



In the Wind

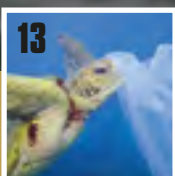
ROYAL PERTH YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013



GEOGRAPHE BAY RACE WEEK

*How to start
a regatta*



ALSO

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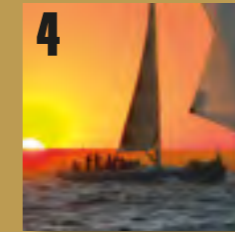


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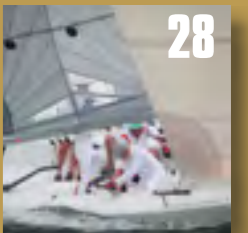
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Photos courtesy Bernie Kaaks

Argonaut Mini Series 2013

The second weekend in February was a warm one this year and is now a custom and saw the annual running of the Argonaut Royal Perth Yacht Club Mini Series. With 164 entrants from 10 different classes of sailing dinghy on two different race courses, the event provided a spectacle on the waters of Matilda Bay and the lawns of Royal Perth Yacht Club.

This year, due to changes in the keelboat sailing calendar, we ended up with virtually the whole of Matilda Bay to ourselves. This provided many hours of racing without some of

the restrictions and disruptions experienced in previous years on a very busy stretch of water. Our thanks as always go to our neighbouring sailing Clubs for their assistance and cooperation

in sharing water space which makes this event possible. Out on the small boat race course a large number of Optimist dinghies descended on the start boat. The race officer,

Geoff Brown, was managing many things but also learning how to use a fully automated starting system that he had never seen before, let alone used to start a race. The outcome was a 10 race series delivered expertly and efficiently over the two days. Mind you the younger sailors did try their luck by being over the line at the start but they were called back and after a few black flags, settled down to getting underway when asked.

Despite the forecast for the weekend, the wind was kind to us and the easterly breeze held in until the Sunday afternoon. This caused a little feverish activity on the larger boat course as the race management team shortened courses in order to get boats across the finishing line within the time limits for the race. With the final boat across the line it was time to return to the shore, allowing the results team to work their magic, preparing the list of winners in time for the



presentation ceremony. A complete list of all the winning sailors can be found on the Royal Perth Yacht Club website www.rpyc.com.au however the winners in each division were.

29er – *The Beast* – Max Giudice, Bayden Schutte

420 – *Lightening Jack* – Will Boulden, Nic Gale

Fireball – *Second Wind* – Gordon Lucas, Paul Flannery

Laser 4.7 – *Criss Cross* – Chris Charwood

Laser Radial – *Boating Hardware* – Tristan Brown

Laser Standard – *The Kennel* – Matthew Wearn

Laser Radial Masters – *Going Nowhere* – Lloyd Lissiman

Laser Standard Masters – *Sea Sheppard* – Ian Campbell

Musto Skiff – *Shish Kebab* – Thor Schoenhoff

Tasar – *On Edge* – Kayne Binks, Louise Binks

Access Dinghy – *Mud Crab* – Graeme Martin

Mirror – *Bulletproof* – Simon Barwood, Sidona Barwood

O'pen Bic – *White Out* – Chris Gallen

Optimist – *Oppy Poppy* – Annabelle Davies

Optimist Silver – *Turbo Turtle* – Chelsea Bradford

Behind the scenes normal activities took place as usual with a wedding ceremony on the lawns using the river and city as a backdrop. To the unsuspecting sailor, all would appear to have been well in the canteen however behind the scenes things were a little different. A text message had been sent after midnight from the bakery supplying the bread rolls to say that the oven had broken down and there would be no rolls today. How Janet Koelemij coped with this devastating news I do not know, but as we can all testify lunches were produced and consumed.

Many thanks to all those that helped and made this event possible and we look forward to doing it all again next year. ■



Geographe Bay Race Week 2013

It is often said that if fair winds blow during a regatta, then everyone will go home happy. By this definition, all the punters at the Redink Homes Geographe Bay Race Week should have been delighted. Winds blew from all points of the compass, ranging from ghosters to 30 knots or more. Busselton's weather was superb.

Event Manager Suzi Kent organized a lively social program, including a fashion show for the "sailing widows" and a very popular burlesque show to end the rest day. Meals served at the Geographe Bay Yacht Club were tasty and well priced. A picnic barbecue at Dunsborough was well supported and enjoyed by all.

On the water, Gary McNally's *Black Betty*

was unbeatable in the IRC Red fleet, scoring wins in all 8 of the 10 races that counted. Peter Hickson's *Mulberry* won the IRC White fleet for the second successive year, but had to fight much harder for the result with some spirited opposition from the Beneteau 34.7's, *Mind's Eye* (Brad Skeggs) and *Dynamic* (Laurie Flynn).

As usual, Division 5 (for racing yachts under 10 metres) saw some fierce competition. Mike Davies' *Geographe 26* fittingly called *d'Vine* held off Alan Thomas' *BW8, The Fox*.

An error in course design led to different interpretations and a protest in the Premier Cruising Blue fleet and for a time, feelings ran high. In the

end, Graeme Monkhouse won the protest and the overall prize in his J122 *Lithium*, ahead of David Clifton's *S125, Eftel*. Gordon and Di Dunbar's Dufour 40 *Spritzig²* not only won the Premier Cruising Green fleet, but Gordon and Di were rewarded for their loyalty with a free entry to next year's regatta. They have been strong supporters of Geographe Bay Race Week since its inception.

Although the Jib and Main division was won by *Carouselambra*, the division also produced the winner of the "Spirit of the Regatta" trophy, won by Keith Oldfield, sailing his little gaff rigged, 25 foot coutea boat replica.

Did everyone go home happy, or was there an elephant in the room? No one wants to talk about it, but there can be no disguising the fact that this year's numbers were well down on past years. Three years ago, more than 100 yachts assembled in Busselton for Race Week. This year there were 54. The IRC fleet was very poorly supported and the sight of yachts turning around after the Iberia Race (the feeder race for Race Week) and heading straight back to the city should be ringing alarm bells. There was no multihull division this year. ▶

▶ There were no entries from either Esperance or Albany.

There were still grumblings in some quarters about having to travel from the Marina to the Yacht Club (even though a free shuttle bus was provided by the organizers) and the uncomfortable stand-off between the Yacht club and the Marina seems no closer to resolution.

The solution might be more fundamental than that. Most yachties plan their season quite early, despite the fact that they are notorious for waiting until the death knock to get their entry in. The scuttlebutt around town even just a few months out, suggested that the Regatta might be in trouble. Perhaps a number of regular

Race Week participants made up their mind at that point to do other things. Perhaps Geographe Bay Race Week has run out of steam, despite the herculean efforts of some of the Busselton locals over the years. Most are now suffering from "regatta burnout", having contributed far more than could reasonably be expected of them.

Geographe Bay Race Week is an established event on the WA sailing calendar. The brand is well known around the country and is recognised as a hallmark event by most national yachting media. It has attracted competitors from the eastern seaboard and even from overseas, and has strong community and regional government support. It is

an iconic event in an idyllic, picturesque location – a sailing mecca. The organization of the event may have been left to too small a group of volunteers. We certainly expect a great deal from them without offering much in return – and to be fair, the few who have put their hands up to do the work, have not asked for anything in return – their satisfaction has come from being responsible for a highly successful regatta and the recognition of their efforts by hundreds of sailors in more than a hundred yachts that made the pilgrimage to the Bay each year.

A well run regatta on the fringe of one of the country's best wine producing regions has considerable appeal to

metropolitan yachtsmen. They have come to Busselton in droves in years gone by and will return again if there is certainty that the event will go ahead, and if they are confident that racing will be professionally managed.

Perhaps the time has come for some Perth folk to share the workload with their country cousins, if that's what it takes to achieve what yachtsmen want! ■

Photos courtesy Bernie Kaaks







WAIODA State Championships

Photos courtesy John Porter



The eagerly anticipated WAIODA State Championships at Royal Perth Yacht Club over the Labour Day long weekend started in gloriously mild but windless conditions. The gentle easterly held little appeal for either RPYC officials or competitors and the 58 boats across the Gold and Silver fleets headed back for an early lunch — just as the sea breeze worked its way up the river.

The decision proved to be inspiring as the fleet returned to the water 90 minutes later in near-perfect conditions for competitors and spectators alike.

With a very respectable 10-12 knot westerly ruffling the water, Annabelle Davies — the 2013 National Champion — Jayden Dalton and Campbell Stewart capitalised on their good starts to claim the top three spots. Campbell first, Jayden second and Annabelle third.

The wind remained kind for the next three races and pretty much reflected the first race,

except Annabelle hit a purple patch and reeled off three consecutive firsts before the slighter Jayden claimed the last race of the day in fading wind. The scrap between Jayden, Annabelle and Campbell was an intriguing battle for the whole regatta.

Also featuring on the first day was Joshua Pang, Sarah Kirke — who put a disastrous first race behind her to storm up the field — Steven Case, Isabelle Kenny and Zane Sicree.

In the 34-strong silver fleet, Hayden Coote and Bruce McKinnon traded top placings

at the pointy end in their first four races, with Eleanor Wise and Liam and Oliver Pabbruwe providing stiff competition. As the wind picked up they handled the conditions with admirable aplomb, as half a dozen silverites capsized after rounding the second mark.

Day two dawned with a little more foreboding — an even gentler nor-easter followed by a forecast of virtually no wind didn't bode well. Again, a frustrating morning before another early lunch, (again, just as the sea breeze kicked in!) at least meant that the afternoon was a packed agenda.

In the best winds of the day it was the usual suspects — Annabelle, Jayden, Campbell, Steven, Sarah and Isabelle that fought it out for the top six spots, with Jayden winning two of the four races on the day, Annabelle one and Campbell the last race of the day, again in fading conditions.

In the silvers it was a similar story with Hayden, Bruce and Eleanor sharing the honours, though Finn O'Dea and Portia Knight sailed beautifully in the final two races to leap up the leader board.

► But the leader board was not the only criteria on the day and the effort of several backmarking silverites — in flukey conditions — was commendable.

