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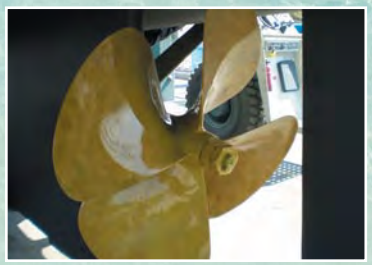

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FROM THE COMMODORE

The 2010-11 sailing season at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club seems to have disappeared in a blur and because my term as Commodore expires at the Annual General Meeting in July 2011, this will be my final Yachtsman report to you.

I thank members for entrusting me with leadership of our Club for the past three years. The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht club is held in high esteem on national and international stages and I have no doubt that my successors will continue to build on the traditions established over the last 144 years.

In the past year we've strived to comply with our Constitutional obligations; to promote and foster the sport of yachting and boating; to foster, promote and encourage races, matches, competitions and exhibitions in relation to yachting, boating and yacht racing.

For all the work that they have injected into our Racing, Cruising and Centreboard performance, I thank Rear Commodore Yacht Racing, Allen Stormon, Rear Commodore Cruising, Maurice Byrnes & Rear Commodore Centreboard, Pru Bennett, who will be relinquishing her post at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. Naturally, I thank all of the members of all of the allied committees.

As I move on, another obligation linked to our Constitution is to encourage and support social activities of all kinds and to provide dinners, dances, entertainment, amusements and the like. To that end we've pursued a vast programme of social engagements. Ensuring the success of each is always a test and I thank retiring Rear Commodore Activities David Pring and his committee for all their input.

Financial outcomes resulting from all our activities have been satisfactory. Income was $6.851M (2009-10 $6.576M) & an operating surplus of $622K (2009-10 $370K) was produced after depreciation of $882K ($2009-10 $869K).

This sound situation has paved the way for a raft of Constitutional amendments concerning membership which have been fostered by Rear Commodore Membership, Jill Connell and I am pleased that at a general meeting on 28 April 2011 members approved "re-labelling" of "Ordinary" membership to "General" membership, creation of "Youth" memberships for those aged 22 and under, refreshment of "Intermediate" memberships and the creation of a range of "Family" memberships have been agreed.

All are designed to address a paucity of members aged under 40 years of age and to attract whole families to our club and underpin our future Club and sporting wellbeing.

Again, I reinforce the importance of broadcasting the message that we will welcome "more younger members" and I rely on existing members to do exactly that. In this way we can help to help ourselves.

Further, I think that members should regard these Constitutional amendments as forerunners of others which future Boards will likely put forward in the short term as we seek better engagement between all RPAYC members.

As I move toward the conclusion of this summary, I offer my thanks to my fellow directors Chairman Eoin Asker, Vice Commodore Rob Curtis, Ian Audsley, Fred Bidwell and Brian Gray. I offer my thanks to each officer and volunteer of each Board and Rear Commodores Committee. Similarly, it'd be remiss not to thank our management team headed by General Manager Suzanne Davies.

Additionally, I also offer my thanks to the huge unmentioned network of "informal" volunteers to whom I have always been able to turn for help during my term as Commodore.

To close, I have no doubt that The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club will remain in safe hands as it heads toward its 150th year and I look forward to seeing you at the Club or on the water, hopefully in the company of "more younger members".

Russell Murphy
Commodore

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FROM THE VICE COMMODORE

At the conclusion of another busy summer season it is always worthwhile looking back at the year that was. We have had members cruising far horizons, competing and winning in youth, women and open state, national and world championships in a variety of classes. We have teams vying for the Olympics in London and other members that are becoming actively involved in the next America's Cup both on a crewing and support basis. Our members are racing up and down the east coast of Australia as well as enjoying what Pittwater has to offer on Saturdays year round, twilight weeknights and Wednesday afternoons. Both men and women alike come to participate on a weekly basis.

I think we would all agree that the Alfreds has a lot on offer. In saying this I would like to open a challenge to all members, that is to take the time and look on the club's website to find a copy of the Members Handbook. It gives a comprehensive overview of what is on offer as a member of the Alfreds. The value of membership and opportunities of participation here are second to none. You can do all types of racing against all types of competitors in all types of boats at all sorts of different times of the day. You can cruise with company in and out of Pittwater including the Coral Coast this winter. You have access to a world class marina and hardstand facility and you can have your boat slipped and antifouled at reduced rates. You can park in close proximity to your boat and access it by simply walking down the marina. You can do courses in sea safety, first aid, diesel mechanics, marine electrics, provisioning, offshore cruising preparation, radio certification and race rules to name a few and some of which are free.

In the training area you can access on water coaching in divisions free of charge, undertake specific coaching and sail training courses. You can come in and enjoy refreshments and excellent food and hospitality throughout the week. Your children can participate in centerboard racing, training and coaching. If your children choose to follow a yacht racing and match racing sail format then the world class Youth Development program here at the club is for you and if you are a lucky Dad, like me, you can see your children participating on the world stage and getting access to opportunities that we adults never had at that age.

If you want to crew on a race boat you can register on the crew register and talk with the sailing office and find that special spot. You have the opportunity of volunteering and assisting in the running of activities, race management, archive committee, communications, sail-training and in doing so becoming actively involved in the running of your clubs wide and varied activities.

If you need a venue for that special function or a family get together you have a first class option at the Alfred's and as a member, the venue to hire is free of charge. You can get a sweat up at the gym, have a quiet and romantic dinner at The Quadrant restaurant or join in at the happy hour on Friday evenings when other members come in to celebrate the end of the week and the start of the weekend. There are moorings around Pittwater and up the beautiful Cowan waterways that you can access and spend that quiet weekend away with friends. We have reciprocal membership with other well respected yacht clubs from around the world and in Australia and New Zealand. The club also has an excellent range of boating concessionaires there to help in any of the specialist boating areas.

I don't apologise for taking the time to list the benefits and opportunities open to the members of the Alfreds. I believe that we have a club that is world class and we sometimes need to be reminded of what we have and what is on our doorstep. It's there for us to use and participate in it would seem a waste not to do so. Membership is worthwhile and good value when you consider this extensive list on offer.

In saying this I would like to identify a major focus for me over the last 12 months and into the future. That is the area of membership. We have just undergone some Constitutional change to allow the Board and elected officers to put in place strategies that will promote new membership and work at retaining existing members. We are also focusing on families and intermediates. Given what we know we have to offer, this is a most worthwhile undertaking. I challenge all members to promote our club both with other existing members and with new members and non-members

All the best for the cooler months and next season and remember, participate and enjoy your club.

Rob Curtis
Vice Commodore

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General Manager's Report

By Suzanne Davies

2010/11 was a successful year and although the bulk of the work completed was 'behind the scenes' such as kitchen & cellar upgrades, I hope that members will see the benefits in terms of improved efficiencies, product and fewer disruptions to service. We finished the year with a solid surplus which exceeded budget, much attributed to the savings in maintenance costs due to recent installations of new on and off water equipment.

The Strategic Plan 2011-15 approved in mid 2010 after much analysis and discussion and provides management and committees with the guidance for priorities and decisions. The plan is available on the club website should you wish to peruse it, and at the risk of oversimplifying a 45 page plan, the key objectives are:

- Retaining and gaining new boat owning members
- Reducing the average age of members by appealing to members in the 30-40 years age bracket
- Increasing participation in on water events
- Provision of training programs that assist existing members to improve their skills and introduce new comers to the sport
- Directing the prioritisation of resources towards those initiatives that increase participation
- Nurturing the interests of Youth and Intermediate members so they remain engaged in sailing and the club
- Provision of food and beverage services and events that support sailing events and the sport generally
- Improvement of membership control and access systems
- To continue a conservative financial position and quarantine reserves for asset replacement
- Recruit, train and recognise volunteer resources and;
- Improvement of member communications through rationalisation and exploitation of technology.

Strategies to bring about these goals began last year with initiatives such as support for hardstand class boats, Constitutional amendments to introduce family membership and retain younger members, the introduction of the House Entitlement, the employment of a Club Concierge to name a few. Another strategy was the production of a Masterplan which is now well down the track and should be communicated to members later this year.

This year will also see the return of a boat show to the club in the form of the Pittwater Sail Expo scheduled for the week end of 24-25 March, 2012. This event is aligned with the strategic direction as it will provide a great opportunity to showcase the club and the sport of sailing. We are hoping to see all major production boat dealers on site along with a number of ancillary exhibitors.

Other activities that will be undertaken to achieve the strategic outcomes include the club wide member survey which is currently in progress, targeting of high profile class regattas, recognition of members who introduce new members to the club, economic incentives to facilitate easy participation in on water events, alteration to parts of the sailing program to cater to younger members and a host of other activities.

Management's main project for 2011/12 will be the implementation of a more capable and integrated software suite. Solutions are currently under consideration and it is hoped that a higher level of integration afforded by a new system will provide administrative efficiencies and improved information. Members will see many benefits such as account viewing on line, payments via the website and improved member communications.

With regard to capital works, I am sure members will agree that the new Services Wharf looks great and will provide additional tie up space for those wishing to visit the club after a race or when popping in for lunch. We ask that those wishing to tie up come by reception and book in on arrival. The pump out is still located on this wharf and thus there is a 30 minute limit in this space.

The next projects to occur will be an upgrade of the playground, a new staging wharf and crane at Green Point and the resurfacing of the Crystal Bay car park along with improved fencing and landscaping.

Whether racing, cruising or volunteering this year, good luck and happy sailing! I look forward to seeing you in Newport and enjoying your club.

Massive storm brews over the RPAYC

Race review

By Allen Stormon, Rear Commodore Yacht Racing

For our club to prosper we need to attract younger boat owner members and reduce the current average age of membership.

The EGM in April 2011 passed several resolutions to change the structure of our membership offering to make it more attractive to join the club and participate in our racing, especially for families.

The Yacht Race Committee has conducted a review of our racing calendar, to determine how our sailing events cater for existing members whilst also attracting new members.

The key change is that we want members and guests to be able to go racing on Pittwater every Saturday, except for public holidays.

We have kept the events with strong support and adjusted or removed those with poor participation.

– The 'Inshore' point score is being retained in its current course format. There will be spring and summer prizes, as well as an overall trophy.

– The 'Short Offshore' point score remains unchanged, except for some new courses. If we get more entries we will consider divisional point scores.

– For the 'Blue Water' series we are looking into holding another Cat 2 race, to encourage greater participation and help members get ready for the 'Pittwater to Coffs' race.

– The 'Broken Bay' series was poorly supported and will be replaced by the 'Pittwater' point score. This series will have passage courses that can allow the crews to relax on longer legs unlike the many corners in the 'Inshore' courses. There will be spring and summer prizes, as well as an overall trophy.

– The 'One Design' fleets are the most attractive offering we have for younger members. We recognise family commitments don't always allow the time required to win an overall point score so the sprints will have monthly winners as well as an overall trophy.

– The 2nd Alfred's Festival of Sail will be run over the weekend of the 5th & 6th of November 2011; with SOPS, Fleet and Cruising events. Hopefully we'll have some fine weather this year. The Melges 24 &32 fleets will be running their 'East Coast Championships' once again as part of the festival.

– 'Production Boat Division' is being trialled April to July. This will allow members and visitors to try out racing with the family, without the pressures of fleet racing. If successful we will include races throughout the spring/summer season.

It's been a busy year and I must thank my family for giving me the support this job requires.

Also thanks to Commodore Russell Murphy for his support. I'm sure he will follow tradition and offer advice in the future; wanted or unwanted.

Finally, I would like to thank all the YRC members, the Race Officers and the Yachting Office staff. Their time and commitment to our club means we experience the variety and quality of racing many clubs are envious of.

Alfred's Festival of Sail on water action

2010-2011 Annual

Trophy	Event	Winner	Owner/s
Bluewater Series			
Alyth Trophy	Bluewater Series	The Real Thing	Garry Holder
King Edward VII Trophy	Botany Bay Race	Jayhawk	Robert Alder
R. Greenwood Trophy	Pittwater/Newcastle Race	The Real Thing	Garry Holder
Short Ocean Pointscore			
	Short Ocean Pointscore	So Farr	Bob Bennett
Broken Bay Pointscore			
Albert Gold Cup	Offshore Fleet 1	Alibi	Barry Jackson
Hornblower Trophy	Offshore Fleet 2	Allegro	Roger Pottie
King Edward VII Jug	Offshore Fleet 3	Tempus	David Langley
Lighthouse Trophy	Etchells Fleet	Miramar	Mark Doyle
Luerella II Cup	11m Fleet	Pacesetter	Doyle/McPhail
Inshore Pointscore			
R.E.Cunningham Trophy	Fleet 1	Cloud Nine	Ron Hayden
Albert Gold Cup II	Fleet 2	Starlight	Julien Noakes
Michael Guermonprez Trophy	Fleet 3	Cirrus	David Batchen
Calibre Trophy	Etchells Fleet	Miramar	Mark Doyle
Bird Bowl	11m Fleet	Pacesetter	Doyle/McPhail
Beatrix Harvey Memorial	Melges 24 Fleet	Arriba Arriba	Jason McHattan
Sydney 38s			
	Spring Pointscore	Eye Candy	Dawson/Ward
	Summer Pointscore	Eye Candy	Dawson/Ward
Club Pointscore Trophy Day Awards			
Race Official's Trophy	Trophy Day 1 Fleet 1	Next Moment	Ray Hudson
Hedley Bryant Trophy	Trophy Day 1 Fleet 2	Sirocco	John Ellis
A.N. Thomson Trophy	Trophy Day 1 Fleet 3	Zucherro	Michael Brown
Ailsa Trophy	Trophy Day 2 Fleet 2	Una Vita	Bruce Lakin
Joy West Trophy	Trophy Day 2 Fleet 3	Isolde	Isolde Syndicate
Commodores Cup			
Sir Rupert Clark Trophy	Mini Regatta Etchells Fleet	Miramar	Mark Doyle
	Mini Regatta 11m Fleet	Pacesetter	Doyle/McPhail
Gypsy Moth	Mini Regatta Melges Fleet	Matilda	Curtis/McConaghy
Commodores Trophy	Fleet 1	Eye Candy	Chris Dawson/Gavin Ward
Commodores Trophy	Fleet 2	Hansky	Jeff Rice
Commodores Trophy	Fleet 3	Isolde	Isolde Syndicate
Waterford Trophy 2010			
Waterford Trophy	Fleet 1	Fudpucker	Ross Hennessy
Waterford Trophy	Fleet 2	Good Form	Joachim Fluhrer
Waterford Trophy	Fleet 3	Dancelot	Richard Pearse
Winter Series			
Graeme Norman Memorial Trophy	Fleet 1	Stonybroke	Robin Tedder
Graeme Norman Memorial Trophy	Fleet 2	Pacesetter	Doyle/McPhail
Graeme Norman Memorial Trophy	Fleet 3	Lanakila	Brian Gray

Prize Giving Results

Trophy	Event	Winner	Owner/s
Wednesday Racing			
	Spring PS Fleet 1	Cloud Nine	Ron Hayden
	Spring PS Fleet 2	Good Form	Joachim Flurer
	Spring PS Fleet 3	Portia	Jim DeMontfort
	Summer PS Fleet 1	Pretty Woman	Pretty Woman Syndicate
	Summer PS Fleet 2	Summersalt	Johnson/Mander
	Summer PS Fleet 3	Sylvia	Laurence Eastwood
Early Bird Series			
	Fleet 1	Cloud Nine	Ron Hayden
	Fleet 2	Pegasus	Roger Prior
	Fleet 3	Isolde	Roger Vincent
Two Handed Series			
Gypsy Moth Trophy	Inshore Fleet	Tempnet	Curtis/McConaghy
Gypsy Moth Trophy	Offshore Fleet	The Real Thing	Garry Holder
Gypsy Moth Trophy	Ladies Offshore Fleet	Secret Men's Business	Evelyn Curtis
Ladies Twilight			
Ladies Evening Pointscore Trophy	Ladies Twilight	Cape Fear	Susan Walters
Old Timers Race			
Old Timers Trophy	Old Timers Race	Back in Business	Skipper: John Buckland
Gwen Slade Trophy			
Gwen Slade Trophy	Gwen Slade	Odyssey	Rosemary Merrington
Dicko Cup			
Dicko Cup	Dicko Cup	Pegasus	Roger Prior
Open Day Trophy			
Basin Trophy	Opening Day Division 1	Pretty Woman	Pretty Woman Syndicate
Special Awards			
Participation Trophy	Participation in Most Club Events	Witchcraft	Bruce Staples
Yachtsman of the Year			
Most accomplished Club member			Daniel Fitzgibbon
Trygve Halvorsen Trophy			
Offshore achievement of the year		First Light	Mark Rutherford, Chris Ryan
Alan Rich Trophy	Best performing Club yacht	The Real Thing	Garry Holder
Colin "Fossil" White Gun Boat Trophy	Boat with the most race wins on scratch without winning their Fleet	Sweet 16	Allen Stormon
Volunteer of the Year	Outstanding contribution		Rob Starkey
Charlie Barr Trophy	Most Improved Fleet 3 Boat of the Year	Stressfree	Jim Bullough

30th Pittwater & Coffs Harbour Offshore Series

By Damian Devine

The Fleet leave Barrenjoey for the start of the 30th race

The 30th Anniversary Pittwater to Coffs Harbour yacht race was staged in 2011 with 49 starters getting away at 1pm on the 2nd January. The fleet were graced with a 15-18 knot Sou' Easter to get them off to a blistering start, quickly disappearing beyond Cape Three Points in next to no time as the sky filled with Code zeros.

The best of the start was to be seen at the pin end with 'Santana 3' the first to jump, closely followed by 'Quest,' 'Pretty Woman' and pre-race favourite, Bob Oatley's 66ft 'Wild Oats X.' The boat end was heavily populated with 'Mr. Beaks Ribs' just squeezing out 'Menace' and 'About Time' enjoying the best of the start at the windward end of the line along with 'Occasional Coarse Language' and 'Kioni.'

On the first night, a huge low formed off the coast and the forecast Southerly hit the back of the fleet at around 8pm with 35-45 knot gusts recorded, providing an eventful night at sea with five retirees due to damage and 'Infinity,' a Cavalier 350 hitting Seal Rocks, putting out a mayday call around 3am. One crewman RPAYC member Bob Mander, was injured after bumping his head and spent a night in Manning Hospital with a gash in his eye that required stitches.

'Brand X,' the first retiree was dismasted after a heavy gust whilst Craig Ellis' 'Future Shock,' sailing in the shorthanded Division, reported, "Unfortunately we got hit with a 35 knot gust, broke the mast head halyard, letting our kite go over the bow and underneath us and of course around the keel. Our race is over."

This year, the Coffs Committee allowed Shorthanded sailors the opportunity to race the 226nm ocean race in their own Division, one of the few offshore events in Australia for these committed sailors. Whilst only a handful of boats entered, it was well received by the competitors.

With 'Future Shock' out of the race, the three remaining boats in the Shorthanded Division were within sighting distance and pushing each other all the way. With no luxury of additional crew for watch duties, there was no pillow time for these sailors and they were easy to pick at the finish end, looking shattered after having a "bit on" in their race. Jennifer Fitzgibbon's Sayer 10.6m 'Soothsayer' was the eventual winner.

'Wild Oats X' led from start to finish but could not shake off Bob Steel's TP52 'Quest,' both sailing in and out of the front that hit the back of the fleet. With a race record looking ominous early, light air slowed them down overnight between Forster and Port Macquarie to keep it safe for another year.

Wild Oats X' crossed the finish line to take line honours in a time of 23hrs 6mins 12secs. Skipper Mark "Ricko" Richards and crew executed the perfect gybe to lay the finish into the tight entrance to the Harbour. They seamlessly dropped their shute and put up a Code Zero, surfing across the finish line doing 18 knots in a 18knot Sou' Easter, to put on a fantastic show for the hordes of locals and tourists waiting for them at the finish line. They were rewarded with the Coffs Harbour line Honours Bell Trophy and a case of beer.

"Ricko" commented, "It was a quick, tricky, tactical race! We kept running out of the breeze all night and the smaller boats ran up to us about ten times during the evening. We had a lot of breeze at times, peaking at 36 knots and we were doing 27 knots out there delivering some great rides, and then nothing. But it was just one of those races." The win made it six Line Honours wins for the 'Wild Oats' franchise in the past nine years, an amazing feat and the third for 'Wild Oats X' after their wins in 2005 and 2006.

Runner up was 'Quest,' a little over half an hour behind. Steel was happy with his performance and happy to be back in Coffs Harbour after his IMS handicap win back in 2000.

"We got here in less than 24 hours and we got here in second spot, so that's

Left to right: Wild Oats X leaving Barrenjoey – Julian Farren Price's 'About Time' IRC Handicap winner 30th race & series – Future Shock, one of the retirees from the race sailed shorthanded

pretty good in itself. It was nice to turn left for a change, we felt it was important to come in this race and celebrate the 30th Anniversary, it was a bit of fun." Tactically, the majority of the fleet sailed within the Rhumb line, riding the surf line in an attempt to get out of the strong Northerly current and stay within the narrow corridor of breeze. Handicap honours constantly changed throughout the race and with the introduction of the Yellow Brick trackers, they allowed everyone to keep real time tabs on the leaders and where everyone was on the race track. The web based tracking system was welcomed by competitors, families, supporters and media and a real step forward for the race.

John Santifort, with the crew of the 30ft Carats N Kilos, PHS winner of Pittwater to Coffs Race

Pre-race favourite, CYCA's Julian Farren-Price's Cookson 12 'About Time' won the IRC title in a corrected time of 30hrs 31mins 33 secs. This followed up his victory in 2009. He won from John Bacon's ' Hussy,' another pre-race favourite and 'Close Halled' from LMYC in third.

Farren-Price was elated with his win, "Winning this race for the second time is the best thing that's ever happened to me in all my years of sailing and to win the 30th race, that's really special. They were exciting conditions and we experienced a top of 34 knots of breeze and had the boat sitting on 17 knots during the race. We broke some sails, but we managed to hang in there."

The smallest boat in the fleet, the Hick 30 'Carats N Kilos' skippered by John Santifort took out PHS overall, proving that even the smallest boat can win a Coffs Race. The duo from the RPAYC, John McConaghy's , 'Second Time Around' and Gary Holder's 'The Real Thing' were second and third.

The last boat to cross the finish line in the 30th Pittwater to Coffs race was RPAYC's Jim Bullough's Catalina 42 'Stress Free,' who arrived in Coffs Harbour at 3:15am. He was granted redress of two hours elapsed time for standing by 'Infinity' when she ran into trouble off Seal Rocks.

In terms of the five race series, three of the four races were completed off the Solitary Islands with driving rain and no breeze forcing the AP flag up on the final day and restricting it to just one 19.2nm race around the Island.

'About Time,' emulated what she achieved in 2009, picking up the IRC race/series double. With three wins and a second in the four races, she won the title comfortably with a scorecard of 4.5 from 'Hussy' on 9 and 'Quest' in third on 9.5 points.

The boat built for Coffs Harbour seemingly, Farren-Price said, "Well you know I think the boat might know its own way here, it talks to us, whispers to us about what we should be doing. The conditions were certainly very good for us with lots of downwind reaching which is what we like, we're absolutely delighted."

In a tightly contested PHS Division, Garry Holder's 'The Real Thing' was sitting in second place going into the final race, a half point behind John McConaghy's 'Second Time Around' and a point ahead of defending champion Rob Alder's J35 'Jayhawk. It was clear and simple, whoever was on top in the final race out of the trio, would determine the winner.

With the two 35 footers 'The Real Thing' and 'Jayhawk,' getting off to flyers it was game on. 'Second Time Around' was hot on their heels. 'The Real Thing,' finished only two minutes behind 'Second Time Around' but on corrected time took the spoils from her two rivals. In the end, she took the series title by a mere half point on 7.5 from 'Second Time Around' in second on 8 and 'Jayhawk' in third on 10.5 points.

Owner/ Skipper Garry Holder, commented, "This is my first series win and I'm really pleased. It all came down to the final race and we knew it would be a real challenge particularly in the murky conditions. It was an interesting race and we just kept the pressure on."

