

# TIDINGS

SPRINGSUMMER2019



SSCBC REGATTA TEAM AT THE 2K GLOBAL TEAM RACE REGATTA IN COWES, UK.

Milton Green's  
Adventure - La Belle  
France Canals

PAGES 16-18

Update from  
SSCBC 2K Global  
Regatta Team

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Pommery Summer  
Drinks - Save  
the date

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# COMMODORE'S REPORT

I can feel it, can you feel it. Definitely a touch of Spring, which means that Summer is just around the corner. And that means sailing and socialising down at your Club.

Undoubtedly a highlight for Summer will be the Youth Regatta hosted by SSCBC from 10–14 January. We expect some 300 off the beach boats. Already some 80 of our Members have signed up as volunteers. It will be great. You can read more about what is coming up in the various articles throughout this Spring/Summer edition of Tidings.

I would like to focus on our new staff and recent staff changes.

We have appointed Henry Dyer as our new Chief Executive Officer. Henry will be well known to many of our Members as he has been our Food & Beverage Manager, working with SSCBC on a contract basis for the past 12 months or so. In that role Henry has been instrumental in getting our F&B operations back on track. He has put together a great team who love coming to work each day, who love working for our Club. The success of our catering last summer, and continuing through the winter months, is a testament to Henry's managerial skills, his enthusiasm and passion in tackling his work.

But running SSCBC involves more than F&B. Although Henry is new to sailing, he is not new to managing and building businesses. Since 2008, Henry has developed a catering business and an equipment hire business in Dubai. The catering business services major events and employs over 70 staff. Along the way Henry has managed the overall design and construction of kitchen and other catering facilities – experience that will be very useful in the design of our catering facilities in



the Clubhouse redevelopment.

Our sailing and sail training continue to grow and prosper at SSCBC, guided by our excellent staff. Henry is looking forward to “getting across” what we do in sailing, and to supporting and guiding our continued success in sailing and training. We are already talking about ways to strengthen our Coutu Boat fleet.

Having worked at SSCBC, Henry has a good understanding of our Member needs and the services we provide to our Members. He has already developed a good rapport with many of our Members. Similarly, he has seen the great work done by our volunteers, the partnerships with our sponsors and the commitment the Club has to community engagement.

After nearly 12 years of dedicated service to SSCBC, our General Manager, Phil Hall left us in September.

Phil joined us soon after our Clubhouse was built back in 2007. As our General Manager, he has played a valuable role in developing our on-water and off-water services and activities for our Members, to developing the Club into what it is today. On behalf of the Committee and Management, we thank him for

his service to the Club and wish him well at RBYC.

Another relatively new member of our staff is Deb Hodgson, who has joined us as Finance Manager. This is where sea change works for us. Deb has held many senior management positions in government and the private sector including Chief Financial Officer at Emergency Communications Victoria, Director of Operations at Delaware North and Director of Finance for Serco. Through her love of horses, Deb was recently the Finance Manager at Boneo Park Equestrian Centre where she set up all the accounting and management systems. Deb has hit the ground running at SSCBC and has already made a significant difference to our financial reporting and management systems. Deb is also a Member of SSCBC. We are fortunate to have her on the team.

Sara Petautschnig has just joined us as receptionist with additional administration and office support responsibilities – another benefit of sea change. Sara has had a career of both guest and health services working as a flight attendant, restaurant owner and practice manager of medical clinics. Snippets of her





# COMMODORE'S REPORT

career include owning and operating Sarchi's Restaurant in Sorrento and, for the skiers in our membership, Sara was in charge of guest services at Pension Grimus at Mt Buller. Sara will be on the front desk, so you will see a lot of her. Introduce yourself and welcome her – she is also a fellow Member of SSCBC.

I asked our Club Reporter, Hollie, to interview our staff members, asking two questions:

What does the Club mean to you?

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

The response has been amazing – here are some of the comments back. Enjoy learning a bit more about our staff.



Sara, Henry and Deb

## Jade

- What does the Club mean to you?

A comfortable space for people to come together and enjoy life, whether it's sailing, socialising or simply watching another glorious sunset. SSCBC feels like home, and is a wonderful environment for generations of families to enjoy.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I was born and raised on the Peninsula, but spent 12 years living in Vancouver and (briefly) Los Angeles, and I am now a Canadian citizen.

## Les

- What does the Club mean to you?

SSCBC is the loveliest place I've ever worked. Just the community spirit – everybody wants to help each other.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I recently placed 3rd in the Victorian Titles for Observed Motorbike Trials.

## Ben

- What does the Club mean to you?

The Club means summer holidays for

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SORRENTO SAILING COUTA BOAT CLUB





# COMMODORE'S REPORT

me. From the age of 7 years old, my family spent summer holidays here so I have a life long connection with the Club.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I was the youngest SSCBC General Committee Member at the age of 19 years, following a term as Junior President.

## Hollie

- What does the Club mean to you?

A beautiful place, in every sense of the word. The location, view, team of people and Members who come from all walks of life, yet all enjoy spending time at this one place.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

Horses are my passion. I ride 3-4 times per week and compete in the discipline of eventing, which keeps me busy, challenged, sane and broke!

## Bernard

- What does the Club mean to you?

Providing leadership and a great, active Club atmosphere to provide benefits to Members.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I'm a Geelong supporter.

## Jorja

- What does the Club mean to you?

We're our own community within ourselves.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I had three kids under 2 (including twins).

## Henry

- What does the Club mean to you?

A great place for generations to socialise and spend time together. It's

a generational tradition for families to spend time at SSCBC, which I love.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I learnt to sail at the age of 12 years old in Coochie Mudlo Island, Moreton Bay, Qld. I also love gardening.

## David

- What does the Club mean to you?

I can't think of a better place to chat to all generations and get to have fun on the water, and get paid at the same time!

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I qualified to play in the croquet world cup 2012 but decided to come to Australia instead. [Editor's note – I don't know whether to believe this or not, but apparently it is true. Ed]

## Sara

- What does the Club mean to you?

It's a great place to be. I love the Aperols on the deck in summer (but I won't be doing that while I'm working!).

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I speak fluent German, try to ski and married an extreme Austrian.

## Deb

- What does the Club mean to you?

It's one of the best views in the world, you could be sitting in Italy looking out at the water with a chilled glass in hand, but it's only just down the road!

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I think everyone knows I am a mad Dressage fanatic, but I actually come from a family of competition sailors and have done my fair share of racing.

## Skipper

- What does the Club mean to you?

A warm and welcoming community-based venue for Members to socialise and enjoy the bay views and amenities.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I've worked in hospitality for over 20 years, ranging from aged care, army barracks, restaurants and nearly 10 years in member-based Clubs.

## Ari

- What does the Club mean to you?

Opportunity!

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I am studying to be a nurse.

## Belinda

- What does the Club mean to you?

A home away from home and everlasting friendships.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself?

I used to play polo and was a polo groom, in Queensland.

Commodore's last right of response – what is special about the Club for me- all the responses above. A little known fact about me – I barrack for Collingwood (I only say that because Bernard got in first).

I am looking forward to meeting all our Members down at the Club over Summer.

## Graham Cunningham

Commodore





# CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT



Welcome back to what is shaping up to be a bumper 2019 – 2020 Sailing Season!

Over the

winter months our focus has been on the planning and preparation for the sailing season ahead of us.

The SSCBC Sailing Committee, consisting of Drew Marget, James Mighell, Andrew Skinner, Sally Law, Rhys Tucker, Harry Mighell, Tim Collett, David White and Ben Fels, has implemented a well-balanced sailing calendar to include aggregate and social racing that will entice all sailors.

Mercedes-Benz Mornington generously hosted our annual Couta Boat Season Briefing on 11 October at their showroom. A huge thank you to Chris Thoday and his team. We presented an overview of the season ahead including a brush up on rules and regulations, safety considerations and tactics. This will further be enhanced by our scheduled Couta Conversations throughout the season.

The Sailing Committee has once again reviewed our Club's sailing, race and risk management policies and procedures at the Club, with only some minor enhancements required following last year's in-depth review. These are available online, under Couta Boats 'SSCBC Race Management Policies'.

This season's calendar has expanded with Couta Boat Social Racing. As part of our sailing strategy, this will

provide more opportunities to go for a fun and social sail with friends.

Howard Critchley has been tasked with helping to grow sailing and participation of the Couta Boat fleet at the Club. We have recognised that over time, some boats, crews or owners are not sailing as much as perhaps they might like to, for various reasons. Howard is our point of contact so if there is anything that the Club or the Couta Boat Association might be able to do to assist you onto the water more regularly, please be in contact.