Day three dawned under grey skies but fresh winds and for the first time in the regatta, sailing was under way in the morning. Gold fleet polished off its remaining three races, while the Silver fleet squeezed in four before the all-important presentation

lunch. While the sailing went to plan with no big upsets, some of the Gold fleet were cursing a rather inconsiderate ferry skipper with a couple of tail markers having a close encounter with said boat that stopped them dead in their tracks.

Before getting to the winners, a big thank you to the RPYC volunteers, especially the canteen personnel who ran a very clean, efficient and organised set-up.

But back to what's it's all about and Annabelle claimed the state title to add to her burgeoning collection, Campbell snared two firsts and a second to snatch second spot from Jayden on a countback, while the big improver of the regatta, Isabelle Kenny, took fourth. Other Goldies to impress were Steven Case (5th), Sarah Kirke, Zac Littlewood — who has continued his good form from the Nationals in Hobart — Zane Sicree and Shannon Dalton.

In the Silvers, Bruce McKinnon scored two firsts on the last day to wrap up the minor title from Hayden Coote and Eleanor Wise. The trio had daylight between them and the rest of the fleet and will be a competitive addition to the Golds in the not too distant future. Special mention to Portia Knight, Liam Pabbruwe and Finn O'Dea who sailed consistently throughout the three days. ■





■ (Above) Home at last! The flotilla gives her a great welcome home salute.

The Duyfken returns!

She's home! The Duyfken, (Little Dove) is back where she was so lovingly built back in the nineties! After sailing to Holland for the VOC 400th Anniversary celebrations, around Australia and more, this 1606 replica Perth built, Aussie built – Dutch ship continues to amaze!

After 12 years, four major voyages and countless thousands of kilometres sailing the oceans of the world, one of very few Age of Discovery Replicas, the *Duyfken* (Little Dove) has returned to where she was built, homeport Fremantle.

Many Members will recall the years of toil by volunteer craftsmen in the shipyard on that piece of lawn out front of the old maritime museum. They would also recall the pomp and ceremony as she was paraded down the middle of the cappuccino strip with huge celebrations and then when she was launched in Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour all those years ago with a full TV broadcast, live on CH7.

Well she's back. Under an agreement with the Western Australian Government, the *Duyfken* 1606 Replica Foundation plans to homeport the world-famous replica in

Western Australia for the next 10 years.

Her story is chequered – her story is of discovery, tragedy, first contact, first mapping and a drama of endurance, seamanship and adventure – her story is fascinating. In 1606 the Dutch East India Company (VOC) sent the *Duyfken*, captained by Willem Janszoon, to search for “south and east lands” beyond the furthest reaches of their known world. Leaving from Banda (Indonesia), *Duyfken* reached the Cape York Peninsula and charted 300km of the coast. Forget Captain Cook, this is the first historically recorded voyage to Australia which made landfall. To this day the story of this landing is still passed down from generation to generation in the indigenous tribe that was met and confronted by these strange intruders.

Built 1595 in the Netherlands, she was fast, lightly-armed and

probably intended for small valuable cargoes or privateering. Selected as the ‘jacht’ or scout, for the “Moluccan Fleet” sailing to the Spice Islands she would sail ahead of the fleet finding safe and protected anchorage. She was fast by the standards of that era. *Duyfken's* captain for this first voyage, Willem Cornelisz Schouten, with Le Maire, would later discover and name Cape Horn after the city of Hoorn.

On Christmas day the five ships of the Moluccan Fleet reach Bantam (Banten), Java and encounter a blockading fleet of Portuguese ships totaling eight galleons and 22 galleys. They engage this fleet in intermittent battle until driving them away on New Year's Day. This is a turning point in history: the undisputed dominance of the Iberians (Portuguese and Spanish) in the Spice Trade to Europe was over.

Members, we have it on good authority that there is only

one real way to get a feel, to understand the hardships and victories such a small ship as the *Duyfken* has been through. As close to the real thing as she can be (aside from some safety necessities demanded by modern times) you must take a moment to go over her. To feel, touch and experience and hear her story. Open daily from 10am behind Little Creatures in Fishing Boat Harbour she is truly something to behold, to enjoy.

The *Duyfken* Foundation also will shortly announce a day sailing program where you can sail aboard her.

And for those with too much time on their hands, we won't say retired, you can join up as a Friend of The *Duyfken* and get involved in Crewing, Maintenance, Shipkeeping and as a tour Guide. Simply give Bill Porter a call on 0406 484 269 or sign up as a Friend of The *Duyfken* on the website www.duyfken.com and they'll be in touch. ■





■ David Gilmour and his crew working hard on the final windward leg.



■ Tristan Brown sets up for a spinnaker hoist in his desperate chase.

David Gilmour Wins Warren Jones International Youth Match Racing Regatta

David Gilmour and Tristan Brown made it a quinella for the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club when Gilmour downed his club mate 3-1 to claim his first Warren Jones title.

The result was not without an element of controversy though, when lack of wind forced the suspension of the morning semi final program with Gilmour leading Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron's Chris Steele 2-1, and Brown enjoying the same margin over Royal Perth Yacht Club's Steve Thomas. Both were programmed to be first to three wins, but as time ticked by without any breeze, the race committee was forced to declare the semi final results as they stood at the break. The decision pitched Chris Steele against Steve Thomas in the petit final and Gilmour and Brown in the "first to three" final.

Steele and Thomas leveled at one all after two flights, so it all came down to their third and

final race. Steele won the start easily after Thomas crossed early and had to go back, a position from which he could not recover.

Gilmour had Brown on the ropes after two flights with two decisive, though narrow wins. In the third flight, Brown carried Gilmour to the extreme left of the course, until Gilmour called for water at an exclusion zone. Brown reacted, but not quickly enough, which led to minor contact and a penalty. Brown decided to carry the penalty to the end and concentrate solely on boat speed. The gap between the two slowly opened up until at the end, Brown had just enough room to clear his penalty with a spin around the pin buoy on the finish line.

Gilmour's desperate lunge at the turning boat was just too late, there was contact and having already lost the race, Gilmour was penalized.

There was no coming back from the final race. Gilmour won the start and did what he needed to do to stay there. His experienced crew was cool and measured, knowing they had only to stay out of trouble to win the regatta.

At the presentation, David Gilmour acknowledged the frustration that Chris Steele must have felt after the abbreviation of the semi finals. Steele won the first race, was narrowly beaten in the second and lost the third due mainly to an unkind windshift that

favoured the Gilmour boat. Steele had put in a very gritty performance and what David Gilmour alluded to without actually saying so, was that it might well have been 2-1 the other way, which would have had Gilmour competing in the petit final for third place.

Once the light south westerly breeze eventually kicked in, sailing was fair with few adjustments of the course required.

There was no doubting David Gilmour's right to the trophy. For the second year running, he finished on top of the leader board after two round robins, and despite a few hiccups through the final series, he was clearly the best of the bunch. ■



Adopt a jetty, beach or fishing spot and keep the marine scene clean

Can you give 30 minutes of your time, once a month to help keep Western Australian waterways litter-free?

That's all it takes to do a quick cleanup of your favourite jetty, beach or fishing spot and reduce the impacts of harmful litter.

Evidence shows that every year hundreds of thousands of sea birds are found dead or injured as a result of eating or

becoming entangled in marine debris. It also kills thousands of turtles, dolphins, seals and fish.

With human's increased use of plastic, especially single use items like food packaging, drinking straws and plastic bags, much of what is used, ends up in our waterways via stormwater drains. It is estimated that 80% of marine turtles have ingested plastics in their stomachs due to mistaking it for food.

Litter such as bait bags and plastic bags, fishing line, hooks, sinkers, food packaging, bottles, cans and cigarette butts have the potential, if not disposed of

correctly, to cause significant harm to our marine and river environments.

Keep Australia Beautiful WA (KABWA) and Royal Perth Yacht Club are encouraging river and ocean lovers to choose their favourite site to adopt and register via the Adopt-a-Spot program at www.kabc.wa.gov.au. To support your cleanups, KABWA provides free resources such as bags, buckets, gloves, tools and an official adoption certificate.

The adopt a jetty concept is an element of the Clean Marine campaign, a joint initiative between KABWA and other government and community



agencies to help tackle marine litter. Information and resources are available to educate the community on the consequences of littering and ways to get involved to reduce the hazards.

Clean Marine resources are available through Keep Australia Beautiful and include stickers, brochures, fact sheets and jetty signage. Find out more; phone 6467 5339 or visit <http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/cleanmarine> ■





Sailing adventures to suit all tastes

Experience the thrill of the wind on your face as you sail in some of the most exceptional cruising grounds across the world. From the most experienced sailors to those just interested in learning how to sail, to those who don't want to lift a finger but still want to see the world from the water – Sunsail have sailing adventures to suit all tastes.

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Sunsail offer bareboat sailing options in the Whitsundays, Tonga, Tahiti, Thailand, the Mediterranean, Caribbean, North America and more. If you're not sure if you have the required experience to charter in a particular destination, you can always hire a skipper and take all the leg-work out of your trip, leaving you with time to relax and take in the scenery. Plus you can take advantage of your skipper's local knowledge of best places to sail to.

Learning to Sail

Sunsail Sailing Schools have courses for beginners through to experienced sailors seeking professional qualifications, along with every level in between. *Just because you're on a course, it doesn't mean you can't have a great time!* With sailing schools in Australia, Thailand, Croatia, Greece, San Francisco, the UK and the British Virgin Islands, you can combine holiday, fun

and enhanced skills to really take your sailing up a step.

The Real Thrill - Racing

Get involved in the real thrill of sailing by racing in a regatta. Hamilton Island Race Week is Australia's largest offshore yachting regatta, and offers the chance for racing your own boats as well as joining the solo boat (a group of 6 like-minded team-mates going for the gold with experienced instructor on board). Of course, you can also choose to watch all the action from the water with a Sunsail spectator package. Hamilton Race Week is only one of the many regattas you can join around the world with Sunsail – Sunsail also have options in Thailand, the UK, Caribbean and many more.