"We've had a good competition with 'Second Time Around' and 'Jayhawk' over the series , it's been really close.

With consistent results across the four races with a 2-3-1-3 finish, Holder concluded with, "It just goes to prove you've got to be consistent to win this series."

Russell Murphy, Commodore of The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club had the final word summing up his thoughts on the 30th Pittwater & Coffs Harbour Offshore series this way, "It's been a great series, we have had all types of conditions, the competitors and their families have all had a good time and we've had excellent racing. We look forward to next year to come back to Coffs to continue the tradition of this fabulous event."

"My thanks to the Coffs Harbour Yacht Club, the Coffs Harbour Marina, the army of volunteers involved and everyone who has made this a great event."

Left to right: The TP52 Bob Steel's Quest – RPAYC's John Bacon's 'Hussy' finished 2nd overall IRC race & series – Mark Richards celebrates another Line Honours victory

30th Pittwater & Coffs Harbour Offshore Series Results

Entries: 49

Line Honours:
1. Wild Oats X (23hr 6 min 48 secs), Mark Richards, RPAYC
2. Quest, Bob Steel, CYCA
3. Shortwave, Matthew Smejlis, CYCA

Corrected Time:

IRC Overall:
1. About Time, Julian Farren-Price, CYCA
2. Hussy, John Bacon, RPAYC
3. Close Halled, Graeme Hall, LMYC

PHS Overall:
1. Carats N Kilos, John Santifort, CYCA
2. Second Time Around, John McConaghy, RPAYC
3. The Real Thing, Garry Holder, RPAYC

ORCi:
1. Kerisma, Grant Dawson, MHYC
2. The Real Thing, Garry Holder, RPAYC
3. Nine Dragons, Bob Cox, MHYC

Shorthanded:
1. Soothsayer , Jennifer Fitzgibbon, MYC
2. OutsideEdge, Peter Gaddes, MBYC
3. Dream Lover, Rick Morgan, MBYC

IRC Div 1:
1. About Time, Julian Farren-Price, CYCA
2. Witchcraft, Bruce Staples, RPAYC
3. E11even, David Elliott, RQYS

IRC Div 2:
1. Hussy, John Bacon, RPAYC
2. Close Halled, Graeme Hall, LMYC
3. Nine Dragons, Bob Cox, MHYC

PHS Div 1:
1. Second Time Around, John McConaghy, RPAYC
2. The Real Thing, Garry Holder, RPAYC
3. OutsideEdge, Jennifer Fitzgibbon, MYC

PHS Div 2:
1. Carats N Kilos, John Santifort, CYCA
2. First Light, Chris Ryan, RPAYC
3. Freya, William Hutchinson, RSYS

Overall Series:

IRC:
1. About Time, Julian Farren-Price, CYCA
2. Hussy, John Bacon, RPAYC
3. Quest, Bob Steel, CYCA

PHS:
1. The Real Thing, Garry Holder, RPAYC
2. Second Time Around, John McConaghy, RPAYC
3. Jayhawk, Robert Alder, RPAY

ORCi:
1. Soothsayer, Jennifer Fitzgibbon, MYC

Other:

Fun & Friendly Award: Witchcraft, Bruce Staples

Navigator's Trophy: Pretty Woman, Michael Lockley, RPAYC

Shorthanded winner: Soothsayer, Jennifer Fitzgibbon

Overall PHS series winner: The Real Thing, Garry Holder

Mark Richards and crew with the Line Honours Bell Trophy

All photos by Damian Devine

Fleet 1 Report

By Chris Heraghty, Fleet Captain

Despite the global financial crisis and the natural disasters across our nation over the past year, the sport of sailing is still buoyant with large fleet sizes at all major regattas on the east coast of Australia.

Congratulations to Bob Oatley, Mark Richards and crew of 'Wild Oats XI' for another line honours win in the Sydney to Hobart. 'Wild Oats X' also scored a line honours win in this year's 30th Anniversary Pittwater to Coffs Race. Marcus Blackmore and crew on 'Hooligan,' with no time to spare after launching their TP52, went out and won IRC Division 1 in the Audi Victoria Week, followed by IRC Division 1 win in the Audi Sydney Harbour Regatta.

This year's Pittwater and Coffs series was a hard fought battle in PHS with 'The Real Thing' Garry Holder winning by half a point to 'Second Time Around' John McConaghy and 'Jayhawk' Robert Alder a further 21/2 points behind. John Bacon and crew on 'Hussy' picked up second place on IRC.

'The Real Thing's' success continued with Garry Holder and crew winning The Bluewater Series and 'Witchcraft' Bruce Staples taking out first place IRC.

The Broken Bay Offshore Series did not get a lot of support this season with the majority of our fleet choosing to sail the SOPS Series. First in the Broken Bay Offshore was 'Outlandish' Chris Heraghty with Barry Jackson's 'Alibi' finishing second.

Saturday's Inshore Pointscore Series was closely contested with 'Cloud Nine' Ron Hayden taking out the series in first place, followed by 'Next Moment' Ray Hudson second and 'Alibi' Barry Jackson third. IRC first place 'Alibi,' second place 'Next Moment' and in third was 'Bombolo' David Boekmann.

The Sydney 38 Pointscore Series – first place 'Eye Candy' Chris Dawson/Gavin Ward, second place 'The Bolter' Rick Welch, third place 'Argie Bargie' Chris Lancaster.

The Commodores Cup was won by 'Eye Candy' Chris Dawson/Gavin Ward.

On behalf of Division 1, I would like to thank all the volunteers for their efforts over the past year.

Fair sailing.

Fleet 2 Report

By Roger Pottie, Fleet Captain

Saturday Fleet 2 summer racing had smaller fleet participation than in recent times. The perennial question of crew recruitment appears to be a major factor in the reduced competitor numbers and perhaps a more pro-active approach is needed. Inshore Fleet 2 competitors numbered from 8 to 10 whilst Broken Bay competitors numbered only 4 to 5. Competition in the three non-pointscore Commodores Cup races was at best only 4 boats.

Nevertheless all racing was extremely enjoyable. The competitive spirit of the participants coupled with the "races within the race" not to mention the fair winds made for magic Saturday afternoons. Proposed changes to the racing program for the forthcoming racing season will hopefully make racing more varied and interesting. The proposal to accept entries from non-member boat owners provided our membership value is safeguarded will also hopefully assist in boosting competitor numbers.

The inshore pointscore was won by the well sailed 'Starlight' (Julian Noakes) closely followed by 'Sweet 16' (Allen Stormon) with the consistent 'Good Form' (Joachim Fluhrer) third. The result was in doubt until the final leg of the last race. The Broken Bay pointscore resulted in a win for 'Allegro' (Roger Pottie, yours truly) followed by 'Pegasus' (Roger Prior) with 'Hansky' (Jeff Rice) third.

On behalf of Fleet 2 competitors thank you to the start boat volunteers and to the staff in the club's yachting office.

Fleet 3 Report

By Norm Weaver, Fleet Captain

Fleet 3 is a strong division with a good mix of racing / cruising yachts with strong camaraderie between all the crews. The 2010/2011 Season saw close racing in both the inshore and Broken Bay pointscores.

The inshore pointscore had 14 entrants. 'Cirrus' (David Batchen) showed outstanding consistency, taking the title by a margin of three points without getting a single 1st place in the competition, but with 4 podium places. 'Hun Sea Baby' (Alun Black) was second and 'Cantina' (Crombie / Pratt) third.

The popular Broken Bay series provided Fleet 3 crews with the opportunity to improve our sailing skills by sailing in truer winds, handling different sea and wave conditions and more direct courses, compared to Pittwater's inconsistencies with flat water, courses and wind constricted by the land. There were also 14 entrants in the Broken Bay series - the winner of the pointscore was 'Tempus' (David Langley), closely followed by 'Hetaira III' (Donald Silver) and 'Razzamatazz' (Norm Weaver).

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Beneteau Regatta on Pittwater

By Lisa Ratcliff

Start of the Beneteau Pittwater Regatta. Credit Nicole Scott

Thirty-four Beneteau owners and their crews proved they aren't fair weather sailors, defying Saturday morning's dramatic early downpour to front up for the annual Beneteau Cup Pittwater Regatta.

Following a brief rain squall midway through their race, competitors were rewarded when the northern beaches waterway turned on its best, a constant light ESE breeze and more sunshine than had been seen for a week as Sydney took a well earned break from the 'big wet.'

Ron Jones' First 44.7 'Sledgehammer' (RPAYC) knocked the rest of the fleet out of contention with a line honours and overall spinnaker division win. Club mate Gerry Hatton's defending 40.7 'Bushranger' stuck like glue to the slightly larger Beneteau and cheekily was leading at one point, but couldn't hang on over the 10 nautical mile course.

Jones has taken out the Sydney Beneteau Regatta previously but the Pittwater edition was proving elusive, until Saturday's victory.

"It's a great all-round boat, you can race competitively then put the coffee pots back on and have a lot of fun," Jones said at the evening trophy presentation held at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club.

The spinnaker division was first off the downwind start line to the east of Scotland Island, Fritz Mare's First 53f5 'Ocean Road' and Mark Rutherford's First 36.7 'First Light' getting a clean break before they and those trailing hit a brick wall of no wind.

Those 14 owners who went to the effort of cleaning hulls were thankful for the extra slip through the water when Pittwater resembled a quilt with patches of breeze and no breeze, competitors quickly going from hero to zero.

"Never rip your ticket up on Pittwater" is a famous local saying and it rang true on Saturday with rain over the Central Coast to the north, ominous clouds building to the south that saw the wind back around, a sudden easterly rain squall that had crews scrambling for wet weather gear and finally a glorious shortened course finish with barely a cloud in sight.

Hatton's 'Bushranger,' with offshore yachting identity and son-in-law Michael Fountain calling tactics, valiantly challenged for both line and handicap honours but had to be satisfied with runner up for both in the spinnaker division. John and Allen Stormon's First 34.7 'Sweet 16' finished third.

In the non spinnaker division Bob Southerton's First 50 'Bullrush,' his eighth Beneteau, was the winning boat, comfortably taking line honours and narrowly the corrected time win with a margin of 39 seconds.

"It's always a great day," commented Southerton after collecting his prizes. "At one stage I had the breeze on my back and my wind indicator was telling me the wind was coming from the opposite direction."

Olympic sailor Neville Whitty was the MC at the morning briefing and evening prize giving. His talents were also auctioned off to the highest bidder in a silent raffle for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Frits Mare made a $500 donation to the worthy charity for the privilege of having one of the country's most recognised yachtsmen aboard his boat, 'Ocean Road,' which finished mid-fleet.

It wouldn't be a Beneteau Regatta without some drama. Last year a competitor tangled with the start boat and this year Richard Fleck's 'Scruffy' crew had to fend off the protruding anchor on Anthony Bell's impressive 57 'The Count' at a congested mark rounding at Soldiers Point near Coasters Retreat.

For the first time in the event's 11 year history, Lagoon catamarans were invited to take part with a Lagoon 400 and a 380 adding variety to the spectacle.

Two Beneteaus, Barry Sale's 'Champs Elysées' and Paul Gulliksen's First 285 'Dirty Work,' the smallest in the fleet, made the trip down from Gosford to take part. In the end 'Dirty Work's' crew decided it was too much like hard work and pulled the pin. It's unconfirmed whether their retirement was related to the complainant who called out to organiser Shane Crookshanks that their boat had run dry of wine.

For five entries, including four Oceanis 37s, Saturday's Cup marked their maiden race and for two, 'Seas the Day' and 'The M Factor,' it's their only annual race outing.

Crookshanks, Beneteau's Pittwater agent, was delighted with the turnout, particularly given the weather leading up to Saturday, commenting: "It was a great day on the water; our sponsors, owners and their crews out enjoying themselves, as usual!

Sledgehammer heading to line honours win. Credit Nicole Scott

"Hooligan" takes it to the "Max" and wins 63rd Brisbane to Gladstone Race

By Hooligan crew

Max steering Hooligan

Gladstone trophy Marcus Blackmore with Max Vos

Marcus Blackmore's new TP52 'Hooligan' continued their winning streak of the Rolex Trophy, Audi Geelong Race Week, Audi Sydney and the NSW IRC Championships by winning the 63rd Brisbane to Gladstone Race.

Marcus purchased the TP52 from Team New Zealand at the end of the 2010 Med Cup season then optimising it to compete in the 2011 Audi Australian IRC Championships. With club members Tim Wiseman and Terry Wetton running the program, it comes as no surprise the team is full of some of the best sailors to come through the club's ranks.

So to make sure we keep bringing those great sailors through the club and building a link to today's top IRC grand prix yachts, Marcus wanted to get the club's junior sailors involved. So he asked Terry to get in contact with Tom Spithill to choose a junior he thought has earnt a spot to be part of the Hooligan crew for the NSW IRC Championships at Port Stephens and the 63rd Brisbane to Gladstone Race.

That person was Max Vos. Max was a credit to Youth Development at the club and to his other coach Tracks Gordon. His capabilities on the boat and to mix with the crew were outstanding.

The yacht returns to the club shortly, where Marcus intends to enjoy doing a few Wednesday afternoon races where he hopes a few more juniors can get to have a sail. Then it's off to Southport in July for the next stage of the Australian IRC Championships, Sydney to Southport and finally Hamilton Island Race week.

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Ladies Fleet Report

By Elizabeth Wood

This year's ladies' fleet kicked off the winter cobwebs with an early spring start for what is now the annual Tag Teams Regatta, with many skippers getting in early to secure the boat of their choice and good crews. Once again the forecast for the day was for fluky winds which alleviated the pressure on the skippers to find enough girls to stack the rails. Unfortunately it also meant a delayed start which was frustrating for both the teams and the Race Officials.

Team Pink – aboard the Sydney 38 'Risk' skippered by Learne Dooley

Ultimately the four teams got off to a splendid start with varying tactical decisions as to which boat to send out first enhancing the competition on the day.

Three races were squeezed into the agenda, with Team Blue unable to shake Team Pink's winning combination of Learne Dooley (Sydney 38 'Risk'), Alex Murray (11 Metre OD 'Fifth Element') and Claire Bell (Force 24). As usual that event was run in a most professional manner by Steve Merrington (Race Officer) and his helpers and Stuart Templeton provided some very helpful tips to the newcomers in the field.

This event was a great warm up for the start of the 15th annual Tuesday ladies' twilight series, with nine races run from October 2010 through to March 2011. This year saw 18 yachts entered and regularly at least 10 starters for each race.

For her fourth time, Susan Walters (former twice world champion) convincingly took out that series, skippering the very competitive 'Cape Fear' with a final and very impressive series score of 12, followed up by Lyndall Bacon (2nd) and Liz De Soyres (3rd), both with a series score of 17. The series was capped off by the infamous "Little Black Dress" dinner attended by 85 skippers, competitors and some lucky partners.

A special mention should go to Di Fitzgerald, first time entry (fourth place) and also to Virginia McClelland and Sarah Cook, both first time entries and graduates of the RPAYC women's advanced training program run in August 2010. Well done

Team Pink winning skippers
L to R: Claire Bell, Alex Murray, Learne Dooley

girls for stepping up to the plate!

Thanks should also go to the sponsors, Molly's Cradle , Arbonne beauty products and the Bosun's locker for their generous support.

April 9 saw a record eight female skippered Etchell's compete in the three races of the annual Gwen Slade Trophy event, with Rosemary Merrington (Odyssey) winning back the trophy with a series score of 6 points, being ably assisted by her crew which notably boasted three generations of Merringtons- all without breaching weight requirements! Ashlie Lane (Hydrotherapy) came in 2nd with Pru Bennett (Kalika), managing to hold out Learne Dooley and Annie Taylor for third place.

The coming season looks exciting with all of the above events scheduled in the racing program again as well as a four race inshore winter series to be run on the third Sunday of every month in tandem with the two-handed winter series. No doubt the competitive nature of the girls' fleet will see more than a few rugged up and hardy skippers and crew turning up at the start line.

Of course the success of all the ladies events at RPAYC is dependant upon the generosity of the boat owners who regularly and without complaint make their boats available. The Ladies Fleet would like to thank those boat owners, including the Sydney 38's, the 11 metre One Designs and the Etchell's fleet. We are also appreciative to RPAYC this year for offering the Force 24's for charter for the Ladies Twilights and for their use in the Tag Team Regatta.

Thanks also to all the "token males" for their presence and input, and of course the race Officers and other volunteers who so reliably offer their services. See you all on the water in 2011-2012 !

Susan Walters, far left, with her winning 'Cape Fear' crew

Gwen Slade Ladies Etchells Regatta

By Annie Taylor & Damian Devine

Pittwater turned on a sparkling day on Saturday 9 April 2011 for the 30th Anniversary of the Gwen Slade Ladies Etchells Regatta. The picture perfect conditions enabled Race Officer Steve Merrington to set a fantastic course and allow for the maximum of three races possible.

One of the largest fields in years saw 8 Etchells take to the track to battle it out over three races.

Steve's wife Rosemary Merrington helmed 'Odyssey' to victory, with her crew including 3 generations racing together with son "Billy", grandchildren & club member John Sheehan. She was never out of the top three placings with 2-1-3 total of 6 points to take a narrow two point winning margin over the young Northern Territory Radial Champion Ashlie Lane in 'Hydrotherapy,' who also had one win and one second. In third place was Rear Commodore Centreboard Pru Bennett 'Kalika,' a further three points behind on 11.

The Gwen Slade Trophy was donated by RPAYC Life Member, Russell Slade. He named the trophy after his wife. Russell was a stalwart in the early days of

Rosemary Merrington leading around the track - photo by Warwick Crossman

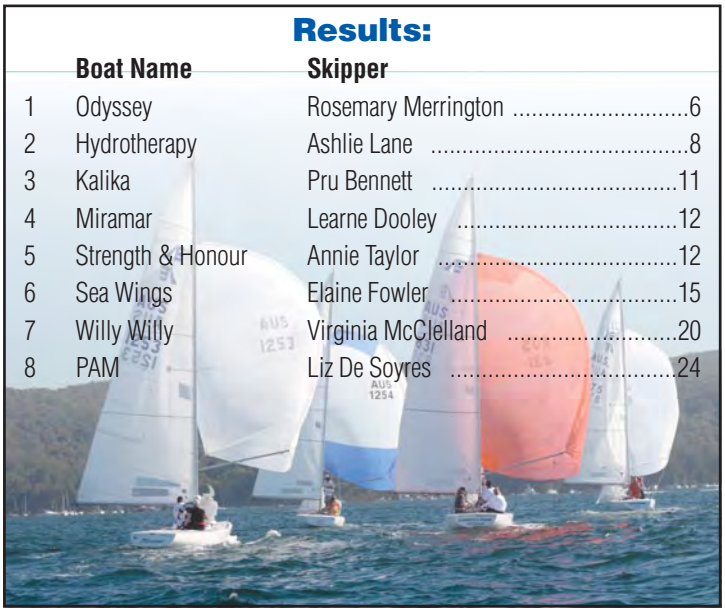
the Etchells on Pittwater. As Chairman of Bonds, he supported 18 Footers with Chesty Bond, 16 footers and later personally sponsored Kay Cottee in her solo round the world voyage. He loved to see women in sailing, so he began the Etchells Ladies Day to encourage female skippers.

This race day started in 1981 and is a great day with three sprint races and a sausage sizzle presentation afterwards. The event was not contested for the years 1986 to 1992 and in 2002. In the 23 times it has been contested there have been a number of repeat winners on the trophy, with Kristy Berry leading the title count with six, Alex Murray three and now Rosemary with a double having won it three years ago in 2008. Rosemary sits alongside a trio of double winners including Amanda Atkins (1981-82), L. Sutherland (1983, 1985) and Alice Lydement (1994-95).

We hope to see Rosemary Merrington and her generations out there again to defend her title in 2012.

Results:

	Boat Name	Skipper	
1	Odyssey	Rosemary Merrington	6
2	Hydrotherapy	Ashlie Lane	8
3	Kalika	Pru Bennett	11
4	Miramar	Learne Dooley	12
5	Strength & Honour	Annie Taylor	12
6	Sea Wings	Elaine Fowler	15
7	Willy Willy	Virginia McClelland	20
8	PAM	Liz De Soyres	24



Gwen Slade Ladies Etchells Action - photo by Warwick Crossman

Rosemary with the trophy and one generation of her capable crew - photo by Warwick Crossman

Whisper Mug "The best race on the calendar"

By Norman Weaver, Razzamatazz

The Bolter took Line Honours in the Whisper Mug

The annual Whisper Mug race was held on Sunday 12 December, 2010. This one-off race has been run just before Christmas for many years and is a popular race up the Hawkesbury and back. Its attractions include a good long run up to Dangar Island, good summer winds and "interesting times" around the island where the tide, current and swirling breezes make for a very tactical race. Spinnakers are carried so there is normally at least one good run.

This year the wind was definitely fickle. A light start and then even lighter for a drift around the island before the wind picked up on the way home. On the way up the Hawkesbury we encountered a mist of flying gossamer which draped all the sails and stays of the boats in silk streamers and little black spiders!

There were six starters across the starting line at Church Point with the scratch boat, 'The Bolter' (Rick Welch) taking Line Honours and the Zebulon Plate after 4 hours 45 minutes (1 ½ hours longer than last year!). First on handicap and winner of the Whisper Mug was 'Back in Business' (Grant Halliday). 'The Bolter' was second, winning the Josie Trophy and The Starter's Cup (3rd on handicap) was won by 'Haupia' (David Kennedy).

Thanks also to Tom Spithill for getting up on Sunday morning to start the race.

The 52nd Dicko Cup

By Allen Stormon

The 52nd running of the 'Marathon' series for the 'Dicko Cup' was run over weekend of the 22nd and 23rd January 2011.

As there was no long weekend this year, the series consisted of just two races, one each day. The Saturday night presentation was held at Hallets Beach, where we were joined by our cruising brothers whom helped us celebrate the day's winners and enjoyed a quiet drink whilst cooking dinner on the BBQ.

A moderate NE breeze was experienced during the Race One and line honours went to Brian Ellis steering 'Witchcraft.' Winner on handicap was Roger Prior on 'Pegasus,' followed by 'Good Form' and 'Seal.'

The special prize of the day was the navigator's prize, which was awarded to Norman Weaver and his crew on 'Razzamattazz.' If you want to know why, you'd have to do the series to find out.

On Sunday we had a building NE breeze, which allowed 'Witchcraft' to gain its second line honours, but as it continued to freshen, it gave those behind a push home and a likely handicap advantage. It was interesting to note that the Sunday course was a reverse of Saturday's and equal in distance. 'Witchcraft' achieved remarkable consistency in having an elapsed time within 24 seconds of Saturday's elapsed time.

At the presentation back at Halyards, the 'Dicko Cup' was waiting to be presented and as the Race Two results were read, and the prizes handed out, you could hear

Roger Prior 'Pegasus with Allen Stormon

the calculations being done in each skippers head.

Race 2: 1st 'Le Mika,' 2nd 'Five Stars,' 3rd 'Razzamatazz.'

So after a reasonable period of mental torture the overall results were then announced;

1st Pegasus - Roger Prior
2nd Le Mika - Mike Robertson
3rd Razzmatazz - Norman Weaver

A big thank you to Ron Palmer for his assistance running the 'Marathon' series this year, and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

* It has been suggested we look at including a spinnaker division for next year as a part of the marathon, but not eligible for the Dicko Cup. If you have any comments, could you please forward them to your Fleet Captains or the Yachting Office.

Huntingfield Cup 2011

By Ian Ritchie

Pittwater turned on classic conditions for this year's Huntingfield Cup, the national championships for the Jubilee one-design class yachts, which were held from Thursday, 20th to Sunday 23rd January and hosted by the RPAYC. Nor-easters blew every day, light and shifty in the morning but strengthening each afternoon, to provide challenging, close sailing - typical of this one-design class. The nine race series was won by Pittwater sailor Rob Hawke in 'Tawarri,' who held off a close challenge by club member David Bray in 'Wataworrie,' second place, followed by a strong contingent of several Victorian boats.