Last season we had the most amazing day at the GANT Portsea Cup Picnic and Presentation at the Quarantine Station. The CBA and SSCBC would again like to invite families to come along and enjoy the fun and celebration of this historic weekend (Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th January 2020).

Our team has just returned from competing at the 2K Global Team Racing Regatta at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes. After attending and competing in New York last year, we were honored to have been invited back to compete in this year's event. Our team has recently competed in Tasmania, travelled to Newcastle twice to sail in a regatta and then again to attend a team building weekend, and have been training regularly out of Royal Brighton Yacht Club.

The SSCBC 2K Team Racing Regatta squad has been filled by: Luke Aulich as Team Manager, George Aulich, Tom Trotman, Jack Abbott, Ben Gray, Michael Fels, Charlotte Llewelyn, Grace Cockman, and David White.

Our Junior and Youth sailors will be gearing up for a big season with training and coaching and we'll expand on the progression into the team and match racing program that has been so successful. We're thrilled with this format's revitalisation that sees teens and twenty somethings sailing together in fierce battles and having truckloads of fun.

The Ready Steady Tokyo Olympic Test Event and World Cup series was held at the Enoshima Yacht Harbour, Japan in August. In total, eight Australian boats took part in the regatta with SSCBC comprising two of them, making up a quarter of the Australian contingent. Harry Mighell was putting his foiling skills to the test, coaching Olympic Gold and Silver Medalist Nathan Outteridge and his sister Haylee in the mixed Nacra 17 Class. Harry was responsible for rig tuning which included choosing the mast and sail combinations, optimising foil and rudder trim angles and recommending the sailing mode. SSCBC Sailing Manager, Ben Fels, was also out on the water as the sole Australian International Judge which is a credit to him.

Will and Sam Phillips had a flying start at this event pushing through the breeze which was quite shifty at times. Unfortunately, Sam was then injured which didn't see the event finish as planned for the boys.

In the 49erFX, Tess Lloyd and Jaime Ryan had a very consistent regatta. The girls were 6th on day 1 and finished 6th on the final day of racing. The 49erFX scores, similar to the men's racing, had very up and down score cards. The





# CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

girls managed to have five top 5 results, four top 10 and four in the teens. But most importantly, when it counted in the medal race, the girls stepped up to the plate and finished in 4th place, which allowed them to leap frog Denmark into 6th place for the event (read Tess' report on page 38).

It was really pleasing to see our Members recognised at the Victorian Australian Sailing awards with Tom Trotman taking out Male Sailor of the Year, Peter Osbourne was Race Official of the Year and Ben Fels rounded it out with the Sports Professional of the Year.

Showing just how diverse our sailors are, Jack Lloyd, Tom Trotman, Ben Gray and Jack Abbott competed in the International Top Universities regatta in Quindau during August with the Monash team, achieving a remarkable 2nd place, beaten only by the local team and edging out sailing powerhouses including Oxford, Cambridge, UCLA, Berkley and Amsterdam.

The **AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPS** will be held at SSCBC from 10-14 January with over 300 under 23 youth sailors competing at the Club. It's a pinnacle event for sailing and the winner will be selected for the 2020 Youth Worlds to be held in Salvador, Brazil.

It's a regatta on a massive scale and we will be running four race courses simultaneously. This will be a whole of Club effort – our volunteers will be seriously busy and having a great deal of fun as they go along. We're training people up for roles and expecting that many Members will continue on volunteering throughout

the year. We're thrilled with the level of support from the Couta Boat fleet, who are holding a Friday Twilight Aggregate as a feature for the Opening Ceremony.

Congratulations to our following sailors. Your commitment to sailing is admired and we proudly support you on your journey:

**INTERNATIONAL SAILORS** - Sam Phillips, Will Phillips, Jack Lloyd, Charlie Dixon, Tess Lloyd, Casey Imeneo, Tom Trotman, Ben Gray, Jack Abbott and Harry Mighell.

**AUSTRALIAN SAILING SQUAD** - 49er: Will and Sam Phillips along with 49erFX: Tess Lloyd.

**VIS** - Tess Lloyd, Charlie Dixon, Casey Imeneo, Will and Sam Phillips.

Enjoy reading some of their stories about their recent travels in this edition of Tidings.

On behalf of all sailors and the SSCBC Sailing Committee, I would like to acknowledge Phil Hall who has been instrumental to sailing at SSCBC. Phil leaves us and our sailing department in a strong position and I would like to thank him for his support, guidance and professionalism during his 12 years at SSCBC. We will miss him out on the water but wish him well in his new position at RBYC.

We are looking forward to a great season ahead. See you out on the water.

**Scott Llewelyn**  
Club Captain



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# TRAINING CENTRE REPORT



We have an exciting season planned for the Training Centre.

We plan to provide a pathway for every

Member above the age of 5 years to be active on the water at the Club. Whether you're a social Member who would like to try stand up paddle boarding, or a foiling sailor, we have something for you.

Over the summer months, we will run our popular Learn to Sail programs which are guided by our recommended age ranges. For all of these courses you do not need to have your own boat.

- Cara na Mara "Friends of the sea" (5-7 year olds)
- Sail & Play (8-11 year olds)
- OutThere Sailing (12-17 year olds)
- Adult lessons (18+)
- SheSails (female only course)

- Couta Coaching (all ages above 5 years old)

This year, with the Australian Youth Championships taking place over our busy January period, we have changed the format of our Learn to Sail Courses to go from 4 days of 2.5 hours (10 hour course) to a 3 day course of 2.5 hours (7.5 hour course). The cost of the course will be the same per hour as the previous year.

The newest course to join our program is Australian Sailing's OutThere Sailing. We're excited that this course has just been rolled out nationally, as we played a large part in its development. The aim of this course is to encourage more 12-17 year olds to become involved in our sport. What's different about this course is it has a primary aim to put fun first and keep friends together. The program will have a variety of aspects: sailing, stand up paddle boarding and powerboat experiences. If you have any questions about it, come and ask

me, as I'm very passionate about it and would love to talk to you.

In case you did not realise, the Club now has 10 stand up paddle boards. We hope that these boards will become a stepping stone to encouraging more Members to get out on the water. We intend to run social racing on the boards on those sunny January evenings. Watch this space.

This is a big year for Victoria and the Club as it is Victoria's turn to host the National Championships, which rotate from state to state. For our junior sailors, the big regatta







# TRAINING CENTRE REPORT

is the Optimist Nationals which are going to be held at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria in January. This year the juniors are going to go up a gear when it comes to training. Our first big regatta is Sail Country and SSCBC will be one of the most represented Clubs. We are really excited for this event as it is a fantastic family experience.

Other national events taking place are the 420 Nationals at MYC and 29er/Nacras at BYS. The SSCBC lasers have their Nationals at SYC. As well as a National event in Victoria, there are also several world titles being held. Several of our Members will be on the organisation side of the Laser Worlds and we wish them the best of luck with the important job they have ahead of them.

At the opposite end of the bay we have the 49er/49erFX World Titles at Royal Geelong Yacht Club. We will have several Members taking part in this event and in the hunt to represent our Club and country to qualify to make it onto the biggest stage come next July. On the opposite side of the country, Tom

Trotman and Harry Mighell will be putting their names in the hat for the Moth World Titles. We wish all our sailors representing the Club the best of luck.

The Waszp class is the exception to this rule. The Waszps will have their Nationals in NSW in Port Stephens. SSCBC has been working hard with the Vic Waszp fleet and has launched a training program that was being led by Tom Trotman. This was run over the winter months at RBYC and will work its way back to SSCBC over the summer months.

The big event that is on our home shores is of course the Australian Youth Championships. This is the pinnacle event at the Club for the year, with over 300 sailors expected and over 100 volunteers involved. Get involved if you can!

I look forward to seeing you around the Training Centre this season.

**David White**

Training and Development





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# SOCIAL NEWS & EVENTS

## >>> ESCABECHE RECIPE – FROM BERNARD MCCARTHY

**Serves 2**

### Ingredients

10 steamed local mussels - removed from the shell while warm  
2 kipfler potatoes - cooked, peeled and sliced 1cm thick  
1 chorizo sausage - diced into 2cm pieces and cooked in warm olive oil until crisp  
1 carrot - peeled and thinly sliced  
1 radish - thinly sliced  
1/4 cucumber - peeled, cored and thinly sliced

### Aioli - Escabeche dressing

3 tbsps white wine vinegar  
3 tbsps white wine  
2 tbsps extra virgin olive oil  
Pinch saffron threads  
Pinch salt flakes  
Pinch sweet paprika  
1/2 lemon juice  
Warm liquid, add carrots, cook slowly for 2 minutes. Allow to cool and set aside.

Combine mussels, sliced potatoes, chorizo, cucumber and carrots with a little escabeche dressing to coat ingredients.

