

Signals from Sailability Manly

May/June 2007, edition 23



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Warringah Council

Our Future Directions

Sailability Manly has been in existence for over ten years. Especially in the last two years we have grown dramatically in membership, activities and funds, all measures of our fantastic success in providing fun experiences, new skills and great pleasure for our members — disabled sailors and volunteers alike.

We need now to consider how we will map out our immediate future – what our options are, where we want to go and how we want to do it. To that end a Discussion Paper listing some points for thought and subsequent discussion was presented to the Committee in May by Bob Ronai for the June meeting. However because of the importance for our future our Committee at the June meeting decided to defer discussion by one month and make this Paper available to all of our members. These points are by no means exhaustive, just a starting point to hopefully turn our minds to the future. We invite all of our members to read the following points and to contribute your thoughts... this can be by any or all of mail, email and attending the next Committee meeting on Wednesday July 4, 6.30pm at the Manly Yacht Club.

A. Member Services

- i. increase our membership generally
- ii. increase our numbers of volunteers
- iii. recognise the reality that we can't be all things to all people at the one time – that we need to tailor specific sailing days or specific times to specific targeted groups
- iv. increase our visibility to people with disabilities living at home with their families
- v. increase our visibility to health-care professionals and disability organisations
- vi. develop a larger base of disabled members who want to do more than just go out for a sail "sight-seeing", by providing them the opportunity to learn to sail as a means of gaining self-esteem and new skills, and possibly as part of their rehabilitation process by working in with the appropriate professionals
- vii. encourage friendly competition between our members by having simple races each second sailing Saturday with disabled members genuinely as the skippers, and develop racing skills so that our members will be encouraged to take part in regattas at other Sailability groups
- viii. consider sailing longer on Saturdays with two shifts of volunteers
- ix. work towards sailing twice-monthly on Wednesdays for groups from organisations

B. MYC and Manly Council

- i. liaise with Manly Council, Manly Yacht Club and others ensuring that the extension to the promenade to street level is maintained as a high priority
- ii. liaise with Manly Council on providing more disability parking for our members, especially buses and vans, maybe by special permit in the grassed area south of the public toilets beside the promenade (the other areas have been appropriated unofficially by the skiff sailors for some time)
- iii. assist Manly Yacht Club with maintenance and upgrading of the premises
- iv. assist Manly Yacht Club as necessary with the new hard-stand and associated items
- v. assist Manly Yacht Club with maintenance of the "Robbie R" and use this boat on a share basis

C. Our Management

- i. Committee meetings to concentrate more on planning for the future, with each member's reports being given in advance by email
- ii. review Operations Manual after a settling-in period (ie, it currently provides for two safety boats whereas we now only have one)
- iii. increase our exchange visits with other Sailability branches
- iv. develop a set of rules, in conjunction with Sailability NSW Inc's Rules of Incorporation, for the day-to-day operation of our administration

Annual General Meeting

re-scheduled to 1 August 2007

Our Club's success is created not only by our wonderful members, who are either or both of being volunteers and disabled. And while our location and our facilities contribute too, it's what happens behind the scenes — we have the benefit of a large management Committee to share the load of running the Club. The Committee meets once a month, and as you'll have seen from page 1, we can have some pretty weighty things to discuss.

The Committee decided to defer our AGM until **Wednesday August 1, at 6.30pm in Manly Yacht Club.**

This was not only because of the Discussion Paper outlined on page 1, but that the four days from June 30 till our July meeting simply isn't enough time to finalise the accounting for presentation of the 2006/2007 financial report to the AGM.

Some of our our current Committee members will be standing for their same positions, some will welcome a change in responsibilities, and some will be stepping down for health, work, re-location and other reasons, so we have some vacancies for other keen and enthusiastic members to join us in running this amazing Club.

As a fourth part of the Discussion Paper, here then is an outline of the suggested Committee positions, based very largely on our current system.

D. Composition of our Committee

PRESIDENT:

Provides leadership and vision for the Club, chairs meetings, represents Club at external events and functions, responsible for overall operation of the Club

COMMODORE:

Club's Sailing Co-ordinator, arranges sailing races, represents Club on Manly Yacht Club Board and liaises with their Sailing Committee

SECRETARY:

Keeps Minutes of meetings, issues Notices of Meetings and Agendas, issues and receives correspondence for the Club, liaise with Sailability NSW

TREASURER:

Receive and issue payments, maintain the Club's financial records, liaise with Sailability NSW

SOCIAL SECRETARY:

Arrange special social events, maintain the social aspects of the Club

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Maintain the Club's membership register, liaise with Sailability NSW, issue membership data to Sailability NSW on time

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR:

Maintain a list of volunteers and their capabilities, issue Volunteer Roster, ensure that up-to-date Child Protection forms are held for each volunteer

MAINTENANCE OFFICER:

Maintain sailing dinghies, safety boat and other Club equipment in good working order

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

Promote the Club in the wider community to encourage involvement by new members and sponsors

SAILABILITY NSW DELEGATE 1:

Develop relations with other Sailability branches, promote inter-branch activities, attend and represent our Club at Sailability NSW meetings

SAILABILITY NSW DELEGATE 2:

Attend and represent our Club at Sailability NSW meetings

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:

Contribute to meetings, assist on sub-committees as needed.