A highlight of the post-race Presentation Dinner was a fundraising event to raise money for the victims of the recent floods in Queensland and Victoria. The fundraiser was in the form of a silent auction, first prize a half-model of a Jubilee, with bidders pledging donations to the charities of their choice. The highest "bidder" won the prize, but all bidders are expected to make good on their pledges, regardless of whether or not they won!

A consortium from the Ballarat Yacht Club made a fantastic $2000 pledge which overwhelmed all others. They plan to give the model pride of place in their clubhouse, now back in use as the rains over the past year or so have replenished the water in

Jubilees in action at the Huntingfield Cup

Lake Wendouree to sailable levels. Overall, nearly $6000 was pledged at the Dinner, a fantastic effort! Thank you to all bidders.

Next year's championships will be held at the Royal Brighton Yacht club in early January; the Victorians are hoping for a strong Pittwater participation to defend the Cup. The local Pittwater Jubilee fleet continues to grow, and there are generally a few boats for sale.

Anyone interested should contact the local Secretary Ian Ritchie - ijritch@ozemail.com.au.

Etchells Report

By Peter Merrington, Fleet Captain

RPAYC members have enjoyed an extremely successful time in Etchell racing in the last 12 months. Club members Andrew Palfrey was part of John Bertrand's successful team in winning the Etchell Worlds in Ireland last September This was a fantastic effort taking into account it was a very strong fleet filled with past winners. John, Andrew and Tom Slingby blitzed the field and managed to take away the event with a race to spare.

Andrew then followed up by teaming up with John and another Alfreds member Grant Simmer to win the Australian Championships in Geelong in January this year.

Alfred's members Cameron Miles, Gary Smith and Murray Gordon placed 9th in the Australian Championships and Peter Merrington, Geoff Bonouvrie and Anthony Merrington placed 11th. Peter and Geoff's crew finished second in the Qld State Championships and Peter Merrington was also part of the winning crew in the Victorian State Championships.

On the home front we had a great year of club racing on Pittwater and in the estuary.

Our programme consists of up to 3 races in a mini regatta style on Pittwater days, and up to two races a day once a month in the estuary. The small but extremely competitive fleet had some unbelievably close racing often with 5 or more boats finishing within 30 seconds. The doyen of Pittwater Etchells racing, Mark Doyle in 'Miramar' showed the way by consistently sailing each week and always finishing at the pointy end of the fleet. Mark won both the Inshore and Broken Bay point scores. Who knows how many times he has done this?? Hendrik Visser and Ian Audsley also deserve a special mention for the efforts in being there EVERY week of the sailing season supporting Etchells racing and their club, the dividend being cleaning up the minor placings in the pointscores.

Looking forward… There is a HUGE season of Etchells racing coming up in the year. The Alfred's is hosting the Etchell Australian championships in February 2012. The regatta will double as the pre –Worlds regatta for the 2012 Etchell Worlds off Manly Beach in March. We are very privileged to be running such a prestigious event. We expect there to be around 60 boats including past world champions from around the world competing in preparation for the Worlds.

In addition to the nationals we are also hosting the NSW State Championship in November in this year, another top event which will see in excess of 50 boats.

We are sure there will be some awesome competitive spirt this coming season. As well as the regattas, we will be sailing the normal mini regatta days on the estuary and Pitwater many of which will double as Qualifying races for the World Championships.

Remember the Pittwater Etchell fleet owns a development boat PAM which all members or potential fleet members are welcome to come and sail on race days. Contact Peter Merrington or Hendrik Visser to book your race day.

Audi Sydney Harbour Regatta Melges Fleet

By Tracey Walters

Middle Harbour Yacht Club hosted the Audi Sydney Harbour Regatta on the 5th-6th March. The Melges 24's competed in the regatta as a lead up event to the Australian Championships held the following week at the RPAYC.

The race course was between North and South Head on Sydney Harbour. Breeze ranged over the weekend from 25 knots down to 5 knots in sloppy seas and shifting conditions. Sydney Harbour was like a washing machine with over two hundred entries all competing in their divisions for a chance at the AUDI car on offer.

Cameron Miles and crew on 'Roger That' dominated the Melges 24 fleet from the get go, four firsts, two seconds finishing seven points ahead of Warrick Rooklyn 'Bandit.' Consistency paid for 'Bandit' who was unable to get a gun but finished three points in front of Western Australian boat 'Kaito' skippered by Kim Nisbet.

'Team Amigo' results could have been very different had the crew not taken a dip in Sydney harbour after a hiking line malfunction. Skipper Geoff Fogerty found himself a solo sailor mid race.

Bandit finished second to Roger That

Audi Regatta/Cavalier State Titles

By Richard Pearse

Dancelot (Cav 28) skippered by Charlie Pearse, tuned up and guided tactically by John Sheehan, and crewed by Richard West, Dick Pearse and Scotty O'Connor, represented RPAYC in the Audi Regtatta and also in the concurrent Cavalier State Titles over the 5th ad 6th March. All the team are members or have been members of RPAYC. Twelve Cavaliers took part in very tight racing over six races.

Dick Pearse, far right with his successful crew

In her fourth tilt at the regatta 'Dancelot' took out the first place in the Cavalier PHS Division and also took out first place on scratch in the State Title with 2,11,3,1,2,1. As winners of the Division, two of the team (Charlie and John) had the challenge to win the Audi in a time trial at Eastern Creek. Both did great runs but the prize went elsewhere. That's a challenge for the future!

Dancelot coming to the finish

Having fun! Racing in the Audi Regatta

Pittwater Regatta 2011

By Allen Stormon

Close racing in the Etchells for the Regatta

Eye Candy and Stonybroke in action in Sydney 38s - Photo by Tom Spithill

This year the 'Pittwater Regatta' celebrated 104 years since the first race in 1907. Back then it was a challenge between two locally owned 16ft sailing skiffs, which was run from Green Point to Lion Island and return to Green point. The 'Crouch' brothers won the race, bettering their opponent by just 16 seconds. The race was one and lost behind Lion Island. Sound familiar?

Over the years it has grown and changed, been interrupted by World Wars and in the 1990's was rejuvenated in its current format by Wal Wardle, to foster inter-club racing within the Pittwater clubs.

Whilst it has struggled recently with reduced participation, the racing is just as competitive and affords all Pittwater clubs the opportunity to race together on the best waterway in Australia, if not the world.

The host club for the Keelboats was RMYC and the race started in a moderate breeze from the south west.

The course was Taylors Point to port, Mackerel Beach to starboard, then onto Lion Island and Walker Point and return to the finish leaving Mackerel Beach to port.

With the downwind start there was a bit of congestion passing Taylors Point, but all got through safely and continued onto Mackerel Beach. There the breeze died out and shifted to the south east, building quickly to 25-30 knots which saw the 11m's 'Pacesetter' and 'Inevitable' enjoy a quick ride down to Lion Island. Conditions were tricky behind the island and rewarded those whom didn't cut the corner too close.

'Second Time Around' was first to Walker Point, with 'Kerazy' second, with the 11m's not far behind. After a quick reach back to West head the fleet then experienced a hard slog home in the south easterly.

The winners were:

Spinnaker - 1st 'Savana,' David Saunders, 2nd 'Inevitable,' Ron Palmer and 3rd 'Una Vita,' Bruce Lakin.

Non-Spinnaker - 1st 'Firefly,' David Gillies, 2nd 'Addiction,' Jim Gordon and 3rd 'Bombolo,' David Boekemann.

One Design sprints were held by RPAYC with the Etchells and Sydney 38s having a three race series.

The winners were:

Etchells

1st 'Odyssey,' Geoffrey Bonouvrie, 2nd 'Kalika,' Ian Audsley and 3rd 'Strength & Honour,' Brett Ellis.

Sydney 38

1st 'Stoneybroke,' Bruce Furguson, 2nd 'Risk,' Martin Cross and 3rd 'Eye Candy,' Dawson/Ward.

Melges 24 Australian National Titles 2011

Bandit Blows them away to win the 2011 Championships

By Melges Media

Warwick Rooklyn's Bandit on their way to victory

The RPAYC hosted the fourth Melges 24 Australian Championships between 10-13 March, 2011. Sponsored by Gill Australia and daily prizes from North Sails, the event attracted a quality field of some of Australia's top sailors to battle it out for the honor of becoming 2011 Melges 24 Australian Champion.

Day one the course was set offshore between Palm Beach and Whale Beach headland. Conditions were light 3-5 knots of Northerly Breeze in sloppy seas. Rob Curtis 'Matilda' went out to sea on the first beat and benefited in the tricky conditions but was unable to maintain his lead. Positions changed between marks and Warwick Rooklyn 'Bandit' finished first laying the foundations for his regatta, Kym Nisbet in WA boat 'Kaito' was second and Cameron Miles 'Roger That' third. The Committee was only able to get one race off before the breeze faded and the course was shortened, sending the fleet back to the club.

Friday and day two's racing was again offshore, little wind was predicted. Boats were waiting for the breeze to start filling in and spotted some sharks, swell was small. The committee managed to get four races away when a good 8-10 knot straight South East breeze came in after lunch. Conditions favoured good boat speed and technique in the swell. 'Roger That' stepped up with two firsts and two fourths. 'Bandit' and 'Kaito' both went home with a first, second, third, as well as their drops for the regatta, the top three boats started to secure their overall standings. Kevin Nixon 'Accru' and crew that consists of wife Glenda, 20 year old son Daniel and 22 year old daughter Bonnie are 50 kg underweight and enjoyed making gains on the runs to achieve their best result of the series coming second in race two. Kevin said "we are able to run deep downwind; my family has an exceptionally good technique".

Saturday and four races were scheduled inshore in a shifty North Easterly breeze which leveled the field for those boats who had not performed as well in the swell. Tactics came to the forefront and Rooklyn proved that his crew work and local knowledge with Julian Plante onboard was going to be hard to beat dominating the day with a first, second, first. 'Roger That' had their drop of the series after a second and first. New boat owner South Australian Gary Shanks 'Outrage-Us' demonstrated what we can expect in future events after more time in the boat finishing second to 'Bandit' in race eight. Geoff Fogarty and crew on 'Amigo' had some good clean starts but along with 'Arriba Arriba' were unable to sustain their advantage in such a competitive fleet. Fogarty commented, "going into the regatta we really had nothing to lose and have learnt a lot."

By the end of day three, 'Bandit' was leading the regatta on 11 points, 'Roger That' second on 16 points, 'Kaito' third on 21 points.

Back at the RPAYC, the Melges 24's held their AGM where Warwick Rooklyn was re-elected as the Australian Class President, Doug Russell re-elected Vice-President, Ian Greentree Treasurer, Jason McHattan Secretary and Andrew Kendall Promotions. Geoff Fogarty and Kevin Nixon the Melges 24 AUS 2014 Worlds representatives.

The Regatta was up for the taking going into the final day with 'Roger That' aggressively pursuing the title. The 10-15 knot north easterly breeze came in steadily with a rolling offshore swell. The fleet competed on an amazing day behind the surf at Palm Beach.

Rob Curtis 'Matilda' seemed to enjoy the stronger wind and swell coming away with two seconds to finish the regatta and placing fourth overall.

The other South Australian boat Dave Alexander 'Wombat Express' chartered for the Nationals finished the last two races with a second and a first respectively proving they too will be a future force to be reckoned with. Back at the bar Dave commented, "we are really pleased, we improved throughout the regatta achieving our best result on the last day, remember your only as good as your last race." Crew member Dan O'Connell enjoyed the close racing and said, "we would cross the finishing line wondering if we got a third or a seventh."

It was a great day of super close competitive sailing finishing back at the club in

the protest room where 'Bandit' was blown out of race twelve and Nixon 'Accru' retired from the race.

Final scores meant the Class President Warwick Rooklyn and his crew; Julian Plante, Doug McGain, Dave O'Connor and Jay Griffin won the 2011 Australian Title on a count back over 'Roger That,' both on 24 points.

In his speech Warwick commented, "that it was great racing and exciting to see such a high level of competition." Later Warwick stated that he has been in the class eight months now and it's good to be at the pointy end starting his Corpus Christi Worlds Campaign. Warwick commented "the format of racing was really good for us, we enjoyed more days offshore, and it gave us more experience in the lump."

'Roger That' finished on equal points in second place after an outstanding regatta. They will be up for the win that eluded them this time at the 2012 Nationals in SA.

Finishing fourteen points behind and in third place were the WA crew Kym Nisbet on 'Kaito,' a consistent performer throughout the regatta and benefited from the expertise and local knowledge of Michael Coxon onboard from North Sails.

North Sails kindly provided daily prizes of their tactics book to most the improved, with results at the next regatta could be very different.

Thank you Gill Australia for supporting the event and providing gear to place getters. Thank you also to the Race Committee at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club for running a smooth, successful regatta.

Congratulations to Warwick and his crew on 'Bandit' heading to the Worlds in Texas as the Australian Champion.

Photos by Melges Media and Mitch Watkins

Melges 32 Australian National Titles 2011

Girdis Crowned 2011 Melges 32 Australian Champion

By Melges Media

Friday was day one of the inaugural Australian Melges 32 National Titles hosted by the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club.

Racing was held offshore in a light 8 - 10 knot south/easterly breeze with slight seas. The heat was on for PRO Steve Merrington and his start boat crew in race two with 3 boats luffing at the back of the committee boat, fortunately the pile up caused no damage to any boats. Melges 24 2009 National Champion Geoff Masters steering 'Jolt' was quick out of the blocks in Race 4 sailing to the east to pick the first shift. At the end of the day and four races into the series Steve Girdis 'Funnel Web' dominated racing with four bullets. Several of the 'Funnel Web' crew had stepped off the plane that morning and quickly made the trip one hour north of Sydney to race off Sydney's spectacular Palm Beach.

Funnel Web

Close racing offshore in the Melges 32 Championships

A new entry in the Australian Melges 32 fleet was Angus Reid 'Maxstar.' Reid took delivery of his yacht from the USA in January with logistics organised by Melges Asia Pacific. He was able to make the trip with his crew to Victoria Race Week then returned to place second in the Sydney Harbour AUDI regatta in preparation for the National Titles.

Saturday and Day 2 of the series, the first official meeting of the Melges 32 owners group was held prior to racing. Passionate and enthusiastic Melges 32 owner Kim Williams was elected Australian Fleet President and items on the agenda included 2011 events such as Hamilton Island, class growth and one design racing.

Back on water, the race course was moved for day two inshore to Pittwater in a shifty North Easterly wind keeping the small but extremely competitive Melges 32 fleet searching for shifts and working tactics. 'Funnel Web' dominated the gun until race seven, the last race of day two where he took his worst result of the regatta and came second to 'Jolt.'

Going into the final day's racing on Sunday, 'Funnel Web' had secured an 8.5 point lead over 'Jolt.' The race committee sent the fleet to sea off Palm Beach where there were rolling sets and a North Easterly breeze that built steadily throughout the day to 16 knots. Clear air, no traffic, sun shining, conditions were ideally suited to Melges 32 racing. The spectacle of incredibly close Melges 32 racing off Barrenjoy headland was impressive, the lead changing on most beats with Kim Williams 'Rock and Roll' and 'Maxstar' enjoying the challenges, 'Rock and Roll' coming home Boat of the Day.

There were tense moments on 'Funnel Web' just after the start of the tenth race when they broke a main halyard swage. Some quick onboard calculations and 'Funnel Web' was able to pull out of the final race and head back to the RPAYC securing the first Melges 32 Australian Champion crown.

Back at the presentation Stephen Girdis thanked events sponsors Gill Australia and North Sails as well as his crew; Andrea Gambacorti, Ray Pearson, Steven Girdis, Ali Southerland, Kelvin Briscall, Richard Machin and Neil Wild. The crew were presented with their Gill gear and trophy.

Stephen Girdis commented at the club "Pittwater is a beautiful place to race, the club is really well set up for this event and although the fleet was not big it still provided extremely close, exciting racing." When asked about the format of including one day of inshore racing he said, "It was tricky inshore but I really enjoyed the challenges."

Stephen Girdis with his winning crew accepting the trophy

Thank you to Gill Australia, North Sails Australia and the RPAYC for supporting the Titles.

Old Timers Race 2011

By Damian Devine

The annual Old Timers Race, an established event on the Club's racing calendar was held on Saturday 7 May, 2011 on a glorious Autumn Day. Now in its 18th year, the race recognises and honours those "Old Timers" who are 65 years of age and have been a member for 10 years or more. This year the event attracted some 60 members to the lunch with 14 boats entered for the race.

Current sailing members are invited to host an older member who may no longer have the opportunity to compete. A delicious two course Luncheon preceded the race presided over by the Commodore Russell Murphy in the Admiral's Cup Room.

Crews enjoy lunch before the race

The traditional RPAYC trivia quiz, engineered by Life member Jack Gale, over lunch was as interesting as ever and kept everyone on their toes. This year there was a three way tie between Trevor Hannah 'Eye Candy' (last year's winner) who teamed up with John "Bucko" Buckland 'Back In Business,' Phil Cole 'Second Time Around' and the start boat's Liz De Soyres and Barry Shepherdson (and no, Jack Gale didn't answer his own questions), who all accomplished a pretty impressive 15 from 17. The wooden spoon went to David Batchen for the second year running.

Commodore Russel Murphy presents the tropy to the winner John Buckland

After lunch, a short race around the cans got underway at 1:30pm in a light, shifty 4-6knt Sou' Easter under

The winners of the Trivia Quiz, Trevor Hannah far left and John Buckland third from left with their mates.

sunny skies. There were 14 starters for what eventuated into a shortened course set as Clareville-Rocky-Stokes-finish as the breeze was typical Pittwater for this time of year; patchy and flukey. Those that went hunting the breeze up the middle of the track did well whilst those who enjoyed a quiet tipple over lunch seemed to fare worst.

Line Honours went to Warren Barber who skippered 'Witchcraft' whilst first on corrected time in convincing fashion went to "Bucko's" 11m 'Back in Business' who picked up another bottle of wine following the trivia win along with having his name etched on the "Old Timers Tackle Trophy" for the first time. His name will be alongside some great club sailing names like Norm Kiddle, George Mottl, Warren Miles, Merv Wetton and John Stormon, to name but a few. The minor placings went to 'Cantina skippered by Brian Gray who just nudged out 'Witchcraft' in third place.

A good day was again had by all!!

The Old Timers' 2011

What did you do on Boxing Day 2010? Here is what happened for Secret Men's Business

Rob Curtis, Secret Men's Business

Live the dream, the sparkle of Sydney Harbour on Boxing day, the hype of preparation on the dock, the weather briefings and then of course there is the final slide up the Derwent to reach the finish line, motor past the crowd cheering you from Taste of Tassy and the caring partners and family and the case of Boags and bottles of Bundy all waiting on Constitution dock.

It is a dream of many people who sail and 'Secret Men's Business' (SMB) has had the opportunity of not only starting Hobart 3 times under RPAYC burgee but getting there all 3 times. The current owners of SMB are Rob Curtis, Ross Trembath and Doug Snedden and the SMB family stretches far and wide and numbers in the 50's. We have old and young alike and we all enjoy the opportunity of racing our Murray 42 up and down the east coast of Australia.

Just a bit of history, SMB#1 was built in 1996 for Geoff Boettcher in Adelaide. Interesting to note that Geoff won this year's Hobart race in 'Secret Mens Business 3.5.' 'Secret Mens Business 2' was also racing this year as 'Shamrock' and did not make the finish. SMB#1 has raced Hobart at least 10 times including the infamous 1998 race where she lost her rig but returned her crew safe and sound.

We figure in the 5 years we have had SMB she has travelled around 15,000 nautical miles with us. This includes 3 Hobarts, 2 Coffs, 4 Southports, some CYCA Flinders Island races (but who cares), some CYCA Bird Island races (we won one), some CYCA Cabbage tree Island races, 2 Sail Port Stephens (including winning the Commodores Cup), 2 Hammos, 1 Airlie, 1 Coffs to Southport, 1 Sail Paradise (Gold Coast) and of course most Saturdays (over 350 sailing days) as well as Twilight racing. Being RPAYC's boat of the year in 2009 was a highlight.

This is all OK but one of the most impressive attributes of the SMB family is the large number of people who have done the first or second Hobart with us.

Back to Hobart 2010. The crew this year included Rob Curtis (5), Ross Trembath (13), Doug Snedden (2), Bruce Jameson (1), Di Fitzgerald (1), Phoebe Cormack (2), Annie Simpson (1), Graeme Coates (1), Lachlan McNeil (1), Scotty Hamilton (2), Mark Edmonds (1) and Andrew Parker (6), so for half the crew it was their first Hobart experience. The race forecast really set the scene. The previous couple of years had been sleigh rides apparently. They forget that this might have been the case for the globe- trotting Maxi's and their little 50 ft sisters, but for the real Hobart fleet, any race will include at least 2 frontal systems to get through and 2008 and 2009 were no different. This year though did prove to be a more traditional Hobart race. Some times of sun and running conditions but in essence the fleet had to survive the first 2 nights before you could get back to racing.

Secret Men's Business - Photo by Mitch Watkins

Coming off the start is always a nerve racking experience. The start line for the smaller boats (under 50ft) is very busy and with a down-wind start this year, getting away was always important. We have over the last 3 races managed to get off the line well and be in the lead pack going out the heads to turn right. The wind had some west in it so reaching kites and asso's were the call and this always suits SMB. We sailed South with a growing sense of what was to come, that was created by watching the cigar shaped cloud bank covering 180 degrees of the horizon move towards us.

The first night out required solid reefing with small head sails but did not prove too bad. We worked a 3 watch system this year and working into the second night off Montague Island we felt that the forecast was proving to be spot on. We went into the second night fully dressed with the orange colour of storm sails prevalent. The wind reached 45 to 50 kts during the night and we ran a rotational skeleton crew on deck till 4am when the wind started to ease back to a comfortable 20kts. On first light, the full sails were reinstated and we started racing again with the only damaged sustained, a broken headsail halyard.

The rest of the race was a mixture of good following wind, no wind and racing hard to get up Storm Bay and the Derwent before it all closed down for the night. We did some firsts this race - saw the Needles (Cape Raule) for the first time in daylight and being taken past the cheering crowd at Taste for Tassy, very emotional. The feeling of motoring into Constitution dock is one that can only be truly experienced when you have sailed South on a race like the Hobart with such a huge range of emotions. Seeing family and friends waiting and cheering you in is a highlight in one's lifetime experiences and as time dimes your memory of the race hardships, you even start considering that you might actually think about doing another Hobart!

SOPS Fleet Report 2010/2011

By Ray & Fran Hudson, SOPS Fleet Captains

The 2010/2011 SOPS Season saw competitive racing on both PHS & IRC handicaps for a combined Fleet varying between 13 and 16 yachts.

Unsettled light conditions early in the season produced a number of four nautical mile leg races but the establishment of more typical north easterly conditions saw the return of Terrigal races as the season progressed.

All races were a challenge with detailed course selection and good tactical decisions paying off for a number of well prepared skippers.

The handicap system was refined as the season progressed and the establishment of a handicap committee resulted in a tight time spread in corrected times for races of SOPS length, so we believe that the handicap system is improving and now provides a platform on which all yachts have a realistic chance to perform well, if sailed well on the day.

Thanks go the the Sailing Office and Race Officers for setting and retrieving SOPS marks which are a little further from the RPAYC than those associated with other fleets.

We believe that SOPS will continue to grow in strength in future seasons and that the combined fleet concept with good starting lines to give all yachts a real chance of a good handicap result.

Care was taken with course selections to suit prevailing conditions with only two yachts failing to finish a race that they started over the entire season and one of these was due to gear failure - a good result for a long race format series such as SOPS.

The PHS Series was competitive to the last race and two yachts finished on equal points with Bob Bennett's 'So Farr' winning a tight series on a countback - congratulations Bob on a great result & a terrific series.

Congratulations are also due to John Ellis who won the IRC Series and was second place in the PHS series in 'Sirocco. John was one of six skippers who contested every SOPS race in the series showing that practice & participation pays off.

We look forward to next Season and hope that all of this years SOPS entrants plus some new starters will be on the start line in September 2011.