Gently layer on a plate, top with radish and flowers, dot aioli around, sprinkle a little black volcanic salt over.

Enjoy with an albarino white wine and crusty bread.

*Salute!*



## >>> Q&A WITH BERNARD MCCARTHY

**Q.** What's your favourite dish to cook at home?

**A.** A spicy red curry

**Q.** What's your favourite city and why?

**A.** Both San Sebastian for its amazing food culture, and Copenhagen for its food and community

**Q.** What made you want to become a chef?

**A.** A career job, that I could travel with.

**Q.** What do you like to do in your spare time?

**A.** Long walks, reading, the arts, dining out

**Q.** Favourite restaurant?

**A.** Lucy Liu

**Q.** If you could invite three people over for dinner, who would they be?

**A.** Barack Obama, Gordon Ramsay, Ai Weiwei

**Q.** What is the one kitchen tool you couldn't live without?

**A.** Non-stick wok

**Q.** Where do you find inspiration for new dishes?

**A.** The seasons and travelling

**Q.** If you weren't a chef, what would you be?

**A.** Artist





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# THE CLUBHOUSE

## WEDDINGS AND EVENTS



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# SOCIAL NEWS & EVENTS

2019/2020 is shaping up to be an action-packed season. With the Australian Youth Championships being hosted at the Club in January, and a full calendar of social events kicking off from opening weekend, there will be plenty to keep sailors, non-sailors, kids and the family entertained.



The social summer season kicks off as usual with Pommery Summer Drinks on the 29th of December. Tickets will go on sale on the 12th of November at 9am, so remember to pop the date in your diary. Tickets sold out in under 3 hours last year. We are taking a slightly different approach to ticket sales this year with an initial limit of two non-member tickets per Member.



The Annual Ladies Long Lunch will be held on the 8th of January 2020 and this year we will be focused on supporting a local, Mornington Peninsula based charity

(to be announced shortly). Last year we raised a record \$14,000 for the Mary Jane Lewis Foundation and we expect the 2020 event to be just as successful. Tickets will go on sale early December so don't forget to get in quickly; we expect it will be another sell out event.

We hosted our first Family Fun Night last year and based on the number of happy kids, it was a great success. It is back bigger and better than ever, so stay tuned for more details and pencil in the 6th of January from 4pm.



Check out the SSCBC Calendar of Events for more detail on what else is on over summer including the GANT Portsea Cup Picnic at Quarantine Station, Australia Day and Next Gen Day. E-tidings will have more details over the coming months.

**Georgie Silverwood**  
Chair of Social Events



## THE CLUBHOUSE



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# CLUBHOUSE REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We are excited to announce that our Town Planning Permit for the Clubhouse redevelopment project was received on 16 September 2019. Although we don't plan on commencing any construction until February 2021, you will notice some changes to the lawn areas. Improvements to these areas include levelling the grassed areas and installing improved drinking fountains and water bottle fillers around the Club.

The proposed timeline of events for the Clubhouse Redevelopment Project are:

- Commence the design development phase (Oct 19 - Mar 20)
- Construction commences (Feb 21)
- Construction completion (Nov 21)

We look forward to keeping you up to date on the progress of the project over the coming period.

Infrastructure Committee – Rollo Wright







# MEMBERS' ADVENTURES

## >>> LA BELLE FRANCE CANALS - MILTON GREEN

What an unlikely name for a boat! Roberta maybe, but Robert? And even more unlikely, how did I, a salty wooden boat tragic for decades, get to be a part owner, with four blokes I had never met, in a 40 year old steel 10.4 metre boat located on the freshwater canals of France?

Cruising the 3,500 kilometres of inland France had always been on my Bucket List, but somehow I just never got around to it - something more attractive, usually sailing orientated, took precedence.

However, a 'light bulb moment' occurred at Sandringham Yacht Club after my regular 'Wednesday Wonders' race. On a cool evening in May last year, I was sharing post-race drinks with friends on the deck. Inside the bar was crowded and noisy as usual but outside we were under a speaker and were able to clearly hear the race results, start of the day, welcome to new members, yachts, grandchildren etc. Almost as an



*The beautiful view of the canals*

afterthought, it was announced that a member had an interest in a French canal boat that he wished to sell.

On enquiring I was given the details of the vendor and contacted them the next day. Mike and Danielle had been in the syndicate for 15 enjoyable years but now felt it was time for something different. A retired Master Mariner based out of the UK, now back in Melbourne, his co-owners were an Accountant / Syndicate Secretary, an ex-Ansett / Thai pilot and two retired engineers. The boat is shared by the five owners like a time share property, with each having a month, May to September, in the Northern summer, negotiated over coffee early in the calendar year.

The syndicate has been running for over 30 years with various changes of owners over the decades. The boat is an Australian Registered Ship with a formal Constitution, well documented Mechanical Handbook and a full set of Canal

charts. A Victorian boating licence satisfies both French authorities and Pateneous Insurance Company.

A condition of a sale of a share is all owners have the opportunity to increase their holding and in the event no one is interested, all owners need to be comfortable with the new kid on the block.

I met and passed muster with three out of five. With kind words from Messrs Martyn, Mellet and Tucker, I had 100 percent due to their involvement with Brighton Rotary. Thank you, gentlemen!

With July 2019 my allocated month I had fingers crossed, as the previous year there was insufficient water in the canals for recreational and commercial activity. Conversely, there are evidently years when an excess of water means boats cannot pass under low bridges, so the boat remains in situ, plans are altered to usually treat the boat as a floating hotel, rent a car and go touring.



*Montegarais*



# MEMBERS' ADVENTURES

However, the weather Gods were on side and I, with friends from SYC and long-time fellow traveller, SSCBC member and preferred sailmaker Col Anderson, met in Epernay for change over and orientation.

After victualling the boat, including of course the local product, we headed west on the Marne River towards Paris.

Unlike our open cockpit Nepean and Cheviots, the traditional layout of most canal boats is a small upper deck over an aft cabin as many are used as liveaboards even in winter. A steering station, canopy and BBQ with 4 deck chairs and a small table substituted for the captain's chair, all fitted into this compact area. The weather for the entire month was perfect - the saloon dining area was only used for bag storage.

Layout below was traditional double Vee berth forward, galley, head including shower, unused lower steering wheel / instruments, saloon/ dining and twin bunk aft cabin with another head.

Speed limit is 5 knots with all hire boats, of which we shared locks with on many occasions, governed to that speed. The impressive commercial barges, usually loaded to the gunwales, travel at double that speed but incredibly are so designed below the waterline to leave no wash. We encountered many of these over the month, usually carrying quarry materials for the concrete batching plants or grain from the wheat farms via riverbank silos. Sharing locks with these behemoths was daunting at first but we were always treated courteously.

Interestingly, Robert flies a regular blue background Australian flag on her jackstaff rather than the traditional Red Ensign - Australians

definitely better accepted than the English for whom we were mistaken in rural areas.

The Marne into Paris had limited marinas so we frequently spent evenings on the river bank. With a sledge hammer and steel pins it was an easy job to get someone ashore and 'voila' - instant 'bollards' for mooring lines.

The many interesting towns and villages all catered for river traffic with fresh produce available either from the traditional farmers markets or regular shops. We enjoyed breakfast and lunch on board daily, dinner ashore at many interesting bistros when possible and put the Australian built Sovereign BBQ to good use on many occasions.

Many of the lock keepers, a dying breed as many locks now are automated, supplement their income by selling fresh vegetables grown alongside their quaint centuries old stone cottages.

Two huge courgettes for two Euros stuffed and baked in the BBQ was one of just many memorable on-board dinners.

Disappointed at first that due to earlier overheating problems, we would not make Paris for Bastille Day, however we were delighted with the small town of Lagny, which had a floating pontoon with both power and water - much needed as our water tank is a minimal 300 litres. Moored in the centre of this quaint old town for two nights, we were in



Robert



Milton in Epernay with local product

prime position to enjoy a spectacular fireworks display rivaling that of Sydney's NYE, without the crowds of Paris.

With almost everything closed on the 14th we cruised into Paris locking up from the Seine into the Arsenal Marina I had previously booked. Multiple boats of all types and all nationalities were moored either side of what in reality is a closed off section of another canal. A few impressive Australian flagged boats opposite rafted up parallel to a public garden closed for security at night.

Close to the Bastille monument there was no shortage of restaurants in the Marais, an area of Paris I enjoyed for the first time.





# MEMBERS' ADVENTURES



Farewelling our Sandringham friends, we welcomed experienced canal travellers John and Judy Banks, also SSCBC members. Their daughter Karen and partner Alan had a hotel on an English canal and still spend half the year on their boat based in the UK with John and Judy joining them annually.