The Ultimate in Social Sailing

Whether you're a family, a couple or a group of friends, Sunsail promise the adventure of a lifetime on a Flotilla sailing

holiday. But what is a flotilla, you may ask? It's the ultimate in social sailing and the perfect balance between independence and unobtrusive support. In a group of up to 14 other yachts and headed up by a lead boat, explorers will sail from destination to destination, safe in the knowledge that help is close at hand, should they need it. And, every evening guests can join other sailors on the Flotilla and participate in evening meals, beach BBQ's and Punch parties!



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Sunsail have 32 breathtaking destinations across the globe, each with its own unique style and flavour.



► Whitsundays

The Whitsundays are a group of 74 islands and islets in the shelter of the Great Barrier Reef, rated as one of the world's most beautiful sailing grounds. In fact, Bareboating in the Whitsundays was voted as the Best Cruise or Yachting Experience in Australia at the Australian Traveller 2011 and 2012 Reader's Choice Awards. Sunsail's base on Hamilton Island, the only yacht charter company based on the island, is the ideal place to begin exploring the Whitsundays, with its' golden sandy beaches, unparalleled fringing reefs and tropical marine life.

Mediterranean

The possibilities offered by a Mediterranean sailing holiday are limitless. From the thousand Islands of Croatia's Adriatic Coast, to the secluded anchorages of southern Turkey, the rich culture of Italy, the ancient history of Greece, or our brand new Palma base in Spain, you could find your ideal holiday in the Mediterranean. Highlights of your charter would include

world-famous beaches, lively resorts, quiet fishing villages, secluded anchorages and tantalizing cuisine.

Asia Pacific

There's a certain exotic charm to the Asia Pacific, whether you're cruising the beautiful waters of Thailand and Malaysia, or the South Pacific gems of Tahiti and Tonga. Get away from the hustle and bustle of busy life to swaying palms, coral lagoons, mountainous rain forests, shimmering turquoise seas and charming island villages.

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Commodore's Message



■ Mike Kilcullen
Commodore

Our recent survey of Members and the resulting focus group sessions has given your General Committee what we believe to be a deep understanding of the needs of our engaged membership. We are determined not to let the weed grow on our keel on this one! The following article from Vice Commodore Honey describes the results of the survey in more detail.

However, GC are already putting plans into action to address key areas for improvement. These are:

- **Communications** - action in this area will include a revamped series of email communiques, introduce the use of social media by the Club for the first time, and a renewed focus on Member service in our communication methods. The primary immediate actions by the Club will be in this area, as we wish to promote the many things our membership acknowledge we are doing so well now, as well as keeping you informed as we improve the others.
- **Social** - we will improve create and focus on social event planning with the overall aim to plan events for all Member interests, and to hold every event we plan and promote. It will be an immediate focus area. We will develop plans to target young families and mums, including a crèche

and playground facility in the near future. We will conduct a full review of our food and beverage service to Members timed to coincide and complement the renewal of our contract with the Hyatt for our mutual benefit.

- **Boating** - we are well progressed with the development of our sailing program from the ground up as evidenced by our recent success in early Optimist competition, the groundswell of participation on a Sunday morning and in Dinghys generally. This will be taken to the next level by improving our Club fleet, growing the Tackers program and continuing with our Women's and Youth sailing programs which are still in critical early stages. Training in all aspects of boating and sailing will be critically reviewed and the cruising program which has been so well taken up this year will be further developed.

- **Built Environment** - this is an area in which we excel in delivery, as evidenced by our world class marina. Immediate actions include a refresh in the Wardroom which is in the acquisition stage and will magically appear at a wardroom near you soon; the Crawley foreshore redevelopment which includes an improved boat ramp and the installation of the Australia II mast has also begun, and the handstand redevelopment is very close to going to tender.

Which brings me to the big one. The Crawley and Challenger Clubhouses. For many years we have been working on a master plan to redevelop the Crawley Clubhouse. This plan hinged on completing the handstand building, which allowed for the relocation of Swan River

Sailing, and the provision of alternate services while we redevelop the ground floor. Now we are thinking, is it wise to plan to expend such a large amount, on a building which by then will be 65-70 years old in parts? Are we trying to make a boat storage area into a Members twilight bar and grill, sows ear purse style? When will we plan to redo the Dinghy division? Anyone who has visited Sandringham Yacht Club will appreciate what a wonderful building can be produced from a clean sheet of paper. Do we put a plan into place now to completely redevelop the existing Clubhouse in five to ten years? And do we need, or can we do more at Challenger? This is the start of a conversation I would like you all to have with me, with the other Flag Officers and with current and with future Members of General Committee...

If we were to start with a blank canvas, what would your Club look like? Would there be more bars, a wet bar, a separate Members dining room, a library and archives room, private meeting rooms for Members business, a billiards



■ Adelio fishing

room, a crèche, media and training rooms?

Start the conversations now, and as you see how we have listened and improved service to you as Members based on the recent survey, I am confident that together we Members can work to improve our Club. We are already offering you a world class marina and sailing program, and now we want to plan a world class built environment and to continue the benefit to our world class membership.

See you on the water. ■



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Vice Commodore's Message



■ Barry Honey
Vice Commodore

As many Members know, during late last year and early this year we have been engaged in a Member survey and Member focus groups. The purpose was to come to a deeper understanding of Members' perceptions of their Club and to identify Members' wants and needs to guide strategic and operational planning.

In this piece, I would like to share the result of these inquiries with you.

The survey and the focus groups have been very productive with the Members participating providing heartfelt and open comments. The specific comments need to be treated with some confidentiality but can be summarised to provide an overall view of perceived problems and broad issues that need to be considered and addressed.

In the space available here, I can only provide you with high level conclusions and directional recommendations. Underpinning these are many specific comments, observations and suggestions from a broad range of Members, all of which will be taken on board and considered in the formulation of our plans.

At this point it is important to note that much progress has been made in the ongoing development of the Club over recent years. The purpose of the survey and focus group

meetings is to bring greater focus on Members' wants and needs in planning for the ongoing development of our Club.

Not surprisingly, consulting with a broad constituency results in diverse feedback. Some observations and suggestions are contradictory with others; some suggestions and recommendations are realistically achievable whilst others are not; and some initiatives and actions that are clearly required based on the feedback received are capable of being actioned in the short term whilst others will take some time to address due to budgetary and other practical constraints.

Nonetheless, the survey and the focus groups have provided valuable feedback that will prove very useful in formulating and prioritising plans – both short term and long term plans.

The feedback can be summarised as follows:

Reasons for being a Member of RPYC

There are no real surprises here with the main reasons being:

- Family connections and family tradition
- To escape for relaxation
- Sailing and boating – both competitive and non-competitive
- The non-sailing activities offered
- Socialising and attending functions
- The friendly atmosphere
- The option of the Annex at Fremantle
- Being close to home

It is important to reMember that the vast majority of Members have joined the Club to be part of a group of individuals, couples and families with whom they have a common interest – a love of boating and associated activities, typically social. In essence, this is our tribe.

Not only has this applied historically, it will likely continue to apply and becomes the foundation for recruiting new Members essential to the long term viability and vibrancy of our Club.

The defining characteristics of the Club

We received some challenging feedback here.

In terms of "brand personality", this can be summed up by a description of what the survey and the focus group discussions reflect as the typical Member – i.e. the Member you would likely expect to find in the Wardroom should you drop in by chance on any day. The typical Member is seen, more or less, as a likeable, somewhat stuffy, aging male boating enthusiast who understands the need to be more inclusive, progressive, imaginative and responsive but lacks the motivation and youthful vigour required to pursue change.

This is about perception. This is not to say that all Members are like this but it does reflect how a significant number of Members (and likely many non-Members) perceive the Club.

If we are serious about revitalising the Club with an eye to the long-term future of the Club, we need to renew efforts to attract more parents of young children (encouraging younger families into the Club) as well as attracting younger sailors and more women. The implications of this for the provision of facilities, coaching, sailing and boating activities, and other services and activities are profound.

How Members feel about their Club

This was more positive with Members' feelings for the Club ranging from "like a lot" to what can be described as to "love deeply and passionately".

The depth of feeling is related to the extent of Member involvement. Not surprisingly,

those primarily just wanting to park their boat are less attached to the Club than those who regard it as their "second home".

The challenge is to provide those uninvolved Members with reasons to become more involved, and to target new Members more likely to become engaged with the Club and contribute to the life of the Club rather than just consume a service. This has implications for the nature of activities offered by the Club and the encouragement given to Members to get involved. We need to seek and retain Members who will be engaged in the life at the Club rather than targeting Members who just join the Club to park their boat or hold a wedding.

Shortcomings and concerns

This can be described as a fairly long list of criticisms and pet peeves that presents a fairly useful check list of issues to be addressed. Some are valid, some are not – all are worthy of consideration.

The recurring themes indicating the main areas of concern requiring attention in the short term are:

- The lack of youth focus
- The need for improved sailing competition
- Upgrading key facilities and better use of facilities
- The food offering
- Better communication with Members

In relation to the longer list of specific issues, General Committee needs to decide which criticisms it accepts are valid and then needs to develop a list of priorities with a budget and timeframe to tackle each issue to be addressed. The pleasing thing is that there are many Members who have indicated they are ready to help get the necessary changes made.

Continued over page ►

Vice Commodore's Message continued

From previous page

► It is clear that good communications with Members will be critical for success. The communications must focus on what is on offer at your Club as well as stating clearly where General Committee is taking your Club. Communications with Members must be concise and provided in a way that facilitates the Member staying in touch.

More detailed information will be provided to Members on how the Club will address shortcomings and concerns as plans develop.

Some concluding remarks

Everyone agrees that RPYC is all about boating and pleasure. There is a strong sense of belonging for many Members of our Club and Members generally have great affection for their Club. In the end, the Club is, and always will be, a reflection of its Members. Here it is worthwhile quoting Richard Clarke, the consultant assisting the Club with this review. He concludes:

"By and large, Royal Perth Yacht Club's Members are like-minded.