Wednesday Division

By Brian Ellis, Wednesday Fleet Captain

With more Wednesday races on the calendar we usually have about thirty plus lucky crews regularly enjoying the racing. The program for 2011-2012 will have even more Wednesday racing during December and January, with extra casual races scheduled. Also for next season the Clareville mark is being adjusted by laying an inflatable mark in NE winds.

The fleet on Wednesdays is varied with the fast 'Wild Oats X' Bob Oatley in Division 1 to the not so fast 'Portia' Jim de Monford in Division 3. Handicapping gives very close finishing on corrected time, as there is more races to make small adjustments. All races are non spinnaker so there is less stress on the crew and the skipper. However everyone is still competitive.

One added bonus on the good racing is that there is a free sausage sandwich after the race with different crews taking their turn each week to cook and spin yarns around the BBQ.

Members should consider Wednesday sailing as there is always room for more yachts and crew. Casual entries are accepted.

Winners of the Summer Point score:

Div 1:

1st	Pretty Woman	PW Syndicate
2nd	Witchcraft	Brian Ellis
3rd	Fud Pucker	Ross Hennessy

Div 2:

1st	Summer Salt	Johnson / Mander
2nd	Starlight	Julian Noakes
3rd	Pacesetter	Andy McPhail

Div 3:

1st	Sylvia	Sylvia Syndicate
2nd	HunSea Baby	Alun Black
3rd	Ricochet	Matthew Morris

The Winter Waterford Trophy started 1st June through to 17th August with 9 races to count.

Old School dictates terms in the RPAYC Pittwater to Newcastle race

By Tom Spithill & Damian Devine

Tight squeeze at the start down at the boat end with Sirocco on the left getting the best of the start

A strong fleet of 22 took part in the RPAYC's 47nm Pittwater Newcastle race. The fleet got under way at 1000hrs in perfect autumn conditions with a spectacular spinnaker start in a light 5 knot westerly. The heavily congested boat end of the line saw RPAYC's John Ellis' Elan 37 'Sirocco' manage to thread a path through the pack to win the boat end and get a favourable start. At the pin end of the line, the MHYC's Morton/Buckeridge Frers 62 'Margaret Rintoul V,' managed to stay clear of all the commotion at the boat end to get a clear start with another MHYC contender, Ian Box's X442 'Toybox.'

Shortly after starting, the wind started to drop out and the boats were facing the tactical decision of going high early to the coast line or taking some depth. Ian Box's 'Toybox' took the low road first and managed to hook into a 8 - 10 knot north westerly that slingshot them into an early lead along with 'Margret Rintoul V' whilst rivals Curtis/Trembath/Snedden's Murray 42 'Secret Men's Business,' Bruce Staples Farr 40 'Witchcraft' & the Sydney 38 'Old School' skippered by Mark Griffith, left in a parking lot waiting for the wind to get to them.

After a few more "parking lots" the fleet managed to sail into a building 10 to 12 knot North Easter as they tacked their way up the coast in what RPAYC Vice Commodore Rob Curtis described as "champagne sailing".

By Norah Head 'Margaret Rintoul V' was in her element and had stretched out to a comfortable lead, with 'Old School' deciding to go away from the coast searching for stronger winds offshore.

'Margaret Rintoul V' held onto her lead to cross the line in first place at 1745hrs in a time of 7hrs 45mins 55secs. Mark Griffiths 'Old School' was the big mover of the day with the gamble to go offshore clearly paying off, reappearing close to the finish to cross the line 30 minutes later to take second place over the line and in doing so beating some of her bigger and faster rivals. 'Witchcraft' was third over the line.

Champagne sailing - Secret Men's Business amongst the spinnaker action soon after the start

Spectators at the finish where treated to a spectacle when the next trio 'Secret Men's Business," Toy Box' & the smallest in the fleet Garry Holder's ID35'The Real Thing,' crossed the finish line separated by only a couple of boat lengths between them.

'Old School' dictated terms teaching everyone a lesson on the day by taking out 1st place in both PHS & IRC, by a comfortable margin on corrected time. "We had a great race, the call was made to go a bit further offshore and it ended up paying off," said a jubilant Griffith. MHYC's 'Toy Box' was second in IRC with another RPAYC competitor Shaw Russett's Beneteau First 40 'Tailwind' in third. In PHS, 'Old School' was followed by the Middle Harbour double of 'Margaret Rintoul V' and 'Toy Box.'

The Pittwater to Newcastle Race is part of a four race Blue Water pointscore Series including races to Bird Island, Botany Bay and the prestigious Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race. The race is also a feeder race for Sail Port Stephens.

Pittwater to Newcastle Race Results:

IRC:

1st	Old School	Mark Griffith
2nd	Toy Box	Ian Box
3rd	Tailwind	Shaw Russett

PHS

1st	Old School	Mark Griffith
2nd	Margaret Rintoul V	Graham Morton
3rd	Toy Box	Ian Box

Mark Griffith 'Old School' getting into the zone pre race

Blue Water Series

By Allen Stormon

The Real Thing took the honours in the Blue Water Series PHS Division

The 2010-2011 'Blue Water' point score series included four races: Bird Island, Botany Bay, Pittwater to Coffs Harbour and Newcastle.

The first race of the series was held on 30th October 2010, from Broken Bay to Bird Island and return.

It started in a light north westerly breeze, which swung to the north east and built gradually to 20 plus knots as the leaders approached Bird Island, allowing them a quick run home. It was champagne sailing for most, but in Broken Bay 'Witchcraft' broke her quadrant surfing down a wave, gybed involuntarily and left most of the crew swimming outside the life rails. After fitting their emergency tiller, they resumed racing and finished.

Line honours went to Secret Men's Business, on corrected time the results were:
PHS - 1st The Real Thing, 2nd Secret Mens Business and 3rd Next Moment
IRC - 1st Next Moment, 2nd Secret Mens Business and 3rd Witchcraft

The next race of the series was held 27th November 2010, from Broken Bay to Botany Bay and return.

The forecast predicted a light north westerly breeze at the start, and then a building north easterly gradually to 30 plus knots. It was a good easy run to Broken Bay with 'Secret Men's Business' rounding the channel mark first, just as the north-easterly picked up and funnelled into Botany Bay. Next to round was 'Next Moment' with 'The Real Thing' close behind, both just beating two tugs with an outgoing ship around the channel marker.

The beat home in the north easterly, which built to over 30 knots, was a demolition derby with sails being destroyed and crews bruised and battered in the strong breeze and short solid waves.

Line honours again went to Secret Men's Business, whilst on corrected time, the results were:
PHS - 1st Jayhawk, 2nd Secret Mens Business and 3rd Next Moment
IRC - 1st Secret Mens Business, 2nd Jayhawk and 3rd Next Moment

The third race of the series was the Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race, held on 2nd January 2011, which is the only Cat 2 race of the series and was predominately a down wind race.

The Blue Water series line honour winner was Witchcraft, whilst on corrected time, the results were: PHS - 1st First Light, 2nd The Real Thing and 3rd Witchcraft
IRC - 1st Witchcraft, 2nd First Light and 3rd Jayhawk

The final race of the series was held on April 9th 2011, from Broken Bay to Newcastle.

The race was also a feeder race for the 'Sail Port Stephens Regatta,' so there were 22 boats at the start. In a light north westerly breeze the fleet split after the start, some boats going high to Box Head seeking more pressure, with the others running deep. The boats that went high won the race to First Point where they encountered the beginnings of the predicted northerly breeze.

'Old School' and 'The Real Thing' split from the fleet and went to sea, betting on the wind going to the north east. It payed off with 'Old School' being second over the line behind 'Margaret Rintoul V.' 'The Real Thing' also benefitted as she was only just beaten across the line by 'Secret Men's Business' and 'Toy Box.'

On corrected time, the results were:
PHS - 1st The Real Thing, 2nd Secret Mens Business and 3rd Witchcraft
IRC - 1st Witchcraft, 2nd Secret Mens Business and 3rd Jayhawk

Congratulations to the Blue Water series winners.

PHS - 1st The Real Thing, Garry Holder 2nd Secret Mens Business, SMB Syndicate and 3rd Jayhawk, Robert Alder

IRC - 1st Witchcraft, Bruce Staples 2nd Secret Mens Business, SMB Syndicate and 3rd Next Moment, Ray Hudson

Jayhawk wins Botany Bay Race

From the helm of Secret Men's Business #1

By Vice Commodore Rob Curtis

Robert Alder's J35 'Jayhawk' wins the Botany Bay Race

PRO Teddy Anderson worked hard and got the fleet away at 10am for Round Two of the RPAYC Bluewater point score to Botany Bay and return - on time but drifting off the start. Rob Curtis on the helm of 'Secret Men's Business' placed well on the boat end with Gary Holder's 'The Real Thing' and Rob Alder's 'Jayhawk' on the pin end in anticipation of the building NE breeze. Within 20 minutes, the breeze started to fill in and the fleet freed sheets towards Botany Bay. 'Secret Mens' got Bridget Jones (the big white asso) flying and finally put 'The Real Thing' in her wake closely followed by Ray Hudson's 'Next Moment,' David Boekemann's 'Bombolo,' the Rutherford/Ryan syndicate's 'First Light' and Joachim Fluhrer' 'Good Form.'

The fleet had champagne sailing south to Botany Bay with coffee and mint slice bikkies on the rail of SMB and a building NE breeze. Rounding the Botany Bay Port Lateral mark seems to always be accompanied by big winds and Saturday 27 November was no different. The internet said that Norah Head and Nobbys had 30-35 knots from the NE, so the decision to go a single reef with the number 3 jib seemed in order. As we headed out 'Next Moment' and 'The Real Thing' stayed fully clothed, so we watched in anticipation to see if our "Bass Straight" approach to this hit out was in order. 'SMB' opted to head right offshore and miss the big run out tide and building NE breeze off Sydney Heads. 'Next Moment' followed and 'Real Thing' opted to hug the coast.

As we progressed up the coast the breeze continued to build and the decision to shorten sail early proved a good one. Still 30 knots over the deck and waves that hit the person inspecting the backstay showed that we had a bit on. As the 6 hour work home progressed, the decision to go harnesses occurred and the waves continued to roll over the deck and they weren't little. The rest of the fleet started to disappear behind with 'Next Moment' staying in contact with all her sails still flying. The big lay offshore finally got us back to Bangally Head with one tack, a second one got us around this big headland and then we had a sweet crack of the sheets to get us back to Barrenjoey around 1930 hours. A great hit out for SMB.

A couple of quite beers were enjoyed by the crew as we motored up Pittwater as well as feeling for the crews still out there especially when Joachim on 'Good Form' gave his ETA of around 2200 hours with the NE still running strong. Back on the dock, Rear Commodore Allen Stormon regaled the lament of 'The Real Thing's' split mainsail and a quick dash into Middle Harbour.

The final results show that Bluewater offshore racing is alive and well at the RPAYC with some most commendable results coming through despite the strong sailing conditions. The corrected time results were:

1st Jayhawk 10 hrs 07 min 41 sec
2nd SMB 10 hrs 13 min 44 sec
3rd Next Moment 10 hrs 25 min 00 sec
4th Bombolo 10 hrs 35 min 18 sec
5th Good Form 10 hrs 36 min 18 sec
6th First Light 10 hrs 36 min 23 sec
DNF The Real Thing

That's pretty good handicapping given around 60 nautical miles and 10 hours of racing and the prevailing conditions. Gotta love offshore racing!

Ray Hudson's 'Next Moment' 3rd on corrected time

David Lukins Memorial Regatta

By Tom Spithill

Close racing in the Dave Lukins Regatta - Photo Arthur Spithill

The David Lukins Memorial regatta was run over the weekend of 5-6, February 2011. This was the second running of the event since its inception in 2009 to commemorate the memory of David Lukins, a tireless volunteer who enriched the lives of so many at the Alfreds.

The event was scheduled to run September 2010 but the dates conflicted with the schedules of the Australian Women's Olympic Match Racing squad who were keen to be involved in the event. So a new date was set for February this year.

Six teams entered this year sailing with either 4 or 5 crew members & we had a world class Race Committee and Umpiring team jump at the chance to be involved.

The first days racing got underway in an extremely hot (40'C) and shifty 10-20 knot North Westerly on the northern side of Scotland Island. 'Team Boatmate' skippered by Jason Waterhouse managed to pick the shifts considerably well and shot off to an early lead on day one of racing winning all his races for the day and leading the first round robin.

Nick Garland, past graduate of the RPAYC Youth Development program, was making his long awaited comeback to match racing and starting to find his feet finishing the day in second place. "I now remember what it's like to hold this thing called a tiller!", commented a jubilant Garland who has been holding more babies than tillers lately.

For the second and final day's racing, Chuck Anderson and team which included Shane Lukins (Dave's son) was the big mover of the day, coming back from no wins in the first round robin, to winning the second round robin and thus securing a position in the petite final!

At the completions of the round robins the call was made to go straight into the petit and major final. In the major final, it was 'Team Boatmate' Jason Waterhouse vs 'Yasi' Nick Garland and in the petite finale it was 'Salty Sea Dogs' Nina Curtis vs 'Wendy Junior' Chuck Anderson.

The wind by this stage was a shifty Northerly at 5 to 8 knots and Race Officer Ted Anderson knew it was a race against the time to get the races in before the big southerly hit.

In the first race of the best of three finals, Waterhouse came off the line even at the pin end and managed to put the bow down and get a speed advantage. Once his nose was clear, he managed to stay in phase with the shifty breeze to take the first race.

The second race saw Garland come out swinging demanding complete control in the prestart to lead Waterhouse off the line with a clear advantage. Garland managed to keep a cover on the slippery Waterhouse to hang onto his lead and win the race.

Garland and crew (particularly Hamish Roughley) were chomping at the bit to start the last and deciding race of the finals, but unfortunately the weather gods had other plans. Whilst for non sailors the southerly change was welcomed with open arms as it marked the end to that painfully hot heatwave that Sydney had endured over that week, it also marked an end to the days racing as it hit at 20 knots and quickly built to a fresh 30 to 35 knots.

With the finals not completed in their entirety, the final results were determined from the combined scores of the double round robin and thus 'Team Boatmate' Jason Waterhouse and his crew of Olivia Price, Josh Mcknight, Max Vos and Peter Gregg were crowned the David Lukins Memorial regatta champions!

Competitors, officials and spectators quickly hurried ashore, out of the gale, to attend the prize giving. The Lukins' and their extended family came down for the prize giving with Marg, David's Mother presenting the magnificent trophy to Jason Waterhouse and his team.

"This is a huge honour to win a trophy of such nature, my team and I have had an awesome weekend's sailing with all the competitors and officials," said a beaming Waterhouse.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, competitors, spectators, staff and the Lukins' Family for your support in making this event a great success.

Look forward to seeing you all next year!

Final Results are bellow

1st	Boatmate	Jason Waterhouse
2nd	Yasi	Nick Garland
3rd	Salty Sea Dogs	Nina Curtis
4th	Wendy Junior	Chuck Anderson
5th	YD Blue	Steph Doyle
6th	YD Red	Reece Taibly

Melges East Coast Championships were part of the Alfred's Festival of Sail

Alfred's Festival of Sail. New event on the calendar

By Damian Devine

The inaugural "Alfred's Festival of Sail", was hosted by the RPYAC on the week-end October 16 – 17, 2010. The aim was to introduce a new regatta to Pittwater, for racing and cruising boats, that was open to all clubs on Pittwater, the harbour, the central coast and beyond and to create an event that will become a permanent fixture on the Sydney yachting calendar.

The two days of racing featured Divisions for IRC, PHS, One Design, and sports boats on inshore and offshore courses. With the RPAYC home to a number of boats in the Melges One Design Class, this rapidly growing fleet staged their East Coast Championships as part of the program.

A key feature that would make this event unique was to include a cruising rally. With so many cruising boats on Pittwater it seemed logical to cater and bring this group into the frame and stage a question and answer rally, on the waterways of Pittwater and Cowan Creek.

The Cruising & Racing programme was supported by availability of free berths to participants visiting from other waterways and an entertaining onshore social programme located at Halyards Bistro & the Sundial Lawn.

Despite the months of planning by the Committee, headed up by Past Vice Commodore John Ellis and Director Ian Audsley, the inaugural event was unfortunately hampered when Hughie decided to get in the way on Day One. With extreme conditions prevailing on the Saturday, winds in excess of 35 knots forced the cancellation of the day's racing.

Sunday went ahead as planned. There were 10 boats in the 4 hour ocean race with the Rutherford/Ryan 'First Light' taking the honours from Bob Bennett's 'So Farr' & Robert Alder's 'Jayhawk' on corrected time with 'Perpetual Mocean' picking up line honours. Inshore, the fleet was depleted due to the previous day's weather with only seven boats across 3 Divisions getting out on the race track. Div 2 was won by 'Perfect Match.' Div 3 by 'Jack's Back' and Div 4 'Ola.'

In One Design, there was a respectable 14 boats across the Etchells and Melges classes. The Race Committee managed to get six races in with 'Sea Wings' Hendrik Visser taking the inaugural Etchells title from 'Miramar' Mark Doyle and 'Kalika' Ian Audsley whilst in the Melges East Coast Champs, the M24's was won by Cameron Miles 'Roger That' on a countback from Warwick Rooklyn's 'Bandit' with the Curtis/McConaghy 'Matilda' a point back in third. In the M32's, it was a clear win for Heath Waters 'The Business' who won 4 of the 6 races.

After racing, all the crews joined in Halyards for some fine food and drinks and entertainment and a great party buzz in Halyards for the prize giving.

Slam sportswear in conjunction with The Bosun's Locker were the major sponsors of the event and provided the prizes for the winners in addition to a couple of participation prizes.

The 2011 event is scheduled for 5-6 November, stick the date in your calendar and get involved in the Alfred's Festival of Sail.

RPAYC sailors win best male and female at 2010 Australian Yachting Awards

By Damian Devine

BMW Oracle with James Spithill at the helm

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club sailors took home the highest honours at the Australian Yachting Awards by taking out both male and female sailors of the year.

2010 America's Cup winning skipper James Spithill won the Australian Male Sailor of the Year award for 2009-2010 whilst 2009 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Champion skipper Nicky Souter and crew including RPAYC's Nina Curtis took out the coveted female sailors of the year for their outstanding achievement on the Women's World match racing circuit.

Spithill, 31 won the award for guiding BMW Oracle Racing's trimaran USA to victory in the 33rd America's Cup Match in February 2010. 'It's an honour to have won the award. I'd like to congratulate all the other competitors and nominees, and especially thank my family, my father (Arthur) and brother (Tom),' Spithill said in his acceptance speech.

Spithill's father and brother represented him at the ceremony hosted by the sport's national authority, Australian Yachting, at The Deckhouse, Sydney Harbour.

'I'd love to be there, but I'm in the Canary Islands competing at the RC 44 World Championship,' Spithill said in a video message broadcast at the ceremony. 'We just wrapped up the RC 44 world match racing part of the series. That's what the

Nicky Souter with her gold medal

The 2010 RPAYC Match Racing Girls I to r: Katie Spithill, Nina Curtis, Nicky Souter, Jess Eastwell and Angela Farrell

award is all about, going out and winning races,' said Spithill.

Spithill previously won the Australian Sailor of the Year award in 2005-06 for winning the ISAF World Match Racing Championship and the Melges 24 World Championship. He is just the second Australian to skipper a winning America's Cup yacht. He follows John Bertrand who, in 1983, steered the first challenger to win the America's Cup and broke the New York Yacht Club's 132-year winning streak.

It's been a fantastic year,' Spithill said. 'The America's Cup has been a dream of mine ever since I was a kid in 1983 and John Bertrand won in Australia II. To Larry Ellison (team founder) and Russell Coutts (CEO), it was a fantastic effort to build up the team they did. I thought it was quite courageous to make a decision on the wingsail, which is the largest wing ever built.

'This award is an individual award, but I'm not standing here as an individual. There's no way I could have achieved what I have without the help of the team and my family.

'BMW Oracle Racing was a team of more than 150 people. To get that sort of co-ordination, communication and teamwork working together, it was incredible feeling when it all comes together at the end and you pull off the result.'

Not to be outdone the RPAYC girls, Nicky Souter & Nina Curtis received their award for best female sailors of the year after an outstanding year on the Women's match Racing circuit highlighted by winning the 2009 ISAF Women's World Match Racing Championships in Sweden. Souter and Curtis brought home the bronze medal at the 2010 Worlds which followed their back to back wins at the Skandia Sail for Gold regatta in Weymouth, the 2010 Olympic venue and the Buddy Melges Grade 1 regatta in the USA.

They took the award from the young solo round the world sailor Jessica Watson, who was awarded the gong for Youth sailor of the Year.

Souter was very pleased to accept the award, commenting, "We were very excited - The Australian Women's Match Racing Team have had a fantastic season with great results in both the 2009 & 2010 World Championships plus World Cup events. With being awarded this award, its a great feeling knowing when have lots of supporters who are believing in us and helping in many ways to achieve our main goal in winning a medal in London 2012."

Souter added, "We were a bit surprised given we had some very tough competition against Jessica Watson but at the end of the day we do completely different sailing where Jessica is an adventurer and we are a racing team. It would of been a tough decision for the voting panel as you can't really put us in the same category."

Women's match racing will been introduced for the 2012 Olympics and these girls along with another couple of RPAYC girls Katie Pellew (nee Spithill), sister of James and Jessica Eastwell are in hot contention for a place on the Australian Women's sailing team. The girls are al products of the RPAYC Youth Development program.

A couple of other members narrowly missed out on the awards night with their nominations in their respective categories with Bill Pringle nominated in the category of Volunteer of the Year for his lifetime of service to the sport, whilst in the sailor with a disability category Dan Fitzgibbon was aiming for a hat rick of victories in his category with wins in 2008 and 2009 but was pipped at the post.

Fitzgibbon hopes to represent Australia at the 2012 London Paralympics following his bronze at the IFDS World Championships in the Netherlands and his Gold medal at the Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta in Weymouth with crew member Rachel Cox in the Skud-18 class.

The Australian Yachting Awards recognises outstanding achievement in the sport of sailing.

Sail Port Stephens Regatta

By Peter Byford, Joie de Vie

Joie de Vie grabs the start of the 1st Race of Performance Cruising - Photograph by Sail Port Stephens Event Media

The week from 11-17 of April, 2011 saw 'Joie de Vie,' our Jeanneau 42i, compete in Sail Port Stephens for a 3rd year in a row. The regatta provides a great event for some great sailing, good camaraderie at a wonderful destination. This year saw a fleet of around 100 boats compete in events ranging from the Commodore's Cup (Monday through to Wednesday) and the main regatta held on Friday through to Sunday, quite a fleet!

This was the first year that 'Joie de Vie' had competed in the Commodore's Cup with 'Good Form' the only other Alfred's boat. Unfortunately, I couldn't organise to get away from work so I asked my delivery crew Wayne "Banga" Banks - Smith - one of Hobart's top steerers and owner of the Farr 40 'War Games' and one of my Sydney 38 crew, Sarah Dunne to sail the boat.

'Joie de Vie' in the true cruising spirit of the Commodore's Cup had the anchor and chain in the bow, the dodger and bimini, BBQ, fuel and water and the Dacron cruising sails along with a sail locker full of racing sails being kept for the main event.

A highlight of the series was the inclusion of the Jeanneau Cup. Performance Boating Services put on an excellent cocktail party at Mavericks with great food on Monday for all the Jeanneau skippers and crew and also had drinks each evening after racing on the dock. This meant everyone got to know each other.

'Joie de Vie' was very happy with the results, 4th Overall in the Commodores Cup and 1st in the Jeanneau fleet (thanks to the gracious withdrawal of the best scoring boat, skippered by the sponsor, Ron Jacobs in the new Jeanneau 409). Presentations involved a fun night of dinner and dancing at the Shoal Bay Resort on the Wednesday evening, hopefully next year, work won't get in the way of what my crew tell me was a great 3 days.

