila on the deck, and sailors, Peter S, Ivan, Melissa, Jackie, Paula, John, and of course, photographer Bob R, who makes himself helpful in all areas.

Eager sailors this morning were; Craig, Mikey, Elana, Nicole, Steve, Karen, Jonny, Thiziree, Alan, our special group from CentaCare Will, Cris, Matthew and Dee, and new sailor from Beecroft, Adrian.

We are very thankful for the donation from Shelta for the huge market umbrella they have provided for cover over the table on the deck.

April 14-15, PORT STEPHENS CUP

Thank goodness we now have a trailer to tow our boats when we decide to take part in a regatta with other groups. Accordingly, Vlad, Corey, Eli and Malcolm loaded the trailer very carefully on Thursday, taking care that all was well-balanced, and would not move on the trip. Jan transported the loaded trailer to Bob's place on Friday, and we were ready. Steve, Ted, Clare, Wayne, Eli, Ivan drove up to Port Stephens on Friday evening, while Malcolm and Laurie, Bob and Deirdre arrived early on Saturday morning to unload, along with other Sailability groups from Belmont, Pittwater, Northern Region, Illawarra, Dobroyd, Cobar, Rushcutters Bay and of course, the local Port Stephens group.

The day started brilliantly, except for the fact that there was absolutely no wind. Assurances that there would be a breeze at 2.30 p.m. were hardly believed, but sure enough, right on time, a nice 5 to 8 knot north easterly arrived. The course was set, and racing commenced. Steve sailed with Ted in Jack Harkness, Ivan with Wayne in Dolly Wallis, Deirdre with Bob in Sunrise, and Malcolm partnered a lady from Rushcutters, who had come without a partner.

Racing was back-to-back for three series, with all 24 boats on the water at the same time. The 2.3s started their race first, heading to their markers about two-thirds of the way up the full course. The 303s, along with a variety of other boats started a few minutes later and headed for the end marker. A very beautiful sight on Grahamstown Dam. It continued until sunset, when all boats had to come back in. As you can imagine, there was a bit of congestion at the pontoon, so Bob and Deirdre decided to do a little detour while they were waiting.....right into the mud and reeds. There is one law at Grahamstown Dam, and that is that swimming is strictly prohibited. Under cover of almost darkness, they were rescued by a swimmer who will remain nameless, but it was an excellent example of the blind leading the inexperienced, and an excuse for some hilarity which continued far into the evening.

Sailing Schedule

Saturdays:

May 5 End-of-Season Picnic & Race Day

May 26 General Sailing

Jun 23 General Sailing

Jul 28 General Sailing

Wednesdays:

May 9 Aranounbai/MAPS

Jun 13 General Sailing

Jul 11 General Sailing

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.

In the evening Port Stephens Sailability provided an excellent spit roast, wonderful entertainment with karaoke, and a great deal of companionship. We also celebrated the fiftieth birthday of Grahme Rayner who is President of Sailability Port Stephens, Sailability NSW and his local Rotary group.

Early Sunday morning those camping were awakened early by a thump-thump-thump-thump slowing to a halt... some poor motorist passing by had copped a flat tyre! By sun-up the weather was beautiful with just the slightest hint of a breeze. The campers gradually staggered out of their tents, helped at 6.30am by a rendition of "Oh, what a beautiful morning" coming from the Illawarra tent. After brekky supplied by our host club we ventured back out onto the water for a 10am start. It was a wipe out, as the breeze had all but disappeared, not even a ripple. It was quite strange to see so many boats going absolutely nowhere, crews having conversations and cracking jokes with the crews sitting next to them. After 30 minutes of virtually no breeze, the 2.3s having progressed about 50 metres and all of us just drifting here, there and everywhere with no rudder control, the race was abandoned. The sight of so many sailing boats being paddled to the jetty was rather unusual! So we packed up the boats and attended an earlier-than-scheduled prize-giving ceremony.

The wonderful thing about the Port Stephens Cup is that it is a relaxed, friendly race series without the cut-throat win-at-all-costs you would expect in a State or National Championship. The call "starb'd" was only ever heard in jest. We met old friends from the other clubs, and Alby, an amazing sailor in his 90s who apparently had sailed in the first Sydney-to-Hobart race and had sailed a largish yacht solo all around the Pacific many times in his younger days.

Congratulations to all our sailors, who are getting lots of racing experience, and are improving every time we compete.

Eli and Bob

Wednesday 18 April

A perfect day for a sail.....not quite enough breeze, but the promise of a spring up later in the morning. Expecting a very large group, our eager helpers put out the entire fleet, so there was a beautiful picture when the film-crew from Harmony Productions, under the auspices of Family and Community Affairs arrived for some publicity shots and filming for International Day of the Disabled advertising.