Other functions, such as

SAFETY OFFICER
SAILING TRAINER
WEBMASTER
SIGNALS EDITOR
SAUSAGE SIZZLER

etc can be added to one or other of the above positions or delegated out to non-Committee members by way of sub-committees, but do not need to be a Committee position on their own.

Sailing Dates for 2007-2008

Winter Saturdays:

- 23.6.07 Lifelinks + General
28.7.07 Hornsby Lifestyles + BIRDS + General
25.8.07 Hornsby Lifestyles + General

Winter Wednesdays:

- 13.6.07 MAPS + Fisher Rd
11.7.07 MAPS + Beach Buddies
8.8.07 Centacare + Royal Far West

Summer Saturdays:

- 8.9.07 BIRDS + General
22.9.07 Hornsby Lifestyles + General
6.10.07 Hornsby Lifestyles + General
20.10.07 BIRDS + General
3.11.07 Hornsby Lifestyles + General
17.11.07 BIRDS + General
1.12.07 Hornsby Lifestyles + General
15.12.07 Picnic and Race Day - all welcome.
5.1.08 Centacare + General
19.1.08 Hornsby Lifestyles + General
26.1.08 Australia Day Regatta
9.2.08 BIRDS + General
23.2.08 Hornsby Lifestyles + General
8.3.08 BIRDS + General
22.3.08 Hornsby Lifestyles + General
5.4.08 BIRDS + General
19.4.08 Hornsby Lifestyles + General
3.5.08 Hornsby Lifestyles + general
17.5.08 Picnic and Race Day - all welcome

Other Special Days:

- 4.11.07 Try Sailing Day (Sunday)
16.3.08 Women's Challenge (Sunday)
27.4.08 MYC Commodore's Picnic (Sunday)

Summer Wednesdays:

- 9.5.07 Arranounbai + MAPS
13.6.07 Royal Far West + Fisher Rd
11.7.07 Holiday program - Northcott Disability Services, Coachhouse
8.8.07 Arranounbai + MAPS
12.9.07 Royal Far West + Fisher Rd
10.10.07 Holiday program - Coachhouse,
14.11.07 Truscott St + Fisher Rd
12.12.07 MAPS + Centacare
9.1.08 Northcott + Coachhouse
13.2.08 Royal Far West + Truscott St
12.3.08 Truscott St + MAPS
9.4.08 Fisher Rd + Royal Far West
14.5.08 Arranounbai + MAPS
11.6.08 Royal Far West + MAPS
9.7.08 Interchange + Centacare
6.8.08 Fisher Rd + Royal Far West

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.

What have we been up to recently?

Reports by Eli Demeny

5 May (Saturday) – End-of-Season Race Day

Our Commodore, Peter Hamilton put an enormous amount of work into planning the perfect Race Day and picnic to celebrate the end of the summer sailing season. It paid off handsomely for all participants in this morning's race: Judith, solo in Alan Wood, Jackie and Jessika in Dolly Wallis, Wayne and Ivan in Woody, Stephen and Peter in Jack Harkness, Paula and Lucy in Sunrise, Judy C. and Judy V. in Greg Mott, Denis and Melissa in Lionheart, Peter and David in Clea.

Thanks so much to the helpers of the day, who put in a sterling effort to have all 8 boats rigged by 9.30 in time for the briefing, and who helped to put them all back nice and clean at the end of the day. Thanks also to our sausage sizzlers and other cooks, who kept us all going with an appetising lunch, and to the people who came later in the day for a recreational sail.

We also want to thank Manly Yacht Club yet again for another wonderful season of sailing, and the use of the amenities, as well as the fabulous race officer, Bruce, who ran such a tight race. We are all better off for the camaraderie and teamwork promoted by such an event, and are looking forward to our Winter Series, due to start on May 26th.

Last but not least.....race results:

Judith Geppert won on handicap in Alan Wood.
Runners up were Judy and Judy in Greg Mott.
Third were Jackie and Jessika in Dolly Wallis.