The main regatta included a number of Alfred's boats with 'Argie Bargie' (Chris Lancaster) and 'Sirocco' (John Ellis) in the Performance Racing Division, 'TailWind' (Shaw Russet), 'Navita' (Mark Wharton), 'Good Form' (Joachim Fluhrer) and 'Joie de Vie' in the Performance Cruising Div and 'Hooligan' (Marcus Blackmore), 'Alibi' (Barry Jackson), 'Old School' (Mark Griffiths), 'Even Finer' (Jason Antill) in the NSW IRC Championships. The club acquitted ourselves well on the dais with 'Hooligan' 1st in Div 1 of the IRC NSW Championships and 'Tailwind,' 2nd and 'Joie de Vie' 3rd in Div 1 of Performance Racing.

For 'Joie de Vie' it was a great week of sailing with a mixture of estuary and offshore sailing around the islands. It's a very beautiful place to sail and is made very interesting by the sandbars and currents, reminiscent of sailing at Airlie and Hammo race weeks. The casual approach to après sailing topped this off as "must do" event on your sailing calendar.

Thanks to all Joie de Vie's crew made up of an all Alfred's crew including Frank Walker, Bob Stoddard, Anna Cross, Rod Ward, John Lane Smith, Mark Jobbins, Sarah Dunne and my sons, Ben and Tim.

Joie de Vie Crew relaxing post race

Daniel Fitzgibbon Awarded Club Yachtsman of the Year

By Damian Devinen

Daniel Fitzgibbon receives his award from Commodore Russell Murphy - photo by Damian Devine

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club in Newport held its annual prize giving on 14 May 2011 with the prestigious Club Yachtsman of the Year, awarded to disabled sailor Daniel Fitzgibbon.

34 year old Dan has been a member of the Club for just on two years after moving to the Northern Beaches from Brisbane to focus on his quest for Gold at the 2012 London Paralympics. After finishing with a silver medal in Beijing, Dan has been working hard to get where he is. His strategy has been to ramp up his training, be around great sailing minds, people and facilities to take it to the next level. This he has achieved whilst as a member of the RPAYC and training on Pittwater.

"To win Club Yachtsman of the Year is a great honour and a real privilege for me. I have seen a lot of yacht clubs around the world and the Alfred's offers fantastic facilities that cater to my needs. But what makes a good Club great are the people and there are so many great people around who have helped me; with my training, boat handling and launching and just making things happen, it's awesome. It all helps to create such a great environment and makes me proud to sail under the RPAYC burgee and proud to be a member."

Dan, who sails in the two-person SKUD 18 class hopes to go one better and is quietly determined to achieve his gold medal dream. "We're really focused on winning Gold. It would be great to see the Australian flag flying and the anthem being played in Weymouth 2012".

Dan has teamed up with Liesl Tesch, a five time Paralympic basketballer who has won her share of medals with two silver and a bronze, who Dan says, "is a naturally gifted sailor." After seeing her on a SBS documentary on disabled sailors sailing to Hobart, Dan called her up and asked if she would like to train and compete with him. At a crossroads and wanting a change from basketball, Liesl accepted and the pair have had a great start to their partnership, winning both their events in the USA in January this year.

At the Miami OCR, a World Cup event, they won 7 out of the 10 races against all the top paralympians in the world, putting a shot across their bows that they will be the ones to beat this year at the Paralympic qualifiers before the 2012 Paralympics, both in Weymouth. And this was only a month after Liesl took up competitive sailing. "She's transferred all the great skills form her basketball background; sportsmanship, strength, strategy and sheer competitiveness," said Fitzgibbon.

Dan and Liesl are currently off to complete the next chapter in his quest for Gold; two months in the UK training and competing in two events, the Sail for Gold Regatta and 2011 World Championships. Both the training and the competition will be at the Olympic/Paralympic sailing venue in Weymouth where Dan hopes to "continue work hard in training, prepare well, get used to the conditions and execute. I'm quietly confident but our first goal is to qualify for the Australian team so we need to do well at these events. It's exciting, it really pushes us, so we'll find out soon."

Dan's achievements over the past 12 months include:

- 3rd Skud 18 class - IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championship, NED
- 1st Skud 18 class - Skandia Sail For Gold Regatta Weymouth & Portland, GBR
- 1st Skud 18 class - Alex Caviglia Regatta Miami, USA
- 1st Skud 18 class Miami OCR 2011, USA

Other notable awards on the night were best performing club boat of the Year Garry Holder's 'The Real Thing' for his Blue Water Series & Pittwater & Coffs Harbour Offshore PHS Series win and Volunteer of the Year Rob Starkey.

Rob Starkey
Volunteer of the Year

Rob has been a member for 14 years and owns a Holland 46 'Windsong.' Whilst Rob has been an active volunteer for many years and a keen cruiser/racer, but what made him an outstanding candidate for the Club Volunteer of the Year was his dedicated voluntary commitment over the past 18 months to the Coral Coast 2011 Rendezvous Cruise.

Rob has been the driving force behind this cruise since the idea was conceived in January 2010 ad as Chairman of the committee, he has been instrumental to the preparation and detailed organisation process. More than 600 individuals attended the various seminars he orchestrated. The CC 2011would not be a reality without the dedication and commitment shown by Rob. The end result of his tireless work is that at least 23 boats are heading north for a series of rendezvous on and off the Coral Coast this year.

Rob said, "I am honoured to be recognised for this award but what is more pleasing is that so many people have got so much out of the work that has gone into the cruise."

Cruising Report

By Maurice Byrnes, Rear Commodore Cruising

A peaceful anchorage

From the start of the season through to April 2011, it has been a busy time for cruising. We kicked off the year with the much awaited and tremendously successful Bonifacio Rally then settled down to enjoying the delights of our very own Pittwater and surrounding waters.

The weather was most unkind to us at the start of the season with the onset of La Nina and the drought breaking rains. Most of our sailing couples are reluctant to head out when the forecast says "Stay at home!"

Post Christmas at Lake Macquarie

The new year saw a fleet of 10 boats head once again for Lake Macquarie where the weather was more kind than it had been in the lead-up period. Fred and Kay Bidwell took up the challenge with a view to taking the fleet to anchorages not visited on more recent occasions. It is always a pleasurable place to sail and the surrounding parks, restaurants and shopping centres were all put to good use.

River Cruising

Once the 2011 cruising calendar got under way the weather really started to heat up with one week end on the water cancelled because it was just too hot. Once again everyone headed for home to turn on the air conditioning. We have still managed, however, to "drop the pick" in delightful bays like Patonga for fish & chips, Hallets Beach for Dicko Cup week-end and Yeomans Bay. We have also had the pleasure of "pot-luck dinners" aboard the Quadmaran 'Mixed Undies.'

First Friday Dinners

Throughout this entire period, the regular First Friday dinners continued to attract healthy numbers who just wanted to come along and catch up with friends over

Bar-b-que at Lake Macquarie

At play on Lake Macquarie

dinner and a glass of wine. Ann Asker has taken charge of the First Friday arrangements and the results have been staggering. Our cruising members have risen to the challenge of getting their booking in early and allowed Ann and the catering staff to present high quality meals and House Manager, Julie Dickinson has ensured the presentation has been first class.

Coral Coast 2011

Also throughout this period one of our most ambitious projects, the planning and organising of the Coral Coast 2011 cruise, continued to delight and amaze those who got involved. From the outset this project was designed to give potential participants access to a range of knowledge and information that was not previously available in one place.

Training seminars that covered such wide and varied topics as engine maintenance, healthcare when cruising and seamanship were covered in a highly professional and organised manner. We even brought John Quinn back from Tasmania to present a "Man Overboard" seminar and some of the very experienced long range cruisers put together a provisioning tutorial. The chairman of the working group, Rob Starkey has worked tirelessly to provide consistency in all of the seminars and will provide a digital copy of all of the course notes to all who participate.

Now the final stage, the participation phase of this event is underway we can all follow the progress of the yachts on a daily basis, by logging on to www.skipr.net.

The planning and execution has been so refined that boats are able to report their position using a special iPhone app specifically written for this event.

If planning and hard work are any indicator the Coral Coast 2011 will be an outstanding success!

Lake Macquarie Crowd

Homeward bound

Easter Cruise 2011

By Maurice Byrnes

The decision to head for Bobbin Head had been made long before the weather forecasters indicated that the conditions were not conducive to a blue water sail. With Easter being late in April, the likelihood of fine weather was minimal and as we have all seen that is precisely the way it panned out.

Leon Wilson, aboard his new yacht 'Nirvana's Kitchen II' led the way as cruise co-ordinator and 25 boats headed for Bobbin Head. With only 2 moorings available most had to drop anchor but there is plenty of room in a calm and very well protected anchorage just short of Empire Bay Marina.

Happy hour at The Kitchen

We had an initial gathering of 44 people aboard 'Nirvana's Kitchen II' on Friday afternoon after the rain had stopped falling. As the sail to Bobbin Head had been organised in a rally format the vital information was recoded and handed over to Leon on arrival.

Plans were made for the coming days and everyone dispersed to their own boats for dinner.

Saturday dawned with the tap-tap-tap of more rain. Friends and relatives all over Sydney were phoning to check if the conditions at Bobbin Head were any different to what they were experiencing and their planned rendezvous for a barbeque lunch were abandoned.

But, what the heck? We were there anyway and made our way to the covered barbeques and picnic area that Leon had booked for us. Now, with all boats accounted for we had 50 or so roll up, some in wet weather gear, for a delightful few hours. While the steaks and the sausages sizzled the wine flowed and amongst the 50 people there were at least that many conversations taking place at the same time. So little time and so much to say!

During the Friday evening, Leon had run all of the rally results through the on-board computer and had determined the winners and subsequently Peter & Jenny on 'Whimaway,' Rawden & Sally on 'Escapade' and Peter & Debbie on 'My Way' were each presented with a bottle of wine for their outstanding results.

The decision to arrange a pot-luck dinner for the Sunday was made and Ann Asker gathered the names of all those who wanted to take part. Names were drawn from the hat and menus were hastily discussed.

Happy hour on Saturday was hosted by Ross & Ann aboard 'Passport' and again people still had lots to talk about. If only we had the authority to instigate our conclusions I am sure the world would be a much better place!

When Sunday arrived, the sun had finally made an appearance. The Easter Bunnies, Val & Julie visited every boat with good wishes and chocolate eggs. They have guaranteed me that next year they will have floppy ears and fluffy tails.

A large group of walkers sets off in an attempt to keep pace with Donna and Jenny, but they were on a mission with Waratah Bay as the final objective. Jim & Clem and Greg & Sally kept on going whilst the rest of us headed for home after an hour or two. The opportunity to bask in the afternoon sunshine was just too inviting, and we still had to prepare for our pot-luck dinner that night.

Bobbin Head BBQ

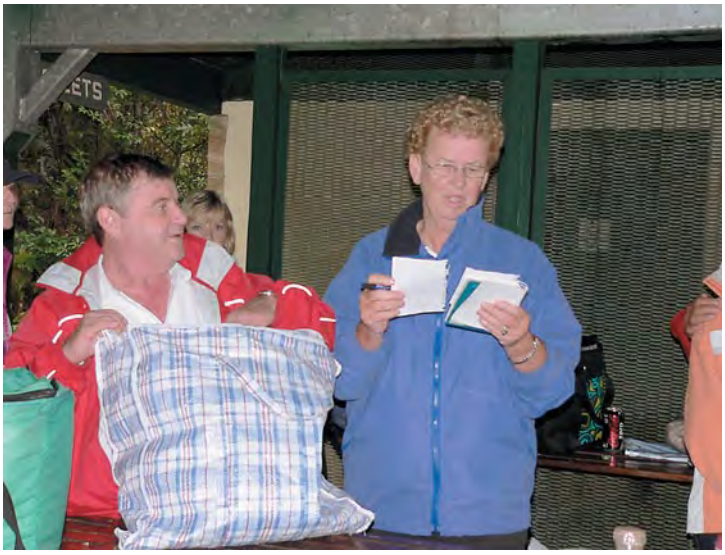
Monday arrived and the rain returned. Many decided it was time to up anchor and return to Pittwater, but there were still a dozen boats left in the bay where morning teas and lunches were organised.

But alas, all good things must come to an end and with the rain on Tuesday it was time to go home.

A five day break is an unusual event and thanks to Leon's enthusiasm and forward planning this one was enjoyed by all who took part.

Thank you Leon!

You've got to love 'em!



The organisers, Leon Wilson and Ann Asker

Rain, what rain? Many conversations still had

2011 Cruising Awards

By Maurice Byrnes, Rear Commodore Cruising

A great gathering for the 2011 Cruising Awards

Much has been said about the Coral Coast 2011 rendezvous cruise. At it's inception, Rob Starkey volunteered to be chairman of the working group that brought this project from dream to reality.

Rob has worked tirelessly to first develop the concept and then make it all happen. There were around 600 attendees at the various training seminars and lectures, all of which Rob has been involved in structuring and presenting.

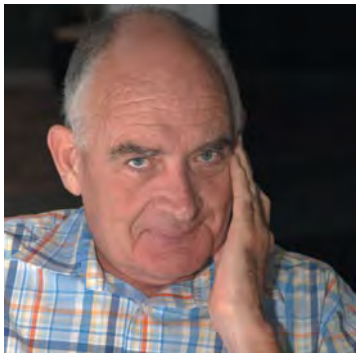
Rob was also presented with an award and a dinner in the Quadrant in appreciation of his work.

As long as we have people like Ann and Rob who are willing to step up to the plate and give their best, The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club will remain strong and vibrant.

It has become the tradition that at the February First Friday dinner the Rear Commodore Cruising will present awards to some of our cruising members for a variety of deeds, accomplishments or misdemeanors. In the past there have been those who have helped others out of difficulty in some way or other whilst away from the safety net of our club environment. There have also been those who have taken unexpected swims or detoured into water that might not be as deep as one would wish. The art of having an anchor stay put has always been of great interest.

In February 2011, we once again gave awards to some of our members who excelled. There are two that are worthy of note.

As you all know, communications to our members throughout the club is very difficult. Ann Asker started a "Cruising Contact list" some years ago and uses this list to relay everything that the cruising members want and need to know. Ann has been diligent in keeping this list up to date and in sending information to our members. Ann was presented with an award and a dinner for two in the Quadrant as a small "Thank you" for her contribution.



Miami Olympic Classes Regatta Report

By Daniel Fitzgibbon

Dan Fitzgibbon in action in Miami with Liesl Tesch

This was such a good result for us, coming so far so quickly. Liesl is awesome, a natural sailor. I think we are going to be hard to beat come the 2012 Paralympic Games. I would like to extend my thanks to the RPAYC. Without all the help that the club gives us, and the great people at the club, there is no way we could do what we do. I am very proud to represent the club at these International events and carry the RPAYC sticker on the back of the boat. Thank you all for your assistance.

We finally got home after a month of competing in Miami, USA. The trip consisted of two lead up regatta's, training and culminating in the Miami leg of the Sailing World Cup. It came after a tough summer in Australia for us with poor results leading to a rethink of the campaign. After the re-assessment I made the difficult decision to move in a new direction with a new crew. I was so lucky to find Liesl Tesch, a five time Paralympian, three time medallist and captain of the Australian Wheelchair Basketball team. We sailed together for the first time at the RPAYC on Boxing Day 2010 and after some intensive training we left for Miami on January the 8th, 2011.

We did not have high expectations but we set the goal of getting better every race. In the Cavigula regatta, our first together, we started of a little slow but worked hard on making less mistakes and came home strongly to snatch the regatta off the World Champion Great British team in the last race. We also won the following Coaches Regatta carrying great form into the Olympic Class Regatta (OCR). The OCR started in typical seabreeze conditions of 12 knots. We had good speed and could hold our line well to take two bullets. With our confidence high we went on to win Gold in the SKUD 18 class with a scorecard of 1, 1, 4, 1, OCS, 1, 1, 1, 2, ahead of USA & GBR.

The preparation area in Miami

Centreboard Report 2010/2011 Season

By Rear Commodore Pru Bennett

The 2010/2011 Season has been another memorable one with numbers growing across all classes and increased representation by the Club at all levels from State to International.

The highlight of the season was the International Optimist Class Australian Championships which attracted a record 170 entries. There is no question that the regatta was a tremendous success with numerous emails and letters to the club after the event complimenting the club and the organisers.

There are several things that make a regatta a truly memorable event. In the case of the Opti Nationals, a key factor was the fact that RPAYC staff and the Board were right behind the event from the day the idea was first discussed back at the beginning of the 2009/2010 season. From the very beginning, a planning committee was established and key to its composition was Chris Stone, Sailing Manager and Mitch Watkins, Sailing Administrator. Both Chris and Mitch worked closely with the committee to ensure that our planning was effective.

The process started with monthly meetings beginning in January 2010, from September fortnightly meetings were held and from December meetings were at least weekly. During the planning process, it was always unclear as to the number of entries we would get. We were initially hoping for 120 boats which was the break even point from a budgeting point of view and to end up with 170, was an absolute delight for the planning committee.

Some of the issues that the planning committee was faced with included:

- Measuring 100+ boats in two days;
- Launching and retrieving 100+ boats from Moon Bar;
- On-water catering for 100+ boats;
- Off water catering for 100+ boats, parents, siblings and other supporters;
- Sponsorship;
- Rigging areas for 100+ boats and mast/sail storage;
- Etc. etc.

An area which received considerable compliments was the off water catering managed by Julie Dickinson and her team. Each night more and more families stayed at the Club for dinner as they enjoyed both the quality and value of the food served in Halyards. The presentation night saw just under 500 attendees and although some had to wait a little while for their meals, no one went hungry.

The reception area was also kept busy with over 200 parents, mostly from interstate coming in and out of the club each day. Jenny McCormack, who manned the reception desk, did an outstanding job meeting the needs of the masses of people who walked past the reception desk every day.

The on water race management was another area of strength of the regatta. Race officer Ted Anderson was presented with some challenging weather conditions and managed to get a creditable nine races in the main fleet. This was a credit to Ted and his team, which included Cameron Edwards who was in charge of the finishing boat. It's great that we have such expertise within our own membership.

Thanks also go to the wider membership who also contributed to the success of this regatta.

I would like to thank the hard working committee members of Peter Bennett, Warwick Crossman, Jason Beavan, Simon Winston-Smith, Rob Brewer and Anthony Passmore and RPAYC General Manager, Suzanne Davies and her team for their contribution to what was one of the best junior regattas ever.

Moving onto other regattas, RPAYC had great representation at major regattas including Queensland Youth Week, Sail Brisbane, Sail Sydney, Sail Melbourne, national regattas and the National Youth Championships. The behaviour of our members is always outstanding and it's a pleasure to be associated with these sailors. The RPAYC is the strongest club in NSW in respect of international youth classes and our reputation is working to attract new members.

Special mention should be made of our members who were selected for major international regattas as follows:

Chris Andersen	Laser Radial Open and Youth Worlds
Milly Bennett	Laser 4.7 Youth Worlds
Nick Connor	Laser 4.7 Youth Worlds
Jim Colley	NZ International Optimist Class Championships
Xavier Winston-Smith	Asian and Singaporean Internationals Optimist Championships

Congratulations to these sailors and good luck in your regattas.

Our fleet sizes continue to grow. Within the last two months we have had membership applications from five new optimist sailors, new 29er boats have been ordered as well as 420's. It is good to see our Opti sailors moving into the international youth double handed classes and managing these boats with great skills.

Like a well run regatta, a good season only happens with the help of committed volunteers. I would like to thank those who worked on the Centreboard committee during the year Lauren Crossman, Cameron McTavish, Traks Gordon, Rob Brewer, Simon Winston-Smith, Marty Andersen, Virginia McClelland, Chris Dawson, Geoff Kitchen and RPAYC director, Ian Audlsey. I also have to thank the RPAYC staff who support centreboard including Damian Devine, Jackie Hall, Jenny McCormack, Julie Dickinson and last, but not least, the sailing offices Chris Stone, Mitch Watkins, Tom Spithill, Jesse James and Stu Templeton.

Boats on the water during the 2011 Optimist Nationals

170 boats make an Optimistic regatta at RPAYC

By Damian Devine

Rigging in the RPAYC carpark for 170 boats - Photo Damian Devine

The RPAYC hosted the largest Optimist regatta ever staged in Australia in January 2011, when the Pittwater waterway provided the backdrop to a spectacular sight with a massive 170 boats and kids aged between 8 and 15 assembling for the 2011 International Optimist Australian & Open Championships. The RPAYC were well represented with 20 competitors.

The Organising Committee were thrilled with the number of entries received from every state of Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands, Japan and Germany. The 170 junior sailors, along with their families, enjoyed the hospitality of the Club and the five fabulous days of sailing on Pittwater which delivered conditions from all corners of the compass.

The 170 competitors were broken down into two fleets; Open and Green with the Open boasting a fleet size of 111, and the Green 59. The Open fleet, due to its sheer size, was broken down further into four groups of equal size, with each group racing off against one another in flights, in a mini round robin. The Green fleet, for younger novices sailed shorter courses and in lighter conditions, giving them the opportunity to advance their sailing skills in competition.

The regatta was held over six days including a lay day and a maximum 12 races to be sailed. Scoring was based on individual race scores, less a drop, with the lowest points crowned the champion. Two courses were set for the two fleets with the Open fleet racing in the "big pond," north of Scotland Island whilst the Green fleet sailing to the south of the Island in the "small pond."

The championships was also the selection event for the Australian Optimist Sailing Team (AOST), with 22 selected and given the chance to represent Australia at an International event. The top five go to the Worlds in New Zealand where they will be up against 250 of the best junior sailors from 50+ countries.

RPAYC Rear Commodore Centreboard Pru Bennett said, "It was very exciting for the Alfred's to host the Optimist Nationals. An event like this required a lot of planning and there was a lot of work that went on behind the scenes in preparation for this event. This was the biggest Optimist regatta ever held in Australia and it was fantastic to welcome so many young sailors and their families to the Club and Pittwater, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

The RPAYC was bursting at the seams with the carpark filled with boats, sails and competitors whilst the club itself enjoyed fantastic trade in Halyards. In fact, they contributed around $57K to the food and beverage coffers.

Day One - After days of preparation, registration, measurement and the Opening Ceremony, there was an air of excitement as Pittwater turned on a great day for the fleet, who left in procession from the Moonbar boat ramp bound for their respective

170 boats make an Optimistic regatta at RPAYC (continuing from page 45)

courses for the day's racing.

The bustling carpark of the previous days was left in quiet contrast as the fleet mustered for the start of their racing. The breeze was from the ENE 8-10 knots under overcast conditions. It was a long day on the water for all with the final race finishing at 1730hrs, all under the watchful eye of PRO Ted Anderson.

Those sailors who were able to keep their boats in clear air and moving, were rewarded in the light conditions.

Four races were completed with Nia Jerwood 'Bucca Nia' from the Fremantle YC and the RQYS's Charlie Wyatt leading the pack in the Open fleet whilst in the Green fleet, Lachlan Dare 'Flirt' and Callum Green 'Voracious' led. Jerwood finished the day on 12 points, after her 3-1-7-1 results and the only sailor to knock up two wins. With a 4 point lead, there was nothing separating the top 12.

The best of the RPAYC contingent was Xavier Winston –Smith, who finished on 37 points coming back from a 23rd in his first race to post a credible 7-2-5 in the final three races.

In the Green fleet, there was a plethora of coach boats and spectator fleet chaperoning the younger sailors. Lachlan Dare, Sandringham YC took day one honours with a consistent 3-7-2-2 result to finish on top of the leader board on 14 points.

Day Two - saw three more races completed, bringing the total to seven and the first drop into play. The conditions proved more challenging for the competitors, with the breeze filling in early starting with a 12-15 knot North Easter building to 18-20 knots by lunchtime and peaking at 25 knots NNE during the afternoon.

Nia Jerwood led the regatta until the final race - Photo Tom Quirk

Day 1 action in the Open Fleet - Photo Damian Devine

Nia Jerwood continued to show the fleet why she is the defending champion with a 5-1-1 scorecard to maintain her lead after day two in the Open fleet. Klaus Lorenz, Whitsunday SC paved the day's best result posting a perfect score with three bullets to move into third spot.