They're broadly decent, responsible, caring, acceptably selfish, fun-loving, energetic, competitive, confident, experienced, well-educated and accommodating of others' lifestyle preferences and views.

In around eight hours of discussion there was not one heated disagreement.

There are parties that have opposing views but, for the most part, the focus groups provided the different camps with a chance to be exposed to a range of new views, which they enjoyed discovering".

The survey provides guidance for planning. The nature and attitude of our Members provides the platform for change where change is necessary to improve the health of our Club. Your General Committee will seize the opportunity it has been presented and will continue to pursue the ongoing development of the Club in a manner consistent with the wants and needs of Members.

I look forward to reporting to you further on developments. ■

Congratulations and Update – Matt Wearn

Matthew is currently ranked 20th in the world in the Laser Standard Class.

At the time of publishing Matthew is competing in Palma Majorca at the first European ISAF World Cup for 2013.

In the first ISAF World cup for 2013, at Sail Melbourne, Matthew came 3rd overall.

He is currently placed third in Palma after two days of racing.

This is the first regatta of Matthew's European campaign for 2013.

He will compete in Hyeres France later this month at the next ISAF world cup event, then go on to the Eurosaf regatta in Lake Garda and then Delta Lloyd regatta in Medemblik in The Netherlands.

Follow Matt's journey at mattwearnssailing.blogspot.com/

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Rear Commodore's Message



■ Mike Campbell
Rear Commodore

Fellow Members,

By the time you are reading this article, we will be fast approaching the end of a very busy 2012/2013 Summer sailing season at your Yacht Club. The Crawley and Fremantle marinas have been a hub of activity with some excellent regattas having been held, testing the resolve of both our volunteers and Club staff.

In this issue I thought I might reflect on these activities and pick out some of the highlights for your appreciation, these being in no particular order.

Let me start with the Foundation Youth Cup held in Swan Sailing's fleet of BW-36. Ok so there is some order - this is my favourite!

For those of you who regularly read my *In the Wind* articles, you will know that youth sailing is a particular focus of Regatta this

year, as is junior and women's sailing. This year saw our Club field a team after a disappointing absence last year. It was a quality field with skippers from other Clubs including a reigning Laser Radial Youth World champion, a couple of ex 420 Australian champions and a reigning Optimist Australian champion.

Our sailors really did themselves proud with a very competitive performance in the five race regatta, mixing it with the more favoured teams every race and enjoying themselves immensely in the process. We had one of the youngest teams in the competition, so who knows what the team can achieve next year if they continue to hone their skills.

Many thanks again to Paul "Spanner" Spencer for giving his time to help train the team throughout the season, as well as coaches Tim Castles, Alvaro and Jonathan Ainge.

February and March have been nothing less than hectic at the Club. Our Offshore Race Team kicked into gear for the Fremantle to Busselton "Iberia Race", which is the feeder race for Geographe Bay Raceweek which we were again closely involved with.

The event saw a somewhat smaller contingent of boats from RPYC for various reasons, however, as usual, an enjoyable regatta was had by those who made the trip down south.

Closer to home, the Mini Series was another screaming success this year with over 160 dinghies taking part - a record number of entries. The event is going from strength to strength after moving from its traditional November timing to its new February home 3 years ago. A stroke of genius from the Captain Dinghies at the time, oh yes that was me wasn't it! Seriously a huge amount of organisation goes into such an event so many thanks to all involved.

So, just when things were getting busy, then came the

dreaded March long weekend! Over this three day period your club hosted the Optimist State Championship, the Endeavour 24 and Thunderbird State Championships at Crawley, as well as the S80 and S97 State Championships at the Fremantle Annex.

This involved an incredible planning effort on behalf of Club staff and a serious strain on both our on water assets and volunteers. In true Royal Perth fashion all were executed with the usual high standards that we have come to expect - again well done to the team.

Also over the March long weekend, a number of our elder statesman Members made their way down south to Walpole for the rejuvenated "In the Trees" regatta, which incorporated the Moth State Championships.

Approximately 70 boats in a variety of fleets participated

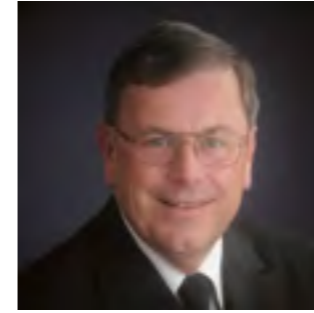
which is great to see, including some models even our Captain Sail did not recognise! Royal Perth assisted with equipment and Race Management and by all accounts it was a great regatta. Congratulations to Member Jamie Dunross and Life Member John Rosser for reinvigorating the event.

Between regattas its been business as usual for Saturday and Sunday racing, junior training, sail training courses, women's match racing development squad and everything else that is helping to make your Club increasingly active in promoting the sport of boating to our members and the community in which we live.

If you haven't been down to the Club lately, then I encourage you to do so and get involved in the many opportunities that exist.

I look forward to seeing you there! ■

Signals from the Engine Room



■ Stuart Walton
General Manager

Project up-date

New boat ramp and ceremonial deck – work has started on the removal of some sections of the old boat ramp. As previously reported this exciting project will transform the look of the Club from the River. Once completed in about three months the Club will benefit from:

- A modern boat ramp with positive grip and, believe it or not, the correct angle for launching boats!
- Improved access for dinghies sailing from the beach to the west of the main entry to the marina
- A fabulous semicircular ceremonial deck featuring one of the original masts from Australia II. The mast will replace the current one on the northern face of the building and be illuminated with up lights. A yard arm will extend out over the water from which we will fly the undefaced ensign. (Unofficial quiz here, what year were we granted the right to fly the undefaced ensign?)
- Completion of the riverside landscaping started during the first stage of the Marina replacement program.

Some disruption will occur however your patience will be rewarded by your enjoyment of the end result.

Hard Stand redevelopment – by the time you read this report we will have released the tender for the construction of the new services building and upgrade of the hardstand. This is a major project which will take about 9 months to complete. Believe me, the Crawley site will look and feel so much better. No longer will see what looks like an industrial facility when you drive in the front gate. The actual works area will reduce in size and we will introduce firmer policies to ensure that the area is available for Members to work on, or have work done on, their boats. Once tenders have been received and evaluated the costs will be considered by the General Committee and

if it is considered prudent to proceed we anticipate awarding a building contract in June.

Member Survey – I commented in the last issue on how pleasing it was to see so many responses to the survey. Vice Commodore Barry Honey, in his report, has provided a summary of the process and results both in terms of the survey and the focus group meetings that have taken place. Whilst the feedback has been very positive it is clear that there is much more we can do to make this great club even better. The staff and I are really excited about the future and look forward to getting stuck into the various strategic initiatives which will flow down for us for action in the very near future. As they say, "watch this space". ■

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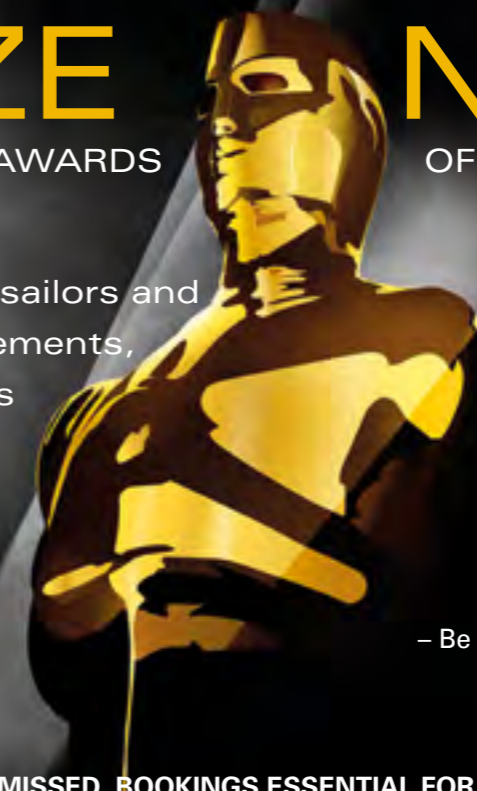
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PRIZE NIGHTS

THE ACADEMY AWARDS

OF SAILING AT RPYC

Join with fellow sailors and celebrate achievements, accomplishments and perhaps a few humorous moments from the past season



Dinghy Division Prize Night: 3rd May

– \$46 per adult, \$35 children under 14 and \$25 children under 8
– Enjoy a sumptuous buffet

Keelboat Prize Night: 17th May

– \$58 per person
– Be treated to a fabulous three course meal

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Dinghy bookings close 1st May, Keelboat bookings close 15th May.



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Six pack premix varieties

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Cartons

Cascade Light\$45 Strongbow Cider selection \$55 Peroni.....\$60
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This is just a snapshot of some of the bargain's available over the bar...Cheers!

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Endeavours are safe, stable, seagoing yachts, easily handled by a crew of two and very suitable for both novice and experienced family sailor.

Length overall 7.4m, length on waterline 5.5m, beam 2.3m, draft 1.06m, displacement 1,250kg, ballast 812kg.

Located alongside wharf at RPYC Fremantle Annexe.

CONTACT/ENQUIRIES: Clem – 9430 4590

Captain Sail Report



■ Graham White
Captain Sail

A perusal of the red book will confirm that your Club has been busy in hosting and supporting numerous sailing events in 2013 and we are only partway through the year. The stress on our sailing management team has been significant, impacted by the good news that Hayden is now married, Rachael is back at university, however Jonathon has, unfortunately been ill. We wish him a speedy recovery.

It is therefore appropriate for we sailors to reflect on the personnel resources required to keep us on the race track, both staff and volunteers. For example preparation for and execution of a Saturday race requires some man-hours. The planning for the Warren Jones Regatta and its conduct required some man-hours. The process of planning and conducting a major sailing event is illustrated in the flowchart on pages 26 and 27 of this edition. Your Club has conducted numerous such events and maintained a reputation for success in this regard and while we have precedence, proven systems and a wealth of experience among our staff members and volunteers and we sailors respect and appreciate this contribution, it is well to remember the dimensions of this race support devoted to our pleasure and

therefore that there is a limit to the variations that can be provided and the frequency and dimensions of events .