After the obligatory food and booze shop, we circumnavigated the Isle de Citie, getting close up views of the rebuilding works at Notre Dame before heading up stream towards the River Yonne junction for the next leg of our trip to the medieval city of Auxerre.

Prior to reaching that point we were advised of a permanent lock closure midway, so diverted to the canal de Loing, thence to canal Lateral Loire to Briare.

Not sure what we missed but our route was scenic, interesting and coincided with two days in the early forties. Fortunately, we had a mooring under century old plane trees - amazing how large they grow when not trimmed. Because this diversion was shorter than our intended route, after touching base at Briare, we continued south for a few days, terminating at Menetreal. Apart from an impressive Roman viaduct, this town was forgettable but an hour's walk took us to Sancerre, a fortress town perched atop a 330metre hill. Coincidentally, almost the height of Arthurs Seat. Cobblestone lanes, interesting shops, a wine Museum, pealing church bells and views of the surrounding vineyards, which we walked through on the downhill trip to the boat. A popular tourist destination we were pleased to find the butcher and an impressive cheese shop open - dinner sorted! Backtracking to Briare, we again



*Notre Dame*

crossed the impressive Gustav Eiffel designed canal bridge - no vehicles apart from bicycles with the Loire River 100 feet below us at 90 degrees. An unforgettable experience.

At Briare, the mundane but necessary laundry, refuelling and hose down before a final dinner ashore. Into Paris for a final night before flying out of CDG via Hong Kong, missing the riots by just a day. Can totally recommend this mode of travel as a very relaxing, interesting way of enjoying la belle France. The on-board bicycles were not used until the last day - something I will address next year!

2020 has already been booked and planned including a side trip to the four yearly Brest / Douarnenez Wooden Boat Festival, where hopefully the Club will again be represented. If you liked Hobart, you will love this. The intrepid McKeands now have a converted luxury barge in France - maybe we can organise a Sorrento Flotilla!

If you'd like more information about this type of travel, jump onto YouTube and search: Le Boat The Great Canals of Europe.



*Happy hour with John & Judy Banks*



*Spacious cabin interior*





L'ART DU CHAMPAGNE SINCE 1836.



PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY





# COUTA BOATS

## >>> COUTA BOAT PARTICIPATION – HOWARD CRITCHLEY

The Club is continuing its efforts to increase the number of active Couta Boats we have sailing regularly at the Club.

In particular, we are working hard to connect:

- boats under used and in need of being sailed;
- skippers who might be looking for a boat to sail;
- owners who are looking for crew, to help them get on the water regularly;
- potential crew who are looking for a boat to sail on;
- boat owners who feel they could be benefit from tailored sailing training;
- people who might be interested in being part of a syndicate to buy a Couta Boat; or
- owners who might be looking to sell part of their boat to fellow active sailors to “share the load”.

We have seen a large contingent of our next gen sailors, who regularly enjoy sailing Couta Boats throughout the season, representing Australia at the Olympic test event and World Series in Tokyo. We’re lucky to have this generation of high-level sailors who enjoy coming home to SSCBC and having fun on Couta Boats.

This season we have introduced more social sailing, where skippers and crew can bring along a friend or two for a fun sail and enjoy some time at the Club afterwards. The Cock of the Deck awards will be presented from time to time, whereby the winners are given a mug/flute on the deck following presentations, and they can request any adult on the deck to fill their

mug/flute. This continues until the bell is rung. A lot of fun.

Or maybe a casual Sunday afternoon social sail is more your style where you can bring along your spouse, children, grandchildren and friends to enjoy some time at the Club and have a sail. These social days are scattered throughout the season so make the most of them.

We also have Learn to Sail courses for Couta Boats, so if you’re interested, jump online under Training and book in for a summer course, or speak with David White.

Don’t forget, we have our Couta Boat Pre-Season Drinks on the deck on Friday 15 November. I hope to see all Couta Boat sailors there.

For more information, please contact Howard Critchley - [howardjcritchley@gmail.com](mailto:howardjcritchley@gmail.com) or 0419 728 039.



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## Countdown to 2019/20 sailing season

It seems like such a short time ago that I was standing on the SSCBC deck at the end of May and the moorings were filled with our beautiful wooden boats. Couta boats, fishing boats, picnic boats and more. A week after Queen's Birthday weekend saw the Portsea foreshore completely barren of moored boats, and by mid July there were only a handful of boats on moorings at Shelley Beach and none at Point King.

A few remained at Lentell Avenue, gaining shelter from the westerlies, whilst in front of the Club it was back to half a dozen mooring minders.

The yards of the boatbuilders, shipwrights and marine businesses were almost overflowing through August with only a few souls tinkering with their boats in the cold weekend weather.

September and October sees the owners rally the troops to spend a weekend or two to carry out maintenance that doesn't need the professional assistance, and the mechanics, painters and shipwrights go into overtime to manage the list of tasks to be done.

November sees a rush of boats being relaunched, rigged, tuned and ready to go.

Yes, Sailing Club Opening Days around the Bay are upon us towards late October. For most of our fleet, it's SSCBC's grand affair on Saturday November 16 this year. The Opening Ceremony, prayers for a safe season and the historic sail past with a hearty '3 cheers' for the Club Commodore. Then the racing begins.

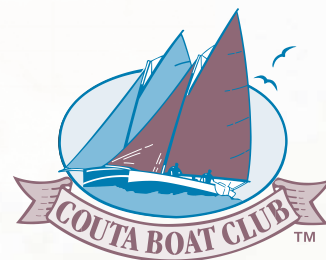
The SSCBC calendar is a full one and crew planning is imperative to maximise enjoyment and performance.

**The CBA's feature races for this season are on the following dates:**

- December 28/29 – Mercedes Benz Mornington Couta Boat Nationals
- January 4 GANT Portsea Cup (followed by GANT Portsea Cup Quarantine Picnic on January 5)
- February 1 and 8 Couta Boat State Titles

I look forward to seeing you all on the water.

**James Mighell - President**



### CBA Committee 2019 | 20

**President:** James Mighell

Bill Davis, Andrew Skinner, Tim Phillips, Peter Sydes, Russell Watson – Resigned (22/07/2019), Rod Martin, Rob Tucker, Colin Mitchell, Wayne Parr, Howard Critchley

**Scoop Editor:** Andrew Skinner  
andrew@skinnerads.com.au

**Couta Boat Association Inc.**  
PO Box 258  
Blairgowrie VIC 3942  
cba@coutaboatclub.com.au

Reg No. A00002250 ABN 17 803 524 588



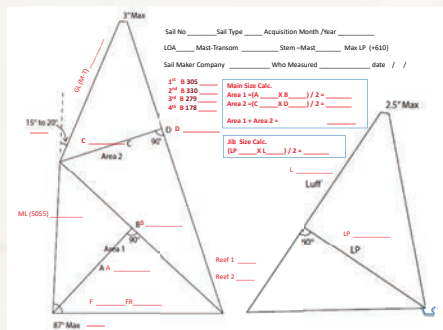


## Change to Rules

The CBA General Committee, on the recommendation of the rules Sub-committee has changed Class rule 12.28 in an attempt to bring some uniformity to the purchase of new sails by limiting the number of sails purchased in a given period.

### Class rule 12.28 is replaced with: New Sail Limitations

- (a) Each boat can only acquire one new No. 1 headsail each year and one new mainsail every second year.
- (b) The year commences on the 1st November each year.
- (c) Each sail must be issued with a measurement code. A sail is deemed to be acquired for the purpose of (a) when it is issued with the measurement code.
- (d) To be issued with a measurement code, a sail measurement sheet shall be completed by the sail maker and submitted to the technical committee.
- (e) Sail acquisition rights apply to the boat, not the owner.
- (f) Unused sail allocation cannot be carried forward to subsequent years.
- (g) The sail number, sail type, acquisition date and legible name of the measurer shall be entered on the boat's sail near the sail maker's logo.
- (h) Any re-cutting, re-design, alteration or repair shall not deem the sail to be a new sail for the purpose of (a) unless 33.3% or more of the material is replaced.



(Visit the website for a larger version)

### Example of measurement code

If Ripple purchased a new mainsail in November 2019 that was measured by Fred Scuttle, her measurement code near sail maker's logo would be:

C27-M-Nov2019-Fred Scuttle

## Changing of the Guard

One of our early CBC Presidents, Ross Wilson, has retired from his Couta boat sailing and sold C1998 Beau to Sandringham yachtsman Brian Dorman.

The Beau will be raced at SSCBC this season.

Ross has purchased a Nepean launch to spend some time with grandchildren. Ross championed the Couta Boat Club and KPMG relationship 20 years ago.