We had bookings for 24 people with a disability, and because of the perfect day had expected all of this and more. It was quite disappointing that less than half of this number turned up, but all who arrived were treated to a really long time out on the water, and all of the helpers got to sail as well.

Thanks you so much to Tanya Lim, Greg and Stephanie Eaton, Justin Hammerschmidt and Maurice Atkinson, who made such wonderful pictures of the day. We look forward to seeing them.

Saturday 21 April

Again, we were lucky with the weather this beautiful Saturday morning. We did not have a large booking list, but put out all the boats anyway, as we imagined that people would wake up, look at the weather, and say "YES !!!! sailing for me". Craig and Maria had arrived early with Malcolm for a rigging lesson, then the rest of the crew reported in. Thanks so much for your help today...on the pontoon: Peter Hamilton, Helene Francois, Cheryl and Brian Martin, Craig and Maria, Lucy, John Shields; our sailors: Evelyn, Ivan, Melissa, Wayne, Peter Singer, Patrick; on the deck: Bob and Deirdre, Shelley, Jackie.

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.

April Committee Meeting

Items of immediate interest:

- + the Sunnyfield Association at Allambie Heights has kindly offered us parking for our boat trailer
- + Shelta Umbrellas kindly donated us a large market umbrella to be used over the wooden outdoor setting on the jetty
- + Our Social Secretary, Jackie Morgan, has spent a few days in hospital very ill with salmonella poisoning - we all wished her a speedy recovery
- + Manly Yacht Club is having a lock installed on the door to the accessible bathroom to restrict use as it was being left in a dirty state by others
- + Malcolm Murray to source a folding trestle table to supplement the plastic tables on the jetty

Next Committee Meeting will be Wednesday 2 May 2007, 6:30pm, upstairs at MYC. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Our fantastic crew on the rescue boat was Malcolm and Judy. Congratulations, Judy, Malcolm was so impressed, he has put you on the registered list of Safety Boat Crew, a most elite group!!!. In charge of the day was Bob Hetherington, and a fabulous job done there!!!!

Our sailors with disabilities who took advantage of this wonderful weather were: Alvear, Ashley, Kerry, John, Karen, Steve, Alexander, Susan, Ben, Robert, Michael, Michelle, Lyn, Margie, Thizree, Nicole.

Everyone enjoyed the sausage sizzle lunch provided by Shelley and Baker's Delite, and we all went home happy, full, and ready for our next Sailing Day on 5th May, which is going to be our Race Day and Picnic. Anyone who wants to race that day should contact Peter Hamilton immediately on 9975 1434, or peter@manlysailability.com.au.

Eli.

Who are we?

Our Manly club is a branch of Sailability NSW Inc, a registered charity. In Sydney there are other branches at Chipping Norton, Cronulla, Dobroyd (Canada Bay), Kogarah, Middle Harbour (The Spit), Penrith Lakes, Pittwater and Rushcutters Bay. Outside the Sydney region there are branches at Albury/Wodonga, Batemans Bay, Belmont, Callala Bay, Central West, Coffs Harbour, Gosford, Griffith, Illawarra, Manning/Great Lakes, Narooma, New England, Northern Rivers and Port Stephens. Each branch is different from the others in their own unique ways. Sailability NSW Inc in turn is part of Sailability Australia which itself is part of Sailability World Inc.

Sailability World Inc. operates in numerous countries throughout the world, through activities at 350 local Sailability clubs. Sailability is a "not for profit", volunteer-based organisation which, through the activity of sailing, enriches the lives of people with any type of disability, the elderly, the financially and socially disadvantaged.

Under various names, Sailability operates in Australia, France, Greece, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Timor Leste and USA with new national Sailability organisations currently being established in all parts of the world.

Sailability originated in Great Britain. In the 1980's the Royal Yachting Association formed the Seamanship Foundation, while at the same time a number of individual Sailability groups had formed the embryo of a national organisation for disabled sailors. As a result RYA Sailability was formed. Today the organisation is the leading national charity for disabled sailing in the UK with over 15,000 sailors benefiting from its activities. RYA Sailability is considered to be the most active sailing organisation for people with disabilities in the world, there being 200 clubs in the UK.

In 1991 Sailability was introduced to Australia, where there are currently over fifty groups covering every State and Territory, catering to a population of 20 million. Since then, an eager group of Sailability volunteers have successfully taken Sailability around the world.

Sailability activities cover a broad spectrum, ranging from recreation, therapeutic and competitive activities, from grass-root, entry level through to elite World Championships and Paralympic training.

So you can see that we at Manly are part of a great big Sailability family made up of our wonderful volunteers and those to whom we give the opportunity to sail with us.

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)