9 May (Wednesday)

WOW!!!!!!!!!! How fabulous can these days get? This was the best so far, both from a sailing aspect, and the terrific company who joined us today. The weather was perfect; cool enough to sit on the deck, without an oppressive amount of sun, the breeze at about 8 knots constant, a little bit of chop to make it interesting for our more disabled clients, and a wonderfully cohesive crew who made it all happen.

Thank you so much to our team for today.... Francis and Helen, Glenys, Corey, Malcolm, Peter, Paula, Wayne, Cheryl, Craig, John, Ivan and Eli, Graham, Jennifer and Malcolm. Thanks also to the helpers who came with the clients. You made it a lot easier for us by encouraging your people to sail and helping with the embarking and disembarking.

Our sailors today were the senior class from Arranounbai.... Daniel, Matthew, Issy, Ashleigh. Mahina, Kahn and Eddie, and our regulars from MAPS....Alexander, Ben, Brad, Maggie, James, Jenny. Who can forget Daniel's smile and relaxed posture when he arrived back at the pontoon? Kahn and Mahina helped on the rescue boat after their sail. Alexander and Ben stepped confidently into the boats. Wayne was incredibly impressed with Eddie's sailing skills. A really beautiful day, and a wonderful experience for all of our volunteers and disabled sailors.

Check our website regularly for the latest sailing schedule, reports of our sailing days plus other events: <www.manlysailability.com.au> and slideshows of our photos on: <picasaweb.google.com/sailabilitymanly> 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.

May Committee Meeting

Items of immediate interest:

+ Our Club had several members take part in the Port Stephens Cup and they reported that they had a great time. Our new boat trailer was used to take up three of our 303s

+ Race Day preparations discussed, Peter Hamilton looking after the racing side with Jackie Morgan and Shelley Singer the barbecue and party side

+ Malcolm Murray advised that regular maintenance for the Charlie's Chariot safety boat is arranged

+ Peter Singer attended Sailability Middle Harbour's sailing day and invited them to send a delegate to our Race Day

+ Bob Ronai presented a discussion paper to take home and read

May 26 (Saturday)

Each sailing day is better than the last. This morning, the first day of the Winter Series, was an absolutely perfect morning. We welcomed our helpers, Britta, Malcolm, Helen, Jan, Paula, Varsha, Helene, Peter, Shelley, John, Judy, Jackie, Cheryl, Bob and Melissa, and put 5 boats in the water, ready for our sailors with disabilities. By around 10.00 a.m. we had our starters; Craig, Steve, Jessika, Sally and Alvero arrived early and off they went for a nice leisurely sail across Manly Cove. Later, Anna, Kerrie, Ashley, Susan, Robert, Michael, Alexander, Ben, Michelle, Margie, Lynn and Annie arrived, so we had to count on shorter sailing times to fit everyone in. This worked in well, as the breeze came up, and sailing was a little more adventurous.

Britta did a fabulous job directing traffic on the pontoon, and Jan was a very efficient support boat driver. We had some super-special observers this morning, in the shape of Alan and Susan, and a little later, Bob and Melissa took over these roles.

As usual, thanks a lot to all helpers and participants. Please remember to book for your sail.

Later, in the evening, it was time for **Manly Yacht Club's Presentation Night**. Several of our members received a special mention as winners and place-getters for the Australia Day Regatta, and the Mikasa Women's Challenge.

As well as these place-getters, Manly Yacht Club also very generously presented prizes to our:

- ▶ Volunteer of the Year, Helen Hendry who has been outstanding in her accomplishments of learning to sail this year, gaining her Power Boat License, and participating as a volunteer both on Saturdays and Wednesdays;
- ▶ Sailor of the Year, Paula Van Holland, who, in spite of her very painful condition has taken out clients with a disability both on Saturdays and Wednesdays, and has sailed in every Race Day this year;
- ▶ Most Improved Sailor, Melissa Walek, who has made huge improvements in her sailing skills so that she could take out clients with a disability.

We are very proud of these three sailors.

First Aid Course

MYC will be conducting a First Aid Certificate course over several evenings later this year. We are arranging for any of our members who have a current Certificate to re-accredite by attending only those evenings necessary as a refresher. First Aid Certificates are current only for three years, so if you hold a Certificate which is two or more years old, why not call Eli to put your name down for more information.

And if you don't currently have a First Aid Certificate, call Eli Demeny on 9976 2747 to enquire about the full course over several evenings. The knowledge gained through this course could help save a loved one's life!