## The Importance of History

Some years ago, Gary Kerr along with Michael Innes and Steve Burnham, penned a beautiful coffee table book called *First Home*. It's a book we often gift to our guest speakers or dignitaries as it captures the history of the Couta boats. The CBA manages a Boat Register but it is scant on detail of many of the boats. Luckily we still have Gary around, along with Tim Phillips, Dugga Beazley and Will Baillieu who have a great deal of historic knowledge in their heads.

Ralph Wilson and Rod Martin put their heads together with a romantic mission to update our Couta boat register for all time, firstly as a website record, and then to publish the register in printed form as a coffee table masterpiece to sit alongside *First Home*.

They need your help. If you are an owner, past or present and have knowledge, tales or photos of any Couta boat, we'd like to know about it.

If you are approached by a 'production team' member to provide information about your boat(s) past or present we'd be grateful if you could take the approach seriously and respond promptly. The record will only be as good as the information our team can rustle up.

Congratulations to Ralph and Rod for the effort and initiative. It will be a record we can all be proud of.

CONTACT EMAIL IS:  
[cba@coutaboat.com.au](mailto:cba@coutaboat.com.au)

Or ask at SSCBC Office if you want to get in touch with Ralph or Rod (usually lurking around the Bar).





## Racing to Win



The SSCBC Sailing Committee, SSCBC Race Officers and Race Management team, the CBA General Committee and its Rules Committee, along with the SSCBC Handicap Sub-committee (no, we are not faceless – it is Ben Fels, Andrew Creek and Andrew Skinner) do their best to provide a fair playing field for all participants. All Couta boats are not equal, they never have been. All boat owners love their boats, we know that. Some love passage racing because it's more cruise, some love long tactical beats, some love the cut and thrust of short leg racing. We are all different.

Most of us love the idea of maintaining the integrity of our heritage fleet. Some want to make the boats easier to sail. Some give their bum a weekly antifoul wipe down. Some have locked on anti fouled rudders, some have lighter two packed rudders and take them off each week. Some use new sails and some use old ones. The Ripple is close to a hundred years old. Bella is 3 years old.

And on it goes, but I think you get the picture. So we operate the handicapping based on performance – just like amateur golf.

We use Topyacht. It's not perfect but it is good. It allows flexibility in setting parameters going up and going down. Past Club Captain/Commodore Robbie Hiam spent a lot of time getting it to suit the Couta boat

racing needs and Ben Fels has made only minor amendments since then.

So, just as in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race there is interest in who (out of 3 or 4) gets there first, the other 85 boats are all sailing on handicap.

There is general agreement amongst all of the bodies listed above that the handicap results are all that matter. The Portsea Cup has an important additional trophy called the Merthon Trophy for 'First Home'. And there are a couple of honour boards that we wish to maintain that record Line Honours results in both Div 1 and Div 2. **Make no mistake, we are sailing our Couta Boats for performance based handicap honours.** So why all the fuss about new sails, smaller centreplates, different antifoul etc? It's because some of us just want to compete and beat the boats around us.

Abbott wants to beat Williams and Currie. Williams wants to beat Hart. Mighell wants to beat Critchley. Griffiths wants to beat Hurley. And Tucker wants to beat everyone. Whilst George just wants to go sailing.

Enough from me. Enjoy the season. Keep your noses clean and if you outperform your given handicap, you will have success on the podium.

**Skins**

# Awe.



\*Drive away price shown is the manufacturer's maximum drive away price (incl. GST) including on road costs available on a standard specification C-Class Sport Edition C200 Sedan purchased and delivered between 01.09.19 and 31.12.19, unless extended. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Available at participating Mercedes-Benz retailers. While stocks last. See [www.mercedes-benz.com.au/cclasssportedition](http://www.mercedes-benz.com.au/cclasssportedition) for full details including sedan sport edition features.

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# SEASON 2019 | 20 CALENDAR

The calendar is full of great racing, training and social events this season. Collect your Members' Handbook from the foyer today! Go to [sscbc.com.au](http://sscbc.com.au) for more details and updates.

## >>> OCTOBER

- 2 Wed • Learn to Sail 2.
- 3 Thur • Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2
- 4 Fri • Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2
- 5 Sat • Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2
- 11 Fri • Couta Boat Season Briefing @ **Mercedes-Benz Mornington**
- 12 Sat • Sail Sandy
- 13 Sun • Coaching  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Fred Allen Series  
• Social Racing
- 19 Sat • Sharpies
- 20 Sun • Coaching  
• Sharpies  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Fred Allen Series  
• Social Racing
- 27 Sun • Dinghy Racing 1300 Fred Allen Series  
• Social Racing

## >>> NOVEMBER

- 2 Sat • Sail Country @ AWYC
- 3 Sun • Sail Country @ AWYC  
• Social Racing
- 5 Tue • Melbourne Cup
- 8 Fri • **Mercedes-Benz Mornington**  
Golf Day @ SGC followed by lunch at SSCBC
- 10 Sun • Coaching  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Fred Allen Series  
• Couta Conversations 1100  
• Social Racing / Tune Up
- 15 Fri • Couta Boat Pre-Season drinks on the Deck
- 16 Sat • **SSCBC Opening Day Ceremony**  
• Dinghy Racing 1400 Fred Allen Series  
• Sam Byrne & Ted Silbereisen Memorial Trophies
- 23 Sat • **Wooden Boat Shop** Series
- 24 Sun • Coaching  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Fred Allen Series
- 30 Sat • **Wooden Boat Shop** Series

## >>> DECEMBER

- 1 Sun • Dinghy Racing 1300 Skins Sprint Series
- 7 Sat • George Mac @ RBYC  
• **Wooden Boat Shop** Series Passage
- 8 Sun • George Mac @ RBYC
- 13 Fri • Opti Tune Up Regatta
- 14 Sat • Opti Tune Up Regatta  
• Couta Conversations 1100 **Wooden Boat Shop** Series Sternchaser
- 15 Sun • Opti Tune Up Regatta  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Skins Sprint Series
- 21 Sat • Social Racing
- 25 Wed • **Christmas Day:** Clubhouse closed.
- 26 Thur • Boxing Day  
• Learn to Sail 1. Coaching Camp 1  
• Twilight
- 27 Fri • Learn to Sail 1. Coaching Camp 1  
• Dash to the Heads
- 28 Sat • Learn to Sail 1. Coaching Camp 1  
• Green Fleet - Eunson Cup 1100  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Skins Sprint Series  
• **Mercedes-Benz Mornington**  
Couta Boat Association National Championships
- 29 Sun • **Pommery** Summer Drinks  
• Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2  
• **Mercedes-Benz Mornington**  
Couta Boat Association National Championships and Presentations
- 30 Mon • Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2  
• Resail **Mercedes-Benz Mornington** Couta Boat Association National Championships
- 31 Tue • NYE Celebrations  
• Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2  
• Green Fleet - Eunson Cup 1100  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Skins Sprint Series

## >>> JANUARY

- 1 Wed • Summer fun for the kids  
• **RT Edgar** South Channel Race
- 2 Thur • Summer fun for the kids
- 3 Fri • **KPMG** - Couta Boat Classic:  
Clubhouse open to members 1800
- 4 Sat • Learn to Sail 3. Coaching Camp 3  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Phillingham Series  
• **GANT** Portsea Cup Breakfast 0900  
**GANT** Portsea Cup - CBA

- 5 Sun • Learn to Sail 3. Coaching Camp 3  
• Resail **GANT** Portsea Cup  
• **GANT** Portsea Cup Picnic and Presentation 1200
- 6 Mon • Fun Family Night from 1600  
• Learn to Sail 3. Coaching Camp 3  
• Green Fleet - Eunson Cup 1100
- 7 Tues • Learn to Sail 4. Coaching Camp 4
- 8 Wed • Ladies Lunch  
• Learn to Sail 4. Coaching Camp 4  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Phillingham Series  
• Twilight
- 9 Thur • Learn to Sail 4. Coaching Camp 4  
• Green Fleet - Eunson Cup 1100
- 10 Fri • Australian Youth Championships @ SSCBC  
• Twilight Aggregate
- 15 Wed • Learn to Sail 5. Coaching Camp 5  
• Twilight
- 16 Thur • Learn to Sail 5. Coaching Camp 5  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Phillingham Series
- 17 Fri • Learn to Sail 5. Coaching Camp 5  
• Green Fleet - Eunson Cup 1100  
• Twilight
- 18 Sat • **GILL** Next Gen
- 19 Sun • Social Racing
- 20 Mon • Learn to Sail 6. Coaching Camp 6
- 21 Tues • Learn to Sail 6. Coaching Camp 6  
• Dinghy Racing 1300 Phillingham Series
- 22 Wed • Learn to Sail 6. Coaching Camp 6  
• Green Fleet - Eunson Cup 1100  
• Twilight
- 24 Fri • Summer fun for the kids  
• Twilight
- 25 Sat • Dinghy Racing 1300 Buxton Cup & Phillingham Series  
• Social Racing
- 26 Sun • **Australia Day** Celebrations at SSCBC  
• Dinghy Racing 1300  
• Buxton Cup & Phillingham Series  
• **GURNER™** Australia Day Three Piers Race
- 27 Mon • Resail **GURNER™** Australia Day Three Piers Race



