

August 2025

Edition 220

Edited by John Weaver

## In This Issue:

- ▀ August Photo Board
- ▀ What's in a Name?
- ▀ August Highlights
- ▀ Upcoming Sailing Dates and Special Events
- ▀ Our Generous Sponsors
- ▀ Committee Members and Key Contacts

## Notes from the Editor

August was a bit of a wash-out and we only managed to hold two sailing days as a result, however the big news is that through Warwick's efforts Manly Sailability has been awarded a substantial government grant. This is to be allocated towards updating our fleet of boats, and our local MP James Griffin recently attended a Monday sailing day to celebrate the news with us.

In the July issue of *Signals* Eli provided background to the origins and naming of *Charlie's Chariot* and now she outlines the origins of the names of our Hansa 303's *Vin* and *Black Swan*.

## August Photo Board



You can find full reports about each of our past sailing dates on our website, along with a selection of photographs, under LATEST NEWS.

## What's In A Name?— By Eli Demeny

### *Vin and Black Swan*

*Vin* and *Black Swan* are historically linked, as they were both donated at the same time in 2012, coming via Cromer Golf Club. At the time our then President Judy Cole, was a champion sailor at the Master's Games, a great golfer and a member of Cromer Golf Club. However, their stories do not align completely, as *Black Swan* was donated totally by Cromer Golf Club, and *Vin* by the family of Vin Gallagher, who sadly passed away suddenly as we were in the middle of arranging the boat donation, to increase our fleet.

Vin Gallagher was a very strong member of Sailability, coming down often to sailing sessions, and taking part in our regattas. He was very friendly with his neighbours including one of the Group Homes, where Vanessa Aloisi lived. He built a friendship with Vanessa, and for many months, Vin was the only person she would go sailing with, and the “red boat” the only one she would approach. Later, as time went by, we found a different Vin for her to sail with, and she finally felt happy to be in the boat with the other Vin, and has now progressed to the point where she is happy to sail with anyone.

The other boat delivered in July 2012 was *Black Swan*, the fluoro boat, whose name reflects the black swan logo of Cromer Golf Club, and also coincidentally, the Hansa class black swan insignia which is on all Hansa sails. The story about *Black Swan* is related to the Invictus Games, which took place in Sydney in 2018. Sailability Manly donated the use of our 303 sailing boats for use at the World Invictus Games and each of our boats were allocated to defence personnel that were competing in the Games.

Training was conducted at Pittwater for several weeks and the boats then housed at Rushcutters Bay. Early every day they sailed around from Rushcutters Bay to the sailing area close to the Opera House and it was an incredible sight to see the Hansas racing between the Botanical Gardens and the Harbour Bridge. The sailor of *Black Swan*, nicknamed Bear, was the winner and was so chuffed at his success, he had a tattoo on his arm, to be with him for the rest of his life.



*Vanessa enjoying a sail in Woody*

*Bear's Invictus Games commemorative tattoo*





## August Highlights

### NSW Government Grant

Our president Warwick McKenzie recently applied for a NSW Government Grant as part of the Community Building Partnership Program, and Manly Sailability has been awarded a grant of \$20,000. These funds are intended to enable us to update the dinghy and to purchase a new Hansa 303 sailing boat.

We have already taken delivery of a new clinker dinghy, and an electric motor will be delivered shortly, to ease the difficulty of rowing to and from *Charlies Chariot*, especially in strong winds. An order has been placed with the manufacturers of the Hansa 303's and in October we will receive a new Hansa, with yellow hull and sails (naming competition to come).

James Griffin, our local member and strong supporter of Manly Sailability assisted with our application and James, along with daughter Grace and assistant Kim attended our sailing day last Monday to learn about our plans for utilising the grant. Our deep appreciation and thanks go to James for his work in helping us obtain the grant.

Congratulations and thanks also to Warwick on driving the project and achieving such an important result, one that will ensure the continued update of our vessels and extend our capacity to provide a fulfilling and worthwhile service to our clients.



*James Griffin, Grace and Kim aboard Charlies Chariot with Ken, John and Warwick.*

*The new dinghy already in use.*



### Manly Sailability Committee

In August Manly Sailability's AGM was held at Club Totem and the positions of committee members for the coming year opened for nomination.

Once again Warwick will assume the role of President (no one else stepped forward to compete for the job) and all other positions were filled by the current committee members. The only changes are that Eli has assumed the role of Group Liaison Officer and Peter Bennell has graciously agreed to join the committee.

A full list of committee members is on page 5 and congratulations and our thanks to all those individuals that work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running and continued success of our organisation.

For **groups of up to 8**, you can book quickly and easily via our website!

Go to  
[www.manlysailability.com.au](http://www.manlysailability.com.au)  
and click on **BOOKINGS**.

Choose your sailing date from the list and complete the form with your details.

For **larger group bookings** (more than 8) please reach out to Eli. ([demenyeli@gmail.com](mailto:demenyeli@gmail.com))

**Check our website on the day of your booking** to confirm if sailing will be going ahead under current weather conditions

Our **Saturday sailing dates** are often the least busy, so can be a great option for a relaxed morning of sailing.

## Upcoming Sailing Dates

All of our sailing sessions start at 9am and have a 'last sail' time of 11.30am.

Saturday	6 September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	10 September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	20 September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	29 September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	4 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	8 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	18 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	22 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	27 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	1 November	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	5 November	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	15 November	<i>Family &amp; Supporters day</i>

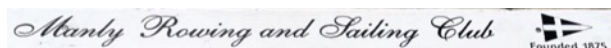
## Upcoming Special Events

### Manly Yacht Club 75th Anniversary Gala Ball

Saturday 6 September 2025  
Manly Golf Club

Tickets are selling fast for the Manly Yacht Club 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Ball, to be held on 6 September at Manly Golf Club. Join in with colleagues to celebrate 75 years of sailing, community and tradition at this unforgettable evening of dining, music, and memories. Together, we'll **honour our past and embrace our future**. For more information and to book tickets go to Manly Yacht Club's website at [myc.org.au](http://myc.org.au)

## Our Generous Sponsors



Lions Club of Manly



BALGOWLAH

## Committee Members & Key Contacts

<b>President Volunteer Coordinator Roster Manager</b>	Warwick McKenzie <a href="mailto:president@manlysailability.com.au">president@manlysailability.com.au</a> <a href="mailto:warwickmckenzie@yahoo.com">warwickmckenzie@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Marshall
<b>Systems Coordinator</b>	Ken Boyes
<b>Safety/Maintenance</b>	David Webb, Brian Stitt, Denis Linney
<b>MYC Representative</b>	Peter Ward
<b>Group Liaison Officer</b>	Eli Demeny <a href="mailto:demenyeli@gmail.com">demenyeli@gmail.com</a>
<b>Grants Manager Social Secretary</b>	Warwick McKenzie
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	Nola Borgelt
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