June Committee Meeting

Items of immediate interest:

+ Our Treasurer, John Storey, submitted his resignation effective immediately as he is going into hospital for a very serious operation and will then be on the recovery trail for many months. We all wish him a successful outcome and a safe recovery

+ The Committee decided to dedicate the July meeting to the Discussion Paper

+ MYC will be running a first aid course - Eli investigated and found that current holders of the first aid certificate can attend part of the course to renew their certificates. Cost is not finalised but will be less than the full course

+ Manly Yacht Club has presented their final accounting of expenditure for the accessible bathroom - Bob will query a couple of items which pre-date our involvement

+ Charlie's Chariot was slipped and anti-fouled, plus the outboard was comprehensively serviced

+ We will help the new Sailability Middle Harbour operating at Middle Harbour Yacht Club, The Spit, on the last Sunday of each month, by mentioning them whenever we can while promoting our Club

+ one of our founding Committee members, Elizabeth Atkin, is leaving us due to health reasons and re-locating to the Southern Tablelands - we decided to adjourn the meeting to a local Spanish Restaurant in Manly and farewelled Elizabeth and John with a most delightful meal

**Next Committee meeting
July 4, 6.30pm, MYC
upper level**

Meanwhile In Other News...

Australian 2007 Yachting Awards

Yachting Australia's 2007 Australian Yachting Awards were held on 24 May in Sydney in a black tie event attended by over 200 guests from across Australia and hosted by Channel 9 personality Karl Stefanovic. Sailability members featured strongly.

For over 13 years, Services to Yachting awardee Phil Vardy's name has been synonymous with disabled sailing. As the National Sailability Coordinator, he oversaw the incorporation of Sailability into every Australian state and territory as well as the 'sailing is for everybody' philosophy. During his eight years as Vice President of the International Association of Disabled Sailing (IFDS) he made a considerable contribution to the international sailing scene for people with a disability. When he retired from IFDS in 2006, he was immediately appointed President of Sailability World.

Sailor of the Year with a Disability winners, Paul Borg and Kylie Forth won the 2006 Homerus International Championships held in Imperia, Italy in May. This event was Kylies' first match racing event. In 2007, Kylie won the WA Access Class 303 Championship with Jess Harrison while Paul won the Victorian Access Class 303 Championship. Paul was the recipient of the 2006 Australian Yachting Awards Sailor of the Year with a Disability with Don Scott from Sailability Dobroyd, NSW. Kylie is a 20 year old blind amputee whilst Paul is the more experience blind sailor of the pair at 59 years of age. Borg said he was "honoured to be recognised in this award for the second year in a row and even more so because this year I have a young new partner who has a big future in front of her".

First blind sailors circumnavigating the globe arrive in Sydney

In a world first, two blind American sailors circumnavigating the globe docked in Sydney Harbour on 24 May after a grueling voyage from New Zealand. Scott Duncan and Pamela Habek tied up at the marina of host club Sailability Rushcutters Bay to a hearty welcome from representatives of Sailability NSW and Vision Australia.

As they stepped off their specially-adapted 39 foot Pearson cruising cutter "Starship", the pair were greeted by Vision Australia's blind adventurer Nick Gleeson, Sailability Penrith's blind president Ben Felten and Sailability Rushcutters Bay president Stephen Churm. Pam and Scott first set out from the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco in 2004. Their passage to Australia has taken them across the Tasman Sea, which lived up to its reputation with a combination of flat calm and 30 knot gales, including a freak five metre wave that knocked the yacht 40 degrees sideways.

"One of our primary goals is to spread a message of independence," says Scott. "Crossing the Tasman and reaching Australia safely was a very big milestone. It represents a major achievement for all people with disabilities, and provides blind adults and children in Australia and throughout the rest of the world with a positive example." This philosophy is very closely aligned with Vision Australia and in particular to Nick Gleeson, who in 2001 became the first blind Australian to reach the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro.

"Vision Australia works in partnership with the community to support people who are blind or have low vision to participate in any part of life they choose, whether that's reading a text book at school, finding a job or sailing around the world," he added.

International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability adopts sailing as its 13th sport.

The International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) has adopted sailing as its 13th sport. This decision followed a presentation by Ms Jackie Kay AM, Secretary of Sailability World, at the INAS-FID Conference and General Assembly in Tunisia on 19-22 April.

Sailability World (SW) is an international cooperative network of national Sailability associations seeking to develop sailing worldwide for people of all abilities. Sailability World is eager to take sailing to developing nations, and also works to include sailors with any kind of disability, the elderly and disadvantaged people into mainstream activities.

We gratefully acknowledge Press Releases from Sailability NSW (Inc) as the sources for the above.

Club Committee

President:
Patrick Alexander
tel 9913 9848

Secretary:
Eli Demeny
tel 9976 2747

Treasurer:

Membership Secretary:
Peter Singer
tel 9416 8749

Maintenance Officer:
Jan Jensen
tel 9905 4869

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:
Deirdre Ronai

Committee Members:
Jill Madden
Cheryl Martin
Graham Richards

(all telephone numbers
above are after hours)