The initial report emerging from the Member survey is welcomed and provides very useful background for the planning for future keelboat sailing at your Club. Some of the changes introduced this season have been warmly received, some not. Only one nomination for the concept of upskilling / coaching, via an on water demonstration of how good we really are.

The Friday night twilight and the early Saturday start were popular. Therefore the Racesail committee, via fleet captains, will look to further variations of format and timing in accord with sailor's wishes. Expect a couple of radical suggestions. However, I ask for consideration as to the constraints of waterspace allocation and volunteer availability.

The woman's development squad is now well established and following a review a number of adjustments have been made. The objectives of this initiative is to provide the opportunity for those women interested in gaining increased sailing skills, particularly related to racing, from which should emerge several competitive crews to represent your Club. Not all will wish to compete at this level, however the exposure to coaching will enable all to be more skilled in all forms of racing.

One surprising aspect to emerge is that almost none of the squad have ever been coached before, one wonders if the same is true of we male sailors.

Similarly the youth development squad is

progress well and deserved of the Club support being provided. I suggest you chat with these fine young Members, they may have some advice (sailing related) for we more mature keelboat sailors.

From time to time one has a sailing experience that brings great pleasure. Such was the case when John Rosser teamed with Jamie Dunross to resurrect the Walpole regatta after a lapse of some fifteen years. So it was that a number of RPYC notorieties, loaded with race management equipment, ventured south for a most pleasurable weekend.

75 boats, including 12 international moths, mingled in a most friendly atmosphere on the water and on the beach.

Typical country hospitality was evident at every turn including the best food ever provided to an on water race management team.

Handicapping the variety of boat types, some never seen since the second world war, and the diversity of sailing skills, many in their first regatta, proved a challenge, but the number and variety of prizes together with the country food made for a happy outcome. The Walpole sailing club is now again alive and well following this event so plan to attend next year's extravaganza.

I had the pleasure of billeting the Chris Steele youth team from New Zealand for the Warren Jones Regatta . It was an absolute pleasure to have these fine young men in my house. In a rash moment they said, should I visit NZ, I may even be offered a ride on one of those extreme cats. Billeting can be a wise investment.

Please remember sailing is for fun!! ■

Membership

Shawn Offer, Membership Chairman

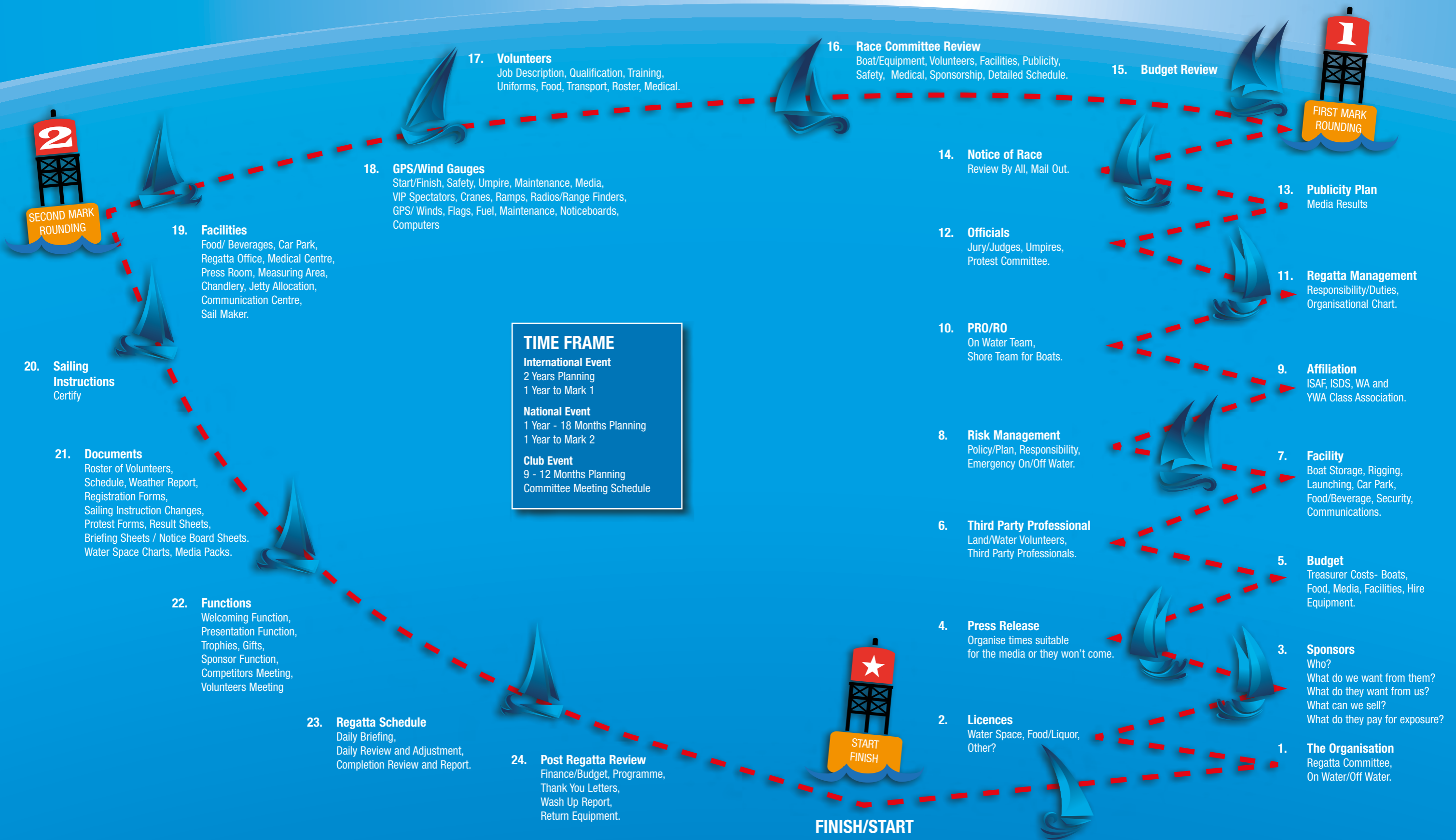
Welcome to our new Members

The Commodore, Flag Officers and members of General Committee welcome the following new Members to Royal Perth Yacht Club:

Miss Carmen Bolleurs, Miss Genelle Gray, Miss Lisa Henderson, Mr Kevin Johnson, Mr Greg Nicholson, Ms Gemma Rosato, Mr Kym Shardlow, Miss Shella Stronach, Mr Rick Wolozny, Dr Peter Woodland, Ms Hannah Pocock, Mr Jamie & Mrs Tammy Pollard and children Jazzlyn and Skylar, Miss Bridget Rumball, Mr Malcolm Kay, Mr Travis Hossen, Mr David Milne, Mr George & Mrs Mara Ravlich, Mr Philip Somerville-Ryan, Mr Phillip Bennett, Dr Steve & Mrs Libby Swanson and children Isabella, Arlo and Angus, Mr Andre Witte.



How to start a regatta



TIME FRAME

International Event
2 Years Planning
1 Year to Mark 1

National Event
1 Year - 18 Months Planning
1 Year to Mark 2

Club Event
9 - 12 Months Planning
Committee Meeting Schedule



Captain Dinghies Report



■ Hank Koelemij
Captain Dinghies

We have been very busy at the Dinghy Division this year and time is flying by with the end of the season almost upon us. After the summer holidays we were straight into the organization of the Mini Series, which was held during the weekend of February 9th and 10th. This Dinghy Regatta sponsored by Argonaut, for the first time, was attended by 164 boats which was a record for us. The race officers from both courses worked out that the weekend would be hot with light winds in the afternoon, and therefore started the racing early. The races then ran back to back prior to the wind dying

out completely this allowing all fleets to conduct their 10 starts. A big thanks to Robin Olsen, Geoff Brown and their start, finish, mark laying, protest committee and support teams, all the helpers and volunteers involved. I have now been doing this now for quite some time but I am always impressed with all the help from the volunteers as we cannot organize any of these events without their help.

After the Mini Series the club went straight into the organization of the Optimist State Championships, which was held at RPYC this year during the March long weekend. This State Championships were attended by 82 Optimists with them divided into Gold, Silver and Bronze fleets. The Gold and Silver fleets were sailing on the race course with an extra loop for the gold fleet sailors, while the bronze fleet sailed in the bay in a play and fun style. New to this year was an on water jury to keep an eye on what was happening in this very competitive fleet. I understand was very successful and a good learning experience

for those sailors that will travel internationally during the year. We would also like to say a big thanks to all the sponsors and support teams that made this event another huge success at Royal Perth Yacht Club.

During the same March long weekend a number of our Laser sailors also attended their State Championship at Claremont yacht club. I understand that the tricky and fluky conditions proved quite challenging, but congratulation to Harrison Campbell who sailed the full rig at the age of 15 and won the best youth prize.

Our Junior fleet on Sunday mornings between 0900-1200noon has proved to be a great success this year and we now have over 30 kids attending this weekly coaching and sailing session. It is a good next step following the training courses that are organized and run during the school holidays. Kids that have attended the Tackers course will get a follow up period to practice and improve their skills using the Club boats on Sunday mornings. We see some kids excelling and moving through the fleets and

loving it while others may take some more time before they settle down and enjoy the experience. Now that numbers are on the increase we see many friendships building and sailors looking out for each other when arriving on Sunday mornings. Last weekend we had 6 bronze fleet sailors participating for the first time in the Sunday afternoon race, starting and sailing around the marks under close supervision. Looking at their smiles afterwards I believe they were very relieved to be back on shore, but very proud of themselves for getting around the course, well done to them all.