# SEASON 2019 | 20 CALENDAR

## >>> FEBRUARY

- 1 Sat • CBA Couta Boat State Championships 2 Races
- 2 Sun • Marcus Burke Wooden Launch Nav Rally Time TBA
  - Coaching
  - Dinghy Racing 1300 Peter Osbourne Series
- 8 Sat • CBA Couta Boat State Championships
- 9 Sun • Dinghy Racing 1300 Peter Osbourne Series
- 15 Sat • Schnapper Point Regatta
  - **Sanpellegrino** Cup Couta Boat Race
- 16 Sun • Schnapper Point Regatta
  - Lacco Cup
- 22 Sat • Couta Conversations 1100
  - **Yabby Lake** Great Fort Run
- 23 Sun • Coaching
  - Dinghy Racing 1300 Peter Osbourne Series
  - Lacco Cup
- 29 Sat • Coaching
  - **Coastal Living** Couta Boat Race. 2 Races

## >>> MARCH

- 1 Sun • Coaching
  - Dinghy Racing 1300 Peter Osbourne Series
- 7 Sat • Long Weekend
  - Opti States @ SSCBC
  - Social Racing
- 8 Sun • Long Weekend
- 9 Mon • Labour Day
  - Long Weekend - Holiday
- 14 Sat • Couta Conversations 1100
  - **Steadfast IBG Insurance** Couta Boat Race
- 15 Sun • SSCBC - BYS Team Racing
  - Lacco Cup
- 21 Sat • Sorrento Cup
- 22 Sun • Coaching
  - Dinghy Racing 1300 Club Captains Series
  - Resail Lacco Cup
  - Resail Sorrento Cup
- 28 Sat • Mixed Gen Sailing including Lady Skippers Trophy
- 29 Sun • Dinghy Racing 1300 Club Captains Series
- 30 Mon • Learn to Sail 1
- 31 Tues • Learn to Sail 1
  - VIC Coaching Clinic @ BYS

## >>> APRIL

- 1 Wed • Learn to Sail 1
  - VIC Coaching Clinic @ BYS
- 2 Thur • Learn to Sail 1
  - VIC Coaching Clinic @ BYS
- 4 Sat • VIC Youth Champs @ BYS
  - Mud Island
- 5 Sun • VIC Youth Champs @ BYS
- 6 Mon • Learn to Sail 2
- 7 Tues • Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2
- 8 Wed • Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2
- 9 Thur • Learn to Sail 2. Coaching Camp 2
- 10 Fri • **Good Friday:** Catch a fish. Clubhouse opens at midday
- 11 Sat • Aggregate 2 Races
- 12 Sun • Easter Sunday Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Lavendar Hill 1000
- 13 Mon • 2/3 Handed Social Race
- 18 Sat • Resail Passage Race
- 19 Sun • Coaching
  - Dinghy Racing 1300 Club Captains Series
- 25 Sat • Anzac Day: Clubhouse opens at midday
- 26 Sun • Aggregate 2 Races

## >>> MAY

- 2 Sat • Couta Boat Presentation Night
  - Aggregate/Passage Resail
- 10 Sun • Mother's Day
- 17 Sun • Winter Series Sailing
- 24 Sun • Winter Series Sailing
- 31 Sun • Winter Series Sailing

## >>> JUNE

- 6 Sat • Queen's Birthday Long Weekend
  - **GILL** Midwinters
  - Winter Series Sailing 2 Races
- 7 Sun • Dinghy Presentation
  - **GILL** Midwinters
  - Winter Series Sailing 2 Races
- 8 Mon • **Queen's Birthday Holiday:** SSCBC Annual General Meeting

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR  
OF SEASON EVENTS AT

[SSCBC.COM.AU](http://SSCBC.COM.AU)







# SAILORS' REPORTS

## >>> EUROPEAN CAMPAIGNING IN THE 49ER - CHARLIE DIXON



*James and Charlie Dixon racing in Norway*

With a growing contingent of Sorrento athletes travelling to compete across the globe in the penultimate year before the Olympics and the chilly winter mornings setting in, June was the perfect time to escape the cold and put our hard work to the test against some of the world's best sailors. Following on from Jack Lloyd's report in the previous issue of Tidings, Sorrento's group of 49ers set off to compete at Kieler Woche (Will and Sam Phillips - AUS 66; Ollie Manton and Jack Lloyd - AUS 204; James Grogan and myself - AUS 144), which is the biggest sailing regatta in the world and is located in far north Germany.

Usually described as extremely cold and stormy, the weather during our visit was quite the contrary, with

beautiful summer days and fair wind. With a few days to train and after getting used to driving on the wrong side of the road and without speed limits, we felt ready and excited to compete at our first open 49er regatta.

All the Australians slogged out the variety of conditions including both 9am and 9pm start times, days with harsh chop and days with fickle breeze. On the water, Will and Sam performed excellently, allowing them to compete in the Medal Race and finish the regatta in 7th. Meanwhile we were happy to have made gold fleet and to get a taste of what is to come.

The following day, James and I departed for Norway on a \$30 flight booked the day before, for we only

had 24 hours until the start of our next 49er regatta, the Junior Worlds. In a series of fortunate events, we managed to stumble across the PRO of the event at the airport upon landing and were very graciously offered some much-needed transport to the event.

With only a brief sail before the regatta started, we managed to lead all the races on the first day around the top mark before making a fall from grace in each one, symbolic of a regatta which highlighted key areas for improvement. Off the water, we were faced with an almost never setting sun and ridiculously high food prices. Fortunately, between the innovation of blinds and the organisers providing us with dinner most nights, we came out of the regatta with many learnings and



# SAILORS' REPORTS

invaluable racing experience, as well as improving on our result from last year.

The following day we found ourselves stranded in a small fishing town in Norway, with our mast and sails still by our sides, both of which should have been on their way home. Fortunately, between some hurried favours, borrowed vehicles and some much-needed sleep, both were on an adventurous journey home with only a little extra stress added.

Trying to make the most of my time away, I had decided it wise to explore Norway and Japan before returning home the following week. However, it would appear sailing is unavoidable and less than a week after leaving Norway I found myself in Enoshima, at the home of the 2020 Olympic venue having extended my trip a further 2 weeks to assist Will and Sam in their preparation. This experience I am still yet to fully fathom as less than two years ago I hadn't even stepped on a 49er.

It was great to be sweating like a pig every day and finding out just how spicy some ramen can be. I'd highly recommend to young sailors to keep up their hard work as often you may end up in places you could never have imagined, with friends from all across the globe.

For now, we will all be training hard before the 2019 World Championships in New Zealand in December and the 2020 World Championships held in Geelong next February.



If you would like to follow along or to support our journey, head over to [tiny.cc/AUS49er](https://tiny.cc/AUS49er)

Thank you to SSCBC for their continued support and assistance, as well as the support of Monash University, the Victorian Institute of Sport and Rhino Gloves.

And yes, it was as cold as it looks!



Norway at midnight





# SAILORS' REPORTS

## >>> STOP PRESS – UPDATE FROM REGATTA TEAM FROM COWES, UK - DAVID WHITE



Luke Aulich presenting the organisers of the National Yacht Club 2K Plain Sailing Event in Dublin with the SSCBC burgee.

Here is a day by day update from David White and the team who competed in the 2K Global Team Race Regatta held at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes, UK. After our successful campaign at the inaugural event at the New York Yacht Club last year, SSCBC was pleased to be representing Australia again. This regatta took place from 25-29 September 2019.

### Day 1

The team assembled in Dublin, Ireland for training at the National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. We were training in Elliot 6s with a focus on boat handling. This was mainly straight line boat speed which then built up to boat on boat tight manoeuvres. Getting clean off the start line will be a big priority. We aim to put this into our first practice regatta which is taking place tomorrow. Tomorrow is a big day with a 2K Regatta taking place at the Yacht Club. There are 5 teams taking part, two from the National Yacht Club, Royal Cork Yacht Club (who are travelling to Cowes) and a team made up of my friends from University who

I sailed with years ago, who have years of team racing experience under their belt.