Ted Anderson set a course in the middle of the big pond, negating any advantage of the Points in the bay. It was a reasonably tight start line when all the fleet was present, but with the increased pressure taking out a few of the novices, there was plenty of room to get across the line cleanly.

Consistency gets rewarded in fleet racing and the point score reflected that with the top ten sailors posting top ten results.

The Green fleet only managed to get in one race with the breeze clocking over 15 knots, the maximum pressure allowed at this level. The AP flag was hoisted and with the breeze only getting stronger racing was abandoned for the day. Accolades went to Margot Mason from Avalon SC winning the only race of the day.

Day Three – Teams' racing day, a series of short sprint races sailed on an S-shaped course. With four flights, a final and fourteen races in total, the pace was fast. The format saw eight teams sail off one another in a double elimination series, where a team that loses two races is eliminated.

Optimist teams' racing is part of the International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA) format employed at National and World levels to encourage competition between clubs, states and countries. Five boats comprise a team, however, only four sail in a given race.

The aim of teams racing is simple; it's fun, exciting, encourages individuals to be part of a team and therefore encourages teamwork.

In an exciting final, the pace was fast and furious. It remained close on the downwind run with minimal gybes before they turned for a tacking duel to the finish. In an extremely close race, in the end only 20 seconds separated the first and last boat as they crossed the finish line.

The team from WA defeated Victoria B in the final which was sailed on in a fresh 15-20 knot North Easter, gusting to 25s. Their pre-race tactics were simple – "to sail fast and win," makes sense!

Day Four – Lay Day

Day Five - the competition returned for day five but unfortunately for the Open fleet, the wind wasn't as enthusiastic as the competitors, with the forecast North Easter failing to eventuate and only one race completed.

The AP flag was up early with only a hint of breeze for the Open fleet. The Green Fleet took the opportunity to get racing underway in a light 5 knot Westerly.

At around noon, the AP flag came down and race 8 got underway for the Open Fleet in a fickle 6 knot WNW dropping at times to 2 knots. Flight A managed to get the full course in but with the breeze dropping, Flight B was shortened and the competitors were finished at the bottom gate.

Unfortunately, that's the way it remained for the rest of the day with the breeze threatening at times but the humidity and the clouds preventing it to get its way.

The West Australians dominated the leader board with five sailors sitting in the Top 10. Jerwood, from WA remained on top despite a 12th today, just three points clear of Chris Charlwood, also from WA going into the final day

Day Six - In unusual weather for the time of year, the wind just didn't want to play ball so unfortunately only one race out of the scheduled four was completed on the final day.

Leonard Takahashi from NZ won the start clearly at the pin end of the line playing the shifts on the first beat to round the top mark in front. He hung on to win in fading breeze in a close finish. In the other flight, Chris Charlwood took the spoils with the fleet in this flight barely able to finish as the wind flatlined.

Then, Pittwater was becalmed. With clouds hugging the land, the breeze tried hard to break through but failed to get to the big pond course with any consistency with a North Wester fighting off the South Easter, which at times got 4-5 knots before retreating quickly and doing a full pirouette.

Ted Anderson and his team tried in vain to get another race away but in the end all that could be actioned was the AP over A flag hoisted at 3:35pm, effectively declaring the championship over for 2011.

With Charlwood's win and overnight leader Jerwood managing a 5th in the opposite flight of the final race, Charlwood leap-frogged Jerwood on the leader board to be crowned the 2011 Opti Australian Champion. It was a disappointing end for Jerwood who had led all week.

For Charlwood, representing the Royal Perth YC, his emotions were in complete contrast to Jerwoods, with his one point victory. Naturally elated, Charlwood said, "Yeah, really happy, stoked!. To win the Nationals, it's just awesome. That was a tough race out there today and I just tried to play the shifts, I got lucky I guess."

The highest placed sailor from the RPAYC was Xavier Winston Smith, who finished in 9th spot.

Strangely, it was a different story for the Green fleet, who managed to get their final four races in sailing in the small pond. They conjured their own private breeze, a light, consistent 5-6 knots South Easter. The final results saw two Victorians take the honours with Lachlan Dare 'Flirt' win comfortably by 14 points over fellow club mate Finn Hartnett 'Coyote'. Fremantle's Callum Green 'Voracious' finished in 3rd Final results were:

Open Fleet:

1. Chris Charlwood 'C Dog' – RPYC/FSC (WA)
2. Nia Jerwood ' Bucca Nia'– RPYC/FSC (WA)
3. Klaus Lorenz 'No Name'– WSC (QLD)

Green Fleet:

1. Lachlan Dare 'Flirt' –SYC/ SSCBC (Vic)
2. Finn Hartnett 'Coyote' - SYC/ SSCBC
3. Callum Green 'Voracious' – FSC (WA)

The RPAYC were well represented at the event with 20 competitors, 5 in the Green Fleet and 15 sailors in the Open Fleet. Their results were as follows:

Open Fleet:

9th	Xavier Winston-Smith, 'The X Factor'
17th	Jim Colley, 'Scar'
25th	Shaun Connor, 'Slick'
32nd	Chris Phillips, 'Beached AZ'
34th	Nicholas Connor, 'Da Boat'
40th	Alec Brodie
42nd	Stuart Plenderleith, Flying Haggis'
48th	James Farquharson, 'Nauti Boy'
56th	Jaime Swavley, 'Ytse Jam'
76th	Dorian Marshall, 'Sea Dragon'
77th	Nicholas Andersen, 'Zhik'
81st	Flynn Rohr, 'My Preciousss'
88th	Chelsea Connor, 'Scruba Dub Dub'
89th	Sarah Beavan, 'Bubble N Squeak'
94th	Zach Beavan, "Spyder'

Green Fleet:

22nd	Tom Colley, 'Tomahawk'
32nd	Henry Davies
34th	Luke Derry
45th	James Derry
47th	Liam Beavan

All in all, the event was heralded a huge success and the club beautifully showcased!

The RPAYC and the Organising Committee wish to thank the members for their patience and support, the volunteers for their tireless work, and the sponsors' planit, Quantum Sails, Proactive signs and images, Zhik, Oz Opti and Rob Brewer.

Chris Charlwodd Open Fleet winner - Photo Damian Devine

Laser Nationals

By Pru Bennett

Max Voss and Josh Dawson sailed in their first laser nationals - Photo by Mitch Watkins

The 2011 Laser Nationals were sailed from the Georges River Sailing Club on Botany Bay. 186 boats entered this event. The event was dominated by very strong north easterly winds which provided a challenge to our lighter radial sailors.

RPAYC has a total of 14 sailors in this event which made us one of the largest club's in terms of numbers at this event. Thanks go to Rob and Virginia McClelland who were key volunteers throughout the event.

In the Radial division, Joe McMillan and Chris Andersen made the Gold Fleet finals and finished 30th and 36th respectively. In the Radial Silver Fleet, Oscar Stranack showed great improvement finishing 16th just ahead of Harry Bate who finished 17th. Lindsay Whitton was our sole masters representative and finished 27th in the Silver Fleet. Our other radial sailors in the Silver Fleet were Liam Bennett (27th), Lauren Crossman (33rd), Cameron Edwards (37th), Angus Stranack (43rd) and Tom McClelland (46th).

The Laser 4.7 fleet was very complete with RPAYC's Nick Connor finishing a very creditable 3rd just ahead of Milly Bennett who was 4th and the first girl. Max Voss and Josh Dawson sailing in their first Laser Nationals finished 10th and 17th respectively in a fleet of 45. With these great results the RPAYC 4.7 sailors are now training hard for the 2011 World Championships which are to be held at RPAYC's sister club in San Francisco, The St Francis Yacht Club in July.

Youth Nationals

By Pru Bennett

Immediately following the class Nationals, the Youth Nationals commenced at Georges River Sailing Club. As with the Lasers, RPAYC was well represented with a total of 17 sailors which meant we were probably one of the best represented clubs at the regatta.

In the Laser 4.7 fleet we had five sailors; Nick Connor, Josh Dawson, Max Voss, Brodie Crossman and Jessica Winston Smith. Nick achieved a great result coming 6th in a very competitive fleet. A special mention must be made of Jessica Winston-Smith efforts as she is only 11 and this was her first national Laser event. Expect to see great things from Jess in the future.

Five members represented the club in the Laser radial fleet. Chris Andersen had a great result coming 11th. Other sailors included Oscar Stranack, Joe McMillan, Harry Bate and recently joined Ashley Lane who came 5th in the Women's Division.

In the very competitive 420 fleet, Milly Bennett and Jess Russell came 6th just ahead of James Brewer and Dylan Passmore. New member, Caitlin Tames, sailing in her first 420 regatta, also did well.

We had one boat representing RPAYC in the 29er fleet with Julian Hannan and Dominic Glover finishing in the Top 20, with a creditable 16th.

Milly bennett & Jess Russell 6th finished in the 420 fleet

The Club is very proud of not just the results but how all these sailors conducted themselves at this National Youth Event. Well done to all!

Gill 29er Australian National Championship Belmont 16ft Skiff Sailing Club

By Gaye Lee

Fifty three boats took part in this season's Nationals, including 7 Pittwater boats. The series had consistently moderate to strong SE to NE winds and the racing was of an extremely high calibre throughout the fleet. Teams came from NSW, QLD, TAS, WA, VIC and SA bringing coaches and RIBS and wearing their States rashies. The youth sailors from the leading States proved to all, that the intense coaching some of these young sailors receive, is definitely working in those States.

Racing was close throughout the series with the final result not known till the finish of the last race giving QLD youth sailor Josh Franklin and crew 1st (25pts), WA Daniel Roberts and crew 2nd (27 pts) and NSW Andrew and Will Chapman 3rd (32 pts).

RPAYC sailors Sarah Lee and Chris Goluzd 12th and 2nd lady skipper(47 pts), Claire and George Bryan 29th and youth sailors Julian Hannan and Dominic Glover 31st. This was a great result for the boys. Julian is an ex F11 crew with little helming experience, even so, Julian and Dominic had very consistent results.

Australian Laser Masters Championship

By Laser sailors

Stuart Holdsworth finished 4th in the Apprentice Masters

Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club sailors Chris Dawson, Brett Kimmorley, Tony Dickson, Rob McMillan, Pru Bennett and Stuart Holdsworth were amongst over 180 sailors who participated in the Australian Laser Masters Championship at Port Stephens Sailing and Aquatic club Feb 11 to 14th.

The regatta was a great organisational success with ten races sailed over 4 days in breezes of 12 to 25 knots thanks to sound race management under Tony Denham.

The Australian National Masters regatta was the first of its type for some time after the various laser associations agreed to it going ahead.

Day One saw perfect 15 to 20 knot sea breezes in full sunshine. The day was only marred by Chris Dawson's unlucky rig failure which scored him two DNFs in the Masters Division, not an ideal start to a regatta where competition was looking tight. Rob McMillan enjoyed the stronger breezes and finished the second race with an impressive third place. In the Apprentice Masters Division, the racing was extremely tight and with a good interstate representation. Holdsworth finished Day One in sixth.

Day Two was ideal Laser racing conditions of shifty and gusty 12 to 17 knots. Chris Dawson commented, "it was a real head out of the boat day" whilst others said that it was perhaps the best day of laser racing for some time. Dawson managed to overcome the Day One disappointment and started working up the results with a 6,7,7 in a fleet including well accomplished Laser sailors including Brad Taylor (Qld), Mark Tonner Joyce (Vic), Larry Kliest, Sean Atherton Feeney and Greg Adams (Qld).

With three races on Day Three and Two on Day Four, Day Three was regarded by many as "the money day." With encouragement from his family, Holdsworth managed to score an impressive 2,3,3 pulling him up to fourth place overall. Dawson continued on scoring decent results with 4,5,7 and Brett Kimmorley also pulling a seventh.

Day Four saw a rainy south easter 15 to 25 knots creating an ideal environment for clinching places for the more tactically minded. Whilst many of the competitors were clearly fatigued after the prior three days, the race committee completed races nine and ten on plan, allowing Dawson to score a fifth and eighth, drop his two first day DNFs, and finish an impressive overall sixth place in the Masters Division, with Brad Taylor (Qld) 1st, Sean Atherton-Feeney 2nd and Mark Tonner-Joyce (Vic) 3rd.

In the Apprentice Masters, Holdsworth managed to fend off challenges from some of the heavier competitors enjoying the stronger breezes to score 7 and 4 and finish fourth overall behind multiple world champion Brett Beyer, Queenslander Anthony Baisden and Victorian Brett Morris.

Other final results were Bret Kimmorley 18th and Pru Bennett 6th in the4.7 fleet.

The Laser Masters World Championships will be held in San Francisco in August.

The next Australian Laser Masters Nationals will be at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron in May 2012.

Success for our Laser Youth sailors

By Pru Bennett

A great season for Laser youth sailors

It's been a great season for our developing Laser Youth Sailors with some outstanding results from a number of our members.

It all started back in October when Max Vos took out the NSW Laser 4.7 Youth Championships from Nick Connor 3rd, Josh Dawson 5th and Brodie Crossman 6th. Joe McMillan sailed superbly to finish 2nd in the Radial fleet with Chris Andersen not far behind in 4th.

The spotlight then turned to the Laser State titles held in November. Again it was a good showing with Milly Bennett showing a clean pair of heels finishing 2nd in the Open 4.7 fleet with Max Vos 3rd, Nick Connor 5th and Josh Dawson 6th.

In the Radial fleet, the RPAYC was well represented by RPAYC sailors with Chris Andersen finished a very credible 10th in the Open fleet and 4th youth, Harry Bate was our next best with 12th in the opens and 5th youth.

Big fleets turned out for the Laser National Championships at Georges River SC over Xmas & New Year. A total of 45 Laser 4.7's and 51 Radial youth sailors took part in the event, a large increase on last years numbers. Many were treating this as their lead up event for the following weeks Youth Nationals and qualification places for the 2011 World Champs in San Fransisco were on the line. The fresh, lumpy conditions made racing physically demanding. Nick Connor was the best of the RPAYC boys with an excellent 3rd place with fellow club sailors Max Vos 10th and Josh Dawson 17th in the open fleet. Milly Bennett again proved the best of the bunch not only winning the girls event but also finishing a very impressive 4th in the open fleet showing most of the boys how it should be done. In the Radial fleet our best performers were Joe McMillan 30th in the opens and 16th boys youth and Chris Andersen who placed 36th open and 19th boys youth.

The following week saw the final event for our youth sailors, the Youth Nationals, again at Georges River. Winds had moderated marginally giving competitors a chance to get their breath back. Again the fleets were very strong and the RPAYC was represented in the 4.7's by Max Vos, Nick Connor, Brodie Crossman and Josh Dawson. Nick was our best with a hard fought 6th place followed by Josh 12th, Max 13th and Brodie 27th. In the Radial fleet Chris Andersen again proved RPAYC's best with a great 11th place in the 50 boat fleet.

With some great results behind them Milly, Nick and Max were selected to represent Australia at the San Francisco 4.7 World Championships in late August and Chris Andersen was also selected to represent Australia at the Radial Worlds in France. Lets wish them all the best for these events.

Max Vos out training in the Laser 4.7

Good start for International Finn Dinghy class

By Geoff Kitchen

The International Finn Dinghy class had a good start to the year at the Alfred's during the 2010/11 season. There were 10 different boats turn up for at least one of the Icebreaker series race days and had a core group of 6 boats doing most. The series was won by Rob McMillan, but as he was the major sponsor of our division he passed the placings down the line for a final placings of: Mark Phillips 1st, Rob Feilding 2nd, Geoff Kitchen 3rd.

This number of boats put us in good standing for the season with everyone keen from the get go. During the build up to the Christmas break it was not uncommon for 12 boats to be over at "Finnland" on the Crystal Bay Hardstand, and for 6 to 8 boats to be out training on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Nationals were at Cronulla Sailing Club where we had 5 boats represent the club, coming up against a strong international contingent. This level of training and racing has continued into the second half of the season with half a dozen guys travelling to Europe for the northern summer Finn regattas and Olympic qualifiers and the most long awaited regatta for most of our guys, the Finn Masters champs in Punta Alta, Italy where over 300 boats from 30 countries are expected to race.

And of course, the guys who aren't going will be here sailing in Icebreaker series, for the circle to start anew. Here's looking forward to a great season in 2011/12.

RPAYC wins the 29er NSW-ACT States

By Gaye Lee

Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club hosted the first seven heats of this year's 29er/29erXX and 49er NSW-ACT State Championships and in consecutive years an RPAYC crew have won the 29er State Championships.

32 boats took part in this season's States, including six Pittwater crews. Racing was extremely tight and crews were tested through a range of wind strengths. Light to moderate conditions prevailed on Pittwater and after heat 7, RPAYC sailors Sarah Lee and Christopher Goluzd were equal first with Hansen/Dahl.

29ers coming off the line - Photo by Mitch Watkins

Gosford hosted the remaining 7 heats in pouring rain, with winds ranging from 3 to 20 knots. Sarah and Chris managed to narrowly retain their lead throughout the weekend with consistent results and finished first on 37 pts, 2nd Hansen/ Dahl 41pts and 3rd Jones/Vandervoot 79pts. Sarah also won 1st Female Skipper.

Other RPAYC competitors were last year's winners Claire and George Bryan (7th) and Julian Hannan and Dominic Glover (10th Youth). The Combined Pittwater 29er fleet is expected to grow to about 11 boats next season and our own fleet will welcome Milly Bennett and Jessica Russell. We also welcome the larger rigged 29er XX using 29er hull which caters for the slightly heavier crew.

Many thanks to the Club for hosting the Championships and to Robert (RO) and Virginia McClelland. Anyone interested in sailing the 29er or 29er XX please contact the Sailing Office.

Optimist Class Report

By Simon Winston-Smith

The highlight of the Optimist season for all RPAYC and NSW Optimist sailors was the AIODA Open and National Championship in January, hosted at the Alfreds. The event set new standards that will become the benchmark for host clubs for many years to come. Over 250 sailors attended an event that came to the Alfreds through the vision and commitment of Pru and Peter Bennett with support from their team of volunteers and an organised and committed team of club staff. Great conditions over four days of racing drove tight competition in the open fleet. RPAYC sailors acquitted themselves well with Xavier Winston Smith (9th overall), Jim Colley (17th) and Shaun Connor (25th) qualifying for the Australian Optimist Sailing Team that will see all three compete in Singapore at the Singapore Nationals, Jim compete in New Zealand, and Xavier represent Australia at the IODA Asian Championships in Singapore in July. In February, the RPAYC sent three teams of four sailors to the NSWIODA Teams Racing Championship. We chose to balance our teams with youth and experience to benefit our sailors in the years to come. The future looks bright with our sailors coming home with first, third and fourth place and the Clubs Trophy in their first teams racing event. A great result for all.

Xavier Winston Smith at the Opti Nationals

The NSWIODA State Championships in March were hosted by the Woollahra Sailing Club, and again we witnessed and event that broke new records. Over ninety five boats competed with all 18 of our RPAYC Optimist sailors competing. Our green fleet sailors showed we have plenty of young sailors coming through while our open fleet sailors competed well with Jim Colley taking first place and Xavier Winston Smith and Alec Brodie filling second and third respectively.

A number of our sailors are moving on from the class, Xavier Winston Smith to the International 420, James Farquharson and Stuart Plenderleith to Laser 4.7, and we wish them well and thank them for their contribution to the Optimist class at our club. With record numbers in the class at the club and in NSW and new sailors joining the ranks in recent months the Optimist class at RPAYC is healthy and strong and bodes well for centreboard sailing at RPAYC in the years to come.

2010-2011 Centreboard

Division	Award	Boat Name	Skipper	Crew
Laser 4.7				
	1st Club Championship **1st Pointscore**	Jaydee	Joshua Dawson	
	2nd Club Championship **3rd Pointscore**	Bagus	Max Vos	
	3rd Club Championship **2nd Pointscore**	Aero	Brodie Crossman	
	Most Improved		Jess Winston Smith	
Laser Radial				
	1st Club Championship	Stig II	Liam Bennett	
	2nd Club Championship **1st Pointscore**	Avatar	Lauren Crossman	
	3rd Club Championship **3rd Pointscore**	Ninja	Tom McClelland	
	2nd Pointscore	Cheeky	Oscar Stranack	
	Most Improved	Cheeky	Oscar Stranack	
Laser				
	1st Club Championship **3rd Pointscore**	Imagine	Brett Kimmorley	
	2nd Club Championship **2nd Pointscore**	Seedy	Chris Dawson	
	3rd Club Championship **1st Pointscore**	Old Salt	Anthony Dickson	
Optimist				
	1st Club Championship	Flying Haggis	Stuart Plenderleith	
	2nd Club Championship	Scar	Jim Colley	
	3rd Club Championship	RAN	Alec Brodie	
	1st Pointscore	Nauti Buoy	James Farquharson	
	2nd Pointscore	Zhik	Nic Andersen	
	3rd Pointscore	Twisted	Zach Beavan	
	Most Improved		Sarah Beavan Dorian Marshal Flynn Rohr	

Prize Giving Results

Division	Award	Boat Name	Skipper	Crew
Finn				
	1st Club Championship **1st Pointscore**	Anika	Matt Visser	
	2nd Club Championship	Finntastic	Peter Bennett	
	3rd Club Championship **2nd Pointscore**	Fatty Finn	Geoff Kitchen	
	3rd Pointscore	Silly Duffor	Jason Antill	
29er				
	1st Club Championship	Ocean Dynamics	Julian Hannan	Dominic Glover
	1st Pointscore	Necessarahlee	Sarah Lee	Chris Goluzd
International 420				
	1st Club Championship **1st Pointscore**	Boats & Hose	Milly Bennett	Jessica Russell
Special Awards				
	The Hornblower Trophy **Most Improved Award**	Jessica Russell		
	The Laurie Norton Trophy **Encouragement Award**	Xavier Winston Smith		
	Cricket Newling Trophy **Best Sportsmanship**	Jack Nairn		

RPAYC Training – It's all about the Future

By Mitch Watkins, Sailing Office

Youth Development Squad Training in F24

It has been a bumper year of training at The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club. This season has seen in excess of 1100 people join the various programs. Members would be well versed to seeing many young faces around the club participating in our Tackers programs. However, this is far from the only training offered by the Alfreds. Training at the RPAYC sees courses conducted for all members, be they Tackers and Holiday programs for juniors, youth development and the match racing squad as well as our school's program for our youth and intermediate members and adult and ladies sail training on the Club's fleet of Force 24 keelboats. Additionally, supplementary courses such as First Aid, Radio Operators and Sea Safety along with the monthly professional seminars are on offer to hone skills.

Junior Training

Junior training is a key element to ensuring the future for any club, regardless of the sport. One of the key differences that sailing has from many sports is that it is more than just a sport for those who are involved, it's a lifestyle. The mainstay of junior training at RPAYC is the Tackers program, sailings answer to Auskick and Milo Cricket. This ever growing initiative by Yachting Australia has one main goal, to increase junior representation in sailing. The program is built on the ease and simplicity of the Optimist Dinghy, for which the Club has 12 poly boats. For beginners there is Tackers 1 where the young sailor is taught the basics. Sailors then have a pathway to progress through Tackers 2 and Tackers 3, by which time the major focus is on learning to race. In all, 66 kids participated in the Tackers' Program.

The popular school holiday's program saw 90 kids learn how to sail

Class training in the Optimist fleet

School holidays are the perfect time to sail with mates. Over the past 12 months the holiday programs have been very popular with 90 kids involved, many from non sailing families being introduced to the club via this avenue. The holiday programs provide for a laid back, fun environment whereby kids are regularly hooked on the sport. Strong retention has been seen from the holiday courses into the weekend Tackers programs. The Tackers and Holiday kids training has seen many new members join the Club and the numbers of Tackers sailors who join centreboard training is on the increase. Strategies are being implemented to increase the conversion of Tackers sailors into centreboard sailors. It is these converted sailors that contribute to the strength and growth of the RPAYC.

Youth Sailors

Youth sailors who are part of the Club's centreboard racing are not left out when it comes to accessing the training that RPAYC provides. Class training, much like fleet training for the keel boats, gives the sailors access to professional coaching. Through this coaching our centreboard sailors progress and improve, achieving their goals as they go. Class training has seen over 40 members involved with the Optimists strongly represented with a good complement of Lasers also partaking in class training.