As the sailing season is coming to an end, I hope to see many of you back before the end of the season. The plan for the winter is that the Junior fleet and coaching will continue during the winter season on Sunday mornings, weather permitting. Just a quick reminder that the Dinghy Division Presentation Night is on May 3rd please make a note this in your calendar as we hope you can join us for this celebration evening. ■

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Don and Ellie Griffin (Robert De Niro and Diane Keaton), long divorced, are suddenly thrown back together for the sake of their adopted son's wedding when his very conservative biological mother decides to come in for the nuptials. The Griffin's soon learn that acting the happily married couple is not so easy and especially awkward for Don's girlfriend, Bebe (Sarandon). In the midst of these charades, the Griffin's children face their own troubles as Lyla (Katherine Heigl) struggles with a secret, Jared (Topher Grace) contemplates his love life or lack thereof, and Alejandro (Ben Barnes) tries to keep everyone together, including his new bride, Missy (Amanda Seyfried) who is appealing her parents by getting married by a priest (Robin Williams) in a traditional Catholic wedding.

www.thebigweddingmovie.com.au

Key Cast

Robert de Niro (*Silver Linings Playbook, Meet the Parents*)
Susan Sarandon (*Cloud Atlas, Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*)
Robin Williams (*Happy Feet 2, Night at the Museum 2*)
Dianne Keaton (*Morning Glory, Something's Gotta Give*)

Director

Justin Zackham (*The Bucket List - Writer*)

In Cinemas 2nd May, 2013



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Post Entries to: RPYC "The Big Wedding", PO Box 5, Nedlands WA 6909 **OR hand deliver to:** Reception, RPYC, Australia II Drive, Crawley.



■ Algal Bloom start line.

Image courtesy Rick Stewart, Perth Sailing Photography

Division 2 Report

Paul Odd, Fleet Representative

Recent easterly courses and a change in temperatures remind us that the season is moving towards its conclusion in the next few weeks.

We welcome *Huckleberry* [R 131], skippered by Phil Sommerville, to the RPYC Division 2 fleet. The boat not only adds to the S & S 34 class sailing in our Division, but brings with it a name made famous for its past racing achievements.

Winners in recent weeks include *Fulmar 7* [Paul Odd], Bricklanding Trophy winner *Itinerant* [Mark Hanson], *True South* [Barry O'Toole] and *Lionheart* [Warren Westaway] competing in the [experimental] Friday Night version of a Saturday race.



■ Winning skippers and SoPYC flag officers and chief starter.

The Bricklanding Trophy Race, also won by *Itinerant*, was the 2nd in the 3 Invitation Race series with SOPYC and RFBYC. The final race in the series will be hosted by RFBYC in April.

The Algal Bloom [onshore] event, hosted by SOPYC, was run in a quirky south easterly breeze that tested Race Officer Bernie Kaaks and his team when laying the course.

The Division 2 RPYC boats completed a clean sweep of the Division 2 results with Fastest [*Big Diamond*], and handicap pennants to *Free Spirits* [1st],

Swagman [2nd] and *Fulmar 7* [3rd]. The Toxic Cup was won by the host Club on results across the 3 divisions. Next year RPYC will host this event. ■



■ Royal Perth sailors won division two first, second, third and fastest. Paul, Skipper of *Fulmar 7*, is also holding the Algal Bloom baton that has been passed on to RPYC now as we host the next three years of the race.

Division 3 Report

James Baker, Fleet Representative

Birthdays are special occasions. Time to spoil the people you need to and enjoy a treat or two.

A few years ago I bought my wife some new sails for her birthday so, not to be out done, this year she bought me a boat!

The step up to a Farr 9.2 is a big one for us (as we met Twilight Sailing on *Equaliser*) and we are looking forward to some new challenges and opportunities. The down side is leaving the camaraderie of the Thunderbird and Division 3 fleets who have been such a wonderful group of yachties to us these past 16 years. Never fear though, once initiated as a Thunderbirder, it is for life so our friendships forged on and off the water will endure for many years to come.



This of course does open a position for a new Division 3 representative. Enthusiasm and participation are the only requirements with the optimism that the 'smaller' boats can return to stronger fleets and survive the pressures facing many in the demands of busy lives. All those interested please raise your hands!

And if your wife should happen to be having a birthday, there's a neat little blue boat for sale.....

URGENT SALE



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"Birribi" Endeavour 24

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Endeavour Report

Nomen Nescio, Fleet Representative

Down to the pointy end of the season now with the all important Lady Skippers Race and State Championships having been successfully completed.

The Ladies were out in force and in a closely contested cat fight, eight Endeavours fronted the starter. With the lead changing several times the race was ultimately won by the more attractive Finch – Megan in *Vagabond*. Monika Tschocner in *El Nino* was hot on her heels with Rachael Cox third in *Amber*. Hard luck stories were exchanged in the bar prior to Fleet Captain Mark Dymond presenting the coveted trophy to Tony Finch.



Meanwhile the IC Frith (Insurance Brokers) sponsored State Championships were a much tamer affair with honours again going to Michael Hallam in *Odette*. The series was superbly run by PRO John Hassan and his team of volunteers. A keen fleet of 13 boats including South of Perth

guns *Pompano* and *Intrinsic* fronted the starter. Also great to see the new owners out on *Weinglas* (Nic Kingdon) and *Nirvana* (Greg Nicholson).

After 6 closely fought races, *Vagabond* (Tony Finch) and *Odette* could not be separated

in first place and unfortunately Tony missed out on a countback by the barest of margins. Perennial bridesmaid *Amber* (Peter Cook) took third again. Special thanks to photographer Rob Kelly, who not only helped out on the marker boat but found time to take more than 300 photos which are posted on the Endeavour Facebook page.

Endeavourites, please note the diary for forthcoming events – Diggers Cup & Closing Day on 25th April and the E24 Prize Night on 13th July with the Winter Championships the following day. ■



On the social scene it was tremendous to see 47 Endeavour folk at the EFYC dinner. A total of over 150 attended from Royal Perth and the Endeavours certainly made their presence felt. Somebody should explain to Finchie the meaning of the Friday night curfew – or does this only apply to crews? It didn't do him any harm on the track as he took fastest time just a few hours later.



■ *Odette* in full flight.



We have well and truly passed the season mid point with the State Titles behind us and the end of the season looming.

As always the State Championship Regatta hosted by Royal Perth Yacht Club has turned out to be a highlight for the season.

This year, held again in Owen Anchorage in conjunction with the S97 Association, we had ten entrants for the eight race series under PRO Martin Clarke.

Winds varied from 5 knots light and variable, to 20 knots sea breezes with all in between but would generally have been considered a light winds series. Competition was fierce as always and the fact that there were five different winners of heats confirms this. Starting lines and courses were excellent and used up all the competitors energy particularly on the Saturday when breezes blew up.

The overall winner was *The Fifth Element* from RPYC sailed by Les Marshall with 3 wins and a net 15 points after dropping a worst result.

The handicap series run in conjunction with the event for the Surcouf Shield was won by *Uncle Louis* sailed by Jenny Richardson from *Rum Runner* sailed by Geoff Gammon.

All who took part are to be commended for a great regatta sailed in good spirits with serious competition in mind.

In particular, all competitors would like to thank the many people who worked hard to make it a success.

To Hayden and Rachel at the Club, for your patience and support; to Clem at the Annexe, a gracious and helpful host; to Jeff Crookes our tireless Secretary, and to our S97 friends who make up a happy partnership for this regatta each year.

Our thanks of course to the important PRO, Start team and buoy laying volunteers. You make our racing possible and we are very grateful.

A large number of photographs of the series have been taken and will be posted on the web site shortly.

Each year, and this one is no exception, the President is bombarded with messages on the difficulty in getting the boats down to the annexe, crew problems, long weekend difficulties and others. Each year however, sees all of us who took part, feeling we have done something special and taken part in a proper regatta and not just a bunch of races.

This special feeling was continued at the BBQ presentation held at RPYC on



the return of the boats on the Monday afternoon. A hundred people from both Associations turned up along with the sponsors and the festivities rounded off a great weekend.

A survey of participants will be undertaken shortly to enable the Committee to review the weekend for next year.

In the meantime let us enjoy the final few weeks racing on the Swan. ■



Spoil yourself and treat the ones you love to

High Tea Decadence

Enjoy free flowing Sparkling wine, traditional high tea stands with tea and coffee complemented by savoury morsels and sandwiches, classic scones with strawberry jam cream, and tantalizing sweet offerings.

Our resident pianist will have a relaxing selection of classics to top off an afternoon of perfection.

DATES TO BOOK:

Sunday, 14 April
Sunday, 16 June

Time: 3-5pm

\$35 per person, children \$16

Book on 9423 5511



Please note dietary requirements will need to be advised five days prior to the event.

The Labour Day long weekend is always the business end of S97 sailing season with the hosting of the 2013 S97 State Championships on Owen Anchorage. At one stage we were looking to have a record nine boats on the racetrack but as the closing time for nominations approached two skippers declared they had insufficient brownie points to allow a weekend of socialising and sailing. Ultimately Seven boats participated in idyllic 5-18 knot breezes on mostly flat water and perfect 30 degree temperatures for all three days.

On day one Hejira sailed by John Bailey and Simon Plunkett in Terra had two wins each as well as good placings to lead the fleet. Day 2 highlighted the closeness in competition with Mark Hannaford in Dejavu bouncing back with two wins

and Dennis Vincent in Wyuna Too having a well deserved win after suffering mainsail damage on day one. John Hughes in Polythene Pam also finished day three with a win in the final race in his favoured fresher breeze conditions.

Ultimately it was John Baileys consistency and a match race duel in the final race that won him the S97 State Championship followed by Simon Plunkett in Terra with Neville Johnson in DNA third.

A huge thanks is due to RO Martin Clarke with his start team and mark laying volunteers in getting eight races away successfully, despite a nervous wait for the breeze to settle on Sunday morning. Thanks also to Clem Rogers for hosting us at the annexe and the S80 association committee for leading the event organisation.