### Day 2

The day started off with all teams meeting at the National Yacht Club to watch Ireland take on Scotland at the rugby World Cup. The day went as planned with Ireland beating the Scots. On the racing side of things, we started off with a light breeze which picked up nicely to about 10 knots. The course for this regatta was pretty simple in

that it was just a start line and two top marks only 100 meters up rounding them to starboard on a two lap course with a downwind finish.

The team pulled up pretty well beating our main rivals, Royal Cork Yacht Club twice and finishing first overall in the warm up regatta. Along with the confidence boost, it was great to have tight racing in the lead up to Cowes.

### Day 3

Dublin unfortunately caved and it started raining. Building on the lessons from the Regatta the day before, the team shifted gears for some heavy wind training with gusts up to 28 knots hitting the water. Our team decided it would be beneficial to swap skippers for three practice races and find out the pros for the two different styles that they have.

When the big breeze hit, we did a couple of big up winds to work on our straight line speed.

After a physical training session, the team are going to explore Dublin City and fly out for Cowes tomorrow.

### Day 4

A bit of a mixed day. We had extremely windy conditions - "blow jibs off mast weather". Racing was initially due to start after our briefing at 8am but was postponed due to the high winds. We set out on the water at 10am with reefed sails.

Race 1 was against the Irish team Royal Cork Yacht Club (Fun Fact: they will be celebrating their 300 year anniversary as the oldest club in the world next year). We ended up getting a solid start and got a 1st and 2nd through the finish line.

Race 2 was against St Francis from San Francisco. Tom had an incredible race, but in the end, we lost it on the finish line. This was a bitter loss to swallow as they finished 3rd at last year's event and it was there for the taking but a miscommunication got in the way.

Race 3 was against the Dutch. After a commanding start, leaving one boat 50 meters behind in our dust we had boat gear failure with the head of our jib blowing out. We received redress for this race meaning we will have a resail.





# SAILORS' REPORTS



Race 4 - Royal Thames Yacht Club (last year's winners). After a pre start battle in 25+ knots, sadly our jib on a different boat blew out. This resulted in another resail. This was the indicator that it was too windy to rave on and we were sent in. Our sail in was an hour beat into the breeze that was 30+ knots.

## Day 5

Another big day on the water. Today the weather started up in breeze ranging from 16 to 23 knots which isn't ideal team racing conditions and kept on building from there.

First race of the day was against the Dutch. Unfortunately, an eager start led to a boat being over and gave the Dutch a 2 on 1 which is not what you do against this experienced side. In the end the Dutch were victorious. This wasn't ideal as we were in the same situation before as jib blew out the day before.

The next two races were against the experienced Newport Harbour California and New York Yacht Club. Both tier 1 teams. Both races started off very promising and we were leading on the upwind leg which a big leap for us compared to the previous year. Unfortunately, boat handling in 20+ knots got in the way and we were out of sync of what manoeuvres we

can do in that breeze. Very valuable lessons learnt in that race.

The next two races were India and Germany. Thankfully we got rewarded for these races. The German race was particularly tight and decided on the finish line. Racing was then abandoned when winds picked up to 30+ knots

## Day 6 - Final day of sailing.

With a similar forecast/weather, we were sailing in the upper limits of these boats with gusts getting right up to 30 knots.

We ended up just doing four races today and finishing off one round robin. The first race was Japan. Sadly, this race was similar to the Irish rugby game in that the Japanese seized the right opportunity. After we led a 1 2 around the whole course, but on the final mark the Japanese snuck on the inside and pinned out one of our boats. The frustrating thing about high winds is we can't play the tactical battle as much and boat handling comes through.

Next race, we had the Royal Yacht Squadron. This was the most frustrating race of the competition as we had again a 1, 2 for the entire course and on the last 30 meters, an umpire made a call that later was admitted as a mistake. Which again cost us the race. But that's sport - not always perfect.

We faced Argentina next where we won 1,2. The final race was Royal Thames who won that race convincingly in the high breeze.

Racing was then called with the round robin complete and wind getting up to 35 knots which is not team racing weather.

In the end, we finished up 9th overall which is a bit frustrating. Out of the 11 races we did, only two were in wind under 20 knots. In those races we beat Cork, who finished 5th, and Saint Francis, who just beat us on the



finish line. So, we know we had more potential in our team racing skills and we have learnt how to sail keel boats in very heavy conditions.

In the end, we were lucky to get out given the forecast for the 3 days and the organisers certainly put their boats in harm's way as we had travelled the distance.

The team would like to thank SSCBC for their support and Team Manager Luke Aulich for his valuable contribution. My favourite bit about this experience was how all you could get this group to talk about was the racing we had just completed, whether it was over dinner or breakfast.



# COASTAL LIVING





# SAILORS' REPORTS

## >>> HAMILTON ISLAND REGATTA WEEK – MAX CHESTER

Again, another very successful race week was held in August 2019, in the idyllic waters surrounding the Whitsunday Islands.

Approximately 250 yachts entered the race week (a truly magnificent and colourful sight in itself) split into 15 divisions based on length, cruising or racing design, spinnaker or non-spinnaker and various handicap systems. One could imagine a mighty headache for even the best race management crew in the sport. Not so. Congratulations go to the Hamilton Island Yacht Club again, for a very professional and perfectly executed series of 6 races, each with 15 starts over separate courses.

Except for the start and finish to each race, no laid marks were utilised, rather islands or rock outcrops were used as rounding marks, appreciably much less congested and aggressively navigated than we are used to at Sorrento. There's one for sailing operations; we could build some sandy atolls over our race area as rounding marks and picnic destinations for holiday makers and make everyone happy.

Stephen Clarke's very comfortable 39 foot yacht "Mynooka" was the platform for our six member crew made up of four doctors, an architect and an engineer. Now what better makeup for a crew could you possibly wish for? All blood, broken bones fixed on the spot; architectural management of sail trim and an engineering approach which, as it turned out, wasn't needed.

Our skipper and helm, David Angus together with Steve (mainsheet) are syndicate owners of Couta Boat "Matilda". For my part I was involved with headsail sheets and spinnaker brace and winches. Spinnakers can be a lot of fun, but in 30 knots they become not only sources of great power but an awesome challenge to one's strength and capacity to manage.

Others from SSCBC I spoke to over the week were:

Past Commodore Andrew Plympton, Phil, Robyn and Ian Mellett, Ross Wilson, Bruce Taylor, Geoff Gadsden and Maree Wilson, Mike and Monica Wilkins, David Currie and who could forget our old (but still young) race officer, Peter Taylor.

The weather was warm and kind to us with varying winds and sun nearly every day. All in all, a most enjoyable week with good competition, great company and superlative food (most of which we prepared and cooked for ourselves). I call it 'gentlepersons' sailing.

Here's to Hammo 2020!!

**Max Chester**

**FOLLOW OUR SSCBC SAILORS ADVENTURES!**



**#SSCBC**







# SAILORS' REPORTS

## >>> MY LASER RADIAL CAMPAIGN SO FAR... – CASEY IMENEO



This year I made the commitment to take on the world's best and compete in my first European season.

The season consisted of competing at the World Cup Series Genoa, French Olympic Week Hyeres and what



was my favourite event, the Laser Senior Europeans held in Portugal.

Sailing on the North Atlantic Ocean was one to remember. We had a range of conditions from light wind, strong current, 3m swell and the thick fog coming from the ocean. The last two days of racing was pure strength, speed focus and surfing as many waves downwind as possible which made racing very exciting.

With my result at the Australian Nationals 2018/19, I qualified myself for a spot at the 2019 Laser Radial World Championships held in Sakaiminato, Japan in July. In the lead up to this event we had a two week training block sailing in perfect offshore breezes, however this would not prevail into the following week of racing.

The racing during the event was very difficult to put together a solid performance due to the unpredictable Typhoon "Danas" causing a low pressure system. This was a testing week for me but the racing has provided me with new areas to focus on and improve.

What's next for my campaign?

We are now fully focused on the lead up towards the 2020 Laser Radial Women's World Championship held at Sandringham Yacht Club in February. This summer I'm going to have multiple racing opportunities prior to the event along with the Australian National Championships.

I look forward to seeing everyone around the Club over summer.





*Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Rd - Daintree National Park Qld*

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# SAILORS' REPORTS

## >>> OLYMPIC TEST EVENT, JAPAN - TESS LLOYD

I have recently returned from Japan, where my crew and I, Jaime Ryan, competed in the Olympic Test Event (Ready Steady Go) and the World Cup in Enoshima, the 2020 Olympic venue. Jaime and I are super happy with our regattas, finishing with a 6th and 7th.

