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Notes from the Editor

Welcome to a refreshed edition of *Signals*! I'm excited to have taken over this role from Eli as she hands over many of her duties after 26 years of unwavering service. Since joining Sailability just a couple of months ago as a volunteer, I've been in awe of the generosity and dedication of this entire group of people, and the sense of community they have fostered. Through *Signals*, it will be my aim to shine a light on the people – our wonderful participants and our volunteers – who are the heart and soul of this organisation. Happy sailing!

Clare

March Photo Board

Peter and Helene on Woody



Luke, Jake and their carer Amy riding Charlie's Chariot



Jeremy and Ken receiving their award for their win at the Australia Day Regatta



Steve with Ben on Black Swan



Our patron, Michael Reagan, on Charlie's Chariot with Jenny, Eli and Warwick



Our team setting up for a busy day

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

March Highlights

Eli Hands Over the Baton

When the call came out from Warwick for volunteers to take over Eli's jobs, it hit home for many of us just how much she does for this organisation; eight individuals stepped in to divide up the work Eli currently does. Add to that the twenty-six years she has been involved with Sailability, and you start to get a sense of the dedication and commitment of this remarkable woman.

Eli's involvement with Sailability began when she retired from her career in teaching students with severe disabilities, and her daughter announced she had 'found a new project for her'. Sailability was then in its infancy in Australia and, within a year, Eli was deeply involved in the fledgling organisation, devoting long days of service to this cause where her skills and experience meant she could have a huge impact. Eli takes pride in bringing a brand new activity to people with disabilities but most of all she has loved meeting so many incredible people.

Now a great-grandmother, Eli is stepping back from many of her duties to spend more time with her growing family and enjoy some well-deserved rest. She officially steps down from her leadership roles in August but will still be at sailing days from time to time. From all of us at Sailability, thank you, Eli, for the many years of outstanding service. Yours are big shoes to fill!



Eli sailing her namesake boat 'Eli D' in the Helly Hansen Women's Challenge Regatta this month

Special thanks to David G for taking up the role of Secretary, and to Warwick, Nola, Jeremy, Ros, Ken and John W for taking up Eli's other duties.



Spotlight on Our Members: Judith

It was great to see Judith, one of our long-time members, flying around Manly Cove this month in *Alan Wood*, one of our two Hansa 2.3's that was especially modified by our talented David Webb. A clever system of electronics gives the sailor the ability to control the boat without the need for a tiller, and means Judith can show off her skill on the water.

We received a lovely note from Judith:

"Many thanks to you and all the volunteers, for making today so wonderful for me. Also to David Webb who put in so much time in making sure that the electrics worked ok."

(Printed with permission)



The race fleet flying over the start line

The Helly Hansen Women’s Challenge Regatta

This month brought the return of the Helly Hansen Women’s Challenge to Sydney Harbour, and various local clubs took part in the weekend of racing. Manly Sailability’s female volunteers took to the water in our own special regatta, racing our seven Hansa 303s and showing off our sailing smarts. The series of three races was won unequivocally by skipper Sophie, one of our youngest volunteers, and her crew, Ros, who won all three races comfortably. While Sophie credits her triumph to some lucky gusts of wind, there’s no doubt that she’s a talented sailor!

The battle for overall second was much closer, with skipper Nola and crew Eli beating out skipper Helene and crew Clare with a consistent performance across the three races. Special thanks to John W for organising such a fantastic day! Helly Hansen generously provided prizes for all winners, for which we are very grateful. Thanks to all the competitors, to Bruce and Pam Davis for managing the race, the support boat crew and all the onshore supporters. Thanks also to Victoria for supplying the sausages for our BBQ lunch and Hugo and Max for cooking them. The efforts of all our wonderful volunteers contributed to making the day such a success!

Images: Marg Fraser-Martin

Overall Regatta Results

	Skipper	Crew	Boat
#1	Sophie	Ros	Ralph Newman
#2	Nola	Eli	Eli D
#3	Helene	Clare	Alex Martin
#4	Jackie	Caroline	Black Swan
#5	Lyn	Victoria	Vin
#6	Catherine	Savannah	Dolly Wallis
#7	Jenny	Robyn	Woody




The podium: Eli, Nola, Ros, Sophie, Helene, Clare



Sophie and Ros cruising coolly to victory

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

Go to www.manlysailability.com 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 Jerem 

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

Easter Saturday	8 th April	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	12 th April	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	22 nd April	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	24 th April	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	26 th April	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	6 th May	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	10 th May	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	20 th May	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	22 nd May	Fully booked
Wednesday	24 th May	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	29 th May	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	10 th June	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	14 th June	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	26 th June	<i>Bookings available</i>

Upcoming Special Events

Volunteer Recognition Evening

Wednesday 3rd May

6pm, Manly Yacht Club

A chance for us to say a huge THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who work so hard to make each sailing day a success. All volunteers are welcome, and so are the people they help: carers, families, organisers, and organisations who wish to recognise the contribution our volunteers make.

Our Generous Sponsors



Our deepest thanks to the individuals who have made donations and/or donated their skills and expertise:

David Webb
David Goldner
Britta Huttel
Betty Baines
Lynette Gould
Macca, Freelance Electrical
(0418 239053)

Committee Members & Key Contacts

President	Warwick McKenzie
Volunteer Coordinator	president@manlysailability.com
Roster Manager	[REDACTED]
Patron	Michael Reagan
Secretary	David Grinston
Treasurer	Sue Marshall
Membership	Helen Hendry membership@manlysailability.com
Systems Coordinator	Ken Boyes
Safety/Maintenance	David Webb, Brian Stitt, Denis Linney
MYC Representative	Peter Ward
Group Liaison Officer	Jeremy Tebbutt
Grants Manager	[REDACTED]
Minutes Secretary	Nola Borgelt [REDACTED]
Webmaster	Scott Forbes webmaster@manlysailability.com
Race Officer	John Weaver
Committee Member	Jackie Morgan
Signals Editor	Clare Archer

Spotted at Manly Cove

We share our stunning home at Manly Cove with all sorts of other clubs, visitors and marine life. Spotted this month: Ragnhild being chased by a flotilla of kayaks (which John W jokingly refers to as 'speed humps'!)