S97 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS			
PLACE	BOAT	SKIPPER	NET POINTS
1	HEJIRA	JOHN BAILEY	16
2	TERRA	SIMON PLUNKETT	18
3	DNA	NEVILLE JOHNSON	21
4	POLYTHENE PAM	JOHN HUGHES	26
5	WYUNA TOO	DENNIS VINCENT	26
6	DEJAVU	MARK HANNAFORD	27
7	STRESS MANAGEMENT	DUKE SNYDER	46

S97 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - CONSISTENCY RESULTS			
PLACE	BOAT	SKIPPER	NET POINTS
1	DNA	NEVILLE JOHNSON	18
2	WYUNA TOO	DENNIS VINCENT	22
3	POLYTHENE PAM	JOHN HUGHES	23
4	TERRA	SIMON PLUNKETT	26
5	STRESS MANAGEMENT	DUKE SNYDER	27
6	DEJAVU	MARK HANNAFORD	27
7	HEJIRA	JOHN BAILEY	32

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Classes start at 6:30pm.

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This is your opportunity to ask the questions and learn the secrets from our very own Chefs.

Our Chefs will prepare a three course meal that you can easily prepare for a dinner party at home.

Themes:

- **May 22 – Tapas/Spanish**
- **June 12 - Japanese**
- **July 10 – Gnocchi/Pasta**
- **August 21 – Leftovers**

\$45 per person including recipe notes, tastings of each course and a glass of wine paired with the main course!

Book for one course or for the whole series.

Please book on 9423 5500 or email kelly@rpyc.com.au

LIVE MUSIC

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AT THE FRIDAY NIGHT GRILL

Enjoy the sensational sounds of our baby grand piano and jazz musicians.

Why not start the weekend with a relaxing dinner at the Club.

Put the following dates in your diary:

26 April – Angelo Campano - Pianist

3 May – Sue Bluck - Pianist

10 May – Angelo Campano - Pianist

17 May – No entertainment - Keelboat Prize Night

24 May – Sue Bluck - Pianist

31 May – Sherrie Murphy - soloist

7 June – No Wardroom Grill - New Members Night

14 June – Angelo Campano - Pianist

21 June – Sue Bluck - Pianist

28 June – Angelo Campano - Pianist

5 July – Danni Stefanetti - solist

12 July – Sue Bluck - Pianist

19 July – Angelo Campano - Pianist

26 July – Sherrie Murphy - soloist

Book on 9423 5511

* Exceptions are special events or public holidays





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Spoil your Mum this Mothers Day.

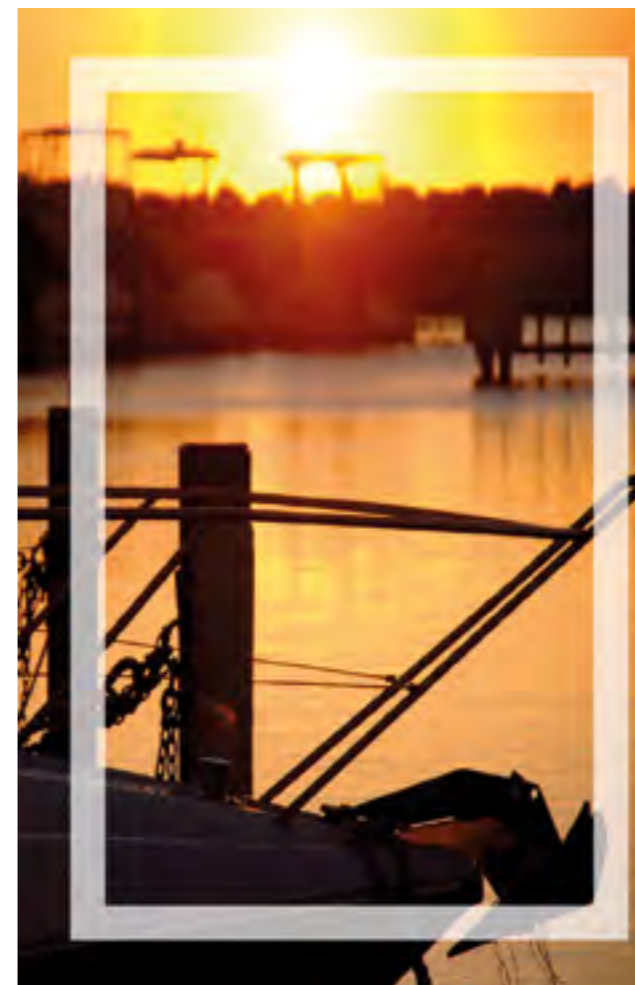
Select from a delightful a la carte menu for all age groups that will include breakfast and lunch selections.



Relax, immerse yourself in the stunning view, enjoy the company of your family as you are wooed by the soft sweet melody of our pianist on the baby grand piano.

The Wardroom will be open from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

Bookings are essential on 9423 5511



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Regular menu prices apply. All drinks and canapés will be delivered to the vessel and collected after your event.
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Japanese Night

Friday 7 June

Japanese cuisine is commonly referred to as the Bounty from the Mountain and the Ocean. In keeping, our Chefs have designed a sumptuous Buffet including well known favourites. Come along and welcome our new members to the Club who will be staying on for dinner after their new members night.

Adults \$60, Children \$30

To book, please call Gillian on 9423 5503





■ Ann Hodgkinson

“Be Active” Healthway Access Dinghy State Championships 2013.

This year for the first time, the Access Dinghy State Championships were held in conjunction with The Royal Perth Yacht Club's Mini Series which catered for approximately 10 different classes of dinghy. This was to promote the inclusion of sailors of all abilities, regardless of disabilities, into mainstream sailing and in particular regatta participation. The event was held over a hot, blustery weekend, with lively sailing conditions. Four Access Liberty dinghies competed in a seven race series. The competition was very close for a while, but there was a clear winner for most of the races – Sailability President Graeme Martin in his brand new Liberty *Mud Crab*. There was a tussle for 2nd and 3rd places between Mike Cull and Genevieve Wickham, with Mike just managing to claim 2nd place in the overall results. Tracy Odiam, in a commendable performance, was in close contact with the rest of the fleet for the whole weekend and received a “Most Improved Performance” Award for her persistence.

The Access 303 dinghies were represented in the Regatta by visually impaired sailor Ryan Honschooten, who was accompanied by a sighted observer. The fleets were supported by a Sailability



Rescue boat manned by volunteers throughout the weekend. Representatives from our sponsors were taken out to view the racing on a Race Committee power boat.

Sailability WA Inc held a trophy and medal presentation lunch, with the prizes being awarded by Katie O'Mara from WADSA. Graeme Martin was named new Access Dinghy State Champion for 2013.

Sailability WA Inc would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of the Regatta which was a great success. We appreciate the effort made by competitors, sponsors, volunteers and race management to make it a weekend of great sailing and very pleasant socialising.

National Sailability Conference in Canberra – March 2013

Sailability Australia will be hosting a National Conference at The Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra on 26th & 27th March 2013. President Graeme Martin will be attending to represent the interests of Sailability WA Inc. Committee member Graham White will also be attending and will present a paper detailing the history of the Sailability Program at Royal Perth Yacht Club. The

conference will cover key priority areas such as:

- An enhanced online presence for Sailability.
- An increase in participants completing recognised courses.
- Increased awareness and inclusion of people of all abilities in all sailing clubs.
- The development of strategies to attract and train more volunteers as the critical source for delivering the Sailability Programs.
- The development of a nationally consistent approach to including people of all abilities in all sailing activities.

A copy of Graham White's paper will be published on conclusion of the conference.

Success in New Zealand - Oceanbridge Sail Auckland 2013 – By Genevieve Wickham & Anne Fontanini

“Sailability Auckland gave me the opportunity to participate in the above regatta helming a Skud 18 at Sail Auckland, which was held at the Royal Akarana Yacht Club Auckland NZ from 1st to 5th February 2013. Racing was in the open two person format with the helm in the centre-line seats and crews on trapeze. Tim Dempsey who also competed at

the recent London Paralympic Games sailed with New Zealand Olympic 2012 Women's Match Racing skipper Stephanie Hazard on the wire and IACA President Brendan Tourelle, fresh from winning the Liberty Nationals and the Kiwi Cup, sailed with IACA Executive Officer David Staley from Melbourne, while I sailed with the NZ Paralympic coach Charlie Baillie Strong.

The “City of Sails” turned on its best for day one with 15 knots north easterly breezes for the over 200 sailors from 10 countries on the water racing in 16 different divisions.

The Skuds sailed on the Alpha course and after three races Charlie and I were in the lead winning all races. I was relieved that I did not make any big errors that might have seen my crew take a swim. There were some scary moments for



me along with amazing fun. Day two saw a similar result and we were really enjoying the experience of wind salt and speed. Good teamwork. Day three saw all our races postponed with breezes consistently exceeding 25knots.

On the final day strong winds gusting up to 30 knots pushed the sailors to their physical limits on Auckland's Waitermata Harbour. The Skud 18s finished their regatta with two races in fairly extreme conditions with wind against tide. In the final race Tim and Stephanie were leading but unfortunately a strong gust and a gennaker halyard cleat letting go saw Stephanie in the water. She was picked up by a safety boat and reunited with Dempsey on the Skud.

Tim was heard to say that they could not match our speed and that the open format was the most exciting and fastest ride he had ever had in a Skud. He found sailing with a talented Olympic sailor on the trapeze had been incredible. Charlie and I finished with eight wins after eight races, an absolutely amazing outcome and won a gold Medal at Sail Auckland 2013 - a grade one event. We made a great Team. The feeling



■ Genevieve's 40th birthday with friends

was something that I never dreamed possible. Absolutely awesome! The New Zealand Herald reported that we were among only three competitors at the regatta to win every race”.

Genevieve indicated that sailing the Skud was by far the most exciting experience

on the water for her since returning to sailing following a stroke in 2001. She was left with no language and was paralysed down the right side of her body. Sailability WA at RPYC along with the Ron Tough Yachting Foundation have supported her over the years to develop to this level of

competition and for her it has been a wonderful medium to regain language and develop communication skills, as well as having fun. Genevieve passes on her sincere thanks to all who supported and helped her to participate at Sail Auckland and to Sailability Auckland for giving her the opportunity to compete in the Skud and especially to her crew Charlie who trusted and guided her around the course.

Genevieve recently celebrated her 40th Birthday with friends at Sailability's Sunday morning session, with medals and cake!