Expert coaching as part of the Alfred's training

Further to class training The Alfreds Youth Development is open to all members aged 16 – 22. This program utilises both the professional coaching staff and extensive resources on hand at the Club to train youth to sail in the Club's keel boat racing as well as represent the Club in Match Racing, both nationally and internationally. Many prominent members have involved with Youth Development over the years. For many, like the 19 members involved in this year's program, Youth Development is a time they will remember fondly for years with some graduates going onto the sail internationally in the likes of the America's Cup and Olympics.

Adult Training

While many start sailing early in their life others look to learn later. Adult training looks to be an avenue for new members to learn the sport before joining the regular club sailing. The adult learn to sail programs operate twice a year, in November and February. These courses run over 3 sessions taking the participants through the raw basics. As a club we have many female members who do not feel they have the confidence to take control of their yacht. With this in mind the ladies learn to sail on a Wednesday morning, creating an atmosphere where women are comfortable to take control of the boat. The coaches provide helpful and informative tuition. In all, 60 adults participated.

420 training

Supplementary Courses & Seminars

Going offshore? Need your Sea Safety and Survival certificate? What about First Aid or Marine Radio Operator? Training for all of these certifications are offered at various points throughout the year. When doing offshore racing such as the Pittwater to Coffs Harbour Race or the Sydney to Hobart there is a requirement that a certain number of crew hold a first aid certificate, have completed their Sea Safety and Survival Course and hold a Marine Radio Licence.

Held monthly, professional seminars tap into the vast knowledge that is on hand at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club. As a Club we have numerous connections with various local organisations who are only more than willing to share their knowledge with our Members. Additionally, members of the RPAYC have had extensive experiences and are only too happy to share them for the benefit of all. Over the past 12 months we have had seminars on various topics such as; racing rules, sail trim, coastal navigation, tactics as well as meteorology with over 150 members in attendance.

The Force 24's are used for training for both adults and youths

Many highly informative seminars were conducted in the lead up to the Coral Coast Cruise. The Coral Coast Cruise Organising Committee worked tirelessly to find topics that were relevant to both Coral Coast Cruise participants but also to the greater membership base. Topics of particular interest included; diesel maintenance, electrical maintenance, health care while cruising, seamanship and provisioning. More than 600 participated in the CC2011 seminar series.

The training opportunities available to Members of the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club are numerous, catering for different needs. It is through training that as a Club we will ensure our future longevity. It is imperative that new members are encouraged to join and undertake training. Of particular importance is the number of new junior members that join from the training programs. For more information regarding the current training being conducted see online at www.rpayc.com.au or call the Sailing Office on 9998 3771.

International Yachting Fund (IYF) Investing in our Youth.

By Damian Devine

In broad terms, the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club (RPAYC) International Yachting Fund (IYF) is a fund from which money may be disbursed to aid members of the RPAYC advance their skills in the sport of sailing by assisting with the cost of competition at national and international levels and provision of mentoring and coaching resources.

Members are generally required to contribute a small amount to the fund each year to assist these young sailors in their pursuit of excellence when representing the RPAYC in competitions. Funds may be disbursed to members where an application is lodged by a member that is accordance with the Guidelines.

Who can apply?

The following regulations apply to the RPAYC IYF:

- An applicant must be a member of the RPAYC for a minimum of 2 years and must be under 26 years of age. The RPAYC may recommend disbursement to members over 26 years old when it is reasonable in the circumstances of the application to do so.
- The applicant(s) may apply as an individual, or as an individual within a team, when the team is made up of non RPAYC members.
- The applicants are a team made up of entirely RPAYC members.
- The Training Committee may allocate funding to support broad based mentoring & coaching resources for Junior/Youth members across all skill, experience and competition levels.

Applications for disbursement from the IYF must be made on the application form which can be downloaded on the club website.

Who decides?

Each application for disbursement will be reviewed and assessed by the Training Committee. Once this process is completed, the Training Committee will make its decision.

The Training Committee may approve disbursement from the IYF to assist in the payment, in part or in full, of the reasonable expenses of the applicant in attending the nominated event, including items such as coaching fees, regatta entry fees, travelling expenses, accommodation expenses or expenses for personal sustenance.

Each application is considered on, the following criteria;

- individual entry or team entry.
- anticipated number of applicants applying to the fund in respect of a particular event or during a particular period.
- experience of the applicant(s) in the particular class of boat, or experience in the discipline in which competing (e.g. Match Racing or Teams Racing).
- applicant(s) level of commitment to the particular class or discipline.
- the level at which the applicant(s) has undertaken training and adhered to a training program.
- the applicant's past contribution to the Club and commitment to contribute to the Club in the future.
- results achieved by the applicant in events of a like or similar nature to the event.
- the benefit to the applicant and the advancement of the applicant in the sport of sailing arising from attendance at the nominated event.
- the applicant's prospects of success for the event.
- whether financial or other assistance may be or has been received by the applicant from other sources in respect of the event.
- the balance of the IYF.
- previous disbursement(s) from the IYF to the applicant;
- the overall benefit to the Club in the attendance of the applicant at the nominated event.
- the overall benefit to the Club in fostering long term engagement with the Club and the sport of sailing of its Junior/Youth membership group.

In return for receiving a grant, the receiver has certain obligations to the RPAYC including:

- the boat sailed to compete under the burgee of the RPAYC unless competing as a representative of New South Wales or Australia,
- to conduct, behave and dress appropriately at all times whilst attending the event
- to provide a reasonable level of assistance to RPAYC in the future in areas such as coaching, attending PR events, promoting the club or acting as club ambassador and Committee/ Race volunteering
- providing a written report on the regatta or event including; their performance, conditions experienced, whether their performance expectation matched their results, any improvements and training going forward for the next event.

Recent Recipients:

Two such worthy recent recipients of the IYF in 2011 are 21 year old Alyse Saxby and 19 year old Jason Waterhouse along with his crew 19 year old Joshua McKnight. Here are their stories:

Jason Waterhouse & Joshua McKnight - Multihulls

Jason Waterhouse & Joshua McKnight, sailing double handed have embarked on a 4-month campaign sailing in nine regattas at Nationals, European and Worlds level across Asia and Europe in multihulls; on the Hobie 16, Formula 16 and Formula 18 classes.

Jason has more than six years experience in the Hobie 16 class and won 3 of his 4 World Championships in this class and is where he developed his multi hull skills. In the Formula 16 class, Jason and Josh are the current European champions overcoming some Olympic class sailors to win last year in Lake Como, Italy in their first effort in this class.

Jason Waterhouse, 2011 IYF recipient

Both Josh and Jason have been training in the Acuity program with coach Traks Gordon in the Formula 18s, winning every regatta over the recent summer and finishing 3rd at the National championships.

Jason and Josh's focus has now turned to the high performance F18 class as it is by far the strongest class in multihull competition and it's predicted it will be the next multihull class at the 2016 Olympic Games. Jason's ultimate focus is to be the best in the World and win for Gold for Australia. To achieve this aim, they need to go deep into it and this includes the current campaign to compete against the world's best multihull sailors in Europe.

Their training regime has seen them in a an intense program with Traks under the umbrella Program Acuity Future Champions, training 4 days per week on Pittwater and on shore to adjust for any conditions they may experience. They are both focused on becoming world champions in this class in Hungary in the first week of July and their training has seen them perfecting on water techniques, communication skills, rig settings, daggerboards and even manufacturing new F18 sail designs in their quest to win.

Their campaign will see them compete in the following regattas:

- Top of the Gulf Regatta, Thailand (31 April – 4 May)
- Thailand Hobie National Championships (6-8 May)
- Belgium National Championships (2-4 June)
- North Sea Regatta, Netherlands (10-13 June)
- Dutch National Championships (22-25 June)
- Round Texel race – Netherlands (25 June)
- Formula 18 World Championships (1-9 July)
- Formula 16 World Championships (16-23 July)
- Hobie European Championships (5-14 August)

Jason has been a member for 11 years and Josh for 4 years. As you can imagine, this campaign will cost a significant amount of money. With both of them being students, excellent ambassadors for the RPAYC and with astounding sailing resumes for 19 year olds, they are worthy recipients of an IYF grant and a great investment to the future of sailing.

Alyse Saxby – Special Olympics, Athens, Greece

Alyse Saxby is 21 years of age and has been a member of the RPAYC for 5 years. Alyse has been selected to represent Australia at the Special Olympics World Summer games being staged in Athens, Greece in June-July 2011. She will be sailing in the 420 class, the craft chosen for competition. She will depart with 131 athletes representing Australia with an intellectual disability and her aim is to win Gold after winning silver in Beijing in 2007.

Alyse is one such member who is taking her grant via coaching assistance at the Club in training for the special Olympics. She has been training two days a week on Tuesdays and Fridays now for 12 months under the guidance of RPAYC members and coaches Bob Hamilton, Tom Brewer and Keith Sinfield.

Alyse Saxby will be competing for Australia in Athens at the Special Olympics

Her training has involved gym training to build fitness and strength and on water to develop her skills including control of the tiller and mainsheet whilst tacking and gybing, capsize drills, points of sailing, hiking and sail trim, and circuit racing practice.

The World Games will be raced in 420 dinghies for Division Two. Spinnaker and trapeze are not used. "Unified partner" in the boat, Bob Hamilton has a long sailing career and a teaching background and crews on 'Cantina' out of the RPAYC, but has not sailed in dinghies since 1990. However, since selection, they have won every Special Olympics regatta they have been in including the Australia Day Regatta and the NSW State Titles in Division One.

In Division One, the athlete has to control the gyb sheet alone while tacking and gybing and adjusting for all points of sailing. In Division Two, all sail trim is under the control of the unified partner (coach) and all helming is done by the athlete. Alyse has been selected in Division Two when she competes in Greece for Australia and has also won regattas in Division One.

Alyse is also a worthy recipient of the IYF grant and her investment in her training should turn to Gold in Athens. We all wish her well when she competes at the Special Olympics.

Other recipients

There have been four others who have received IYF disbursements in 2011 and who will be racing proudly under the RPAYC burgee; these are Max Voss and Milly Bennett who are competing in the Laser 4.7 Youth World Championships in San Francisco in July and brothers Matthew and Robert Crawford who will be sailing in the 470 Youth World in the Netherlands.

For more information on IYF, its guidelines and application visit the RPAYC website and go to www.rpayc.com.au/forms

Acuity Future Champions Program

By Traks Gordon

The Acuity FCP was established in May 2010 to provide junior and youth sailors with the quantity and quality of training required to chase international sailing dreams.

The RPAYC was chosen as the base for this initiative due to its world class facilities, history of achievement and commitment towards promotion and growth of international class youth sailing.

The program is managed and coached by Traks Gordon and sponsored by RPAYC member and 2009 Sydney 38 National Champion skipper Tony Walls.

The primary objective of 2010 was to demonstrate the potential benefits of offering young sailors with a holistic approach to achievement via planning and execution of structured training. The program emphasises the celebration of improvement in a positive environment placing no emphasis on results to gain entry or continue within the scheme.

This approach has created a group of the most committed young sailors in the state, all with a passion for sailing, a desire to improve and a work ethic that is seeing results on the water, in academics and the work place.

Members of the Acuity FCP currently dominate state competition in all classes they compete in and have created the majority of international representative sailors for NSW in 2011.

These include;

- Australian Optimist Sailing Team members Jim Colley and Shaun Connor who will compete in New Zealand and Singapore national championships
- Australian Laser 4.7 World Championship team members Nick Connor and Milly Bennett who will compete in San Francisco, USA, July
- Australian Laser Radial Youth and Open World Championships team member Chris Andersen who will compete in La Rochelle, France, July
- Australian Formula 18 World Championship team members Jason Waterhouse and Josh McKnight who will compete throughout Asia and Europe April-August

In 2010 Acuity FCP sailors secured gold medals in World, European, Australian, NSW, VIC, ACT and QLD state competition.

2011 is an exciting time for the program with many of the current sailors expanding their training to prepare for the international events they have qualified for. At the top of this list Jason Waterhouse and Josh McKnight have departed Australia in April to commence a 4 month European campaign in anticipation of the catamaran's return to the Olympic arena in 2016. Others are beginning their transition into new classes that offer even greater challenges and opportunities.

In 2011 the Acuity FCP is committed to expanding its operation with provision of training to a far greater number of sailors in the belief that there is nothing elitist about personal development and a desire to reach ones potential. Acuity FCP aims to inspire young sailors into pursuing dreams in a sport that rewards longevity and participation. This expansion commitment has seen youth membership and centreboard numbers grow significantly over recent months with a whole new generation already hard at work towards personal best in the coming season.

The ability for this program to operate and continue relies heavily on the shared vision of those who make it possible. The Acuity FCP has committed to renew its support for youth sailing in 2011. The program is actively seeking financial support via sponsorship and patronage to ensure RPAYC sailors continue the clubs mission of Excellence in Yachting for years to come.

To find out more about participation or support of the program please contact Traks Gordon traks1@bigpond.com.

The Acuity FCP would like to acknowledge the generosity of Zhik and Harken for their contributions towards the scheme.

Tim Coltman wins 2010 HARKEN International

By Damian Devine & Tom Spithill

The 18th annual HARKEN was held from 17 to 21 November 2010. One of the premier events for youth on the match racing calendar, the event heralded the 13th consecutive year with HARKEN Australia as naming rights sponsor. Teams compete for the Rockin' Robin Perpetual Trophy with the Harken sailed on the purpose built fleet of six Force 24's performance keelboats with a crew of four, all of who must be under 21 years of age.

The conditions over the grueling four days of competition ranged from light East Nor East for the first and last days punctuated by a strong 20-25knot Southerly on Day Two and a delayed AP start on Day Three as the breeze finally filled as a light Easterly.

With 12 wins from 14 races, Jay Griffin (CYCA) managed to finish on top of the leader board after the double round robin stage of the competition was completed on Day Three. He dominated the first two days of competition resulting in a perfect 11 wins from 11 starts. RNZYS's Codie Banks showed good form to end round robin two with a perfect seven from seven, to finish second on 11 wins gaining that position on a tie break from the consistent Jordan Reece (RSYS), also 11 wins, with Tim Coltman (RPNYC), 9 wins, rounding out the top four.

Griffin, elected to sail against Coltman in the best of three semi finals leaving second placed Banks to race against third placed Reece. Upsets were certainly the order of the day with fourth beating first and third beating second in the semis. With Griffin and Banks so dominant in the round robin stage, it took the steely experience of Reece and the cool tactics of Coltman to got them the result and their position to face off in the final both winning their semis 2-1.

For the final day, racing got underway with the breeze 10kts East Nor East average but as light as 6 kts and up to 15 kts in a couple of patches. With the pressure came the shifts and positioning in relation to each of those was critical.

Under clear blue skies the 2010 HARKEN event was going to finish on a high note with RO Ted Anderson managing to get through every race scheduled for the event over four days of competition.

With the exception of the latter stage of the third match, the racing in the finals was extremely close, with lead changes in all three matches.

In the first match of the final, a port starboard incident behind the Committee boat was green flagged by umpires due to both boats altering course. The pair started evenly and remained in close contact around the course. Coltman had a narrow lead down the final run as Reece gybed from side to side in an attempt to roll them. Reece, on port, established an overlap from clear astern as Coltman approached the finish line in an attempt to luff them away from the line. Coltman took the gun with Reece penalised for trapezing off the spinnaker brace during these manoeuvres.

At about 30 secs to start of the second match, Reece pushed Coltman outside the committee boat end of the line and by the time they had gybed around, Reece had started with a couple of boat lengths advantage which he maintained around the first lap. Coltman surprised by passing on the second beat and it came down to the last run the as the boats were locked together with Reece making a late dash at the finish line but Coltman maintained his lead to win by only half a metre, in a nail biting finish.

In what turned out to be the final match in the best of five, Coltman was to leeward off the start line and unable to tack with Reece positioned astern and to windward. Reece carried the layline, pushed out to the left, before tacking to cruise across to the top mark. But Coltman took the lead on the run and hardened up around the bottom mark whilst Reece tacked around. A course change to "Charlie Orange" heralded a left shift coming down the track and Coltman still sailing the right phase on starboard reached it well before Reece, then tacked onto it for a 100m gain. From then on, Coltman needed only to cover loosely to take the match and the title.

So after four days of racing, the Kiwi team from the RPNYC - Tim Coltman, Michael Trudgen, Hana Maguire and Matt Clough were crowned the 2010 HARKEN Match Racing Champions with a resounding 3-0 victory.

"I'm thrilled to win the HARKEN. It's been an interesting week. The score doesn't reflect how close it was with Jordan. A couple of the finishes could have gone either way. There were a few times when we were behind and the crew really dug deep to fight back and regain the lead. It's a great feeling," said an elated Coltman.

In the petit final it was RNZYS's Codie Banks, who made the late charge defeating early leader Jay Griffin 2-0 to give the New Zealanders another 1-2 finish.

In the 5th to 8th placings it was Ashlen Rooklyn (CYCA) who picked up two from three in the round robin and the important one over RYCT's Elliot Noye to take home fifth position. Host Club, RPAYC's Reece Tailby and Stephanie Doyle, both Youth Development graduates rounded out the top eight but gaining invaluable match racing experience from the event.

Final Placings:

1. Tim Coltman (RPNYC)
2. Jordan Reece (RSYS)
3. Codie Banks (RNZYS)
4. Jay Griffin (CYCA)
5. Ashlen Rooklyn (CYCA)
6. Elliot Noye (RYCT)
7. Reece Tailby (RPAYC)
8. Stephanie Doyle (RPAYC)

Number One, a jubilant Tim Coltman and his RPNYC crew celebrate their 2010 Harken victory
Photo by Tom Spithill

Youth Match Racing Squad New Zealand Trip

By Stuart Templeton, X- Club Coach

Racing in the RNZYS Regatta in Auckland

As the culmination of our Youth Development Program and Youth Match Racing Squad, the RPAYC selects a representative team to compete in two match Racing events in New Zealand. The two regattas chosen this year were the RNZYS's Harken International Youth Match Racing Regatta and the RPNYC CentrePort International Youth Match Racing Regatta. The selection process is quite rigorous with the athletes from the Youth Match Racing Squad being chosen on their sailing ability, club involvement and attitude.

The representative teams for each event are as follows:

RNZYS

Helm	Stephanie Doyle
Main	Elyce McClelland
Trim	Gemma Rasdall
Crew	Jack Nairn
Bow	James Johnston

RPNYC

Helm	Stephanie Doyle
Main	Georgina Johnstone
Trim	Gemma Rasdall
Bow	James Johnston

Day one of the RNZYS regatta started with a 10 to 15 knot easterly breeze with a beat into the tide. In the first race we were off the pace with the new boats and racing the top ranked team from Italy, the team had a solid pre start but got their time on distance slightly wrong at the end and trailed off the start line. Next race we won the start and protected left, which was into the incoming tide. Winning the first cross we bounced the opposition into the right and toward slack water and this was the race lost right there, However the team learnt this lesson well and they did not this mistake again. From here on heads were down for the next few races and we had a few losses. The team found their feet in the final two races of the day and won the starts but were down on pace against the local team of Codie Banks.

Next day we went in firing and won the first start and did everything right around the course for the teams first win putting everything together that they learnt the previous day. From this point they did not win another race throughout the day

The Team in Wellington at RPNYC

Stephanie Doyle, Elyce McClelland, Jack Nairn, Gem Rasdall, James Johnston at the RNZYS regatta

but the team always put up a solid fight and gained a lot of respect from the other competitors along the way. Coming into the sail off for 7 and 8 the team was feeling good and quick. First race they smashed the Wellington team in the start and rounded the top mark 3 lengths in front. They extended out of the tide downwind and put together a solid game plan and came round the bottom mark 20 lengths in front. Upwind they protected the left and the tide and rounded the top mark one minute in the lead.

The team sailed to the plan and extended out of the tide and gybed as the other team came round. This is where it came unstuck with a 90 degree left shift and increase in pressure coming though and the Wellington team sailing over our team. The finish ended up being half a boat length in it with our team coming a very close second. Next and final race we trailed early to the start and had control and put themselves into a position where they thought they would have the advantage with the tide, however they misjudged the tide and ended up above boat lay and had to circle around to start. The team sailed extremely well on the upwind and played the left and came round the top mark 1 length behind the opposition. The Wellington team protected well downwind and then covered upwind. Our team trailed across the finish line by three lengths. This was a tough event with a number of firsts including sailing the Elliot 7's and match racing in tide, the team did extremely well and can be proud of their achievements in Auckland.

Next event was the RPNYC CentrePort International Youth Match Racing regatta in the Elliot 6 class. With a slight change of crew for this event our team managed to weigh in as the lightest crew which is never a good sign in windy Wellington.

The first round robin was conducted in 15 to 18 knots and our team had a lot of trouble finding their feet again in the Elliot 6's. Initially we were slow around the course and playing a very conservative game in the pre-starts with the team taking a lot of penalties to the extent of being black flagged in one race. Coming out of the first round robin with no wins is never a good sign and the team was pretty devastated. It was time to change the team tactics with being in the situation of nothing to lose at this point.

We got the team fired up and aggressive in the pre starts and all of a sudden it looked like we had a completely different crew on board looking clam and confident. In the second round robin the team won the majority of their starts and while they were lacking in weight they put in a solid fight in each race. Our team made the sail off for 7th and 8th place against the local girls teams. From the moment the start sequence started there was never any doubt in my mind what the result was going to be. The team had complete control in the start and around the course with RPAYC finishing on 2 wins against RPNYC with 0 wins. It was great to see the improvements in the team once again and I feel they will go a long way.

I am very proud with how the team sailed and represented the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club in New Zealand. They always learnt from their mistakes and never repeated them. Team spirit was always high and it has been commented on more than once on how well they sailed, even in the winning speech by Jay Griffin. Most of all I feel that it is how the team promoted the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club and the youth programs on and off the water that makes me proud to have been a part of this.

Happy days in the windy Wellington

History of Club Trophies

Jack Gale & Damian Devine

King Edward VII Trophy

The Kind Edward VII trophy was purchased by the members to commemorate the reign of King Edward VII and later owned by King George V.

Her Scottish designer George Lennox Watson received a commission from Prince Albert (father of Prince Alfred) for a sailing yacht in 1892. He designed His Royal Highness' yacht "Britannia" to the "Length and Sail Area Rule" as a First Class cutter and was built at the D.W. Henderson yard on the river Clyde. She was launched on April 20th, 1893. By the end of her first year's racing the Britannia had scored thirty three wins from forty three starts. In her second season, she won all seven races for the big class yachts on the French Riviera and then beat the 1893 America's Cup defender "Vigilant" in home waters.

After big yacht racing in 1897 the Britannia served as a trial horse for Sir Thomas Lipton's challenger "Shamrock 1". In 1920 King George V triggered the revival of the "Big Class" by refitting Britannia for racing. Although she was the oldest yacht in the circuit, regular updates to her rig kept her a most successful racer throughout the 1920s. In 1931 she was converted to the "J" Class with a Bermuda rig, but despite her performance to windward, flopped dramatically. Her last race was at Cowes in 1935. During her racing career she had won 231 races and took another 129 flags.

King George V's dying wish was for his beloved yacht to follow him to the grave. On 10 July 1936 after being stripped of her spars and fittings her hull was towed out to St. Catherines Deep near the Isle of Wight and she was sunk.

Her main mast was sold for eighty pounds (sterling) and her port and starboard lights for thirty-two pounds and ten shillings.

Presented to the winner of the Botany Bay race, Blue Water series.

Ailsa Trophy

Flat silver bowl, probably French. For No 3 Restricted Division, presented by W.S. Henderson and named after his yacht "Ailsa".

Named after the yacht 'Ailsa,' a cruising vessel owned by William Henderson, after selling this vessel he built a lion class yacht "Kaiyu". When he died he left some money to the club and they purchased two trophies naming them after his two yachts. Bill was in the automobile industry and was the owner of a firm Henderson Springs, making springs for motor cars. Presented to Trophy Day 2, Fleet 2, winner.

