

July 2025

Edition 219

Edited by John Weaver

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Notes from the Editor

Last issue of *Signals* we highlighted the need to constantly maintain our boats, including *Charlie's Chariot*. Although a constant and vital feature of every sailing day, very few of us know the origins of the naming of our support boat so in this issue Eli has kindly provided background to our previous support boats since 2002, and the naming of *Charlie's Chariot*.

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held next month and will include the election of committee members for the coming year. All Sailability members are invited to attend, details on page 4.

July 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.

A Story of Support Boats – By Eli Demeny

When Sailability Manly first began we relied on borrowing support boats from whatever club we were sailing from - from Milson's Point to Manly, with an occasional rubber duckie, transported to Little Manly from Pittwater by Alan Jones. At one point the donation of a rubber duckie discarded by Queenscliff Surf Club, including the outboard engine, became our support boat, until the engine was stolen, and the rubber duckie so full of holes it became unsafe to use, despite a new engine being donated by the Lions Club of Manly.

Our first regular support boat driver was Charlie Powell, and, as he was lacking a larynx, he needed a volunteer who could understand his signals to converse and direct the Hansa sailors. Charlie kept the rubber duckie on the eastern side of the ferry lane and driver and crew changes took place on the beach at Manly Cove, the pontoon had not yet been imagined, let alone built.

Charlie was a member of the Manly 16ft Skiff Club, and every two years, the Skiff Club changed over their support boats. The discarded boats were sold to the public and, to our great surprise and delight, Charlie offered to buy one of these for our use. Our first *George Johnston*, which Charlie purchased for \$5,000, was handed over in December 2002 and was the same as the current *Charlie's Chariot*, a Webster Twin Hull, designed as a fishing boat. We had this support boat for a couple of years, with constant repairs, anti-fouling etc. being undertaken by Malcolm Murray, the then President of Sailability Manly.

In January 2005, one of our keen volunteers, Bob Ronai noticed an advertisement in his local paper that the Paul Newman Foundation, world-wide producers of Salad Dressing, would donate up to \$2.1 million in total to charities that applied successfully. Bob and Malcolm successfully applied and we were lucky enough to be granted \$21,000 to purchase the Skiff Club's discarded Webster Twin Fisher, still in use by us today.

In the meantime, Charlie worked tirelessly to make Sailability Manly the successful organisation it has become, however the cancer that had taken his larynx several years earlier, finally ended the story of Charlie and he passed away in July 2005. Our tribute to the work and support from Charlie Powell was to successively name our current support boat after him, and his ashes were scattered on North Harbour from *Charlie's Chariot* in August of 2005.



President Warwick McKenzie and crew safeguarding and supporting our sailors in Charlie's Chariot

July Highlights

Vale David Grinston

It's with great sadness we advise of the passing of long-time volunteer, David Grinston.

David had his own law firm, based in Crows Nest, and was a volunteer with Manly Sailability for over 10 years, and with Pittwater Sailability before that.

David's health meant that he was not able to regularly attend our sailing days, and he passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer. We extend our deepest condolences to David's family and friends at this difficult time.

Our generous sponsors

The continued success and viability of Sailability Manly depends not only upon our dedicated team of volunteers but also upon the financial support of our generous sponsors.

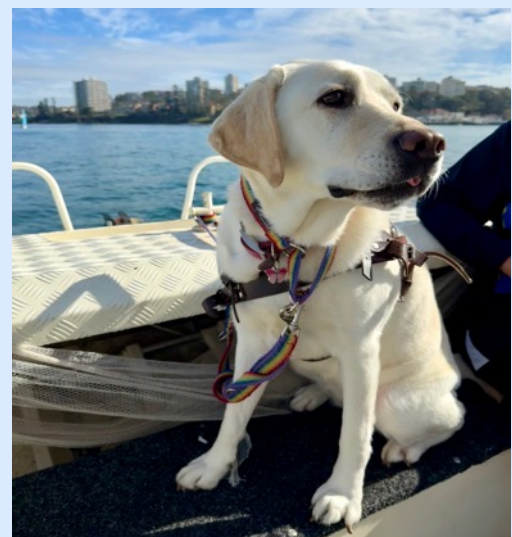
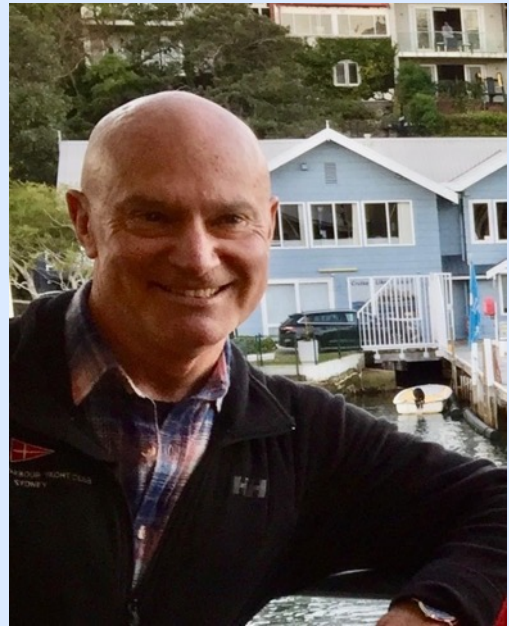
Manly Lions has been a long-standing sponsor and supporter of Sailability Manly for many years and once again this year they have donated \$1500 to assist towards the petrol, repairs and maintenance of *Charlie's Chariot*.

Vin proudly bears the Lions Club logo on its mainsail, to show our acknowledgment and thanks for this vital and very much appreciated financial support from Manly Lions. I encourage you to check out the full list of our generous supporters on page 5 of this issue of *Signals*.

Unusual passenger on *Charlie's Chariot*

On a recent sailing day the crew of *Charlie's Chariot*, Clare and Jeremy, were joined by an unusual passenger for a little while, in the form of Gem, the labrador assistance dog.

Gem was there to keep an eye on her mistress Alexa and her daughter Penny while they were enjoying the sailing on a lovely sunny winters day.



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

Go to
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 Jeremy. (jeremy@tebbutts.net)

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.

Monday	25 th July	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	2 nd August	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	13 th August	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	25 th August	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	6 th September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	10 th September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	20 th September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	29 September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	4 th October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	8 th October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	18 th October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	22 nd October	<i>Bookings available</i>

Upcoming Special Events

Sailability Manly Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Monday 11th August at the Totem Club, Balgowlah, commencing at 6.30pm.

Positions on the committee are open for election and all Sailability members are invited to attend and to nominate, if they would like to serve on the committee.

Manly Yacht Club 75th Anniversary Gala Ball

Saturday 6 September 2025
 Manly Golf Club

Please keep the date free and join our Manly Yacht Club colleagues for a wonderful night of celebration. Dress Formal.

Our Generous Sponsors



Committee Members & Key Contacts

President Volunteer Coordinator Roster Manager	Warwick McKenzie president@manlysailability.com.au warwickmckenzie@yahoo.com
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Race Officer	John Weaver
Committee Members	Eli Demeny (honorary) Rob Southam
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