Closing Dates for Sailability Supported Sailing Sessions:

Thursday Morning Session: 18th April 2013

Sunday Morning Session: 21st April 2013 (followed by BBQ for volunteers and members)

Wednesday Morning Session: 24th April 2013 (followed by BBQ for volunteers and members) ■



■ Genevieve



From the Archives

Visitors, Visitors and more Visitors, but we don't mind. If we are able to pass on useful and practical information re the collection, conservation and storage of history, then that is for the benefit of all. Recently Jeanette Robertson representing The Athletics Association of WA called in to view our systems and procedure's with the intent of setting up a controlled Archive for the Association. Like most sporting Clubs, Jeanette has had to contend with a room full of memorabilia and documents with little means of storage or recording processes. We have furnished the Association with a Small Archive Data Base Program called Tapestry which will assist them in establishing their Archive.

Jeanette was accompanied by Paul Druit, an Archivist from The Real Estate Institute of WA who are also using some of our Archival guidelines and Data Base.



Over the past weeks, John Anderson, a former Club member and Executive Officer on the Parmelia Race Committee, has been travelling from Busselton and spending a few days at a time in the Archives, sorting thru and transforming into a series of categories, approximately 1500 Parmelia Race Documents. This will enable researchers to be more specific when searching for race, crew or yacht information. He has been assisted by Commodore Wittenoom (1975-77) from down town Boyup Brook. John has also been attempting to correct some items of the Parmelia Race in Wikipedia. We are indebted to John for the many hours and miles travelled to assist us in the important recording process.

Recent Donations to the Archives

We would like to thank the following Members and Friends of R.P.Y.C.

Some weeks ago we were contacted by Neville Hills, who has donated a Trophy won by his wife's uncle. The trophy was the Dimmitt Cup, won by Cecil Bourne sailing *Pandora* in the 1935/36 sailing season. Cecil joined the Club in 1934. *Pandora*, formerly known as *Eldora 111* and *Mari Dhu*, was first registered with the Club in January 1920. She was a 24ft sloop, designed by J.Easton and built by Hudson Bros of Perth. J.A Dimmitt, the Trophy Donor joined the Club in the 1930 and was a member of several sailing committees.



Other donors were:

- Sylvia Foulkes – America's Cup Clothing
- Keith Stevenson – A series of photos of the launching of *Maid Marion* circa 1947.
- Lionel Bussell – A series of America's Cup Books on Australia 11.
- Peter Wiesner – A series of Racing Programs and past newsletters.
- Graham Owens – A collection of over seas Burgees and old Prize Night Programs.
- Ken Brookes – Historical notes on *Thera*.

Jon Readhead – Club Archivist



■ George Whittingdale Gwynne



Wanted

Looking for information on a Trophy called The "BB" Invisible Trophy. It has 3 engraved plaques, dated 1947 N.M.A.F.C. – 1948 R.P.Y.C. – 1960 R.P.Y.C.

The trophy is a turned wooden base with a diameter of 195mm, any clues?

Quiz

The February Quiz question in two parts:

Who was the Youngest Commodore to be elected at Royal Perth Yacht Club and how old was he when elected. Clue: In his later years, he was a well known Perth racing identity.

The winner was Commodore David Foulkes who was the first to correctly identify George Whittingdale Gwynne as the youngest Commodore.

George Gwynne was elected at the age of 31 but no one correctly guessed his age. Commodore Gwynne joined the Club in 1920 as a junior and commenced sailing in an 18ft clinker named "Solglyt". He later sailed with Commodore Tymms in "Geneveive" which he purchased in 1928 and sailed right up to the war. During the war, "Geneveive" was left in the care of Bill Morance, the Club Secretary. When George went missing thought to be a POW, his boat was sold rather than it go to pieces thru neglect. When the Commodore returned and found he had no boat, he purchased an 18 foot clinker which he sailed right up till his death.

April Quiz question:

What was the name of the first Diamond built in WA and in what year was she built?

First correct entry wins.

Please email your entry to: clubarchivist@rpyc.com.au or by phone to Jon on 0408 945 611.

Trivia

In the July 2008 edition of *In The Wind*, we noted that the first Yacht Club, was the "Water Club of the Harbour of Cork", now known as the Royal Cork Yacht Club, with a foundation date of 1720. In reviewing old newsletters, and with further research, we find that the above information was incorrect. The Neva Yacht Club or Central Yacht Club of the City of Leningrad, Russia was founded in 1718 some two years earlier by the Tsar later to become the Emperor of Russia, Peter the Great.

Members please note that your Archivists are on duty at the Club each Tuesday and Thursday from 0930 – 1430 for general access to records, Family and Club History inquiries.

Contact details: 08 9389 1555 or clubarchivist@rpyc.com.au



"Among national assets, archives are the most precious; they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization".
Quote by Arthur Doughty, July 1916 during the battle of the Somme.

Fremantle Annexe



■ Clem Rogers
Harbour Master

AUTUMN APPROACHES

With just a few weeks to go to the close of the summer season the Annexe has been quite busy this summer, but not as busy as it might have been expected, not sure if this was down to some fickle weather patterns, are our lives so busy these days that there is not so much time to give to boating pleasures?

ROTTNEST SWIM

Once again brave souls moved in to the Annexe throughout the afternoon and late evening of Friday February 21st in preparation to head off at

the crack of dawn to swim to Rottneest. The evening proved ominous and thunder and lightning with high winds and rain were the order, but by the time 4.30am was arriving and the sun, just appearing on the horizon, everything calmed down and almost glassed-out for the start. There is an amazing atmosphere in the Annexe for that hour or so as swimmers and their support boats prepare for the off and although it is an unearthly hour, to be a part of this very special event is very rewarding. Thankfully, all swimmers were safe and are no doubt already planning their 2014 campaign!

S80/S97 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – GOOD AS EVER!

The Labour Day long weekend saw the familiar sails of the fleets for S80's and S97's arrive in force at the Annexe. Thanks to the newly installed pontoons we had everyone moored up and raring to go for a great weekend's sailing. Competition was fierce and everything went down to

the wire to the final race. Congratulations to John Bailey S97 *Hejira* and Les Marshall S80 *Fifth Element* on their Championship wins.

As we draw a close to this summer, there are a couple of events which will be reported in the next issue, the Twilight sail and the "mustering" of the Beneteau Fleet as they head off for their Beneteau Cup weekend. All happening on the 5th April.

I would like to say a big "Thank-You" to all penholders here at the Annexe who support the endeavours to hold these yachting events here at this time of year. We do try to minimise the impact and effect on your activities and I know occasionally car parking becomes a bit stressed, but overall we do find everyone a space. Your patience and understanding is appreciated by all concerned.

SECURITY

The garrison fencing is now in place at the northern end, which we hope will deter

the mischievous rascals from encroaching our fence line. Plans are afoot to compliment our southern boundary fence during the winter months, raising the height of the boardwalk area to a minimum 1.8m

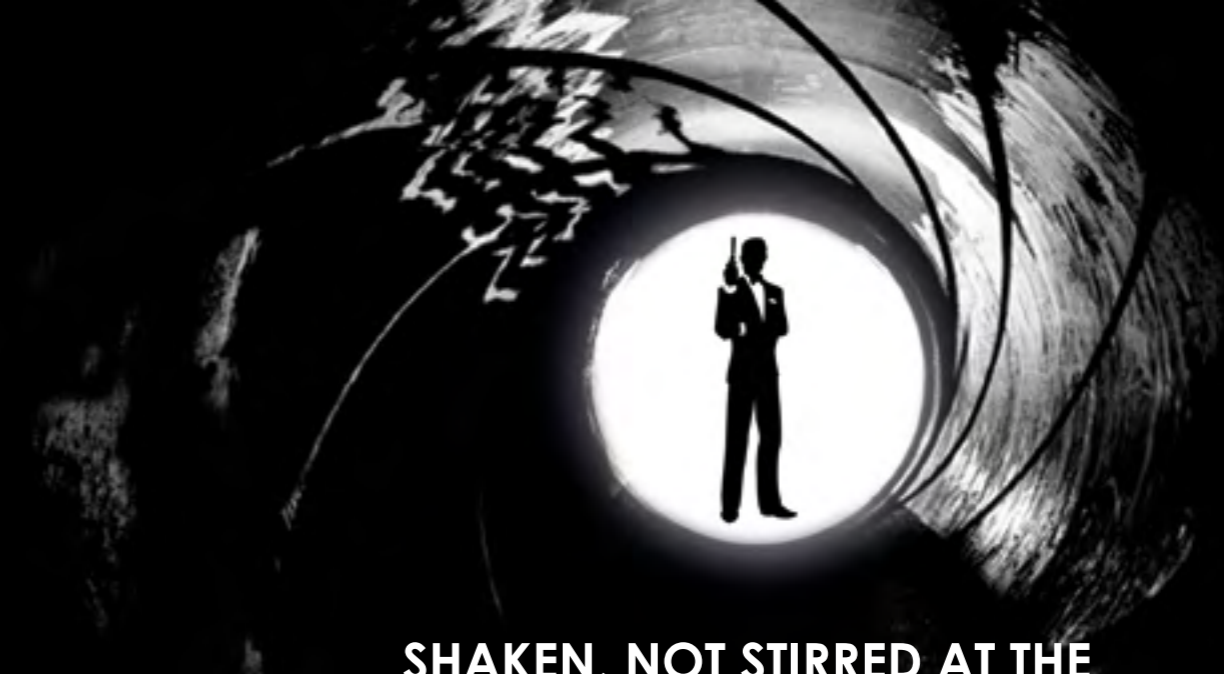
JETTY REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

Winter months will see some upgrading and ongoing repair work not able to have been completed this summer.

AUTUMN AND WINTER SAILING

Each year at this time I send a timely reminder that some of the best boating on the ocean, both for sail and power is during Autumn and Winter months, especially from April to June. Why not see if you can squeeze a few trips out from the Annexe? Just make sure you contact me early enough to book a space.

As always wishing you safe boating. ■



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BOATING REPAIRERS

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