Alyth Trophy

The Alyth Trophy No 1 Offshore Division; the timber miniature model of a globe, with printed paper overlay, raised on a stand mounted on an oak plinth.

Named after the yacht 'Alyth' this trophy was presented to the club by Graham Nock, who served as the Club's Commodore in 1962 and is a Life Member.

'Alyth' is a 40 foot sloop, designed and built in England by Morgan-Giles. Graham sailed her on the harbour with the Alfred's. He sold 'Alyth' and purchased a Dragon class yacht 'Kamulla' from Jock Sturrock, which he raced in that class for many years. Presented to the overall winner of the Blue Water Series.

Beatrice Harvey Memorial Trophy

An EPNS rose bowl presented by Commodore Bill Harvey to the bluebird division in memory of his mother!

The Beatrice Harvey Memorial Trophy in the form of an electroplated on copper punch bowl with a gadrooned wave rim and twin lion mask ring drop handles, raised on a spreading circular foot, mounted on a circular ebonised timber plinth. Presented to Inshore Point Score, Melges Fleet winner.

The Alan Rich Trophy

The Allan Rich Trophy; the electroplated silver claret jug of baluster form, engraved with fern and leaf sprays, raised on a spreading base, mounted on a stepped square timber base. The trophy was donated by Alan Rich who joined the Club in 1936 and is presented for best performing Club yacht. First inscription 1938-39.

The fifty-nine year association with his beloved 'Hurricane' must indeed be a record that may never be broken, as the vessel was on the Club's Register for all of that time and sailed in various divisions of the Club since its launching. 'Hurricane' was built in 1937 by Gordon Beattie to the International Six Metre rule, designed by A. C. Barber who at that time was acknowledged as the best yacht designer in the country.

Many years ago Alan was disappointed with the number of yachts starting in the Club's racing programme and decided that quite a few of the yacht owners were looking for a more relaxed form of racing. He started the Special Division which has become one of the most popular divisions, particularly with new members and attracted a record number of entries in a very short period of time.

Basin Challenge Cup

The "Basin Cup" was presented by Commodore N.H. MURRAY about 1909.

The "Basin Trophy" [RPAYC Opening Day Overall Winner] is in the form of a sterling silver teapot on a stand with burner, Sheffield 1909, maker: Martin Hall and Company, retailed by Wm Farmer and Co Ltd, mounted on a timber plinth.

First inscription for R.P.A.Y.C. Opening Day 1982.

The "Basin Cup" was one of the important ocean races prior to WWII starting from Sydney Harbour rounding Lion Island to port then returning to the finishing line in Sydney Harbour. There was no time limit for the race and I recall one yacht that sheltered in Shelley Beach (near Manly) on the Saturday night and finished on Sunday morning. It was a great race for the 8 metre yachts, they had no self draining cockpits and were completely open. Joe Palmer sailing the 'Pakerdoo' returning to the harbour against a strong southerly had his crew jammed together with their backs to the leeward side of the cockpit to keep the water out. To think that boat sailed in several Montagu Island races, no bunks, no head, no stove boy they must have had ugly wives!

Joy West Trophy

Pittwater Bluebird Division First inscription 1962-63 Silver coloured "Avant Garde" casting in the form of an aluminium stylised figure of a bird, raised on a turned timber plinth.

Presented by Morris West for competition in the Bluebird class.

Morris West was a well known author. One of his better known books was "In The Shoes of A Fisherman" that was a best seller and made into a Hollywood movie. He sailed a bluebird class yacht 'Irrubin.'

Presented to Trophy Day 2, Fleet 3 winner.

Membership Report

By Jill Connell, Rear Commodore Membership

The last three years have been a challenging time in which to promote membership of RPAYC, given the the GFC, ongoing uncertainty regarding the global economy, and Australian consumers tightening discretionary spending. In addition to the negative impact of economic conditions on membership numbers, there are several other issues and opportunities that the Membership Committee has identified. We have implemented a variety of strategic & tactical initiatives to retain and attract members, including:

- Various recruitment promotions including two very successful crew promotions (2008 and 2009), Christmas gift promotions, and a recruitment promotion during the Festival of Sail in Spring 2010. Plus, collaboration with yacht brokers to introduce new sailboat owners to the Club. We introduced some discounts on joining fees during this time of economic uncertainty, which was appropriate given market conditions, and effective in attracting new members. Assuming the economic climate improves, we recommend the Club shifts to value-add promotions.
- An important initiative to attract younger sailors to RPAYC is the introduction of regattas targeting University students. The first Intervarsity regatta was held in October 2009, with university teams from across Australia competing for national titles. We have recommended launch of an annual University Regatta at RPAYC with terrific enthusiasm from various university sailing clubs. We have also championed promotion of crewing on RPAYC racing boats to these University sailors. As sailors likely to have above average incomes once their careers are underway, university student sailors are a key target for current/future RPAYC membership. Thank you to both Ian Audsley and Allen Stormon who have also championed these initiatives.
- A "Win Back" project is underway to recommend how RPAYC can win back 20-40 year old sailors who used to sail with RPAYC particularly youth development participants.
- Formalizing, regularly reviewing and improving the recruitment process.
- Interviewing many membership candidates (these interviews are part of the recruitment process).
- Improving the format of the new member welcome functions. These events receive lots of positive feedback.
- Introduction of Mentors to help new members feel welcome and join-in Club activities. The Mentor role supplements the very important roles of the Proposer and Seconder. The active support of the Proposer and Seconder is critical in helping new members feel welcome and join in Club activities, so they enjoy and want to continue their membership at RPAYC.
- Ongoing improvements to the Membership booklet we provide to new members (available on request to all members).
- Category reviews providing recommendations to the Board to re-invigorate membership through introduction of family membership and a focus on improving membership satisfaction and value. These recommendations have contributed to the Board's proposals that members approved at the EGM this April. A paper titled "Re-invigorating RPAYC Membership" included additional recommendations that we hope will be introduced further down the track.
- Recommending introduction of an instalment option for payment of subscription fees.
- Focus groups held in 2009 which highlighted what members value about the Club, and some improvements they want to see. Thank you again to everyone who participated. A key purpose of the focus groups was to provide input to the design of a membership survey, whereby we can obtain objective, quantified information on member views.
- The Membership survey is being conducted May/June 2011, with results due late July. The results should provide valuable input to Club strategic plans and budgets. This input will help the Board consider how much Club resource should be allocated to various sailing and other activities. We propose that the survey is used to establish measures of membership satisfaction that can be tracked and used as KPIs (key performance indicators) for the Board, Rear Commodores, Committees and management. This in turn, should help focus all leadership groups on further improving the service to members and therefore the value RPAYC provides to all members.
- Recommending RPAYC introduce proportional voting, so all adult members could vote e.g. in a similar proportion to the percentage their fees are of the full member fee.
- Review, renewal & initiation of reciprocal arrangements with similar clubs around the world. The purpose is to provide a benefit to RPAYC members travelling abroad. See www.rpayc.com.au for details.
- Recommendation of a Concierge to help people feel more welcome, and to politely ensure access is limited to members and our guests. This helps ensure compliance with the law, and should help limit erosion of membership value by some non-members attempting to access membership benefits free. Members may still bring guests to Club by simply signing them in at reception.
- Introduction of the Commodore's tables in Halyards to help create a friendly environment in which members can meet other members. Feedback indicates we've still a way to go to ensure new members feel welcome. I encourage all members to invite people who might look a little uncomfortable in the Clubhouse, to join you and your friends.
- A sub-committee developed a high-level communication strategy and recommendations to improve Club communication activities. This has provided input to the new Communications Committee.
- We have also supported & participated in many other Club activities.

Given the economic circumstances, I am pleased with the number of new members

who have joined RPAYC during this time. However, the resignation rate is concerning, particularly the high resignation rate of general members. I believe the Club has considerable challenges ahead to improve retention rates, and that this is a top priority. Given the age profile of RPAYC's membership, we also need to introduce activities that will attract new boat-owning members under 50 years of age. We have developed various recommendations and several initiatives are being implemented.

I encourage the Club to focus on further improving membership satisfaction and the perceived value of membership. I trust that the survey results will help the various leadership groups further improve understanding of, focus on, and consequent provision of what members want. KPIs need to be implemented and regularly tracked so that activity and resource prioritization is focused on what members want, and so we achieve a cultural shift at all levels - to focus on membership satisfaction. This in turn should help to improve participation, the perceived value of membership and retention of members, which should in turn help to ensure the Club's ongoing financial health.

My three-year term as Rear Commodore Membership is completed at the AGM in July. I'd like to thank the many people who have participated in these membership initiatives. Special thanks to:

- Membership Committee members during the term: Tina Ernfridsson, Liz de Soyres, Rob Cole, Ross Scoble, Peter McAdie, Lindsay Hannan, Marius Coomans, Peter Batcheler, Ross Raine
- Election Committee members during the term: Liz de Soyres, John Ellis, Ross Scoble, Rob Cole, Rob Curtis.
- Survey Project Team members: Rob Cole, Rick Welch, Peter Style, James Catts.
- Members of the category review teams: John Ellis, Richard Hudson, Peter Batcheler, Liz de Soyres, Rob Cole, Lindsay Hannan.
- Members volunteering to mentor new members: Annie Taylor, Marius Coomans, Rob Cole, Ross Raine, David Kennedy.
- "Win Back" Project members: John Ellis, Brett Ellis, Pat Langley.
- Marie Collins, Membership Coordinator.
- Many friends and fellow members who've generously shared their views.

We've implemented many initiatives and championed focus on improving membership satisfaction and value, however there is a lot more to do to improve the retention of members at RPAYC and to attract new members who will help to re-invigorate the Club and ensure vitality for the future.

RPAYC Awarded Clean Marina Accreditation

By Damian Devine

The RPAYC was recently awarded a Level 3 accreditation by the Marina Industries Association of Australia (M.I.A.A) as part of their Clean Marina program.

The Clean Marinas Australia Program is a national, voluntary accreditation system for marinas, yacht clubs, boat clubs, slips, boatyards and associated industry operators across Australia. The program has been developed to support Australia's marine industries in its endeavours to protect our coastal and inland waterways.

Rob Stokes MP for Pittwater joined with representatives from the M.I.A.A to present the club with their accreditation certificate.

The RPAYC were congratulated for their achievement to meet the high standards set by the M.I.A.A's Code of Practice through their commitment to environmental issues, the adoption of best practice to strive for quality assurance and the implementation of both maintenance and preventative actions to maintain clean water and minimise impact of on and near shore impact of water based recreation.

"The RPAYC is very proud to be accredited as a Clean Marina as the club and its members are aware of how privileged we are to enjoy Pittwater and wish to preserve the beauty of this precious waterway. The RPAYC declared its marina area a marine sanctuary many years ago and has since employed state of the art equipment and development practices to ensure that it is not diminishing the environment in any way," said RPAYC General Manager Suzanne Davies.

Rob Stokes, MP for Pittwater stated, "It tremendous that the two major marinas in Pittwater are now compliant with this environmental standard and it's terrific news for the community and particularly the boating community and for water quality in the Pittwater. It shows real commitment by the club and its members in ensuring that the Pittwater waterway is clean for all of its users to share."

Pictured are L to R: Colin Bransgrove, Executive Officer M.I.A.A., Rob Stokes Liberal MP for Pittwater, Suzanne Davies RPAYC General Manager, David Randall Facilities Manager, Daren Vaux, VP M.I.A.A

New Members
September 2010 to May 2011

The Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Board, Rear Commodores and members of the RPAYC would like to welcome the following new members:

Full
Robert Buchanan
Raymond Carless
Peter Currey
Ian Dalgleish
Gerard De Laroche
Geoff Fogarty
Jeremy Gargate
Ian Greentree
Clive Gregory
Rod Hinds
James Johnson
Andrew Kendall
Peter Law
Ian Leslie
Kevin Lidgard
Neil MacDonald
Stuart Milne
John Montgomery
Kevin Nixon
Richard O'Connor
Robert Perey
Ian Portek
Angus Reid
Salvatore Ridulfo
Warwick Rooklyn
Dugald Russell
Nicholas Savage
Michael Selbie
Rawdon Simon
Geoffrey Sizer
John Stein
Kian Stewart
Patrick Tansey
Geoffrey Taylor
Ashley Williams

General
Joanna Ainge
Benjamin Archer
Phoebe Cormack
Eric Felton
Jill Gane
Heather Goldsmith
Russell Hosking
Hugh Houston
Gregory Kemp
Claire Loh
Geoffrey McGeachie
Lachlan McNeill
Ulrike Meyer
Ian Middleton
Craig Nisbett
Simon Olding
Colin Robison
Patricia Wason
Josh Whittaker
Simon Winston Smith
Timothy Wiseman
Anna Ziliou

Ordinary Intermediate
Bonnie Nixon
Danielle Pascoe
Scott Quinn

Full Intermediate
Amethyst Barnbrook

Spouse
Courtney Archer
Greg Bunting
Christine Cook
Ariane De Laroche
Helen Farquharson
Prudence Finlay
Kirstin Heraghty
Jane Houston
David Keppel
Robyn Law
Joelle Legoux
Maria McDougall
Glenda Nixon
Marie O'Mullane
Carol Quirk
Lisa Selbie
Arlene Tansey

Youth
Liam Beavan
Joshua Boehm
Alec Brodie
Scott Chestney
Alessandro Cigna
Ashlegh Coles
Tom Colley
Shaun Connor
Nicholas Connor
Sara Copeland
Lucy Copeland
Henry Davies
Edward Fay
Willam Findlay
Adam Gillmore
Nicholas Harrison
Rebecca Harrison
Daniel Heyworth
Nathan Judges
Dieter Knierim
Liam Knierim
Ashlie Lane
Ellie Law
Matthew Makin
Joshua Malek
Timothy Malek
Hannah Nolan
James Rennie
Flynn Rohr
Toby Schooley
Madeleine Sloan
Saxon Smart
George Stephens
Katherine Stephens
Jaime Swavley
Josef Tabell
Caitlin Tames
Katherine Tansey
Sara Tansey
Alexander Van Veen
Yannick Winoto

Absentee
Ian Pritchard
John Alexander

In Memory of the following members who have recently passed away:

Dorothy Culley
Michael Hole
Norman Hughes
Gwenyth Morgan
David Pitt OAM
John Shield
Owen Stevens
Marjorie Sutton
Frederick Thompson

Additions & Deletions to the Register of Vessels

ADDITIONS SEPTEMBER 2010 TO MAY 2011:

Sail No:	Vessel:	Owner:
7	Barranoa	Mr Clive Taylor
4500	Dalwhinnie	Mr Brian Liddell
	Demelza	Mr Stephen Wilson
	Freya	Mr John Lockard
	Galileo	Mr Salvatore Ridulfo
8935	Hijinx	Mr Raymond Carless
	Joanna II	Mr Brian Sample
R1610	Kate	Mr James Holt
	Lamia	Mr John Scott
	Le Billet 55	Mr Bill Ebsary
GBR8203T	Loggerhead	Mr Mark Waterhouse
	Luna I	Mr Ian Dalgleish
6164	Mango Groove	Mr Brian Shuttleworth
	Matthew Flinder	Mr John Bacon
MH111	Mean Machine	Mr Chris Heraghty
6845	My Way2	Mr Peter Crookes
	Norrie	Mr Martin Andersen
8126	Reverie	Mr John Turnbull
	Riverslea	Mr Geoff Donelly
6231	Stonybroke	Mr Bruce Ferguson
6869	Tailwind	Mr Shaw Russett
	Winifred	Mr Andrew McKillop
	Witchi-Tai-Ti	Mr Rod Hinds

DELETIONS SEPTEMBER 2010 TO MAY 2011:

5986	Ammonite	Mr Marcus Blackmore AM
	Arthurs Eden	Mr David Nichols
6661	Bombolo	Mr David Boekemann
8777	Gail Force	Mr Duncan Boyle
	Kakana	Mr Tony Sunman
	Miss Behavin	Mr Michael Lee
5861	Outlandish	Mr Chris Heraghty
6051	The Bigger Picture	Dr Doug Williment
6662	Uluwatu	Mr Robert McClelland

Mick laser sailing

A Tribute to Mick Hole

By Lee Condell

Having grown up in Bayview it was just a matter of time before Mick Hole started sailing real boats having mucked about on Windsurfer stock boards in front of what was then Cedo's (Cedric Williams) Marina, now Gibson's, and windsurfing on skateboards at what is now Rowland Reserve. It was 1978 and year 11 at Pittwater High School when he started sailing the school's Diamond class 'Kalori' with Cameron Miles and Grant Crowle. That yacht was kept on the Crystal Bay hardstand of 'The Alfred's' and so started a long association with the club. Mick sailed in the early 80's with Cameron and Grant on Solings and did the 1984 Olympic trials in Adelaide on 'The Sting', then became a key part of Bruce Dowse's crew on 'Hot Tub' including his first Coff's race in 1985, then 'Bionic Applebox', and subsequently 'Dollars' which was owned by Bruce and Bob Goode.

Mick met the love of his life Kerrie Shimeld at the RPAYC one twilight evening in 1988 and from then on they were inseparable. Etchell racing was a regular inclusion in Mick's sailing in the early 90's, most often with John Berry, and subsequently with Mark Richards (Ricko) and Bruce Wookey on 'Steampacket'. He and Kerrie also sailed on Gavin Ward's 'Abracadabra' including a Hayman Big Boat series in '99. During this period Mick was one of Ricko's key crew on 'Another Duchess' and an invite to crew on 'Wild Oats IX' at Hamilton Race Week led to The Admirals Cup in 2003 which they won and still retain.

In 2004 Mick and Kerrie bought the Sydney 36 'Kingtide' which they raced together with friends in twilights in recent years, winning their division on 2 occasions (2 years of free insurance!) and finishing the 09/10 series in 3rd. With the Laser World's on the Central coast in 2008 Mick joined a gang of RPAYC mature members who trained hard and became firm friends as they aimed for this Championship.

For the many members who knew Mick and for all of us who considered him a good mate, the abiding memories we have of him are of a man who was always kind, fun, very positive, and totally devoted to his partner Kerrie and their two children Mali and Henri. We all have wonderful memories of Mick and the several hundred people at the club on Tuesday the 24th of May where we gathered to pay tribute to him proved just how popular he was. The downstairs area of the club was simply packed.

Mick Hole was an adored partner, much loved Dad, son and brother, and he was a great, great friend. You are sorely missed mate and we're all the richer for having had you in our lives.

Mick Hole on the helm of 'Kingtide' during a Twilight Race

B E E N S E E N

LITTLE BLACK DRESS DINNER

ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING

LIGHTING OF THE FIRE

GOLF DAY

COFFS SERIES PRIZE GIVING

MELBOURNE CUP 2010

Beefsteak & Burgundy Club to celebrate 40 years

By Damian Devine

The RPAYC Beefsteak & Burgundy Club was established in April 1972, and has been running for almost 40 years. It is the 119th charter in a worldwide group of 267 charters. It is based on the philosophy of good food, good wine, good companionship.

Richard Friend with John Bacon at the RPAYC

Recently I met with two Life members of the B&B, David Mcrae and Richard Friend and current president John Bacon, all RPAYC members.

"The two instigators of the RPAYC B&B were Alf Knight and Graeme Norman who had been involved with the Mosman branch. The RPAYC was the first yacht club to be associated with the B & B Club that had its origins in Adelaide in the early 50's when a group of winemakers and wine executives got together for lunch to learn to appreciate fine wines and good food," said Mcrae.

The Club is structured as follows: President, John Bacon, Vice President, Geoff Bellshaw, Treasurer, David Mcrae, Food Master Gerry Montgomery and Wine Master Tony Dickson. The positions are appointed for a year and there are 30 members in total, as per the Constitution.

They meet at a local restaurant for dinner on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The group generally try newer restaurants between Palm Beach and Narrabeen. The appointed food master and wine master's role is to visit the restaurant in advance and talk with the chef about an agreed menu of 3 courses. The wines are then matched to the food and the B&B club has a very good cellar to select from. A monthly dinner with wines will set you back $80.

At each dinner (or meeting), an individual is selected to speak on each course; what the food is, the ingredients, how it was cooked, the elements of the sauce and so on and the same happens with the wine which is generally two whites and two reds. Most wines are Australian and labels are masked. The vintage, region grown, variety and style are all elements that are discussed with the aim of pinpointing the wine. A speaker is designated to sum up the evening.

Life member Richard Friend is a 40 year RPAYC member. Some 38 years ago he saw an ad in a club newsletter inviting members to come along to a meeting. In his 30's at the time Friend said, "I joined to learn how to appreciate food and wine. Along the way, I've made some fabulous friendships too. It's a fun evening where people can express an opinion on the food and wine and in the process learn how to appreciate both. We've got some champion joke tellers in the club so there's never a dull moment. Anyone can come along as a guest to see if they like it. I can guarantee they will have a sensational evening.""

Friend along with Past RPAYC Commodore Bob Prentice took the concept to St. Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco in the 80's. There was a great bond between the two clubs as we used to contest the AMAUS Cup, a 6m challenge. Friend said, "We had a lot of good friends over there we sailed against and they had one of the top 3 restaurants in the city, so it seemed logical to introduce the concept to them. We conducted a meeting there and they watched how we did it, they liked it so much they formed their own chapter."

Current President John Bacon, joined the B&B in his 40's and has been in the club for at least 10 years. "I joined for the appreciation of food & wine. I got invited by John Buckland and have never looked back. It gets you thinking about food and wine and having a great time with your friends plus I have learnt so much from the more experienced members in the process. Some of these guys have their own wineries or experience in the food industry, and some of the members just like good food and wine. I think when people start to come they get concerned they will be asked to get on their feet and make a comment but we have an unwritten law that no-one is ever wrong so that makes it a bit easier. From a local business perspective, it's good for peninsula restaurants when a group of 30 of us drop in on a Tuesday night. They get to create something special for us, it's a great opportunity for them to showcase their food as many of us end up going back with wives and friends, so the word of mouth spreads and promotes their restaurant," commented Bacon.

Whilst predominantly a men's only domain, the Ladies are invited twice a year to meetings in July in the Hunter Valley and in November for Christmas. The Newport Ladies have also formed their own charter in 2010 and meet on the last Wednesday of the month.

The net is being cast into the RPAYC membership to let them know the B&B club exists and that they are welcome to attend a meeting as a guest and join if they wish, particularly younger members, in their 30s and 40s. There will be a dinner at the RPAYC in August, so if you would like a good, fun night and to learn more about the appreciation of food & wine then talk to John or give David McRae a call on 0417 241 410.

Activities Report

By David Pring, Rear Commodore Activities

This was a year of continuing change for Activities at the Club with a focus on family, sailing and water related activities.

The Bayview Golf Challenge was again very well supported with over 100 golfers and even more for lunch and the prize giving. This event continues to be well supported and with some of the lessons learned should continue to be a great well patronised annual event.

The Christmas Party being held at the Club was a change to encourage families to use to Club. The club was overbooked and there were waves of people attending from the lunch crowd to the kids on the jumping castle, in the Fairy tent and contesting Sumo Wrestling. Many grandparents and children were there for Santa late in the day. It all contributed to a wonderful atmosphere at the Club.

This fun approach also continued at Prizegiving making it a celebration of the season rather than just an awards night. No more speeches, just members celebrating with members and having fun.

Our Cure for Cancer fundraiser raised $25,000 this year in a new informal Halyards event. While the night was a success and funds raised went to a good cause this event could be built on for next year.

Thought was given to different types of events and some of these initiatives will commence such as a trial of Bridge lessons. The traditional dinner dances were not well supported and members have voted with attendance as to the types of events that they want - informal, family and sailing related.

A big thank you to the new look Activities committee. It is an enthusiastic bunch keen for well targeted and well patronised events. An equally big thank you the staff who make it all happen.

Santa paid us a visit

Kids being entertained at the Christmas party

Sumo wrestling added some fun at the Club's Christmas party

Golf Day winners

MEET THE NEW DEHLER 41.

PERFORMANCE IN STYLE – CRUISING OR RACING

41

when passion meets reason

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