Going into the regattas, we made sure we worked on our downwind techniques, building confidence in the huge waves Enoshima offers sailors. It ended up being our major strength for the two regattas, where our best results were achieved in the windy, wavy conditions. Managing the heat in Japan was also another factor! Wow it was HOT!

For now, there is still a lot of work to be done! It's time to get into a solid training block in Australia, before we head to NZ in November for our World Championships, which is another very important regatta for the Australian Sailing Team.





# Gill

New Season Available Now



Never Less Than Brave.





# SPONSOR NEWS



We're very excited at the sailing season about to kick off. We have lots of fantastic sponsored Couta boat races coming up and we thank our sponsors for their ongoing support of our Club.

A new event this year was our Couta boat season briefing and kick off drinks which was held on Friday

11 October, generously hosted by Mercedes-Benz Mornington in their spectacular showroom. Thank you to Mercedes-Benz Mornington for hosting us and for supplying food and drinks. What a great way to kick off season 2019-2020.

**Pommery** is not new to the Club, having supported Summer Drinks

for the past two years, but now we are thrilled to welcome Pommery as a year-round partner and Club Sponsor. Pommery will be the naming rights sponsor of Pommery Summer Drinks and will also be supporting other events throughout the year, such as the Ladies Lunch and Mother's Day. We welcome Pommery and thank them for their support.

We feel lucky to have maintained all of our existing sponsors for the upcoming season and beyond. Many have been sponsors of the Club for a number of years, and we're fortunate to be able to call on them for services throughout the year, such as the purchase (at a significant discount) from **GANT** of our uniforms for our regatta team who competed in the 2K Global Team Race Regatta Cowes, UK In September. Gill also provided heavily discounted gear for the team. **Coastal Living** helped the Club with the dining room refresh, providing invaluable advice around the styling, tables and chairs. **Yabby Lake** will be providing important





## SPONSOR NEWS



Div 1 Line Honours Winner Jocelyn C2014, GANT Portsea Cup.

wine tasting notes and training to all food & beverage staff prior to the commencement of the busy season, so staff will be able to share this knowledge of the award winning **Yabby Lake** wines with Members and their guests in the dining room.

We look forward to the **Wooden Boat Shop** Series before Christmas, followed by the **Mercedes-Benz Mornington** Couta Boat Nationals. This year they are generously providing some great prizes, so we look forward to seeing who will be the National Champions for 2019! **Pommery** Summer Drinks is on 29 December and will be a party not to be missed. **RT Edgar** will again be sponsoring the New Year's Day South Channel Race so fingers crossed for weather like last year. We welcome **KPMG**

for their annual Couta Boat Classic on 3 January, followed by **GANT** Portsea Cup and Quarantine picnic. If you missed the presentation picnic last year, we encourage you to make it down to Quarantine with your family and friends for some delicious food, live music and a few drinks on the lawn. **Gill** Next Gen will this year be supported by **Peroni**.

**Gurner** will again be partnering with us for the Gurner Three Piers Race on Australia Day, with lots of Club activities over this important weekend, so make sure you're around. Last year Gurner generously awarded every skipper with a bottle of Moët in their goodie bag – a gesture I know was very much appreciated, if not by the skippers themselves, certainly by their better

halves! The **Sanpellegrino** Cup will be held in mid February – always a great day and a chance to sample some of their new flavours.

**Yabby Lake** will host some wine tasting events throughout summer, so keep an eye out for these in our newsletter. Last year they gave away a rare magnum of Yabby Lake Single Vineyard Rose 2018 – I'm sure John and Kerry McNamara enjoyed it and will participate in this season's wine tasting! **Coastal Living** are always very generous with their prizes for the Coastal Living Couta Boat Race, which this year will be held on Saturday 29 February. **Steadfast IBG Insurance** is a long-standing sponsor who provides excellent insurance advice and discounts for Members, so remember Ronnie Schwarz for your insurance needs.





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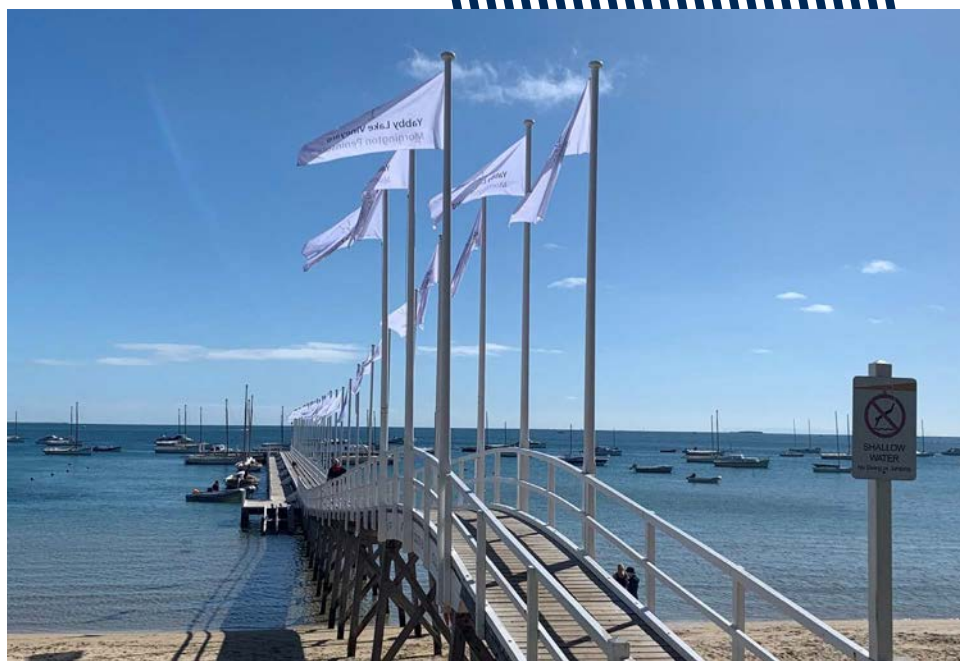


## SPONSOR NEWS

**X-Trek** is again sponsoring the Club's Couta boat *Ripple*, and will be out competing on *Ripple* for the KPMG Couta Boat Classic, GANT Portsea Cup and Gill Next Gen. We'll see if Hamish Hurley can win back the handicap title sailing *Ripple* for the Gill Next Gen race after winning it in 2018 but missing out on the 2019 victory.

We look forward to delivering many benefits to our sponsors throughout the year, by way of brand exposure, hospitality, as a venue for a function, a sailing experience or through interactions with our Members. Please support them when you can.

**Max Chester and Hollie Hick**



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# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## >>> VOLUNTEERING AT THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS JANUARY 2020

Thank you to those who have already put their hand up to volunteer for the Youth Nationals. Our roster is being finalised at the moment, however if you would like to join the team, please get in touch.

The age criteria has changed from Under 19 to Under 23 (for competitors, not volunteers!), allowing for more young sailors to get out there to sail with their mates. The event will likely see us host around 200 boats, 300 competitors and 150 other family members.

Over the last 10 years, we've hosted the 49er and 29er Worlds, the Australian Youth Championships and the Moth World Championships and had so much fun doing it!

There are a variety of roles across the Regatta, from registration desk, regatta office, marshals and on-water management to results, spectator coordinator and volunteer support. We'd like as many Members included as possible.

Contact Sailing Manager, Ben Fels, if you'd like to join in.



**To register your interest, please contact our Sailing Manager,  
Ben Fels email [sail@sscbc.com.au](mailto:sail@sscbc.com.au)**

As the Club moves towards a more environmental, paperless office, we will rely on communicating with you via email for things such as your annual subscription invoices.

For the first time, these were emailed out. If you didn't receive yours via email, or you received yours via snail mail, please contact us to update your email address.

## >>> 2019-2020 SSCBC COMMITTEE FLAG OFFICERS CLUB CONTACTS

**Commodore** Graham Cunningham

**Vice Commodore** Drew Marget

**Rear Commodore** Scott Llewelyn

**Treasurer** Shaun Chalmers

**Club Secretary** Nikki Schwarz

**Club Captain** Scott Llewelyn

### **Committee**

Howard Critchley, Mark Klemens,  
Jonathan Long, Georgie Silverwood,  
Rollo Wright

**CEO** Henry Dyer

**Finance** Deborah Hodgson

**Administration** Jorja Crowe

**Sailing** Ben Fels

**Head Coach and Development** David White

**Sponsorship** Hollie Hick

**Reception** Sara Petautschnig

### **Sorrento Sailing Couts Boat Club**

3154 Point Nepean Road  
PO Box 138 Sorrento VIC 3943

**Phone** 03 5984 8200

### **Email**

Club: [administration@sscbc.com.au](mailto:administration@sscbc.com.au)  
Food & Beverage: [catering@sscbc.com.au](mailto:catering@sscbc.com.au)

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